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# The Victoria Times

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Port Arthur, Feb. 9.—Japanese torpedo boats attacked the Russian fleet during the night and three of the Russian ships were badly damaged. The Japanese, who thus scored the first success of the war, escaped undamaged. In consequence of the attack by the Japanese torpedo boats, martial law has been proclaimed here.

**RUSSIAN REPORTS.**  
Dispatch Confirms Statement That Three of the Russian Warships Were Damaged.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—An official dispatch received here says that Japanese boats have attacked the Russian squadron in the outer roads at Port Arthur and that three Russian ships were damaged.

**ALEXIEFF'S DISPATCH.**  
The Japanese Made Attack by Means of Mines Upon the Russian Squadron.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—Admiral Alexieff's official report of the attack by the Japanese is as follows: "I most respectfully inform your Majesty that at or about midnight of February 8-9, Japanese torpedo boats made a sudden attack, by means of mines, upon the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the battleships Retvizan and Carevitch and the cruiser Pallada were damaged."

"An inspection is being made to ascertain the character of the damage. Details are following for your Majesty."

**ONE CRUISER SUNK.**  
According to News Which Has Reached the French Foreign Office.

Paris, Feb. 9, 4:50 p.m.—It was announced at the French foreign office this afternoon that the Russian cruiser Pallada was sunk in the torpedo attack made by the Japanese on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur.

The injuries received by the Retvizan and Carevitch are not known. It was reported on the same authority that the cable from Vladivostok had been cut.

**THE ATTACK.**  
Four Torpedo Boats Were Responsible for the Damage Inflicted on Russian Ships.

Paris, Feb. 9.—The news of the first Japanese victory with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet in Port Arthur was received by the foreign office here. The dispatch, showing that two Russian battleships and one cruiser were damaged, and also showing that four torpedo boats made the attack.

An official of the foreign office said: "It is profoundly to be regretted that such a decisive step has been taken, as it terminates any efforts the powers might have made to avoid actual warfare."

Information has been received here showing that the British government will issue a declaration of neutrality within a few days, perhaps immediately, and that France will take the same course within a day or two.

**OFF PORT ARTHUR.**  
A Large Fleet of Japanese Warships Is Now Lying Before the Town.

Berlin, Feb. 9.—A special telegram from St. Petersburg says three Russian ships at Port Arthur were severely damaged last night by torpedoes discharged from Japanese torpedo boats while the latter were passing the harbor.

Subsequently a large fleet of Japanese battleships and cruisers appeared before the port.

**"TOO LATE."**  
Baron Hayashi Says Russia Is Endeavoring to Have Powers Intervene—Would Concede Everything.

London, Feb. 9.—The Japanese minister, Baron Hayashi, said this afternoon: "Russia is making desperate attempts through the various embassies to have the powers intervene. Russia now is willing to concede everything, but the offer comes too late."

Baron Hayashi added: "I learn on good authority that the reply Russia intended to send merely reiterated all the vital points to which Japan had consistently objected."

**NAVAL OPINION.**  
Russia's Loss in First Attack Regarded as a Staggering One.

London, Feb. 9.—The naval men in London regarded the results of Japan's first attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur as being a staggering one. They pointed out that Alexieff's reference to "mines" obviously meant "torpedoes" and said that if the Russian vessels had been struck by Whitehead torpedoes they probably have been sunk or are resting on the mud in Port Arthur, and are hopelessly out of action for a considerable time.

**PLACED AT DISADVANTAGE.**  
Japanese Appear to Have Handled Their Ships Better Than the Russians.

Berlin, Feb. 9.—The comment at the marine department on the success of Japan's first blow at Port Arthur was that even the temporary disablement of three warships placed Russians at a great disadvantage in the future operations. It was added that the torpedoing of the Russian vessels, lying under the guns of the fortress, must have been carried out daringly and skilfully, as Alexieff's report did not mention any Japanese losses in his first dispatch. The

## JAPAN HAS DISABLED ELEVEN BATTLESHIPS

### Marvellous Record to Credit of Mikado's Fleet in the First Twenty-Four Hours of the Fighting.

common talk of the naval officers was that the Japanese have shown that they can handle their ships better than the Russians.

