

VICTORY FOR JAPS.

Panic Seized the Russians as they Saw Torpedo Boats

ATTACK THEIR SHIPS OF WAR.

As Russian War Ships Dashed from Harbor They Were Shot to Pieces by the Japanese Fleet.

A copyrighted special dispatch to the Atlanta Journal from London says Japan has won her first great naval victory. A dispatch from St. Petersburg says that an attack has been made by a Japanese torpedo fleet on the Russian battleships and cruisers lying at anchor at the entrance of the harbor of Port Arthur, and that the battleships Czawitch and Retzivan and the cruiser Pallada were torpedoed and wrecked.

Shortly before midnight on Monday a large Japanese fleet, presumably that which left Saicho early Saturday, was reported off Port Arthur. The Russian fleet, which had been anchored outside the harbor, had been warned and had returned within the harbor entrance. The Russians felt that their torpedo system would protect them, but even then took no chances, but kept their searchlights working both from ships and shore batteries, particularly from that portion of the land called Tiger's Tail.

The Japanese fleet outside did some maneuvering and then apparently went off to the southward, so many thought, to join the remainder of the Japanese fleet known to be in the neighborhood of Wei Hal Wei.

At 1:40 a. m., Sunday, as watchers and searchlights were becoming lagged and the alarm at the first felt, was about dying out, a black streak was observed crossing the harbor mouth by one of the lookouts on the Czawitch. He gave the alarm, a dozen searchlights flashed out and the sight paralyzed the Russians.

According to dispatches sent to St. Petersburg, a half dozen torpedo boats were making their way toward the fleet. Before any move could be made, a torpedo was launched from one of the Japanese boats at the Czawitch and striking her, exploded, tearing her apart, at almost the same moment another torpedo was fired at her and hit the Retzivan, the most modern ship in the Russian navy and made a wreck of her.

The deadly missile struck the Retzivan just forward of her forward turret on the port side and tore a gaping hole in her side. Consternation among the Russians had now increased to a panic and hardly any attempt was made to repel the attack being made. The Pallada, a fine cruiser, was lying inside of both battleships, and to her the torpedo boats next turned their attention. The Pallada's crew had got her rapid fire guns to work and were trying to hit the Japanese.

The latter then launched half a dozen torpedoes at the Russian cruiser before one took effect. It left the Russian cruiser a hopeless wreck. By this time several Russian torpedo boats had got into the fight and the Japanese, finding affairs becoming complicated and more critical than they cared to meet, withdrew as they came.

Attempts were made from the shore to fire the mines in the entrance to the harbor. Some did explode, but not while any torpedo boats were near, while others failed utterly to answer to the electric spark. By the time the Russians had gotten over their consternation and got into condition to fight, the Japanese had disappeared. By daylight there were no Japanese in sight.

RUSSIANS TRY TORPEDOES.

The Korietz was in advance of the Variag; both warships had been lying off Chemulpo. As soon as the Korietz sight was within effective range of the Japanese squadron she launched two torpedo tubes. The Japanese immediately opened heavy fire on the Korietz. The Variag hurried up to the aid of the torpedo gunboat and both warships returned the Japanese fire. The battle lasted for some time with slight damage to either side, when the Russian warships retired, perceptibly taking refuge in the harbor.

Early Tuesday morning the two Russian warships, which had repaired their damages during the night, made a dash out of the harbor. It was a desperate effort to escape from the watchful Japanese fleet, resembling in its hopelessness and dash Cervantes' memorable rush from the harbor of Santiago. The guns of the Japanese squadron covered the entrance to the harbor where the Rus-

sians had taken refuge, as the czar's battleships emerged, belching shot and shell.

SHOT INTO PIECES. The Japanese concentrated a terrific fire on the two Russian ships and in a very short time it was apparent that their destruction was a certainty. The Variag was disabled, her steering gear being knocked out of commission and the gun turrets battered, and within a half hour after the morning's engagement began she sank. The Korietz fought until a shell exploded in her magazine, which rent her asunder. The crews of the two ships struggled in the water and the survivors were picked up by the French cruiser Paschal, which witnessed the terrific battle. The Japanese squadron proceeded on its way to Chemulpo, where the troops on board the transports were landed.

