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TWO CRUISERS DESTROYED

Japanese Torpedo Boats Destroy Russian Cruisers at Chemulpo Last Night.

TWO TRANSPORTS CAPTURED OFF THE COAST OF KOREA

Transport Loaded With Two Thousand Russian Troops Are Reported Captured.

London, Feb. 10.—The Japanese minister here has received official notification of the destruction of the first class Russian cruiser Variag and the third class cruiser Koritz by Japanese torpedo boats last night. The cruisers were destroyed off the Korean coast, a short distance from Chemulpo. The torpedo boats escaped unharmed.

CAPTURE OF TRANSPORTS REPORTED.

Tokio, Feb. 10.—Information has been received here to the effect that Japanese cruisers last night captured three transports of the Russian volunteer fleet conveying about two thousand troops off the Korean coast.

Paris, Feb. 10.—It was announced at the French foreign office during the afternoon that the Russian cruiser Pallada was sunk in the torpedo attack made by the Japanese on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur. The injuries sustained by the Retvizan and Czarevitch are not known.

It was reported on the same authority that the cable from Vladivostok has been cut.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—An official dispatch received here says that Japanese torpedo boats have attacked the Russian squadron in the outer roads at Port Arthur and that three Russian ships were damaged. Admiral Alexieff's official report of the attack by the Japanese is as follows:

"I most respectfully inform your majesty that at or about midnight of Feb. 9-9 Japanese torpedo boats made a sudden attack by means of mines upon the Russian squadron in the outer roads of the fortress of Port Arthur, in which the battleships Retvizan and Czarevitch and the cruiser Pallada were damaged. An inspection is being made to ascertain the character of the damage. Details are following for your majesty."

Port Arthur, Feb. 10.—Japanese torpedo boats attacked the Russian fleet here during the night and three of the Russian ships were badly damaged. The Japanese, who thus scored the first success of the war, escaped undamaged.

In consequence of the attack by the Japanese torpedo boats, martial law has been proclaimed here.

RUSHING WAR PREPARATIONS.

Japanese Move Arouses the Russian Officials.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 10.—The news that Japan had duplicated her tactics at the opening of the Chino-Japanese war by a torpedo attack on the Russian ships off Port Arthur created intense excitement after the bare announcement from Viceroy Alexieff. Details are anxiously awaited. Extra editions of the morning papers, printed early in the forenoon after the appearance of the Official Messenger, conveyed the intelligence to the population of the capital and dispelled any lingering hopes that war could be averted.

The czar and his ministers, who had been informed immediately of the receipt of Viceroy Alexieff's telegram, accepted the gage and prepared to face the reality of war. The czar's manifesto declaring a state of war to exist is expected to be issued shortly.

Feverish activity reigned at all the ministries and war preparations were pushed in all directions. The Russian Red Cross society has sent 2,000 beds to the Far East and Sisters of Mercy are leaving.

The temper of the people, which was indicated in the great personal demonstration accorded to their majesties at the Imperial Opera House Monday evening, the audience rising and singing "God Save the Czar and Give Him Victory," was further manifested after the arrival of the news from Port Arthur in the crowds of volunteers who besieged the general staff offices.

The naval reserves have been called out. The latest returns of Russian warships in the Far East total 94, including 3 battleships, 16 cruisers, 7 gunboats and 56 torpedo boat destroyers and torpedo boats. Three more battleships and nine torpedo boats are to go to the Far East in the spring.

A STAGGERING BLOW.

British Believe Japanese Have Dealt One to Russians.

London, Feb. 10.—The naval men in London regard the result of Japan's first attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur as being a staggering one. They pointed out that Viceroy Alexieff's reference to "mines" obviously meant "torpedoes" and said that if the Russian vessels had been struck by "Whitehead torpedoes" they probably have been sunk or are resting on the mud in Port Arthur, in any case hopelessly out of action for a considerable time.

Baron Hayashi says the Japanese fleet is not likely to blockade Port Arthur. His knowledge of the Japanese naval plans, as tentatively prepared, leads him and others here to believe that the Japanese fleet is now lying between Chefoo and the Yalu river, screening the landing of troops, one army corps at Fusan and two at Panyung, Korea.

Night torpedo attacks by the Japanese fleet will, it is believed, be kept up so long as the Russian fleet maintains its necessarily open position outside of Port Arthur. This will be done in the hope of breaking up the Russian navy.

