

ENOUGH HOME RULE—ODELL

SOME MORAL SUNDAY BEER LAW THE MOST WELL GET.

Republicans in Tiers (Spell That Right) Listen to the Governor's Other Jokes at the 27th's Spectacular Dinner, Where Jest Awakens Jest.

Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., Governor of the State of New York, was the principal guest at the sixth annual dinner of the Republican Club of the Twenty-seventh Assembly district in the Madison Square Garden concert hall last night. He made remarks, some of which were humorous. There were some people present who thought that in spots the Governor was more humorous than he knew. As for instance when he told blithely that a fellow passenger on a train up the State had taken him for a commercial traveler.

In the part of his remarks intended to be serious the Governor announced that he thought this city has at present all the home rule that is good for it, unless a little more liberty to drink when it is thirsty may be conceded to it. He expressed great loyalty to President Roosevelt and advocated his nomination and election. Then he set some of Mr. Roosevelt's friends to scratching their heads by saying that he disbelieved "many of the things that are charged against the President by selfish interests."

It was as spectacular a public dinner as has been given anywhere in New York this winter. On the platform of the concert hall had been erected four great, step-like platforms, one above the other. So, instead of one table for the speakers and other distinguished guests at the head of the room, there were four. The way in which the guests were apportioned among these was generally commented upon as interesting.

On the first bench, that nearest the floor on which the common or garden diners sat, was the Governor, at the right of George W. Wickersham, president of the club. Then there were Charles H. Murray, recently made chairman of the Republican county committee by the Governor, and the similarly created secretary of the committee, Armitage Mathews, Mr. Gruber's selection. There were also Commissioner of Immigration William Williams, James G. Graham, secretary to the Governor; Major Harrison K. Bird, military secretary to the Governor; Amos P. Wilder of Westchester; Senator Joseph A. Elberg, Assemblyman Charles F. Bestwick and Joseph H. Adams, Capt. Charles E. Sherrill of the Governor's staff, State Superintendent of Education, Mayor and his Deputy Superintendent, John D. Misher.

On the next bank, four feet above, all decked with white and gold, sat the next, too, were the district leaders. They were a lovely galaxy, from Otto Rosalsky to Port Ward March, and they made as merry a background, as Gov. Odell intimated later in his remarks, as ever encouraged the star performers at a minstrel show. Then far back, where the men with the tambourines usually sit, were the thirteen Republican Aldermen, nearer to heaven, as one of them said, than any one of them ever had reason to hope to be again.

Before the waiters were nearly through setting the flag-studded gallery, the boxes was filled with women from the Fifth avenue neighborhood of the district. Down on the floor sat the plain citizenry and had as good a time as any of them. In a back gallery an orchestra which kept those who were not busy eating busy rapping their glasses with their knives and forks in time to the music. It was almost 10 o'clock when President Wickersham called the diners to order to listen to the oratory. He reminded them at the very beginning that he was just such a dinner as this one that movements were often started which shook the country. He spoke cheerfully of Republican prospects in the district, city, State and nation and pointed out that the flag-studded gallery of generous Democracy which recently frightened a Republican dreamer.

Mr. Wickersham's reference to President Roosevelt was witty and pointed. Mr. Wickersham seemed surprised, inasmuch as he only mentioned Mr. Roosevelt's name in reminding the company that the President had begun his administration by promising to walk in the footsteps of President McKinley.

He ended by proposing the "health of that eminent Republican and sterling statesman, Gov. Roosevelt—I mean Gov. Odell."

The Governor was noisily greeted. His speech was received without any particular demonstration except when he said that President Roosevelt should be nominated and elected. Then a number of those on the first bank of the minstrel arose and waved their hands and shouted, and about a third of them did. At least one of the ladies in the gallery split her gloves. At the end of the speech there was a great shout of applause and cheering. Gov. Odell said in part:

Speech of Gov. Odell.

