

HOPE IS IN FLEET

RUSSIAN ADMIRALTY PINS FAITH IN ROJESTVENSKY.

Launching Of Series Of Desperate Torpedo Attacks Regarded More Likely—Reactionary Influences Active.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The week closes with the government's eyes and hopes centered on Vice Admiral Rojostvensky, and gradually something like genuine enthusiasm has been aroused by the Russian admiral's hardihood in sailing straight for a combat with the Japanese. There are many naval officers who do not believe that Vice Admiral Togo will accept the challenge. In their opinion the Japanese will be too prudent in such a crisis to risk the destruction of their fleet. They believe that Togo's tactics will be to avoid an open sea fight and that he will launch a series of desperate torpedo attacks in the hope of throwing the Russian fleet into confusion, scattering the line of ships, giving his faster battleships and cruisers an opportunity to attack them individually, and if some of Rojostvensky's ships escape to Vladivostok, to bottle them up there.

With the departure of the hospital ship Orel from Saigon, the last cord connecting the Baltic squadron with St. Petersburg was severed and the admiralty expects no further direct news until a battle has been fought and determined. "Henceforth," said a prominent naval officer, "the press probably will be our only source of information. Rojostvensky's next message may not be written until he has met the enemy."

Under the circumstances many rumors take shape in St. Petersburg aside from those relating to encounters with the Japanese at various places and with varying results, but the most fanciful is that saying that the Baltic squadron met and engaged two British cruisers under the impression that they were Japanese, and sank them.

For the moment the conservative councils of the part, which party realizes that the military situation will be utterly hopeless if Rojostvensky's fleet is completely destroyed and considers best to open negotiations before the issue is put to a test, are rudely thrust aside. The admiralty clamors for a chance to retrieve its reputation and the war party generally seems to be convinced that Russia's position will not be worse if the battle is lost, while the destruction of Togo's fleet would spell ruin for Japan. The emperor himself, if it is understood, expresses great confidence in victory, and should victory come he undoubtedly will fix the imperial seal to the big naval program prepared by the admiralty.

The possibility of a complete change in the fortunes of war has had an appreciable effect in strengthening the reactionary influences about his majesty, and the week has witnessed another defeat of the president of the committee of ministers, Witte, and the vote of the proposed ecclesiastical council by the emperor "until tranquility is re-established."

Meanwhile the endless bureaucratic commissions charged with various reforms are working briskly and making great noise but little, real headway, as all their decisions are provisional only and must go through the council of the empire and receive imperial approval before being translated into acts. But while the words of all breathe reform, acts tend to contrary direction. For instance, the press commission doctors additional liberties, but the censorship regulations grow severer. The deplorable lack of confidence in the government's sincerity in placing the reforms in the hands of the bureaucracy resulted in the formation this week by barristers of a nucleus for a national organization in favor of a constitution, and because of this they were given notice to leave the city within twenty-four hours. Tven M. Souverin, editor of Novoe Vremya, who is opposed to constitutionalism, cries out against the delay.

"The bureaucracy asks for patience," he says, "so did Kuropatkin, and so suffered defeat at the hands of the Japanese."

He openly denounces the stupidity of the government, which, he says, drives serious-minded, intelligent men, who meet to talk on the country's welfare out of town while daily and nightly revolutionaries who want to overthrow everything, meet in spite of the police and listen to incendiary speeches.

WAITING FOR NEWS

RUSSIAN ADMIRALTY EXPECTS A COLLISION SOON

Fleets Are Not Far Apart

TORPEDO BOAT WARFARE MAY PRECEDE CRUCIAL CLASH.

Togo Has So Far Succeeded in Veiling His Movements and Leaving His Plans to Be Surmised.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The Russian and Japanese fleets have not yet met. Skirmishing between scout ships from the two fleets is looked for.

LONDON.—There is as yet no news of a naval battle in the far east or of the whereabouts of the rival fleets. The Hong Kong correspondent of the Daily Mail sends a rumor of a small engagement, but there is no confirmation of this report. Details regarding the Russian ships in Kamranh bay, Cochin China, are too meager to be instructive.

