

JAPANESE MAKE A SIGNAL FAILURE.

Admiral Togo Again Tries to Block
Port Arthur But Without
Success.

DECLINED OFFER OF BATTLE.

Makarov Sailed Out of Harbor to
Meet Him But He Retired with
His Squadron.

Choson March 27.—The Japanese have made another attempt to block the entrance to Port Arthur. At 3 o'clock (Sunday) morning four stone laden steamers escorted by eight torpedo boats approached the harbor. They were discovered by the Russian vessels on duty, and as they drew near, the Russian forts and the ships, which were anchored in the roadstead, opened fire on them and sunk them. The Japanese fleet, which consisted of 14 ships all told, remained off Port Arthur until daylight. At this hour the Russian vessels weighed anchor, whereupon the Japanese vessels disappeared. The fate of the crew of the stone laden steamers is not known. Since the arrival at Port Arthur of Vice Admiral Makarov the Russian fleet has been more active.

ACCOUNT SENT CZAR.

St. Petersburg, March 27.—An official dispatch from Port Arthur to the czar says that at 1 o'clock this morning the Russian searchlights discovered four large Japanese steamers in the entrance of the harbor, making for it by six torpedo boats. A support of six torpedo boats, which were opened on them by the batteries and some warships.

The torpedo boat, commanded by Lieut. Krinik, turned the merchant vessels from their course by blowing up the mine of the first and then holding up the enemy's torpedo boats. In the first light which followed, the Japanese torpedo boats were destroyed and 12 men were injured. The Japanese plan to close up the entrance to Port Arthur was frustrated, however, and the channel is still clear.

Vice Admiral Makarov, commanding the Russian naval forces at Port Arthur, has sent the following telegram to the czar:

"I beg most humbly to report that at 1 o'clock this morning the enemy made a second attempt to block the entrance to the inner roadstead. For this purpose they dispatched four large steamers escorted by six torpedo boats. The enemy's ships were promptly discovered by the searchlight and by the batteries and by the warships.

"The enemy's ships might break through. Lieut. Krinik, commanding the guard torpedo boat Stili, attacked the enemy and destroyed the bow of the foremost Japanese steamer with a torpedo. This steamer turned to the right and was followed by two others, with the result that the three were stranded to the right of the entrance. A fourth steamer went to the right of the enemy's ships and likewise sank to the side of the fair way. The Stili then battled with the enemy's six torpedo boats. Engineer Artillery Swyeroff and six seamen were killed and the commander and 12 seamen were wounded.

"At daylight the enemy's battleship and cruiser squadron appeared, and proceeded with the fleet under my charge to meet the enemy. The second attempt of the Japanese to block the entrance to Port Arthur has failed, thanks to the energetic defense by the sea and land forces, who acted as they did during the first attempt.

"The harbor remains perfectly clear." The following official dispatch has been received from Gen. Smirnov:

Port Arthur, March 27.—Last night, after midnight, the Japanese attempted to block the entrance to the harbor. Four fire ships were sent toward the port, escorted by a torpedo flotilla. Toward 2:15 a. m. the approach of the enemy's ships was perceived by the searchlights and batteries, which simultaneously opened upon them heavily.

The fireships were preceded by torpedo boats and followed at a considerable distance by the larger ships, which directed on the forts, supporting the action of the fireships and the torpedo boats.

"Owing to the heaviness of our artillery fire and the boldness of our torpedo boats, the fireships did not reach the entrance to the harbor. Two of them grounded on a reef under Golden Hill, another sank before the first turn of the channel, struck by a torpedo from one of our boats, and the fourth

Suicide

What Drives so Many
People to This Dark
Path, and Why.

If a man—before taking a step made possible only by brooding and despair—would consider that his feeling of darkness is only a question of nerves—he would be saved.

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sank, its bow touching a Japanese steamer sunk in the previous attempt off Majatshnaja Gorda.

"The entrance to the harbor remains clear. A Hotchkiss one-inch caliber quick-firer was found aboard one of the sunken steamers, from which a fire had been kept up on torpedo boats.

"A boat left each of the sunken ships, carrying their crews. One of these is believed to have been picked up. Towards 4 o'clock this morning the enemy's torpedo boats retired and the bombardment ceased.

Vice Admiral Makarov at once proceeded in a steam launch to inspect the enemy's sunken steamers.

"The enemy's torpedo boats reappeared at 5 o'clock this morning. They were sighted south of Port Arthur and the batteries reopened on them. Towards 6 o'clock the enemy's squadron appeared on the horizon and our ships steamed out to meet it. At 6:30 the batteries opened fire. Our ships' batteries soon ceased, the Japanese drawing off to the southeast, evidently declining another engagement. At 10 o'clock they disappeared.

A further telegram to the czar from Vice Admiral Makarov says: "I respectfully report that, the enemy having withdrawn I returned to the harbor with the fleet.

"The torpedo boat destroyer Stili, which stranded on a reef in consequence of damage caused to her engines by one of the enemy's ships, was floated during the course of the night and entered the harbor, thanks to the energy of her crew. Her commander, Lieut. Krinik, who was slightly wounded in the arm, did not quit his post.