**AN UNFOUNDED STORY.**  
Report Was Published in St. Petersburg of the Loss of Eleven Japanese Ships.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—The announcement of the sinking of eleven Japanese ships and the fact that Port Arthur was in flames, was given out in St. Petersburg this afternoon as official, but investigation showed the report to be untrue. The only confirmed official communication is that from Admiral Alexieff, is

the end of July such desire to the Russian government and invited its adherence. To this the Russian government expressed a willing assent. Accordingly on the 12th of August, the Japanese government proposed to Russia through its representative at St. Petersburg the basis of an agreement which was substantially as follows:

1. A mutual engagement to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Chinese and Korean empires.

2. A mutual engagement to maintain the principle of an equal opportunity for the commercial industry of all nations with the natives of those countries.

3. A reciprocal recognition of Japan's preponderant interests in Korea, and that Russia has special interests in rail-

Accordingly the Japanese government explained the foregoing views to the Russian government, and at the same time it introduced other necessary amendments in the Russian counter-proposal. They further proposed, with regard to the neutral zone, that if one was to be created, it should be established on both sides of the boundary line between Manchuria and Korea, with an equal width, say of fifty kilometers.

After repeated discussions at Tokio the Japanese government finally presented to the Russian government its definite amendment on 30th of October. The Japanese government then urged, in its reply, but this was again delayed and only delivered on the 11th of December. In that reply Russia suppressed the clauses relating to Manchuria, so as to make the proposed convention apply entirely to Korea and maintained its original demand in regard to the non-employment of Korea territory for strategic purposes, as well as a neutral zone. But the exclusion of Manchuria from the proposed convention being contrary to the original object of the negotiations, which were to remove the cause of conflict between the two countries by a friendly arrangement of their interests both in Manchuria and Korea, the Japanese government reconsidered the question and again proposed the removal of the

Russia would be of impracticable value so long as it was accompanied by a definite stipulation regarding the territorial intention in China and Manchuria, since treaty rights are only existing with sovereignty. Eventually absorption of Manchuria by Russia would annul once those rights and privileges acquired by the powers in Manchuria by virtue of treaties with China.

**THE OTHER SIDE.**  
Russia Accuses of Increasing Her Demands and Making Preparations for War.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 9.—A lengthy official communication issued today gives the Russian account of the negotiations which led to the rupture.

Last year, says the foreign office note, the Tokio cabinet, under the pretext of a friendly character, Japanese social circles and the local and foreign press attempted in every way to produce a warlike ferment among the Japanese and to drive the government into armed conflict with Russia. Under the influence thereof, the Tokio cabinet began to formulate greater demands in the negotiations, at the same time taking most offensive measures to make the country ready for war. All these circumstances could not, of course, disturb Russia's equality, but they induced her also to take military and naval measures, nevertheless, to preserve peace in the Far East.

Russia, so far as her incontestable rights and interests permitted, gave the necessary attention to the demands of the Tokio cabinet, and declared herself ready to recognize Japan's privileged commercial and economical position in the Korean peninsula, with the concession of the right to protect by military force in the event of disturbances in that country. At the same time, while rigorously observing the fundamental principles of her policy regarding Korea, whose independence and integrity were guaranteed by previous understandings with Japan and by treaties with other powers, Russia insisted on three points:

1. A mutual and unconditional guarantee of this principle.

2. On an undertaking to use no part of Korea for strategic purposes as the authorization of such action on the part of any foreign power was directly opposed to the principle of the independence of Korea.

3. In the preservation of the full freedom of navigation of the Straits of Korea.

The project elaborated in this sense did not satisfy the Japanese government which, in its last proposals, not only declined to accept the conditions which appeared as the guarantee of the independence of Korea, but also began at the same time to insist on provisions to be incorporated in a project regarding the question of Manchuria.

