

## NAVAL BATTLE IS IN PROGRESS

### Great Fleets Meet in Straits of Corea.

### OUTCOME STILL IN DOUBT

### Russian Fleet Makes Dash to Enter Sea of Japan.

### CLOSE SECRECY AT TOKIO

### Greatest Crisis of War Finds Both Belligerents in Breathless Suspense—Russians Sink an American Steamer.

TOKIO, May 28.—(9 P. M.)—Admiral Togo attacked the Russian fleet in the Korean Straits at noon today and the battle is still in progress.

There is no longer any question that the Russian war fleet under command of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky has entered the Straits of Corea on the final stage of its long journey from the Baltic Sea, whence it sailed in October last for its substituted destination, Vladivostok. Its original objective point, Port Arthur, having now fallen into the hands of the Japanese.

Beyond the fact that Russians were yesterday in the vicinity of the Tsu Islands, all is conjecture. Apparently the only avenue of news transmission are held by the Japanese and the authorities of that country are exercising a rigorous censorship.

The paucity of information which the censor has permitted to pass has formed the basis for the belief in high quarters at St. Petersburg that an engagement has been fought and that the Japanese have suffered a defeat, the theory being that were the facts otherwise, they would have been immediately given to the world. At the same time, the course taken by Rojestvensky's fleet, through the narrow waters eastward of Corea, may be accepted as evidence that he is bent on forcing Togo to accept battle, the alternative being the bombardment of Japanese ports and the sweeping of the Japanese merchant marine from those waters.

### DEEP SECRECY MARKS JAPAN

Officials Tell Nothing Beyond Passing of Hostile Fleet.

TOKIO, May 28.—(2 A. M.)—Throughout the night the lights have been burned at the War and Navy Departments and high chiefs of the bureau have met in secret conference and have discussed the probable outcome of the naval battle that has either been fought or is, at the farthest, but a few hours off. Whatever news has been received is a secret carefully guarded, nor will the slightest of publicity be thrown on the happenings of the night until the news shall come from the Japanese fleet. The censorship is the strictest since the war began and it is said that all cable messages received are withheld and will be detained at the receiving station until passed by the censor.

The only thing officially admitted by the Japanese officials is that the main fleet of the Russians, flying the flag of a Vice-Admiral, was seen on Saturday steaming in two columns through the Tsushima Straits with Gotoyas of torpedo craft in front and in the rear. The battleships were in the van, while in the rear came the armored cruisers, volunteer fleet and the colliers. The rear was brought up by two battleships. All of the larger vessels were cleared for action and torpedo-boats were down.

No one knows where the Japanese fleet was at that time, nor what the intention of the Admiral commanding was, but it is imagined that he is fully cognizant of the whereabouts of the enemy and disposition of his forces.

If a battle has been fought, or even if there has been a preliminary skirmish between the advance guard of the Russians and the Japanese scout ships, that fact is a closely guarded secret. History is being made at the present moment, but the curtain must remain down until Japan decides to raise it, or a shipload of wounded reaches a neutral port.

In official quarters it is believed the result of the fight will be favorable to Japan, but no one cares to hazard any guesses until the government gets ready to issue a statement. Certain it is that the attitude of the officials is most confident, far from being that of men apprehensive of receiving bad news.

### RUMORS OF BATTLE STIR TOKIO

Togo's Fleet Seeks Fight Before Enemy Reaches Vladivostok.

SPECIAL CABLE.

TOKIO, May 28.—Not since the breaking out of the war has there been so much suppressed excitement and anxiety in this city as prevails this morning. Throughout the night many rumors have been in circulation to the effect that the fleets of Admirals Togo and Rojestvensky had met in battle and that one or the other had been destroyed. While these rumors had the effect of stirring up the people

as they never have been stirred before, none of them could be verified nor have they apparently any information at the Navy Department.

At midnight the correspondent of the Publishers' Press saw one of the leading officials of the Japanese government and was assured by him that up to that time no word had been received from Admiral Togo. He added, however: "We cannot tell now what moment may bring fighting, and we are waiting for information."

