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When Answering Advertisements Kindly Mention This Paper.



# RUSSIAN VICTORY

CLAIM MADE THAT JAPANESE VESSELS HAVE BEEN SUNK.

## REPORTS, HOWEVER, CONFLICT

Rumors of Victory Spread Far and Wide Over St. Petersburg and Cause Much Excitement—A Japanese Ruse Which the Russians Overcome.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Reports of a Russian victory at Port Arthur were current late Wednesday afternoon and early in the evening, and about midnight they seemed to have been definitely confirmed but in the absence of an official announcement, which is momentarily expected, the stories of the dimensions of this victory were most conflicting and confusing in character. The most circumstantial report was that the Japanese had attempted to bottle up Admiral Stark's fleet in Port Arthur by sinking two stone-laden vessels at the entrance of the harbor, employing the tactics which were considered, but not executed by the late Admiral Sampson, United States navy, with the Merrimac at Santiago during the Spanish-American war. According to this account two Japanese ships appeared off the harbor with a Japanese fleet behind them and ostensibly in pursuit. The Russians, however, suspected a ruse and their ships steamed out sank the stone laden vessels, engaged and defeated the enemy and drove them off. The reports of the loss inflicted, however, are conflicting.

All the stories include the feature of the vessels loaded with stones, but according to some versions the Japanese fleet was convoying transports with the purpose of effecting a landing at Pigeon bay, and after the failure of this preliminary maneuver, the Rusians played havoc with both the Japanese warships and the transports, sinking four of the former and two of the latter.

One account even gives the name of the battleship Retvizen as the vessel which particularly distinguished herself by ramming and sinking one of the Japanese ships.

Rumors of this victory spread far and wide over the city during the early part of the evening and the crowds which had gathered in the streets in spite of the severe cold to discuss the news were greatly excited. One newspaper printed an extra relating the victory, based on a meager telegram from London, but as the night wore on without official information, the crowds dispersed except from around the newspaper offices. These remained thronged with officers and others who were resolved to await the official announcement.

LONDON.—A dispatch to the Central News from St. Petesrburg gives another version of the reported Japanese defeat at Port Arthur, according to which the Japanese planned to sink some barges in the strait leading to the inner harbor of Port Arthur, thus blocking the exit. The Russian gun fire sank the barges before they arrived at the intended spot.

### WANT TO FIGHT FOR JAPAN.

Former Rough Riders Anxious to See Service.

SIOUX FALLS, S. D.—Ever since it was announced in Washington dispatches that Colonel Melvin Grisby of this city, who has been in Washington for some time, intended raising a batalion of rough riders for service with the Japanese against the Russians, the office of Colonel Grigsby in this city has been flooded with letters from applicants for places. Most of the letters are from former members of Grigsby's Rough Riders, a regiment which was formed during the Spanish-American war, who wish to see active service during the war in the far east. Colonel Grigsby has written here to the effect, that the report is unfounded, and has instructed his son, Sioux Grigsby, who is in charge of the Grigsby law office in this city during the absence of the colonel in the national capital, to write such of the applicants a letter, stating that the report of his intended action is unfounded; that the laws of Japan forbid the enlistment of foreigners in the Japanese army, and that no good citizen will violate the neutrality laws of the United States.

### PROBATE WILL OF MARK HANNA.

How Property Valued at About $3,000,000 is Left.

CLEVELAND, O.—By the will of the late Senator Marcus Alonzo Hanna, an estate valued at about $3,000,000 is left to the family.

There are no public bequests. The principal beneficiaries are the widow, Mrs. Charlotte Augusta Hanna; the son, Daniel Rhodes Hanna; the two daughters, Isabel Augusta Hanna Parsons and Mrs. Ruth McCormick, wife of Medill McCormick of Chicago.

A sister, Lilian C. Hanna Baldwin, is given $10,000. An aunt, Mrs. Helen Converse, is given $1,000 and each of the grandchildren $5,000 each.

The widow is given the homestead property, all its furnishings, the stables and the library in lieu of one year's support.

### Lively Times in Wheat Pit.

CHICAGO—Wheat for May sold Tuesday at $1.08½ a bushel. A jump of 2¾ cents above Saturday's final figures. The cause was a sensation advance in prices at foreign grain markets, apparently due to growing fear of European complications over the Russian-Japanese war. A terrific slump followed, due to profit taking. May wheat made a sheer descent of 4c, dropping to $1.04½. The market developed an extraordinary whip-saw character, reacting quickly a full cent to $1.05½.