According to the Daily Mail's Singapore correspondent the North German Lloyd steamer Prinz Heinrich, saw five battleships and six cruisers in the bay, but despatches to other of the London morning newspapers are not so precise. The Daily Telegraph's Singapore correspondent, like the Associated press, merely reports "eighteen vessels," and adds that the captain of the Prinz Heinrich states that possible more warships were inside the harbor, but that they were invisible from the offing. The presence of the Russian squadron to the Annam coast is raising keen interest here, in view of the possibility of their infringing Chinese neutrality, and of the likelihood of Rojostvensky having had to split his squadron.

The Morning Post's correspondent at Shanghai telegraphs that China has instructed the governors of the southern provinces to maintain strict neutrality in view of the possibility of Russian ships sheltering there.

ST. PETERSBURG.—There is no information from Vice Admiral Rojostvensky's squadron, but the admiralty would not be surprised to learn of skirmishing between scout ships, as the beginning of torpedo boat warfare soon is not unexpected. The naval organ here expresses the opinion that Togo was taken completely by surprise when Rojostvensky suddenly appeared at the entrance of the China sea and is now concentrating his widely scattered fleet near the Pescadores, where it is believed a sea fight will probably occur.

SINGAPORE.—The North German Lloyd steamship Prinz Heinrich reports that she sighted eighteen vessels of the Russian Baltic squadron in Kamranh bay at noon on Friday last. The steamer did not sight any Japanese warships.

Kamranh bay is in Cochin China about 200 miles northeast of Saigon.

TOKIO.—The navy department has proclaimed defense zones surrounding the Pescadores, the island of Okinawa, in the Loochoo group and the islands of Oshima and Ema in the province of Osumi. The usual navigation restrictions apply.

The following official announcement was made at noon: "The force advancing north from Singing, driving the enemy before them, occupied Yingcheng, thirty-eight miles north of Singking at 1 o'clock on the afternoon of April 14."

"A detachment of the same force, co-operating with cavalry, occupied Pachlastse, at 6 o'clock in the evening of the same day."

"The enemy's force near Pachlastse consisted of seven squadrons of cavalry and one battery of artillery. They first retreated toward Yingcheng, then came to Pachlastse."

"Finding it occupied they were thrown into confusion and they retreated in great disorder over Peitong pass, two miles north of Pachlastse. There is no change elsewhere."

Thirty thousand employes of the Arsenal paraded in celebration of the fall of Mukden. They visited the place and cheered the emperor and afterwards went to the war and navy department and cheered the ministers and their staffs.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The Novoe Vremya prints a dispatch from New York, saying that "the yellow peril" is now decided.

UP TO HONG KONG

RUMOR THAT ROJESTVENSKY HAS GOT THAT FAR.

Russian Ships Supposed to Have Passed at One of Her Ports to Coal and Provision—No Tidings Of Togo.

PARIS.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg to the Echo De Paris states that Vice Admiral Rojostvensky, with a portion of his squadron, has been sighted off Hong Kong sailing northeast. This is not confirmed from other sources.

LONDON.—In the absence of further information regarding the position of the Russian and Japanese fleets, the morning papers are keenly discussing the neutrality question for the most part in a strong pro-Japanese tone. The Morning Post takes the milder view that Kamranh bay is a mere fishing port and unable to provide coal or other supplies to the Russian squadron, which probably took shelter there to replenish its own coilers, and that though the French authorities could hardly be responsible unless it can be proven that they had previous knowledge of the Russian's intentions.

The Daily Mail's correspondent at Singapore gives a further report from the North German Lloyd steamer Prinz Heinrich, that on Friday April 14, the Russian cruiser Dmitri Donskoi and Klon were scouting outside the bay while a tug was bringing coilers alongside of warships which were coaling, and that many boats were transferring provisions to Russian vessels.

The correspondent at Hong Kong of the Daily Mail reports that the steamer North Anglia late Friday night sighted a strong fleet of cruisers off Bombay reef steering south and using searchlights.

The North Anglia was unable to distinguish the nationality of the cruisers.

The correspondent at Tokio of the Standard says that a fifth domestic loan of \$50,000,000 has been satisfactorily arranged on the same terms as the fourth domestic loan.