Such demands on the part of the Japanese naturally were inadmissible, the question of Russia's position in Manchuria, concerning in the first place China, but also all the powers, having commercial interests in China. The Imperial government, therefore, saw absolutely no reason to include in a special

### Tokio Special Reports Important Capture by the Japs of Transports and Troops Off Korean Coast.

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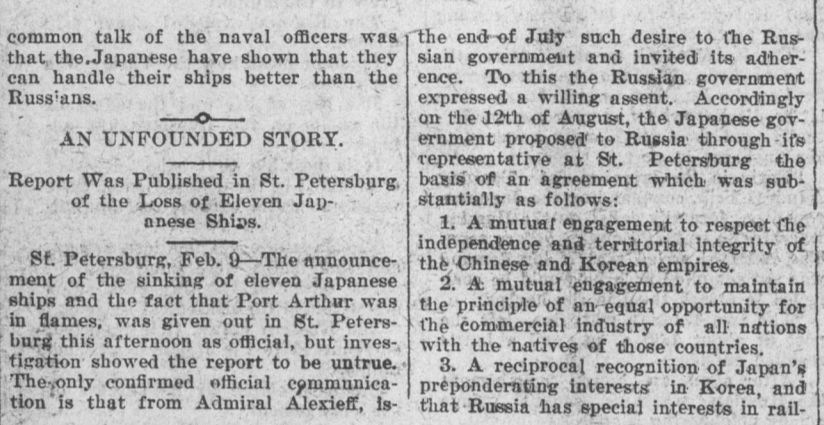
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Functionaries will attend a solemn Te Deum to pray for victory for Russian arms.

"I thank you sincerely and cordially for your loyal sentiments, with which I am convinced all true Russians are now imbued," is a message which the czar telegraphed to the provincial council of the government of Yaroslavl (capital of Russia) in response to a resolution expressing enthusiasm at the rupture of relations with Japan.

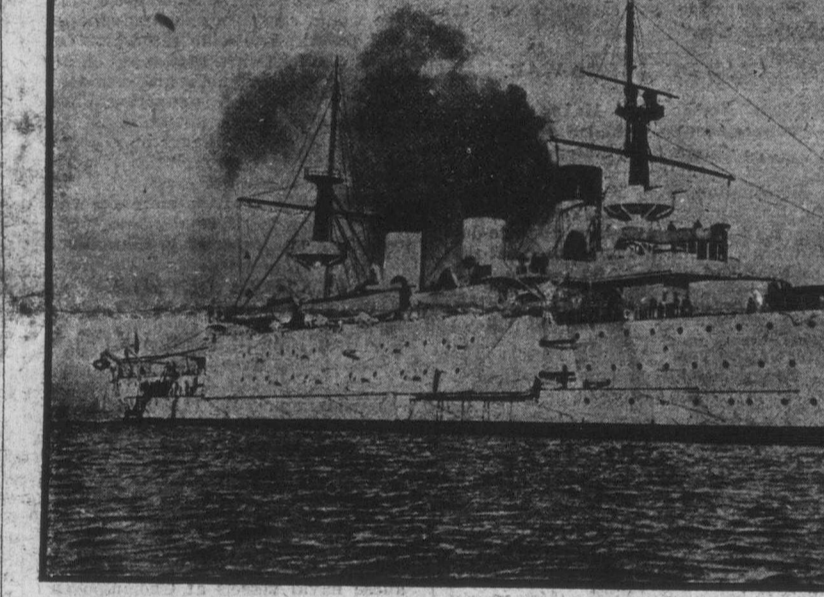
The express train service between Irkutsk, Siberia and Manchuria has been suspended.

The czar attended the opera yesterday evening and received an enthusiastic ovation. The orchestra was obliged to



RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP POBIEDA.

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ened either, announcing that Japanese torpedo boats had made a sudden attack on the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the battleships Retvizan and Carevitch and cruiser Pallada had been damaged.

