

# LET'S TALK

## Russia Abolishes Censorship on News.

### HAS EXISTED FOR YEARS

### Czar Now Believes Gross Misrepresentation Will Cease.

### LONG A VICTIM OF SLANDER

Lifting of the Embargo is the Most Important Act Since the Emancipation of the Serfs Years Ago.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 19.—The Russian government today abolished the censorship on all news and other telegrams going abroad, with the exception of the ordinary war censorship during hostilities.

The lifting of the embargo, which has existed for generations, on the free transmission of news from the Russian Empire came as a direct result of consideration of the subject by the czar himself, and in some respects this abolition is regarded as the most important act since the emancipation of the serfs.

Under a regime allowing perfect freedom to the foreign press, it is believed Russia will soon cease to be constantly subject to underground attack, and that she will see herself through honest spectacles.

"For years," said a prominent officer to the Associated Press today, "our country has been the victim of very imaginable slander and misrepresentation because it was known that telegrams addressed to foreign news services went through the hands of the Russian news censor. Any news, no matter how honest, that was sent across the border was greedily accepted abroad as true, especially by Russians, because the government would not put its official stamp on it."

Every Act Twisted and Distorted.

"Regular Russian public news factories have been in operation in Berlin, Vienna and elsewhere, and these have spread the most absurd and preposterous lies supplied by the enemies of Russia. Every act of the government has been twisted and distorted. Insignificant details of affairs or workmen's riots, such as would not attract general attention elsewhere have been magnified into great movements of popular discontent, until certain portions of the world have been led to believe that Russia was perpetually on the eve of a great revolution."

Some English newspapers, especially, have conducted systematic campaigns against us. Moreover, the fact that dispatches were censored has often been interpreted as semi-official authorization, when perhaps they in no sense represented the views of the government. Hereafter, however, the Russian news will be untrammelled. We expect to see Russia presented in her true light. The opening of the floodgates may result in the stirring up of much mud, but we feel confident that in the end truth will prevail. We are not afraid to have the light turned on. We are proud of our country and we are anxious to see it in its true light, and we are confident that the honest and honest presentation of our current history."

How Old Law Operated.

Foreign telegrams, until recently, were subject to censorship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but since the death last fall of M. Girek, who was at one time connected with the Russian Embassy at Washington, the censorship has been temporarily under the Ministry of the Interior, where the permanent censor bureau of plays, books and newspapers in Russia is situated.

News telegrams addressed to foreign sources, originating in the most distant parts of the Empire, Vladivostok, for example, or Odessa, were formerly telegraphed to St. Petersburg to be passed on. M. Plehve, Minister of the Interior, and Count Lamedoff, Foreign Minister, both joined in the recommendation that the censorship be abolished. The internal censorship is to be retained, but foreign dispatches are to be entirely free. Since a state of war exists, telegrams from the theater of hostilities will be subject to the same kind of military censorship enforced in all countries under similar circumstances.

Censorship Was Very Strict.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The censorship at St. Petersburg was not only of the most rigid character in its restrictions on outgoing news dispatches, but was very cumbersome in its machinery, causing great delay in forwarding dispatches, even after they had passed the censorship. The office of this official was located a mile or more from the telegraph office, and he was accessible only at certain hours during the day. As no telegrams could pass out of the city without his approval, serious delay often resulted, even in the forwarding of matter of an unobjectionable character.

AMERICA ALONE HELD ALOOF.

Other Ships Protested Against Japanese Attack at Chemulpo.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 19.—A Russian correspondent of the Associated Press who witnessed the naval engagement at Chemulpo on February 8 has telegraphed the following account of the fight from Shanghai, where he has arrived with the survivors of the Russian ships on board the French cruiser Pascal:

"A Japanese squadron consisting of six armored cruisers and eight torpedo-boats arrived off Chemulpo prior to the formal declaration of war. Admiral Uru, commanding the Japanese squadron, requested the cruiser Varig and the torpedo-boat Korietz to put out to sea, threatening otherwise to attack them at their anchorage. A protest was made by the Captain of the French cruiser Pascal, the British cruiser Talbot and the Italian cruiser Elba. The Captain of the United States gunboat Vicksburg alone refrained from protesting.

"The heroism displayed by the crews of both the Russian ships greatly impressed the foreigners present, who believed the Russians were going to certain destruction.

"As the Varig and the Korietz steamed past the foreign war vessels, the crews manned the sides and cheered continuously, and the strains of the Russian national anthem accompanied the Russian sailors as they went into battle.

