

SIEGE AT HAND

Russia Expects Attack on Port Arthur.

Viceroy Warns the Czar

Regard Food Shipments as Contraband of War.

RAISING VOLUNTEER CORPS

Alexieff is Also Rushing in Milling Machinery, and Preparing for a Resistance of at Least Two Years.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—A late dispatch from Port Arthur announces that by order of Viceroy Alexieff an irregular volunteer corps is being organized for the defense of the fortress.

It is thought, the dispatch added, that Japan regards foodstuffs consigned to Port Arthur as absolute contraband of war, and she will undertake to compel the capitulation of Port Arthur by a siege.

Major-General Pflug, the chief of staff of Viceroy Alexieff, telegraphs from Port Arthur today as follows: "The situation at Port Arthur is unchanged. A column of Cossacks, marching from Wiju, captured a Japanese Major, Tatsara, with five soldiers and two civilians."

The reports regarding the enemy are generally contradictory and scarce.

It is confirmed that troops of Yuan Shih Kai, Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese Army, are being dispatched to Tsin Chou and Skungping, in the Province of Shantung.

"All is quiet in Manchuria."

RUSSIANS HIGHLY CONFIDENT.

They Do Not Believe the Japanese Can Effect and Maintain a Landing.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 20.—Although the Japanese seem to be making Port Arthur one of their main objectives, military men here do not believe that they will be able to effect and hold a landing there.

RUSSIA PROVIDES FOR SIEGE.

Expected to Have Sufficient Supplies for Two Years' Resistance.

YINKOW, Feb. 20.—By means of a special permission obtained from Major-General Pflug, Viceroy Alexieff's chief of staff, a newspaper correspondent succeeded in passing the lines under official escort, and visited Port Arthur, which is closed to all civilians.

AMERICAN SHIP WITHDRAWN.

Wilmington is Ordered to Proceed From Chefoo to Shanghai.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.—A cablegram received at the Navy Department today from the Commander of the gunboat Wilmington, at Chefoo, announcing the departure of that vessel for Shanghai.

RUSSIAN FLEET SAILING HOME

Vessels Which Started for Port Arthur Sighted on Return Trip.

ISLAND OF PERIM, Feb. 20.—A squadron of warships passed here at midnight, bound for Suva. It was believed to be the Russian squadron recently at Jibuti, French Somaliland.

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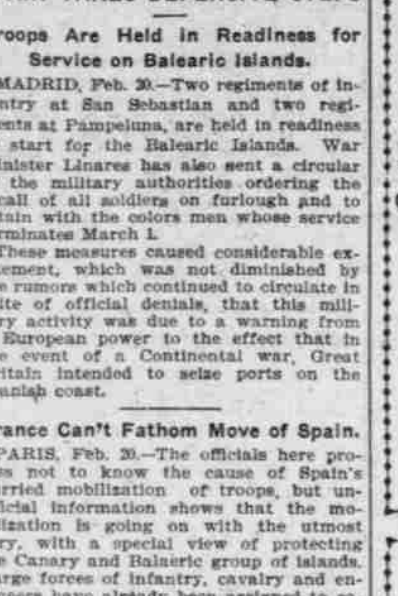
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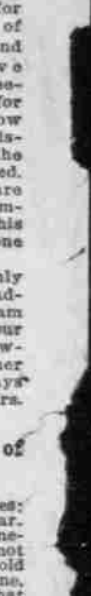
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