ANOTHER BATTLE. A dispatch from St. Petersburg says a second telegram has been received from Viceroy Alexieff. It is dated February 9 and says: "A Japanese squadron of fifteen battleships and cruisers Tuesday began to bombard Port Arthur. The fortress replied and the squadron weighed anchor in order to participate in the battle."

A third telegram from the viceroy says that after a bombardment lasting one hour the Japanese squadron ceased its fire and steamed southward.

"Our losses," the viceroy continues, "are two naval officers and fifty-one men wounded, and nine men killed, and on the coast batteries, one man killed and three wounded."

"During the engagement the battleship Poltava and the cruisers Diana, Askold and Novic were each damaged on the water line. The damage to the fortress was not important."

A RUSSIAN VICTORY. A dispatch from St. Petersburg says Russia claims to have gained a victory at Port Arthur according to newspaper extras printed here in which it is declared that three Japanese warships and four torpedo boats were crippled. One report says that the Japanese battleship Skillishima was sunk. The same newspapers announce printed dispatches from Vladivostok reporting the complete route of the Japanese by the Russians along the Yalu river, Russian soldiers and marines, these dispatches claim, have occupied Chemulpo, Corea. There is no official confirmation of any of the reports and they are discredited, as they are utterly at variance with the official dispatches which have been made public.

Private telegrams report the complete route of the Japanese by the Russians on the Yalu river. These advices also claim that Chemulpo, Korea, has been occupied by Russian soldiers and marines.

Russia's Loss. A summary of the losses sustained by Russia in the first twenty-four hours of the war with Japan show that ten Russian warships were placed out of action in one way or another and that the Japanese did not lose a ship.

The losses were as follows: Battleship Retzivan, torpedoed and beached at Port Arthur. Battleship Czawitch, torpedoed and beached at Port Arthur. Battleship Poltava, hole below water line at Port Arthur. Armored cruiser Bayarin, disabled by Japanese at Port Arthur. Cruiser Pallada, torpedoed at Port Arthur and beached. Cruiser Novik, hole below water line, at Port Arthur. Cruiser Askold, hole below water line, at Port Arthur. Cruiser Diana, hole below water line, at Port Arthur. First class armored cruiser Variag, destroyed at Chemulpo, Corea. Torpedo gun vessel Korietz, destroyed at Chemulpo.

Russian Troops in Far East. First Siberian Army Corps.—Southern Manchuria—21 battalions, 9 squadrons, 34 guns. Vladivostok and Port Arthur—2 battalions. Frontier guards—26 battalions, 25 squadrons, 28 guns. Pe-chi-li—12 battalions, 5 squadrons, 4 guns. Semirechensk—8 battalions, 22 squadrons, 28 guns. Uza—4 squadrons, 4 guns. Second Siberian Army Corps.—Tsitstikar—12 battalions, 24 squadrons, 22 guns. Kirin—26 battalions, 29 squadrons, 102 guns. Detached posts—21 battalions, 46 guns. Total for both corps—525 officers, 22,930 men, 19,300 horses. Total available men in the Far East, 306,000.

To Buy Warship. A dispatch from Atlanta says Colonel Harry Silverman, member of the governor's staff, has started a movement whereby it is proposed that the citizens of the United States subscribe \$3,000,000 with which to purchase a modern battleship and present it to plucky Japan. Mr. Silverman is very much enthused over the project and is of the opinion that there will be no trouble to raise the amount. Other cities will be notified and an organized move will be undertaken. A number of prominent citizens after learning of the scheme have assured Mr. Silverman their cooperation in making the undertaking a success.