**JAPAN'S PURCHASES.**  
Has Bought Battleship, Cruiser and Gunboat From Chile, Which Sift For Far East Immediately.

London, Feb. 9.—According to a special dispatch from Rome, the Chilean legation there announces that Japan has purchased the Chilean battleship Capitán Prat, the cruiser Chacabuco, and the gunboat Almirante Condell. The vessels, fully equipped, will sail immediately for Nagasaki.

Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, informed the Associated Press to-day that he had received this morning a dispatch announcing the departure of the Japanese fleet for the Yellow Sea. While he had no news of the engagement off Port Arthur, the minister was aware that Japan intended throughout this war to employ torpedo boats to the fullest possible extent. He had not heard of the landing of Japanese troops in Korea, and scouted the idea of mediation, saying that all chance of mediation had ceased with the breaking off of negotiations.

**THE NEGOTIATIONS.**  
Statement Issued by Mikado's Government Setting Forth Japan's Claims and Russia's Attitude.

Tokio, Feb. 9.—The following is the text of the statement issued by the Japanese setting forth:

It being indispensable to the welfare and safety of the Japanese to maintain the independence and territorial integrity of Korea and to safeguard paramount interests therein, the Japanese government finds it impossible to view with indifference any action endangering the position of Korea; whereas Russia, notwithstanding her solemn treaty with China and her repeated assurances to the powers, not only continues her occupation of Manchuria, but has taken aggressive measures in Korean territory. Should Manchuria be annexed to Russia, the independence of Korea would naturally be impossible. The Japanese government, therefore, being desirous of securing permanent peace for Asia by means of direct negotiation with Russia, with the view of arriving at a friendly adjustment of their mutual interests in both Manchuria and Korea, where their interests meet, communicated toward

restriction regarding the use of Korean territory, and the entire suppression of the neutral zone, on the ground that if Russia was opposed to the establishment of one in Manchuria it should not establish one in Korea.

The last reply of Russia was received at Tokio on the 6th of January. In this reply it is true, Russia proposed to agree to the following clause: "The recognition by Japan of Manchuria and its littoral as outside her sphere of interest."

It was the intention of the Japanese government, originally, that a conference should take place between the representatives of Japan, Petersburg and the Russian authorities so as to facilitate progress as much as possible in reaching a solution of the situation, but the Russian government absolutely refused to do so on the plea that the czar planned a trip abroad, and for other reasons it was unavailingly decided to conduct the negotiations at Tokio. It was not until the third of October that the Russian government proposed counter-suggestions, and it then she declined to engage in respect to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China and stipulated the maintenance of the principle of equal opportunities for the commerce and industry of all nations in China, and requested that Japan declare Manchuria and its littoral as being entirely outside of her sphere of interest. She further put several restrictions upon Japan's freedom of action in Korea, for instance, while recognizing the Japanese right to dispatch troops when necessary for the protection of her interests in Korea, Russia refused to allow her to use any portion of Korean territory north of the 38th parallel.

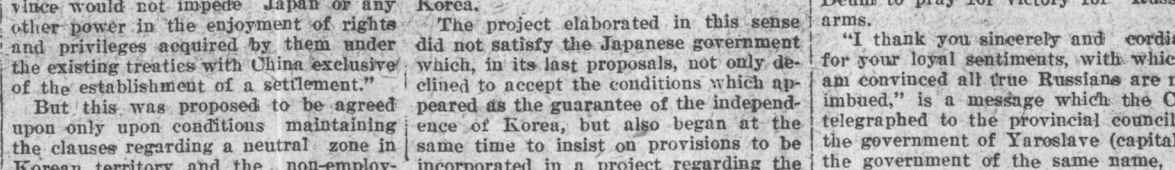
The Japanese government failed utterly to see why Russia, who professed no intention of absorbing Manchuria, should be disinclined to insert in the contract a clause by corresponding harmoniousness, her own repeatedly declared principle respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China. Furthermore, this refusal on the part of the Russian government impressed the Japanese government all the more with the necessity for insertion of that clause.

