

BIG NAVAL BATTLE

Russians Defending Port Arthur Meet Crushing Defeat.

FIRST FIGHT OF WAR.

Three of Czar's Warships Sunk and Others Captured or Disabled.

Admiral Alexieff Sends News of Severe Damage by Japs' Sudden Attack—Blow Startled St. Petersburg and Czar and His Ministers Prepare to Face Stern Realities of War—London, Berlin and Paris Excited Over News.

The first battle in the long-expected war between Russia and Japan resulted in victory for the Japanese. In a midnight attack upon the Russian fleet before Port Arthur three of the Czar's biggest warships were so badly damaged by Japanese torpedoes that they had to be run into the harbor and beached to prevent their sinking. They now lie across the narrow mouth of the harbor, preventing the Russian gunboats from coming out and making it impossible for the battleships of the squadron to return to the shelter of the harbor. The Rus-



EMPEROR OF JAPAN.

Man loss was ten men killed and forty-six wounded. It is not known what loss, if any, was sustained by the Japanese.

The battle was resumed Tuesday forenoon and all day long the crash of the big guns of some of the most powerful warships of modern times sent panic through the towns and villages along the bay.

After the success of the first attack Monday night the Japanese skillfully got beyond the reach of the Russian guns. At 10 o'clock Tuesday morning three Japanese warships steamed past Port Arthur in full view of the Russian fleet. The latter at once weighed anchor and gave chase, leaving one cruiser to guard the harbor. A terrific cannonading then began. The Japanese warships opened with full force upon the Russian fleet, firing broadside after broadside. Two of the Russian ships were struck by shells and seriously damaged. The fire of the Russians seemed to fall short and no damage apparently was done to Japanese vessels.

In the meantime a fleet of Japanese warships suddenly appeared before the harbor and opened fire on the lone cruiser that had been left on guard and on the fortifications along the shore. These returned the fire with a will, but again



VLADIVOSTOCK, RUSSIA'S FAMOUS PORT ON THE PACIFIC.

their shots fell short. When the other Russian warships returned the Japanese steamed away in the direction of Dalny. The Russian cruisers Pallada and Novik were seriously damaged by shells from the Japanese fleet. Two or three other ships were struck and slightly damaged.

Brilliant Exploit of Japanese.

The attack of the Japanese fleet on Port Arthur was one of the most daring exploits of naval history and shows well the skill and courage of the Japanese sailors. In opening with a torpedo attack they practically repeat the tactics that gave them such an advantage at the beginning of the war with China in 1894. No nation has ever displayed greater skill in this mode of warfare.

It seems a reasonable deduction from the results of the bold and successful operations of the Japanese navy against the Russian warships at Port Arthur and Chemulpo that Japan in the first day of actual hostilities secured itself against invasion. While the Russian warships and seamen in the far east have been rated by all naval experts as immensely inferior in effectiveness to those of the Japanese, there was a chance that the Russian commanders and crews would disclose surprising effectiveness in war. In fact, however, the expected happened, though in an unexpected manner.

The Japanese, disclosing that through condition of peace is not in accord with the opinion of the highest genius in war, struck a heavy blow at the Russian ships in their own harbor and escaped without serious injury. One does not need to point out that the successful torpedoing of Russia's two greatest battleships shows on the one hand precision based upon absolute knowledge and matured plans and on the other side lethargy and incompetence. The capture of two good cruisers from the Russians is the same to the Czar's navy as the destruction of four such ships, since now the two will fight against their former owners. The disabling of one more battleship and four more cruisers during the fighting of the day at Port Arthur cuts down still further the sea strength of the Czar.

Therefore, the Japanese at the beginning of the war have made good their command of the seas. Their own shores will be safe and their transports will be free to land troops and supplies upon the mainland of Asia. That may be taken had seen that the war will be a long one, in the one nation or the other shows it to be ordinarily weak on land, which distance is expected.

Several close midnight attacks were made. Since Saturday

IS THE GRAND STAND SAFE?



—Chicago News.

day the Russians had been expecting an attack, because on that day a Japanese fleet had maneuvered before Port Arthur, but later had sailed away in a southerly direction. A keen lookout had been kept for the return of the enemy, but as Saturday night and Sunday night passed without sight of their fleet the Russian officials had begun to think there would be no attack.

Fourteen big battleships and cruisers lay in the roadstead. The searchlights from the vessels flashed their ribbons of light in all directions and on the summit of the frowning fortresses that crown the hills about the harbor were other powerful searchlights in play all night.