Mr. Toastmaster, Ladies, Republicans of the Twenty-seventh Assembly district, fellow members of Dockstader's minstrel aggregation, [laughter and applause.] Never before during the history of this State has it been my privilege to discharge the duties of Executive of the State. I have been called upon for the last of the Executive—last to the Empire State. In preparing for addresses such as this I always try to read up on a subject, and my own researches have searched history for the purpose of discovering some word, some phrase, some characteristic of Government or of men, that I have only been able to find two striking instances where these words were used. One is through the mouth of a man who is now dead, and the other referred to even at the present time, and I am sure that you will remember it. It is a line which I have heard in the past and which I have heard in the future. I refer to the dramatic, inspiring cry, "I am a Democrat, I am a Democrat." [Laughter.] It is another fervent bit of oratory which I have in mind, the celebrated speech of the Governor of North Carolina to the Governor of South Carolina. [Laughter.] These are the only instances which seem to have left their imprint and all the notes and speeches of Governors who have gone before me have been lost very deep in the library at the State Capitol and other State libraries throughout the United States.

The Governor is supposed to govern. I know that it is his duty, but his power is vast and without limit, but those who study the history of the Empire State will readily understand that it is not so. I have known of instances where even the Governor's identity is unknown.

I recall an instance in my own career where I was upon a train on my way to Albany in a speaker with another man who was vainly looking for me. He said, "I am sorry to see you here. I have a sympathy upon him I handed him one. He said to me, 'Do you reside in Albany?'" "Yes," I said. "I am here, I am here." "I looked at me in a moment in surprise and then said, 'I suppose you are an orator.' I said, 'I am.' He said, 'You are uncertain, then, as to your tenure.' 'Not a bit,' I said. 'I know I am to go out of office on the 1st of January, 1905.' 'Then you will not have an elective office,' he said. 'Yes,' answered I. 'May I inquire what office you are talking of?'" "Nothing but Governor." [Great laughter.] "Well," he said, "you will excuse me, but when you came into the car I looked you over because I wanted a cigar, but I came to the conclusion that you were a commercial traveler."

I hope that I have not been the subject of any of my friends from the press get the idea that there is a commercialism in our politics. [Laughter.]

Coming down on the car to-day one of the distinguished members of the Assembly had the effort to tell me of a joke which I thought it was a joke—which had been played upon me in the Port Orange Club in Albany. There was a mild retort there, a man that

\$1,000,000 FIRE IN OSWEGO.

The Kingsford Starch Factory Burned—One Fireman Killed.

OSWEGO, N. Y., Feb. 10.—The Kingsford starch factory, a branch of the Corn Products Company, the largest starch manufacturing plant in the world, was destroyed by fire to-night, entailing a loss of over \$1,000,000.

The fire originated in the chemical room while the employees were at work, and a panic ensued among the 300 girls employed in the packing room, where it was discovered. But for the prompt action of several cool-headed employees, many fatalities might have occurred.

The factory was seen a seething mass of flames, and the efforts of the firemen were directed to saving the adjoining buildings. Aid was received from neighboring cities, and the spread of the fire to the residence district was prevented. Over seven hundred men and women were employed in the Kingsford works, and they lent their aid in the fierce battle against the flames.

John Dougherty, a fireman, fell fifty feet from the roof of the burning building and sustained internal injuries from which he subsequently died at the hospital. Fireman Dempsey fell from a ladder and received injuries which may prove fatal.

William Edwards, an electrician in the employ of the Kingsford Company, was severely burned about the body. Several firemen narrowly escaped injury from falling walls.

Nearly 1,000 employees are thrown out of work, and it is said that the plant will not be rebuilt. The starch industry is to be centered in Chicago.

SENATOR HANNA HOLDS HIS OWN.

