

SLAVS DEFEATED WITH LOSS OF TWO THOUSAND MEN

LONDON, May 20.—The Standard's correspondent at Tientsin wires that while the Japanese fleet was covering the landing of troops near Kaichou on Monday a fierce engagement occurred at Hsinyencheng. Two thousand Russians were killed or wounded. The Russians retreated and the Japanese occupied both Kaiping and Kaichou.

Hundreds Perish on Sinking Japanese Craft.

Togo Reports Loss of Two of His Warships.

TOKIO, May 19.—Vice Admiral Togo has reported as follows:

A report from Rear Admiral Dewa says that the cruisers Kasagi and Yoshino collided during a fog off Port Arthur on May 15. The Yoshino sank, only ninety of her crew being saved.

"On the same day the battleship Hatsuse struck a Russian mine and sank."

Giving details of the disaster, Vice Admiral Togo says:

"At fourteen minutes past one in the afternoon of May 15, in a deep fog off Port Arthur, the Kasagi rammed the Yoshino, sinking the latter in a few minutes. Ninety of her crew were saved.

"The same morning the Hatsuse, while cruising off Port Arthur, covering the landing of soldiers, struck a mine ten knots southeast of the harbor entrance. She signaled for help, and instantly struck another mine. She sank in half an hour. Three hundred of her crew were saved by torpedo boats."

The cruiser Kasagi mentioned in the foregoing dispatch, was purchased by Japan from Argentina before the outbreak of hostilities with Russia. The cruiser Yoshino was a steel vessel of 4180 tons displacement. She was 350 feet long, 46 feet wide and had a draught of 17 feet. Her indicated horsepower was 15,000 and her speed was 23 knots. She was built in 1892. She carried four 6-inch, eight 4.7-inch guns, and twenty-three 3-pounders. She had five torpedo tubes and a complement of 309 men.

The Hatsuse was a steel battleship of 15,000 tons displacement. She was 400 feet long, 76 feet wide and had a draught of 27 feet. Her indicated horsepower was 16,300. She was built in 1899, and her speed was 19 knots. She was armed with four 12-inch and fourteen 6-inch guns, as well as thirty-two guns of smaller caliber. She had four torpedo tubes and a complement of 741 men.

REJOICING IN RUSSIA.

Disasters Are Lessening Japan's Preponderance on the Sea.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 20, 3 a. m.—The loss of at least two Japanese warships is officially confirmed. A message dated Port Arthur, received by carrier pigeon at Mukden, was transmitted to the Emperor early yesterday morning, saying that two Japanese warships had been lost off that port. The message followed the Emperor to Kourak and on to the Empress. Its contents until late last night, when foreign telegrams brought full details of the Japanese loss.

Early in the afternoon reports of the sinking of the Shikishima and the Fuji, on the authority of Russian refugees from Dainy, began to circulate and aroused intense excitement. Without reference to its effect on the campaign, the people regard the disaster as divine interposition in the Russian cause.