### READY FOR FIGHT.

Colombia Anxious to Invade Republic of Panama.

NEW YORK—Ratification of the Panama treaty resulted in the immediate recall of the United States warships and about one-half of the marines from the isthmus, says a Herald dispatch from Panama. The Marblehead, Petrel, Wyoming and two torpedo boats will remain on the Pacific side. The New York, Boston and Bennington will proceed to Callao.

On the Atlantic side all the warships except two will proceed north fifty marines under Major Cole will leave on Tuesday for Guantanamo. The belief is that they will proceed later to San Domingo.

Despite Colombia's internal disturbances, letters just received from there declare that the Colombians are ready to fight as soon as the news arrives that the treaty has been ratified. One general at Cartagena is quoted as saying that if the government does not declare war the troops on the border will invade Panama anyhow.

The information from the coast is that another regiment has been sent from Catragena to the frontier. Half of the 4,000 soldiers sent out to Titumati have been moved up the Darien coast toward Panama.

It is known now that Inanquaina, the San Blas chief, has visited Titumati three or four times. American officers have given him notice that the big canoes he has collected near the frontier, if used to transport Colombian troops, will be sunk. He promised to remain neutral and said he wished peace.

On account of the feeling of the Indians the Panama government has displaced Inanquaina as principal chief and has named Henry Clay, whose headquartes are at the mouth of the Rio Diablo, to be governor general with a commission in the army. The San Blas are very friendly to the Americans.

If the Colombians carry out the threat to attack they cannot reach the railroad section as fast as vessels can be sent from the United States after news of the advance arrives.

The presidential election in Colombia is still undecided, according to a Herald dispatch from Bogota. General Reyes still has a small majority and it is generally believed the electoral college will declare him president on July 5, with General Gonzales Valencia vice president.

### STORY OF THE FIGHTING.

What Viceroy Alexieff Says of The Recent Naval Engagement.

ST. PETERSBURG.—A telegram from Viceroy Alexieff to the czar says:

"At 2:45 o'clock on the morning of February 24, numerous Japanese torpedo boats attempted to attack the battleship Retvizan. There were several large steamers loaded with inflammables. The Retvizan was the first to observe the torpedo boats and opened a strong fire on them. She was supported by the land batteries. She destroyed two steamers near the entrance of the harbor; they were coming directly toward her. One of them went on the rocks near the lighthouse on Tiger peninsula, and the other sank under Golden Hill. The Retvizan observed four steamers in a sinking condition and eight torpedo boats departing slowly to rejoin the waiting Japanese warships. A portion of the crews of the Japanese vessels was drowned. The grounded steamer is still burning. The enemy is observed in the offing of Port Arthur in two lines.

"The Japanese crews saved themselves on boats, and it is possible that some of them were picked up by the enemy's torpedo boats.

"Iam proceeding to examine the coasts. The entrance of the harbor is open. I attribute the complete derangement of the enemy's plan to the brilliant action and destructiveness of the Retvizan.

"Floating mines are still visible in the roadstead. I have recalled the three cruisers sent in pursuit of the enemy in order, in the first place, to clear the roadstead of floating mines. We have no losses."

### Military Observers in Far East.

WASHINGTON.—Colonel Crowder of the general staff, who has been selected to accompany the Japanese army in the field during the war, left Washington for San Francisco, where he will sail March 5, for Yokohama.

Having finally decided to employ Brigadier General Allen as a military observer in Korea and Manchuria, Lieutenant General Chaffee cabled to that officer at Seoul his necessary credentials and instructions. Nominally, Genearl Allen will be military attache to the United States legation at Seoul.

### Uncle Sam's Cash.

WASHINGTON. — Today's statements of the treassury balances in the general fund, exclusive of the $150,000,000 gold reserve in the division of redemption, shows: Available cash balance, $224,418,751; gold, $102,424,769.

### Each Plant a Tree.

WASHINGTON—President and Mrs. Roosevelt celebrated Washington's birthday by planting each a tree in the White house grounds. The trees are fern leaf beeches. They were removed from Garfield park, it being necessary either to transplant or to destroy them on account of evacuations in the park, incident to the construction of the new terminal station. The trees were planted in the area within the semi-circular driveway leading from the executive mansion to the east terrace of the White house.



A man cannot go where temptation cannot find him.

Try me just once and I am sure to come again. Defiance Starch.

Be loving, and you will never want for love.—Mrs. Craik.

Face all things; even Adversity is polite to a man's face.—Josh Billings.