Baltic Fleet Sinks British Vessels.

SHOTS KILL TWO MEN

Russians First Turn on the Searchlights.

OFF SPURN HEAD IN A HAZE

Leading Ships of Fishermen Feared Japanese Torpedoes in Danish Allowed to Pass.

MURDEROUS FIRE THEN OPENS

Steam Trawler Crane and Another Vessel Sent to the Bottom-Two Others Have Holes in Hulls Above Water Line.

HULL, England, Oct. 23.-I. M. Jackson & Co., solicitors for the owners of the 50 Hull fishing-boats have notified the Foreign Office and Admiralty of an attack on the Hull fishing fleet by the Russian Pacific fleet (commonly designated as the Baltic squadron).

The official information is that soo after midnight Friday the Russian squadron fell in with the Hull fishing fleet in the North Sea. The first portion of the fishing fleet passed safely. Then the Russian ships turned their searchlights on the British vessels for some time and a little later opened fire.

The steam trawler Crane was sunk, and the decapitated bodies of her skipper and mate have been brought to Huil. The boatswain and other members of the crew, who are understood to be seriously wounded, are on board the missing ship. The only slightly injured memper of the crew has arrived at Hull.

The steam trawlers Moulmein and Mino have arrived at Hull seriously damaged by shots, the latter having 16 holes in her bull. It is feared that other damage was done to trawlers and that at least one more was lost with all hands.

HEADS TORN FROM BODIES.

Skipper and Mate of the Crane Instantly Killed.

HULL Oct. 23 .- According to other reports the affair ocurred 200 miles off Spurn Head. The Russian ships were steaming in line. The leading ship of the fishing fleet passed without incident, though most of the Russian vessels turned searchlights on the trawlers long enough to prevent any mistake as to identity. After the bulk of the squadron Two vessels sunk, two men killed and 18 in had passed, it opened fire, nearly all participating in the firing.

The Crane was struck below the waterline and raked above deck. Skipper Smith and Third Mate Leggott had their heads carried clean away by a shot, many of the crew being seriously injured. Montmein, which brought the news to Hull, has no particulars as to her fate. has no particulars as to her fate.

The news has created an intense sen sation and indignation in Hull. The Moulnein arrived with her flag at halfmost. Her skipper states that the trawlers were fishing about 230 miles east of Spurn Head at 1 o'clock Saturday morning, the weather being hazy, when the outlines of several vessels, apparently warships, sailing in line, were dimly seen. Whilst the crew were watching the warships, searchlights were flashed upon them, in the glare of which the Moulmein's crew observed what they took to be torpedoboats approaching, apparently with the intention of boarding the Moulmein

The torpedo-boats steamed away, however, and soon the fishermen were horrified to find they were being fired upon. First one and then another trawler was struck by the flying shot. What seemed be a round shot went through the

Moulmein's galley. The Mino, lying near by, also was struck with many shots, but fortunately the damage was above her water line, and none of the crew was struck. The bombardment lasted about 20 minutes. When it had ceased the fleet sailed southward and some of the trawlers sent up

The Moulmein steered in the direction of the rocket. Soon cries were heard, and the Crane was found sinking with another trawler taking off some of her crew. Those seriously injured were removed to a mission ship and the bodies of Smith and Leggott were placed aboard the Moulmein. The other men with minor injuries were put aboard the trawler Seaguil, which at a late hour had not arrived at Hull.

Crowds have gathered around the dock here, but no further information is avail-

Representatives of the fishing flee started late tonight for London to confer with the authorities there. No motive can be assigned for the extraordinary procedure of the Russian warships.

has yet reached here is J. A. Smith, son of the deceased skipper, and who, with exptain of the Moulmein and the

consult with the authorities. Young Smith was asleep in his bunk when the firing aroused him. Just as he was getting up, a shot struck the starboard and penetrated to the forecastle, smashing a lamp near which he was standing. He rushed on deck, where the searchlights revealed the horrible sight of his father and Leggottt lying headless and the deck strewn with the injured.

It was soon found that the vessel was sinking and signals for assistance were sent up. Smith and others concur in the details of the firing that have already been given.

