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**News of Alexieff's Withdrawal to Harbin an Unpleasant Shock.**

BERLIN, Feb. 24.—I have just arrived here from Russia, where I learned from sources in exceptionally close touch with the General Staff of the army that Viceroy Alexieff has determined to fall back to Harbin, leaving Port Arthur to work out its own salvation.  
Alexieff takes this step in view of the utter impossibility of maintaining and protecting a line of communication 1,200 miles long and as vulnerable to attack as the railway through Manchuria.

The Viceroy is fully confident that Port Arthur can withstand a long siege. He is now fortifying Harbin, and will use it as the base of a great army.

Many considerations recommend his present plan to him. Should the Japanese be allured by the tempting bait, the hope of capturing Harbin, as were the Boers by Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking, they will be placed in a dilemma.

If they advance Port Arthur will be a perpetual menace to their rear. If they do not advance Alexieff will collect his forces at Harbin and concentrating troops there, will wait until spring, when he will advance in such overwhelming strength that resistance to him will be almost impossible.

Nevertheless the announcement that Harbin, and not the "impregnable" Port Arthur, will be the base of future operations, has been received with consternation in Russian military circles.

It has caused a sensation even more painful than the calamities which have befallen the Russian fleet as more clearly than any event that has occurred, it reveals the formidable nature of the enemy to whom Russia is opposed.

The feeling of alarm and despondency grows deeper at St. Petersburg and Moscow.

The police have good reasons to believe that the Revolutionaries are taking part in the so-called patriotic manifestations. They await the opportunity to do harm while hidden in the mobs which gather before the Palace and elsewhere. The police are earnestly discouraging these gatherings.

I am informed that Russian naval officers believe the missing cruiser Rayan has met a similar fate to the Yenesei, having accidentally touched one of the Russian mines.

DUDLEY PORTER.  
Russia Wants Short War.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 23.—Russia is sending reinforcements to the scene of war at the rate of 3000 men a day, and it is confidently announced here that Japan will have been driven into the sea by early Autumn. General Kuropatkin will not leave for the Far East for another fortnight, and when he does go will probably assume command of the land forces subject to Alexieff's orders, the latter retaining chief command as military dictator. No fear is entertained here for the safety of Port Arthur. Grand Duke Alexis has reconsidered his determination to remain in St. Petersburg and may go to the Far East.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 23.—"The war will end in August or September, in the complete defeat of the Japanese," said to the Associated Press today a high authority in intimate touch with the Russian war plans, whose opinion can be taken faithfully to reflect the belief in the highest official quarters. He added:  
"How the Japanese can hope to succeed when our army in the East is strengthened to a point equal or superior in numbers to that of our adversaries we are honestly unable to comprehend. It will not be difficult to place two, four or even six hundred thousand additional men in the field if necessary. When our forces are concentrated and ready they will finish by driving the Japanese into the sea."

"So far as Great Britain is concerned, we do not believe any hallucinations existed there. We think the British statesman who did so much to push Japan into war realized that with Japan's defeat they would accomplish two things for Great Britain—first, to give Russia a check, for, of course, the war must impede our progress temporarily; second, to cripple Japan's maritime power, which was beginning to be greatly felt in the Pacific.

**RUSSIA WINS NAVAL VICTORY**

**FOUR JAPANESE SHIPS SUNK AT PORT ARTHUR**

**THE NEWS IS GIVEN OUT BY RUSSIA OF HER NAVAL GLORY—BRIDGES AND BOOTH TO BE RETAINED IN ROSEBURG LAND OFFICE**

SHANGHAI, Feb. 24.—1:35 P. M.—The Russian Consul and the commander of the Russian gunboat Mandjur, now in these waters, received an official telegram today announcing that the Japanese made a futile attack on Port Arthur last night. The dispatch added that six vessels were reported to be disabled, but the character and nationality of the ships were unknown.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 24.—It is officially announced from Port Arthur that four Japanese battleships and two Japanese transports have been sunk in a fresh attack on Port Arthur. The attack was repulsed.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—A dispatch to the Havas Agency from Port Arthur says that four Japanese cruisers and two Japanese transports have been sunk in a fresh attack on Port Arthur. The dispatch adds that the attack was repulsed, and that the Russian battleship Retzivan covered herself with glory.

PARIS, Feb. 24.—The Foreign Office received late this afternoon the following dispatch from the French Consulate at Chefoo:

"The Russians have repulsed a Japanese attack upon Port Arthur. Four Japanese battleships were damaged and run aground."

WEI HAI WEI, Feb. 24.—Four Japanese battleships and nine cruisers passed this port today, bound eastward.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The news of further fighting off Port Arthur was communicated to Foreign Minister Lord Lansdowne by the Associated Press while he was holding a reception at the Foreign Office. This was the first announcement of the battle received by the Foreign Office.

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The fleet which passed Wei Hai Wei today is supposed to have been Admiral Togo's fleet leaving Port Arthur.

LONDON, Feb. 24, 6 p. m.—A Russian report reached here this afternoon that four Japanese battleships and two transports were sunk in an engagement off Port Arthur yesterday. The dispatch adds that the Japanese made the attack and were repulsed with the loss stated. The dispatch also says that the Russian battleship Retzivan, which was seriously damaged in the first attack, was active in battle and carried off high honors for skillful fighting.

