

"DO THOU, GREAT LIBERTY, INSPIRE OUR SOULS AND MAKE OUR LIVES IN THY POSSESSION HAPPY OR OUR DEATHS GLORIOUS IN THY CAUSE."

VOL. XXX

BENNETTSVILLE, S. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 1905.

NO. 26, 24

## WIPED OUT.

### Such Is the Fate that Befell the Russian Baltic Fleet.

## CAUGHT IN A TRAP

### A Russian Warrant Officer Tells How a Big Russian Battleship Went Down After an Explosion. First Stories of the Great Battle at Sea.

Out of the great fleet that went into battle on Saturday, May 27, all but four have been captured or sunk by the Japanese.

The admiral of the fleet, Rojstevsky, is a prisoner and desperately wounded.

Admiral Vokelershem is dead, shot or drowned.

Admiral Nebogatoff is a surrendered prisoner.

Two vessels out of all the gallant Armada that were headed for Vladivostok have reached that port. Such a catalogue of overwhelming ill success has preceded and is still terribly true. The Japanese report of the capture of Rojstevsky is direct and exact. In St. Petersburg insists that the admiral from Vladivostok signed by her husband, saying that he had arrived there on board the cruiser Almaz, and that he was severely wounded in the neck, back and abdomen.

Against this is placed the circumstantial report received by the Japanese Embassy, which states that Rojstevsky was captured on Saturday evening of the Korean island of Ulsung, with another admiral and eighty other Russians, including staff officers. It seems undoubted that the Almaz has reached Vladivostok, and in addition bearing a warrant officer who, at any rate claims to be Rojstevsky, who carries the story that refuses on board were eye witnesses of the destruction of two Japanese battleships! It is a day of strange stories.

Admiral Togo is still scouring the Sea of Japan in quest of some remnants of the enemy that may have escaped him, but the list of vessels "sunk" and vessels "reported" is wonderful one, as it is set out in the official dispatches. Here is the tally:

Battleships—Prince Suvaroff, Imperator Alexander III, Borodino, Oshaba, Sissoi-Veliki and Navarin.

Cruisers—Admiral Nakhimoff, Dmitri Donskoi, Vladimir Monomakh, Svetlana and Zmitelburg.

Coast Defense Ships—Admiral Ushakov, two special service ships, the repair ship Kamchatka and three destroyers.

Captured.—Orel and Imperator Nikolai I.

Coast Defense Ships—Admiral Apraksin and Admiral Sisyuanov.

Destroyer—Biedoviy.

Making the terrible total of twenty-two ships with an aggregate tonnage of 153,411.

Now that the glory of the victory and the misery of defeat are written large, the stories of death and wounds often in agony are coming to the front.

Wreckage and the disabled bodies of dead sailors are being washed ashore along the shores of the Korean Strait. The twisted and shattered hulls of the Russian vessels lie on the beaches or are being hauled up by Japanese fishermen who are collecting the fearful flotsam of the fight.

The captured ships, with prisoners, are arriving at Sasebo; other prisoners have been landed at Tsu Island; 300 have been brought to Iwami, and the captured vessels are being brought to Japanese ports by prize crews to be refitted and to fly the flag of the Rising Sun.

ROJSTEVSKY POSITION TACTICALLY PERFECT.

From a score of various sources, from crippled Russian war vessels staggering into various ports, from captured Russian officers and men, and from the glib reports of the Japanese Naval Bureau, additional facts are learned of the great encounter, more of which change the main facts, but all of which add vividness and color to the story of the engagement.

One intensely interesting point—and it is made by a Russian informant—is that Admiral Togo's disposition of his forces was tactically perfect. Not only were his squadrons so flanked as to guard both channels, that to the east and that to the west of Tsu Island, but he had also prepared for a deployment of his forces should Rojstevsky split his fleet, and send one division around Japan on the outside way, while with the other he made a dash for the Sea of Japan and Vladivostok by way of the Korean Strait.

Togo, with his main squadron, lay off the Korean coast, in the roadstead of Masampo, while his torpedo flotilla was disposed back of Tsu Island.

Admirals Kamimura and Uruu held their squadrons further north, ready to head off any of the Russian ships as might get through Togo's lines, or to scamp for up the Strait of Tsu and bar the way there, at the instant it was reported that any of the enemy were trying to gain the outside route.

TOGO'S DISPOSITION WAS IDEAL.