Fleet Sighted Off East Bourne. LONDON, Oct. 22-The Russian Pacific (Baltic) ficet, comprising seven battleships and four cruisers, passed over in three sections between 6 o'clockthis morning and 2 o'clock this afternoon, and later passed East Bourne. They were watched by large crowds from shore. Nothing has en seen of the torpedo flotilla, which,

however, may have passed during the

night, as Lloyd's at noon reported four Russian torpede-boats passing St. Catherine's Point, "apparently boarding a steamer bound east."

A dispatch from Cherbourg reports that three Russian torpedo-boats, escorted by the volunteer cruiser Korea, are moored in the roadstead there to take coal,

RUSSIANS WERE VERY NERVOUS

Water. SPCIAL CABLE TO LONDON TIMES AND PORTLAND OREGONIAN. COPENHAGEN, Oct. 34.-Today's pa-

pers state that the Russian officers showed great nervousness during the passsage of the Baltic fleet through the parrow Danish waters. They evidently feared Japanese mines. No one here believed, however, that there was the slightest danger, especially in view of the precautions which were taken by the Danish authorities. Even in the smallest provincial towns every traveler and foreigner was watched with almost ridiculous vigilance.

Wednesday evening last a telegram arrived from the Czar for Admiral Rodjestvensky, addressed to the Russian consular agent, M. Rodkjobing. The agent ordered two fishermen to leave in a launch and deliver thing dispatch. When they approached the Admiral's ship, searchlights were thrown upon the aunch with a glare so intense that the fishermen were completely blinded and some blank cartridges were fired. The Russisans did not allow the launch to come nearer, but launched a boat, to whose crew the fishermen delivered the

dispatch. All merchantmen had been notified to hoist the national flag when meeting the Baltic fleet. The schooner Hugh failed to do so and immediately a blank charge was fired to hasten the performance of the ceremony. According to a local news-paper, Bussis will soon the Copen-hagen shipbuilders, Burmelster & Wain, an order for several warships. This firm built the Imperial yacht Standard.

Mortimer Refuses an Interview. LENNOX, Mass., Oct. 23,-The Associated Press dispatches telling of the firing on the Hull fishermen in the North Sea by the Bussian Baltic fleet was delivered to Sir Henry Mortimer Durand at his Summer cottage tonight. It was read with much interest, being the first inaffair.

Sir Mortimer has been indisposed for several days with a cold and excused him-

CONTENTS OF TODAY'S PAPER Russians Sink British Vessels Baltin equadron fires on British fishing feet North Sea. Page 1.

jured. Page 1. firing seems to have been deliberate. Page 1.

British merchantmen are stopped and rearched off the Isle of Wight. Page 1. War in the Far East. frost have dried up Manchurlas

trawler also was sunk, but the Hostile armies apparently making no move Troops in the trenches suffering from the cold.

New York Herald forecast on result in doubtful

shows Roosevelt will be elected. Hearst defice Tammany and accepts People's party nomination for Congress. Page 1. Official etatement from Democratic Nati mittee claims everything in sight,

General Nelson A. Miles' charges against R publicans and the Administration. Page 5. mer's Eastern Washington majority will probably be 6000, Page 5, National,

ministration in the Philippines are refuted by Governor Wright. Page 1. Foreign.

Fushimi sails for United States Pope Pius attributes to the Free Masons the ory of Premier Combes. Page 4.

John Moriey, the celebrated English states

Three killed in train wreck in Misslestppt.

at Modesto, Cal. Page 12. Oregon Agricultural College on equal footin with best military schools in the country

Pacific Coast League scores: San Francisco 5, Portland S; Seattle 2, Los Angeles 1; Taco-ma 4-1, Oakland S-2. Page 5. Analysis of the Eastern college football situa-

tion. Page 5. San Francisco and Portland out of pennant

odependent steamers cut passenger San Francisco. Page 13. Holt Hill making long passage from Europe.

England is still selling her sulling ships. Page 13. Portland and Vicinity. Question of Government building of ocks at Willamette Falls is revived. Page 14. cal surgeons condemn practice of paying commissions to physicians who send patients

John D. Spreckels, Jr., says he knows of any Coos Bay railroad project. Page 8 Wife of Senator Dubois says Mothers' Con-gress might meet here in 1905 if asked. Page 8.

ter East Side religibus sect sets forth its

Judge Parker's Accusations Are Refuted.

