

The Morning Astorian

VOLUME LVIV.

ASTORIA, OREGON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27.

NUMBER 19.

SUPPOSED JAPS WERE UPON THEM

Russian Officers Make Unofficial Explanation of the Events Leading Up to North Sea Affair.

Declare That Torpedoboats Ap- peared Among Vessels and Fired at Them.

UNKNOWN SHIP FIRED FIRST

Part of Baltic Fleet Reaches Vi- go, Spain, Where Authorities Issue Orders Against Coaling.

Vigo, Spain, Oct. 26.—In an Associated Press interview, Admiral Rojstvensky expressed regret for the North sea incident. The admiral stated that the unfortunate occurrence was purely accidental. The weather was hazy. About 1 o'clock a. m. two torpedoboats, which the Russians supposed to be Japanese, appeared between the two divisions of the squadron and seemed to discharge torpedoes. The Russians opened fire, but saw no fishermen, and were not aware that any damage had been done. Evidently, the admiral said, the fishermen had shown no lights. The admiral has no doubt that the Russian government will make ample compensation.

Prince Keretelli's Version.

Prince Keretelli, an officer of the battleship Emperor Alexander III, has been interviewed and given the following explanation of the attack of trawlers:

The transport *Amstel* was steaming ahead of the squadron when she was surrounded by eight torpedoboats and requested assistance, whereupon the battleship division advanced and signaled the unknown vessels to leave or disclose their nationality. The vessels refused to obey and advanced among the battleships. Suddenly a canon shot was heard from an unknown vessel. Then the admiral formed his ships in battle line and replied to the fire, afterward continuing his voyage.

The prince added that the Russians feared the strange torpedoboats were Japanese, as the admiral was aware the Japanese had purchased boats in England.

EXCITEMENT AT VIGO.

Russian Vessels There Reported to Be Cleared for Action.

Vigo, Spain, Oct. 26.—The arrival of the Russian Baltic squadron at this port caused considerable excitement.

The commander of the port immediately boarded the Russian flagship and informed Admiral Rojstvensky that the Spanish government would not permit his warships to coal within the port. Rojstvensky replied that the vessels needed repairs, and for that reason had separated from the remainder of the squadron. The commander of the port promised to inform the Spanish government of the admiral's statement and communicate the government's reply.

In spite of this, five German colliers anchored alongside the battleships, whereupon the commander of the port sent an aid de camp to beg Rojstvensky to not violate Spanish neutrality. He also ordered the commanding officer of the Spanish cruiser *Estramadura* to notify the colliers to obey the port authorities. Eventually Rojstvensky promised that he would not coal in Spanish waters, at the same time begging permission for each warship to take on 400 tons of coal to proceed to Tangier.

Eventually four of the colliers proceeded to Tangier, two remaining. As far as can be seen the crews of the battleships are very uneasy. Sentinels are closely watching every movement within the harbor. All four warships are cleared for action.

MUST NOT COAL THERE.

Spanish Authorities Will Observe Strict Neutrality, They Say.

Madrid, Oct. 26.—The minister of

marine co... of the ar-
rival of a Russian cruiser at Villa-
garia.

The minister has received a telegram from the authorities at Vigo to the effect that two of the Russian battleships now there had sustained damages that render it impossible for them to leave the port within the prescribed 24 hours.

The minister will discuss the question with Foreign Minister San Pedro and give such orders as he may consider right. He declares he will not authorize the coaling of Russian warships in Spanish ports.

SOLD GRANT'S CIGAR STUMPS.

Death of Thomas Connors, Oldest Guide in Washington.

Washington, Oct. 26.—Thomas Connors, known as the oldest guide in Washington, is dead. For nearly 40 years he made a living by conducting visitors about the city and pointing out the various places of interest. He quit the business about 10 years ago.

When President Grant occupied the white house Connors did a thriving trade selling what he termed "General Grant's old sojers." These were the cigar stumps which the president discarded upon entering the mansion or his carriage. Connors wrapped each "old sojer" carefully in tin foil and sold it for from 10 to 25 cents. When asked to furnish the purchaser of a Grant cigar stump with a certificate of its genuineness, Connors made this report:

"Ye don't need any certificate w'it. Take a puff of the sojer and that will convince you it's genuine. General only smokes one brand and that brand is made for him, an' there ain't no imitations."

