

miles north of here. They said that they were from the transports sunk at Port Arthur.

THREE COLLIERIES TAKEN.

British Steamers Captured by the Dmitri Donskoi.

Paris, Feb. 28.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Figaro" telegraphs that the Russian cruiser Dmitri Donskoi had captured three steamers flying the British flag which were conveying fifteen thousand tons of coal to Nagasaki.

The correspondent further asserts that Russia's plan of campaign contemplates the retirement of Russian troops without opposing the Japanese landings, and that when sufficient reinforcements arrive the offensive will be taken and Port Arthur will be relieved.

JAPANESE HEROISM.

Attempt to Block Channel—Togo Still Off Port Arthur.

Tokio, Feb. 27.—Naval officers commanded and "Jackies" manned the five steamers that were sunk at the entrance to Port Arthur. Merchant sailors volunteered for the dangerous undertaking, but their services were not accepted, as Admiral Togo decided to intrust the perilous mission to regulars.

There were ten officers and sixty-seven sailors in the crews and all volunteered for service. They had farewell to their comrades, expecting to die under the fire of the batteries of the enemy. The rescue of the entire crew surprised even the Japanese, who expected that a majority of the daring seamen would be killed.

The steamers did not carry lights, and were not armed, and consequently were not discovered until the operation of sinking them was practically completed. Japan is singing praise of the volunteer crews who took part in the dangerous work. It is expected that the Emperor will publicly thank them and give them medals to commemorate the daring act.

It is understood that Admiral Togo's main fleet is still in the vicinity of Port Arthur, and it is expected that this fleet will continue bombarding the place until it is untenable or until the Russian fleet is destroyed.

THE CZAR'S DEVOTIONS.

A Communion Service—Grand Duke Cyril Departs.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—After having fasted, the czar drove this morning to the Anitchkoff Palace, to partake of the sacrament. He was accompanied by the zarina and his daughter Olga, who were dressed in white. His majesty wore full uniform. The congregation included the Empress Dowager, the czar's sister, Grand Duchess Olga, and her husband, the Duke of Oldenburg. His majesty took the consecrated bread and wine from Court Chaplain Yanyesheff, and afterward bestowed the bread, stayed in wine, upon the Empress Dowager, the zarina and the grand duchess. The rules of the Orthodox Church forbid the administration of the elements separately, except to men.

The customary mutual congratulations followed the partaking of the sacrament, and the imperial party then breakfasted at the Winter Palace. Later in the day they dined at the Anitchkoff Palace. The crowds along the Nevsky Prospect heartily greeted their majesties as they drove through the streets.

There was a touching scene at the Nicholas Railroad station this evening when Grand Duke Cyril, eldest son of Grand Duke Vladimir, the czar's uncle, started for the Far East. Grand Duke Cyril returned to St. Petersburg this morning and went to take leave of the czar this afternoon. He partook of the sacrament in the church at the Vladimir Palace, and then proceeded to the station, where he was met by a large number of imperial princes and officers, who were waiting to bid him farewell.

Grand Duchess Marie, Cyril's mother, broke down at the last moment and wept as she embraced her son. Even the veteran Vladimir, Cyril's father, shed tears, and Grand Duke Boris and Andrew held their brother in long embraces. Grand Duke Cyril is going to Port Arthur to act as chief officer of the flagship. Grand Duke Boris will leave here March 11 with General Kurapatkin.

Although there is no confirmation here of the reported landing of Japanese at Possett Bay, near Vladivostok, private advices received here say that Japanese warships have been sighted off King-Seig, Corea, about eighty miles south-west of Possett Bay.

A popular movement to increase the Russian fleet has found expression in a proposition to build twenty-four torpedo boats at a cost of \$250,000 each. It is believed that these vessels could be completed at the home shipyards in eight months.

NO RUPTURE AT SEOUL.

Passports Not Handed to French Minister—A Russian Rumor.

Paris, Feb. 27.—There is no truth in the report published in London, which originated in the "Novik" of Port Arthur, that the Japanese Minister at Seoul had requested the Korean government to hand the French Minister his passports. The Foreign Office received a dispatch to-day from the French representative at Seoul, who makes no allusion to such action.