This remark was pregnant with meaning, inasmuch as the Japanese fleet is equipped with wireless telegraph and word of a battle would come as soon as the fleets meet. It is believed that either Saturday or Sunday night an attack by destroyers and torpedo craft on the Russian fleet may be expected.

Rojestvensky, confident in his strength, is making a bold movement through the Eastern Tsushima Channel, and apparently is desirous of reaching the Sea of Japan by the easiest route, regardless of the opposition of the Japanese. Should he gain his point unopposed, he can be depended on to cut the Japanese lines of communication and interfere with the landlocked harbors where the Japanese transports are landing troops at will.

However, it can be stated upon the highest authority that this will not be the case. The Japanese squadron left its base in the Elliott Islands some days ago and all of the heavy-armed ships under Admiral Togo are with the fleet. Momentous news can be expected at any moment, and the Japanese experts will be greatly surprised if the outcome is not the total annihilation of the enemy's fleet.

### WILL BOTTLE UP THE FLEET

Naval Experts Believe Japanese Adopt Tactics of Santiago.

PARIS, May 27.—The naval situation in the Far East has been discussed between French and American naval officers, including Admirals who took part in the Spanish War. Both the French and Americans took the view that the Japanese would permit the Russian fleet to enter Vladivostok, which thereafter would become the scene of a repetition of the naval situation at Santiago and Port Arthur. A French officer said it was the choice of Russian sailors to seek the support of land fortifications, where they adopt the defensive, making sorties under cover of the guns of the forts, instead of adopting open-sea tactics.

On the other hand, it was pointed out as at Santiago and Port Arthur, the Russians keeping under the shore defenses and the Japanese maintaining a blockade outside and trying to obstruct the dispatch of supplies.

Both the American and French officers believe that such a situation would result in a prolonged delay, the final result depending upon Rojestvensky's audacity in hazarding a sortie and a fight in the open sea.

### AMERICAN STEAMER IS SUNK

Russian Fleet Does Act Off Coast of Formosa.

TOKIO, May 28.—(9 A. M.)—News has been received here that Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet sunk an American steamer off Formosa about May 21. The name of the steamer is unknown. Her crew was saved.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—(Special.)—If an American vessel has been sunk by Rojestvensky, as reported from Tokio, an immediate demand for reparation will be made by the Government. The Vladivostok cruiser, the British steamer Knight Commander, and Russia was compelled to make an apology and pay an indemnity to Great Britain.

### STEAMING IN TWO COLUMNS

Japan Refuses Further Information About Russian Fleet.

TOKIO, May 27.—(9 A. M.)—Transmittable information concerning today's historic events in the neighborhood of Tsu Islands, is limited to the bare fact that Rear-Admiral Rojestvensky's main fleet, steaming in two columns, with the battleships in the starboard and the cruisers and monitors on the port side, appeared in the Strait of Corea. All other information is withheld by the Japanese authorities and cable transmissions are refused any other reference to movements of the Russian vessels, or the movements of the Japanese.

### THROUGH KURILE STRAITS.

Four Russian Ships Pass to Northward of Japan.

TOKIO, May 27.—(2:15 P. M.)—It is reported here that four Russian warships passed through the Kurile Straits to the westward May 25. The names of the vessels are unknown, but it is possible that they were light cruisers from Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet.

(Kurile Straits divide the Peninsula of Kamchatka and the northernmost islands of Japan.)

### FLEET PASSING TSU ISLANDS

Rojestvensky Boldly Dashes Into Straits of Corea.

NAGASAKI, May 27.—It is reported that Russian fleet is passing Tsu Islands, in the Strait of Corea.

The sighting of Admiral Rojestvensky's fleet off the Tsu Islands would seem to indicate that the Russian commander has determined to take the boldest course, and, instead of skirting Japan and entering the Sea of Japan by the Tsugaru or La Perouse Straits, to push direct

## JOY IS MINGLED WITH SUSPENSE

### Russia Exultant Over Rojestvensky's Progress, but Anxious for Battle.

### VLADIVOSTOK FLEET OUT

No News at St. Petersburg Except From Tokio—Admiral Hailed as Master of Strategy—Fate of Empire in Balance.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 28.—(1:30 A. M.)—The Russian Foreign Office and the Admiralty thus far have been entirely dependent upon the Associated Press dispatches from Tokio for news concerning the movements of the warships in the Korean Straits, and up to midnight were in receipt of no telegrams from the Russian fleet.