Symptoms Favorable and No Complications, Say His Physicians.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—According to the bulletin issued to-day by Dr. Osler, Carter and Rixey, Senator Hanna's condition is about the same or, if anything, a little improved. A slight attack of stomach trouble, due entirely, it is said, to the bromides administered to induce rest, was the only unfavorable development during the last twenty-four hours. The first bulletin of the day was issued at noon. It was signed by Drs. Rixey and Carter and read as follows:

"At 12 o'clock, noon, Senator Hanna was resting quietly. His temperature, 100.8; pulse, 97 and regular; respiration, 28. He was a little more restless during the night, but slept quietly at intervals. There are no complications and his general condition continues good."

There was no change during the afternoon, and at 7 o'clock, after the evening visit of the attending physicians, the following bulletin, signed by Drs. Rixey, Osler and Carter, was given out:

"Mr. Hanna's temperature at 6 o'clock this evening was 100.2; pulse, 92; respiration, 24. There has been some irritability of the stomach; otherwise the symptoms are favorable and there are no complications."

The night bulletin quoted above indicates that there was a fall of temperature to-day and that the sponge baths which were given to the patient accomplished the desired purpose in a very satisfactory manner. The physicians still say that the crisis has not yet been reached and that they are not sure of the precise time when it will arrive.

Elmer Dover, Senator Hanna's private secretary, is daily called upon by telegraph or long distance telephone to set at rest the fears of Senator Hanna's friends caused by sensational reports that have reached other cities. The physicians' bulletins have not been particularly optimistic, and there is apparently no intention of suppressing or distorting the facts in the case. Mr. Hanna is acknowledged to be a very sick man. He has typhoid fever, and in view of his age and his weakened condition, due to the grip and to stomach trouble and rheumatism, his recovery, if he does recover, must necessarily be slow and extremely tedious.

DOWLITES TO INVADE UTAH.

A Host of 5,000 to Be Taken There Next August to Make Converts.

SALT LAKE, Feb. 10.—The Zion founded by Brigham Young is to be invaded by a great host from the Zion established by John Alexander Dowd. Three of the chief officers of Dowd's church are here and have conferred with the report of an invasion in force. They are Judge J. V. Barnes, general counsel for the industries of the church; J. E. Peters, superintendent of transportation, and Daniel Sloan, inspector-general and auditor of Zion's accounts.

Mr. Sloan said that it was planned to bring about 5,000 people from Zion City in August next. The object is to make converts to the Dowdian faith. The trip will be for Salt Lake alone, no stops at other places being made coming or returning. Transportation arrangements have already been made. The three Dowlites met and conversed with President Joseph F. Smith to-day.

LEEDS TO BE A REPUBLICAN.

Mayor of Stamford Says He Has Changed His Political Faith.

STAMFORD, Conn., Feb. 10.—Mayor Charles Henry Leeds, who heretofore has been a Democrat for Democracy's sake, has made up his mind to support Roosevelt in the coming election. Roosevelt and Leeds was the ticket that was talked about wherever Stamford politicians met to-night. Leeds supported Bryan in 1896 and 1900, and in the last campaign was a contributor to the treasury of the Democratic national committee.

For several weeks Mayor Leeds has been doing a heap of hard thinking between his library on Strawberry Hill and his class room in Yale.

"My political ideas have been undergoing a great change recently," said Mr. Leeds to-day. "When I was elected Mayor I was heart and soul a Democrat, but now I must confess I am not. After the conventions are held next summer I am going to come out for the Republican ticket. Some may think it ungrateful in me, but I cannot help having the opinions I have. I like Roosevelt. He has made mistakes. All of us do, and there are some things about him I do not like, but, on the whole, he is a pretty good man, and he has a way of getting there that I like."

"I have found out from experience and observation that the Republican party is the party of achievement, and I will candidly say that I want to achieve something in this life. I shall continue to be a Democrat at heart, but my head shall henceforth be with the Republicans."

Dewey's Port Wine and Grape Juice. An superior for your sick ones. H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 19 Fulton St., New York.

HAY'S PLAN TO SAVE CHINA.

GOES BEYOND ASSURING NEUTRALITY DURING THIS WAR.