ALICE KIMBALL SOLD AS WRECK.

Wm. Kyle Purchased Schooner for One Hundred Dollars.

Florence, Ore., Oct. 26.—The captain of the schooner Alice Kimball, which ran ashore near here recently, sold the vessel at auction yesterday as a wreck. She was bought by William Kyle for \$100.

On Sunday night the schooner moved about 100 yards toward the river, and is coming straight in. She will be in the river in less than 10 days, as the tides are getting higher and will continue to do so until full moon.

The vessel is now past all danger and it is strange how it could be sold as a wreck when it is only a question of a few days when she will be floating in smoother, deep water.

HALL NOT LARGE ENOUGH.

John Hay Addresses Great Crowd at Republican Mass Meeting.

New York, Oct. 26.—The crowd at the republican rally at Carnegie hall was so large the doors were locked at 7:30 o'clock. Many were turned away. Secretary of State John Hay made the first speech. He was given an ovation when he appeared. Flags were waved, the bands played and the audience cheered. The audience arose as one man when the presiding officer characterized President Roosevelt as a "man whom all admired and loved."

There was great cheering for Hay when he arose to speak. Hay was frequently interrupted with applause. Ex-Governor Black and Lieutenant-Governor Higgins also spoke.

JAP ATTACK EXPECTED.

Believed Mikado's Men Will Shortly Resume Operations.

Mukden, Oct. 26.—The appointment of Kuropatkin as commander-in-chief was received with universal approval. It will greatly facilitate military operations.

A Japanese attack is expected shortly. Russian batteries continue to harass the Japanese. Otherwise everything is quiet.

PARKER TO TAKE STUMP.

Will Make Speeches in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

New York, Oct. 26.—Judge Parker has been dissuaded from his determination not to go on a speaking tour. Between now and the election he will speak in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, and also at receptions in his honor here and at Brooklyn.

Tommy Ryan Wins.

Benton Harbor, Mich., Oct. 26.—Tommy Ryan tonight knocked out Tommy Wallace in the fifth round of a 10-round bout.

ENGLAND PREPARING FOR ANY EMERGENCY THAT MAY ARISE FROM THE BLUNDER

Her Several Fleets Have Been Prepared for Strenuous Service and War- like Tone Pervades Nation.

Probable That Russia Has Been Notified to Make Reparation With- in Next Twenty-four Hours—Another Report Says Settle- ment Has Been Arranged Except as to Punish- ment of Officers of Baltic Squadron.

London, Oct. 26.—Tension increases as time passes without definite settlement of the situation created by the Russian blunder in the North sea. Ambassador Benckendorff's tentative communication to Minister Lansdowne today and the fact that this is regarded as unsatisfactory only served to inflame the public mind, and, while official circles are giving out the intimation that they believe the matter will be satisfactorily arranged, it is now evident that only a short time will be allowed Russia to give complete assurance of her intention to comply with all the demands of Great Britain.

Russia Must Soon Reply.

The arrival of Rojstvensky at Vigo and the certainty that he is in direct communication with the government removed the possibility of any delay on account of inability on the part of Russia to get her side of the occurrence. It is unlikely the British public or the British government will allow another 24 hours to pass without receiving a satisfactory reply.

Warships Are Preparing.

Meanwhile the admiralty is not idle. Reports from all naval stations show tremendous activity.

Hitherto there had been no indication that a time limit would be set, but the fact that the Gibraltar squadron has been placed under orders effective October 28 is construed in some quarters to mean that Great Britain will not wait longer than that date. It is also evident that the Baltic squadron may yet find difficulty in passing the gateway to the east unless the crisis is over by the time it reaches the entrance to the Mediterranean.

The Brighter Side of It.

Information reached the Associated Press from an authoritative source that puts a brighter light on the situation. It is understood everything has been decided upon to the satisfaction of Count Lansdowne, the Russian foreign minister, except the question of punishment of the offending officers of the Baltic squadron. It is further understood that Great Britain is not demanding final and formal written undertakings before announcing that the reparation is satisfactory, but an undertaking of general terms on the part of Russia will be accepted as sufficient.

All the public utterances of ministers and influential men reflect the gravity of the crisis, but also confidence that Russia will give the required satisfaction.

TWELVE HOURS TO SETTLE.

Rumor at Esquimaux That Britain Has Fixed Time Limit.