ST. PETERSBURG.—The new vessels of the Russian squadron have put into Kamranh bay, north of Cape Padarab, off the east coast of Cochin-China, bears out the statements contained in these dispatches a week ago to the effect that Admiral Rojostvensky probably would seek shelter off that part of the Cochin-China coast and thence make his final preparation before embarking on the final stage of his journey. No definite information is obtainable as to the length of the squadron's stay at Kamranh bay, or whether the warships have already sailed the admiralty, even if it knows, being naturally silent on this point.

Among naval men the idea that Admiral Rojostvensky has divided his squadron is not entertained.

No confirmation has been received here of the reported naval engagement north of the Natuna islands which, according to the British steamer Telemachus, which has just arrived at Hong Kong, took place 11 miles north of the Natuna islands in the afternoon of April 12.

A high placed admiral expressed to the Associated press the firm conviction that Admiral Togo would give battle near the Pescador islands in Formosa straits. He said:

"It would be a great tactical error to concentrate his squadron eight hundred miles from Japan and run the risk of having Rojostvensky slip by wheny remaining in home water. Rojostvensky must come to him in order to reach his only base Vladivostok."

"All the Tokio dispatches about the proclamation of martial law in the Pescadore islands and the possible presence of a Japanese squadron in Formosa waters are sent at blind. We do not know Rojostvensky's plans. He has worked them out himself and knowing the admiral as I do his own flag captain was probably in the dark when he entered the China sea. We have complete confidence in Rojostvensky's resourcefulness. He labor under disadvantages so far as the speed of his vessels is concerned but the reports of the condition of his ships and crews and the latter's skill in gunnery as shown by their target practice are better than we considered possible and we firmly believe he has more than a fighting chance of whipping Togo in an open sea fight."

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

For a small potato San Domingo is admitted to be a very hot one.

A Frenchman says that American women do not know how to walk. Well, walking is not their gait.

Now that the supply of veriform appendices is running low the surgeons are whetting their knives for tonsils.

That spot on the sun may be nothing, after all, but an advertisement for a patent medicine or a breakfast food.

"Should married women pay their oills?" asks the Portia Club of New York. There will be no objection from the married men.

Spain's greatest bull-fighter has married an heiress and retired. The paths of glory lead but to the feet of the magnate's daughter.

An English scientist, Dr. William Henry, declares that insects are very fond of alcohol. This may explain the origin of the term "bug juice."

The son of a British peer has become a private in the United States army. He must, for some queer reason, be disinclined to marry a beautiful heiress.

According to Chief Moore four-fifths of the predictions sent out by the Weather Department are true. The other fifth is when you leave your umbrella at home.

It has been discovered that women wore corsets as far back as 1600 B. C. No doubt they were regularly warned by the doctors that it was a race-suicidal fashion, too.

An unnamed Russian publicist declares the people will not be ripe for revolution for at least 10 years. Therefore the Czar will have more time to dig his cyclone cellar.

The man in California who says he bought four Senators for \$450 should explain that they were State Senators. The idea that a United States Senator can be bought for any such sum as that is absurd.

After the admission of Oklahoma and Indian Territory as a State the sale of liquor is to be prohibited there for 21 years. It is safe to say that the blind pig will at once take a prominent place among Oklahoma institutions.

We have read about the Russian officers who were paroled, about those who declined the parole, the list of the sick in the hospitals, and all that, but are still in the dark as to what happened to the band that used to play every evening in the city park at Port Arthur.

In Kansas it is not a crime for a legislator to ask for a bribe. This makes it easy. The legislator, after having asked for the bribe, can still keep on the safe side by telling the briber to put the money on a certain gate post or under a certain stone, after which it may be carried away by a crow or dug up by a stray dog, thus making violations of the law wholly unnecessary. The most wonderful thing about the law is the ease with which it can always be technically avoided.

From 1730 to 1830 is the most memorable period in modern history. Six great men made their marks—Napoleon, whose chief feature was ambition; Nelson, courage; Washington, independence; Wellington, thoroughness; Pitt, statesmanship, and George Stephenson, ingenuity. Washington and Nelson have secured the affection of posterity, Washington and Stephenson have done the most for mankind, Wellington enjoys the respect of all, Pitt has our admiration, and Napoleon will forever excite the wonder of the world. Napoleon endeavored to remodel Europe; George Stephenson succeeded in doing so; Washington and Stephenson together had independence, observation and ingenuity—the three qualities which are of the most service to humanity.