Would Guarantee the Nation's Integrity Forever—Importance of the Move Now Realized—England and Germany Said to Have Responded Favorably.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—With more information at hand concerning the exchanges now taking place between the great nations on the subject of the neutralization of China, the conclusion is forced that the matter is more momentous than anything of an international character participated in by the Government of the United States before or since it became a world power.

Upon the outcome of these exchanges may depend the ending of the Russian-Japanese conflict, or the preservation of China from the designs of great Governments actuated by political and commercial cupidity or the desire to protect their own interests. And the Administration at Washington has gone so earnestly and so deeply into the history-making game that it is being played that there is no telling in what position it may find itself when the present negotiations assume positive shape.

There is a vast difference between guaranteeing the neutrality of the Chinese Government and guaranteeing the neutralization of the Chinese Empire. The first means, in the matter at issue, that the Powers shall insure to Russia and Japan the certainty that China shall not take sides with either belligerent.

The other means the certainty that the Chinese Empire shall heretofore be a zone of peace, protected by great nations of the world from exploitation by any other Power or Powers, and shall remain a territorial entity. It is this second arrangement which the United States Government hopes to accomplish through the proposals submitted by the Secretary of State, for the President, to all the nations concerned in the Chinese question, including Russia and Japan.

The ideas which come from a consideration of the suggestions now being discussed by the Ministers of every Government of consequence, are many and startling. If the neutral Powers agree to insist upon the neutralization of Chinese territory, including Manchuria, Russia will be forced to forego the spoils which she is expected to gain in the event of a victorious struggle with Japan.

To carry out such a purpose the Powers must be in sufficient number to make it useless for Russia, and any ally or allies which she may secure, to resort to hostilities in the hope of preventing the accomplishment of the neutralization scheme. This consideration alone makes obvious the tremendous importance of the undertaking which the Powers are now discussing earnestly.

THE SUN correspondent is able to say that Mr. Hay sent only one circular note to the Powers, Russia and Japan being included. This note included the proposals to the belligerents that they agree upon a limit to the sphere of their military operations, as well as the proposal in regard to the neutralization of the Chinese Empire for all time.

There was no suggestion as to how this sphere should be defined or any specific statement that Manchuria should be included within the neutralized empire. Mr. Hay wisely left all such definite propositions or arrangements to future development, thus giving the Powers the opportunity of expressing themselves upon the purely general subject of the desirability or undesirability of neutralization and the limitation of the conflict to a prescribed area.

Responses, either to Mr. Hay's proposals with reference to suggestions upon which their foundation was laid, made previous to the dispatch of Mr. Hay's formal circular note, have been received by the State Department from England and Germany, and both are regarded as distinctly favorable to the idea of neutralization. Germany's attitude is extremely pleasing to this Government.

It is realized here that Germany would have much to fear if Russia, victorious over Japan, extended her jurisdiction to territory bordering on the Shantung Peninsula, and the hope is expressed that the Government at Berlin will realize the desirability of a compact among the Powers to save China from exploitation at the hands of any of their number. Japan will naturally be favorable to the neutralization proposal, but probably not to the suggestion that the sphere of military operations be restricted.

Strange as it may seem, there are men of consequence here who would not be surprised if Russia gave assent to the neutralization idea. Their view is that, with any degree of Japanese success upon the land, Russia might see her way honorably to permit the exercise of the peaceful good offices of the Powers to bring about an agreement between the belligerents for the neutralization of Manchuria and Corea, guaranteed by other great nations, thus removing the menace which each combatant contended was the real reason for their differences.

However, no one in Washington is sanguine enough to believe that there is any prospect, at this early stage of hostilities, of an immediate, favorable response by Russia to the proposals which this Government has brought to the attention of the Powers.

The State Department declined to-day to deny or affirm the statement made in THE SUN'S Washington despatches that Germany had initiated the exchanges which produced the definite suggestions of Mr. Hay.

