

RUSSIANS LIKELY TO QUIT PORT ARTHUR

Shortage of Coal and Difficulty of Reaching There With Reinforcements the Cause.

CONCENTRATE AT HARBIN

Outcry Against Admiral Alexieff Is Beyond All Disciplinary Bounds and One Report Says He Will Be Recalled.

New York, Feb. 18.—A Sun special from London says: There is still no news of fresh engagements on land or sea in the far east, nor is there anything trustworthy concerning developments in the far east.

The most interesting possibility suggested is that Russia may abandon Port Arthur and the Liao Tung peninsula, concentrating the land forces farther north with the center at Harbin. The statement from New Chung that Admiral Alexieff and his staff are all ready on the way there seems to point to such a decision.

Dispatches to the Daily Mail from St. Petersburg say military circles realize relief from the responsibility of maintaining a long line of railway in Manchuria will simplify Alexieff's task and Port Arthur can be safely left to take care of itself, while with Harbin securely fortified preparations may continue in gathering an overwhelming force for a southward advance when the weather is favorable. That the weather is now extremely unfavorable to military movements is evident from the many reports on the subject. It is sufficiently bad on the gulf of Pechili and the northern part of the Yellow sea, where gales and snowstorms are severe and frequent, but farther north conditions are declared to be terrible.

A mailed dispatch to the Daily Graphic from Sebastopol says the admiralty there has received reports confirming the statements that Port Arthur is lamentably short of coal, which threatens the fleet with immobility in a few weeks.

The outcry in naval circles at Sebastopol against Admiral Alexieff passes all disciplinary bounds. The senior officers assert he ought to be recalled and disgraced for allowing the finest vessels in the Russian fleet to be torpedoed.

Paris, Feb. 18.—An official dispatch received here today from Tokyo announces one of the main branches of the army, consisting of three divisions and including a division of guards, about 40,000, is now on board transports. It is believed the destination of the army is a point near the mouth of the Yalu river or a spot on the Liao Tung peninsula, flanking Port Arthur.

Port Arthur, Feb. 18.—Reports that the Japanese have concentrated about 80,000 troops at Wonsan, on the east coast of Korea, with the object of entering Manchuria, is confirmed. Troops are arriving here continuously and the mobilization of forces is making excellent progress. The fortress is now thoroughly prepared to withstand a siege and is regarded as unassailable. General Stoessel has issued a reassuring proclamation to the population.

Bombs Are Thrown.
Baku, Russian Trans-Caucasus, Feb. 18.—During patriotic services in Armenian church here, just as the clergy ended praying for the success of Russian arms, a bomb was thrown at the officiating priest. Two persons were killed and several injured.

Wiju Door Open.
Washington, Feb. 18.—Minister Allen, at Seoul, cables the state department that Wiju has been declared open to the commerce of the world by the Korean government.

The United States was the first power, so far as known, to apply to the Korean government for the opening of Wiju to the world's trade. This action was taken while Japan and England were urging the opening of Yungampho, lying at the mouth of the Yalu river on the Korean side.

The view taken by the state department was that if we could secure the opening of Wiju, 150 miles up the Yalu, above Yungampho, the effect would be practically open the whole stretch of river to commerce, so that the project really is much larger than the mere opening of a port at the mouth of the river. It is understood the opening of Wiju is directly attributable to Japanese ascendancy to Korea, for while the country is under Russian influences Minister Allen was unable to induce the king to open a single port in addition to Chemulpo.

Finland Would Rebel.
Vancouver, B. C., Feb. 18.—Matt Kurriki, head of the labor party in Finland, is in Vancouver and says if Finland is supplied with munitions of war it will rise in a body to attack Russia, thus aiding the Japanese in their present struggle.

Report Discredited.
Berlin, Feb. 18.—The German admiralty discredits reports that the Japanese fired on the German gunboats Hansa and Thets or any other German war vessel in disputed far eastern waters.

May Recall Cassini.
Vienna, Feb. 18.—It is rumored here that Count Cassini, Russian ambassador at Washington, will be recalled for failure to keep his government properly informed of the state of feeling in the United States.

