

REGRET IS KEEN

Admiral Says Attack on Trawlers Was Accident.

WERE TAKEN FOR THE ENEMY

Three Battleships and Transport Anchor at Vigo, Spain—They Desire to Make Repairs.

Vigo, Spain, Oct. 28.—The Russian battleships Emperor Alexander III, Borodino, Orel and Kolosoff and the transport Anatol anchored in this port today, causing considerable excitement. The government will not allow them to coal, and requests they leave port as soon as possible.

The Associated Press has succeeded in obtaining an interview with Admiral Rojestvensky, who expressed great regret over the North Sea incident. The admiral stated that the unfortunate occurrence was purely accidental. The weather on the night in question was rather hazy. About 1 a. m. two torpedo boats, which the Russians supposed were Japanese craft, suddenly appeared between the two divisions of the squadron and seemed to discharge torpedoes. The Russians immediately opened fire. They 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 repeated that he greatly regretted that any injury had been done fishermen, and added he had no doubt the Russian government would make ample compensation.

Prince Keretelli, an officer of the battleship Emperor Alexander III, gives the following explanation of the attack by the Baltic squadron upon the British trawlers off Dogger Bank:

"The transport Anatol, which was steaming ahead of the squadron, was suddenly surrounded by eight torpedo boats and requested assistance, whereupon the battleship division advanced and signaled to the unknown vessels to leave or disclose their nationality. The vessels refused to obey, and advanced among the Russian battleships. Suddenly a cannon shot was heard from an unknown vessel. Then the admiral formed in battle line and replied to the fire, afterward continuing his voyage."

Prince Keretelli added that the Russians feared the strange torpedo boats were Japanese, as the admiral was aware the Japanese had purchased such boats in England.

CHANNEL FLEET READY FOR SEA.

Four Battleships and Three Cruisers Under Sailing Orders.

Gibraltar, Oct. 28.—The ships of the channel fleet have filled their bunkers with coal and replenished their ammunition and will be ready for sea at a moment's notice. The battleship Hannibal and the cruiser Doris are watching the straits closely. There is great activity at the dockyards, where men are working night and day. The admiralty is making inquiries concerning the coal available here.

The battleships Victorious, Illustrious and Majestic, flagship of Vice-Admiral Beresford, and the cruisers Lancaster, Theseus and Endymion are under orders to sail on the morning of October 28. It is rumored that the purpose is to shadow the Russian Baltic squadron, which is expected to go by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

WILL SOUND THE POWERS.

Russia Will Learn if They Will Let Ships Pass the Dardanelles.

London, Oct. 28.—The Associated Press learns that while there is no foundation for the rumor which recently emanated from Constantinople that the Russian government is approaching the sultan with a view of obtaining his consent to the passing of the Black sea fleet through the Dardanelles, Russia is actually taking steps to sound the other continental governments as to whether any objections would be raised by them in the event of a formal request being presented by Russia to the powers jointly for the removal of international restrictions governing the passage of the Dardanelles.

\$30,000 Fire at Shipyard.

Philadelphia, Oct. 28.—Fire tonight did damage to the amount of \$30,000 in the pattern shop and brass foundry of the Neale & Levy shipyard, on the Delaware river, in the northeastern section of the city. A large number of patterns and plans were destroyed, among them several for the construction of the United States cruiser St. Louis, now on the ways in the company's shipyards. An official of the company tonight said the loss of the plans would probably cause some delay in the launching of the cruiser.

Big Meat Order From Orient.

Omaha, Neb., Oct. 28.—A local packing house today received an order for 3,000,000 pounds of mess beef for shipment to the Orient.

FIRED ON FIRST.

Russian Admiral Says He Acted on Defensive.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 29.—The mystery of the trawler affair, instead of being cleared up by Vice Admiral Rojestvensky's report today, appears to be deeper than ever. The admiral declares he was attacked in the darkness by two torpedo boats which came upon the squadron from the direction of the fishing fleet. He opened fire and believes he sank one of the torpedo boats, the other making off under cover among the fishermen.

As soon as he noticed the fishermen, Admiral Rojestvensky ceased firing. He proceeded on his way without leaving any vessel behind, and says he believes the vessel which the fishermen reported remained on the scene for six hours without offering succor to the drowning was the other torpedo boat, either waiting for her consort or repairing damage inflicted by the fire of his ships. The admiral declares no torpedo boats were with the squadron.

In concluding his telegram, Admiral Rojestvensky expressed in the most warm-hearted way the regrets of the whole squadron to the fishermen who had suffered, and to the families of the victims.