Sir Chentung Liang-Cheng, the Chinese Minister, informed the Secretary of State to-day that the Chinese Government would preserve a strict neutrality and had directed Provincial Viceroys to see that the people of their provinces took no part in the Russian-Japanese struggle.

FRENCH SUSPECT OUR MOTIVES.

Think Hay's Plan Shows Intention to Side With Japan.

PARIS, Feb. 10.—The feeling against the Japanese is growing here. Angry indignation is expressed at what is described as their brutal violation of the law recognized by civilized States in attacking the Russians without a formal declaration of war. Such a treacherous act, it is declared, pro-

claims the barbarism of the Japanese. The Nationalist press is particularly noisy and violent. The bulk of other press opinion is naturally pro-Russian.

The *Journal Des Debats*, discussing the proposal of Secretary of State Hay, sees in it an intention to side directly with Japan by raising the Manchurian question. It says that if the United States does not desire more than the maintenance of the open door she ought to be satisfied with the assurances Russia has given to all the Powers. Russia will simply refer the United States to her former statement.

The *Journal* advises the United States to abstain from a step that is destined to end in her own confusion.

GERMANY APPROVES HAY'S PLAN.

Neutralization of China to the Interest of All Powers.

Berlin, Feb. 10.—The *Cologne Gazette* says that the United States may be sure of a favorable reception by Germany of Secretary Hay's proposal. The neutralization of China is so much to the interest of all that other Powers will not hesitate to consent.

Germany particularly supports the plan, as tending to restrict the scope of the war and to prevent the recrudescence of anti-foreign sentiment in China.

The proposals of Mr. Hay are discussed benevolently by the semi-official press, but the *Liberal Volkszeitung* describes the United States as unmasking her diplomatic batteries by these proposals even more completely than England has done.

JAPAN OBJECTS TO WAR LIMITS.

Would Be Hampered in Carrying the Attack Into Manchuria.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—One version of the negotiations now going on between the Powers says that the proposal to limit the area of war operations is that they should be confined to Corea and the territory in Manchuria which is leased by the Russians. This is official Japanese feeling, the statement being that Japan would refuse to accept the latter restriction, and it is not expected that Russia would do so. It is pointed out that it would be practically impossible to conduct military operations against Russia in Manchuria unless the invaders had liberty to land and to approach from any direction.

It was suggested to-day to a high Japanese official, that having driven Russia from the seas it would be necessary to delay serious land operations in Manchuria for several weeks until the weather moderated.

"No," was the reply. "We kept up an active campaign throughout the winter during the Chino-Japanese War. Our troops do not mind severe weather."

The Japanese have reason to believe that Russia is hurrying an army south from the Yalu River toward Seoul. Japan expects to occupy Seoul with a large force within two days and to be prepared to meet the Russians before they reach that neighborhood. Moreover, now that she has command of the seas Japan may be expected to land troops near the mouth of the Yalu River and to land upon the rear of the Russian invaders of Corea. Important engagements are expected in Corea within a week.

LONDON OPINION.

Disposition to Delay Giving Approval to Mr. Hay's Plan.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—The newspaper comments on the proposals of Secretary Hay concerning the Far Eastern situation are not very definite. There is no opposition to them, but the writers do not commit themselves to a distinct view.

The *Times* remarks that there is a natural disposition to await further information before pronouncing a definite opinion.

The *Morning Post* alone urges that they deserve the hearty concurrence of all the Powers.

TYPHOID FEVER IN WATERTOWN.

Four Hundred Cases in the City—Three Cases of Death Yesterday.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Feb. 10.—The typhoid fever here has reached epidemic proportions. To-day three deaths occurred from the disease and a dozen new cases developed. At the outbreak of the disease in the town, but now it has assumed a more serious type. There are no less than 400 cases in the city. The local authorities have been unable to trace the source of the disease, and the State Health Department has been called on, and Prof. Olin H. Landreth of Union College will be sent here to make an investigation and to assume general charge of the situation. The hospitals have for several weeks been insufficient to accommodate the patients who required quarters, and the city authorities have leased a large residence, which will be turned into a temporary hospital. The opinion prevails that the disease is due to the germ in Black River, the water of which is used for drinking purposes without boiling or filtering. A large filtration plant is being installed, but will not be completed before next fall. Filters have been ordered for all the public schools.