French Arm Prepared.
Paris, Feb. 18.—Marine Minister Pelletan has written to Deputy DeLonde, representing French Cochinchina, denying a reported shortage of coal for French fleets, adding that measures have been adopted to protect the French of Indo-China against a sudden attack and to prepare for all eventualities growing out of the present situation.

Confident but Critical.
(St. Petersburg Special to Sun—Special to The Tribune.)

New York, Feb. 18.—A special from St. Petersburg says Russia's confidence in the ultimate success of her arms continues unshaken. Her military misfortunes are still attributed to her unpreparedness, based on the conviction that peace would be maintained, but in the coming land struggle Japan's chances are declared hopeless. There is a conviction in some quarters that Japan will be brought to her knees in six months, when her available resources are exhausted. Nevertheless, this avowed optimism does not hinder a strong criticism of the conduct of the Russian movements. Admiral Alexieff is accused of incapacity even by military men, and reports of the impending departure of General Kurohatski, minister of war, to take over the command of the army and of Admiral Skryloff to command the navy seems prompted by the emphatic desire of officials, and what

would in a community organized on western lines be a vigorous popular demand for such appointments.

Cavalry at Wiju.
Tokio, Feb. 18.—Eight transports with Japanese troops from Nagasaki and several additional vessels carrying war munitions are on their way to the west coast of Korea. A detachment of Japanese cavalry has already landed at Wiju.

Capture 100 Jap Spies.
Tien Tsin, Feb. 18.—The Russians explain the wholesale arrest of Japanese at Harbin and elsewhere due to the discovery that Japan had in those districts upwards of a hundred spies, of whom sixty belonged to the Japanese general staff.

It is feared the British steamer Halping, bound from Chin-Wang Tao for Shanghai, with passengers and bullion, has been captured. She is five days overdue and was last seen in the Port Arthur roads.

Be Awful Collision.
Berlin, Feb. 18.—The admiralty here has received confirmation of the reports that the Japanese landing operations on a vast scale are taking place on the Korean northern coasts, and it is assumed by German authorities that Japan will be ready by early spring for a forward and movement supported by properly equipped bases.

Possibly 250,000 men (according to estimates made at the German admiralty) will be in the field before a collision takes place with the Russians in force.

FINNS ARE RESTIVE.

Would Welcome an Opportunity to Fight Their Oppressor—Denmark Is to Remain Neutral.

Copenhagen, Feb. 17.—Owing to the relationship of the Danish and Russian royal families it might be thought Denmark's sympathy would be largely in favor of the Russians in their struggle with the Japanese. Although Denmark remains neutral, her press evinces that Japan has many warm admirers and not the least so in Copenhagen, where the public sympathy seems to be with the Japanese almost exclusively. "Should any conflict occur in the Baltic," says the Politiken, "Denmark would become an important strategic point to all concerned."

Russia's declaration of war has naturally been welcomed with the keenest interest in Finland. Says the Politiken (Copenhagen): "It is more than likely that all news from the seat of war will be severely censored before it reaches Finland. It will naturally be to Russia's interest to quell Finland's sympathy for Japan."

Denmark has declared itself neutral in regard to the Russo-Japanese war. Two ironclads and four cruisers are mobilized in the Ore sund and the rest of the fleet will promptly assemble to defend Copenhagen during a possible conflict in the Baltic. Military measures are also in progress for the defense of Danish neutrality.

STORM SAVED RUSSIANS

Japanese Torpedo Flotilla Kept From Doing Its Deadliest Work by Blinding Blizzard.

Tokio, Feb. 17.—A heavy storm spared the Russians from a desperate torpedo attack at Port Arthur on the morning of Sunday the 14th. During the preceding night vessels of the Japanese flotilla of torpedo craft parted by the force of a blinding snow storm so only two of the larger destroyers succeeded in forcing their way through the fierce gale to Port Arthur. When they arrived there they attacked separately and officers of one of them are confident they succeeded in torpedoing Russian warships.