Don't Forget the Corn. The Southern Cultivator says in planting your crop for 1904 be sure to plant the largest corn crop you ever raised. You will need it before the year is past. Wars and rumors of wars may come and go; and the price of cotton no man can foreknow. But corn and meat and flour and lard and beef and other things eatable will be wanted in increased quantities.

THE LIE PASSED.

Exciting Passages Between Members in the Legislature Halls.

THE STATE HOUSE MATTER.

Tension of the Last Few Days Gave Way and Members Indulged in Sensational Personalities.

The State says there were exciting scenes in the hall of the house of representatives Thursday night, and members indulged in language unparliamentary but quite expressive of their overwrought feelings. It is all the outcome of the investigation into the manner in which the State house was completed. The report of the commission which examined that work created quite a sensation throughout the State, and the members of the commission which had in charge the work of completing the capitol held an informal meeting Thursday. It was decided to memorialize the general assembly for the members of the building commission to be given a hearing in their own defense.

When the memorial was presented in the house thereupon ensued the colloquy which very nearly approached a clash upon the floor of the house. Mr. T. Y. Williams of Lancaster in words which bear but one construction attacked the veracity of Mr. W. J. Johnson of Fairfield who in turn had stigmatized the report of the investigation commission as an infamous falsehood. Furthermore Mr. Johnson had a sharp passage at arms with Mr. J. M. Rawlinson of Richland who has been one of the unobtrusive members of the house, but who was very much angered by a statement from Mr. Johnson that the latter had made a demand to be heard by the joint committee. This Mr. Rawlinson denied, and the charge was reaffirmed by Mr. Johnson, who cited incidents to show the reasons for his remarks. Mr. Rawlinson declared that there had been no demand, and that the remarks to which Mr. Johnson attached importance were but parts of a casual conversation.

The floor and galleries of the house were packed with visitors, who took a very keen interest in the heated debate, and at times the sergeant-at-arms was close by the gentlemen speaking to prevent personal hostilities. It is generally believed that the contention between the members of the joint investigating committee and the members of the building commission will become more acrimonious, for evidently the investigating committee has not shown its hand, and the building commission also has some warm matter in reserve.

The memorial was presented in the house by Mr. Aull, and in the senate by Mr. Talbird. The gentlemen also presented resolutions asking for another committee to be appointed to hear the testimony of members of the building commission. Mr. Williams in the house and Mr. Aldrich in the senate presented resolutions providing for the same investigating committee to continue its work. The whole matter after acrimonious discussion was referred to the committee on railroads, none of whose members are members of either of the warring commissions.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION. Following is the memorial presented by former Gov. McSweeney, Mr. G. Duncan Bellinger, Mr. J. Harvey Wilson, Capt. R. H. Jennings, Mr. R. J. Gantt and Mr. W. J. Johnson: "Gentlemen of the General Assembly: "From an examination of the report of the joint committee to consider the several reports of the commission on the completion of the State house and facts relating thereto, we, the undersigned members of the commission, authorized and directed to complete the State house feel that the report of the committee does us a manifest injustice, as it wittingly or unwittingly, unfairly condemns our acts and the work approved by us without giving us an opportunity to be heard and even refusing to allow us a hearing. Many of the allegations of error and incompetency are easily explained. Certain conclusions could and would not have been drawn had available evidence been heard. Above all we feel that an impression that must necessarily result from the tenor and terms of the report would not exist if we were allowed the opportunity to be heard.

Therefore, believing that the general assembly cannot have no intention of condemning us without a hearing, as members of a commission upon whom you imposed an involuntary public duty should be allowed to account for that trust and to give their answer and explanation to any allegation or insinuation, do most respectfully memorialize your honorable body to make provision for giving us a hearing in order that further and all evidence may be produced that may give light upon the question before the committee and that our evidence and report to the report of the committee should become a public record of your honorable body of the same permanency and dignity as the report itself."

MR. AULL'S RESOLUTION. Following is the text of the "concurrent resolution providing for a joint committee as to the work on the State house."