The troops landing at Panyung will be pushed toward the Manchurian frontier. Those at Fusan will proceed to Seoul.

CREATED CONSTERNATION.

News of Opening of War Startles French Officials.

Paris, Feb. 10.—The news of the first Japanese attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur created consternation here. The officials of the foreign office were among the first to receive the information and their advice were similar to those of the St. Petersburg Official Gazette, showing that two Russian battleships and one cruiser were damaged and also showing that four torpedo boats made the attack. An official of the foreign office said:

"It is profoundly to be regretted that such a decisive step has been taken, as it terminates the efforts the powers might have made to avert actual warfare."

information has been received here showing that the British government will issue a declaration of neutrality within a few days, perhaps immediately, and that France will take the same course within a day or two.

At a conference of ministers under the presidency of M. Loubet, Foreign Minister Delcasse communicated the news of the first Japanese attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur and announced that the French minister at Tokio had been instructed to assure the protection of Russian subjects and their interests in Japan.

The naval engagement off Port Arthur is understood to have mainly occupied the attention of the council of ministers. The impression prevailed that the three Russian ships torpedoed are so disabled as to be unserviceable for the remainder of the war, thus placing the Russian fleet in a state of manifest inferiority.

DARING AND SKILLFUL MOVE.

German Opinion of Japanese Attack at Port Arthur.

Berlin, Feb. 10.—Japan's initial success in the first attack with torpedo boats on the Russian fleet off Port Arthur produced a deep impression both on the people and military and naval critics here. Groups gathered around the distributors of the "extras" in the streets and read the news almost with exclamations of gladness. The comment at the marine department was that even the temporary disablement of three warships placed the Russians at a great disadvantage in the future operations. It was added that the torpedoing of the enemy's vessels lying under powerful land batteries must have been carried out daringly and skillfully. As Viceroy Alexieff did not mention any Japanese losses in his first dispatch the common talk of the naval officers was that the Japanese have shown that they can handle their ships better than the Russians.

THE DAMAGED VESSELS.

Japs Attacked Three of Russia's Finest Ships.

New York, Feb. 10.—The Russian battleship Retvizan was built by the Cramps at Philadelphia. She is of 12,700 tons displacement, has 16,000 indicated horsepower and had a speed of 18 knots per hour. Her armor is of Krupp steel from 4 to 10 inches in thickness and her armament consists of four 12-inch guns, twelve 6-inch guns, twenty 3-inch guns and twenty-six smaller rapid fire guns.

The Czarevitch is a battleship of 13,110 tons, built in France. In armament and speed she about equals the Retvizan.

The Pallada is a cruiser of 6,630 tons. She was built in Germany and was completed in 1902. Her armament consists of six 6-inch guns, twenty 3-inch guns and eight 1.4-inch guns. Her speed is estimated at 20 knots.

BRITISH OFFICER PROTESTS.

French Occupying Forts Evacuated by Russians.

London, Feb. 10.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Tientsin says:

A French transport with a battalion of troops from Tonquin is hourly expected at Shanhaikwang, in the gulf of Liaotung, to garrison the forts which are being vacated by the Russians. It is reported that the tricolor of France was hoisted there during the morning and that the British officer in charge at Shanhaikwang protested against the French occupation. At present there is only a single sentry guarding the flag. The British commander here has proceeded to Shanhaikwang.

OFFER COMES TOO LATE.

Russia Said to Be Willing to Concede All Demands.

London, Feb. 10.—The Japanese minister, Baron Hayashi, said during the afternoon:

"Russia is making desperate efforts, through the various embassies, to have the powers intervene. Russia now is willing to concede anything, but the offer comes too late."

the offer comes too late. Baron Hayashi added: "I learn on good authority that the reply Russia intended to send merely reiterated all the cardinal points to which Japan consistently objected."

China Will Remain Neutral.

Paris, Feb. 10.—China, it is understood, has given official assurances that she will immediately issue a declaration of neutrality. This is considered highly important in view of the possibility of Chinese, impressed by the Japanese success at Port Arthur, joining the Japanese.

Russian Mail Steamer Captured.

London, Feb. 10.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Shanghai says it is credibly reported that the Russian mail steamer Mongolia, which left Shanghai Sunday, has been captured by the Japanese off Shangtung peninsula.

Volunteer Cruiser Sails.