HURT IN STREET CAR CRASH.

Bump at Eighth Avenue and Forty-second Street Shakes Up Passengers.

A number of passengers were badly scared and shaken up late yesterday afternoon in the collision of a heavily loaded northbound Eighth avenue car with a westbound Forty-second street car.

The Eighth avenue car had just taken aboard a number of women and children who had been attending the matinee performance at the American Theatre. As it started to cross Forty-second street the crowd on the car reached the east side of the avenue.

The motorman of the Forty-second street car was apparently unable to make his brakes work, for the car slid past the crossing and hurled into the forward part of the uptown car.

Every window in both cars was smashed and the collision battered up the front platform of the uptown car. The occupants of both cars fled in a panic to the street. On the way three women fainted. A number were cut by glass.

Among the injured was Policeman Reaney of the West Thirty-seventh street station, who was thrown from the rear platform of the Eighth avenue car and got a cut on his forehead. Others who were slightly hurt were Margaret Burns of 325 West 125th street, Rose Taylor of 428 East Twenty-third street, Mrs. W. C. Fuller of 1867 Seventh avenue, Miss E. Courier of 217 Ninth street, John Niebusch of 1897 Eighth avenue and Mrs. Henry Burr of 1044 Eighth avenue.

Dr. Erving of 124 West Fifty-eighth street happened to be on the corner when the accident occurred and he attended the three women who had fainted and several others who had been cut by flying glass. No ambulance was summoned.

JAPAN'S GAIN.

Both Naval Battles Decisive Victories.

RUSSIA IS AROUSED.

Patriotic Response to the Czar's Manifesto.

LAND FORCES LINING UP.

Japanese Force at Seoul and Russian Army on the Border.

Russians Now Admit Defeat at Port Arthur, Where Seven Ships Were Disabled—Japan Reports the Sinking of Russian Cruiser and Gumboat Off Chemulpho—Declares Russian Warship Fired First Shot of the War—In Manifesto to His People, the Czar Declares He Used Every Endeavor to Preserve Peace—Makes Appeal to Patriotism of Naval Cadets—Mikado's Personal Direction of the War Moves—Japanese Admiral Uru, Victor at Chemulpho, a Graduate of American Naval Academy.

No reliable reports came from the Far East yesterday of further fighting between Japanese and Russian forces on land or sea. Full confirmation was received of the Japanese naval victories of the previous day at Port Arthur and Chemulpho.

The Japanese Government reports the sinking of the Russian cruiser *Variag* and the gunboat *Koriyet* in an engagement off Chemulpho, Corea, and asserts that the *Koriyet* fired the first shot of the war attacking the Japanese ships early Monday night before the other engagement at Port Arthur had begun.

Admiral Alexieff, Russian Viceroy of the Far East, admits in his official report to the Czar that in the Japanese attack at Port Arthur seven Russian warships were disabled, sixteen men killed, two officers and fifty-nine men wounded.

Rumors that the Japanese also captured seven Russian ships at Port Arthur lack confirmation.

A large Japanese force has reached Seoul, the capital of Corea, and 50,000 Russians are reported massed along the northern border to resist a Japanese invasion of Manchuria.

THE BATTLE OFF CHEMULPHO.

Japan Declares That Russia Fired the First Shot in the War.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Baron Hayaishi, the Japanese Minister, has received the following telegram from his Government: "On Monday evening the Japanese squadron met on the way to Chemulpho the Russian gunboat *Koriyet* coming out of Chemulpho harbor. Taking a hostile attitude against the Japanese transports, it fired on the Japanese torpedo boats. The latter discharged two torpedoes without effect.

"Then the *Koriyet* returned to its anchorage in the port.

