



TOGO WINS A GREAT VICTORY

Russian Fleet Routed in Straits of Corea.

BATTLE RAGES FOR TWO DAYS

Fighting Began Saturday as Fog Was Lifting.

TOKIO IS VERY SILENT.

Cable Offices Are Guarded and Little Information Is Allowed to Leak Out Regarding Great Naval Fight.

According to the latest information the battle between the Russian and Japanese naval forces for the supremacy of the Oriental sea, on which hangs the outcome of the Far Eastern struggle, has begun, if it has not terminated decisively. All the dispatches received by the Associated Press point to a Japanese victory, though it is not yet known that the full force of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's fighting ships took part in the contest, which, according to the dispatches, took place in the comparatively narrow waters of the Straits of Corea.

LONDON, May 28.—Many dispatches from Tokyo and other points appearing in the morning newspapers are filled with more or less authentic details of recent movements of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's ships and surmises and rumors of the results of the battle between the Japanese and Russian fleets, but add nothing reliable to the dispatches received by the Associated Press correspondents.

According to the Daily Telegraph a private telegram was received in London last night in a very high quarter, to the effect that Vice-Admiral Togo had gained a great victory. Based on the meager details already received here most of the newspapers are ready to believe the Japanese have secured a victory.

The indications from many of the dispatches are that Rojestvensky sent some of his vessels through the Tsushima Strait, with the view of mystifying the Japanese.

May Come From Vladivostok.

A dispatch to a news agency says that two Russian warships were sighted Sunday afternoon at Masuki (Mashiki), in Shikari Province, Hokkaido, steaming southwest, but it is not known whether they belonged to Rojestvensky or if they were from Vladivostok.

It is assumed here that the Japanese government will follow its customary plan not to allow details to be published until the action has been completed, and it is believed that the fight has been of a running character.

The Daily Telegraph's Tokyo correspondent says that an intermittent fog prevailed in the Sea of Japan Saturday. It occasionally lifted, when there was brilliant sunshine. A high wind prevailed, with a rough sea.

The Russian ships were first sighted at 6 o'clock in the morning approaching Tsu Islands, under cover of a fog, which, however, lifted, and the squadron retired. This squadron is believed to have consisted of six first-class ships, and, according to information received, 21 more Russian warships were not far away. Nothing definite is known, however, says the correspondent, and the authorities merely reported that cannonading was proceeding.

bunker coal from colliers. Then Rojestvensky decided to divide his fleet into several parts. He traversed the Baashe Straits and steamed in a northeasterly direction. On the morning of May 25 the Russians were southwest of the Luchu Islands, and the slow converted cruisers and transports were sent to Shanghai, while the main squadron went to Tsu Island.

A dispatch from Shanghai says that Japanese warships arrived in the offing at Woosung Saturday and attacked the Russian ships, but a later dispatch says that the Russian transports are to stay in the vicinity of Shanghai, while the vessels of the volunteer fleet are to leave for either German or French territory. It is reported that Rojestvensky's squadrons used Chusan (one of a group of islands off the east coast of China, in the Province of Chekiang) as a naval base, and it is also stated that the Chinese authorities ordered the vessels to leave Woosung by 8 o'clock Saturday night or to haul down their flags. The Russians, the dispatch said, were temporarily.

British Fleet Hurries North.

It is reported from Hongkong that the British fleet is leaving for the north at full speed.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent and the Daily Telegraph itself both discredit the rumor that the Japanese will attack the Russians at Woosung, which rumor lacks confirmation from any other quarter, though the Shanghai correspondent of the Morning Post, calling May 28, says that the firing of big guns was heard outside Woosung Sunday night.

Official Information Given Out by Japanese.

One Cruiser and Ten Torpedo-Boats Are Reported to Have Been Sunk by Guns of the Russian Men-of-War.

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Japanese Announce Destruction of Five Other Ships.

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The belief in naval circles in Washington that the Japanese resorted to a free use of their torpedo-boats in their attacks on the ships of Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet. The Japanese have a large number of torpedo-boats in their fleet, and they demonstrated their effectiveness in the operations around Port Arthur. Naval officials here tonight express the opinion that it was unlikely that such serious losses as those reported had been inflicted by ordinary fire.