The statistics of crime are depressing, yet the criminals form a very considerable portion of the population. Crimes are a matter of record. They figure prominently in the census returns. The virtue of a community is not computable. It is difficult to determine whether there is more crime relatively to population now than there was 100 years ago. We know that more publicity is given to crime in these days, owing to the wonderful activity of the newspapers and modern facilities for gathering news. We hear more about crime and criminals than our forebears did. Honesty and fidelity are expected of men and cut little figure in the public prints. For

this reason exaggerated importance is given to crime and the unthinking are persuaded that the world is growing worse.

In reading the sketches of General Lew Wallace's life one is struck by the evidence of its many activities. When "Ben Hur" was published the author who was then 53 years old, had served in the Legislature of his State and had won fame as a diplomat and a soldier. Such a career implies distractions that are not favorable to literary work, but not a few great authors have been busy in the affairs of the world, and with all his activities General Wallace had been true to a literary ambition that was formed in boyhood. "Ben Hur" followed a popular book from his pen and was itself followed by other books which were the fruit of elaborate preparation. Subtract "Ben Hur" from the total of his achievements and there is still an admirable record to arrest attention and command praise. Nevertheless "Ben Hur" so far outweighs all the rest that even now the public interest that is evinced in the personality of the man who has only just passed away is an interest attributable to that one work. Why this should be so is plain, for the story appeals to the whole Christian world with a peculiar force and intensity. It is delicate in the handling of the sacred theme and impresses the reader by its reverence and sincerity. At the same time it is distinguished by the ardor that is thrown into many passages and by strikingly effective emotional qualities. The author was working under an inspiration that now constitutes his claim to the possession of genius. In such matters it is impossible to anticipate the judgment of posterity with confidence, but considering theme and treatment and the great public that is addressed it would seem as though the book's popularity must continue for many years to come.

Recently the statue of Frances B. Willard, which Illinois has placed in statutory hall at Washington, was unveiled. Miss Willard stands there in marble, the only woman among a multitude of soldiers and statesmen. The women of the State petitioned the Legislature years ago to recognize her as a historical character deserving a place in statutory hall and it consented. Miss Willard displayed her greatest powers in the work of organizing women and men for the accomplishment of moral purposes. She was a reformer of almost every imaginable kind. The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was devoted primarily to the extinction of the liquor traffic. But it went far beyond the limits of this original intention. Miss Willard's mind was as broad as the needs of misery. Under her leadership the Woman's Christian Temperance Union had innumerable departments which illustrated the variety of Miss Willard's interests. There was a health and heredity department. There was a physical culture department. There were school savings bank, police station, Sabbath observance, and purity departments. There was a department for the establishment of international female suffrage. Yet Miss Willard could hardly be called a philosopher in the sense in which Margaret Fuller or George Eliot was a philosopher. She called herself, to be sure, a Christian socialist, and her opinions on the labor and capital controversy are still largely and prominently quoted in socialist newspapers and magazines. But even in her Christian socialism she expressed merely the longings of her soul for human justice, or what seemed to her human justice. She had nothing that could be called a philosophy in economics any more than in politics. She was the Christian conscience of the America of the last part of the nineteenth century operating through a genius for organization toward the accomplishment of certain specific reforms. In that capacity she was a distinctive type in American life.

Cold from Sympathy.

Coldness of feet and limbs is almost invariably an evidence of indigestion. The coldness is due not to the weakness of the heart or feebleness of circulation, as is generally supposed, but to the contraction of the small arteries, preventing blood from entering the parts. There is generally an irritation of the abdominal sympathetic nerve centers which control the circulation of the lower extremities. This difficulty is not to be removed by exercise or by any special application to the limbs, but by removal of the causes of irritation. This may be a prolapsed stomach, or chronic indigestion. Hot and cold foot baths are valuable. These act not simply on the feet and limbs, but by reflex action affect beneficially the abdominal sympathetic centers, which are in a diseased condition.

About the Sweet Potato.

The so-called "sweet potato" is a potato at all, but belongs to an entirely different family, having truly an enlarged root of a creeping, twining vine, which has a blossom something like a morning glory. Sweet potatoes are richer in starch and sugar than the common potato.