The Associated Press is able to announce that the Vladivostok cruisers have left that port and are now acting in general co-operation with Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky under plans prepared for the present emergency. Captain Broussiloff, who is well-known in the United States, commands the armored cruiser Gromobol. Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's success in reaching the Korean Strait, the gateway to Vladivostok, has aroused something like genuine enthusiasm. The showy Russian capital on the banks of the Neva, arrayed in gala attire and illuminated in honor of the anniversary of the coronation of Emperor Nicholas, seemed in a festive mood for the occasion. For once St. Petersburg was not pessimistic. Everywhere the report current on the Russian streets that Rojestvensky had defeated Togo was accepted as true, and in the streets the Russian Admiral's name was on every lip. In the cafes and gardens he was toasted as the hero of the hour. Yet in reality St. Petersburg had only Tokio's advice, but perhaps for once the Russian people, so easily a prey to despair, might be pardoned for this premature jubilation after the unbroken series of reverses suffered on sea and land.

### Officials Wait Breathlessly.

The authorities, however, while elated over the news, indulged in no unwarranted rejoicing, but instead awaited almost breathlessly for future news. The lights in the Admiralty Office burned far into the night and the fact that no other dispatches had arrived from Tokio, where alone the secret of the real situation was known, was considered reassuring. Admiral Wirovsky, chief of the general staff of the navy, said to the Associated Press: "If Rojestvensky has cleared the Korean Strait, God bless him! He has open water ahead. If he has succeeded in mystifying the enemy and entered the Japan Sea with his force unimpeded, he has earned the title of master of naval strategy."

### Czar's Keen Anxiety.

At Tsarskoe-Selo, where it is realized that the whole fortune of the war and possibly the fate of the dynasty is staked upon the issue, the greatest anxiety prevailed. Emperor Nicholas received the news with satisfaction, but without elation, as an indication that Rojestvensky had outwitted his adversary and had cleared the difficult entrance to the Japan Sea. Throughout the Emperor has displayed the greatest confidence in Rojestvensky's ability to turn the trick, but with the arrival of the decisive moment he showed nervousness and repeatedly had officials at court inquire of the Admiralty and the Foreign Office for dispatches, but neither Ministry could relieve the imperial suspense.

Captain von Essen, of Port Arthur fame, one of the most capable of Russian naval officers, is one of those who believe that Rojestvensky's arrival in the Korean Strait is not an affair of mystification, but is due to the relative strength of the fleets. He expressed to the Associated Press the utmost confidence that Rojestvensky would reach Vladivostok without fighting a decisive battle, Togo's fleet being too weak, he believed, to meet that of Russia in open combat.

It is undeniable that many thoughtful Liberals display almost consternation over the success that thus far has attended Rojestvensky's voyage. A decisive victory for him, they believe, might so strengthen the government so as not only to destroy all prospects of peace, but enable the government, if it chooses, to stifle the whole programme of reforms, and for many years their dreams of a parliament and a constitution.

### RUSSIA BUYS SWIFT CRUISER

Kaiser Friedrich Will Prey on Japanese Commerce in Pacific.

LONDON, May 28.—Lloyds declare that the Russian government has purchased the crack German liner, Kaiser Friedrich, of 5147 tons net register, and that she will be at once converted into a commerce-destroyer and sent to the Pacific to prey upon Japanese vessels. She is to be armed with a double battery of quick-firing guns and lightly plated above the boilers.

The Kaiser Friedrich was built at the Vulcan Shipyards at Danzig in 1897 for the Hamburg-American Line, under a stipulation that she would do 21 knots an hour at her trial. She failed and was returned to her builders, but was afterward chartered by the line and placed in service. As a commerce-destroyer she is likely to prove formidable, inasmuch as her batteries will be six-inch rapid-firing guns. Her coal-carrying capacity is enormous, and she will have a steaming radius greater than any vessel in the navy of either Russia or Japan.