JAPAN'S NEW PROTECTORATE.

Tokio, Feb. 27.—Great interest is felt in the reception by the powers of the news that Japan and Corea have signed the protocol of the treaty by which Japan guarantees the independence and integrity of Corea. No doubt it held as to the approval of Great Britain and the United States.

Belgian, French and German subjects, as well as the representatives of companies conducted officially by Russians, have been pressing for concessions which may be affected by the altered status of Japanese and Korean relations.

RUSSIA AGAIN DECLINES LOAN.

Offers of Foreign Grants Refused by the Ministry of Finance.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—The Ministry of Finance, it is stated, has again declined the offers of several groups of leading foreign banks to float a Russian loan, on the ground that there is no need for adopting such a course.

CRUSH IN FATHER JOHN'S CHURCH.

Many Injured at Cronstadt—Snow Revives Congregation.

Cronstadt, Feb. 27.—Many persons were injured this morning in the crush at St. Andrew's Church, where Father John, of Cronstadt, is holding services. Five thousand people, mostly peasants, had crowded into the edifice. Women fainted, and the cries for help were so loud that the services had to be suspended. Christies threw snow into the church and over the congregation to cool the air. The injured persons were rescued with great difficulty.

TOLSTOY'S GIFT TO TROOPS.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—Count Leo Tolstoy has contributed a thousand sets of his works, the profit from the sale of which is to be used for the benefit of the troops taking part in the campaign in the Far East.

NO LANDING EXPECTED.

Russian View of Japanese Operations Off Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—The desperate manner in which the Japanese are returning to the attack at Port Arthur, in spite of their repeated repulses, has convinced the military authorities here that their main objective for the present is to cripple the Russian fleet, in order to have absolute freedom in the disembarkation of troops. For this reason the Russian commander is carefully guarding against exposing his ships.

No news is being received here concerning the operations around Vladivostok, whence, under the viceroy's orders, telegrams are forbidden except from officers to their families, and then only with the approval of the military censor. The location of the Russian Vladivostok squadron is not known, but it is presumed to be in the harbor. Nothing has been obtainable concerning the reported Japanese landing at Possett Bay, near Vladivostok.

General Kurapatkin arrived at Pakov to-day to bid farewell to his aged mother. He was welcomed at the railroad station by the Governor and deputations from the nobility, the Zemstvo, the city officials, and the commanders of the troops garrisoned here. The general will start for the front in about ten days.

Two thousand cars from the Russian European system, especially fitted for the transportation of troops, are being sent to the Siberian line.

M. Alexandrovsky, who is to take charge of the Red Cross field work in the Far East, left here for the front to-day.

The "Novoe Vremya" says the Slav pro-Russian demonstrations indicate the willingness of the Slavs to come under the Russian standard, adding:

Their hesitation would finally be overcome if Russia would be less uncompromising on questions of orthodoxy and autocracy, as the Slavs enjoy constitutional government, and in many cases do not belong to the Greek Church.

The "Novoe Vremya" hopes the Pan-Slavist Union will settle the Near East question once and for all in favor of Russian aspirations.

Prince Arzene Karageorgievitch, brother of the King of Servia, has been gazetted a captain of Transbalkanic Cossacks.

FRANCE STILL NEUTRAL.

Attitude Unchanged by the Korean-Japanese Treaty.

Paris, Feb. 27.—Reports of international entanglements growing out of the war continue to occupy a prominent place in the sensational branch of the press, but this week the officials of the government who are in close and constant touch with the Cabinets of other capitals have satisfied themselves that no international complications are imminent, or likely at least for the present, and that France is in no present or prospective danger of being embroiled in an international conflict.

An official said to-day that the new Korean-Japanese treaty had been the occasion for putting out a number of reports calculated to foment discord between France and Corea and perhaps force the hand of France. The authorities had taken note that the reports emanated from high Japanese sources. The official said French policy was definitely fixed to refrain from the slightest active participation in the war. This will not be changed by the Korean-Japanese treaty or other events, so far as can be foreseen at present.