Whereas, it appears from the report of the joint committee appointed under concurrent resolution to consider the several reports of the commission on the completion of the State house and facts relating thereto, that all of the available testimony bearing on the subject was not adduced, that Gov. M. B. McSweeney, chairman of the State house, Attorney General G. Duncan Bellinger, Secretary of State M. R. Cooper, State Treasurer W. H. Timmerman and R. H. Jennings,

Comptroller General J. P. Derham, chairman of the finance committee, George S. Mower, chairman of the ways and means committee of the house, J. Harvey Wilson; members of the house, R. J. Gantt and W. J. Johnson, members of the said commission were not permitted to testify before said committee, and that other parties whose actions were considered by said committee were not allowed to appear before said committee or in any manner given a hearing. Be it Resolved, that a special joint committee consisting of five members of the house and two members of the senate be appointed by the speaker and lieutenant governor, respectively, with authority to appoint a stenographer, take testimony, command the production of records and papers and report the same to this general assembly before its adjournment.

Mr. Williams offered the following: Whereas, certain members of the former commission to complete the State house have memorialized the general assembly to make provision for giving them a hearing in reply to the report of the joint committee to consider the several reports of the commission on the completion of the State house and facts relating thereto.

Be it Resolved, by the general assembly of the State of South Carolina that, any evidence explanation or other statements in writing that the said memorialists may have to submit will be received and considered by the general assembly whenever presented.

MR. PATTERSON'S STATEMENT. When the memorial had been read, Mr. J. O. Patterson of Barnwell, a member of the investigating committee, declared that it is a duty to himself and to South Carolina for him to make a statement. The general assembly is conversant with the matters which led up to the appointment of the investigating commission—the members of which realized the gravity of the trust placed upon them. They had done their duty honestly, fearlessly and conscientiously. The members of the State house building commission had all been friends of his and it had been an unpleasant duty. The investigating commission had not been charged with the duty of extolling or blaming the members of the building commission. He referred to the cards in the State of Wednesday in which Mr. Bellinger and Mr. Gantt complained that they had not been treated with proper consideration. The complaint is that the State house commission had not been invited before the building commission. Why should the members of the latter commission be summoned when they themselves could not agree?

In reference to the statement of Mr. Bellinger that he had been denied the privilege of coming before the commission, Mr. Patterson declared that it was a case of a misunderstanding, which he regretted, as he and Mr. Bellinger had been political personal friends for many years. On the night of January 7th Mr. Bellinger, while Mr. Patterson's guest at the Columbia hotel, had threatened that in case the joint commission should attack the building commission he would take the matter to the legislature. Mr. Patterson declared that he regrets very much that a casual conversation should have been misunderstood. He had told Mr. Bellinger that should the report be in the nature of an attack he (Mr. Patterson) would insist upon the members of the building commission being given a hearing. There was no formal demand and the statement made to Mr. Bellinger was conditional. The joint committee had thought it a waste of time and money to bring here the members of the building commission. The investigating commission had employed a government architect and in person had inspected the building carefully. He regretted that the building commission had felt aggrieved. They are honorable men and if their confidence in those whom they employed is misplaced it is a misfortune to the State of South Carolina.

Mr. D. D. McCall, Jr., of Marlboro, declared that never in his life had he been given more pleasure than he has in endorsing the action of the investigating committee. He thought its work should stand. Its members are honorable men.

MATTERS APPROACH A CRISIS. Mr. W. J. Johnson, a member of the state house building commission, made an impassioned speech, in which he declared it had not been his intention to speak upon this question, for the language which he would like to apply to the report would not be parliamentary.

Mr. Williams and Mr. Rawlinson pled Mr. Johnson with questions to find out if the latter had been denied the privilege of coming before the commission. The moment was exciting when Mr. Rawlinson began to approach toward Mr. Johnson, but the speaker rapped the members to order.