Japan has important commercial interests in Manchuria and entertains no small hopes of their future development, and politically she was even greater interested there by reason of Manchuria's relations to Korea, so she could not possibly recognize Manchuria as being entirely outside her sphere of interest. These reasons decided Japan absolutely to reject the Russian proposals.

whilst Russia within limits of that provision would not impede Japan or any other power in the enjoyment of rights and privileges acquired by them under the existing treaties with China exclusively of the establishment of a settlement."

But this was proposed to be agreed upon only upon conditions maintaining the clauses regarding a neutral zone in Korean territory and the non-employment of Korean territory for strategic purposes. The conditions were impossible to be Japan's acceptance, as had been already fully explained to them.

It should be further observed that no mention was made at all of the territorial integrity of China in Manchuria and it must be self-evident to everybody that the engagement now proposed by



ON THE YALU RIVER.

Russian Troops and Chinese Workmen in the Concession Lensed From the Korean Government.

repeat the National Anthem thrice before the audience was satisfied.

**THE PORT OF NEWCHWANG.**  
Powers Advised to Demand Its Surrender by Russia.

London, Feb. 9.—A dispatch from Newchwang says: "Owing to the enormous trade interests involved, the powers should demand that Russia surrender the port of Newchwang and agree to the neutralization thereof."

**JAPS GREATLY EXCITED.**  
Local Subjects of Mikado Much Delighted With Events So Far.

Local Japanese residents are keyed up to a pitch of excitement scarcely less than that which is galvanizing their local countrymen across the Pacific. When they heard this morning that hostilities had actually commenced there was a constant procession of little brown men to the Times office, where the startling news was bulletined. It was interesting to watch the expressions that flitted across their countenances as they read. Their faces beamed when they saw the bulletin announcing the disablement of three Russian ships off Port Arthur, but fell alarmingly when they read that "eleven Japanese ships and one Russian ship were destroyed." Quite naturally they unobtrusively branded this report as untrue, manufactured out of the whole cloth for Slav consumption. They were not disposed to believe that their vanquished navy had been placed hors de combat so early in the game.

Any apprehension that may have existed, however, was set at rest when they saw the bulletin containing the effect of Alexieff's dispatch to his Imperial master, and they went off with their heads in the air and an "I told you so" expression on their faces. Far from regretting that diplomatic relations between the two powers have been severed, the local subjects of the Mikado have viewed the trend of the affair with unfeigned delight. They have been aching to see their country get a whack at Holy Russia.

In conversation with a Times reporter this afternoon a prominent Victoria Japanese merchant said that every Japanese was confident of the ability of the island kingdom to hold its own. They knew perfectly well that they were going up against a power that was familiar with the fighting qualities of the Cossacks, having been comrades-in-arms with them in the Boxer troubles in China. Having seen them fight, the Japanese are of the opinion that the czar's soldiers were very much over-estimated. This same merchant said that all expected that the first objective of the Japanese attack would be Port Arthur, but no one expected that it would come so soon. Now that the trouble had started, however, they wanted to see it fought to a finish. Korea, he said, was full of the Mikado's soldiers. The sixth division, which had disappeared mysteriously from Japan some time ago, had gone to the Hermit Kingdom, and these, together with the steady stream which had been pouring into the country for some time past, would aggregate a formidable force.

Local Japanese reservists have not yet received word from the consul calling them home. They are just bubbling over with fight, like so much gun cotton ready to explode. Those who are not reservists and who can't fight intend showing their intense patriotism by monetary contributions to the cause. A meeting will be held either to-night or to-morrow, and will make arrangements for periodical contributions to the war fund.

A number of the local Japanese belong to the second line of naval reserves, and are quite prepared and very willing to travel to Japan on the first notice. The Japanese of Hawaii, however, belong to the first reserves, and will be the first to be called on in event of their services being required.

**CAUGHT UNPREPARED.**  
Engagement at Port Arthur in Which the Land Batteries Also Participated.

Chefoo, Feb. 9.—The steamer Columbia has arrived from Port Arthur with additional news of the attack by the Japanese fleet upon the Russian fleet in the roads outside of the harbor of Port Arthur.