It is the understanding in government circles that Japan will not ask the powers to give formal recognition to the Korean-Japanese treaty, particularly its indirect establishment of protectorates. Corea's position is likened to that of Rumania, after taking advantage of the Turkish war, to declare its independence, but before the Berlin Congress had sanctioned its becoming a kingdom.

SPAIN'S GOOD FAITH.

Recent Preparations Explained—The Treaty with France.

Paris, Feb. 27.—The Spanish Ambassador, Señor Leon y Castillo, in the course of an interview on the new Franco-Spanish arbitration treaty, to-day, explained the recent reports of Spain's military and naval mobilization. He said:

I was particularly glad to see the treaty signed while war is going on elsewhere, for pledges of peace are particularly precious in the course of conflict. In the present crisis Spain's only care has been to take measures which will properly safeguard her neutrality, if through any possibility it may be menaced. While such a menace is improbable, we adopt the same safeguards as the rest of the world. My government has sent several battalions to the Balearic Islands, Algeciras, Ceuta and the Canaries—in short, to all strategic points in Spanish territory. It is sheer folly, however, to attribute ulterior motives to these measures of precaution.

JAPAN PROTESTS AT THE HAGUE.

Objections to M. Muraviev's Speech To Be Sent to the Powers.

The Hague, Feb. 27.—Mitsuhashi Nobukata, the Japanese Minister here, has been instructed by his government to lodge a protest with the President of the Council of the Permanent Court of Arbitration against the language used by M. Muraviev, president of the Arbitration Tribunal and Russian Minister of Justice, in a speech made after announcing the tribunal's decision in favor of the blockading powers as against Venezuela.

It is expected in diplomatic circles that the only result of the Japanese protest will be that a copy of the complaint will be sent to the powers represented before the tribunal.

M. Muraviev said the findings of the tribunal had been reached after a most minute and most impartial investigation. Like all human acts, the decision was susceptible of criticism, but now it was made every one should accept it. The arbitrators, begun into the charge and over the sinister acts of war, which was a terrible obstacle in the path of light and progress. In spite of all good will, no one was secure against an unexpected hostile attack.

A nation was obliged to accept a war when the individual investigation, notice and inquiry were involved. The just Providence which ruled over battles would distinguish between right and unfounded attacks by the enemy and over the European and an Atlantic people the right would shine out afresh.

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RUSSIANS AGGRIEVED.

Much Bitter Feeling Over Sentiment in United States.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—The report that the United States had assented to the extension of the Pacific cable to Japan, with the reasons assigned in the dispatches from Washington, still further aggravates the popular belief that the United States is siding with Japan against Russia. The few Americans in St. Petersburg have all remarked upon the changed demeanor of their Russian friends. Formerly they were treated with the greatest cordiality, but now the Russians greet them with the question: "Is America our secret enemy, and shall we have to fight her also before the war comes to an end?"

How deeply the Russians are wounded by the belief, destined, unless checked, soon to become a conviction, that America has spurned her old friend, and is now playing a hostile role, is shown by the severance of personal ties, of which a striking instance occurred this week, when the most intimate Russian friend of an American woman declined her offered hand. Upon the American's exclamation of astonishment, her friend burst into tears and said she felt aggrieved at all Americans since the reported action of the commander of the United States gunboat Vicksburg at Chemulpo.

The attitude of the United States is a subject of frequent discussion in even the highest circles here, where with the greatest regret the fear is expressed that the two countries, without excuse so far as Russia is concerned, seem to be drifting apart. The recently reported cancellation of American contracts indicates how the resentment of America's supposed hostility has invaded business affairs. Popular feeling is, of course, to be largely attributed to certain of the Russian newspapers, which have suddenly turned their batteries from Great Britain to the United States, and have seized every rumor to place the worst possible interpretation upon it.

Without waiting for an explanation, which, it is apparent from the dispatches received here to-day from Washington, will put another complexion upon the Vicksburg incident, the columns of the press for days have been full of excited comment based upon the original version of the affair. In spite of the state of popular opinion, the government, it can be confidently asserted, places the highest value on American friendship, although the Russian Ambassador, officially the government of the czar assumes that the American attitude has been strictly correct, nor is the slightest disposition to question its acts manifested.