WRIGHT GIVES THE FACTS

Philippines Are Prospering Under American Rule.

TAXATION IS NOT OPPRESSIVE

No Disposition to Violence Among the Vast Mass of the People-Public Expression of Opinion Is Not Checked in Any Way.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21 .- The following cablegrams from Secretary of War-Taft to Governor Wright, of the Philippines, and from the Governor to the Secretary, in reply thereto, were made public at the War Department today;

"October 20, 1904. To Mr. Wright Manila-The Democratic candidate for President, on the 15th of the present month, in a public address, said: "But two classes of our people can hope to be benefited by our holding the Philippines-the class which is always hunting for special Government privileges, and the class which seeks to make of office-holding a means of livelihood. The latter class in the Philippines comprises some officials of whom a student of students there resents said:

students there recently said: "Of the character of many in office, too little cannot be said. At the best they have been inefficient; at the worst, dishonest, cor-rupt and despotic. The islands seem to have

Parker's Terrible Charges.

He also said:

"The situation in the Philippines today is a The situation in the Philippines today is so terrible that it passes the comprehension of our people at home. Agriculturally, the country is for the time ruined. Land is going out of cultivation; the population is fill fed, and in some places unable to get work. The country ordened with taxation; disease is pre alent, the farm animals dead, the towns in many places in ruins, whole districts in the hands of indrous, the price of products poor

"Public opinion has no free expression; news Public opinion has no tree expression have-pers are bought up or are horsebeaten into-ence; men of influence who criticise the com-ssion are extractised; the place produced in a theaters are censored; there is not an or-n of expression of the popular voice that is

"In private life, the men are subject to a complete, far-reaching, thorough system of epionage. Dethctives appear in the guise of servants and the oath of a single one is enough to destroy a man's reputation, prop-erty, or even life itself.

"Your comment as Civil Governor upon this statement of conditions in the islands is requested. TAFT."

Governor Wright in Reply.

today (October 23), and is as follows: "Manila, Oct. 23.—Secretary of War Washington: With reference to your thereto, I report as follows: "First-The statement that any con-

siderable number of officials have proved corrupt, inefficient or despotie does great injustice to a body of hardwhose character and service will com- Union pare favorably with any employes of faults by subordinates, they are few as been promptly detected and punished. The total defaults since July, 1901, the beginning of the Civil Government, The Government is protected by in-

Civil Service Law is Enforced.

We have a comprehensive civil servthe antecedents and qualifications of employes are scrutinized. Defaulters, during disturbed conditions, prior to the inauguration of the law.

"As to complaints of oppression, such acts are exceptional and promptly investigated and corrected. Relations between the American officials and Filipinos are as a rule cordial.

"Second-Nothing warranting statement that towns are in ruln, lands fed, unable to get work and the country ruined agriculturally. Towns are in the same state as before the insurrection, save a few burned by insurgents, which have been rebuilt and reoccupied. Towns are generally populated as before, Sanitary conditions generally are improved, labor generally equals and in some cases exceeds the supply, and at increased wages.

Rinderpest Has Been Checked. "In 1901 and 1902 epidemics of rinderpest destroyed probably 70 per cent of the animals used in agriculture, causing a reduced area of cultivated

land and considerable distress, which the commission relieved by inaugurating public works through aid generously extended by Congress. We have succeeded by inoculation in checking the rinderpest. Those localities most seriously affected have drawn from those where the disease did not prevail and this, together with animals imand this, together with animals imported and the natural increase, has caused a stendy increase so that at the present there is under cultivation.

On the question of calling a peace conpresent there is under cultivation nearly all the lands heretofore culti-

vated. "During the fiscal year ending June compared with the previous year be- in Europe.

sugar crops due to a phenomenally small rainfall in certain sections and

to a plague of locusts in others.
"Of exportations, \$21,794,860 was hemp; of importations, \$11,548,814 was of rice, the principal food of the people The present crop in all lines is exceptionally good and prices remunerative and there is not now and will not be for the coming year any suffering from lack of food. "The enrollment of the public schools

in 1903 was 184,202 and in 1904, 263,556. Taxes Used for People's Benefit. Third-Taxation is not oppressive

Custome duties average about 18 per cent ad valorem, as compared with 25 per cent under the Spanish regime. In dustrial taxes are also less than the Spanish. The receipts are honestly ap plied for the benefit of the people.