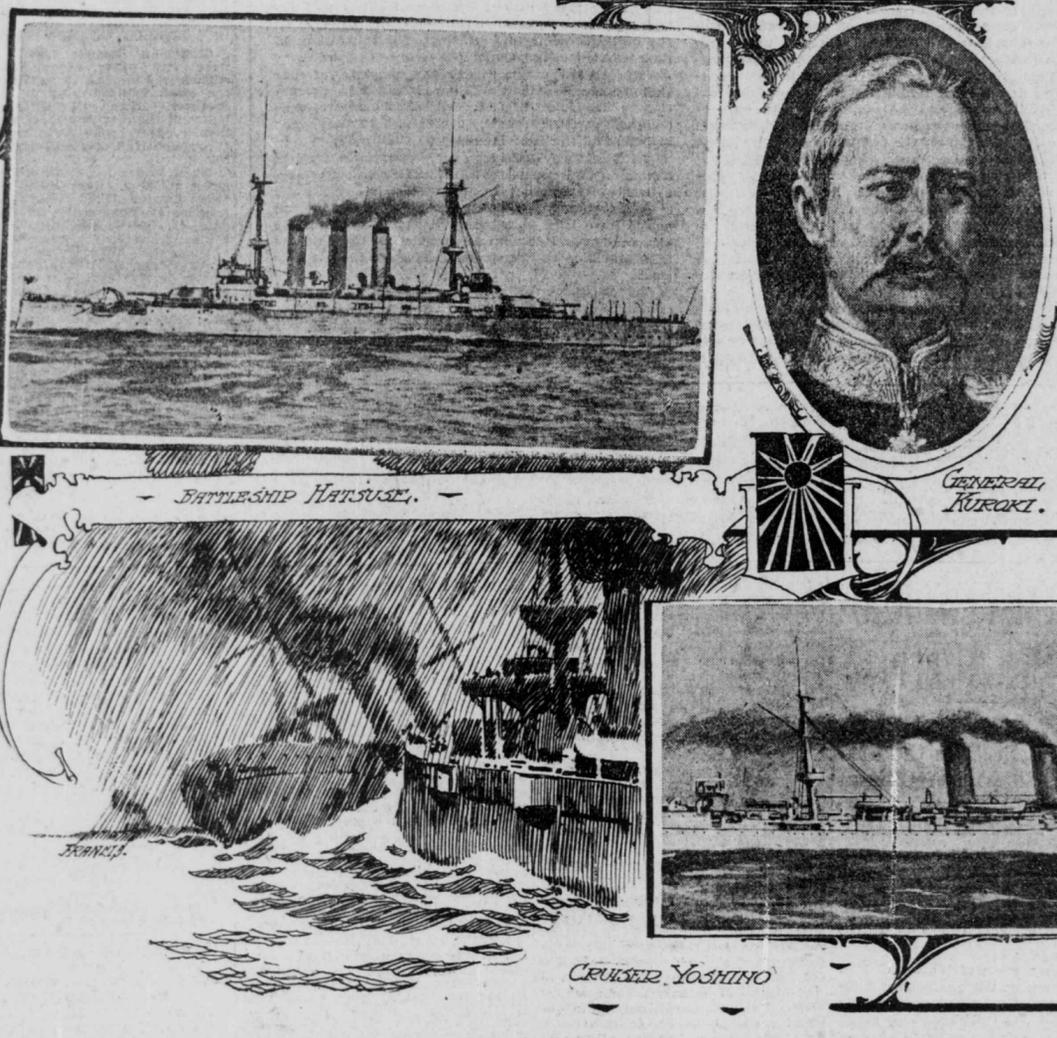
"It is an offering to Russia upon the day of ascension and the Emperor's birthday, and it is a sign that God is with us," was the remark generally heard.

In naval circles the Japanese catastrophe is a matter of rejoicing, though regrets are expressed that brave men have lost their lives, just as Japan voiced its sorrow to the world when brave men were slain at the battle of Petropavlovsk. But this feeling of sympathy is swallowed up in the greater thanksgiving for the blow inflicted on the sea power of the enemy.

It is pointed out that the Hatsuse was one of Japan's finest battleships, and that the loss of two, and possibly four, warships at intervals of a few days cannot fail to deeply affect Japan and to influence the course of the campaign.

The general staff to-night is without direct news of the sinking of the Shikishima and the Fuji, but there is an impression that it may be true. The reports, at any rate, have infused fresh life and enthusiasm in official circles, where it is believed that the tide has turned.

No surprise is expressed by the admiralty at the Japanese vessels striking Russian mines, the admiralty expecting such a mishap to Vice Admiral Togo, particularly since the naval commanders at Port Arthur have faithfully



VICTORIOUS JAPANESE GENERAL AND TWO OF ADMIRAL TOGO'S WARSHIPS THAT HAVE BEEN SUNK OFF PORT ARTHUR.

Russians Claim Two Battleships Hit Mines.

ly duplicated the plan which resulted in the sinking of the Petropavlovsk. Wherever off Port Arthur the Japanese squadron appeared during the day, that same night Russian torpedo boats stole out and carefully planted contact mines, which, below the surface, would not be touched by the destroyers, while ships of heavier draught cruising in the mine fields would be sure to strike them.

The favorite point selected by the Japanese for bombarding is Liaoshan Promontory, and the water there has been thickly sown with Russian mines. Other points beside Liaoshan have been mined, and it has become dangerous for the Japanese ships to cruise in those waters.

The effect of the disaster undoubtedly would be to cause Togo to be more cautious, for he must save his squadron for the contest for the supremacy of the sea with the Baltic fleet when it arrives in the Pacific.

The loss of the ships, irrespective of other casualties which may have occurred, is of the most importance, according to the general staff, in that it tends to restore the equilibrium afloat. Despite the number of casualties in the Russian fleet, it has really lost only one battleship, the Petropavlovsk. It is true that the Retvizan and the Desyevich were torpedoed at the beginning of the war, but both were safely towed into Port Arthur. The damage they sustained was serious, particularly to the Desyevich, but repairs have been made since then and the official state that the Retvizan is ready to resume her place in the fighting line. The Desyevich is still undergoing repairs, and it will be some time before she can put to sea.