But neither flashing lights nor steel-clad battleships nor the immense forts of the harbor on which Russia has expended tens of millions of dollars availed to hinder the movements of the skillful sailors of the Japanese navy.

Suddenly, about 11:30, the lookout on the battleship Czarevitch discovered a dark object skimming over the water in his direction. He gave a warning cry, but it was too late. From out the darkness burst another and another and another of the swiftly moving objects until nine Japanese torpedo boats were rushing furiously upon the Russian fleet.

Then came the crash. With a roar that roused the whole fleet a torpedo launched from one of the little Japanese craft struck the Czarevitch below the water line and just forward of the main turret. The sound of the explosion was terrific. The big vessel rose half out of the water as if from an enormous shell. The big guns on the fleet belched forth at the rapidly moving enemy, but without avail. Then followed a second explosion and a third and the huge battleship Poltava and the cruiser Boyarin met the fate of the Czarevitch. Nine torpedo boats had discharged their terrible missiles and three of the proudest ships in the Czar's magnificent navy were on the verge of sinking.

Fleet Comes in Darkness.
Having done their deadly work, the little craft steamed rapidly back toward the open sea, where now could be dimly discerned the outline of the massive warships of the Japanese fleet, how many could not be told, but according to the best advice no fewer than ten of the fastest sailing vessels of the Japanese navy.

The battle now became general. Broadside after broadside was fired by the Russian vessels, while the shots of the



VIEW OF CHEMULPO, THE PORT OF SEOUL, KOREA.

Japanese did effective work. Several of the Russian ships sustained damage. The forts about the harbor's mouth joined in the battle, but all the shots seemed to fall harmless. The Japanese had succeeded in getting the range, but the Russians were not so fortunate.

Steam was crowded on the imperial warships and the commanders made all speed for the inner harbor. So badly were the vessels damaged that it was found necessary to beach them, and within a few minutes after the battle began they were grounded in the narrow entrance to the harbor, effectually blocking the passage and preventing the gunboats cooped up there from reaching the open sea and as effectually preventing the rest of the Russian fleet from entering the harbor.

The Japanese fleet, having accomplished its purpose, steamed away and was soon lost in the darkness. If it sustained

any damage the fact cannot be ascertained.

News Received in Europe.
Naval circles in London regard the result of Japan's first attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur as being a staggering one. In Paris the news created consternation. The officials of the foreign office were among the first to receive the information and their advice were similar to those of the St. Petersburg Official Gazette. In Berlin Japan's initial success produced a deep impression both on the people and military and naval critics. Groups gathered around the distributors of the "extras" in the streets and read the news

EVENTS IN OPENING OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

FIRST ENGAGEMENT.

Place	Port Arthur Harbor
Russian ships engaged	14
Japanese ships engaged	16
Russian ships disabled	5
Japanese ships disabled	0
Russians killed	10
Russians wounded	46
Japanese killed	0
Japanese wounded	0

SECOND ENGAGEMENT.
Place: Off Chemulpo
Russian ships destroyed: 2
Casualties: Unknown
After securing a complete victory in the first engagement at Port Arthur, the Japanese fleet sailed away in the direction of Chemulpo, off which port two additional warships were encountered and destroyed.

All foreign capitals are amazed at the fighting ability shown by Japan. Russian foreign office issues a note giving its side of the far eastern controversy. Secretary of State Hay invites the powers to join in preserving the integrity of the Chinese Empire.

JAPAN AGAIN VICTOR.

Two Russian Cruisers Sunk Near the Harbor of Chemulpo, Korea.

An official Japanese telegram to Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister in London, gives details of the sea battle between the Japanese and Russian squadrons off Asan, Korea, in which the Russian cruiser Varyag and the torpedo gunboat Koreitz were destroyed. The battle took place near the Polynesian Islands in the Yellow sea. It began on Feb. 8 in the afternoon, the Russian warships, after some hours of fighting, taking refuge among the islands. The next morning the battle was resumed. It continued until the Varyag was sunk and

HOW AMERICA GETS WAR NEWS

Messages Travel Across 15,000 Miles of Ocean—Cost Is 65 Cents a Word.
In the war between Japan and Russia, word of the first shot fired in far eastern waters reached this country across 15,000 miles of the ocean's bed. The tiny electric impetus put in motion by the key of the operator in far Nagasaki instantly plunged under the eastern sea and came to land in China, near Shanghai, 476 miles away. Then that little throb worked southward round the China coast to Hongkong 945 miles. At Hongkong



MAP SHOWING INITIAL OPERATIONS IN THE WAR.