"As soon as the Russian ships approached the mouth of the harbor the Japanese poured out their fire on them. Every gun took part in the terrific cannonade, which lasted for one hour. At 1 o'clock in the afternoon the Varig,

severely damaged, and the Korietz returned to their anchorage.

"The Russian officers and crew behaved splendidly. Three times flames broke out on board the Varig while she was under fire, and each time they were extinguished as coolly as if the fire had been at drill. The wounded men were carried below, and the members of the crew who lost their lives were replaced by others.

"The holes made in the Varig by the projectiles were not stopped. The Varig sustained terrible damage. Both starboard and port bulwarks were destroyed, her guns were crippled and her hull was riddled with shot. Thirty-three men on board the Varig were killed, including Midshipman Count Nierod. The Captain of the Varig was killed. The Korietz suffered no injury.

"The Japanese squadron lost many men. Two Japanese cruisers were severely damaged and one torpedo-boat was sunk.

"For four hours we remained in the harbor, expecting the Japanese to enter and renew the attack. The Japanese of the Varig made it impossible for her to fight any longer, and in order to prevent the Japanese from getting the vessels as spoils of war, both the Varig and the Korietz were sunk and the tender Simgari was burned.

"All the Russian survivors of the engagement were taken on board the foreign warships present excepting the Vicksburg.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—Secretary Hay has been informed that Edwin V. Morgan will not be granted an exequatur by the Russian government authorizing him to act as United States Consul at Dainy.

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# RUSSIA WILL BALK

## Our Consul to Port Dainy Can Get No Exequatur.

### REASON SAID TO BE MILITARY

Foreigners Are Not Wanted During Progress of Hostilities—Hay and Roosevelt Confer, but Reach No Decision in Matter.

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# CHINA MAY SOON BE INVOLVED

## Soldiers Are Moving to Put Down an Alleged Insurrection.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—An impression prevails here tonight that the Hay note, declaring for the neutrality of China in the conflict between Japan and Russia, commits the government and those which have agreed to its terms, to enforce such neutrality. If occasion arises to demand such action. The opportunity may soon present itself, for advice from the Far East announces the movement of Chinese troops towards the northern border of China to put down a reported insurrection.

A conflict might precipitate grave international complications, for it is said here that the Chinese soldier observes no discrimination when it comes to a fight. An attack by them upon Russian soldiers would, it is believed, inflame the war spirit, and involve China in the present conflict, much to the liking of the Russian government.

Minister Delcasse Will Not Resign.

PARIS, Feb. 19.—Minister Delcasse to-

# BRITAIN MUST ACT

## Press Urges That She Prepare for Alliance of Powers.

### STRONG ENMITY IS REALIZED

Russian Dispatches Record Rapid Growth of Anglophobic Feeling, and France and Germany None Too Friendly.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The newspapers this morning discuss the political aspect of the struggle in the Far East, as they are likely to affect Great Britain. No great importance is attached to the stories pub-

lished in Paris and elsewhere on the Continent of alleged intrigues looking to the coalition of Russia, France and Germany, the belief being that it is to the interest of all the Powers to take steps to localize the struggle.

At the same time it is recognized that in all three of these countries there is a strong feeling against Great Britain, on account of her alliance with Japan, and as Germany and France joined with Russia in 1896 against Japan, it would be natural for Russia to seek similar assistance in her present difficulties. The argument is therefore made that it behooves Great Britain to be prepared for any and all results.

News of the abolition of the Russian censorship has not yet reached the English newspapers.

Russia's dispatches to the London press record the rapid growth of Anglophobic feeling. According to the Kiev correspondent of the Standard, many English boys have been withdrawn from Russian schools, owing to the annoyances and insults to which they were subjected, and there is evidence in the restaurants and other public resorts that the position of British residents in Kiev would be dangerous should Great Britain become involved in the Russo-Japanese struggle.

RUSSIAN SHIPS BLOWN UP.

Captains of Vessels at Chemulpo Determined to Avert Capture.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 19.—The government report of the naval action off Chemulpo (February 8) says the Russian cruisers Varig and Korietz sank a Japanese cruiser and a torpedo-boat destroyer, and crippled another vessel before entering the harbor.

The government today received from the officers of the Varig and Korietz, who are now at Shanghai, their account of the fight at Chemulpo. The accounts show the admirable handling of the two Russian warships in the face of overwhelming odds.