Prior to the isolation of Port Arthur several thousand shipwrights entered the city and they have since been rushing the work of repairing the ships.

JAPAN'S YALU VICTORY.

Official Figures Show the Extent of the Russian Disaster.

TOKIO, May 19.—General Kuroki reports the Japanese losses at the battle of Kuliencheng on May 1, as follows:

Killed—5 officers and 213 men. Wounded—53 officers and 783 men. Thirteen hundred and sixty-three Russian dead were buried by the Japanese, and eighteen officers and 595 men were taken prisoners. The Japanese captured twenty-one quick-firing guns, nineteen ammunition wagons and 1417 shells for these guns; eight machine guns and 37,000 shells for them; 1021 rifles and 350,000 rounds of rifle ammunition. They also captured sixty-three horses, ten wagons, 1244 carts and 541 tents. At Fengwangcheng the Japanese captured 357 shells for mountain guns, 188,000 rounds of rifle ammunition, 1720 carts, 40,000 loaves of bread and other supplies, and tools and telegraph stores.

Koreans Harassing Japanese.

PARIS, May 19.—An official dispatch from Seoul says Korean feeling against the Japanese is assuming serious proportions. Lack of organization prevents the Koreans adopting effective measures, but they are secretly embarrassing the Japanese by lending assistance to the Cossack detachments operating in Northeast Korea, down to Gensan. These bands, with the cooperation of Koreans, it is added, have cut the telegraph line from Chemulpo to Pinyang.

Russians Destroying Bridges.

SEOUL, Korea, May 19.—At the Japanese headquarters here it is said that Colonel Kinoshita's infantry battalion, which is pursuing the Russians, arrived at Kaichyong on May 15. Small parties scouted the country ahead and reported that the Russians were covering their retreat by destroying bridges and blocking the passes in the hills,

CHEFU, May 19.—Persons just arrived here from Dainy have reported to the Russian Consul that the Japanese battleship Shikishima sank within two minutes after contact with the submarine mine and that there was no time to save the crew. The accident occurred, it is said, within sight of Port Arthur.

The battleship Fuji (not the cruiser Asama), which struck the mine on the port bow had a heavy list and also was down by the bow, but was righted and went off in tow of two cruisers. It is believed impossible, however, that she could reach port.

The rumor at Dainy to the effect that the Asama had sunk in Kerr Bay probably refers to the sinking of the steel cruiser Miyaka, which took place recently, through contact with a submarine mine.

The Russian Consul personally had a telegram from Dainy saying that it was rumored there that two Japanese battleships had been sunk off Port Arthur.

Refugees coming in say that the town suffered no damage from the bombardment and that considerable land fighting is going on to the north of Dainy. Two Russian destroyers have escaped from Port Arthur and are still at large. The Russians are using Chinese junks to place mines in the path of the Japanese fleet patrolling the peninsula coast. The Japanese have sunk a tug and several junks that were discovered placing mines.

Japanese destroyers have laid many mines outside Port Arthur, hoping to catch the Russian destroyers in the attempt to return to Port Arthur. Many of these mines were improperly anchored and are adrift. They are reported to be all over the gulf.

THROWS OFF RUSSIAN YOKE.

Korean Government Annals Timber Concessions on the Yalu.

SEOUL, May 19.—The Korean Government has annulled the Russian Yalu and Tumen rivers timber concessions granted in 1896. The Russian companies interested were backed by Bezobrazoff, the friend of Viceroy Alexieff, and reputed moving spirit of the Russian war party and many Russian noblemen. There have been frequent differences between Russian semi-official concerns and the private Japanese lumbermen, which constituted one of the annoyances which indirectly led to the war. Korea, in several diplomatic relations with St. Petersburg, has not felt bound to respect Russian commercial contracts.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—Minister Allen cables the State Department from Seoul to-day as follows:

"The Korean Government, by an imperial decree issued last night, has annulled all treaties and agreements with the Russian Government. This annulment comprises the Yalu timber concessions."