(British) it dived under the China sea to Saigon, in Annam (French), 951 miles; from Saigon it crossed the bed of the sea to Singapore (British), 626 miles. Or it might have gone by way of Labuan (British), 1,071 miles.

Through the Malacca strait to Penang (308 miles), and then a great plunge westward through the wild Nicobars and under the tropic Bengal sea (1,380 miles), to Madras. At Madras it took the land until it came to Bombay.

Never resting, the brave little spark took to the water again, traversed the broad Arabian sea to Aden (1,850 miles), threaded its way up the scorching Red sea, flying ever westward, to Alexandria (1,534 miles). And from Alexandria it traveled deep under the balmy Mediterranean to Malta, out to Lisbon, and so to London (3,205 miles), and thence across the Atlantic.

Every word forced so laboriously through those 15,000 miles of solid wire cost 65 cents. This is the newly reduced rate for press messages at which many thousands of words will be sent. For private messages the rate is three times larger.

HAS SUBMARINE BOATS.

Russia Said to Have Sent Them Secretly to Port Arthur.

A Russian officer who lately returned from the far east is quoted by the Moscow correspondent of the New York Times to the effect that the Russian Pacific squadron possesses at least two submarine boats. They were built on the Black sea, carried east in sections and used together at Port Arthur when they were new. The officer also states that the mouth of the Amur river is heavily mined and that the river is equipped with light craft, each patrolling about sixty-six miles and carrying light artillery.

Russia's Enormous Army.

Though it is not possible to suppose that the Russians will put half or even a third of their effective war strength into the field and though it has been announced that no troops will be withdrawn from the Austrian or Bessarabian frontiers, it may be interesting to state what the actual war strength of the Russian army is. It should be remembered that every year 800,000 young men are liable to conscription, of whom 220,000 are employed, the remainder passing into

the Koreitz blown up, according to the official Japanese report. The Russian loss, it is said, reaches hundreds. The survivors from the Russian warships took refuge on the French cruiser Pascal.

The Japanese squadron was escorting transports from Nagasaki to the Korean harbor of Chemulpo. Near the Polynesian Islands the squadron encountered the Varyag, one of Russia's most effective fighting ships, and the Koreitz, a particularly dangerous adversary, because of her torpedo tubes in addition to her unusually heavy armament. The Koreitz was in advance of the Varyag. Both warships had been lying off Chemulpo. So soon as the Koreitz was within range of the Japanese squadron she launched two torpedo tubes. The Japanese immediately opened a heavy fire on the Koreitz. The Varyag hurried up to the aid of the torpedo gunboat, and both warships returned the Japanese fire. The battle lasted for some time, with slight damage to either side, when the Russian warships retired precipitately.

Early next morning the two Russian sea fighters, which had repaired their damages during the night, made a dash out of the harbor. It was a desperate effort to escape from the watchful Japanese fleet, resembling in its hopelessness Cervantes' memorable rush from the harbor of Santiago. The guns of the Japanese squadron covered the entrance to the harbor where the Russians had taken refuge. As the Czar's warships emerged, belching shot and shell, the Japanese opened fire on them.

The battle was as brief as it was furious. The Japanese concentrated terrific broadsides on the two Russian ships, and in a very short time it was apparent that their destruction was a certainty.

Shells disabled the Varyag, her steering gear was knocked out of commission. Her gun turrets rattled, and within half an hour after the morning's engagement she sank. The Koreitz, however, managed to escape from the watchful Japanese fleet, resembling in its hopelessness Cervantes' memorable rush from the harbor of Santiago. The guns of the Japanese squadron covered the entrance to the harbor where the Russians had taken refuge. As the Czar's warships emerged, belching shot and shell, the Japanese opened fire on them.

The battle was as brief as it was furious. The Japanese concentrated terrific broadsides on the two Russian ships, and in a very short time it was apparent that their destruction was a certainty.

Shells disabled the Varyag, her steering gear was knocked out of commission. Her gun turrets rattled, and within half an hour after the morning's engagement she sank. The Koreitz, however, managed to escape from the watchful Japanese fleet, resembling in its hopelessness Cervantes' memorable rush from the harbor of Santiago. The guns of the Japanese squadron covered the entrance to the harbor where the Russians had taken refuge. As the Czar's warships emerged, belching shot and shell, the Japanese opened fire on them.

