A RUSSIAN DISASTER

Battleship and Destroyer Sunk With Great Loss of Life.

RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP SUNK.

The most serious disaster to Russian arms since war was declared occurred on Wednesday morning at Port Arthur, when the first-class battleship Petropavlovsk was lost. Vice-Admiral Makaroff, commander of the naval forces in the Far East, and practically the entire crew going down with the vessel, says a St. Petersburg despatch. Of 650 officers and men on board, but 38 were rescued, all of them more or less severely wounded. Included in the latter is Grand Duke Cyril and the commander of the warship.

According to the official advices, the disaster was due to the warship accidentally striking a mine. Makaroff had gone out with the vessel to the rescue of a cruiser which had been cut off by the Japanese fleet, but finding himself outnumbered, returned to the roadstead, in entering which he struck the mine.

A torpedo boat flotilla, supported by five Japanese warships, engaged the Russian cruiser Bayan, making for Port Arthur from the direction of the Yalu. The Russian cruiser Askold and the Petropavlovsk issued from Port Arthur to assist the Bayan. At 6.45 o'clock the Russians made for the shelter of the forts, and the accident occurred. Whether or not a naval battle occurred is not officially stated. Subsequently the Japanese were reinforced by their full fleet, and Port Arthur was bombarded for two hours, but no damage was occasioned.

ENTRANCE SEALED?

The London Times prints a despatch from its correspondent on board its despatch boat Haimun, sent from off the coast of Corea by means of wireless telegraphy to Wei-Hai-Wei quoting the Japanese official report that the Petropavlovsk was destroyed by a torpedo, and adding that it is believed that the entrance to Port Arthur is now sealed.

TRYING TO LAND.

Rumors were in circulation at St. Petersburg of a fresh engagement on the Yalu River, which has resulted favorably to the Russians, but a despatch received by the general staff to-night says that the situation is unchanged, and that all is quiet on the Yalu.

There is nothing confirmatory of the oft-repeated statement of the landing of Japanese troops in the vicinity of Port Arthur, although the general opinion in military circles there is that the latest bombardment was intended as a mask to cover the landing of a Japanese force.

It is said that the Japanese torpedo flotilla attack on Port Arthur April 13 was intended to cover a landing from nine transports at Shemang-taitse, twenty miles south-west of Takushan, with a view of cutting off the retreat of the Port Arthur troops to Siu-Yen and Kaiping, destroying the railway and preventing troops stationed in Southern Liao-Tung effecting a juncture with the main Russian forces concentrated at Liao-Yang and Mukden. The execution of this operation only failed owing to the fact that all places on the peninsula suitable for the landing of troops are protected by mines, are well fortified and strongly guarded.

790 RUSSIANS PERISHED.

It is officially announced at St. Petersburg that 40 officers and 750 men perished in the sinking of the Petropavlovsk.

It is stated that an American engineer arrived on Saturday and started for Port Arthur to direct the operations of three submarines which were forwarded in March on orders from Admiral Makaroff.

POBIEDA BADLY DAMAGED.

The New-Chwang correspondent of the London Daily Mail telegraphs that he interviewed an officer who was on a train that passed through Taihichiau, carrying men wounded on the Petropavlovsk to Harbin. He said that during the running action the battleship Pobieda was badly damaged by a torpedo. There was a large hole made in her bows at the waterline, and three of her compartments filled. The officer claimed that one Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer was sunk. Before the Petropavlovsk went down there were two distinct explosions, the first one being a mine and the second the battleship's magazines.

"THAT MAN ALEXIEFF."

On the eve of the disaster to the battleship Petropavlovsk it is stated that the Czar received a telegram from Admiral Makaroff, stating that he was about to fight a decisive engagement with the enemy.

A story is currant among the Czar's entourage, that when his Majesty heard of the disaster he wept. Afterwards, speaking of Admiral Alexieff, he exclaimed: "That man brings us nothing but ill-luck." At the same time he declared his intention to recall Admiral Alexieff, but was dissuaded, his councilors urging the bad impression such a step would make in the present circumstances.

FAIL TO BLOW UP BRIDGE.

Two Japanese officers, attired as Tibetan lamas, have been arrested for trying to blow up a railway bridge on the River Uonni, in Manchuria. The scene of their attempted exploit was Fouliardi, north of Harbin.