STRIPS FOR WAR.

Great Britain Is Rapidly Making Her Ships Ready.

London, Oct. 29.—Notwithstanding the diplomatic check in consequence of Admiral Rojestvensky's report, it is evident that Great Britain is preparing for the possibility of war. Tremendous activity is reported from all dockyards, where vessels under repair are being made ready for sea under urgent orders from the admiralty.

While no time limit for the receipt of Russia's reply has been fixed, it is generally understood today that the route of the Russian squadron past Gibraltar will be barred by the Channel squadron, commanded by Vice Admiral Lord Charles Beresford.

Perhaps the most significant development is the cabinet meeting which is called for today. While the call was issued prior to the receipt of Rojestvensky's report, which changed the situation considerably and appears to place some of the burden of proof upon Great Britain, the meeting undoubtedly marks the reaching of a serious stage.

The ships of the British channel fleet cleared their decks this afternoon. It is rumored that the whole fleet, with the exception of the battleship Caesar, will steam westward tomorrow with the alleged purpose of making a sham attack against the Rock of Gibraltar.

GLAD ALEXIEFF IS OUT.

Russians Believe He Will Return, Now Kuropatkin Is in Power.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 29.—Viceroy Alexieff's order of the day announcing Kuropatkin's appointment is in the same grandiose vein as Kuropatkin's order of October 5, and is regarded as having definitely established the authority of that ill-starred document.

While Alexieff takes particular pains, in turning over the supreme command of the land forces to Kuropatkin, to inform the soldiers and the world of the marks of imperial confidence reposed in him, and to announce that he will remain as viceroy, the order is considered as virtually his farewell address, and that it will soon be followed by his return to St. Petersburg. His elimination as a factor in the military situation has caused a sigh of relief.

The papers all welcome the announcement of Kuropatkin's appointment to the chief command as a well-merited recompense for the manner in which he discharged the difficult role imposed upon him, and, reading between the lines, as a promise of better results now that Alexieff is eliminated, and there is no longer a prospect of elevation of a grand duke to the supreme command.

Meat Is for Russia.

Kansas City, Oct. 29.—D. H. McMullen, a Tacoma lumberman, who arrived here today from Omaha, says that the order for 3,000,000 pounds of meat received by an Omaha packing company was given by the Russian government. He said: "The beef must be shipped out of San Francisco within 30 days. There were two Japanese agents in the packing house office at the time that the Russians were there to give the order." McMullen added that the Japanese also had given an order for meat.

Street Car Runs Into River.

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 29.—An electric car on the line between this city and the El Paso Smelting works, in Towne, Tex., jumped the track today, with 75 passengers, and ran into the Rio Grande river. Several passengers were injured, but none were killed. The embankment was about 12 feet high, and the car plunged into 10 feet of water. The river had undermined the track.

ACTION STUNS

Outrage of Russian Baltic Fleet "Unwarranted."

KING EDWARD SO DECLARES

Great Britain Sends Urgent Note to Russia—No Official Word Yet Received From the Czar.

London, Oct. 26.—Great Britain today sent a long and urgent note to the Russian government officially detailing the circumstances of the amazing and unexplained attack by the Russian Second Pacific squadron the night of October 21 on British fishing boats in the North Sea. The text of the note has not been given out, but it is officially stated at the foreign office that it contains the significant announcement "the situation is one which, in the opinion of His Majesty's government, does not brook delay."

Meanwhile the conservative public and press are remarkably undemonstrative. As usual the jingo element demands war, and even in official quarters some go so far as to say it may be necessary to stop the Pacific fleet pending settlement of the whole affair, though this extreme measure, it is believed, will not be necessary. Everywhere there is evidence of the very positive opinion that this is no time for the usual diplomatic dilly-dallying; that there must be no delay and no limit set by Russia to her apology or the extent of compensation for sufferers by what King Edward himself terms "the unwarranted action" of the Baltic squadron commanders.

Thus far no official word has been received from St. Petersburg as to the attitude of the Russian government. The fact that it had been decided during the day to prepare a semi-official note expressing the regret of the Russian government and its willingness to make full reparation so soon as the responsibility is fixed as communicated by the Associated Press to Lord Lansdowne and was the first information on the subject he had received from St. Petersburg. The absence during the day of Count Benckendorff, the Russian ambassador, necessarily caused some delay, but the Russian charge d'affaires, who called at the foreign office on request by note from Lord Lansdowne, unofficially expressed deep regret, and, as far as it was possible for him to do, gave assurance of speedy action by the Russian government.