Odessa, Feb. 10.—The Russian volunteer cruiser Tampov sailed during the day with a full cargo for the Far East. The Russian steamers Kieff and Vladimir are starting for the Far East this week.

Japanese Fleet Sighted.

Chefoo, Feb. 10.—The Japanese consul, formerly stationed at Dalny, who has just returned here, says that he passed a Japanese fleet going in the direction of Port Arthur.

NOTE TO THE POWERS

SECRETARY HAY SEEKS UNITED ACTION UPHOLDING THE INTEGRITY OF CHINA.

FAVORABLE RESPONSES LOOKED FOR

DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON GREATLY STIRRED UP OVER MATTER.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 10.—Secretary Hay has addressed an identical note to a number of European powers to ascertain if they are willing to join in a notice to Russia and Japan that during hostilities and thereafter the neutrality and integrity of China must be recognized. Details of the note are not obtainable in advance of the receipt of replies.

It is known, however, that exchanges already have taken place which justify the state department in expecting favorable responses to its note. The matter has created a great sensation in diplomatic circles here.

It is further learned that the proposition of the United States contemplates a restriction of hostilities and the consequent hardships of war to the smallest possible area. Just what this means is not made clear to the public, but the determination may have the greatest effect upon the struggle between Russia and Japan. It is almost certain that neither will be allowed to invade China proper, meaning by that that they may not, with hostile intent, go southward below Shanhaikwang, on the border line between Chih and Manchuria. It is a grave question whether or not it will apply also to Korea, which is striving desperately to preserve neutrality and prevent invasion, but the general opinion is that it is too late in that case to do more than to seek to preserve Korean independence after the war.

TO OBSERVE OPERATIONS.

United States Cruiser Squadron to Go to Chinese Waters.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Orders will be cable to Rear Admiral Evans, to send his cruiser squadron, consisting of the Alliance, New Orleans, Raleigh and Cincinnati, from Subig bay to some point in Chinese waters yet to be determined to observe the naval operations. It is expected the squadron can coal and get under way within two days. Admiral Evans is expected to keep the battleship squadron in Philippine waters throughout the period of hostilities between Russia and Japan. This decision was reached at the cabinet meeting during the day after long consideration. It has been definitely settled that the cruiser squadron will not go to Port Arthur. Admiral Evans is not instructed regarding his own movements, but it is

believed in naval circles that he will transfer his flag to the Albany and proceed northward with the squadron.

TREASURY WILL ASSIST.

Sends Money to Baltimore to Meet Demands of Business.

Baltimore, Feb. 10.—Despite the legal holiday of seven days declared by Governor Warfield the United States sub-treasury opened for business during the day under the direction of the secretary of the treasury and the building has been converted into a military camp to avert any possible attempt at looting or other disorders. Secretary Shaw and Assistant Treasurer A. Lincoln Dryden had a long conference by telephone as a result of which the treasury department will get supplies of money to reinforce the present resources of the sub-treasury and this money will be added to from time to time to any amount needed to meet the demands of the business interests of Baltimore, so suddenly crippled of banking facilities.

FAVORABLE TO BRYAN.

Two Decisions Handed Down in Bennett Will Case.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 10.—In two decisions handed down during the day Judge Thayer, in the superior court, sustains counsel for William J. Bryan in certain contentions growing out of the refusal of the probate court to admit to probate as a part of the will of the late P. S. Bennett the sealed letter giving \$50,000 to Mr. Bryan.

One decision sustains a demurrer entered by counsel for Mr. Bryan to a plea in abatement filed in behalf of Mrs. Bennett, widow of the testator, from Mr. Bryan's appeal from the probate court's decision. The other decision overrules a motion by counsel for Mrs. Bennett and other heirs to expunge certain portions of the answer of Mr. Bryan to the appeal brought by Mrs. Bennett.

REVES GOING TO PARIS.

Wants to Be There When Question of Canal Rights Sale Comes Up.

New York, Feb. 10.—General Reyes, the newly elected president of Colombia, will sail today for Paris. General Reyes said last night:

"I feel it my duty to be present in Paris when the question of the sale of the rights of the Panama Canal company to the United States comes before the proper French tribunal. To me the matter is very clear. The Panama canal company cannot transfer its rights to the United States without the consent of Colombia, because its contract entered into with Colombia cannot automatically transfer itself to Panama province. That province cannot substitute itself for Colombia."