"Fourth-It is not true that there are whole districts in the hands of ladrones. There have been occasional instances during the last year of depredations of ladrones, who find concealment in the remote mountain fast nesses and raid settlements of isolated natives and steal their caraboos. They have been relentlessly pursued by the constabulary and scouts, who are natives, usually commanded by American officers. As a result of this policy, ladronism is no longer popular or profit-

"There is at this time not a single band of ladrones operating in the great Island of Luson and in the Visayan Islands. There are only four or five ladrone leaders, with a few followers, who occasionally give evidence of life by stealing caraboos or plundering remote settlements. They pass most of their time endeavoring to dodge the constabulary.

Great Mass of People at Peace.

There is no disorder or disposition to violence among the great mass of the people, who are attending to their usual duties. Americans can and do go everywhere without danger or thought of it. In 1903, there were about 18,000 American troops in the islands. This year there are only about 12,000. It may be stated generally that life and property is as safe here as in the United

"These general statements as to peace and order are intended to apply to all of the Islands inhabited by civilized Filipinos except the Island of Samar. It has a population in the mountains of the interior, many of whom have never seen a white man, who are semi-savage and have a weakness for raiding towns along the coast. They are also religious fanatics, generally directed by a pope claiming to

be invulnerable. "Seven months since there was an irruption of these people, who piun- these advices as follows: dered and burned a number of barries children, when the slightest resistance scouts, but there are still a number of small bands of these people prowling about the country

'Similar half-wild men are found scattered through the mountains of the archipelago and until their country is opened up by roads and schools are es-tablished, occasional disturbances of the character indicated may be ex-

No Check on Free Speech.

"Fifth-The statement that the news-The reply of Governor Wright was papers are bought up or browbeaten received here from Manila at 1 P. M. into silence, that men who criticise commission are ostracised, that all organs of expression of public opinion telegram of the 20th, quoting recent ut-terances of Judge Parker upon the ad-wholly unsupportable by facts. The ministration and conditions here and right of free expression of opinion requesting statement of facts relating through the press or otherwise is recognized here as in the United States and practiced with the same freedom: the only limitation being responsibility for libelous and seditious utterances; the law relative to those peing drawn working, self-respecting Americans, from Federal and state statutes of the

"No newspaper has been subsidized Federal or state governments, or browbeaten, nor has anyone been cratic ticket solidly, and Bryan men are Whilst there has been a number of de- ostracized for criticising the commission. The latter have frequently been compared with the whole, and have the subject both of criticism and attack by newspapers and individuals. Political questions, including immediate independence, are every day discussed was \$78,559. There is no ultimate loss. freely and without interference; theatrical plays are not censored.

Stamped on American Flag. "The only possible excuse for such a

statement is that something over ice law rigidly enforced, under which year ago a crack-brained playwright produced a play in Tagalog, full of in surrectionary utterances and culminat with few exceptions, were appointed ing in the tearing down and stamping upon the American flag upon the stage, for which he and some of his fellow actors were prosecuted and convicted. "It is equally untrue that men in private life are subjected to espionage or that detectives in the guise of servants are employed. All these statements are the veriest nonsense, without a scintilla of fact to support them. are going out of cultivation, people iii The only use to which detectives are change conditions and turn it Democratic put is to ferret out criminals, as is done or make it safely Republican. in the United States, and the number of detectives employed by the govern- tracting attention, and the Republican ment, upon comparison, will be found to be fewer here in proportion to pop-"Judge Parker has evidently been grossly deceived."

JOHN MORLEY IN NEW YORK. English Statesman is the Guest of Andrew Carnegie.

NEW YORK, Oct. M .- John Morley, the English statesman and author, arrived today on the steamer Celtic. During his stay in this city Mr. Morrey and drew Carnegie's guest.