THE JAPANESE EXPLOSIVE.

A despatch to the London Express from Tokio, says that the effectiveness of the Japanese mines was due to the explosive invented by Prof. Shimose, a Japanese. He claims that it is far more powerful than lyddite, melinite, or any other high explosive.

ILLNESS AMONG TROOPS.

According to the reports of spies, the Japanese troops in Corea have been ravaged by various diseases. One of these diseases, called "imbion," is a kind of intermittent typhus. Another called "souda," which has not yet been studied by European doctors, promotes premature senility. The patients lose their teeth, become extremely weak, and the nails are twisted back on the fingers. Dysentery is very prevalent among the Russians at Harbin.

FIGURES ON LONG WAR.

Henry Norman, M.P., who has consistently held a brief for Russia, writes from St. Petersburg to London of the calm confidence of the heads of Russian official life in regard to the final issues of the war. While they recognize the courage and resources of the Japanese, and the fact that the war was begun a year before their own preparations were complete, they believe that all-round power will insure victory. In regard to money, they point out that the war chest contains 1,600,000,000 roubles, which is twice the gold reserve of the Bank of England. Mr. Norman himself saw ingots of gold.

In regard to the condition of the Czar, Mr. Norman, who had a long personal interview with him on Thursday, strongly contradicts the reports of his physical and mental breakdown. He says that he heard from the Czar's lips the clearest and most concise statement of the situation. His Majesty spoke with perfect frankness, asking very direct questions and requesting equally frank replies.

PORT ARTHUR DEMORALIZED.

A despatch to the London Express from New-Chwang says that the naval disaster on Wednesday has completely demoralized the defenders of Port Arthur. The confidence inspired by Admiral Makaroff has entirely evaporated. The gloomiest forebodings are expressed regarding the fate of the stronghold in view of the possibility of Admiraf Togo following up his advantage with another attack.

The Chefoo correspondent of the Express says that a Chinese vessel which has just arrived there reports that there is now no trace of the Japanese outside of Port Arthur.

Other reports confirm the impression that Admiral Togo has gone to his base to refit, as some of the vessels must have suffered damage.

LAND BATTLE.

A despatch to the London Standard from St. Petersburg says it is rumored that Admiral Togo's fleet escorted a great number of transports to a point west of the Yalu River. The troops began to disembark without detecting a force of Russian troops, who were concealed on shore. When 12,000 had disembarked the Russians attacked them, and drove them back to their ships, inflicting heavy losses in men and guns.

ATTACK ON FORT.

The London Times prints a despatch dated "Off Port Arthur," and sent by wireless telegraph to Wei-Hai-Wei, which says that Japanese torpedo boats attacked Port Arthur early Wednesday morning. The bombardment began at 9.45 o'clock in the morning.

In another despatch the correspondent says—"At 4.30 this morning, in the dim light and amid rain squalls, I saw a squadron of warships in line ahead steering a course similar to our own. As the light increased it proved to be a Japanese squadron of six battleships followed by a first-class cruiser squadron. Six ships were in the line ahead, the third and fourth vessels being the Kasuga and Nisshin, which were making their first appearance in the fleet. The Mitska was leading. They were shaping their course for Port Arthur. Forty miles distant from the port the battleships drew out at full speed, and the Kasuga and Nisshin left the cruisers and joined the battleships, the other cruisers remaining behind. The interval between them was maintained by the destroyer division and a despatch boat. As we neared Port Arthur we found two first-class and four second-class cruisers already there. This squadron had covered the torpedo boat attack, which was made in the small hours of the morning.

"The battleships now hoisted their fighting flags and steamed in formation, the Mikasa leading and the new ships bringing up the rear to within six miles of Port Arthur's frowning promontory.

"At 10.20 the shore batteries opened, but their fire was only desulotory, and it seemed as though Admiral Togo was making a demonstration rather than a bombardment. Three times his fighting squadron circled around in front of the enemy's position, drawing a desulotory fire, and at noon Admiral Togo withdrew his battleships to the south. It was inspiring to see how the powerful squadron of fighting machines manoeuvred. The battleships went boldly in, while the less protected vessels manoeuvred with them, conforming to their evolutions at a safer distance. Later, although I went closer to Port Arthur than I had ever been before, I saw no sign of any Russian shipping. The shells which fell nearest to us exploded on impact with the water. The Japanese manoeuvring was at eighteen knots an hour. So far as I could see, they suffered no damage. The expenditure of ammunition was small. It was a magnificent force, the most powerful individual fleet, indeed, which ever sailed the Eastern seas. Including the torpedo craft, there were forty Japanese vessels."

