

The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, FEBRUARY 13, 1904.

R. F. IRVING
Editor and Proprietor.

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Office, Room 14, First National Bank Building, Corvallis, Or. Office Hours, 10 to 12 a. m., 2 to 4 p. m.

THE FIRST BATTLE

STORY BY EYE-WITNESSES
OF THE DARING JAPANESE
RAID ON RUSSIAN
SQUADRON.

Three Russian Battle Ships Disabled in Midnight Attack—Japs Approach Harbor, Let Torpedoes Fly and Made off in Darkness.

London, Feb. 9.—The decided victory of the Japanese flotilla at Port Arthur in the darkness of last night lends strength to the belief already strong in the minds of high officials that in the warfare now begun there may occur at least one if not more of the greatest sea engagements of modern times.

It is generally conceded here that the navies of Russia and Japan will be the most prominent factors in the coming conflicts, and it is possible that the world may at last learn the actual fighting values of modern ships of war. There is but slight difference in the strength of the two conflicting navies, for the larger number of Russia's armored ships is offset by the better types and superior personnel of the Japanese battleships and her armored cruisers, and the fact that Japan's facilities for supplying and maintaining her fleet are vastly superior to those of Russia gives the smaller navy a distinct advantage.

Russia's fight is practically a way from home. Port Arthur and Vladivostok, nearly 1,200 miles apart, are her only two naval ports in the Orient, and Vladivostok being accessible during the winter months, only Port Arthur remains a harbor of refuge and defense for upward of 80 vessels, including destroyers, torpedo boats and transports.

Japan, on the other hand, has four dockyards, and five naval harbors, five of which are distant only 240 to 245 miles from Port Arthur, and the latter port is far from being an ideal harbor. It can accommodate a small number of vessels and the dockyard could be shelled by an enemy in the open sea without great risk to it from the Russian forts. Thus Russia has "all her eggs in a basket," while Japan's dockyards, naval harbors and sources of supply are distributed on three islands difficult to approach, well fortified and impossible of blockade.

A protracted war, therefore, say men in Great Britain's foreign office, would be disastrous to Russia, and efforts to strike a decisive blow to annihilate Japan's navy may be looked for. Should Russia fail in this, or even only partially succeed, Japan's chances for final victory may still be considered exceedingly good.

Washington, Feb. 9.—It is reported here officially that Japanese torpedo boat destroyers have been lurking in the vicinity of Port Arthur, and this is taken to mean that the concentration of Japan's vessels can be made at any given time. The Japanese appear to have played a smooth game of preparation, and the Russians know that their ships are menaced and may be all destroyed.

The landing at Seoul of Japanese troops, covered by a torpedo division that is constantly cruising back and forth, keeping a lookout for Russian ships, is constantly going on. Eight thousand troops have been landed so far.

There is no truth in the report that Germany will take a hand, or that France is desirous of having the powers sending troops to China. Official denial is made at the French capital, and Germany sends word that she is preparing to issue a proclamation of neutrality.

Pekin, Feb. 9.—Authentic reports were received at the various legations here today that brought great surprise if not wonder. The reports say that Japan has seized three Russian ships, one of which is a small gunboat, the other two are transports loaded with Russian soldiers.

Chees Foo, Feb. 9.—The British steamship Columbia, which arrived here today from Port Arthur, brought news of the attack by the Japanese fleet upon the Russian fleet. The Columbia was in the roads at the time, and felt the first shock of a torpedo explosion at 11

o'clock last night. The attack continued all night, and at daylight today two Russian battle ships 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 to one side.

A naval officer who was recently at Port Arthur says the Russians were not prepared for the attack on their ships and had an insufficient amount of steam up. A boat patrolled the straits of Pe Chi Li continuously, but apparently the Japanese torpedo boats were not noticed until after the first torpedo was fired. The Russians fired, but the Japanese backed off instead of returning the fire. An hour later the discharge of torpedoes was repeated, after which the torpedo boats withdrew to some distance.