The destroyer Asargiri, in charge of Lieutenant Commander Ishikawa, arrived at Port Arthur about 3 o'clock in the morning and was met with a sharp fire from the fortress and Russian ships acting as scouts. The Asargiri discharged several torpedoes at a big warship, but the result is unknown. A command was opened up on the morning of the harbor, where she found warships, names unknown. She fired a torpedo at one and the torpedo exploded.

Admiral Togo in reporting the attack says although the results are unknown he feels sure the moral effect upon the enemy will be excellent. Commander Nagai commanded the entire torpedo flotilla, the number of craft in the flotilla and the point of their departure are concealed.

London, Feb. 17.—A dispatch from Kobe, Japan, in reporting the Japanese naval attack on Port Arthur, February 14, says the Russian guardship in the harbor and another Russian warship, lying outside the harbor, were torpedoed, and that the Japanese retired without sustaining any injury.

STORY OF THE BATTLE

Eye Witness Describes the Engagement at Chemulpo, Where Two Russian Ships Were Sunk.

Seoul, Feb. 17.—The naval battle at Chemulpo was witnessed by many who have reached this city. An eye witness gives the following description:

"The Korietz and Varieg were lying in the harbor. The Japanese admiral gave them until noon to come out. Both Russian vessels cleared for action. All the shipping in the harbor was notified by Admiral Uriu to get out of the firing line.

"There were in the harbor also the British cruiser Talbot, the French cruiser Pascal, the Italian cruiser Elba, and the United States gunboat Vicksburg. All were active. The Varieg signaled the Talbot, and a boat from the British cruiser went on board.

"Shortly afterwards the Varieg and Korietz got under way and steamed out of the harbor. The crew of the English warship cheered them as they went out to fight. When the Russians were four miles out, the Japanese threw a shot across their bows, but they did not stop. The Japanese lay between the islands ten miles out, blocking the only entrance to the harbor.

"When the Russians were six miles from the Japanese fleet heavy firing began on both sides.

"The Varieg turned its broadside loose at 11:55 a. m. Then the Varieg turned at right angles to the westward and steamed a short distance, as if to make the beach, but was seen to suddenly turn again east and give the enemy her other broadside.

"The Japanese continued firing until 12:22, when the Varieg was seen to be on fire near the stern. The Russian vessels then turned back toward the harbor and ceased firing at 12:42 p. m.

"The Japanese followed almost to the entrance of the harbor, firing on the Varieg, which had a heavy list to port and was evidently in a sinking condition. The Korietz was practically untouched. The Varieg lost thirty men and seven officers killed and forty-two

ALLEGED WHOLESALE LAND FRAUDS

Grand Jury of the District of Columbia Will Indict Many More

J. A. BENSON FOR BRIBERY

Bench Warrants Were Immediately Issued and a Number of Prominent Men Will Be Arrested on the Charge.

Washington, Feb. 18.—As a result of the investigation of the alleged wholesale public land frauds in many western states, the grand jury of the District of Columbia reported a joint indictment for conspiracy against John A. Benson, a wealthy real estate operator of San Francisco; Frederick A. Hyde of San Francisco, closely identified with Benson in land affairs; Henry C. Dimond of California, an attorney representing Benson and Hyde, and J. H. Schneider of Tucson, Ariz., an agent of Benson and Hyde. Bench warrants immediately were issued, and Schneider was arrested in this city this afternoon by Secret Service Agent William J. Burns, who has been quietly investigating alleged public land frauds in a number of western states.

Schneider was taken before Justice Barnard late this afternoon, and the latter fixed his bail at \$20,000. Schneider has been a witness before the grand jury in the cases against the other defendants.

Benson already had been indicted here on a charge of bribery, and is now believed to be in New York, while Hyde is thought to be in San Francisco.

Indictment Is Voluminous.
The indictment is a voluminous document, and sets forth a number of transactions by which land is alleged to have been fraudulently acquired from the government in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and elsewhere. Most of these transactions are alleged to have occurred under the name of fictitious persons, or of persons not really desiring or qualified to purchase them, Hyde and Benson paying them small sums for the lands. The indictment charges that there were false representations in all these transactions and that the publications supported by the indicted parties were forged, false and fraudulent. The arrest of the other parties indicted is expected very soon. The action taken disposes of all land fraud cases so far presented to the local grand jury, but others may be submitted at any time and proceedings are expected in other jurisdictions.