Togo held the Strait, indeed, and his disposition was ideal. Togo, on his flagship the Mikasa, made his personal squadron out of the battleships; Vice Admiral Kamimura commanded the armored cruisers, and Togo independently as an advance or scouting squadron were a number of light cruisers commanded by Rear Admiral Kataoka. So disposed, Togo was pre-

pared for any manoeuvre of the enemy, and bided his time. But in addition to these named forces at his service it is now evident that the Japanese admiral had other and literally deep-laid aids at his command. There is little doubt now that the channel on the Japanese side of Tsu Shima, where the sea way is narrow and twisted by numerous groups of rocky islets, specially charted mines were laid.

Moreover, there are many veiled intimations that submarine boats played a part, inconspicuous but dreadful, in the fight.

And then, perhaps, Togo smiled, when it became evident that Rojstevsky really intended to maintain his double column formation, and was thus steaming into action, like the spear of a massed brigade across an open plain. Togo may have smiled, if ever he allowed himself that un-oriental luxury. The light was to be fought then and there, and instantly Kamimura's squadron steamed through the Broughton Strait—the channel on the Korean side of Tsu Shima, and stood ready to receive Rojstevsky's attempt to retreat southward, or to attack on the enemy's port column from the south and west.

Next in order came what is called a master move on Togo's part. Kamimura was ready on the south flank, so to speak, of the Russian column, composed of cruisers on the eastern side of the Russians' starboard column, that composed of battleships, lay the broken and dangerous shore of Japan. Ahead of the Russians lay Togo's complementary squadrons, and gathered for attack on either side of the Russian column.

Togo's master move lay in stemming to attack on the port side of the Russian column. He thus had the lightest of the Russian ships between the Russian admiral's heavier vessels, and while he was enabled with his big guns to reach the double target of cruisers and battleships, the Russian admiral's free firing was smothered by the line of his own vessels. Not only this, but both Togo and Kamimura were enabled to fire on the Russian column from the rear, and the Russian column could scarcely use any guns at all, coming on as they did, in line ahead formation.

ROJSTEVSKY'S SIGNALS DISREGARDED.

The papers are filled with criticisms by naval experts on the Russian admiral's obstinacy in too rigid adherence to his formation, but in answer to these it is stated in St. Petersburg dispatches that the commander's signals were not followed. That command, which the Russian columns there is no doubt, but there are three that the shelling by the Japanese was terrific and deadly; for all this, the Japanese signals were not followed.

As to the submarines it is on the authority of Captain Roshtoff, commander of the armored cruiser Admiral Nakhimoff, and now a prisoner of war at Moji, Japan, that his vessel was destroyed, either by a mine or submarine, which he asserts that his ship, while in the cruiser column, was entering the Korean Strait, when suddenly there was a tremendous explosion, the cruiser rose out of the water, fell back a broken hulk, and instantly sank, carrying most of her crew down with her. Captain Roshtoff was shot and a damaged submarine, which wandered about until Sunday morning, when it was picked up by a Japanese gunboat. The other survivors used life boats, and were rescued by fishermen.

The story of the torpedo boat attacking the night pursuit of the Russian fleet, which was also told. The light of Sunday was also referred to, but only in the light of hurried and fragmentary reports. Fuller and corroborative dispatches of the action of May 28 are now to hand from Tokyo. It was this light that raged around the Lisianka Rocks on Sunday afternoon. These rock barren islets lie to the northeast of Tsu Shima. There, it will be remembered, the battleships Nicolai I. and Orel, and the coast defense vessels Aptaxin and Senyavin, surrendered, with about 2,000 prisoners, including Admiral Nebogatoff, while the protected cruiser Izumrud got away, all five having run the gauntlet of Saturday's fight in the Strait, and being headed for the open Sea of Japan.

STARTED AFTER A NEW FOG.

With the acceptance of the surrender of the four vessels the main force of the Japanese fleet stopped pursuit and an attempt was made by the admiral to get something like a comprehensive report from his captains. But the lookouts reporting the appearance of a Japanese vessel in the southwest, the Japanese cruisers Iwate and Yakuimo were dispatched to pursue her. Both cruisers are fleet vessels of a 21 knot speed and quickly overhauled the enemy which was made out to be the coast defense ship Admiral Ushakov. At 6 o'clock the fleeing Russian was within easy gun range, and she was invited to surrender. She refused, the batteries of the two cruisers were turned loose and the Ushakov was sunk.