JAPS WIN SKIRMISHES.

Details of the first skirmish on the Yalu River, which occurred last Sunday, arrived at Tokio on Wednesday in the official report of Admiral Hosoga. The text of the report follows:

"In accordance with my instructions, the captain of the cruiser Kasaga directed Lieut. Yamaguchi, with five men, to scout in the mouth of the Yalu. They accomplished their work and safely returned to the Kasaga on Monday. They entered the river in a Corean junk, and at 2 o'clock Sunday discovered a party of Russians leaving the right bank of the river near Toag Toryuho in a junk. Lieut. Yamaguchi attacked them, a patrol of mounted Japanese troops on the left bank of the river joining in the attack. In the meantime another large Russian junk joined the first one and opened fire on the Japanese. The Russians retired and reached the bank. They then fled inland. The exchange of fire lasted one hour and twenty minutes. The enemy had nine killed and two injured. We had no casualties."

JAPS SENT IN MINES.

It has been learned from Japanese sources at Chefoo that the attack on the Russian Port Arthur fleet was planned and put into effect in the following manner.

"At daylight the Japanese torpedo boats made a demonstration before the port, and at the same time laid mines across the outer entrance to the harbor. They then retired and joined the main squadron. The squadron then advanced and as it drew near the Russian ships were seen coming out. The battleship Petropavlovsk struck one of the mines laid by a Japanese torpedo boat and was destroyed."

28 OFFICERS LOST.

Twenty-eight Russian officers were lost on board of the Petropavlovsk, including Capt. Vasilief, belonging to the ship; Admiral Makaroff, fourteen members of his staff, including Rear-Admiral Molas, the chief of staff, and Lieut. von. Kobe, the aide-de-camp of Grand Duke Cyril. That Verestchagin (the celebrated painter of battle scenes) was among those lost is now officially known.

BADLY CRIPPLED.

There are now only two undamaged Russian battleships, the Peresviet and the Sevastopol, in the harbor at Port Arthur, but some of the damaged vessels have been repaired, although their exact number and condition are not known. The other effectives are the armored cruiser Bayan, the first-class cruisers Askold and Diana, the second-class cruiser Novik, the torpedo gunboats Vsadnik and Gaydamak, the gunboats Gremiashchi, Olvansi, Giliakis and Bobr, the cruisers Djidjid, Razboynik and Zabiabak, and the torpedo-boat destroyers, whose exact number is not known.

Altogether ten Russian vessels have been damaged or lost since the outbreak of the war.

The disaster of Wednesday ends the hope that the ill-fated Port Arthur squadron would be able to become an aggressive factor in the operations before it is reinforced by the arrival of the Baltic fleet. Until then the aim of the Russians will be to hold Port Arthur and conserve the remaining ships within the protection of its guns.

Practically the last hope of successes at sea died with Admiral Makaroff, and the Russian people now look to the army, in which they have implicit confidence, to retrieve on land the reverses and distress suffered on the water.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese, and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

Toronto, April 19.—Wheat—No. 2 white and red Winter quoted at 92 to 93c low freights. Spring wheat is nominal at 87c east, and goose at 81 to 82c east. Manitoba wheat steady, with No. 1 Northern selling at 99c to $1 at Georgian Bay ports; No. 2 Northern at 96, and No. 3 Northern at 92c. No. 1 hard is nominal at $1.01. Grinding in transit prices are 6c above those quoted.

Oats—No. 2 white quoted at 31c north and west, and 31½c low freights. No. 1 white quoted at 32c east, and No. 2 at 31½c east. No. 2 offered at 33½c on track, Toronto.

Barley—No. 2 offered at 44c middle freights; No. 3 extra at 43c, and No. 3 at 41c middle freights.

Peas—The market is unchanged, with No. 2 quoted at 65 to 66c outside, and choice milling lots at 68 to 70c.

Corn—No. 3 American yellow quoted at 54c on track Toronto; No. 3 mixed at 53c. Canadian corn is nominal at 38½c west for yellow, and 38c for mixed.

