THE NAVIES OF RUSSIA AND JAPAN

A Comparison of the Fleets of the Two Nations, as to Numbers Modernness Armament and Fighting Qualities---Japan Has Considerably the Best of it

The strained diplomatic relations between Russia and Japan, and the fact that in the event of a conflict the issue would be determined more than anything else by the command of the sea, render a comparison of the effective naval strength of the two nations a matter of no little interest. In such a comparison the important fact must never be lost sight of, that in the event of war, only a part of the Russian navy can be available in the far East, whereas the whole of the Japanese navy will be within the sphere of active operations. However, we will first summarize the strength of the two fleets in toto, regardless of whether the Russian ships are in European or Asiatic waters; and then we will consider the question of the relative strength of the whole Japanese navy and that part of the Russian navy that is, or may be concentrated in the Pacific. The total effective fighting force of the Russian navy, excluding obsolete ships or ships of doubtful utility, is made up of fifty vessels (battleships, cruisers, and gunboats) of an aggregate displacement of 358,670 tons; that of Japan consists of thirty-three ships, with a total displacement of 208,240 tons. These two navies are composed of the following classes of ships: Of battleships of the first class, that is vessels launched within the past decade, Russia has ten, of an average displacement of 12,160 tons; Japan has six, of an average displacement of 14.115 tons. Of second class battleships, launched between 1886 and 1896, Russia has ten, of an average displacement of 9,545 tons; Japan has no second class battleships. Of third class battleships, suitable for coast defense, Russia has three, of 4,126 tons displacement, and Japan one, of 7,220 tons. Of first-class armored cruisers, Russia has five, of an average displacement of 10,260 tons, and Japan eight, of 9,210 tons. Of second class cruisers, that is, protected cruisers of larger size, Russia has about nine, of 6,425 tons displacement, and Japan eight, of about 4,500 tons average displacement. Of third-class cruisers, Russia has four, of about 3,500 tons displacement, and Japan eight, of an average of 2,870 tons. Lastly Russia has nine gunboats of 500 tons, and Japan two, of 875 tons. It will thus be seen that in point of numbers Russia has a large preponderance in vessels available for immediate hostilities. Indeed, she may fairly be considered to rank as the third naval power, coming next to France, with Germany a close rival.

On the other hand, a considerable proportion of her fleet consists of coast defense vessels and ships that are too slow or otherwise deficient to be available for duty in the far East; and since the war must inevitably be fought out in the Pacific, a forecast of the probable fortunes of war should take account only of that portion of the navy that can be concentrated near the seat of war. Applying this test, the Russian fleet is cut down to thirty-one battleships and cruisers, of an aggregate displacement of a little over 200,000 tons, made up of eight battleships, of about 12,000 tons; four armored cruisers, of about 11,400 tons; six second-class protected cruisers, of 6,500 tons; five third-class cruisers, protected and unprotected, of from 1,200 to 3,00 tons, and seven gunboats, of about 1,200 tons average displacement. To these figures may be added about ascore of torpedo-boat destroyers on both the Russian and Japanese side, the Japanese boats being of about 300 tons, and the Russian of about 340 tons displacement. It will now be seen that in point of total number of ships and total displacement, the balance is somewhat in favor of Japan. Mere aggregate figures, however, do not tell the true story of relative strength, and this must be determined, in the present case, by an examination of the character of the individual ships themselves.

Other things being equal, the outcome of any naval war will be determined by the relative strength of what might be called the first line of battle, that is, vessels of the battleship and armored cruiser type that carry sufficient protection to enable them to lie in the first line of defense and attack, and endure the give and take of a great fleet action. Now it is just here that Japan is particularly strong. She has a homogeneous fleet of six battleships and eight armored cruisers that are built upon the same plans, have the same speed and maneuvering ability, and in the battleship division have the great advantage of large size of individual units. All of these vessels have been completed within the last five or six years, and they have an average displacement of over 14,00 tons. The latest of thest, the "Mikasa," is typical of the whole fleet. She is 15,200 tons displacement, 18 knots speed; is armed with a 9-inch continuous belt, with 6-inch armor protecting the central battery, and she carries four 12-inch fourteen 6-inch, twenty 3-inch, and a dozen smaller guns, all of the latest Armstrong pattern.