### RUSSIA OPEN TO JEWS.

If American Citizens They Can Return Home Without Persecution.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 27.—Jews who have been admitted to American citizenship will be permitted to return to Russia without interference. The Controller of the Passport Department said today: "The new law abolishes all discrimination against the religious faith of the Americans residing in Russia, and will bring about the return of 500,000 naturalized Jews who emigrated on account of religious views. Their American citizenship gives them equal rights with members of the orthodox church. They will return home because the struggle for existence is easier here."

## MAYOR WEAVER WINS IN GAS WAR

### Lease Withdrawn by Philadelphia Machine at Request of the Trust.

### DEFEAT IS THUS AVOIDED

### Surrender Follows Spontaneous Uprising of People, Who Drive Councilmen to Vote Down Lease—War Goes On.

PHILADELPHIA, May 27.—After a contest lasting five days the Republican organization, led by Insurance Commissioner Israel W. Durham, was forced today by public opposition and clamor to abandon its efforts to extend the lease of the city gas works to the United Gas Improvement Company for 75 years. Thomas Dolan, president of the company, today forwarded a formal letter to the presidents of the select and common branches of City Councils withdrawing his proposition to advance the city \$25,000,000 in consideration of the extension of the lease which the company now holds. This action was taken after a protracted conference with Mr. Durham, State Senator McNichol and Select Councilman Charles Seger, who presented the gas lease resolutions in Councils.

The death knell was sounded at 2 o'clock this afternoon. At that hour President Dolan, of the United Gas Improvement Company, made public a letter addressed to the Presidents of the Select and Common Councils, announcing that in view of the public agitation against the lease and the fact that the Council had amended the lease as proposed originally to provide for the reduction of the price of gas from \$1 to 90 cents per 1000 feet after a period of 20 years, he would not consent under any circumstances to accept the ordinance if it should become law.

It was a backdown for the United Gas Improvement Company. It was an acknowledgment of defeat on the part of the Israel Durham organization, which had boasted that it would pass the measure over the Mayor's veto.

Without trying to test its power before the Council, the gas company and the machine surrendered.

The machine and the gas men did not give up the fight until they had been overwhelmed with evidence that it would be difficult, if not utterly impossible, for them to defeat Mayor Weaver on the gas question. During the last two days they had seen the Councilmen on whom they relied to pass the measure over the veto driven by the influence of popular clamor to pledge themselves to support the Mayor. With five desertions from the ranks of their former supporters announced they knew the end had come and surrendered rather than make the fight openly and lose. The surrender of the machine had been decided on before all the pledges should be made. The outpouring of the people at the mass meeting last night and the spontaneous uprising of the people, who called in committees running into the hundreds last night at the houses of many Councilmen to demand pledges against the lease, had shown Durham and his advisers that the people were aroused on the question of the lease as they have never been on any other subject.

A conference was held this morning in the office of Durham. There the boss announced his determination to give up the fight. With Senator McNichol, Select Councilman Seger, Senator Scott, Chairman D. Haven, of the finance committee of the Councils, and A. S. L. Shields, his legal adviser, Durham went to the office of Senator Boise Penrose. There the plan to have the ordinance withdrawn was fully agreed to.

### WILKESBARRE DAMES OBJECT TO FLORODORA GIRL.

Attempt to Prevent Her Putting on Her New Musical Comedy There.

### NAN NOT LOVED BY WOMEN

WILKESBARRE, Pa., May 27.—Nan Patterson will find her path back to the stage beset by thorns, in this city, at least. She has been billed to appear here in a musical comedy, Tuesday matinee and night, but will hardly be allowed to do so, as public sentiment, particularly among the women, is too great. Today nearly half a hundred women called on the Mayor, demanding that Executive action be taken and the former Florodora girl be prevented from appearing here. They were assured that if the city authorities could find means of preventing the performance they would do so.

### COMMANDERS OF OPPOSING FLEETS



ADMIRAL ROJESTVENSKY.

ADMIRAL TOGO.