At the Foreign Office to-day it was said that the government knew nothing officially of the Vicksburg incident, and that it had not instructed Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador at Washington, to ask for an explanation. It was, however, said to be possible that the ambassador had courteously inquired as to the truth of the Vicksburg reports without having had specific instructions in the matter.

Regarding the reports of the cable to Japan, the government is also without official advice, and the impression was given that even were these true, Russia would not necessarily consider the running of this cable a breach of neutrality.

The Russian proclamation concerning contraband of war will be issued in a few days.

RUSSIANS ANGRY OVER NEW CABLE.

This Government's Attitude to Company's Request Attacked.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—The "Bourse Gazette" to-day makes a Washington dispatch, saying the United States has undertaken to lay a submarine cable from the Philippine Islands to Japan to prevent the latter's isolation in case the Russians cut the Shanghai cable, the subject of a bitter attack upon the government at Washington, "for this new evidence of its breach of neutrality," claiming that the contention of the United States that the laying of the cable will be an improvement of the improvement of trade relations "does not clear America's skirts," and inquiring "what the Americans say if Germany had run a cable from Kiao-Chau to Port Arthur or Vladivostok?"

Washington, Feb. 27.—Careful consideration is being given to the application of the Commercial Cable Company, made on behalf of Japan, to land a cable on the island of Guam, to connect at that point with the American cable. Last evening the President, Secretary Hay and Secretary Taft had a conference upon the question of the neutrality of this government in the Russo-Japanese War is an important factor in the consideration of the application. It is not unlikely, however, that if the application should be granted some conditions may be attached to the permission as to its use for military purposes, which would be that no conclusion has yet been reached by that government respecting the application, but it is regarded as certain that, in some form, it eventually will be granted.

GAVE ASSISTANCE TO RUSSIANS.

Message from the Vicksburg's Commander to the Navy Department.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The following message from Commander Marshall, of the Vicksburg, at Chemulpo, has been received by the Navy Department:

Took the initiative by sending medical assistance to the Vicksburg after leaving Chemulpo, and that they were abandoning vessel. Sent three boats and assisted taking of the Russian sailors, putting on board the Vicksburg. The Vicksburg remained afloat over five hours, a sinking slowly. Our boats were instructed not to bring the Vicksburg to the Vicksburg, but to offer the Zafro temporarily, but offer was declined.

MORGAN NOT GOING TO DALNY.

Right of Russia to Refuse an Exequatur Recognized by State Department.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The orders of Edwin V. Morgan, appointed and confirmed as American Consul to Dalny, to proceed to that post have been suspended. Mr. Morgan will not proceed until he has received further orders from the department. There is no present intention of trying to force Mr. Morgan to recognize the right of any government to withhold an exequatur, by warrant of the State Department, if the government does not feel that a consul at one of its ports facilitates commerce, there is no disposition to change Mr. Morgan's position. Mr. Morgan remains at his New-York home. No change has been made in the orders to Messrs. Chesley and Davison, who have been named as consuls to Moukden and Antung.

ALEXIEFF TELLS OF JAPAN'S LOSSES.

Two Torpedo Boats Thought Sunk on February 25—The Askold in Battle.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—The czar has received the following dispatch from Viceroy Alexieff, dated Port Arthur, February 26:

After the moon had set early in the morning of February 25 the Retvizan repelled several attacks by the enemy's torpedo boats, two of which are believed to have sunk in the open sea. Our torpedo boats, under Captain of the First Rank Matusevitch and Captain of the Second Rank Prince Lieven, encountered, unsupported, and pursued the enemy's torpedo boat flotilla. They sighted no large warships.

Later in the morning of February 25 the Askold, Bayan, Ussuri, Askold and Novik were sent out to prevent the Japanese cruisers from pursuing a portion of our returning torpedo boat flotilla. One of our torpedo boats, which was cut off by four Japanese cruisers, sought shelter in Dove Bay, where it was subjected to a long distance fire by the enemy. It had no casualties.

