

CHEMULPO AND PORT ARTHUR.

Graphic Description of Japan's Two Great Naval Triumphs.

REPORT THAT RUSSIAN WARSHIPS WERE DESTROYED BY MINES.

China's Edict of Neutrality Calls for Protection to Missionaries.

MINOR INCIDENTS IN THE OPENING OF THE GREAT CAMPAIGN.

(Special to the Daily Herald.)

Chee Foo, Feb. 15.—A reliable report says that three Russian torpedo boats have been sunk by guns from the Russian forts. They were mistaken for Japanese vessels.

China's Neutrality.

Pekin, Feb. 15.—The edict issued by the government of China, declaring its neutrality in the Russo-Japanese difficulty, announces that war between these countries has broken out, and says that, as these nations are friendly to China, she must declare her neutrality.

Viceroy and governors are ordered to maintain neutrality and to preserve order and carefully protect missionaries and merchants and foreign property. The Peking authorities are especially warned against allowing the spread of evil rumors. The importance of protecting the mission and churches is emphasized, and all disturbers of the peace are threatened with punishment. Grave offenders will be sent to immediate decapitation.

Referring to the possible removal of the Emperor from the capital, the edict says war exists between Russia and Japan not between Japan and China. Moreover its vicinity is tranquil. Why then should the Emperor leave.

Private advices from New Chwang state that missionaries are congregating there on account of the grave condition of affairs at Manchuria.

What of These?

New York, Feb. 15.—Official confirmation is given in Tokio, according to a cablegram to the World, of the report that three of the four Russian warships from Vladivostok, which entered the Tsuru straits to attack Hakodate, were blown up by mines the night of Feb. 13, while attempting to pass the straits.

New York, Feb. 15.—A cablegram from London says the later advices are that four Russian warships have been sighted in Tsuru straits since the report went out that three of the cruisers had been sunk or disabled.

Americans on Board.

New York, Feb. 15.—One of the most serious bits of news at this moment, says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Herald, is the confirmation of the statement that aboard the Japanese vessels of war attacking Port Arthur were a number of American naval officers. This caused something akin to a feeling of consternation among the Russian officers.

Neutral Vessels Released.

Ying Kow, Feb. 14.—The administrative authorities at Port Arthur have formally notified the American and British consuls of the release of the neutral ships which had been seized. Both consuls had asked for explanation.

The civil administration of Port Arthur has intimated that Viceroy Alexieff will not recognize the consuls in matters relating to Port Arthur and Manchuria.

In answer to the demand of the British government for an explanation of why the British ships were held up by the Russians at Port Arthur, Viceroy Alexieff replied that the vessels were detained because they had Japanese on board.

The shots fired at the British steamer Fu Ping by the Russian guardship at Port Arthur, as the Fu Ping was leaving that port last Tuesday, were, the viceroy says, due to a misunderstanding on the part of officers on the guardship.

The Russians are seizing supplies at New Chwang and the Chinese are alarmed and are closing their shops and placing their possessions under foreign protection. The Russian residents of New Chwang, fearing that the army will be

unable to protect them and their possessions are depositing their treasures under the jurisdiction of foreign flags.

In consequence of the attack by the Japanese on Port Arthur, Viceroy Alexieff has ordered all foreigners and civilians to leave that place. The families of the Russian officers in Manchuria are being sent to Russia, and this is causing great pressure upon the railway. Dalney was the first place to be deserted. The non-combatants and civilians have abandoned all their property at Port Arthur and Dalney.

Russian Admissions.

The Russians freely admit that their unpreparedness for the Japanese attack to have been a terrible blunder. Only half the ships were in line for the battle and their officers were ashore attending the anniversary celebration of Viceroy Alexieff's birth.

A stirring episode was the re-entrance into the harbor of the warships Charevitz and Moivka after the fight. They came in under their own steam with bands playing and men cheering. Throughout the afternoon and night, wounded men were being removed to the shore.

Battle of Chemulpo.

Seoul, Korea, Feb. 15. The following is the account of the battle of Chemulpo which resulted in the Russian cruiser Variag and the gunboat Koreitz being destroyed.

During the night of February 8, the Japanese landed 500 men at Chemulpo and on the morning of the 9th three Japanese cruisers, four gunboats and eight torpedo boat destroyers under command of Admiral Uriu, approached the harbor but did not enter. The Koreitz and Variag 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 ground of the Japanese firing line.

There were in the harbor the British cruiser Talbot, the French cruiser Pascal, the Italian cruiser Elba and the United States gunboat Vicksburg. All were active. The Variag signalled the Talbot and a boat from the British cruiser went on board. Shortly afterwards the Variag and Koreitz 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 shell across their bows, but they did not stop. The Japanese lay between the islands ten miles out blocking the only entrance to the harbor. The Russians were six miles from the Japanese fleet, and there was soon heavy firing from both sides.

The Variag turned her broadside loose at 11.45 a. m., then turned at right angles and steamed a short distance outward as if to take the beach, but subsequently turned east and gave the enemy her other broadside.

The Japanese continued fire till 12.52 until the Variag 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 Variag which listed to port and was evidently in a sinking condition.