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Battleship Ore Was First Hit by Three Torpedoes.

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The reports of Japanese losses are very vague, but persistent, and it would not be surprising to learn that some suffered at least serious damage. The corps of correspondents here this

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HIT HARD BY THE TORPEDO BOATS

Russian Fleet Thrown Into Confusion.

THE PREY OF SWIFT CRAFT

Attack Made Toward Dawn of Sunday Morning.

RUNNING FIGHT FOLLOWS

Admiral Togo With All His Big Vessels Gives Stern Chase to the Fleeing Warships of the Czar.

BIG WAR CRAFT LOST ON BOTH SIDES.

Since the war began the losses in big ships to the fleets of the belligerents have been as follows:

Russia. SUNK AT PORT ARTHUR—Bogatyn, hulled by shells. Brestsk, sunk by gun fire. Poltava, blown and sunk. Pallada, torpedoed and half-sunk.

Blown up at Chemulpo—Varyag, first wrecked by Japanese shot. Korietz, hulled by "Urus" ships.

SUNK IN COREA STRAITS—Burlak, one of the Vladivostok squadron. RUNK OFF SAGHALIEN—Novik, one of the Port Arthur ships.

DIEMANTLED IN FOREIGN PORTS—Caravitch, sunk at Kiaochoo. Askold, in harbor at Shanghai. Diana, shelled at Saigon, French Indo-China.

JAPAN. SUNK BY MINES—Hatsuse, went down near Dalny. Yashima, sunk west of Port Arthur. Miyako, lost in Keer Bay. Halsey, blown up October 8. RAMMED AND WRECKED—Yashima, sunk in collision by the Kasaga, May 15.

A number of smaller craft has been lost on both sides, but in this respect Russia is the heaviest sufferer. Japan lost five transports sunk by the raiding Vladivostok squadron, and lost 18 other vessels in the four attempts that she made to bottle up Port Arthur.

SPECIAL CABLE. LONDON, May 28.—(4 A. M.)—No details of the fighting between the hostile fleets have been received here as yet and none is likely to be until one of the Russian ships reaches a neutral port or the Japanese government releases the censorship on messages from Tokyo. This latter is not likely until the fight is over.

Only the barest bulletins are printed in the morning papers here, but they all point to a sweeping Japanese victory. In fact, the correspondent of the London Mail at Tokio, who is generally most conservative, makes the bold statement that the Russian Baltic fleet as a fighting force has been completely wiped out, that some of its best vessels are sunk, others are prizes of war, and the remainder fleeing before the Japanese vessels. He adds no details, which is not surprising, inasmuch as the censor apparently got

TSING-TAU, May 29.—There is a running naval engagement between the Russian and Japanese fleets in the Straits of Corea, near the Islands of Ok. It is reported that the whole Russian fleet is not participating, all the slower vessels having steamed around Japan. The Japanese losses so far are stated to be one cruiser and ten torpedo-boats.

The island of Ok is in the Sea of Japan, about 30 miles northeast of the Straits of Corea, where the battle between the Japanese and Russian fleets is reported to have had its beginning.

"Togo Will Inform You."

PARIS, May 28.—(4:35 A. M.)—Later editions of the morning papers here express the fear that the Russians have met with defeat in the naval combat.

The Matin, remarking that the dispatches from Washington are far from reassuring, recalls the words of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky when he entered Far Eastern waters: "If I am victorious I shall inform you. If I am vanquished Togo will inform you."