Mr. Johnson declared this report of a commission which sat behind closed doors to have been a damnable insult to the State of South Carolina. In reply to Mr. Patterson he said that there had been no division in the building commission except for one dissenting member, who had been permitted to be with the investigating commission. Why not the other eight? They are honorable gentlemen, all of them, and any statement to the contrary is an infamous lie.

Mr. Williams—Do you mean to apply that to the members of the committee?

Mr. Johnson—You have heard what I have said.

Mr. Williams—Do you mean to apply that to me; it is very easy for you to say.

Mr. Johnson—if the cap fits wear it; just wear it.

Mr. Williams—All right, sir. Mr. Gaston made the point of order that the discussion is all out of order. Mr. Mauldin, in the chair, ruled that the memorial is a matter for discussion.

Mr. Johnson, continuing, said that the joint committee was no more fit to pass upon the government architect's work than the building commission was to pass upon the work on the State house. Mr. Johnson continued that the damnable suggestions in the report were absolute falsehoods.

UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE. Mr. Williams, very calmly raising in his seat as Mr. Johnson concluded, and pointing his finger at Mr. Johnson, said with deliberation: "There is absolutely nothing in the report which even intimates that any member of the State house commission has been in collusion with anybody to rob the State, and anybody who says so is a liar."

Mr. Johnson—Do you— At this point several members sprang up, expecting to see trouble, and the sergeant-at-arms took up a place between the two members of the house, who stood glaring at each other.

Mr. Aull at this point passed his concurrent resolution to have a committee appointed to take the testimony of the members of the building commission. Mr. Williams called attention to his resolution to have testimony taken by the same committee. Mr. Gaston thought it unwise to act upon these resolutions Thursday night, when the house was in excitement. He wanted the memorial and resolutions referred to one of the standing committees of the house. This motion was adopted by the house and the matter was disposed of. After careful deliberation, Speaker Smith selected the railroad committee as the one before whom this bill should go, as none of the members of that committee are members of either of the commissions.

Subsequently Mr. Williams apologized to the house, "but not to an individual" for the language he had used, and later Mr. Johnson did the same thing. The house then proceeded with the consideration of the appropriation bill.

Fate of a Thief. The Spartanburg Herald says a few nights ago Bill Hunter, colored, decided he wished a morsel of chicken and having observed that Berry Epps of Union had a fat chancleer, he sought him on his roost. Just as he grasped his coveted bird, he was discovered and there began a race for life. Forgetful of the lay of the land Bill ran on, when suddenly he plunged down an embankment into a deep railroad cut. The fall broke Bill's thigh, and also the unoffending rooster's neck. The man's wild cries for help were heard far and near, and he was soon found and given medical attention. His condition is still serious.

Insurance Estimates. Reports coming in from all sides indicate that rebuilding of the destroyed part of the city of Baltimore will soon begin. Insurance men have gone over the ground and held conferences and now estimate the loss at \$125,000,000. The insurance is placed at \$90,000,000. It is considered very fortunate that valuable papers, stocks and bonds in vaults in banks were not injured. This reduces the loss a great deal. It is feared that after ten days' grace the banks will be unable to satisfy the demands for money withdrawals.

Principal Ships in Far East. Japan. Battleships, 12-inch guns, 24. Battleships, 6-inch guns, 68. Cruisers, 8-inch guns, 24. Cruiser, 6-inch guns, 80.

Russia. Battleships, 12-inch guns, 20. Battleships, 6-inch guns, 84. Cruisers, 8-inch guns, 14. Cruisers, 6-inch guns, 50. Sunk Their Own Ship. A dispatch from St. Petersburg says a report has been received from Viceroy Alexieff saying that the Russians torpedo transport Yenisei has been blown up as the result of accidentally striking a mine at Port Arthur. The Yenisei sank and Capt. Stepanoff, three officers and 91 men were lost.

MR. WILLIAM'S DISCLAIMER. Mr. Williams made a straight forward statement that the terms of the memorial do not contain a true statement of facts. The joint committee had never refused to give audience to any member of the building commission. The architect brought here to inspect the work had been given no suggestions. The investigating commission had not reflected upon the building commission. It had simply stated the facts as they had been found.