Six of the eight armored cruisers are practically identical vessels, of about 9,700 tons displacement, and from 20 to 22½ knots speed. The ohtre two are the fine 7,700-ton vessels illustrated on another page in this issue. They have continuous 7-inch Krupp steel belts, 5 to 6 inches protection on the casemates and turrets, and are armed with four 8-inch twelve or fourteen 6-inch, and a dozen smaller guns. They carry four submerged torpedo tubes, with one above-water tube. It should be mentioned that the battleships also carry each four submerged torpedo boats. Now, these fourteen fast, well-protected and powerfully armed ships, with an aggregate displacemene of 158,000 tons, will be matched against twelve battleships and cruisers in the Russian fleet, of an aggregate displacement of 142,000 tons. The eight Russian battleships have an average displacement of 10,750 tons, and the four cruisers have an average displacement of 11,400 tons. The battleships although smaller than the Japanese vessels, are equally modern; their speed, however, is not as a rule so good. The best of them is the "Cesarevitch," of 13,000 tons displacement and 18 knots speed. She has a 10-inch belt, and the battery of four 12.4 inch and twelve 6-inch guns is carried entirely in turrets, and the 12-inch in two turrets, one forward and one aft, and the 6-inch in six turrets, arranged three on each broadside. A most interesting feature in the event of a conflict is the fact that the Japanese and Russian battleships will represent two different schools of design, the Japanese the English, and the Russian the French. The chief difference is in the method of carrying the guns of the secondary battery, which in the Russian ships of the later type is carried in pairs in turrets, while the English guns fire from casements or open central batteries. The Russian armored cruisers include the "Rossia," "Ruric," and "Gromoboj," big vessels of 11,000 to 12,000 tons displacement and 20 knots speed, and the "Bayan," a 7,800 ton vessel of 21 knots speed. Should the war take place, it is evident that the very latest types of battleship construction will receive an ample test. In the class of protected cruisers, Russia is particularly strong in the possession of six fine vessels of 6,500 tons displacement, and speeds which run up, in the case of one of them, the "Variag," built in this country, to 24 knots, the others having easily made the contract speed of 22 knots. She also has available two third-class vessels of 3,000 tons, which have made the remarkable speed of 25 knots an hour. Against these Japan has four second-class cruisers, of about 4,500 tons and 22 to 23 knots speed, and the three curious vessels of the "Hashidate" class, of 4,300 tons, which did good work in the Chinese war. They are of 17 knots speed, and carry, strange to relate one great 12½-inch Canet gun, addition to a numerous battery of 4.7-inch guns. In third-class cruisers Japan has a considerable superiority.

On the point of personnel, discipline, and general efficiency of the officers and crews, all that can be said is that the Japanese proved in the Chinese war that they possess all the requisites of bravery, dash and intelligence; of the Russian personnel, nothing more is known than can be gathered from the comments of qualified observers; but the discipline is said to be excellent, and the officers are known to be highly-educated and intelligent class of men, who are believed to have a thorough mastery of their profession. Japan will, of course have the great advantage of fighting in home waters, and within comparatively easy reach of her dockyards. —Scientific American.

SO DIFFERENT.

Lots of Claims Like This But so Different—Local Proof is What Salem People Want.

There are a great many of them.
Every paper has its share.
Statements hard to believe, harder to prove.
Statements from far-away places.
What people say in Florida.
Public expression from California.
Ofttimes good endorsement there
But of little service here at home
Salem people want local proof.
The sayings of neighbors, friends and citizens,
Home indorsement counts:
It disarms the skeptic beyond dispute.

This is the backing that stands behind every box of Doan's Kidney Pills Here is a case of it:

James A. Tanner, farmer, corner Thirteenth and Lewis sts., says: "So many suffer from kidney complaint that for a time I was alarmed about myself for I was troubled with my back achiag in the region of my kidneys. I think it was caused first by a strain from heavy lifting I did two years ago. I kept getting worse instead of better and finally consulted a doctor. He told me I had gall stone in the bladder, but trouble with kidney secretions existed their too frequent action disturbed my rest from fifteen to twenty times a night. This was very annoying and I was in a bad way when I read of Doan's Kidney Pills and procured a box at Dr. Stone's drug store. To say I was surprised at the speedy effect of their use is putting it mildly.(I have recommended Doan's Kidney Pills to others and will always have a good word for them." 4

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name Doan's and take no substitute.

Grand Master Yoran.

Tonight, in the Masonic hall, will be held a joint session of Salem lodge No. 4, and Pacific lodge No. 50, A. F. & A. M., the occasion being the official visit here of Hon. S. M. Yoran, of Eugene, grand master of the grand lodge of Oregon. An interesting session is expected by the members of the craft, and the attendance promises to be large. Tomorow evening Grand Master Yoran will be in Gervais, where he will dedicate the new Masonic hall, built there since the fire a year ago, and a large number of the Salem Masons will accompany him to that place, and take part in the ceremonies incident to the occasion.

COMPETENT JUDGES.

Beauty Doctors Endorse Herpicide.

Women who make a business of beautifying other women come pretty near knowing what will bring about the best results. Here are letters from two, concerning Herpicide:

"I can recommend Newbro's "Herpicide," as it stopped my hair from falling out; and, as a dressing it has no superior.
"(Signed.) Bertha A. Trullinger,
"Complexion Specialist,
"29½ Morrison St., Portland, Ore."