When Mr. Carnegie, who also arrive this city Mr. Moriey will be Anon the Celtic with his wife and daughter, was informed that money is needed to maintain the Peace Palace at The Hague,

"I have nothing to do with that. There

ference, he said:

"Let us not call a peace conference now when two nations are struggling in awful battle. Such an action of President of the said of "During the fiscal year ending June awful battle. Such an action of Pre 19, 1904, exports were \$30,226,127; imports, \$33,221,256. Exports fell off as and would not be looked upon with far

Great Activity in the Debatable States.

REPUBLICANS IN THE LEAD

New York Herald Gives Forecast Two Weeks Ahead.

ROOSEVELT'S ELECTION SURE

Summing Up of Conditions at the Present Time in Fifteen States From Dispatches Sent in by Special Correspondents.

NEW YORK HERALD'S PORECAST New York-Roosevelt a strong candi-date; Higgins will run behind.

Indiana-Democrats fight to overcor big Republican lead. Connecticut-Inclined toward Roosevelt

New Jersey-Democratic candidate for Governor will probably go down with Electoral ticket. Maryland-Apparently going Democratic Delaware-Money can turn election

West Virginia-Republicans in lead. Rhode Island-Safely Republican. Wisconsin-Roosevelt's chances good. Montana-In doubt. Colorado-Chances favor Rocsevelt Ulah-Assured for Rocevelt.

Idaho-Likely to go Republican. Nevada-Conceded to the Democrate

NEW YORK, Oct. 23 .- (Special.)-The Herald today prints three pages of dispatches from special correspondents in doubtful states, summing up the local outlook as it appears two weeks in advance of election. The Herald condenses

"Reports to the Herald from correspond of coast towns, killing men, women and ents who have been investigating the progress of the Presidential canvass in debatable states reveal an active liningwas offered. They have been given a debatable states reveal an active lining-severe lesson of the constabulary and up of op, losing forces. In some states the result bids fair to be extremely doubtful

until election night. "In New York the battle is going or with great vigor. The all-engrossing topic is the state election. Higgins will run far behind the Republican National ticket. He has, however, made some headway. Roosevelt is a strong candidate, and hope for the Republican state ticket rests entirely on the expectation that Roosevelt will have a plurality large

Democrate Work In Indiana. "The Republicans seem to have Indiana at present, but Democratic conditions have improved since Bryan took the stump for Parker, and the Democrats are making every effort to swing the state in the last weeks of the campaign. Seventy-five per cent of the Gold Democrats are supporting Parker. Bryan Democrats have been solidified. Party conditions are therefore normal. Republicans will have to fight hard to hold the state.

"Connecticut is inclined toward Roos velt. This is admitted even by supporters of Parker. The Bryan element in that state will refuse to support the Demoeven now planning to reorganize the party

immediately after election. "In New Jersey the Democratic state ticket is stronger than the National ticket, and the contest is largely on state issues. If this were not a Presidential year the Democratic candidate for Gov-

ernor would probably be elected. Race Issue Up in Maryland.

"Maryland is apparently going Demo cratic. There is a strong drift in that state toward Democracy because of the race issue raised by the President. With the exception of this issue conditions are similar to those which prevailed in the state prior to 1896.

"Owing to lack of incentitye to activity because of a combination effected in Delaware between the Addicks and anti-Addicks Republicans, there is a dull campaign in Delaware and the state is doubtful, with chances slightly favoring the Republicans. Money in this state can

"In West Virginia state issues are atstate ticket seems likely to be defeated. It is a hard fight over the National ticket, and it is possible that state issues may involve the electoral ticket. At present the Republicans seem to have the lead, but the Democrats are hopeful.

"Rhode Island is apparently safely an chored in the Republican colu

Side Issue in Wisconsin.

'In Wisconsin the Presidential election is incidental to the state contest. Roose veit's chances of carrying the state are believed to be good, and there is a probability that Governor LaFollette will be elected by a greatly reduced plurality. There will probably be a considerable loss in the Republican Congressional del

"Montana is doubtful and will continue to be doubtful until the counting of the ballots. The Democratic state ticket will probably be elected. There is a shade of advantage for the Democratic National ticket

"Colorado la likely to go Democratic on the state ticket and is in doubt on the National ticket. The chances are

lieved to favor Roosevelt. "Utah seems to be assured for Ro

followers to vote for Republican electors.
"Idaho also seems likely to go for the
Republican National ticket. The Mormon influence there is also for Roosevelt. "Nevada is conceded to Parker by 1206

plurality." COMMITTEE IS IN FUNDS.