The Japanese squadron proceeded on its way to Chemulpo, where troops on board the transports were landed.

JAPAN WELL PREPARED FOR WAR.

Financial Condition Especially Favorable for Meeting Big Outlay.

Comparisons of the financial and naval strength of Japan and Russia are being closely scanned. If it possessed the command of the sea, with sufficient monetary resources, Japan could easily place on the Asiatic continent an army which Russia would be perplexed to crush. It has been repeatedly alleged in ill-informed circles that the present state of Japan's finances handicaps her heavily for fighting purposes. Precisely the same estimate found general credence at the outset of the war in 1894. But in truth Japan's position to-day is incomparably better than it was then. She has in the vaults of the Central Bank specie aggregating 113,000,000 yen (11,300,000), an altogether unprecedented amount. There also remains to the bank a legal margin of 25,000,000 of note-issuing power, which will probably be expanded to at least 50,000,000 when the invariable year-end drain is succeeded by the spring deposits.

Japan's actual outlays during her war with China in 1894-95 were 105,225,000 yen on account of the army and 35,000,000 yen on account of the navy, in which figures there were included large sums for the purchase of transports, munitions and ammunition, none of which expenses would now have to be incurred. As for the hard money side of the account, the aggregate outlays did not reach 12,000,000 yen. It may be said that the financial situation is now notably favorable for Japan.

The Kansas Supreme Court decided that a man convicted of murder in that State may be released on bail pending the settlement of his appeal to the Supreme Court.

CONGRESS

The amendment to the urgent deficiency appropriation bill providing for a loan of \$4,000,000 to the St. Louis exposition was attacked in the Senate Wednesday on the ground that the government had no right to make an appropriation of this kind. The amendment was about to be voted upon without discussion when Mr. Bailey made a point of order. Mr. Tillman followed in a speech in which he characterized such appropriations as "steals," admitting that he had helped secure one for South Carolina. Mr. Lodge and Mr. Elihu spoke against the appropriation, while speeches were made for it by Messrs. Hale, Allison, Cockrell, Spooner, McComas and others. Indiana and Kentucky locked horns in the House and almost every member of the delegations from both States engaged in an argument caused by the amendment to the St. Louis exposition. Mr. Wadsworth Gov. W. S. Taylor that he might be tried for the assassination of William Goebel. The attack was led by Mr. James (Ky.) and the defense by Mr. Crumpacker (Ind.). The argument was interrupted by a speech on the reorganization of the United States army and navy, but it broke out again until Mr. Volsted (Minn.) made a long speech against Canadian reciprocity.

In the Senate Thursday the debate over the urgent deficiency bill amendment providing a loan of \$4,000,000 to the St. Louis exposition was continued along political lines. The amendment had not been disposed of when the Senate went into executive session. The diplomatic and consular appropriation bill, carrying \$1,063,000, was passed by the House without amendment. Everything in the bill itself was discussed in its consideration. Mr. Morell (Pa.) led an argument for some system of building up the American merchant marine. A Democratic political speech by Mr. Hamlin (Mo.) followed and received a reply from Mr. Fuller (Ill.). Mr. Lind (Minn.) spoke for Canadian reciprocity. Mr. Wadsworth returned the agricultural appropriation bill. Mr. Martin (S. D.) introduced a resolution requesting the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to investigate the causes of the low prices of beef cattle since July 1, 1903, and the unusually large margins between the prices of beef cattle and fresh beef, and whether these conditions have resulted from a trust or combination.

The political debate in the Senate on the loan of \$4,000,000 to the St. Louis exposition came to a close Friday by leaving the provision in the urgent deficiency appropriation bill, which was passed. After the vote on the deficiency bill speeches in support of the Panama Canal treaty were made by Mr. Mallory of Florida, and Mr. Heyburn of Idaho. Mr. Mitchell from the committee on post-offices made a favorable report on the resolution directing the Postmaster General to send to the Senate the reports made on the irregularities in the Post-office Department, and requested immediate consideration. The resolution was adopted. Mr. Sheppard (Dem., Texas) made a determined effort to bring about a reform in the matter of the distribution of seeds by the government. The bill was left just as the committee brought it into the House, so far as seeds for free to the farmer were concerned. The only item in the agricultural appropriation bill that aroused discussion, and with a few minor amendments, it was passed without division.