Her crew of 300 men were rescued by boats and launches from the Iwate and Yakuimo. Up through the Strait other fugitive units were seen and the armored cruiser Dmitri Donskoi was seen in a northwestern direction, the Japanese light division and a destroyer flotilla were sent to bring her down. She was fired on vigorously and as vigorously replied and made a splendid running fight. The destroyer flotilla hung on, however, and when night came they closed in and brought down their victim. She was found next morning aground on the south eastern shore of Ulsung Island, off the Korean coast.

The "picking off" process lasted all Sunday long. The protected cruiser Chitose had run northward on the lookout for some scattered prize, when she overhauled a Russian destroyer and promptly blew her up. The protected cruiser Niataka, in company with the destroyer Murakumo, sighted a Russian destroyer in the full light

## A CLOSE CALL.

### One Hundred and Ten Convicts in Penitentiary Poisoned.

## PABIS GREEN USED.

### It Was Put in Some Cabbage Which the Convicts Ate for Dinner. Particles of the Poison Used Have Been Discovered in and About the Kitchen.

The State of Thursday said there has been a lot of illness among the convicts at the penitentiary which the last 24 hours and it is known that the 110 or more who were made sick suddenly had partaken of green vegetables cooked in a large pot. None of the 300 convicts was affected except the ones who ate of the cabbage thus prepared, and it is believed that the poisoning was not due to any miscellaneous intent. Col. D. J. Griffith, superintendent of the penitentiary, stated that nearly all of the sick had left the infirmary with the exception of a few who were not well again, and there were no casualties of a serious nature.

The convicts who were made sick ate of cabbage cooked in a pot which although the cooks declared that they cleaned the vessel thoroughly. It is customary to put a little soda into the vegetables to facilitate the cooking, and it is believed that the action of the soda on the iron of the pot formed a chemical change which nauseated the prisoners who ate of the vegetables prepared therein.

The nausea appeared so soon after the dinner meal that all of the dinner had not been cleared away, and some of the vegetables were sent to Dr. W. B. Burney, the State chemist, who was asked to make a careful analysis. His report had not been made Wednesday night. It is hardly probable that the convicts engaged in gathering the vegetables and in preparing them had been so small a class as to want to poison their fellow prisoners, but if there was anything of the kind done it will not be difficult to find the one guilty. Capt. Griffith feels very much relieved after all is over because none of the prisoners were allowed to respond immediately to treatment, and all will be as well as usual in a day or two.

THE POISON FOUND.

Thursday experiments were made with the cabbage pot and with other pots. It was found that in no case did the cabbage show any signs of poison from the use of soda in the cooking. But in a perfectly clean pot used daily some of the green poison on the window sill was added. The color imparted to the cabbage was the same as that observed in the cabbage that made the convicts sick. The cabbage was found to be a perfect specimen of the green poison, and it was found that in no case did the cabbage show any signs of poison from the use of soda in the cooking. But in a perfectly clean pot used daily some of the green poison on the window sill was added. The color imparted to the cabbage was the same as that observed in the cabbage that made the convicts sick. The cabbage was found to be a perfect specimen of the green poison, and it was found that in no case did the cabbage show any signs of poison from the use of soda in the cooking. But in a perfectly clean pot used daily some of the green poison on the window sill was added. The color imparted to the cabbage was the same as that observed in the cabbage that made the convicts sick.

Paris green contains arsenic. Therefore it is probable that the dinner was poisoned with malice aforethought. There has been a great deal of talk in the room at the penitentiary and it is said it had been used a few weeks ago to kill bugs on the Irish potatoes. Thursday Capt. Griffith found traces of the green poison on the window sill of the cooking room and in one of the gutters near the kitchen was found more of the quantity of a poisonous substance. It is in connection with the fact that Dr. Burney has found arsenic in the dinner of last Tuesday it would appear that one or more of the convicts may be found guilty of a diabolical attempt at wholesale murder.

Holding Blind Tigers.

At Charleston the "social club," chartered blind tigers, continue to be raided by the constables and much excitement prevails among the proprietors and members, especially at this time of the year, when cold beer is considered to be a very necessary, especially with the accompanying accompaniment of comfortable quarters, electric fans, etc. The raid of one club Wednesday night netted 24 gallons of high grade whiskey and nearly 1,000 bottles of export beer. The renewed activity of the constables is said to be due to special instructions from Columbia to get after the violators of the law.

Togo Names It.

