

JAPAN TAKES WISE STEP

(Special Dispatch to Daily Alaskan)

Washington, Feb. 24—The state department has received information that Japan has negotiated a treaty with Korea whereby the Japanese guarantee the independence and integrity of that country. The movement is regarded here as one of the cleverest diplomatic movements that have yet been made in connection with the far eastern question. It puts the war, as far as Japan is concerned, above the plane of mere land grabbing.

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JAPS LOSE FOUR SHIPS OF WAR

Russians destroy four Japanese cruisers and two transports, forcing fleet to abandon attack on Port Arthur. The report is not confirmed.

[Special Dispatch to Daily Alaskan.]

St. Petersburg, Feb. 24—Dispatches received here from Port Arthur today say that the Russians repulsed, with terrible havoc to the enemy, an attack upon Port Arthur by the Japanese fleet last night. The dispatches state that four Japanese cruisers and two transports were sunk, and the remainder of the fleet compelled to abandon the attack after having sustained heavy loss.

The details concerning the engagement are meager but it is said that the Russian battleship Retvizan, which was handled so roughly by the Japanese on the night of the first attack was in the midst of the fray and covered herself, her officers and crew with glory.

STORY OF ENGAGEMENT LACKS CONFIRMATION

[Special Dispatch to the Daily Alaskan.]

Washington, Feb. 24—The story of the Japanese defeat in an attack upon Port Arthur which has been telegraphed from St. Petersburg lacks confirmation. At the Japanese legation it is discredited.

The associated press has been authorized to make the following statement:

"The Japanese legation at Washington discredits the correctness of the St. Petersburg dispatches giving the account of the sinking of four Japanese cruisers and two transports at Port Arthur. Attention must be paid to the fact that the report emanates from Russian sources. Furthermore, the battleship Retvizan, which is said to have participated in the engagement, is understood to be unfitted for action, and the best advice obtainable would indicate that she will remain so for some months to come."

FRENCH NOT ASSISTING BLACK SEA FLEET

(Special Dispatch to Daily Alaskan.)

Paris, Feb. 24—The persistent rumors of negotiations among the powers concerned respecting the passage of the Russian Black sea fleet through the Dardanelles are declared.

(Continued on Last Page.)

STILL NORTH OF THE YALU

[Special Dispatch to Daily Alaskan.]

Tokio, Feb. 24—Reports from northern Korea indicate that the Russians have not crossed the Yalu river with any considerable portion of their army. Their scouts have penetrated the country south of Wi-ju, but the main force is believed to be still north of the river.

The Japanese are confident that the Russians will be unable to assemble a sufficient force upon the banks of the Yalu river to induce them to attempt an invasion of Korea.

The Japanese government estimates that there are not more than 40,000 Russian troops on the Yalu river, notwithstanding the statements that have been made placing the number as high as 200,000 men.

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