This Yalu timber concession is said to have been one of the principal factors in bringing about the present war. So long as the Russians remained on the western bank of the Yalu the Japanese, though very much discontented at the failure to evacuate Manchuria, were not willing to plunge into hostilities, but the procurement by Russia of a large concession of land on the Korean side of the Yalu precipitated the crisis. The Japanese felt that the alleged timber concession was really intended for military purposes, and they were confirmed in their suspicion by Russian

FULL EXTENT OF DISASTER IS IN DOUBT

The wide discrepancy in names and details between the Russian and the Japanese accounts of the sinking of warships of Admiral Togo's fleet leaves the extent of the disaster in doubt. Unless the Russian version is incorrect, there were two series of disasters, involving the sinking of two battleships and a cruiser and the damaging of another battleship, besides the injury the Kasagi must have sustained in ramming the cruiser Yoshino.

Admiral Togo's official report says that the Yoshino was sunk in collision with the Kasagi and that the battleship Hatsuse was destroyed by contact with a Russian mine at sea off Port Arthur on Sunday, May 15, during a heavy fog.

Russian refugees from Port Arthur, arriving at Chefu, declare that the battleship Shikishima was sunk and the battleship Fuji badly damaged by a mine within sight of Port Arthur on Monday, May 16.

It is to be noted that, besides the differences in names and dates, the Russians say the disaster was plainly seen from the heights of Port Arthur, there being no mention of a fog.

Until further advices are received the full extent of Japan's loss will not be definitely known; but, even though it be confined to the warships mentioned in Togo's report, the catastrophe is one that has seriously crippled the naval strength of the Mikado.

RUSSIAN CRUISER BOGATYR AGROUND AT VLADIVOSTOK

PARIS, May 19.—The correspondent at St. Petersburg of the Echo de Paris says:

"The Russian cruiser Bogatyr grounded during a fog on the rocks near the entrance to Vladivostok. Her position is critical. The crew was saved."

opposition to the application of Japan, England and the United States to have free ports opened at the mouth of the Yalu River and above Wiju and An-tung.

The practical effect of this decree is to break off all diplomatic relations between Russia and Korea that may have survived the expulsion of Russian Minister Pavloff from Seoul.

Marshall Wins Chess Honors.

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, Pa., May 19.—The chess masters' tournament, which began here on April 25, was concluded to-night, Marshall winning the first prize and Lasker and Janowski dividing second and third prizes. Marcos was placed fourth and Showalter fifth, while the sixth prize was divided between Scletcher and Tschicoria. Thus two Americans and five Europeans were prize winners.

Newchwang Is Not Yet Taken by Japanese.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 19.—The Admiralty denies that it has been officially advised of the Japanese occupation of Newchwang. The fact that nothing has been received convinces the Admiralty that a small Russian force is still at Newchwang.

NEWCHWANG, May 19.—A courier of the Associated Press, who arrived here shortly before midnight, reports that the Japanese fleet was sighted from Tower Hill, ten miles north of Kaichou, on Monday. The bombardment of the coast was extensive, covering a distance of twenty-five miles. Only the Japanese marines, it was reported, were landed. This, however, is not confirmed. The Japanese force marched several miles inland, destroyed four miles of railroad and other property, captured a Russian commissary train and returned with a number of carts, animals and native drivers. The Japanese then re-embarked and left the vicinity of their landing place. The transports shortly afterward could not be seen from Tower Hill, but their course was southward. It is believed now that the landing was a feint to cover movements elsewhere.

A regiment of Russian infantry returned here yesterday afternoon. It was reported at 10 o'clock last night that batteries of artillery would reach here to-day. The Russians seem to be bewildered and disheartened, and unable to form lasting plans. Officers who left here (though their personal baggage remains at Newchwang) after bidding touching farewells to friends in Newchwang, returned a few hours later and began directing the work of building intrenchments a mile south of here, but this task was abandoned in a few hours. It is believed here that the Russian authorities at Mukden are responsible for this vacillation.

In addition to the recrudescence of military activity, the sailors are fitting the Russian gunboat Sivouch, which had been dismantled and loaded with wood and oil in order to destroy her, as well as two small river boats in the mud dock.

The Russian statements in regard to the situation are absolutely unreliable. Many Japanese spies are here or in this neighborhood. One spy has been executed. It is believed he was an officer in the Japanese army.

Bandits, continuing capturing rich Chinese, holding them captive until ransoms are paid. The Chinese victims make no complaint, fearing assassination. Newchwang is filled with bandits armed with rapid-fire pistols, concealed in their garments.

The Cossacks continue to harass the rear guard of the Japanese army advancing from the Yalu River.