Chaplain Hale, in his opening prayer Monday referred to the Baltimore fire. Senators Hopkins and Clay spoke in support of the Panama Canal treaty. The bill granting assistance to the proposed Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland, Oregon, was passed. The bill was amended so as to close the exposition on Sundays. In the House the proposed loan of \$4,000,000 to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, as provided for in the Senate amendment to the urgent deficiency bill, was pending when the House adjourned. The House nonconcur in all other amendments except that providing for coal tests at the St. Louis fair. Resolutions were adopted calling on the Attorney General for information in addition to that furnished under the recent request for information as to anti-trust suits instituted, also for a report made by any examiners sent by the Department of Justice to investigate charges made by S. M. Brosius of the Indiana Rights Association. A bill declaring a portion of the Minnesota River in Minnesota navigable was passed.

The diplomatic and consular appropriation bill was passed by the Senate Tuesday without debate. Mr. Fulton, of Oregon, spoke in support of the administration's course in Panama and Mr. Carmack, of Tennessee, and Mr. Overman, of North Carolina, spoke in opposition thereto. The entire session of the House was devoted to consideration of the resolution on reported from Elections Committee No. 3 unseating Mr. Howell (Dem.) and seating Mr. Connell (Rep.) from the Tenth Pennsylvania district, and it was agreed to take a vote at 3 o'clock Wednesday.

Notes of National Capital.

Secretary Shaw says the report that he intended to leave the cabinet is without foundation.

Favorable action has been taken on the Burke bill opening the South Dakota reservation of the Rosebud Indians for settlement.

The House committee on Indian affairs authorized a favorable report on the bill to allow the sale of the timber and stone lands of the Osage Indian reservation in Oklahoma.

Senators Gamble and Kittredge of South Dakota had an interview with the President in an effort to get him to appoint Indian agents for the Yankton and Sisseton agencies in their State. Those agencies are now in charge of school superintendents.

Statehood for Oklahoma was considered by the House committee on territories. Sidney Clark of Oklahoma City spoke for the proposition. He opposed joining Oklahoma and Indian territory into one State because of the lack of taxing power in the latter territory caused by treaties with the Indians.

Capitol Detective F. N. Weber arrested M. F. McKesson charged with "hoaxing" with intent to defraud. In the Capitol, McKesson was soliciting for illustrated "write-ups" in a proposed publication entitled "Personal Reminiscences of the Fifty-eighth Congress."

Representative Loudenslager of New York introduced a bill providing for a service pension of \$8 per month to all veterans of the Civil War who served ninety days, \$10 to those who served two years and \$12 to those who served more than two years and \$12 to widows of soldiers and \$12 to widows of soldiers who would receive that amount under the bill.

Buckwalters. | Buckwalters.

SPREADING OUT!

Our business is spreading out. We are doing a much larger business than ever before. There must be some reason for this. Yes, it's the flour that does it.

Splendid Flour

SELLS on its merits. People who use it like it because it does the best kind of baking. That's why they continue using it. It is made by the oldest and most reliable millers in Sioux City. We are agents for Homer.

MARTENS BROS.

F. B. BUCKWALTER.
No. 6 FRONT ST., HOMER, NEB.

HARNESSES!

SADDLES | PRICES | COLLARS

Good Goods!
RIGHT!

STURGES BROS.,
411 Pearl St. | Sioux City, Iowa.

HARNESSES!

I have the Largest Stock of Harness and Saddles in Sioux City.

Single Harness.....\$5.00 Up!
Double Harness.....\$15 Up!

Come in and see them. It won't cost you anything to look at them.

Len O'Harrow,
902 Fourth St. | Sioux City.

Dakota City Milling Co.
MANUFACTURERS OF
FLOUR AND FEED!
Highest Price Paid for Grain.
DAKOTA CITY, NEBRASKA.

Louis Hermann,
—PHOTOGRAPHER—
THE CITY MEAT MARKET.
Fresh and Salt Meats always on hand. Cash Paid for Hides.
DAKOTA CITY, NEBRASKA.

JOHN ARENSDORF,
—DEALER IN—
Wines & Fine Kentucky Whiskies
SOLE AGENT FOR SCHLITZ FINE BEER.
"The Bodega." Fourth and Pearl
SIoux CITY, IOWA.