"Early next morning, about 8 o'clock, Admiral Uru, commanding the Japanese squadron, demanded that the Russian ships leave port before noon. He added that if the demand was not complied with he would be compelled to attack them in the harbor.

"Two Russian warships left port about 11:30 A. M. A battle ensued outside the Polynesian Islands.

"After about an hour's engagement the Russian warships took refuge among the islands.

"Toward evening the Russian cruiser *Variag* sunk and about 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning the gunboat *Koriyet* was also reported to have sunk, having been blown up by her own crew.

"The officers and men of the two sunken vessels took refuge aboard the French cruiser *Pascal*.

"There were no casualties on the Japanese side."

That Russia fired the first shot of the war, so the Japanese Legation here points out, is shown by the official account of the opening of the engagement at Chemulpho. The Russian gunboat *Koriyet* started this fight on Monday evening several hours before the Japanese attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur.

The Polynesian islands referred to are probably the group off Chemulpho, called on the maps the Prince Imperial Islands.

JAPAN'S MINISTER HERE GETS STORY OF BATTLE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Following is the substance of a despatch received by the Japanese Minister from his Government this morning:

"On the evening of the 8th inst. the Japanese squadron under Admiral Uru, conveying transports and entering the port of Chemulpho, was met by the Russian gunboat *Koriyet*. As she came out of the port she immediately assumed a hostile attitude toward the Japanese transports and then fired upon the Japanese vessels,

JAPAN'S GAIN.

Both Naval Battles Decisive Victories.

RUSSIA IS AROUSED.

Patriotic Response to the Czar's Manifesto.

LAND FORCES LINING UP.

Japanese Force at Seoul and Russian Army on the Border.

Russians Now Admit Defeat at Port Arthur, Where Seven Ships Were Disabled—Japan Reports the Sinking of Russian Cruiser and Gumboat Off Chemulpho—Declares Russian Warship Fired First Shot of the War—In Manifesto to His People, the Czar Declares He Used Every Endeavor to Preserve Peace—Makes Appeal to Patriotism of Naval Cadets—Mikado's Personal Direction of the War Moves—Japanese Admiral Uru, Victor at Chemulpho, a Graduate of American Naval Academy.

No reliable reports came from the Far East yesterday of further fighting between Japanese and Russian forces on land or sea. Full confirmation was received of the Japanese naval victories of the previous day at Port Arthur and Chemulpho.

The Japanese Government reports the sinking of the Russian cruiser *Variag* and the gunboat *Koriyet* in an engagement off Chemulpho, Corea, and asserts that the *Koriyet* fired the first shot of the war attacking the Japanese ships early Monday night before the other engagement at Port Arthur had begun.

Admiral Alexieff, Russian Viceroy of the Far East, admits in his official report to the Czar that in the Japanese attack at Port Arthur seven Russian warships were disabled, sixteen men killed, two officers and fifty-nine men wounded.

Rumors that the Japanese also captured seven Russian ships at Port Arthur lack confirmation.

A large Japanese force has reached Seoul, the capital of Corea, and 50,000 Russians are reported massed along the northern border to resist a Japanese invasion of Manchuria.

THE BATTLE OFF CHEMULPHO.

Japan Declares That Russia Fired the First Shot in the War.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Baron Hayaishi, the Japanese Minister, has received the following telegram from his Government: "On Monday evening the Japanese squadron met on the way to Chemulpho the Russian gunboat *Koriyet* coming out of Chemulpho harbor. Taking a hostile attitude against the Japanese transports, it fired on the Japanese torpedo boats. The latter discharged two torpedoes without effect.

"Then the *Koriyet* returned to its anchorage in the port.

"Early next morning, about 8 o'clock, Admiral Uru, commanding the Japanese squadron, demanded that the Russian ships leave port before noon. He added that if the demand was not complied with he would be compelled to attack them in the harbor.

"Two Russian warships left port about 11:30 A. M. A battle ensued outside the Polynesian Islands.

