

ROJESTVENSKI WAS  
NOT JUSTIFIED.

## International Commission on North Sea Incident Has So Declared.

### CAUSE OF INCIDENT ASSIGNED

---

Probably Was Delay of Transport  
Kamtschatka, Following Break-  
Down of Machinery.

COMMANDER SIGNALLED ADMIRAL

---

Was to Effect that He Had Been At-  
tacked—This Gave Admiral Reason  
To Believe He Had Been.

Paris, Feb. 25.—The international commission on the North Sea incident finds that "the opening of fire by Ad-

mission on inquiry into the North sea incident was publicly announced at the closing session of the commission today. The decision lengthily sets forth the circumstances and incidents and gives the opinion of the admirals on the various important points involved. The decision says that delay of the Russian transport Kamtchatka, following the breaking down of her machinery, was perhaps the cause of the

sky during the evening that he had been attacked by torpedo boats. The admiral therefore had reason to believe he was attacked and gave orders for strict vigilance against the possible approach of torpedoboats.

London, Feb. 25.—The foreign office received the findings of the North sea commission with apparent equanimity but declined to give out any official expression of opinion thereon. An official said to the Associated Press:

"The finding of the commission is final. We, therefore, must be satisfied and it would be in bad taste for us to

The findings were received in London with every sign of gratification, which was all the more marked because of the premature reports that the decision of the admirals had been of an anti-British character. The whole re-

seems to afford a certain justification for opening the firing, is at the same time taken implying that the Russians continued to fire after they had discovered their mistake. The definite finding of the admirals that no torpedoboats were at the scene of the incident gives

the trawlers Crane and Aurora were the boats the Russians mistook for torpedoboats.

CLOSING SESSION.

The closing session of the commission presented a brilliant scene. The

cluding the Russian, British and American ambassadors, members of the Japanese legation, officers of the army and navy. Judges of the highest French courts and the wives and other relatives of members of the commission. Contrary to expectation the admirals

Admiral Fournier, president of the commission, read the decision amid an impressive silence, the spectators following it minutely. The general impression among the audience was that the decision was in the nature of a compromise as the majority approved the

equation and that, therefore, the opening fire was not justified, and as the majority also approved the Russian contention that Admiral Rojestvenski acted according to his belief, even though mistaken and that therefore his action did not reflect upon his military valor or sentiments of humanity.

"The commission," the decision says, "recognize unanimously that the fishing fleet committed no hostile act and the majority of the commissioners being

"In any event," the decision continues "the commissioners are glad to

Concerning the squadron's proceeding without assisting the damaged trawlers, the decision says:

"However, the majority regrets that the admiral did not inform the neighboring maritime powers of what had occurred."

to cast any disrespect upon the military valor nor upon the sentiments of humanity of Admiral Rojestvenski and the personnel of his squadron."

**MEMBERS THANKED.**

Admiral Fourier closed the commission with a speech of thanks.

a recompense for his labors the legiti-