The Columbia was in the roads at the time and felt the first shock of a torpedo explosion at 11 o'clock Monday night. The attack continued all night, and at daylight this morning two Russian battleships and one first-class Russian cruiser were seen to have been disabled and beached at the entrance of the harbor. The cruiser was badly listed.

This morning the Russian forts opened fire on the Japanese fleet, which was about three miles distant. The Japanese vessels returned the fire, hitting several of the Russian ships but doing little damage. The Russian cruiser then went out and the Japanese vessels disappeared. They were seen later on going in the direction of Dalny, undamaged. Although the officers of the Columbia say there were seventeen in the attacking party, only sixteen were seen later in the day near Chefoo.

The steamer Foochow, from Dalny, passed through the Japanese fleet to-day. The fleet consisted of six battleships, four first-class cruisers and six other vessels. They were eighteen miles from Port Arthur this morning and were proceeding in a southeasterly direction. The Foochow brought 800 Japanese refugees.

A member of the crew of the Columbia tells this story of the naval battle at Port Arthur:

"The Columbia was lying in the roadstead surrounded by fourteen Russian battleships and cruisers. At 11:30 o'clock Monday night a severe shock was felt in board the Columbia. The Russian ships immediately commenced to operate their searchlights and opened fire towards the sea. The firing lasted only a short time. At 1 o'clock more shocks were felt and the Russians again commenced firing."

The Japanese did not return the fire. At 2 o'clock two Russian battleships went in and were beached across the entrance of the harbor. They were

soon followed by a Russian cruiser, which also was beached. None of the vessels were damaged above the water line. More shots from torpedoes were fired during the early morning, and then all was quiet. Two unexploded torpedoes were found after the attack.

"At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning three Japanese cruisers passed Port Arthur in sight of the Russian fleet. The whole Russian fleet immediately sighted an anchor and went after them, but returned in half an hour.

"The Russians left one cruiser outside to watch for the Japanese ships. The cruiser was fired upon by the Japanese and the other Russian vessels took up their anchors and cruised around the roadstead. The Japanese fleet came up within three miles and a battle commenced. The Japanese fired on the ships and forts, which replied. The Russian ships were struck by shells but were slightly damaged. The Russian fire fell short. The Columbia steamed away while the fight was in progress, but later saw the Japanese fleet leave. One cruiser with the torpedo boats is reported north of Chefoo.

The two battleships disabled are the Pallada and the Czarevitch. The disabled armored cruiser Retzivan, and the grounded battleships block the entrance to the harbor, preventing gunboats from getting out and battleships and cruisers from going in to coal.

Besides this Japan has the Russian gunboats Variag and Korietz caught at Chemulpo. They were bound for Vladivostok. The Japanese fleet was commanded by Vice-Admiral Togo and consisted of four fast cruisers, the Chitose, Kasagi, Taga, and Yoshino, which circled outside drawing the fire of the Russians, and all went into attack the armored cruisers. In the Japanese fleet, which consisted of two divisions, were the Mikasa (the flagship), the first-class battleships, the Fuji, Yamashiro, Shikishima, Hiei, Hatakeyama and the dispatch boat Tatsumi.

The second division of the fleet, under command of Admiral Kuroki, consisted of the battleships Petropavlovsk, flag-ship; Persievit, sub-flagship; Pobeda, Potava, Czarevitch, Retzivan and Sebastopol, and the cruisers Novik, Boyarin, Bayan, Diana, Pallada, Askold and Anzura.

The disabled battleships are inside Shan Haiwan. The Japanese consul, formerly stationed at Dally, who has just returned to Chefoo from Dally, says that he passed a Japanese fleet going in the direction of Port Arthur. The cruiser Korietz is outside, but within range of the forts.

A naval officer who was recently at Port Arthur, says the Russians were not prepared for the attack and had insufficient amount of steam up. A boat patrolled the streets of Pechili continuously, but apparently the Japanese torpedo boats were not noticed until after the first torpedo was fired. The Russians fired but the Japanese did not return the fire and backed off.