The naval conflict in which the Russian fleet was destroyed has been variously distinguished as the battle of the Korean Straits and the battle of Tsu Island. Admiral Togo telegraphs to Tokyo that "the naval battle fought from the afternoon of May 27 to May 28 in the vicinity of Okino Island and extending to the vicinity of Ulsung Island, is called the naval battle of the Sea of Japan." That settles it.

## TO GET THE REWARD.

### A Williamsburg Man Swore Away the Liberty of a Negro.

## CAUSED A SLUMP.

### Different Cotton Reports Vary as to the Acreage.

The average condition of the growing crop on May 25th was 77.3, as compared with 33 on May 26th, 1904; 74.1 at the corresponding date in 1903, and a 10-year average of 85.3.

The percentage of decrease in acreage in the different States (the comparison being with the total area planted last season) is as follows: Virginia 13, North Carolina 10, South Carolina 11, Georgia 11, Florida 10, Alabama 8, Mississippi 12, Louisiana 14, Texas 12, Arkansas 15, Tennessee 10, Missouri 14, Oklahoma 11, Indian Territory 10.

THE GOVERNOR'S INFORMATION.

A dispatch from Atlanta says "owing to a difference of 7 per cent in the government report issued Friday and the Southern Cotton Association report issued May 31st on the reduction in cotton acreage, the Southern Cotton Association has taken action looking to a verification of the two reports. Secretary Cheatham of the Southern Cotton Association was instructed to take the matter up with government officials and Friday addressed the following letter to State-Attorney John Hyde at Washington, calling on him for the sources of the government's information:

Atlanta, Ga., June 1, 1905.

Dear Sir: The government report on reduction in cotton acreage for 1905 issued from your department at noon today shows a difference of 7 per cent less than the report issued by the Southern Cotton Association at New Orleans, May 31. The association has been most painstaking and conservative in its report and desires to verify it with that of the government, and will ask that you forward to its office a copy of the detailed sources from which your report was made and the manner of its final tabulation.

The association also stands ready to furnish your department with similar information giving names and post-office addresses of the 17,500 reporters and business in which they are engaged. The association's report is a tabulation of its final estimate.

A prompt compliance of your office with this request will very much oblige.

Yours truly,

RICHARD CHEATHAM, Sec'y, Southern Cotton Association.

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A dispatch from New York says the government's first monthly cotton report of the season giving the average yield of the crop at 77.3 per cent, and reduction in acreage at 11.4 per cent, was true and followed by active selling and excitement on the cotton exchange Friday. The market was weak from the opening under active pressure and before the report was issued July sold off to 8.15, October 8 22 and December 8 34. Immediately following the announcement of the government figures there was great confusion on the cotton exchange due to the New Orleans market, which shot up over 20 points, causing a rally of 6 to 8 points here. This, however, was subsequently lost. It developed later that the New Orleans condition was received in New Orleans at 7.5, and July 77.2. July sold off to 8.10 in the New York market, a decline from Thursday of about 24 points, and lost one half a cent from the high points of last Wednesday. The market closed steady in tone but as just about the lowest prices, a net decline of 31 to 34 points. Sales estimated 750,000 bales.

WILL HANG HIMSELF.

A special to the New York Sun from Lincoln, Neb., says that Frank Barker, convicted of the murder of his brother, Daniel, and now confined in the Nebraska penitentiary awaiting the noon of the hangman for his double crime, is to be his own executioner. As Warden Beemer shrinks from the duty of springing the trap, Barker has stepped into the breach and informed the warden that he will do his own hanging. Barker has frankly confessed that he is guilty, and admits that he deserves the punishment which the law prescribes.

TRUBLE BREWING.

A dispatch from Paris says it is learned from an unusually well-informed source that Dr. Motono, the Japanese minister, has demanded on behalf of Japan, from Minister Delcasse, £100,000 as damages for French breaches of neutrality in connection with the voyage of Admiral Rojstevsky to the East and sojourn in French Asia-tic waters.

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## LOOK AT ENGLAND.

### A Comparison Between the United States with the Old Country.

## OFFICIAL ESTIMATE.

### Lower than the Estimate of the Cotton Association, Which Was 18 Per Cent Reduction. The Government Reports Show a Reduction of 11 Per Cent.

The following bulletin on the condition of the cotton crop was issued by the department of agriculture Friday: The average condition of the growing crop on May 25th was 77.3, as compared with 33 on May 26th, 1904; 74.1 at the corresponding date in 1903, and a 10-year average of 85.3.

