



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 Tokio 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 Tokio 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.

Coaled Fleet Off Luzon. It has now been discovered, the correspondent continues, that Rojestvensky's ships coaled along the coast of the island of Luzon on May 22, and on the following day they cruised about north of Luzon and transferred large quantities of

bunker coal from colliers. Then Rojestvensky decided to divide his fleet into several parts. He traversed the Babee Straits and steamed in a northeasterly direction. On the morning of May 23 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.

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 Tokyo correspondent of the Daily Mail says that 15 of Rojestvensky's ships appeared east of Tsu Island at 2:45 o'clock on Saturday morning; that at 10 o'clock that morning the fleet was passing ten miles southeast of Tatziki, and that cannonading was heard.

FIGHT BEGINS AFTER STORM Sound of Big Guns Is Heard on Mainland.

PARIS, May 28.—No official advice has thus far been given out concerning the naval combat in the Far Eastern waters, and those now arriving from Tokio are of the most meager description. The newspapers this morning fully reproduce the dispatches from the United States and London without comments thereon.

The Journal's special war correspondent, Ludovic Nadeau, who was taken a prisoner at Mukden and sent to Tokio, cables from Tokio under date of May 28 that the authorities there are observing the strictest secrecy regarding the naval battle. He says that on the morning of May 27 a large Russian fleet appeared in the Tsu Straits, entering the channel between Tsu Island and Kiushiu Island, where the belligerents came in contact immediately, their cannonading being heard at Shimonoseki.

Sighted Off Bay of Manila. MANILA, May 28.—Five warships were sighted off Corregidor Island, in the entrance to the Bay of Manila, this morning headed south. It is believed that they were Japanese vessels. On Saturday two ships were sighted 120 miles west of the Babee Straits by the British steamer Yun Sang.

Cables Closed to Dispatches. TOKIO, May 28.—(7:45 P. M.)—Absolutely no news concerning the operations of the Japanese and Russian fleets was obtainable here today. Newspapers are held under absolute lock and all telegrams and cables are closed to press dispatches.

RUSSIAN FLEET IS ANNIHILATED

Twelve Warships Are Sunk or Captured.

CONSORTS ARE DESTROYED

Official Information Given Out by Japanese.

VICTORS' LOSS NOT GIVEN

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

TOKIO, May 28.—(2:15 P. M.)—It is officially announced that Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet has been practically annihilated. Twelve warships have been sunk or captured and two transports and two torpedo-boat destroyers have been sunk.

BATTLESHIP BORODINO IS SUNK Japanese Announce Destruction of Five Other Ships.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—A dispatch was received at the State Department today saying that the Japanese government has made the announcement that its fleet had engaged the Russians in the Straits of Corea Saturday and had held them. The reported sinking of the battleship Borodino is mentioned in a dispatch received at the State Department today from the Consul at Nagasaki. Following is the text of the Nagasaki dispatch to the State Department: "Nagasaki, May 28.—Japanese sunk the Russian battleship Borodino and four more warships and a repair ship."

The belief in naval circles in Washington is 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.

RIDDLED BY THE KASAGA Battleship Ore Was First Hit by Three Torpedoes.

TOKIO, May 28.—(9 A. M.)—The latest rumors about the navy department are to the effect that besides the Borodino, the battleship Ore was sunk in the earlier fighting. She is reported to have been torpedoed three times and afterwards fell a victim to the cruiser Kanaga, which practically riddled her. None of the other Russian vessels sunk are identified by the rumor here.

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—Borodino, hulled by shell fire. Brestsk, sunk by gun fire. Poltava, blown and sunk. Pallada, torpedoed and half-destroyed. Peresviet, hulled by shell fire. Fetters, sunk by shell fire. Sevastopol, hulled and half-destroyed. BLOWN UP AT CHEMULPO—Variaz, first wrecked by Japanese shot. Korietz, hulled by "Uru" ships. SUNK IN COREA STRAITS—Burl, one of the Vladivostok squadron. RUNK OFF SAGHALIEN—Novik, one of the Port Arthur ships. DIEMANTLED IN FOREIGN PORTS—Caravitch, sunk at Kiasokan. Askold, in harbor at Shanghai. Diana, sheltered at Saigon, French Indo-China.