At ten o'clock Tuesday morning the Russian forts opened fire on the Japanese fleet, which was about three miles distant. A battle then began, the Russian forts and 14 ships against 16 Japanese vessels. A few of the Japanese shells were effective, but as far as seen the Russian shots fell short. The Russian cruisers then went out, and the Japanese vessels disappeared. They were seen later going in the direction of Dalney, apparently undamaged. Although the officers of the Columbia say that there were 17 ships in the attacking party, only 16 were seen later in the day by the steamer Fee Chow.

The Columbia had a narrow escape from injury. Her passengers and crew were very much excited in regard to her dangerous position. While going out of the roads at Port Arthur the Russian cruiser Novik got between the Columbia and the Japanese fleet. Shells which passed over the Novik struck around the Columbia. Her flag was cut into splinters, and one shell fell on her deck. The faces of those who were on deck were blackened with powder smoke.

A member of the crew of the Columbia tells the following story of the battle:

"The Columbia was lying in the roadstead, surrounded by 14 Russian battle ships and cruisers. At 11:30 last night a severe shock was felt on board the Columbia. The Russians 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 battle ships 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 was damaged above the water line. More shocks from torpedoes were felt during the early morning, and then all was quiet.

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

The two battleships disabled are the Poltava and the Czarovitch. The disabled cruiser Boyarin and grounded battleships block the entrance to the harbor, preventing gunboats from going out and battle ships and cruisers from coming in and getting coal.

Washington, Feb. 9.—News of the daring exploit of the Japanese torpedo boats at Port Arthur last night was received with great interest by the naval officers here. The general impression is that the Japanese boats did not actually run into the harbor, but passed swiftly across the mouth, under cover of darkness, let fly their torpedoes broadside, and at least three of these found their mark. Naval officers here say that this feat could not have been performed if the Russian vessels had remained under the guns of forts in the inner harbor, but the torpedo boats advocates point to a daring raid by Japanese torpedo boats into the splendidly fortified harbor of Wei Hai Wei just opposite Port Arthur during the China-Japanese war, when three great Chinese battle ships were sent to the bottom.

Are You Restless at Night?

And harassed by a bad cough? Use Ballard's Horehound Syrup, it will secure you sound sleep and effect a prompt and radical cure. 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by Graham & Wortham.

MORE SHIPS SUNK.

JAPANESE ADD TO THEIR
VICTORIES ON THE SEA.

Surround Russian Squadron and
Send Three Battleships to the
Bottom—Seven Vessels
Captured—Port Arthur]
Again.

THE ALBANY MAIL.

Morning and Evening Service to be
Established—Vidito Brothers.

On the 18th day of March a morning and evening mail service will go into effect between Corvallis and Albany. The mail will leave Corvallis at 6:30 in the evening for Albany, and is due to arrive in Corvallis from Albany at 8:30 the following morning. The arrangement will prove a great convenience in that it will result in the saving of a full day in correspondence between Corvallis and Portland, and will add materially to the dispatch of arriving California mails and passengers.

The bids for the service were opened in Washington on the 2nd inst, and the contract was awarded Vidito Brothers of Corvallis, at \$431 per annum. A large number of bids were submitted, some from Corvallis, and others from Albany. It is understood that in the transportation of the mails via the new service, the carrying of passengers will be provided for. Many Corvallis people would have preferred a service leaving Corvallis early in the morning and arriving late in the evening.

Tokio, Feb. 10.—Japan is making tremendous preparations to land more troops in Korea. She already has succeeded in landing several thousand of her forces at Chemulpo despite the presence of two Russian Cruisers. Four battalions have been landed at Gensan, one of the treaty ports of Korea, 115 miles south of Seoul.

Japan is concentrating her forces at Tsushima island in the straits of Korea, which is Japan's most advanced base.

It is officially stated here that the Russian troops have crossed the Yalu river and are pouring into Korea. Their objective point it is believed to be Seoul. Officials here declare that this action compelled Japan to initiate hostile measures and make war a terrible actuality.

Official circles in Tokio are convinced that a great battle between the Russian and Japan land forces will occur soon in Korean territory. The Japanese, however, are clamoring for a rigorous prosecution of hostilities all along the line. Plans of landing a greater Japanese force in Korea are being pushed strenuously. All troops on Tsushima island are held ready to embark. The general transport fleet has been enormously augmented by steamships chartered everywhere, regardless of cost. Newspaper correspondents were refused permission to accompany the first expedition.