The Japanese fleet, on sighting our cruisers, came in closer to the forts, which together with our warships, opened fire at 10:50. Our cruisers, still firing, entered the harbor, which our torpedo boats had already safely reached. The enemy's shells for the most part fell short. One seaman was wounded, but we sustained no other casualties.

The Japanese fleet consisted of seventeen large warships and eight torpedo boats, whereas the squadron which attempted to block the entrance at Port Arthur on the previous day had twelve torpedo boats.

According to a telegram received here from the commander of the Russian cruiser Askold, at Port Arthur, all rumors regarding the sinking of his vessel are false. The commander adds that the Askold is sound.

To the Land of Flowers in 69 hours.

Leave Chicago this evening on the Golden State Limited and in less than three days you will arrive at Los Angeles.

An hour later you can be on the shores of the Pacific, listening to the roar of the surf, drinking in the wine-like air; palms and orange groves all about you and the bluest of blue skies above you. This, mind you, at a time of year when the thermometer at home is "way below zero" and the newspapers are filled with reports of the "greatest snow storm in years."

The Golden State Limited

is the newest, most comfortable and most luxuriously equipped train to California. Runs via El Paso, in sight of Old Mexico and over the line of lowest altitudes.

Leaves Chicago daily at 7:00 p. m. Through to Los Angeles, Pasadena, Santa Barbara and San Francisco. Electric lights, electric fans, bath, barber shop, Booklovers Library, daily market reports—all the conveniences and comforts of a metropolitan hotel.

Information and California literature at this office. Call or write. HAL. S. RAY, General Eastern Passenger Agent, Downtown Office, 402 Broadway, New York City. Uptown Office, Fifth Avenue and 35th Street.

*The worst of the winter is yet to come.

NEAR EAST CONDITIONS.

Trouble Brewing in Italy—American Official's Views.

Rome, Feb. 27.—The situation in the Balkans, with which Russia, Italy and Austria are so closely connected, although it has apparently improved in the last few days, still occasions considerable anxiety. Boris Sarafoff and Ricciotti Garibaldi have agreed on a plan which may result in a general rising in the Balkans. A meeting of all the Balkan leaders has been provisionally arranged to take place in Venice about the end of March. The possibility of arbitration was also discussed by Sarafoff and Garibaldi. The latter proposed to sound the United States as to whether or not that country would be willing to act in the capacity of arbitrator.

Should arbitration or the other arrangements suggested for a peaceful settlement of the threatened trouble fail, a general revolution seems inevitable, and Garibaldi is already secretly preparing a body of volunteers, each member of which will be equipped with arms, 2,000 rounds of cartridges and food for a month. To Garibaldi was offered the general direction of the Macedonian movement, but he refused it on the ground that he thought it better to leave the leadership to some man directly interested in Macedonia. Garibaldi is asking all his friends to contribute funds to the cause.

Confidential and official information received here from Austria points to the fact that the government is making extensive preparations to check any movements on its southeastern frontiers, where reinforcements amounting to 30,000 men have been centred. The proprietors of theatres and other large buildings in that part of the country have been warned that their premises may be seized for military purposes.

It is now known that negotiators are going on between Russia and Italy with regard to the Balkans. Signor Tittori, the Italian Foreign Minister, alluded to these exchanges in the Chamber of Deputies on February 22, when he protested against the anti-Russian manifestations in Italy.

Paris, Feb. 27.—An American official who for two years had been studying the conditions in the Balkans has arrived at Paris, and to-day made an interesting statement on the situation. He said:

I am satisfied Turkey will not declare war. She has been informed by the powers that even if she does engage in hostilities she will gain absolutely no result therefrom, and even may suffer from a military occupation by the powers, and that, perhaps, war may result in the separation of Macedonia from the Turkish Empire. It is true that Turkey is sending reinforcements to Macedonia, but this is due to the prospect of an outbreak of armed insurrections, which would interfere on the part of Bulgaria, now that Russia is occupied with Japan, but the Sultan has everything to lose and little to gain by a war. But Russia could not make such a concession, because the Bulgarians and insurgents have a distinct advantage, but the Turkish troops can sweep around toward Sofia, where the country is level. Bulgaria says she is able to put 200,000 men in the field. The Turks can only throw double that number into Macedonia, and reinforce them, if necessary.