"After using one bottle of "Herpicide" my hair has stopped falling out, and my scalp is entirely free from dandruff.
"(Signed.) Grace Dodge,
"Beauty Doctor,
"716 Sixth St., Portland, Ore."

Sold by leading druggists. Send 10c. in stamps for sample to The Herpicide Co., Detroit, Mich.

Daniel J. Fry, Special Agent.

Pretty Safe Rule to Go By.

When there is a feeling that the heart or lungs, blood or liver, brain or nerves are diseased, at once commence to doctor the stomach. This is the foundation of the trouble in 90 cases out of every 100. Commence to regulate the digestive organs, get them in healthy working condition, and the other troubles will leave of themselves. Diseases which have their beginning in the stomach are cured through the stomach. The medicine for stomach disorders and half the ills of life, is Dr. Gunn's Improved Liver Pill. They are sold by all druggists for 25c per box. One pill is a dose. These pills put all the digestive organs in good condition so that disease has no basis to work upon.

Literary Society.

The West Salem Literary Society held its regular meeting at the West Salem school house last Saturday evening. The following program was rendered, and enjoyed by all present:

Selection on harp and autoharp—Arthur Traglio.
Recitation—Miss Essie Gosser.
Selection—Mrs. M. E. Cooper.
Recitation—Miss Ruth White.
Solo, "Better Than Gold"—W. H. Squires.
Recitation—Mrs. Grace Thompson.
Solo, "The Beer That Made Milwaukee Famous"—Mr. Thomas Gilbert.
Recitation—Russell Cooley.
Duet—Misses Moyer and White.
Recitation—Miss Blanche Matheny.

After the program an interesting debate was held, the question being: "Resolved, That prohibition is better than high license." It was decided in favor of the negative.

The next regular meeting will be held at 7:30 next Saturday evening, and a good program is being prepared.

A Ministers Mistake.

A city minister was recently handed a notice to be read from his pulpit. Accompanying it was a clipping from a newspaper bearing upon the matter The clergyman started to read the extract and found that it began: "Take Kemp's Balsam, the best Cough Cure." This was hardly what he had expected, and, after a moment's hesitation, he turned it over and found on the other side the matter intended for reading.3

A Ninety Mile an Hour Record.

Henry Ford, on January 12, with his remodeled racer, fitted with a new 70-horsepower motor, beat all existing records for the mile by a wide margin in a speed trial over a specially prepared course on the ice of Lake St. Clair. A track several miles in length was prepared by scraping the snow off the ice and sprinkling it with cinders. The machine swerved and bumped about considerably, but made the remarkable time of 39 2-3 seconds.

Will Entertain Them.

E. C. and H. D. Patton will be at the reform school this evening, where they will give a performance in hypnotism and magic for the benefit of the boys of the school and officers The boys have long wished for this performance, and much pleasure is anticipated by the entire school from it.

Sure Cure for Piles.

Itching Piles produce moisture and cause itching, this form, as well as Bling, Bleeding or Protruding Piles are cured by Dr. Bo-san-ko's Pile Remedy. Stops itching and bleeding. Absorbs tumors. 50c a jar at druggists, or sent by mail. Treaties free. Write me about your case. Dr. Bosanko, Phila., Pa.

Another Falling Lamp.

A few evenings ago, at the home of Harry Helmken, in South Salem, a serious fire was narrowly averted by the presence of mind and prompt action of Ruby, the eldest daughter of the family, and Ralph, the son. Mrs. Helmken, who has been in poor health for some little time, while in the act of pulling down the hanging lamp in the sitting room had an accident, in that one of the chains by which the lamp was suspended broke, throwing the lamp to the floor. It was broken by the fall, and the oil at once took fire, igniting the carpet and threatening a general blaze. Miss Ruby, with rare presence of mind, seized the lamp with the burning oil, and threw it out of the door, and, with her brother, quickly extinguished the blaze in the house. By the prompt work of the young lady and her brother a serious fire was averted, and the two young actors in the drama sustained but slight injuries, their hands being slightly burned. Mr. Helmken knew nothing of the occurrence until his return home late in the evening, having been detained at his business, and he was over-joyed at the narrow escape his family had from a serious loss and possibly injury. This is the second time this family has had a similar accident, the first occurring in Turner when they lived there, a number of years ago.

"Portland and Return Only $2.20."

The Southern Pacific is now selling round trip tickets to Portland from Salem for $2.20, good going Saturday or Sunday, returning Sunday and Monday, giving all day Sunday and Monday in Portland. The same arrangement applies from Portland, giving all Portland people a chance to visit valley points at greatly reduced rates.

W. H. COMAN, G. P. A.

Notice.

The Hughes bridge will be closed to teams until further notice. By order of the committee on bridges.

H. C. TARPLEY,
Street Commissioner.
Salem, Or., Jan. 20, 1904 1 21-10t

Branson & Ragan.

Keep all kinds of groceries, and they are the best that can be found in the city. You don't know it until you have tried them.