## O'BRIEN SUCCEEDS B.A. WORTHINGTON

### General Manager Makes This Announcement at a Banquet.

### RAILWAY MEN ARE PLEASED

### High Esteem in Which the Retiring Head of the Harriman System in Oregon Is Held in Portland Fully Shown.

"While we are standing, let us drink to my worthy successor," said B. A. Worthington, general manager of the O. R. & N. and Southern Pacific lines in Oregon, last night, at a banquet given him at the Hotel Portland by the railroad officials of the Harriman system, who have been associated with him since his stay in Portland. "Who is he?" came the question from nearly every one present. "J. P. O'Brien," declared Mr. Worthington, enthusiastically, his voice trembling with emotion.

### CONTENTS—TODAY'S PAPER

The Weather. TODAY'S—Cloudy and occasionally threatening. Winds mostly southerly. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 70 deg.; minimum, 32. Precipitation, none.

The War in the Far East. Russian fleet progresses between great fleets. Russian fleet steams through Korean Strait on way to Vladivostok. Page 1. Wild excitement in Japan and Russia. Page 1. Land operations await result of naval battle. Page 3. American steamer sunk by Russian fleet. Page 1.

Foreign. King Oscar vetoes Norwegian consular bill and causes crisis. Page 9. European statements all court Hay. Page 1.

National. Title to Collo Canal right of way approved and work will now begin. Page 2. No restrictions on grazing in new forest reserves. Page 2.

Pacific Coast. Philadelphia machine withdraws gas lease and gives victory to Weaver. Page 1. Building trades unions openly quarrel with teamsters; more clothing. Page 2. Tornado sweeps Oklahoma and Indian Territory, doing much damage. Page 3. Iowa boy attempts blackmail; one of a family of sixteen. Page 3. Women boycott Nan Patterson's show. Page 4. Secretary Taff; tells law students of possibilities in Philadelphia. Page 3. Nebraska criminal will be his own hangman. Page 2.

Commercial and Marine. North Coast Limited held up in Montana; passengers are not harmed. Page 2. Oregon State Grange has rush of business at the close. Page 4. Seattle doctor gives girl a rubber nose. Page 4. J. S. McMillin, of Roche Harbor, will probably become Washington Railroad Commissioner. Page 5. Captain Berry, of transport Sheridan, to be court-martialed at Vancouver Barracks. Page 5. Murderer Williams teaches boy prisoner at The Dalles with Bible for text book. Page 4. Wife of Nome millionaire loses diamond necklace at Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Page 5. Francis Haurerant, wealthy misnomer, shot and thrown into Trinity River, California. Page 3.

Portland and Vicinity. What the building of projected railroads means to Portland. Page 10. What the hopgrowers' trust is doing. Page 14. Mayor Williams makes strong political speech. Page 11. Ready market healthy and active. Page 18. Rooms enough in Portland for all who may come. Page 24. Bassett McMillin lead for the vacant Judgeship. Page 24. It is estimated that 16,000 votes will be cast for Mayor. Page 11. Grave charges made against management of carpet-cleaning establishment. Page 10. Tribute by bench and bar to the late Judge Bellinger's worth. Page 14. Old man brutally beaten by a special policeman. Page 10. Proposed street-car amendment if voted in will give Portland Consolidated control of streets of city. Page 12. Worthington announces at banquet that J. P. O'Brien is his successor. Page 1.

Sports. Pacific Coast League scores: Portland 17, Tacoma 10, Los Angeles 3, Seattle 9, San Francisco 5, Page 16. Corvallis defeats Oregon on track. Page 10. Cornell wins field meet on Big Four. Page 10. Races open at Seattle. Page 10. Hanlon mixes with automobile. Page 10. Gospel of the ring. Page 17. Giants take a brace. Page 17. Handicap tennis meet planned. Page 17. Cornell wins rowing race. Page 17. Result of the handicap bowling tournament. Page 16. Calico base in the Columbia River. Page 17. Portland drubs Oakland by a score of 17 to 9. Page 16.

Features and Departments. Editorial. Page 4. Church announcements. Page 18. Classified advertisements. Pages 19-23. Men and women we read about. Page 40. Memorial day, 1905. Page 40. Frederic J. Haskin's letter. Page 44. Charles Byron Bellinger, a tribute of love. Page 45. Hygiene of sleep and relaxation. Page 45. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis' sermon. Page 48. Dramatic. Pages 39-41. Household and fashion. Pages 42-43. Youth's department. Page 47. Rafters. Page 46.