The officers confirm the statement that when the Japanese squadron of eight warships appeared off Chemulpo they were met by the small torpedo boat Korietz, which had been sent out to reconnoiter; that the Korietz, on sighting the Japanese squadron, immediately returned to the harbor and rejoined the Varig, and that the Japanese followed to the mouth of the harbor and sent the Russian cruiser to the bottom.

This morning the officers added, was disregarded, whereupon the Japanese engaged the Russians there. As this would

be sufficient supplies of bread, meat, butter, petroleum and fodder, but not enough sugar, preserved meats and linen, and that there will be a great scarcity of boots. It is not to be expected that such stores can arrive for some time.

The Manchurian Railroad officials have applied for extra allowances of pay.

SAYS RUSSIAN BOAT SUNK.

New Version is Given of the Loss of the Cruiser Boyarin.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The Tientsin correspondent of the Daily Mail supplies a new version of the loss of the Russian cruiser Boyarin, obtained from an officer who survived the blowing up of the Russian torpedo transport Xesaul. This officer says that on the day following the Yenisei's catastrophe, February 13, a violent storm brought many mines to the surface of the water at Port Arthur. The Boyarin was sent to assist in securing them, but she was caught in the storm, was driven on the rocks and was sunk.

If this account is correct, it explains the Russian official denial that the Boyarin was torpedoed by the Japanese or that she was blown up as a result of accidental contact with a Russian mine at Port Arthur.

RUSSIAN SHIP MUST PROCEED.

Spain, Further, Will Allow Her Only a Limited Supply of Coal.

MADRID, Feb. 19.—A Russian warship has arrived at a Canary Island port. The authorities have notified her commander that his ship may remain in port for a limited time, but he cannot be provided with coal in quantities more than sufficient to enable him to reach the nearest Russian port.

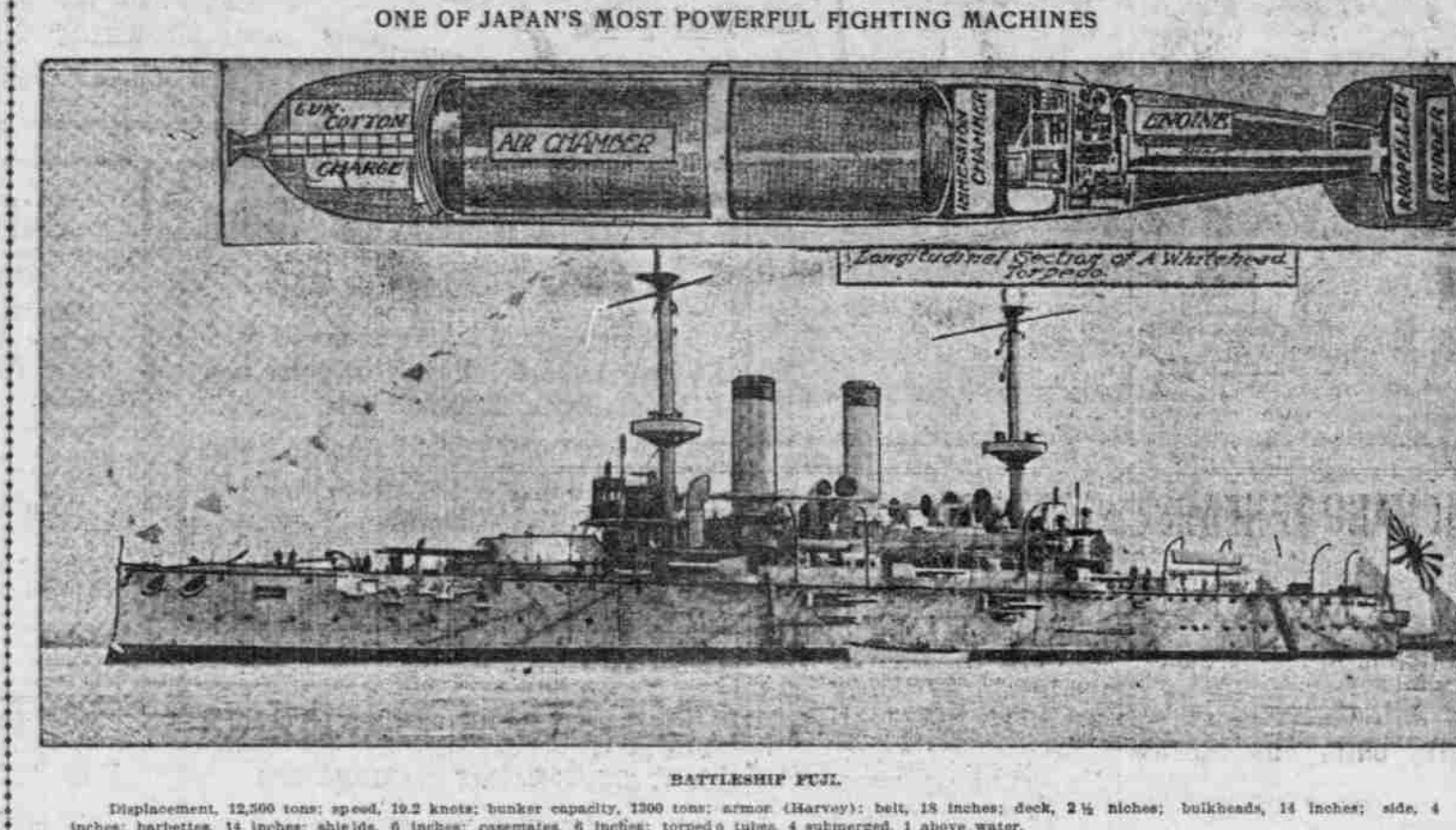
Premier Mura denies the report that the British government has hinted to Spain the necessity of adopting measures to safeguard her neutrality in the Russo-Japanese dispute, asserting no diplomatic negotiations whatever have been received on the question, and that the military measures taken were a step required by the most elementary prudence.