Rye—No. 2 quoted at 59 to 60c east and west.

Buckwheat—No. 2 quoted at 50 to 51c middle freights.

Flour—Ninety per cent. patents are unchanged; buyers at $3.55 middle freights in buyers' sacks for export. Straight rollers of special brands for domestic trade quoted at $4.30 to $4.50 in bbls. Manitoba flour unchanged. No. 1 patents, $5.30, No. 2 patents, $5, and strong bakers', $4.90 on track, Toronto.

Millfeed—Bran is steady at $17 to $17.50, and shorts at $18.50 here. At outside points bran is quoted at $16.50, and shorts at $17.50. Manitoba bran, in sacks, $20, and shorts at $21 here.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—Prices steady at $2 to $2.50 per bbl. for the best stock.

Dried apples—Prices are steady at 3 to 3½c per lb. Evaporated apples, 6 to 6½c per lb.

Beans—Prime beans are quoted at $1.50 to $1.60, and hand-picked at $1.65 to $1.70.

Hops—The market is unchanged at 26 to 32c, according to quality.

Honey—The market is quiet at 6 to 7c per lb. Combs quoted at $1.50 to $1.75.

Hay—No. 1 timothy quoted at $9.50 a ton here.

Straw—Prices unchanged at $5.50 on track here.

Maple syrup—The market is quiet at $1 per Imperial gallon.

Potatoes—Choice cars are quoted at 85 to 90c per bag on track here, and inferior quality at 75c per bag.

Poultry—The market is steady, with limited offerings. Chickens, 12 to 13c per lb.; turkeys are quoted at 15 to 16c. per lb. for fresh killed.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Finest 1-lb. rolls, 16½ to 17c; choice, large rolls and selected dairy tubs, 15 to 16c; medium and low grades, 12 to 14c; creamery prints, 20½ to 22c; solids, 19 to 20c.

Eggs—Case lots quoted at 14c per dozen.

Cheese—Finest September's 10¾ to 11c; late Fall and seconds, 9½ to 10¼c.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Dressed hogs are unchanged, with offerings fair. Car lots quoted at $8 delivered here. Cured meats are in good demand at unchanged prices. We quote:—Bacon, long clear, 8 to 8¼c per lb., in case lots. Mess pork, $16.50 to $17; do short cut, $18.50.

Smoked meats—Hams, light to medium, 12½c; do, heavy, 12c; rolls, 10c; shoulders, 9¾c; backs, 13½ to 14c; breakfast bacon, 13 to 13½c.

Lard—Tierces, 7¾ to 8c; tubs, 8¼c; pails, 8¼c; compound, 7½ to 8¼c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, April 13—There being no sales of oats reported to-day, prices can be quoted nominally at 37 to 37½c for No. 2 white, and at 36½ to 36¾c for No. 3 per bush ex store; we quote peas, 72 to 72½c afloat May; No. 2 barley, 52c; No. 2 extra barley, 51c; No. 2 oats, 37c; and No. 3 oats, 36c. Flour—Manitoba spring wheat patents, $5.40; Manitoba strong bakers', $5.10; winter wheat patents, $5.10 to $5.25; straight rollers, $4.85 to $5; straight rollers, in bags, $2.30 to $2.35. Rolled oats—$2.32½ to $2.35 per bag; in cornmeal a fair trade is passing, at $1.40 to $1.50 per bag. Feed—Manitoba bran in bags, $20; shorts, $21 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, $19.50 to $20; shorts, $20.50 to $21; and mouillie, $24 to $26 per ton. Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $18 to $19; light short cut, $16 to $17.50; American short cut clear, $17 to $17.50; American fat backs, $19.50; compound lard, 7½ to 8c; Canadian lard, 8½ to 9c; kettle rendered, 8¾ to 9½c; hams, 11 to 13c; bacon, 13½ to 14c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7 to $7.25; country dressed hogs, $7; live hogs, $5 to $5.12. Eggs—New laid, 15c. Butter—Winter creamery, 19 to 19½c; new made, 20c; full grass Fall makes, 18½ to 21½c; Western dairy, 15 to 15½c; rolls, 15½ to 16c; creamery, 18 to 18½c. Cheese—Ontario, 9½ to 10c; Townships, 9½ to 10c

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, April 19.—Flour—Steady. Wheat—Spring steady; No. 1 Northern, $1.10; Winter, No. 2 red, New York State, $1.06 asked. Corn—Strong; No. 2 yellow, 57c; No. 2 corn, 53½c. Oats—Stronger; No. 2 white, 45½c; No. 2 mixed, 41½c. Barley—Western, 51 to 62c. Rye—No. 1, on track, offered at 81c.

