

GOOD EVENING. The Weather: Tonight and Thursday, showers; south to west winds.

Oregon Daily Journal

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PORTLAND, OREGON, WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 24, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

NAVAL BATTLE IS ANNOUNCED AT PORT ARTHUR IN WHICH THE JAPANESE SUFFER VERY HEAVY LOSSES

VICTORY IS DENIED

Japanese Say They Have No Information and Discredit Report.

RUSSIA IS CONFIDENT

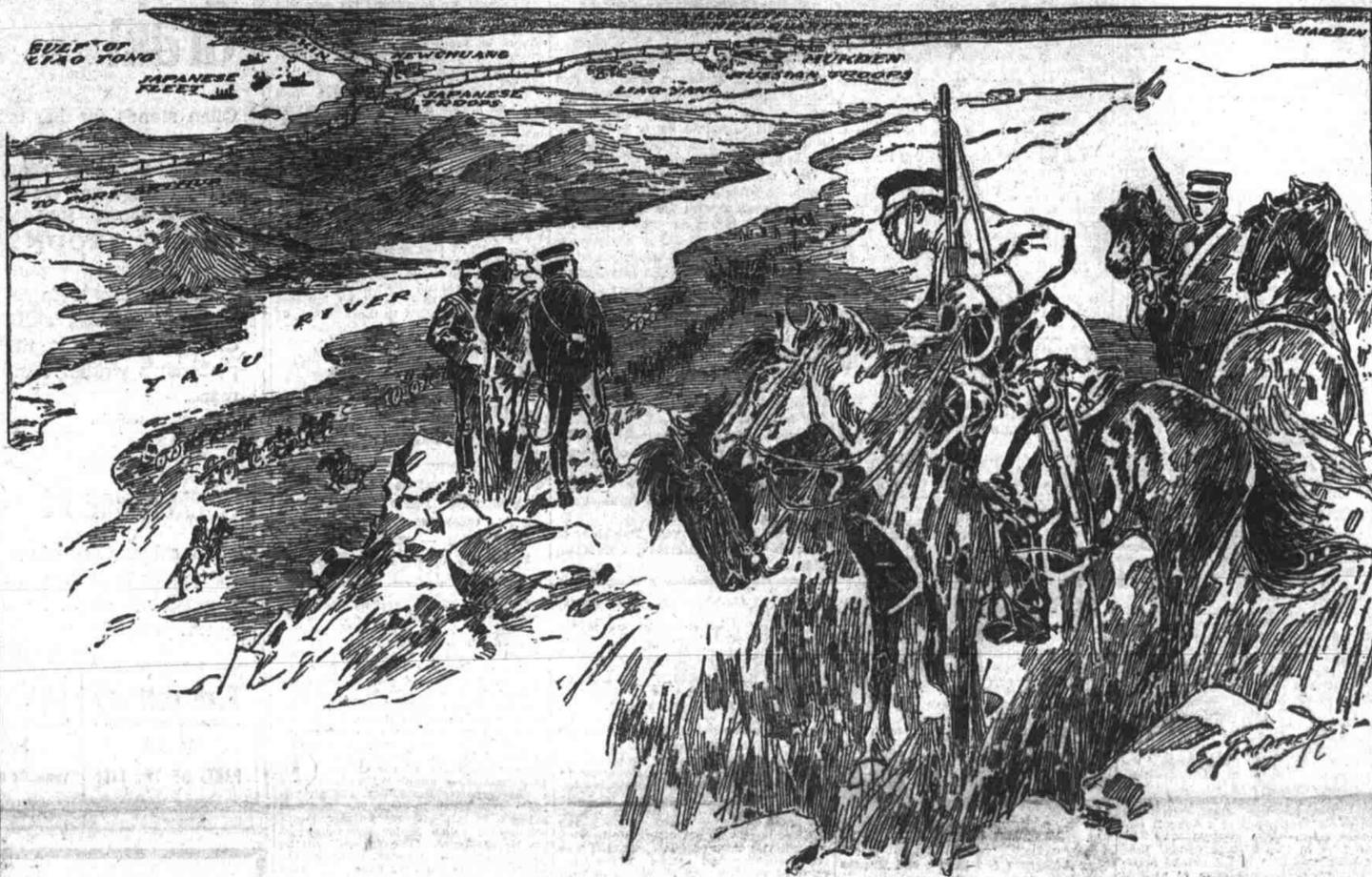
Dispatches State That Battle Occurred Early Yesterday Morning After Mikado's Men Had Failed in Midnight Attack.

(Journal Special Service.) London, Feb. 24, 8 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 Nebozha, 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.