FOG RISES AND FLEET APPEARS Battle Said to Have Started Saturday Afternoon.

LONDON, May 28.—The Times' Tokio correspondent says that telegrams from apparently trustworthy sources show that Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky approached Tsu Island at 11 A. M. in the forenoon of May 27, during a fog, which cleared up in the afternoon, when the Russians were sighted by the Japanese. The battle commenced between 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon. There was a strong breeze blowing, with a high sea.

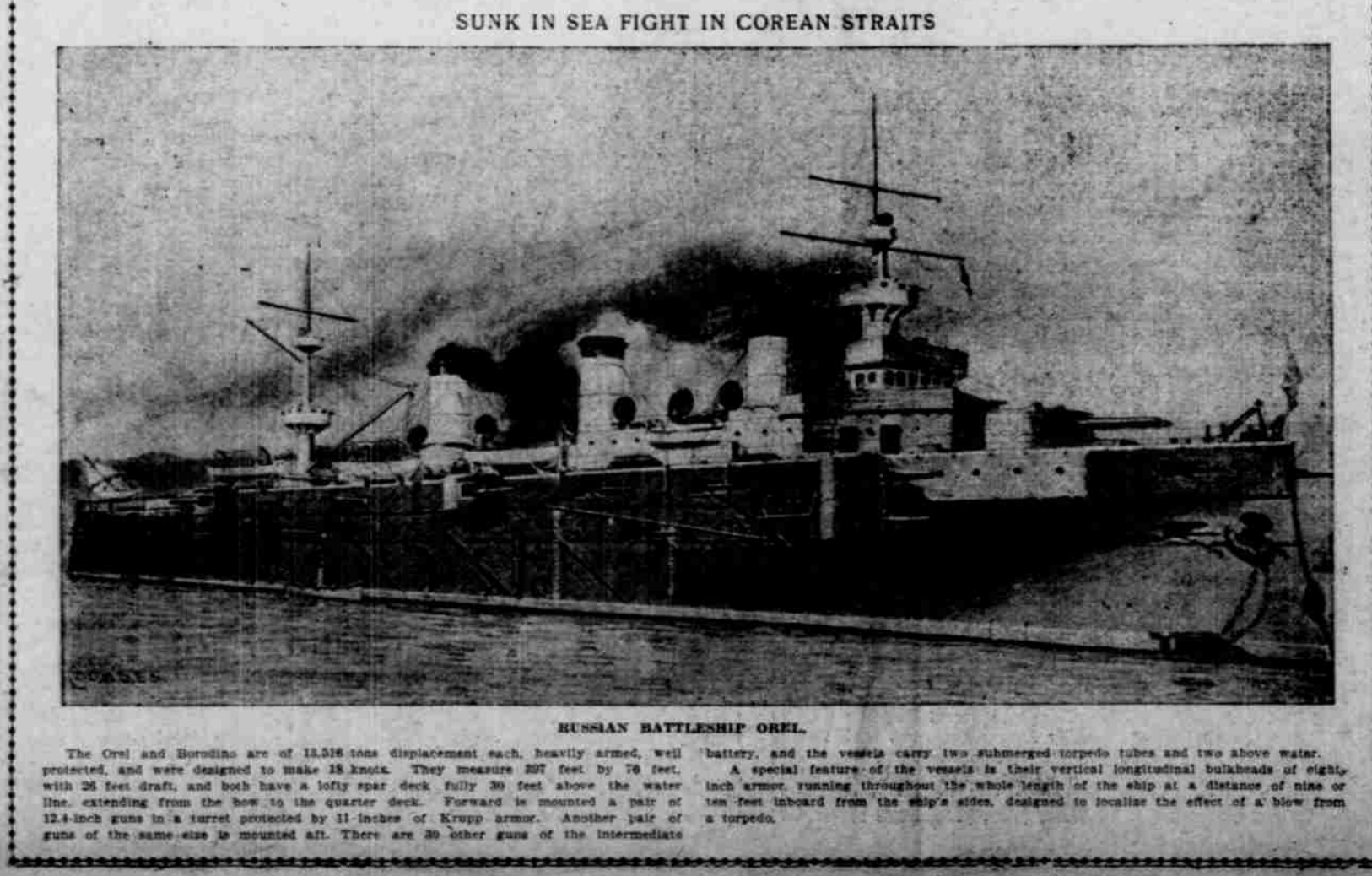
A dispatch to the Times from Paris says that a private telegram from Chefoo, probably from Russian sources, reports that Rojestvensky began to force a passage to the Corea Straits Saturday night, without lights, in two lines, one on each side of Tsu Island. Heavy firing is said to have been heard in the straits between 7:30 and 10:30 o'clock at night, when it ceased.

