

THE DOOM OF ROJESTVENSKY

Even had matters been otherwise, Rojestvensky would have stood little chance with Togo. Through almost criminal negligence, the recruiting of crews for the various Russian ships was delayed until the last moment. Then the riff-raff and guttersnipes of St. Petersburg, Moscow and other cities, with stolid rustics from the provinces, were scourged on board vessels. A motley horde, many of whom had never seen the sea or handled the breech of a gun, for Rojestvensky to slip into sailors and fighters to meet Togo's trained and ardent veterans—all within seven months! And for assistants in this impossible task, a corps of swaggering, aristocratic striplings, wine-stricken half the time, land-lubbers many of them, insubordinate and with exalted ideas of their own importance.

Arriving in the far east with foul bottoms, callow crews and problematic equipment—taken completely by surprise, too—the result was predetermined. Rojestvensky months ago realized his helplessness, and in a pathetic private letter which bears

the earmarks of authenticity sought to discount the appalling effect of his defeat. To have thus gone on steadily in the face of assured ruin, disgrace, perhaps death, was the act of a brave man and a patriot; to have accomplished unscathed the first half of his futile mission was the work of a highly capable officer. Even despairing Russia should take a sullen pride in the feat of this man.—Constitution.

In the window of a Broadway jeweler there is displayed a line of American made watches tagged with the price, and this price is more than \$2 cheaper than that at which these watches may be purchased at wholesale from the manufacturers. The line of watches is a commentary upon the vagaries of the tariff system because the fact is the watches have been bought in England, at probably a small advance upon the export price, which is much lower than the domestic price, and brought back to New York duty free, as an American product. Therefore they can still be sold at the low figure and yield a profit.—New York Evening Post.

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