Minneapolis, April 19.—Wheat—May 93¾c. July 93¾ to 94c, September 84¾c; on track, No. 1 hard, 96½c; No. 1 Northern, 95½c; No. 2 Northern, 92¾c. Flour—First patents $5.05 to $5.15; second patents, $4.95 to $5.05; first clears, $3.60; second clears, $2.45 to $2.55. Bran—In bulk, $14.50 to $14.75.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto, April 19.—Deliveries of stock at the city cattle market are fairly heavy. Business on the whole is good, though trading was a little slow, especially in the export trade. The general quality of the winter fed cattle is very good, and the market on the whole is steady to firm for the best butchers cattle.

Export—The export trade is still slow, with prices only steady around $4.75 to $4.80. Though cables are a little firmer, the conditions are not considered quite good enough to warrant any higher prices in the local market, in view of the present state of the Chicago market. Several of the local firms in fact are still buying largely from Chicago.

Butchers—There are some very fine lots of winter fed cattle coming in for the local butcher trade, and these cattle are fetching fair prices, though the local retail trade is said to be unusually dull at the present time. Choice handy weight butchers are worth from $4.25 to $4.50 in the market to-day. Medium and ordinary butchers' are quoted at from $3.75 to $4. Good butchers' cows, at $3.50.

Stockers and Feeders—There is a good market for all kinds of stockers and feeders. Prices have a range from $3 to $4.40.

Sheep and Lambs—There was a light run and everything sold quick. Prospects are steady for grain-fed yearling lambs, spring lambs, and good veal calves. Bob calves are not wanted and are unsaleable. Heavy ewes are quoted at $4 to $4.25, steady; light ewes, $4.25 to $4.60; bucks, $3.25 to $3.75; grain-fed lambs, $5.50 to $6.12½; spring lambs, $2.50 to $5.50 each; calves, $2 to $10 each and $3.50 to $5.50 per cwt.

Hogs—The market is still steady at former quotations. Selects at $4.75 and heavy at $4.50.

SEOUL PALACE BURNED.

Corean Emperor and Suite Made Their Escape.

A London despatch says: A cable received here says that the Imperial Palace at Seoul, Corea, was completely destroyed by fire on Thursday night. Only the ruins of the palace remain. The Emperor and his suite succeeded in escaping to a bearby refuge.

The Japanese Legation has received the following account of the fire:—

"The fire broke out at 10 o'clock on the evening of April 14. With the exception of the Kiuseiken Building, which is in the European style, all the other palace buildings were consumed. The Emperor took refuge in the library of the Kiueseken Building. It is believed that the fire originated in the heating apparatus of the Kauvei Palace, which was undergoing repair.

The Japanese soldiers took a most prominent part in guarding the person of the Emperor, as well as in extinguishing the fire, and this produced an excellent feeling among the court circles. Our troops also did their best to guard the foreign legations, and the foreign representatives afterwards expressed to us their sincere thanks."

Other reports say that all the archives, treasures and jewels were destroyed.

THE SCOURGE OF CANCER.

Most Prevalent Malady in the United States.

A New York despatch says:—Leading surgeons and physicians of New York on Tuesday confirmed the statement made by Dr. Roswell Park of Buffalo, in Berlin on Monday night, that cancer is the most prevalent disease in the United States, and that the State of New York is well within the "cancer belt." They declared that the dreadful malady is rapidly increasing all over the civilized world and that they are still utterly in the dark as to its cause or its cure. In the last 24 years, as shown by statistics, it has doubled in prevalency in the United States and is to-day claiming more victims than consumption. The surgeon's knife is the only remedy accepted by the most skillful members of the profession, and that treatment must be applied very early to insure against return of the disease in a more serious form. Several prominent surgeons said that the disease was a much more serious question than the average person realized, and made doubly so because of the fact that it may attack any person without warning, and, once developed, physicians are powerless to cope with it understandingly.