RUSH MEN TO OYAMA.

Japanese Desire That He Deal a Crushing Blow.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 26.—There is no news of immediate importance from the Far East tonight. The indications are that both sides are heavily entrenched, although it is believed General Kuropatkin will be ready for a forward movement at an early moment unless heavy Japanese reinforcements compel him to resume the defensive. Reports that Japanese reinforcements are arriving, taken in connection with the enforced inactivity of the Russian forces on account of the weather, is felt to be a grave factor in the situation. There is reason to believe that the Japanese are drawing heavily on the Port Arthur army as well as on Japan, in hopes of securing a numerical superiority that will enable Field Marshal Oyama to inflict a crushing blow upon General Kuropatkin when hostilities are resumed.

General Sakharoff, telegraphing yesterday, reported that there was no change in the situation. The war office does not confirm the report that the Russians have occupied Bentinutz.

The official returns of the Russian losses received up to date do not exceed 30,000. General Sakharoff telegraphs that there was no fighting during the night of October 23-24.

The Russians buried 1,500 Japanese at Lone Tree Hill.

Secures Panama Contract.

Washington, Oct. 26.—The Panama Canal commission held a long session today at which bids for supplies and a number of other matters incident to construction work were acted on. The award of the contracts for supplying the 2,600,000 feet of lumber aggregated approximately was subsequently announced. The Bellingham Bay company, of San Francisco, operating in the Puget sound region, was awarded the contract for 2,100,000 feet, and the Continental Lumber company, of Houston, Texas, 500,000 feet.

Warships for Brazil.

Rio Janeiro, Oct. 26.—The chamber of deputies has adopted a bill authorizing the government to place contracts abroad for the building of 28 warships.

PRESS DISPLAYS IMPATIENCE.

London Papers Regard Czar's Note as Only a Personal Expression.

London, Oct. 27.—The morning papers display great impatience over the delay of the Russian government in according satisfaction for the Budget Bank affair. The emperor's communication, while it relieves the immediate tension, is held only to be a personal expression of regret, and it is argued that unless the Russian government speedily follows suit a situation of the greatest danger will arise. Editorial articles demand that the Baltic squadron must be stopped in its irresponsible course, for otherwise there is no safety for the shipping of any nationality. The standard ass: "Is this ill-omened squadron, with its demoralized crews and incompetent officers, to continue its crazy career and become an intolerable nuisance and menace to the civilized world?" And, with other papers, declares there will be work for the British navy unless Russia recalls or stops its fleet at some neutral port for investigation and the punishment of the guilty parties.

In this connection, greatest satisfaction is expressed at the unanimity of foreign expressions in support of Great Britain's attitude in the matter, especially at German denunciation of the conduct of the Baltic fleet. Public interest and even anxiety shows not the slightest sign of waning. The Russo-Japanese war is almost forgotten, and the papers are occupied almost exclusively with the North sea affair. So far, the attitude of the government meets with the approval of the public, who are greatly gratified with the instructions of the admiralty for co-operation between the Mediterranean, Channel and Home squadrons should necessity arise.

BRIBED ADMIRAL.

Japanese Officer to Blame for Accident to Two Ships.

London, Oct. 27.—The Tokio correspondent of the Express states that the truth of the sinking of the Japanese gunboat Hatachi Maru and the damaging of the Sadu Maru by Russian mines has become known. According to this version, the admiral commanding the squadron to which the two vessels were attached had been bribed by the Russians to betray his country, the sum paid to the traitor being \$60,000. The Russians were informed by wireless telegraphy of the location of the boats. When the matter became known in Tokio, the admiral was tried by court-martial and sentenced to death. The sentence was read by his most intimate friends. The staff then cleared the room and the traitor was stripped and beaten to death.

TO STOP PANAMA WORK.

Illinois Man Endeavoring to Tie the Hands of the Government.

Washington, Oct. 27.—An effort to restrain the secretary of the treasury from making payments or issuing bonds for the acquisition and construction of the Panama canal was made today in the equity branch of the supreme court of the District of Columbia. W. S. Wilson, of Hinsdale, Ill., is the author of the suit, and presented his own argument. The government was defended by United States Attorney Morgan H. Beach and Charles W. Russell, assistant to the attorney general. Justice Stafford, who heard the case, has not rendered his decision. The principal question involved is whether the courts have authority to restrain a federal officer from a wrongful interpretation of a federal law.

Invited to Peace Congress.