London, Feb. 10.—The official account of the Chemulpo battle received at the Japanese embassy here this afternoon says that the Japanese squadron in escorting transports to Korea Monday afternoon was met on its way to Chemulpo by the Russian gunboat Korietz as the latter was leaving port. The Korietz assumed the offensive and fired on a Japanese torpedo boat. The latter replied by firing two torpedoes without effect. The Korietz then returned to anchor in the port and early next morning Admiral Iri, commanding the Japanese fleet, formally demanded that all Russian vessels leave the port of Chemulpo, adding that if they did not comply by noon yesterday he would be compelled to attack them within the harbor.

The Russian men-of-war left the port at 11:30 and battle was immediately given outside Polynesian island.

After one hour's engagement the Russians took refuge among the islands, and towards evening the cruiser Variag sank.

About 4 o'clock this morning, Feb. 10, the Korietz was reported sunk by her own crew, who, finding her utterly disabled, blew her up. The officers and men of the two

sunken vessels then took refuge on the French cruiser Pascal. There was no casualties on the Japanese side.

London, Feb. 12.—In a dispatch from Shanghai dated Feb. 12, 2 A. M., a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says:

"The bombardment of Port Arthur continues. Three Russian cruisers have been sunk. The Russian bank building has been destroyed."

In a dispatch from Nagasaki a correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says:

"There has been a renewed attack on Port Arthur. The Japanese captured seven Russian ships and chased others. There have been disturbances at Port Arthur in which a number of Japanese civilians were killed or imprisoned. A Chinese mob has destroyed the telegraph line around Niu Chwang."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Reuters Telegram Company cables that the naval headquarters' staff there announces that in the fight at Port Arthur six Japanese ships were slightly damaged, and 50 Japanese were killed and 150 wounded.

London, Feb. 11.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegraph Company from Tokio, dated 7:10 P. M., yesterday, says an unofficial report was current there that the Russian fleet was destroyed, four battleships and three cruisers being sunk, and that two Japanese warships were damaged in an engagement yesterday off Port Arthur, the Japanese getting between the Russians and the entrance of the harbor before the fight commenced.

Berlin, Feb. 11.—A dispatch to the Nossiche Zeitung from Yokohama says the greater number of the Russian warships at Port Arthur have already been disabled and several Japanese warships have been sent home for repairs.

London, Feb. 12.—That a land conflict is rapidly approaching in the Far East there is no doubt, and, while no battle has been positively chronicled, the cables received here indicate that the Russian army marching toward the Korean capital is steadily moving forward. The Japanese are already in Seoul. It is thought probable that the report from Tien Tain that a fleet of five Russian cruisers has laid low the city of Hakodate is without foundation.

Latest reports from Vladivostok are to the effect that the Russian fleet there is still confined to the harbor by ice, and, with the destruction of about half of the naval force at Port Arthur, it is considered unlikely that any vessels available for such destructive work as that reported at Hakodate could have been sent to the Japanese port.

London, Feb. 12.—A correspondent of the Standard at Tokio sends in this morning an entirely new account of the Port Arthur encounter. He says Admiral Togo's fleet arrived on Monday night and found the Russian squadron drawn up in battle formation outside the harbor and under the shadow of the forts, the destroyers being spread out in front over a distance of five miles. Admiral Togo decided on a night attack and opened fire at 11 o'clock. While the cannonade was hottest, a number of Japanese torpedo boats crept along close inshore at the foot of the cliff and succeeded in the darkness in getting between the Russian ships and the land. Here they lay unnoticed until the Russians began to give way before the Japanese fire and sought to re-enter the harbor. The Japanese torpedo boats then opened fire at close range and sank two battleships and one cruiser close to the entrance of the harbor.

CROUP

Begin with the symptoms of a common cold; there is chilliness, sneezing, sore throat, hot skin, quick pulse, hoarseness and impeded respiration. Give frequent small doses of Ballard's Horehound Syrup, (the child will cry for it) and at the first sign of a croupy cough, apply frequently Ballard's Snow Linctament to the throat.

Mrs. A. Vliet, New Castle, Colo., writes, March 19, 1901: "I think Ballard's Horehound Syrup a wonderful remedy, and so pleasant." 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by Graham & Wortham.

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