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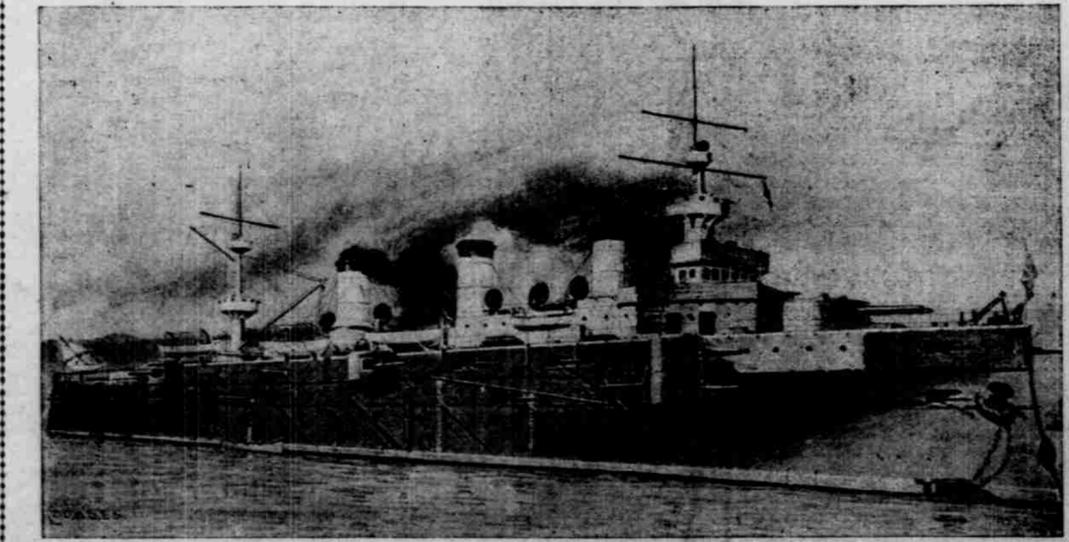
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RUSSIAN BATTLESHIP ORE. The Ore and Borodino are of 13,516 tons displacement each, heavily armed, well protected, and were designed to make 18 knots. They measure 297 feet by 76 feet, with 25 feet draft, and both have a lofty spar deck fully 30 feet above the water line, extending from the bow to the quarter deck. Forward is mounted a pair of 12-inch guns in a turret protected by 11 inches of Krupp armor. Another pair of guns of the same size is mounted aft. There are 30 other guns of the intermediate battery, and the vessels carry two submerged torpedo tubes and two above water.

CONTENTS TODAY'S PAPER

- The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 63; minimum, 23. TODAY'S—Cloudy to partly cloudy and occasionally threatening; south to west winds. War in Far East. Admiral Togo defeats Russian fleet in Straits of Corea. Page 1. Six Russian vessels are reported sunk, including two battleships, Page 1. Japanese loss said to include a cruiser and 10 torpedo-boats. Page 1. Russians are anxiously awaiting detailed news from great naval battle. Page 1. Foreign. Hungary routed over proposed removal of Count Tisza from the Premiership. Page 2. King Oscar refuses to accept resignation of Cabinet Ministers. Page 2. International conference on agriculture inaugurated in Rome. Page 2. National. Senator Ekins opposes calling of extra session of Congress. Page 4. Rails furnished Panama Railroad cheaper than sold in the United States. Page 4. Political. Tammany Hall is under attack by New York Civil Service Reform Association. Page 2. Domestic. Labor unions in Chicago settle down for a long struggle. Page 4. Rio Grande does immense damage in Texas valley. Page 3. Mayor Weaver warns Philadelphians that fight with gas trust is not at an end. Page 4. President Alexander of the Equitable, points to Institute in Justice Madox's ruling. Page 5. Pacific Coast. Brave Northern Pacific messenger knocks out chief robber at Bearmouth and saves treasure. Page 3. Gas strike in Southern Oregon breaks and buries miner under tons of earth. Page 3. Rattlesnake acts as an alarm clock. Page 3. Midshipman breaks Navy record at target shooting. Page 10. Marine. Steam vessel inspectors searching for pilot who stranded Toledo. Page 5. Paper's sound pilots laugh at Pilot Board's revocation of licenses. Page 9. Sport. German schooner Hamburg leads with American schooner Equivocal second in trans-Atlantic race. Page 6. Pacific Coast League scores—Portland 5, Oakland 0; Seattle 5, San Francisco 2, morning game; San Francisco 2, Seattle 1, afternoon game; Los Angeles 13, Tacoma 6. Page 13. Results of Eastern games. Page 13. Portland and Vicinity. Democrats of the state give Dr. Harry Lane special aid. Page 12. Fourth Cavalry pitches tents at Exposition grounds. Page 9. Efforts will be made to induce Harriman to build through Central and Eastern Oregon. Page 4. Memorial services held in many Portland churches. Page 12. Fair gates closed to visitors until the opening day. Page 4.