"No member of that committee has ever intimated to me in any way whatever that they desired to be heard before that committee," said Mr. Williams, "and I challenge each and every one of them to show that they have ever at any time mentioned the matter to me. Yet it is stated in this memorial that we refused to hear them. I go further, gentlemen, and say that no member of the state house commission has ever asked the joint commission, as a committee, to allow them, or any one of them, to be heard, and yet they come here and state in this memorial that we have refused to hear them. I make this statement because that is a reflection upon the committee and I could not sit here and allow the state house commission, or any other set of men, to reflect upon me or the gentlemen with whom I have been associated upon this committee."

Mr. Robinson declared that it had not been the purpose of the commission to reflect upon the building commission. The members of the latter had not asked to come before the joint committee. The architect and contractor had been asked to appear and had not done so.

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WANTS A HEARING. Attorney General Bellinger Appeals to the Legislature.

Gen. G. Duncan Bellinger, who was a member of the commission that is criticised by the legislative committee has prepared a card in which he demands a hearing for himself and the other members of the commission. His card reads as follows: "I was astonished to see in the press that a report by the joint committee to consider the several reports of the commission on the completion of the State House and facts relating thereto had been submitted to the General Assembly, as the report unmistakably impugns the character of the members of the State House commission, authorized and directed 'to complete the State House,' of which commission I was a member, for, from the report, it is obvious that no member of that commission testified before the committee, and I beg to submit that from my own experience that no member was even allowed a hearing. I requested and demanded of Mr. J. O. Patterson, a member of the committee, that I, as a member of the State House commission, should be heard and requested that humble privilege. He informed me that he had seen the chairman, the Hon. Robert Aldrich, in reference to the matter and that such a privilege would be granted. I have been continuously in the city of Columbia or the town of Barnwell, the home of these gentlemen since this investigation began. My request was refused. I was allowed no showing. I informed Mr. Patterson that if I was denied a hearing that I would appeal to the General Assembly. I now do so. I now ask that all parties concerned be allowed a showing. Other members asked the same privilege. It was denied. We now appeal to the sense of justice of the General Assembly and to the public at large for a showing, a hearing that has never been denied to the humblest representative of the Anglo-Saxon race. Without a hearing an attempt has been made to cast a stigma upon the names and reputation of Governor M. B. McSweeney, Secretary of State M. R. Cooper, State Treasurers W. H. Timmerman and R. H. Jennings, Comptroller General J. P. Denham, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Senate George S. Mower, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House J. Harvey Wilson, Representatives W. J. Johnson and R. J. Gantt and myself. It is inconceivable, unfair and inhuman that such a report should be made without a hearing, for, as a citizen of a State that I have attempted faithfully to serve, I have always believed and now believe that the noblest feature of our Government is 'A law which hears before it condemns, which proceeds upon inquiry and renders judgement only after trial.' My appeal is to the General Assembly for this privilege. As I am not a member of the General Assembly, and this is the only avenue that I have to appeal to them for a hearing. I hold no public office except that of a member of the board of trustees of Clemson College, to which I was elected by the General Assembly, without a dissenting voice, and as a citizen and member of the State House commission I ask a full, fair hearing—a privilege to give an account of my stewardship in this matter. Truly this is not an unreasonable request!"

G. Duncan Bellinger.

Sails for Japan. A dispatch from Oxford, Ga., says after a stay of seven years in America, during which time he graduated from Emory college, Bun Kishi, of Tokio, Japan, has sailed for his native land. He left San Francisco this week. He is a zealous patriot, and is hastening his return to Japan in order to serve his people in the war with Russia. Bun Kishi had been a student at Emory for six years and was graduated last commencement with the degree of bachelor of arts. He was preparing himself to teach and preach. Just before leaving San Francisco, he wrote a letter to Professor Frederiek Duncan, of Emory College, bidding him farewell and expressing his good will toward all Americans, and in the letter stated that his seven years spent in this country had been most happy, but that he would not return to America again, but would meet his friends in the world to come. Mr. Kishi took great interest here in the Young Men's Christian Association, and League work, and also took an especial interest in literary work, being a member of Phi Gamma Literary Society. He took a good stand in his class and had many friends among the student body and faculty.