Victoria, Oct. 26.—A rumor is current among the officers at Esquimaux that Great Britain has given Russia 12 hours in which to make reparation for the trawler outrage. The rumor is said to have come in private cables from London.

The fact that the steamship *Empress* of Japan refused freight beyond Yokohama and disembarked Kongkong freight caused excitement at Esquimaux, where her armament is. Naval officers say they would not be surprised if the *Empress* of Japan were ordered to Esquimaux at once.

NEWSPAPERS ARE BELLICOSE.

Characterize Rojstvensky's Explana- tion as That of a Lunatic.

London, Oct. 27.—The morning papers, comparatively calm heretofore, are now outspokenly bellicose. The unofficial explanation of Rojstvensky is stigmatized by some of the papers as apparently that of a lunatic.

The Telegraph says: "There is no doubt of the government's seriousness. No minister would order his fleet

athwart the path of vessels of a foreign power without recognizing the responsibility of such a grave step." Foreign correspondents are equally bellicose.

St. Petersburg dispatches express the conviction that Russia is determined to punish the offending officer.

Madrid dispatches comment severely on the attempt of the Russians at Vigo to defy the Spanish government, on the pretense that the vessels were damaged, and the attempt to coal from German vessels.

The Post's Copenhagen correspondent gives the report of the captain of a British vessel, who says that after passing the Baltic squadron, he saw a two-funneled steamer two miles away which evidently sank before he could reach her. It was suggested the steamer was sunk by the squadron.

EMPRESS MAY BE NEEDED.

Liner Refuses to Accept Freight Be- yond Yokohama.

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 26.—The Canadian Pacific liner *Empress* of Japan has refused to accept freight beyond Yokohama, because, it is supposed, she is a naval reserve ship and her services may be needed in the far east.

PREPARING FOR ACTION.

Vessels of Channel Fleet Ready for Sea at Moment's Notice.

Gibraltar, Oct. 26.—The vessels of the channel fleet have filled their bunkers with coal, replenished their ammunition and are ready for sea at a moment's notice. There is great activity at the dockyards. Men are working day and night.

The battleships *Victorious*, *Illustrious* and *Majesty* and the cruisers *Lancaster*, *Thesus* and *Endymion* are under orders to sail October 28. It is rumored they purpose to shadow the Russian Baltic squadron, which is expected to go by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

FIRED UPON PHANTOM FOES.

Rumored That Official Report Will Show Extreme Carelessness.

London, Oct. 27.—At 3 o'clock this morning there was no sign as to when Rojstvensky's report would be made public. If unofficial reports turn out to reflect the tenor of the official report, it is evident the Russian officers made an extraordinary blunder and fired upon phantom foes.

The astonishing explanation is regarded here as not fitting ill with the state of panic suggested as having prevailed with the officers of the Baltic fleet, and in that case it is suggested the Russian government should find no difficulty in removing or otherwise punishing the officers responsible.

RUSSIANS ARE PERTURBED.

North Sea Affair May Have Serious Bearing on the War.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 27.—An official of the admiralty stated to the Associated Press this morning that no word had been received from Admiral Rojstvensky. The official continued: "The delay in getting the Russian version is proving exceedingly embarrassing. It is felt that in the inflamed state of British public opinion the inexplicable absence of any official factor, and renders still more difficult an already delicate situation."

While the good faith of the Russian government is not questioned, it is evident from the renewed British inquiries at the foreign office and the admiralty on Wednesday, that while no time limit has been fixed, King Ed-

ward's government is neither in the humor nor in position to brook unreasonable delay. The hope is expressed at the admiralty that the report may be received today.

One danger of complications discussed here lies in the possibility that Great Britain may deem it necessary to dispatch warships to warn and protect British trawlers off the Spanish coast. On the other hand, if the nature of Rojstvensky's report renders the recall of the Baltic squadron imperative, it will weigh greatly in Japan's favor and have a serious bearing on the future course of the war, in the far east.

Russian Collier at Brest.

Brest, France, Oct. 26.—The Russian collier *Knlaz Gortschakoff* is still anchored in the roadstead awaiting orders. The commander is forbidden to communicate ashore or to receive any visitors.

DISCIPLINE CAPTURED RUSSIANS

Must Behave Under Penalty of Death by Hanging.