An hour later the discharge of torpedoes was repeated, after which the torpedo boats withdrew some distance. At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning the Japanese cruisers circled within view of the whole Russian fleet, but they were not engaged. The Russians returned toward the harbor after an hour. The Japanese came within three miles. A battle then began between the Russian fleet and four Japanese ships. A few of the Russian shells were effective, but as far as seen the Russian shells fell short.

The Japanese were steaming toward Dally when last seen. It is probable that the Japanese fleet was conveying twenty-six troops from Saesoo to some point in Korea. The Japanese are reported to be in possession of the southern portion of the peninsula. The Russian war vessels at Vladivostok are the armored cruisers Rurik, Besia, Gromoboi, the cruiser Bagray, a screw corvette, built in 1890. Russia has 1,000 tons of coal at Port Arthur, but the coal must be taken out to the battleships in lighters until the battleships disabled by the Japanese are disabled.

More Ships Damaged. St. Petersburg, Feb. 10. (1 a. m.)—The following official bulletin has just been issued in the form of a telegram: "Victory Alexieff's chief of staff, dated February 9th:

"By order of the Viceroy I beg to report that this day, at about 11 o'clock in the morning, the Japanese fleet, consisting of about fifteen battleships and cruisers, approached Port Arthur and opened fire.

"The enemy was received with a cannon fire from the shore batteries and the guns of our squadron, which also participated in the engagement.

"At about midday the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and left, proceeding south.

"Our losses in the fleet were two officers wounded, nine men killed and forty-one men were wounded. On the shore batteries one man was killed and three wounded.

"The battleship Pallada and cruiser Novik, each had a hole knocked in her side below the water line. The forts were slightly damaged. (Signed) Major-General Flue."

The Russian Losses. St. Petersburg, Feb. 10. (6.20 a. m.)—A second telegram has been received from Viceroy Alexieff. It is dated February 9th, and says:

"A Japanese squadron of fifteen battleships and cruisers today began to bombard Port Arthur. The fortress replied and the squadron weighed anchor in order to participate in the battle."

A third telegram from the Viceroy says that at a home attack on the coast one hour the Japanese squadron ceased its firing and steamed southward. "Our losses," the Viceroy continues, "are two naval officers and fifty-one men wounded and nine men killed on the coast and one killed and three wounded.

"During the engagement the battleships Potava and the cruisers Diana, Askold and Novik were each damaged on the water line. The damage to the fortress was not important."

Admiral Alexieff, amplifying his first telegram to the czar on the torpedo boat action, now telegraphs as follows: "After the explosion the cruisers hastened immediately to their assistance, and in spite of the dark night measures

were taken to bring the damaged vessels to the harbor. We had no loss of officers. Two marines were killed, five were drowned and eight were wounded. The enemy's torpedo boats received a hole in their side. Two unexploded torpedoes were found after the attack."

Another Account. Paris, Feb. 10.—The correspondent at Chefoo of the Paris edition of the New York Herald describes in a dispatch the tranquil appearance of Port Arthur on Monday night.

At 8 o'clock the lighthouse was lighted and the firing lights were hung up. Only one Russian warship was sighted by her searchlight, and this in a leisurely fashion. Three torpedo boats were patrolling on the outskirts of the fleet, all the others were in the basin. A deep silence settled down, but this was disturbed at half-past eleven o'clock by three muffled explosions. Instantly firing began and the searchlights were used but without much method.

"I watched the operations," the correspondent goes on, "thinking that they were only manoeuvring; at midnight, however, the firing almost ceased and stopped entirely at three o'clock in the morning."

The correspondent describes the arrival and beheading of the Russian warships, which were at first supposed to have been in collision. "But at twenty minutes to three," he continues, "Russian naval officers boarded the steamer Columbia in a great state of excitement, saying the victory had been won. The Columbia did not attempt to leave. This was apparently done, with the idea of preventing the ship from acquainting the Japanese with the extent of the Russian damage. After daybreak a strange apparition seemed to pass the Russians."