Washington, Oct. 27.—Acting Secretary of State Adee today dispatched a note looking to a reconvening of The Hague conference. This is an invitation of the president of the United States to the signatory powers of the original Hague treaty to come together again. The note is directed to the American ambassadors and ministers abroad, with instructions to sound the governments to which they are accredited and to extend President Roosevelt's invitation.

SHI a Stronghold.

London, Oct. 27.—Under date of October 25, the Port Arthur correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, describing the defenses of that place, says the Japanese will achieve a wonderful success if they can capture the fortress with a loss under 30,000 men, for the garrison, though worn down and few in numbers, can hold their strong defenses with no great daily casualties from the bombardments of the heaviest ordnance and that the Japanese must sacrifice great numbers to gain even the advanced defenses.

Sequel to Dreyfus Case.

Paris, Oct. 27.—A sequel to the Dreyfus case was the opening of the court-martial today of four prominent officers of the war ministry, charged with using military funds and otherwise influencing witnesses against Dreyfus at Rennes. The court is composed of General Bertin, four colonels and two lieutenant colonels. The previous ministerial investigation partially vindicated the accused, who demanded a court-martial.

ISTHMUS NEWS

Malcontents Threaten Trouble at Panama.

MAY LEAD TO A REVOLUTION

American Authorities Send Marines to Learn Purpose of Movement—Washington not Informed.

Colon, Colombia, Oct. 24.—News reached here this evening that about 200 armed men, who are thought to be discontented Panamanians, rather than Colombian soldiers, have been seen in the neighborhood of Culebra, threatening hostilities against the Panama government.

As soon as the American authorities of the canal zone became cognizant of this force, marines were sent out to ascertain their purpose. It is rumored that a skirmish occurred inland, in which several were killed, but there is no confirmation of this report.

Navy Department Not Advised.

Washington, Oct. 24.—Assistant Secretary Darling tonight said that so far as he was aware, no advice had been received at the navy department of the reported skirmish between United States marines and Panamanians on the isthmus. If any dispatches have been received, the assistant secretary added, they in all probability would be sent to the department, and would not be delivered to the officials until morning. At this time the navy has about 450 marines on the isthmus, a sufficient force, in the opinion of the administration, to cope with any difficulty which is likely to develop.

OFFICERS ARE SHOT.

Desperate Battle With Men Suspected of Hold Up.

St. Louis, Oct. 24.—Two city detectives are dead and another is not expected to live during the night, while one train robber suspect is at the morgue and two others are in the hospital, one probably fatally wounded and the other badly beaten up, as the result of a desperate battle between five officers and three men whom they tried to arrest.

The fight occurred in the front room of a house on Pine street, and the men whom the detectives sought to arrest are suspected of being implicated in a train robbery at Centralia, Ill., a few weeks ago.

The house had been under police surveillance for several days, but today was the first time that any of the suspects was seen to enter or leave.

A few minutes before the fighting occurred Vaughn left the house and started to walk down Pine street. The detectives closed in on him, and after he had gone some distance from the house he was arrested.

Accompanied by their prisoner, the detectives returned and entered the house. Eha, McClusky and Dwyer were leading, Boyle and James were behind with the prisoner. Hardly had the detectives entered the room in which Rose and Blair were seated than they were met with a volley of shots from a heavy caliber gun. Sibra sank to the floor and Dwyer followed almost immediately.

TRANSMITS PROTEST TO JAPAN.

America Calls Attention to Alleged Use of Chinese Clothing.

Washington, Oct. 24.—As indicated in the Tokio dispatches, the Japanese government, through Minister Takahira here, has entered a formal protest against the use of certain bodies of Russian troops of Chinese clothing, the offending troops being specified in the complaint. The state department, having assumed the care of Japanese interests, has transmitted the Japanese protest to Spencer Eddy, secretary of the American embassy at St. Petersburg, and charge in the absence of Ambassador McCormick, for presentation to the Russian government.

It is understood here that the Chinese clothing was not used by the Russian troops to deceive the enemy, but simply to make good the failure of the Russian quartermaster's department to supply much needed warm clothing upon the sudden advent of cold weather in Manchuria.

Little Faith in Red Cross.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 24.—The administration of the Russian Red Cross society in the Far East has become the subject of severe criticism. Little confidence is expressed in the management of the society, and it is charged that some of the money given the organization for the wounded soldiers never reached its destination. Many charitable persons, the dispatch adds, prefer to make their own arrangements, but even these do not find the task an easy one.

To Send Medicine.

Rome, Oct. 24.—At the request of the Russian Red Cross society, nurses and a supply of medicine, bandages and fruits will be sent to Manchuria by the Red Cross society of Italy.