ABUSE M'KINLEY ORDER.
Soldiers' Gifts No Longer to Be Admitted Duty Free.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The president has issued an executive order revoking that of President McKinley allowing gifts from officers of the army and navy and civic establishments in Porto Rico, Cuba, the Philippines, etc., to be admitted into the United States free of duty.

It is understood that the privileges granted by President McKinley have been greatly abused of late, and that the real purpose of these orders, which was to allow the volunteer soldiers, sailors and others in the government service in Cuba, China and our island possessions to send presents to their families at Christmas time, has been lost sight of and that large quantities of goods of every description are constantly being forwarded to this country in flagrant violation of the letter and spirit of President McKinley's orders, hence their revocation.

LEAD SUFFRAGISTS.
Rev. Anna Shaw Elected President of National Association.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Rev. Anna Shaw has been elected president of the National Woman's Suffrage association. She succeeds Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, and the latter takes the position of vice president at large. The other officers elected were Miss Kate M. Gordon, New Orleans, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Alice Stone Blackwell, Boston, recording secretary; Miss Harriet Taylor Upton, Warren, O., treasurer; Miss Cora Smith, Minneapolis, and Miss Laury Clay, Lexington, Ky., auditors.

All were re-elections with the exception of Miss Smith, who succeeds Mrs. Mary J. Coggeshall, of Des Moines, Ia., as an auditor.

Portland, Ore., was selected as the meeting place for the next convention.

PANAMA'S PRESIDENT.
Dr. Manuel Amador Unanimously Elected as First Executive of the Newest Republic.

Panama, Feb. 18.—Dr. Manuel Amador was unanimously elected first president of the republic of Panama. Dr. Pablo Arosemena, Domingo Obaldia and Dr. Carlos Mendocino were elected to fill respectively the positions of first, second and third 'designados,' or vice presidents.

Great preparations are being made for the inauguration of the president, which will take place on February 20.

Washington, Feb. 17.—Viscount de Alve has notified Minister Bunau-Varilla of the recognition by Portugal of the republic of Panama. All the European governments having diplomatic representatives at Washington, with the exception of Turkey and Spain, now have extended recognition to the Panama government.

Minister Bunau-Varilla, the minister from Panama, has received word from the minister for foreign affairs that the constitution adopted by the convention called for that purpose was officially promulgated by the junta yesterday. It now becomes the organic law of the republic of Panama.

IN HANDS OF JURY.
Celebrated Linhoff Murder Case Has Lasted Twenty-Two Days.

Mason City, Ia., Feb. 17.—The jury in the celebrated case of Mrs. L. K. Linhoff, charged with murdering Edward Bromberg on the night of August 30, 1901, after a trial lasting twenty-two days, retired at noon today. Judge Smith's instructions are considered impartial. Opinion differs relative to the verdict.

Korean commerce amounts to about \$15,000,000 per annum, the imports being double the exports.

DE ROSEN IN SHANGHAI

Report From Nagasaki Is That Two Damaged Warships Are There to Be Drydocked.

Shanghai, Feb. 17.—Baron de Rosen, late Russian minister to Japan, has arrived here on a French steamer.

The following was received from Nagasaki under date of February 15: "Fifteen thousand troops are embarking on transports today. Their horses are in poor condition. Two damaged warships are waiting to go into drydock."

CABLES CLOSED.
Russian Government Says Vladivostok-Nagasaki Connections Are Indefinitely Out of Business.

New York, Feb. 17.—The Western Union Cable company has received information from the Russian government to the effect that the Vladivostok-Nagasaki cables are closed indefinitely to correspondence of every nature.

WAS SUNK BY JAPS.
The Russian Cruiser Boyarin Was Not Blown Up by Accidentally Striking a Mine.