Murder in West Virginia. A special from Bluefield, W. Va., says: "With a bullet hole through his brain and his body badly cut, the remains of an unknown man were found Wednesday, under the floor of a deserted house near Athens, Mercer County. Harry Taylor, formerly of North Carolina, told his sister several days ago that he committed the murder, and robbed the dead man of money and valuables. He threatened to murder his sister if she divulged the secret, but she notified the sheriff. Taylor fled, but it is feared he will return and carry out his threat. The house is being watched by the officers."

A Fatal Fire. At Montreal, Canada, in a fire which started near the jewelry establishment of Bloomfield Brothers Sunday night, two men and a woman were burned to death. Ten men in some rooms were cut off by the flames. When the firemen arrived the first care was to rescue the occupants of the building, which was a difficult task. Two men and a woman were taken out dead, others were rescued in a serious condition and removed to the hospital. The dead have not yet been identified.

Shot Fifteen Miles. A dispatch from Hampton Roads says the battleship Missouri, on her trial trip Thursday off the Virginia capes, lost two torpedoes and a six-inch gun was damaged. In other respects the trial was a success. One of the 12-inch guns, being elevated seven degrees, let fly a shell which the strong-tensile glass could not follow to the end of its flight. Later a passing steamer reported that the shot had struck the sea within 300 yards of her. The steamer was distant from the Missouri just fifteen miles.

THE JAPS MUST BE PERSHED. Shouts for Success of Russian Arms Mingle With Curses Hurled at the Japs for Their "Treachery."

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says the whole city anxiously waited Tuesday night for official news. Extraordinary scenes were witnessed in and around the newspaper offices and a crowd of people literally besieged the ministry of the interior, where the Official Messenger is published, smart carriages driving up in quick succession and the highest and lowest of the inhabitants waiting in the ante room or camping in snow covered streets waiting patiently far into the night for the numbers containing the official bulletins.

The text of these communications had leaked out among the newspaper men, but as the law forbids the publication of such documents until they have appeared in the Official Messenger, the editors had to wait until the government organ printed the news before starting their own presses.

THE NEWS EAGERLY SOUGHT. The Associated Press representative, calling on a well known editor, found him surrounded by a throng of officers and prominent citizens imploring him to read to them the telegrams he had just received.

The editor, pale with emotion, recited the narrative of the bombardment of Port Arthur. More people kept coming in and the editor was compelled to read it over and over again. The crowds expressed furious impatience at the fact that nothing was said about injuries inflicted upon Japanese warships.

The intense indignation with which the news of "the stab in the back inflicted by Japan" was received here seems to be general throughout the Russian Empire. The whole empire is fired by the war fever.

The state of feeling here was illustrated at the theatres last night, when people demanded the national anthem.

More remarkable was the refusal of the drowsy drivers yesterday to accept money from officers when they drove to the palace.

JAPS BRANDED TRAITORS. The newspapers in general denounce the action of Japan as treachery, declaring that it is "truly Asiatic," but insisting that the issue of the conflict will not be decided by the naval engagements, as the Japanese will have to meet Russia on land, when the score will be wiped out. The Novoe Vremya says it is quite possible that the whole of Korea has been over-run by Japanese soldiers in disguise and that Russia may first have to assume the defensive, but when her forces in Southern Manchuria and Korea are increased, the Japanese will realize what they have to meet.

"GOD ON RUSSIA'S SIDE." "God, right and international law are on our side," the Russ says, and continues: "One hundred and thirty million Russian hearts are beating with the desire to expunge the traitorous slight on Russian honor. Enough of defensive tactics! Let us drive out the foe!"

The House Gazette says