JAPS LOSE TORPEDO - BOATS Ten of Little Craft and a Cruiser Lost Off Okl.

TSING-TAU, May 28.—There is a running naval engagement between the Russian and Japanese fleets in the Straits of Corea, near the Islands of Okl. 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.

"Togo Will Inform You."

PARIS, May 28.—(4:55 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."



SUNK IN SEA FIGHT IN COREAN STRAITS. 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.

RUSSIAN FLEET IN GREAT SUSPENSE

Fate of Rojestvensky's Fleet Is Awaited.

HOPE PASSAGE IS FORCED

Loss of Five Vessels Would Be Considered Cheap.

CZAR PORES OVER CHARTS

Conference of His Cabinet Is Only Interrupted by Adjournment to Chapel Where Prayers for Success Are Offered.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 28.—(3:15 A. M.)—In this momentous hour the Emperor, the Admiralty and the Russian public are waiting breathlessly for the Japanese to furnish authentic news of the fate of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky and his fleet, in which the hopes of the Russians are centered. The official disposition is to construe Tokio's silence favorably, but at the same time the strategic reason for silence is recognized.

The public, after the premature demonstration of Saturday night, is inclined to reverse its attitude and to become pessimistic. The report sent to Washington by the American Consul at Nagasaki of the sinking of five Russian warships, including a battleship and repair-ship, was accepted as the most definite and the most authentic piece of news received up to midnight, and undoubtedly produced a bad impression. The fear was expressed that the battleship might have been Rojestvensky's flagship, the Khasa Souvaroff, on which the Japanese would undoubtedly concentrate their fire.

Repair-Ship a Heavy Loss.

The sinking of the repair-ship Khamichatka, which was fitted with the most modern machinery, might, it was thought, prove later to be a more severe loss than that of a warship, but at the Admiralty, where crowds congregated Sunday afternoon and evening, hope was expressed that if Rojestvensky had cleared the gateway to the Sea of Japan with no greater loss than that reported by the American Consul, the passage had not been dearly purchased, especially if later reports should prove that the Japanese losses were anything like equal proportionately.

Expect News at Any Time.

WASHINGTON, May 28.—(Special.)—Information reached the State Department this afternoon from the American Consul at Tokio and Chefoo that the long-expected naval conflict in the Far Eastern waters between the forces of Admirals Togo and Rojestvensky began on Saturday morning in Tsushima Channel and was still in progress at last account.

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 raised over proposed removal of Count Tisza from the Premiership. Page 2. King Oscar refuses to accept resignation of Cabinet Ministers. Page 3. International conference on agriculture inaugurated in Rome. Page 3. 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 a 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 injustice in Justice Maddox' ruling. Page 5. Pacific Coast. Brave Northern Pacific messenger knocks out chief robber at Beaufort and saves treasure. Page 2. 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 Ephyra in second trans-Atlantic race. Page 6. Pacific Coast League scores—Portland 5, Oakland 0; Seattle 3, 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 funeral 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 8. Memorial services held in many Portland churches. Page 12. Fair gates closed to visitors until the opening day. Page 4.