LATER: LONDON, Feb. 24, 9 p. m.—Japanese Minister Hayashi stated late tonight that he has information which discredits the St. Petersburg report of a Japanese naval disaster.

**BOOTH AND BRIDGES.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—President Roosevelt has promised to reappoint Joseph T. Bridges as Register and James H. Booth as Receiver of the Roseburg Land Office, and the nominations of both men will be sent to the Senate within the next few days. They will be confirmed without a doubt.

This is the result of a conference that took place at the White House, at which the President heard the two Oregon Senators, Secretary Hitchcock and Assistant Secretary Ryan. On the adverse recommendation of the Secretary the President has heretofore refused to reappoint either Booth or Bridges, but at the solicitation of the Senators he went to the bottom of the case and apparently found no sufficient reason for refusing to reappoint either man. In face of the President's attitude, Secretary Hitchcock will interpose no further objection to the reappointment of Bridges and Booth.

**\$300 Reward**  
I will pay \$300 reward for the recovery of A. N. Drake, who was lost in the mountains near Dadds creek on Jan. 18, 1904. This offer of reward is good until March 1, 1904.  
MRS. A. N. DRAKE.  
Glendale, Or., Feb. 5, 1904. 13-11-p

**Reward Reward**  
Lost, strayed or stolen, one small mare weighing about 1000 lb., left hind foot white, small white spot over right nostril, mane and tail cropped. Was last seen in Cresson's pasture, Dec. 24, 1903. \$2.50 will be paid for proof of death, \$5.00 for information leading to her recovery, \$7.50 for her return to B. Jones, Roseburg.  
p-11-15

**Troops for Panama.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The War Department today issued orders for the entire Third Regiment of infantry to proceed to the Isthmus of Panama. The regiment will leave at the earliest possible time on the transports Sumner and McClellan from New York.

The regiment is going to Panama to relieve the marines stationed there. The regiment will be commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Woodbury, the present Colonel, Haskell, being about to retire with an advanced rank.

The War Department has in the past strenuously denied reports that it intended to send troops to the isthmus, but it is now explained that the statement only applied to conditions as they existed before the United States acquired vested rights through the acquisition of the canal zone by the ratification of the canal treaty.

As soon as the department satisfied itself that ratification was certain, it took the necessary steps to permanently garrison the isthmus, which could not be easily done with marines.

The department announces that none of the families of officers or enlisted men of the Third Infantry would be allowed to accompany the regiment. In the future, when permanent barracks and officers' quarters are constructed on modern plans, this restriction may be removed.

The 1000 marines now on the isthmus will be taken to Guantanamo as rapidly as their places can be filled by the troops. From Guantanamo at least a part of this force will be taken to the Philippines, probably coming to the United States and embarking from San Francisco for Manila.

Orders for 600 marines to sail from that point at an early date were issued a short time ago, and it is likely that an additional force will go out later, in pursuance of the Navy Department's policy of rebuilding in every way possible the Asiatic station and strengthening the marine force at Olongapo. It is intended that an adequate force of marines shall be kept at Guantanamo in case of probable emergencies in Central and South America. Especially is it desired that there shall be a sufficient force there for the Government to call upon if it should undertake to execute a drastic program in San Domingo.

**The Panama Treaty.**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The closing day of the Senate discussion on the Panama Canal treaty opened at 11:15 today. Bacon took the floor to explain his vote on the treaty. He said there had been a serious question raised as to whether a Senator should be guided by the wishes of his constituents or by his own judgment in voting on all important matters of public interest. After giving the question due deliberation, he said he believed a Senator should listen to the wishes of his state, and accordingly he would vote for the treaty. At the same time, he said, notwithstanding the fact that the interests of Georgia called for the ratification of the treaty, the people of the state did not approve recent occurrences on the isthmus.

After stating his position, Bacon spoke of his amendment to the treaty looking to a peaceful settlement of all differences between the United States and Colombia by paying a sum of money to Colombia in full compensation for the surrender and quit claim of all right of sovereignty over the territory embraced in the republic of Panama.

Berry said that if he believed the defeat of the treaty would restore Colombia's sovereignty over Panama, he would vote against the convention, but, he declared, the defeat of the treaty would have been unavailing in that respect. The people of the South wanted the canal, and therefore he thought it the duty of the representatives of the South to vote for the treaty.

The Senate ratified the Panama Canal treaty. The vote was 65 to 14.

**The World's Fair Route.**

Those anticipating an Eastern trip, or a visit to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, cannot afford to overlook the advantages offered by the Missouri Pacific Railway, which, on account of its various routes and gateways, has been appropriately named "The World's Fair Route."

Passengers from the Northwest take the Missouri Pacific trains from Denver or Pueblo, with the choice of either going direct through Kansas City, or via Wichita, Fort Scott and Pleasant Hill. Two trains daily from Denver and Pueblo to St. Louis without change, carrying all classes of modern equipment, including electric lighted observation parlor cafe dining cars. Ten daily trains between Kansas City and St. Louis.

Write, or call on W. C. McBride, General Agent, 124 Third street, Portland, for detailed information and illustrated literature. 15-11

**R. W. FENN,**  
CIVIL ENGINEER  
(Lately with the government's geographical and geological survey of Brazil, South America.)  
**United States Deputy Mineral Surveyor.**  
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