Whirlwind Finish Will Mark the Close of the Campaign.

NEW YORK, Oct. 13 .- (Special.)-The Times prints the following: "There is no longer any lack of funds at the disposal of the Democratic National Committee. There is said to be plenty of money in sight to conduct the campaign on proper lines to the closs and to meet every legitimate expense without any cramping and enable the committee to conduct a whiriwind campaign in all the debutable states during the re

two weeks. "Vice-Chairman Nicoll said yesterday that practically all the document and literary work at headquarters had been completed, assigning that as reason for laying off a large staff which has been at work since headquarters were opened. At the present time none but managers, their stenographers, auditor and chiefs of bureaus are still engaged."

HEARST DEFIES TAMMANY.

Refuses to Decline People's Party Nomination for Congress.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21 - (Special.)-The Herald prints the following: William R. Hearst, Democratic nominee for Congress in this city, defies Tammany Leader Murphy and refuses to decline the nomination by the People's Party, Other Congressional nominees, acting on Murphy's instructions, have declined the Pop-

ulist nominations. "Tammany leaders in Hearst's district were originally opposed to his nomination and it is said that it was solely in deference to Judge Parker's wishes, in which Murphy acquiesced, that another man was not named for the office. It is not known yet whether Hearst's action will result in any opposition to him at the polls on the part of Tammany Hall."

Odds on Roosevelt Are Larger. NEW YORK, Oct. 23 .- (Special.)-The Tribune says:

"Odds on Roosevelt in the curb betting market, which have ruled at 4 to 1 for two or three days, lengthened yesterday to 10 to 24. Bets were offered and placed in Boston today at 5 to 1 that President Roosevelt would be elected." Registration Record Broken. NEW YORK, Oct. 23.-(Special)-The

that the increase of registration for the entire city exceeds that of 1900 by at least

Herald says that New York City's rec-

which closed last night. It is estimated

broken by the

SAY ALL IS HARMONY. Democratic National Committee Makes Claims.

NEW YORK, Oct. 23 .- A statement was given out today by the Democratic National Committee, after a consultation between Thomas Taggart, chairman; William F. Sheehan, chairman of the executive committee, and Delancey Nicoll, vice-chairman of the East. It

"Our efforts during the past three nonths have been devoted to the task organizing and harmonizing the party in the states hitherto considered doubtful by reason of former dissensions. That work is now finished, and it is possible for the first time to reach a conclusion based upon a systematic canvass which can never be satisfactorily made until after organization is completed and the campaign has well progressed.

"In every state and in all sections Democrats have buried their differences and are working harmoniously and enthusi-astically for the ticket. Our canvass shows that scarcely anywhere is there a trace of the dissensions which for the past eight years has unhappily divided the party. In the States of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia and many of the Western States, our organization is now more complete and effective than ever before in the history of the party. Candidates for Governor who stand for the very highest type of citizenship and represent popular local Democratic issues in all the doubtful states are greatly alding

the National ticket by their energetic campaign. "Our canvass shows that we shall certainly carry by good majorities the States of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and Indiana, and that in addition to these electoral votes we shall have the majority, if not all of the electoral votes of the Rocky Mountain States. It is impossible

doubtful column, for, although at this moment our canvass there is imperfect, it is sufficiently advanced to indicate an istakable Republican defection." Fusionists Called to Chicago. JOLIET, Ill., Oct. 23.-James H. Ferris,

"Illinois must also be classed in the

National chairman of the People's party announces that the meeting of Bryan Democrats and Silver Republicans called to be held in Chicago October 25 has been postponed until after the coming election, the date to be named later. In his an-nouncement he states that he has been

asked by many who signed the call to

postpone the meeting.

Michigan.