(Journal Special Service.) London, Feb. 24.—A dispatch from Chefoo to the Evening News declares the Russian consul there confirms the statement that four Japanese warships have been destroyed at Port Arthur. The battle occurred early yesterday morning. The Russian consul declares that the Japanese fleet began the attack shortly after midnight and passengers arriving from Chinwangtao say continuous firing was heard off Port Arthur between 1 and 4 o'clock on the morning of the 23d. There was no moon and conditions were ripe for a surprise. They declare that undoubtedly the Japanese were trying to steal through the entrance to the harbor when they were discovered and defeated. A report from St. Petersburg this evening asserts that six Japanese warships were sunk off Port Arthur yesterday.

TOKIO DISCREDITED IT.

Reports Say That No Action Occurred at Port Arthur Yesterday. (By Pacific Cable.) Tokyo, Feb. 24.—The war office says there has been no fighting of any consequence on the Yalu river for two days and no action of the fleet since the 20th, despite the story of a Japanese disaster yesterday at Port Arthur. Operations of the Japanese fleet are now as much a mystery as that of the Vladivostok squadron, though the latter is back in the harbor. The Russians are said to have canceled all orders for railroad material with Germany because of their inability to protect the line from Japanese assaults this side of Harbin. Japan alleges that the enemy has only 40,000 troops on the Yalu but it is thought there is a reason for giving out this information (part censored). Japan is not wholly pleased with the action of China in threatening to take a hand in the strife as it is feared it will bring about trouble in Europe.



THIS PICTURE SHOWS THE JAPANESE ON THE YALU RIVER AND THE TYPE OF CAVALRY THE MIKADO IS SENDING AGAINST THE COSSACKS. The Picture Map Shows the Position of the Opposing Forces According to the Latest Bulletins.

HUNDREDS OF HOMES LOST TO SETTLERS

Supreme Court Gives to Northern Pacific Land Now Held by 300 Families in Clarke and Cowlitz Counties—Government May Relieve.

As a result of the decision of the United States supreme court yesterday, giving to the Northern Pacific railway absolute title to the land embraced in the "overlap" district, about 300 settlers are left without title to their homes and may be ejected. The "overlap" district contains 48,458 acres in Clarke and Cowlitz counties, most of which is rich land. Some of it has been under cultivation for years, and been improved into valuable farms. Great orchards, hop fields and dairies have been developed and some of the farms are worth thousands of dollars. The government has granted patents to at least 80 settlers, some of whom have lived on their homesteads for 35 years. The decision nullifies the past action of the interior department and leaves the homesteaders without any legal right to their homes in spite of the fact that a government patent is generally recognized as absolute ownership. The circumstances leading up to the legal blow which prohibits the settlers from retaining their homes are unusual and extend over a period of years. The government, the settler and the railroad company are all to a greater or less degree responsible for the litigation which has taken place and that which must necessarily follow. In 1864 the government granted to the Northern Pacific every odd section

BOUND FOR COLOMBIA

Transport Buford to Take Soldiers From Vancouver to Isthmus.

The army transport Buford, which arrived in Portland at 1 o'clock this afternoon, will probably take on soldiers from Vancouver barracks to replace marines now doing duty in Colombia as it is the intention of the government to withdraw marines and substitute soldiers. The statement that the Buford will take on marines at Portland is thought in Washington to be erroneous. The war department will not verify the statement as to the taking on of soldiers at Portland for Colombia, but in all probability this will be their destination if they are embarked. The Buford docked at the Eastern & Western mill, where she will take on a shipment of lumber for the Philippines consisting of about 1,500,000 feet. She left Astoria at midnight last night and about half way up the river dropped anchor for the night. At daylight she proceeded up the river and reached Portland without incident. She had a good passage all the way up. The Buford is drawing 22 feet and

FOLSOM CONVICT IS IN MORE CRIME

Murderous Thugs Working Trade in California—One Arrested Confesses to Robbery of the Colonial Club at San Francisco.

(San Francisco Bureau of The Journal.) San Francisco, Feb. 24.—There is no further doubt that Austin Hooper, who, with George Carson, is in jail at San Rafael, the Marin county officials have one of the gang who held up and robbed the game at the Colonial club, 132 Powell street, in the early morning of February 13. Hooper repeated to Sheriff Taylor and Detective Wren the story day before yesterday, and while all details are not made public by the police, for fear of preventing the capture of the other thugs, the following facts were given out by Sheriff Taylor today: Hooper declares that Ray Fahey, the notorious convict who escaped from Folsom last July, "English Dick," another desperate thug who has plied his trade all over the country, and "San Jose Blackie," himself, and a fifth man whose name he will not divulge, were the five who committed the remarkable Colonial club robbery. Hooper says he was the man who wore the patent leather shoes. Ray Fahey was the ringleader, and, with the thug whose name is withheld, planned the robbery. Hooper says that Fahey, "English Dick" and San Jose "Blackie" have been in San Francisco all winter and have committed robbery after robbery under the very noses of the police without fear of detection. Hooper, who was discharged from San Quentin, Jan-

HER CREDIT VERY POOR

Shrinkage of Russian Securities Cause Many Failures in Europe.