"After about an hour's engagement the Russian warships took refuge among the islands.

"Toward evening the Russian cruiser *Variag* sunk and about 4 o'clock on Wednesday morning the gunboat *Koriyet* was also reported to have sunk, having been blown up by her own crew.

"The officers and men of the two sunken vessels took refuge aboard the French cruiser *Pascal*.

"There were no casualties on the Japanese side."

That Russia fired the first shot of the war, so the Japanese Legation here points out, is shown by the official account of the opening of the engagement at Chemulpho. The Russian gunboat *Koriyet* started this fight on Monday evening several hours before the Japanese attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur.

The Polynesian islands referred to are probably the group off Chemulpho, called on the maps the Prince Imperial Islands.

JAPAN'S MINISTER HERE GETS STORY OF BATTLE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—Following is the substance of a despatch received by the Japanese Minister from his Government this morning:

"On the evening of the 8th inst. the Japanese squadron under Admiral Uru, conveying transports and entering the port of Chemulpho, was met by the Russian gunboat *Koriyet*. As she came out of the port she immediately assumed a hostile attitude toward the Japanese transports and then fired upon the Japanese vessels,

which replied by discharging torpedoes, but without effect. Upon this the *Koriyet* returned to her anchorage in the harbor of Chemulpho.

"At 8 o'clock on the morning of the 9th, Admiral Uru made a formal demand on the senior Captains of the Russian men-of-war *Variag* and *Koriyet* to retire from the port before noon of that day, adding that in case of refusal to do so he would be obliged to attack the Russian vessels in the harbor. The Japanese squadron then left the port and the Russian vessels followed a little after 11:30 A. M., and an engagement ensued outside the Polynesian Islands. After about an hour's fighting, the Russian ships took refuge among the Polynesian Islands. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the *Koriyet* sank, presumably by being blown up by her own people, while the *Variag* sank later in the day. The Japanese squadron was not damaged and no lives were lost."

The Japanese Minister draws special attention to the fact that this telegram clearly indicates that the first overt act of hostility of the present war was committed by the Russian vessel *Koriyet* in firing upon the Japanese squadron.

OUR MINISTER AT TOKYO REPORTS.

A despatch was received by the State Department from Mr. Griscom, the United States Minister at Tokio, dated yesterday, as follows:

"Naval engagement was begun to-day at noon outside the harbor of Chemulpho. The Japanese squadron sunk the Russian gunboat *Koriyet* at 4:10 P. M. and overcame the cruiser *Variag*. The telegram alleges that hostilities were begun by the Russian gunboat firing on the Japanese torpedo boats. No Japanese lives were lost in the engagement."

It was apparent from this and other despatches received by the State Department that the news of the engagement at Chemulpho reached Tokio before word came of the battle fought at Port Arthur.

Mr. Griscom also telegraphs the following:

"The Japanese Consul at Chefoo telegraphed that the entire Japanese fleet engaged the Russian fleet at 11 P. M. on the 8th at Port Arthur. Two Russian battleships were sunk by torpedo boats. The Russian ships were outside the harbor, not being able to enter. There is no report of any vessel of the Japanese fleet being injured."

Mr. Griscom adds to this despatch: "No Japanese lives were lost in the engagement at Chemulpho."

ALEXIEFF REPORTS HIS LOSS.

Seven Ships Disabled at Port Arthur—Seventeen Men Lost.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 10.—The following telegram from Admiral Alexieff, Russian Viceroy of the Far East, to the Czar, dated yesterday, has been published here:

"A Japanese squadron of fifteen battleships and cruisers to-day began to bombard Port Arthur. The fortress replied and the squadron weighed anchor in order to take part in the contest."

A later telegram from the Viceroy says: "After a bombardment lasting an hour the Japanese squadron ceased firing and steamed southward. Our losses were two naval officers and fifty-one men wounded and nine men killed. One man was killed and three were wounded on the coast batteries during the battle