American Warships Going to China.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—The Navy Department was advised by cable today of the sailing of the battleship Wisconsin, the flagship of Rear Admiral Cooper, the Vicksburg and Alexander from Cavite for Hongkong; also of the departure of the Frolic from Cavite to join the New Orleans at Chefu, the nearest neutral port to Newchwang outside the zone of military operations.

Jews Declare Their Loyalty.

POLTAVA, Russia, Wednesday, May 18.—The Emperor during his visit here to-day was waited upon by a deputation of Jews, who assured him of the loyalty of themselves and their co-religionists.

War News Continued on Page 5.

Newchwang Reports Rout of Kuroki's Army and Its Retreat to Fengwangcheng.

NEWCHWANG, May 19 (evening).—It is reported here from a reliable source that the Japanese army from the Yalu River has received a heavy blow and has been driven back to Fengwangcheng.

TOKIO, May 19.—It is unofficially reported here that small skirmishes are taking place south of Kinchou, on the Liaotung Peninsula.

The Japanese line extends from Chichaton to Chulishan, across a ridge of hills a mile and a half north of Kinchou. It completely dominates that town, which can be taken in half a day when the Japanese are ready to do so.

Kinchou is seven or eight thousand meters north of the narrowest part of the peninsula and forty miles north of Port Arthur. The Japanese line, therefore, is less than forty-five miles from Port Arthur.

MUKDEN, May 19.—The momentary relaxation of the Japanese advance, specifically from the South, as officially reported, indicates a temporary withdrawal from the position won during the fighting which apparently ended on May 17.

corps of frontier guards, made up of fifty-five mounted squadrons, fifty-five foot companies and six batteries of artillery, altogether 25,000 men. The road, which is 1400 miles long, is divided into sections of thirty-three miles, each guarded by a detachment of troops, which is expected to constantly patrol. The smallness of the detachment makes this duty exceedingly onerous. It is a matter of comparatively little difficulty for a Japanese spy or a Chinese bandit to steal up to an exposed point and dynamite the railroad before the patrols discover the danger.

LIAOYANG, Wednesday, May 18.—The Russian army surgeons are praising the Japanese bullets. They inflict a small, clear wound, though they possess good stopping effect. Captain Vorobreff was struck by twenty bullets during the fighting at the Yalu River, but he survived and is expected to recover. Several gunners of the heroic Third Battery are convalescent, though their intestines were pierced. The last trainload of men wounded at the Yalu has gone north after the soldiers received decorations personally from General Kurapatkin.

RUSSO-GERMAN ALLIANCE.

Fatherland Is Replacing France in Muscovite Esteem.

PARIS, May 20.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says:

"It is persistently rumored that negotiations are going on with Germany, the object of which is to effect a rapprochement and the reconstitution of the triple alliance whereby Russia considered the German's diplomatic support in a settlement of the Far Eastern question. An understanding with Germany would prevent British intervention in favor of Japan and Russia would, as an immediate pledge, concede a settlement of pending economic and customs questions."

"The attempt to form a Russo-German entente is due to the Anglo-French entente, which produced a deplorable effect here. The Russians consider the Franco-German official, if not popular sympathy is not standing the strain of the war and that it will make possible a Russo-German entente restricted to a special point which will not affect the Franco-Russian alliance, but must evidently wreck it."

"This news surely will be denied, but I have reason to believe it well founded. Russia has decided to make all the ports of her Pacific possessions free ports and this will soon be announced officially with a view to meeting British and American objections to her occupation of Manchuria."

TORPEDO FLOTILLA REPULSED.

Japanese Cruisers Drive Russian Craft Back to Port Arthur Harbor.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—Admiral Kuroki's Japanese fleet from Tokyo confirming the press account of the sinking of the cruiser Yoshino and the battleship Hatsuse state that after the Hatsuse had been struck by Russian mechanical mines a Russian flotilla of sixteen torpedo-boats and destroyers appeared, but was repulsed by the Japanese cruisers, which saved 300 of the Hatsuse's crew, including Admiral Mashiba and Captain Nakao.

Britain Sends Sloop to Newchwang.

WEIHAIWEI, May 20.—The British sloop of war Espegie has started for Newchwang to protect British interests there.

Prominent Santa Cruz Woman Dead.

SANTA CRUZ, May 19.—Mrs. Celia Miller, wife of the late Captain C. F. Miller, died last night. She resided in Santa Cruz for many years and owned the Neptune bath house, which she sold to the Tented City Corporation. She was a native of Bristol, England, and was 78 years of age. She leaves five children.

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