It has been said that Russia and Turkey are discussing the question of the cessation of the Russian Black Sea fleet. Turkey would not give her consent if asked, unless she gained some concession in the Balkans, such as dealing with Bulgaria as she saw fit. But Russia could not make such a concession, because she would thereby forfeit the preferential position which she and Austria hold in consequence of having been designated by the powers to act as their representatives in dealing with the Balkan question. Moreover, Russia understands that if she ceased to be a representative of the powers other powers would induce Turkey that Russia may take this risk and induce Turkey to permit the passage of her fleet, this would be a violation of the Berlin Treaty, of which Great Britain is a signatory power. It would mean, furthermore, that Turkey and Russia had entered into an understanding which might be interpreted as bringing into play the Anglo-Japanese alliance. Aside from this latter point, there is hardly any question that Russia would find British ships blocking the Suez Canal and the Straits of Gibraltar.

The Black Sea fleet has been greatly overrated. It was examined a short time ago by an American naval officer. He reported that it was not in good condition, and that in any event it was of no use for overseas operations, in consequence of the small coal capacity of the vessels composing it. The latter had been constructed simply for operations in the Black Sea, and not for service in the Far East. Their bunkers are entirely inadequate to permit them to make a trip to China, or to steam any long distance.

JAPS RAISE \$153,000.

Funds for Army and Navy Relief and Red Cross Increase.

The accounts of the Japanese army and navy relief and Red Cross funds made up yesterday at the close of business for the second week, \$1,000 more than was received the first week. This makes \$153,000 received, and, as Consul General Uchida said yesterday, "they are still coming in."

The money thus far received will be used to purchase supplies for the Japanese Red Cross fund. Several of the acts will be contributed by Japanese, and it is promised that the wily little men will juggle Russian, Russian balls and perform other equally amazing feats.

WILL BE COMPELLED TO TESTIFY.

President of Miami Gas and Fuel Company Refused to Answer Questions.

William C. Timm, who was appointed by the Ohio courts as a commissioner in this city to take the testimony of Frank E. Randall, the president of the Miami Valley Gas and Fuel Company, in

DOCTORS ARE WARNED.

Darlington to Enforce Contagious Disease Rules.

Owing to the prevalence of contagious disease, the Health Department has announced that the rules of the department are to be strictly enforced, and all physicians have been warned to report every contagious case that comes under their notice or else suffer the penalty of a fine. Health Commissioner Darlington admitted yesterday that there were more cases of contagious disease in the city than ever before, and said:

The only way we can control the spread of contagious diseases is by a strict conformity with the rules of the department, and the means are the strict reporting of every case of contagious disease and by quarantine. Doctors are required to report to us all contagious diseases.

The three diseases which are required to be reported besides smallpox, are scarlet fever, meningitis and diphtheria, and of each of these there is at present an epidemic. The intense and continuous character of the principal cases. People keep their houses closed up, and the lack of fresh air is conducive to the formation and the spread of contagious diseases.

THE REAL THING

in bargains may be found in the "Little Ads. of the People" in the narrow columns.

Advertisement for Golden State Limited train, featuring an illustration of a woman in a hat and coat, and text describing the train's route and amenities.

Advertisement for BEST & CO. LILIPUTIAN BAZAAR, featuring an illustration of a child and text describing clothing and accessories for boys and girls.

Advertisement for Fifth Avenue Auction Rooms, featuring an illustration of a building and text describing an exhibition of colonial furniture.

Advertisement for Horner's Furniture, featuring an illustration of a furniture store and text describing various furniture items.

Advertisement for R. J. HORNER & CO., featuring an illustration of a furniture store and text describing various furniture items.

Advertisement for EVERETT PIANO, featuring an illustration of a piano and text describing the instrument's quality and price.