"The white-faced gawing crews crowded forward on the decks of the damaged vessels, and none of the searchlights showed a disposition to chase the enemy or fire a single shot till the Japanese had departed at twenty minutes past eight, when the Russians started in pursuit, going in towards Port Dally. They returned, however, at a quarter past nine without having fired a shot.

"Apparently having occurred to them that the Japanese had effected a complete surprise, owing to their bad outlook, the Russians have now outside the harbor five battleships and five cruisers, besides seventeen torpedo boats and other small vessels."

"It was almost 11 o'clock when the Japanese squadron of sixteen ships, including five battleships, appeared in fine order. At a quarter past 11 there came the first flash from a Japanese vessel and a twelve-inch shell landed near the torpedo boats grouped near the entrance of the harbor. The aim was splendid.

"Owing to confusion on the part of the quarantine officials, or perhaps because the Russians thought the Japanese would not like to fire near the British flag, the Columbia was not fired at. The Japanese shells fell thickly around her, several bursting near by and strewn her decks with splinters. The capture of the Columbia is a bitter test of the Russian guard, got his vessel out of danger, making all speed for Chefoo. The Russian guards were praying for the Chinese and the Chinese crew of the ships were frightened, but they worked well.

"Those on board the steamer feared the Russian batteries would sink them for doing their duty, and the English signals for permission to proceed having been ignored.

"The bombardment lasted until a quarter of twelve. The Japanese aimed their fire well, two shells bursting at the summit of the masts and a number on the cliff and the beach.

"All were heavy shells. The rate of fire on both sides was slow. Three Russian battleships were hit, but the extent of the damage could not be ascertained. "Apparently no ship on either side was disabled. The Russian cruiser Novik fought pluckily, keeping close by far than any other Russian vessel to the Japanese, and the heavy fire concentrated on her compelled her to retire on the battleships.

"The other Russian cruisers fought at first outside the line of battleships. "The Russians seem to fight with little formation, but this was probably due to the cramped space, they being never more than one or one-and-a-half miles from the shore and under the guns of the forts, which fired over them. Before the action the men on the warships could be seen throwing back and lumber overboard their Russian ships. The Japanese wheeled around in the same position while the Japanese kept in splendid formation. The latter retired slowly in line to the southeastward."

Landing of Japs. London, Feb. 10.—In a dispatch from Tientsin, dated February 9th, a correspondent of the Daily Mail says it is reported there that the Russian cruisers Variag and Korietz, at Chemulpo, hauled down their flags without firing a shot, and that 5,000 Japanese immediately

landed and the march to Seoul commenced. Japanese troops also landed at the chief points of southern and western Korea. One division of the Japanese army, under the command of General Kuroki, together with three divisions of the Japanese Guards each of 12,000 men, have been mobilized. It appears the correspondent continues, that the Russian warships at Chemulpo have been damaged.

Another correspondent of the Daily Mail telegraphs from Port Arthur, under date of February 9th, that the Russian admiral, who has commanded the fleet, is expected to leave for Chefoo. The Japanese fleet engaged seems to have consisted of two divisions under Admiral Kimura, on the flagship Idzumo (armored cruiser), and Vice-Admiral Logo on the flagship Asahi (battleship).

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CLERK OF WORKS GIVES EVIDENCE CONCERNING CONTRACT

EXPLANATIONS MADE CONCERNING CONTRACT. Some Interesting Statements Made by Geo. Jeeves Before Select Committee This Morning. (From Tuesday's Daily) The select committee of the legislature...

any knowledge of anything being taken away, witness said things came there and attempts were made to take them away... Mr. Jeeves denied this. He did not believe it was a cut and dried thing...

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Cancer Treatment

No knife, no plaster, no pain. There is a chance for cancer. This cancer must be removed from the system before a permanent cure can be effected.

Legal News

Victoria City and Harbour Board. General business will be transacted at a meeting of the board of school trustees...

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