M. Kurino Bound for Sweden.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 19.—M. Kurino, until recently Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, and who is now Minister of Japan to Sweden and Norway, arrived from Berlin tonight, and continued his journey to Stockholm, Sweden.

Indicted for Killing and Burning.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 19.—Charles W. Graves, under arrest charged with putting his wife to death and burning the body, was indicted to day for murder in the first degree. The charred remains of Mrs. Graves was found in December last, locked in their home.



BATTLESHIP FUJI.

Displacement, 12,500 tons; speed, 19.2 knots; bunker capacity, 1300 tons; armor (Harvey): belt, 18 inches; deck, 2 1/2 inches; bulkheads, 14 inches; side, 4 inches; barbettes, 14 inches; shafts, 6 inches; casemates, 6 inches; torpedo tubes, 4 submerged, 1 above water.

## COME TO AID OF JAPAN.

Its Subjects in Korean City Propose to Organize Volunteer Corps.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—Speaking of the war, the Japan Mail, which has just reached this city, says: "The Japanese residents of Korea, Korea, are making arrangements to organize a corps of volunteers in the event of an outbreak of hostilities. Their spirit is said to be very high. They are taking various measures to assist the operations of Japanese warships, and many of them have offered to contribute money."

The Kobe Herald, an English journal, says: "We thoroughly believe in the righteousness of Japan's cause against Russia, and we also consider that, in making her present stand against the aggressions of the latter country, she is indirectly serving the interests of the rest of the civilized world. But it would be an entire misconception to suppose that, if Japan takes the field against her formidable antagonist, she will do so, primarily, in order to fight the world's cause or to uphold Anglo-Saxon ideals."

"If she has to guard the western, southern and eastern frontiers of an immense region, and at the same time to sustain herself and protect a single line of communication through a country where the population is hostile, her task demands an immense army."

LEST WE FORGET.

Iowa Solons Urge That Russian Friendship Be Remembered.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 19.—The House committee on Federal relations of the Iowa Legislature has adopted a resolution calling attention to the possible effects of the Russian-Japanese war on Christian civilization and commerce in the Far East. The committee, in its report, says that Russia toward this country during our entire history, her sympathy for our struggle for independence, and her great service to us during the war of the Rebellion, it urges that as a neutral power, we should carefully refrain from expressing a sympathy that would indicate that we are unmindful of past favors. In the time when it is necessary to the interest of foreign commerce to take a hand in the conflict we should, it says, cast our lot with a power that is friendly rather than commercially unfriendly to us.

British Steamer Sold to Japan.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 19.—News has been received here of the sale of the British tramp steamer Lytton, well known at this port, to the Japanese government. She will likely be used as a transport. The Lytton was here only a few months ago, and underwent extensive repairs. She proceeded North from here and loaded a cargo for the Orient. The Lytton was chartered by an English syndicate to carry the treasure-seekers to Cocos Island. She was owned by Donald Stewart and commanded by Captain Hamilton. The steamer has a registered tonnage of 2500 tons net.