Tokio, Feb. 18.—It is the belief of the navy department that the Russian second class cruiser Boyarin was torpedoed and sunk by the destroyer Hayatouri in the torpedo attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur last Sunday morning. Lieutenant Commander Tosenouchi did not know the name of the vessel which torpedoed his ship, but he is charged by the Hayatouri, but the navy department has since learned from other sources that it was the Boyarin.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg, dated February 16, stated that the Boyarin was blown up with a loss of 196 officers and men, February 13, by a mine which it accidentally struck.

London, Feb. 18.—The correspondent at Tokyo of the Paris edition of the New York Herald, in a dispatch in which he reports the arrival of junks bearing Japanese wounded from the Port Arthur engagement of February 14, considers this to show that something more than a torpedo attack took place there.

The correspondent at Tokyo of the Standard reports that two battleships were destroyed in this attack, while the correspondent at Tien Tsin of the Standard says, under date of February 17, that a private dispatch from Port Arthur brings the statement that the Russian squadron has again put to sea.

COURT ADMITS INSTRUCTION TO JURY GREATLY IN FAVOR OF THE DEFENDANTS.
Washington, Feb. 18.—The court and counsel in the Mochen postoffice fraud trial devoted the day to arguments touching the instructions to be given the jury. Among the points made for the defense was one that if Lorenz owed Mochen any sum of money he had a right to pay it in any manner he chose, providing the debt was a legitimate one. Even if Lorenz paid the money out of profits from the Groff fasteners it did not necessarily follow the payment was fraudulent.

THREE MORE FAIL.
Baltimore Fire Insurance Companies Cannot Pay Losses in Great Conflagration There.

Baltimore, Feb. 18.—The Home Fire Insurance company of Baltimore, with liabilities of \$450,000, and the Firemen's Insurance company of Baltimore, with liabilities of \$400,000, went into the hands of receivers today.

Baltimore, Feb. 17.—An application was made today for a receiver for the Old Town Fire Insurance company of Baltimore. It is understood the liabilities exceed the assets by \$120,000.

The Firemen's Insurance company has an agency in Sioux City. W. F. Grandy is agent.

Mr. Grandy says the business of the Firemen's Insurance company is reinsured by substantial companies and all policies are absolutely good.

The Delaware Fire Insurance company of Dover has applied for a receiver and not the Delaware of Philadelphia. Mr. Grandy is agent for the latter.

Brick Company Fails.
Boston, Feb. 18.—Alonso E. Lock wa, appointed receiver of the New England Brick company today. The company, controls the brick manufacturing business of New England, and is alleged to have defaulted on February interest on first mortgage.

METHODIST BOOK MERGER
Committee Recommends Consolidation to Los Angeles Conference.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 18.—After deliberating for a week the Methodist book committee has decided to recommend to the general conference at Los Angeles next May the consolidation of the Cincinnati, Chicago and New York book concerns. This means that the manufacturing of bibles, hymn books and other religious books will be placed under one roof.

The report recommends the consolidation of the manufacturing departments, with headquarters at Kansas City, Boston, Pittsburgh, Detroit and San Francisco. One hundred and ten thousand dollars are appropriated for superannuated ministers, as against \$75,000 last year.

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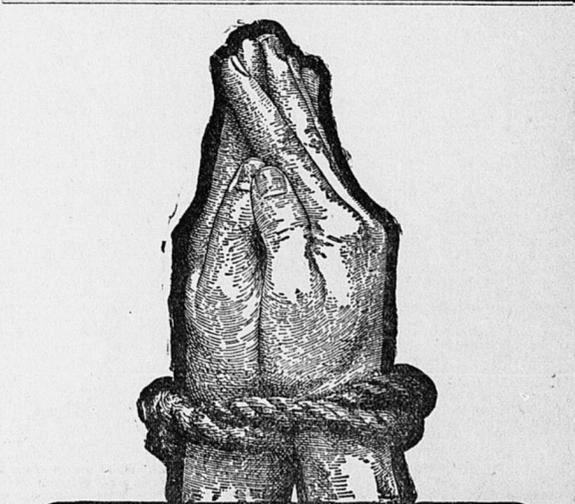
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