Fourteen Speeches for Fairbanks. COLUMBUS, O., Oct. 23 .- Senator Faireastern half of Obto speeches, closing the day with a speech at Columbus in the evening. Governor-Herrick will accompany him. From Co-lumbus, Senator Fairbanks will go to

Parker Will Speak Again. ESOPUS, N. Y., Oct. 22.-Several New York delegations will arrive at Esopus tomorrow and Judge Parker will make another speech. Martin W. Littleton, who made the speech at St. Louis nominating Judge Parker, and Thomas L. Hughes, both of New York, were the candidate's guests at dinner today.

Snow Falls in Michigan.

London Stunned by North Sea Outrage.

APOLOGY DEMANDED

Otherwise Ultimatum Must Quickly Follow.

BELIEVED TO BE A MISTAKE

Excited Russian Commander May Have Lost His Head.

FLEET IN FEAR OF JAPANESE

Worst Features Are That Baltic Squadron Ran Away From Sinking Fishermen, and Has Not Sent Any Explanation.

LONDON. Oct. M .- Foreign Minister Lansdowne and M. Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador, both were out of town yesterday and the government offices in London were closed as usual on Sunday, therefore no official view could be gleaned of the firing by Russian war vessels upon a British fishing fleet in the North Sea. The first reports of the affair received in ondon were regarded as almost thie. When, however, cumulative evidence no longer left doubt of the general accuracy of the reports, astonish bewilderment as to what possible motive could have led Russian officers into such an extraoridancy and inexplicable course of action, which, unless a satisfactory explanation is immediately forthcoming, is

is the view taken editorially by all the morning papers.

only to be regarded as an act of war, This

Heartlessness of Russians. The worst feature of the story, as viewed here, is the heartlessness displayed by the Russian fleet in steaming away without taking the trouble to ascertain even whether their fire had inflicted any damage and without any effort to

rescue the victims. While admitting the necessity of a sus-"We have made no formal statement pension of judgment for investigation and fore this time because the materials unanimous in demanding that the governupon which alone a correct judgment ment instruct Ambassador Hardinge to
could be formed were not at hand. make the strongest representations to the St. Petersburg government and obtain reparation and apology and assurances of the Russian fleet's good behavior for the fu-

It is held that the omission of the Russian fleet to stay its course down the channel to offer any explanation makes the case look exceedingly grave, and the only possible solution of the mystery that has been suggested is that, excited by rumors recently spread of Japan's intentions on the Pacific squadron, in the event of its sailing, the Russian gunners yielded to panic and supposed that the trawler's rockets were the signals of an enemy's

fleet. In view of the decision in the Allanto case it is regarded as quite impossible that the St. Petersburg authorities can be in any way responsible for the incident.

Newspapers Calm, but Firm. Considering the circumstances in the case, the newspapers treat the matter with commendable calmness, but are firm demands for immediate satisfaction The Chronicle says:

"The next 24 hours must settle it

way or the other. Only two modes of

settlement are possible. Either explanation, apology or generous compensation to the victims' families or an ultimatum." The Standard says: should be promptly and sternly demanded for the intolerable outrage. The Russian government should be informed that it is expected to recall its ill-starred squadron; first, in order that proper investigation

may be had, and second, to keep it out of harm's way for the future." The skippers of the Moulmien and Mino J. A. Smith and Solicitor Jackson, arrived in London at 3 o'clock this morning, but eyond confirming the previous story they declined to say anything before consulting

No Naval Movement Reported. Inquiries at Davenport last night showed hat no special naval movement had been reported and that Admiral Seymour had

official news of the outrage. Admiral Freemantle in the course of an interview said he was unable to believe that it was the Baltic fleet which fired on the Hull fishermen, but, if so, he added, nothing but the most complete apology would be satisfactory. Sir Frederick Poliock, an authority on international law, said:

"If the facts are as stated it as an act

of war. It must mean an ultimatum or an apology within 48 hours or so. It will probably be found, however, that some Russian commander lost his head pecting Japanese designs, and that he will be cashiered and an apology ordered." M. Sazonoff, one of the officials of the Russian Embassy, last night expressed

deep regret for the North Sea incident. He was convinced, he said, that the unfortunate event was the result of an accident. If there had been firing it could only have GAYLORD, Mich., Oct. 23.—It has been firing it could only have been snowing for 24 hours and the snow lies four inches deep.

If there had been firing it could only have been due to suspicion of some hostile at tack upon the fleet.