ENGLAND FAVORS JAPAN

France, Austria, Germany and Italy Are Pro-Russia — Hurrying Troops to the Yalu Still Continues.

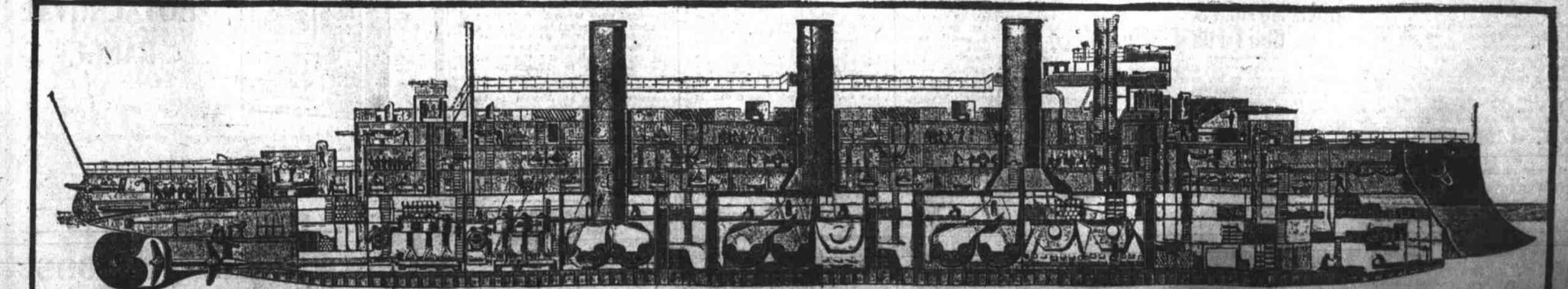
(Journal Special Service.) London, Feb. 24.—Careful investigation shows that the European public as a rule favors Russia in the present conflict. France is now closer bound than ever; Austria, naturally favors the Muscovite; Germany is pro-Russian; Italy is bound by the friendship, and Spain favors Russia. England, however, is a staunch friend of Japan, and Sweden is becoming more so on account of the Finnish anti-Russian feeling.

(Journal Special Service.) London, Feb. 24.—Regardless of the feeling of friendship for Russia by several powers or heads of powers, the uneasiness in the commercial centers of these same countries shows that the people regard the czar's ability to overcome the far eastern situation with suspicion, hence Russian securities are dropping and large failures are reported. It is reported from Berlin that heavy failures occurred there yesterday and today as a result of the tumble of Russian securities. More failures are expected. Financiers are surprised at the show of weakness on the part of Russia, but they have all along known that she was more or less financially embarrassed. The exchange here is crowded today with people looking for war news, but none is received of a satisfactory character. Two directly contradictory messages were received this afternoon regarding the Russian forces on the Yalu, and both were alleged to emanate from official sources. One declared a Russian advance across the river to a new position; the other states there has been no move of any importance except in the vicinity of Harbin.

When Admiral Makaroff arrives at Port Arthur it is thought an effort will be made by his fleet to drive away or damage the Japanese coast patrol. Makaroff has seen much service and is a bold and successful officer.

INDEPENDENCE FOR KOREA.

State Department Receives Advice of Treaty Negotiations. (Washington Bureau of The Journal.) Washington, Feb. 24.—The state department this morning received advice that Japan and Korea have concluded the negotiation of the treaty guaranteeing to Korea her independence and integrity. It is supposed that under its terms Japan is allowed to temporarily occupy the country with troops, with the understanding that at the close of the war with Russia it will be the signal for immediate withdrawal. This move coming as it does on the heels of the protest filed yesterday by Russia is regarded here as a most effective answer to Russia's representation that Japan violated the neutrality and integrity of Korea. (Continued on Page Two.)



THIS PICTURE SHOWS A SECTIONAL VIEW OF THE PROTECTED CRUISER BOYARIN, RECENTLY BLOWN UP AT PORT ARTHUR BY COMING IN CONTACT WITH A MINE.