### General Manager Makes This Announcement at a Banquet.

### RAILWAY MEN ARE PLEASED

### High Esteem in Which the Retiring Head of the Harriman System in Oregon Is Held in Portland Fully Shown.

As one body the guests rose to their feet and drank again and again to the health of Mr. O'Brien, at the same time voicing their appreciation over the appointment with unrestrained enthusiasm. They then marched around the table, and the 23 railroad officials present embraced and congratulated Mr. O'Brien, one by one. When the excitement ended by the announcement of Mr. Worthington's resignation, Mr. O'Brien as general manager of the Harriman system in Oregon had not yet been made officially, but that he had received the news straight from headquarters, and that its authenticity was unquestioned.

### High Praise for O'Brien.

Mr. Worthington also stated that Mr. O'Brien would rather not have had the news made public until it was officially announced, but that the time was so opportune he could not keep the good news any longer. Mr. Worthington said that when he had informed the high officials of the road of his intention of resigning, he recommended Mr. O'Brien in the most glowing terms, as he was one of the very best railroad men it had ever been his pleasure to meet. Mr. O'Brien has been general superintendent of the O. R. & N. and Southern Pacific lines in Oregon, with headquarters in Portland, since 1894. No announcement has been made as to his successor to the position of general superintendent.

The high esteem and regard the O. R. & N. and Southern Pacific officials of the Oregon lines hold for Mr. Worthington, who has been in Portland only three months and a half, was beautifully exemplified at the magnificent banquet held last night. The guests, most of them railroad officials, who have been intimately associated with Mr. Worthington since he has been general manager of the Harriman system in Oregon, rose to their feet one after another to speak of the friendship and great respect they held for the man who leaves next Wednesday for the East.

Many of the toasts were very impressive and touching in the extreme, as the men told how they regretted to have Mr. Worthington depart from their midst, and the circle of undying friendship in which he had so firmly established himself. Henry Connor, president of the board, and he called upon Colonel Crooks for the first address. Colonel Crooks told of the pleasant relationship that had existed between Mr. Worthington and himself, and said it was the same way with all the men who had been so fortunate as to come in contact with Mr. Worthington, either socially or in business. He was so filled with emotion that he had to pause several times in the middle of his address to regain his composure.

Mr. Worthington was the last one to respond to the toasts and he delivered a short but remarkable address, in which he thanked all those present and the employees of the railroad for the kind and courteous treatment they had accorded him since his arrival in Portland. Mr. Worthington said he could not find words to express his appreciation of the sincere sentiments of respect and friendship they plainly showed. He also spoke of the future of the Northwest, and predicted that this section of the country would more than double its population in the next decade.

### Beautiful Floral Decorations.

The parlors of the Hotel Portland, in which the banquet was held, was a mass of flowers and plants. The table on which the banquet was served was literally covered with American Beauty roses. From the ceilings were hung smilax, evergreens and maple leaves, through which twinkled many tiny colored electric lights. In one part of the room there was a solid bed of growing bushes covered with roses. Those who saw the room say it was one of the most beautifully arranged banquet apartments ever decorated in the West. It was all the plan of H. C. Bowers, manager of the Hotel Portland, and was decorated under his personal and direct supervision. Music was furnished by Weber's orchestra. The banquet lasted from 8 o'clock last night until about 2 o'clock this morning.

The following are the names of those for whom places were set at the banquet table:

B. A. Worthington, H. F. Conner, J. P. O'Brien, R. B. Miller, George F. Wilson, R. Koehler, Captain Conroy, D. W. Campbell, D. B. Smith, R. C. Judson, A. H. Cunningham, R. L. Donald, E. A. Klippel, T. W. Younger, H. M. Adams, W. E. Coman, W. W. Griswold, G. W. Boeckhe, J. F. Graham, Dr. George Ainslie, L. B. Fields, J. F. Newell, J. F. Meyer, J. H. Robb, James Langley, J. W. Morrow, M. J. Buckley, H. J. Strilling, Dr. E. J. MacKenzie, E. E. Lurie, Colonel William Crooks, W. D. Fenton.