DUE TO DOMESTIC TROUBLES.

Prominent Philadelphian Kills Wife and Himself.

Philadelphia, Feb. 10.—After a quarrel about domestic matters Colonel E. F. Floorkey, a veteran of the Civil war and treasurer of the Cedar Avenue improvement company, shot and killed his wife, Dora, a fashionable dressmaker, known also as Mme. Floorkey, then fatally wounded himself.

Mrs. Floorkey's death is believed to have been instantaneous and her husband died about two hours afterward.

BRIEFS IN MERGER SUIT.

Additional Documents Cover Transfer of Case.

Washington, Feb. 10.—In accord with the requirements of the supreme court of the United States, additional briefs were filed Monday in the merger case of the state of Minnesota against the Northern Securities company. The briefs cover only the point of removal of the case from the state to the federal courts.

NINE PERSONS KILLED

DISASTROUS COLLISION OF SOO TRAINS NEAR SAND POINT, ONTARIO.

OTTAWA, ONT., FEB. 10.—A collision occurred near Sand Point during the day between the Soo train going east and a westbound Soo train, in which nine persons were killed and twelve injured. The dead so far as known are: Engineer Joseph Jacobson, Express Messengers Robertson and Thompson, News Agent McMullen and five passengers occupying second class cars, whose names have not been ascertained.

According to an official statement given out by the Canadian Pacific company the accident was due to the failure of the crew of the westbound train to regard orders to wait at Sand Point for the other train.

SITUATION IS SERIOUS.

Rise in Susquehanna River Evicts Many Families.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Feb. 10.—The Susquehanna river began rising here during the day, after dropping three feet during the night, and the situation is growing serious.

Communication with the West Side has been cut off. The water is now twenty-four feet above low water mark. At Nanticoke the river and Nanticoke creek have risen so that street car traffic is suspended.

At Plymouth 200 families had to leave their homes and 100 silk mill girls were taken from the windows of the factory in boats.

LOSS IS \$125,000,000

INSURANCE MEN MAKE ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE DONE BY BALTIMORE BLAZE.

CONTENTS OF VAULTS UNSCORCHED

PAPER VALUED AT HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOUND INTACT.

NOT A LIFE LOST IN CATASTROPHE

GREAT CALAMITY REMARKABLE IN THE ABSENCE OF SERIOUS ACCIDENTS.

BALTIMORE, FEB. 10.—After a meeting of the representatives of insurance companies it was announced that they estimate the loss at \$125,000,000, with insurance to the amount of \$90,000,000.

An investigation of the ruins of several of the banks and trust companies in the destroyed section disclosed the fact that their vaults and contents are absolutely intact. This discovery will enormously reduce the estimated losses, revealing, as it did, that paper amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars in value is unscorched. The aspect immediately assumed a brighter tone, for it was this phase of the situation that excited the gravest apprehensions for the financial life of some of the city's greatest concerns depended upon the safety of vault contents.

Baltimore, Feb. 10.—With the great fire which ate up property variously estimated from \$75,000,000 to \$150,000,000 slowly burning itself out Baltimore awoke during the morning to face the grave questions of civic and municipal readjustment. Confronting the mayor and his associates of the city government are the problems of aid, the acceptance or refusal of generous offers of assistance from every section of the country, policing of the vast burned district where lies buried untold treasure in warped vaults and safes and all the hundred minor things that follow a calamity so stupendous that it is even yet hardly fully realized.

NOT A LIFE LOST IN DISASTER.

Big Baltimore Blaze Unique in One Particular.

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PROBABLY NEVER BEFORE HAS THERE BEEN A FIRE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE ABSOLUTELY WITHOUT LOSS OF LIFE AND SO REMARKABLY FREE FROM ACCIDENTS.

The only person seriously injured was Jacob Ingelritz, a volunteer fireman of York, Pa. He was unconscious when ordered here to assist the national guard here to assist the national guard with Brigadier General Riggs Major General Corbin has returned to New York and it is not probable that a single federal soldier will be retained in Baltimore.

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Three regiments of state militia infantry are on duty and Troop A of the state guard also has been called into service. So thoroughly is the policing of the city now systematized that the big force of federal troops ordered here to assist the national guard here to assist the national guard with Brigadier General Riggs Major General Corbin has returned to New York and it is not probable that a single federal soldier will be retained in Baltimore.

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