Tokio, Oct. 26, 9:30 a. m.—Attempts to escape, assaults upon guards and various instances of refractory conduct on the part of Russian prisoners of war under confinement in Japan have led to the formation of a series of regulations which will be henceforth enforced as follows:

Captives resisting their guards will be imprisoned.

The leaders of plots to escape accompanied by force will be hanged or exiled, and participants will be imprisoned.

The leaders of organized assaults on guards will be hanged and participants therein will be imprisoned. Captives released upon taking an oath that they will not again participate in the war will be hanged if captured again.

RELIEF FUND IN RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg Paper Says Fishing Fleet Should Have Aid.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 26, 7:50 A. M.—The official *Journal de St. Petersburg* has opened a subscription for the families of the British fishermen killed by the guns of the second Pacific squadron. The paper opens the list with a contribution of \$25.

The first harsh note sounded by the press in connection with the affair is found in the *Russ* which declares today that the British government, knowing the serious problem of self-preservation confronting the Russian fleet should have taken the precaution of warning the trawler fleet against getting in the way of the warships.

The *Russ* adds that it has reason to believe "certain other vessels" suffered with the fishing fleet, about whose fate nothing will be said in England.

DIFFERENT, BUT NOT STRANGE.

Airship of Montana Man Could Not Be Tried Yesterday.

St. Louis, Oct. 26.—The airship of T. C. Benbow, of Columbus, Mont., was today inflated and would have made a trial had not the wind been so strong. Benbow started the engine and revolved the fans to show that everything was in readiness.

An arrangement was completed which may result in trials tomorrow by both Baldwin and Benbow, providing weather conditions are favorable.

WALTON AGAIN CONVICTED.

Jury Recommends Him to Mercy of Court Because of His Youth.

Portland, Oct. 26.—Charles W. Walton, the boy bandit, was convicted tonight of attempted robbery. On account of Walton's youthfulness and because he had already been convicted of murderous assault, the jury recommended clemency. Walton, while attempting to rob a street car, shot and dangerously wounded Policeman Nelson.

BRYAN'S TOUR ENDED.

Makes Final Indiana Speech at Ham- mond to Big Crowd.

Hammond, Ind., Oct. 26.—Bryan's tour of Indiana ended here tonight. An overflow meeting was held in addition to the regular one.

Love Drove Her Insane.

Salem, Oct. 26.—Because her parents objected to her marriage with a gentle, a young Hebrew girl, named Roberts attempted to jump from the Madison street bridge in Portland this week, and is now in the asylum in this city.

DAN PATCH LOWERS HIS BEST TIME

Famous Pacer Circles the Mile Track in 1:56, Clipping One- Quarter of a Second From the Record.

Went the Distance With a Pacer and a Wind Shield at the Memphis Track.

DELMAR ALSO MAKES RECORD

Trots Mile to High-Wheeled Sulky in 2:07—Oregon De- feats Utah at Foot- ball, 45 to 0.

Memphis, Oct. 26.—With a pacer, carrying a wind shield in front and accompanied by a runner at his side, Dan Patch paced the fastest mile at the trotting park today ever made by a horse in harness, circling the track in 1:56 flat. The former record, 1:56 1/4, was made by Dan Patch in 1902. The time today by quarters was 29, 57 1/2, 1:28 1/2.

Another sensational performance was that of Major Delmar when he trotted a mile to a high wheel sulky in 2:07. It was announced by the judges before the trial that the sulky was non-ball-bearing and weighed 74 1/2 pounds. It was also announced that the vehicle was of the same pattern as that used by Maud S. in her memorial flight against time in 1884, when she trotted a mile in 2:03 1/2.

Major Delmar was driven by Alta McDonald. His time by quarters was 30 1/2, 1:02 1/2 and 1:34.

UTAH BADLY DEFEATED.

Oregon Agricultural College Piles Up Score of 45 to 0.

Corvallis, Oct. 26.—By a score of 45-0 the Utah Agricultural college was defeated at football this afternoon by the Oregon Agricultural college. The halves were 25 and 15 minutes.

Oregon made the first touchdown within three minutes. The score at the end of the first half stood 28-0. Oregon held out twice for downs, and Utah made yardage but three times. The yardage by Utah was 26 and by Oregon 421.

WIND WAS TOO STRONG.

Airship of Montana Man Could Not Be Tried Yesterday.

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