The Koreitz was practically untouched. The Variag lost thirty men and seven officers killed and forty-two wounded. Count Mono was killed on the bridge.

About six hundred shots were fired in

all, but the firing was not very accurate, and the Variag was hit only in six places. The shot that struck the water line amidships wrecked one of her engines. When the Russians anchored off the entrance to the harbor, the British cruiser Talbot sent four hospital boats on board with a doctor and nurse. The U. S. gunboat Vicksburg also sent three boats with surgical aid.

The Koreitz was abandoned at 3.30 p. m., her crew going on board the Pascal and at 3.57 she blew up with a terrible explosion.

The Variag was abandoned soon afterwards, her officers deeming her situation hopeless. Her dead were left on board.

The crew of the Variag went on board the Talbot, the Pascal, the Elba and the Vicksburg. The Variag burned until 6 p. m. with frequent explosions as the flames ignited her ammunition. She then sank. The Russians eventually went from the Pascal to the steamship Surgai. A Russian officer told the captain of the Vicksburg that he had come to ask asylum for one night only.

The Japanese casualties are not known, but it is rumored that one torpedo boat, destroyed, was sunk during the action.

Battle of Port Arthur.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The first unofficial report of the battle at Port Arthur of Tuesday has been received in a telegram dated Port Arthur Feb. 9. It is as follows:

"At half past eleven o'clock this morning a Japanese squadron of fifteen vessels commenced the bombardment of Port Arthur. Our squadron and fortress replied and the battle continued forty minutes.

The Japanese squadron could not stand the well placed fires of our fleet and particularly of the forts, and began a rapid retirement. The Japanese flagship was seriously damaged, and according to the testimony of an eye witness, five other Japanese ships were considerably injured. Boats report two Japanese ships sank at sea.

Our losses afloat were two officers wounded, one so slightly that he continued fighting, six men killed and 54 wounded. In the forts two men were slightly wounded.

The bombardment of the fortress and town did no damage but frightened the populace. At intervals during the night firing was heard at sea.

The despatch adds that the temper of the army and navy are excellent and that the bulletins circulated by the Novre Krai have begun to tranquilize the people. No attempts have been made by the Japanese to land on the Kwang Tung Peninsula. The repairs following the torpedo attack are going on rapidly.

Chee Foo, Feb. 15.—The steamer When Cho, arriving from Port Arthur, reports that 11 Russian ships were struck in Wednesday's engagement. It is stated that the cruiser Askold with a big hole at the water line, has been towed into the inner basin and beached. The battleship Sebastopol has a shell just above the water line and is useless. The cruiser Movik has a hole in her after portside. The whole fleet has been taken in the inner harbor at Port Arthur, and is depending for protection on the forts, which have been reinforced. There is

(CONTINUED ON SIXTH PAGE.)

The Dangers of Travel.

Grouchy Bachelor—I heartily disapprove of taking children on railway journeys and to large hotels.

Doting Mother—So do I. One meets so many rude people and sees so much selfishness at those places that one is always glad the little darlings aren't there to pick up bad habits.—Baltimore American.

He who devours the substance of the poor will meet in the end with a bone to choke him.—Schoolmaster.

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TO THE ELECTORS

OF THE

City of Fredericton

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Having been solicited and strongly urged by a multiplicity of influential ratepayers to offer myself as a candidate for Alderman for St. Ann's Ward at the approaching civic elections to be held on March 14th, I have, after due consideration, decided to accede to their wishes.

During my residence in this city I have been a close and patient observer of the methods of those administering your affairs, and have arrived at the conclusion that there is room for considerable improvement—in fact the time has arrived for a change. Year after year we have witnessed the spectacle of men sitting at the board voting money into their own pockets in violation of their oath of office. Our floating indebtedness has steadily increased, taxes have gone up, the assessment law is carried out in a perfunctory manner, and many departments of the public service have been shamefully neglected.

Now is the time for all good men to put their shoulders to the wheel and strike a blow for freedom. The standard of reform should be raised over our City Hall. Let there be no more "grafting" Let there be no more "rake-offs" or bogus coal contracts. Put an end to this game of grab by purging the body politic and demanding an honest, economical and business-like administration of affairs.

If you honor me with your confidence, I pledge myself to bring about the consummation devoutly to be wished. That is my platform. It is broad enough to hold all classes and creeds interested in the good government of the city, and upon it I am prepared to stand or fall.

Trusting to receive your votes and support on polling day,
I remain, your obedient servant,
JAMES L. CLAYTON.
Fredericton, N. B., Feb. 5th, 1904—deodtf

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ESTATE NOTICE

All persons having any claims against the estate of Joanna Estabrooks, late of the City of Fredericton, in the County of York, widow, deceased, are requested to present the same, duly attested, to Havelock Coy of the said City of Fredericton, Barrister at-Law, within three months from this date, and all persons indebted to the said estate are requested to make immediate payment to the said Havelock Coy.

Dated this 7th day of January, A. D., 1904.
GEORGE FREDERICK GILMORE,
Administrator of the estate of Joanna Estabrooks, deceased.
Jan. 8—deod—3mos