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## VIOLENT DEATH.

### Of A Man Who Had Previously Killed Two Men.

## A BAD CAREER ENDED.

### When Judge Randolph Was Shot Down in the Street of Montgomery, Ala., by His Cousin, Whom He Had Threatened for Refusing Him Money.

Judge Francis C. Randolph, one of the best known men in Alabama, was shot and instantly killed Saturday afternoon by John Randolph, a second cousin, in front of the latter's office on South Perry street Montgomery, Ala.

There are several rumors as to the cause of the tragedy, the one given most credence being that Judge Randolph had demanded a loan of money from his slayer with the accompanying threat that unless the loan was forthcoming violence would ensue.

The two men met Saturday afternoon and it is said that Judge Randolph presented a single-barreled repeating shotgun and Judge Randolph attempted to draw a revolver, shots in quick succession, one entering the heart and the other the neck. Either would have proved fatal.

A vast crowd, estimated at 1,000 persons, at once surrounded the scene of the tragedy and medical aid was summoned, but when a physician arrived Judge Randolph was dead. His slayer was arrested and placed in the county jail, where many friends called during the afternoon and tendered any assistance needed.

Judge Francis C. Randolph had killed two men, one in Alabama and another in Colombia, to which country he had fled from the state. He had killed in Alabama but was sentenced to death. He was in close confinement there for several years, during which time his friends here and in the state were exerting every effort to secure his release. A death sentence commuted. Judge Randolph was granted his liberty and returned to Montgomery. Soon afterwards he was tried on thirteen charges of embezzlement, alleged to have been committed during his incumbency as probate judge of Montgomery county.

Since his return here he has been drinking freely, and it is recalled that on several occasions he has threatened the lives of Montgomery citizens. A few weeks ago, Judge Randolph was an unsuccessful candidate for the Montgomery Democratic mayoralty on the ticket with a crowd of the state's lower courts deny a decision in the case of Judge Randolph and his wife, both petitioning for divorce. In addition to her, he is survived by a son and four daughters.

Fawing on Japan.

Prince Oukotsky in the St. Petersburg Rasvick declares for peace in a half-distracted editorial in which he takes the whole world to task for shutting its eyes to the yellow peril. "All the nations are blind to the future," says the Prince, "and it is upon this visionless Japan, Great Britain, France, and America stand the people rather than upon their necessities."

Want Social Equality.

Because R. V. John Gordon, president of Howard University, of Washington, and a white man, has raised the race question at the negro college by declining to associate on a social equality plane with the student body and faculty, and has sought to emphasize the importance of manual training, a committee of alumni, backed by the entire undergraduate body, has preferred charges against him and petitioned the board of trustees for his immediate removal. The charges pressed by former Representative White of North Carolina, argued at length before a special meeting of the trustees, follow what has been almost open revolt at the student body during the past few days.

Sentences Commuted.

Gov. Heyward has commuted the sentence of two white boys of Greenville county who broke into the drug store of Lewis & Hartzog and stole \$200, all there was in sight. Andrew Jackson and James Clinton and John Harris were convicted in April 1902 and were sentenced to serve 10 years each. The sentences of Clinton and Harris have been commuted to three years, all of which they have served. The sentence of Johnson was commuted to five years and he has yet two years to serve. This action was recommended by Solicitor Biggs when the question of pardon was referred to him.

Their Buggy Turned.

A dispatch from Spartanburg says Chief Grady and several of the local constables had a lively time of it on a raid in the Dark Corner Monday night. Arriving Gowansville, their vehicles broke down, and they secured another and pressed forward in their quest of illicit distilleries. Their raid carried them into the lonely, unfrequented sections of corner, and they were out on several times, but with no results. Their search proved fruitless, and returning to Gowansville for their team, they discovered it had been cut to pieces and burned up by the late moonshiners. Their horses had not been molested and a man secured another carriage and came on home.

Minos Did It.

United States Minister Griscom, who is stationed at Tokio, in his report calls attention to the fact that Japanese torpedo operations were highly successful in the late battle and a majority of the large Russian vessels were sunk as a result.

Killed From Shot.

Will Clark was engaged to a girl at High Spring, near Gainesville, Fla., out her uncle L. M. Lizzell and her uncle's stepson Pete Riddick opposed the match. They attacked Clark on Sunday while he was returning from a visit to his sweetheart. In the fight he got hold of Riddick's pistol and killed them both.