Mikado Receives War Trophies.

TOKIO, Feb. 19.—Captain Kurakami, commander of the Japanese armored ship Chiyoda, today presented the Emperor with a shubun flag of the Russian cruisers Varig and Korietz, which were sunk at Chemulpo on February 8. The Emperor was much affected. He congratulated Kurakami, and made him the bearer of an affectionate message to the officers and men of the fleet.

American Attacked in Corea.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—United States Minister Allen has cabled the State Department from Seoul, under yesterday's date, that a company of Korean soldiers attacked an electric carriage belonging to an American citizen, Wednesday, injuring the operator. American seamen quieted the disturbances.

Mr. Morgan is now on his way from Washington to his post. This decision on the part of the Russian government was not altogether unexpected, but it is nevertheless, the subject of grave consideration by the State Department officials. Secretary Hay regarded the matter as of sufficient importance to warrant a personal visit to the White House today, where he presented the facts to the President.

It can be stated that up to this moment a decision has not been reached as to the answer to be made to the Russian government.

It is explained that the reason for Russia's action is purely military; the army officers desiring that there shall be no foreign officials on the Liaotung Peninsula during the progress of hostilities. The announcement is made that the decision in Mr. Morgan's case does not apply to the new consuls at Mukden and Antung. These Consuls are in Manchuria, and the State Department is taking the ground that the province is part of China, would apply to the Chinese government for exequaturs for these Consuls, not recognizing the right of any other power to intervene.

WAGING NO WAR OF CONQUEST.

Japan Assures China Her Neutrality Will Be Strictly Observed.

TOKIO, Feb. 19.—The response of Japan to the request of China for a statement of its position in regard to the neutrality of the latter country was made public today. Its text is as follows:

"The Imperial government, desiring to avoid as far as possible a disturbance of the peaceful condition of affairs which prevails in China, will, in all parts of Chinese territory, excepting the regions now occupied by Russia, respect the neutrality of China, so long as Russia does the same.

"The Imperial Chinese government may rest assured that the mausoleums and palaces at Mukden and Hsing King and public buildings in China everywhere will be secure from any injury, not attributable to the action of Russia.

"Furthermore, the rights of Chinese officials and inhabitants within the zone of military operations will, in their persons and property, be fully respected and protected by the Imperial forces, so far as military necessity permits.

"It only remains to say, in conclusion, that the present war is not being waged by Japan for the purpose of conquest, but solely in defense of her legitimate rights and interests, and consequently that the Imperial government has no intention to acquire territory at the expense of China as a result of the conflict."

RUSSIA REPLIES TO HAY NOTE.

Reserving Manchuria, She Agrees to Maintain Neutrality of China.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 19.—Russia's reply to Secretary Hay's note on China was handed to Ambassador McCormick today.

day presented to the Council dispatches dealing with the war situation. The dispatches were chiefly diplomatic, including the status of the replies to the American note on China and China's declaration of neutrality, transmitted to M. Delcasse by Minister Koung Sou. China's declaration says:

"Japan and Russia being our neighbors and friends, we have decided to observe the most strict neutrality."

M. Delcasse's presence at the Council was considered as definitely disposing of the rumors of his resignation. The Foreign Office also declares that the rumors on this subject are not warranted.

German Grain Trade Paralyzed.

LONDON, Feb. 19.—The effects of the war, says the Berlin correspondent of the Times, are already noticeable on Russia's commercial relations with Germany. It is reported from Koenigsberg that the importing of grain from Russia into Germany has come to a standstill. The grain merchants are unable to obtain the execution of their orders, Russia having diverted all the rolling stock on government railways. The government German export trade is also paralyzed. The Alsatian industry records an appreciable falling off in exports and large Russian firms have not renewed their orders.

Geneva Conference is Postponed.

BERNE, Switzerland, Feb. 19.—In connection of the war between Russia and Japan, the Federal Council has postponed indefinitely the conference summoned to meet at Geneva May 16 to revise the Geneva convention, with the view of improving the treatment of wounded men.

Loubet to Visit the Czar.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—It is reported, says a World dispatch from Paris, that President Loubet is making arrangements for an immediate visit to St. Petersburg to exchange courtesies with the Czar, thereby paying back the visit of the Czar to France. There is no confirmation of the rumor.