"On the fire ships were infernal machines, the wires connected with which were cut by Lieut. Keroff and Ensign Filousky of the Irregulars, whom I dispatched on this task. They boarded one of the steamers as soon as it stopped, cut the electric wires and extinguished the fire, which would have lit up the entrance to the harbor in the roadstead.

"In the morning a floating mine was found, bearing an infernal machine, but the latter was successfully removed.

"The inspection made showed that the steamers utilized as fire ships were not old. They were each of about 2,000 tons and were armed with light caliber guns.

TOGO DECLINES BATTLE.

St. Petersburg, March 27.—Under cover of darkness this morning Vice Admiral Togo's fleet, with seven torpedo boats, attempted another desperate attempt to bottle up the Russian fleet in Port Arthur, but he failed again, and when, after daylight, Vice Admiral Makarov steamed out to give battle, the Japanese commander refused the challenge and sailed away.

The Japanese practically repeated the tactics of Feb. 24, by sending four ships, preceded by a torpedo boat division, with the exception that the fireships this time were armed with Hotchkiss guns for the purpose of keeping off the Russian torpedo boat destroyers.

The new attempt was discovered by means of the shore searchlight and a heavy fire was opened from the batteries and from two gunboats which were guarding the entrance to the harbor. The Russian torpedo boat destroyer Stili was outside on scouting duty, and to the dash and nerve of her commander, Lieut. Krinik, is chiefly due the complete defeat of the plans of the Japanese. He at once directed straight for the on coming ships under a hail of fire from the Hotchkiss guns, which sheered off, followed by the others, three of them being piled up on the shore under Golden Hill and one under the lighthouse.

The Stili then engaged the entire six torpedo boats of the enemy, coming out from a terrace fight with seven killed and the remainder of 12 of her complement wounded, but on the Japanese side only one boat's crew was saved. In addition, according to unofficial reports, it is believed the Japanese lost two torpedo boats.

The Japanese cruisers which supported the attack exchanged shots with the batteries, and then drew off, after which Vice Admiral Makarov took a steam launch and examined the fire ships. An hour later the Japanese torpedo flotilla, followed by Vice Admiral Togo's fleet, came up from a southerly direction. Just at daylight Vice Admiral Makarov, with his fleet, sailed out to engage the enemy, but after the ships and batteries had fired a few long distance shots, Vice Admiral Togo decided to decline the issue and disappeared to the southward.

The news of the repulse of Vice Admiral Togo's second attempt to block Port Arthur created much rejoicing in the Russian capital, and among all classes the gallantry of the Stili and her commander is the subject of high praise, but above all the moral effect of Vice Admiral Makarov's willingness to engage the enemy, showing that he considered himself strong enough to fight, produced a splendid impression.

In high official circles this new effort to bottle up the Russian fleet is looked upon as meaning only one thing, namely, that the Japanese, as stated by the Associated Press on March 24, are now preparing for a heavy landing of troops in the gulf of Liao Tung, either at Newchwang or on the west coast of Manchuria, neutral zone, to effect which in safety the immobility of Vice Admiral Makarov's fleet is absolutely essential while the transports are being conveyed around the southern end of the peninsula. If the attempt had succeeded it would have

required several days at least to blow up the steamers and clear away the wreckage, during which time the Japanese would be assured of non-interference in the carrying out of their purposes. The failure of the Japanese this morning may seriously hamper their plans as the ice in the Liao river is going out and when the river free from the ice its mouth can easily be mined.

The conviction continues to grow here that the Japanese have concluded that it would be inadvisable to make a direct frontal attack on Manchuria from Korea against the whole Russian army, and it will be necessary to land a flanking column in the gulf of Liao Tung to divide the attention of the Russians, and if possible to seize the railroad and cut off Port Arthur. The ground above Newchwang is perfectly familiar to the Japanese, who occupied it for a year during the Chino-Japanese war.

Some experts even go so far as to express the belief that Vice Admiral Togo was covering the movement of troops in the gulf of Liao Tung this morning, and that therefore he was compelled to exercise great caution and to decline the Russian offer of an engagement. Another view of the Japanese admiral's purpose, which is less entertained, is that he believes that bombardments from Pigeon bay would be disastrous to the Russian fleet if it were compelled to remain in the harbor, he having ascertained from observation that the Russian ships always pass out during the high angle bombardments, and that a big shell dropped on a battleship could easily pierce the deck and, exploding, might completely destroy it.

THIRTY BATTERIES OPENED.

St. Petersburg, March 27.—Vice Admiral Togo, in a dispatch to the emperor from Mukden, says: "During an attack by the enemy's ships on March 27 on the torpedo boat Stili one of the latter's steam pipes and her starting gear were damaged, in consequence of which she was beached near Golden Hill, but since then she has been refloated. The number of men killed and wounded on the torpedo boat has not yet been ascertained.

"Shortly before 5:25 this morning the enemy's torpedo boats were sighted to the south of Port Arthur and the batteries opened fire on them. Toward 5 o'clock the enemy's squadron appeared on the horizon. Thirty batteries on Tiger peninsula opened fire and our fleet steamed out of the harbor, the Bayan and the Askold leading, and also fired at the enemy. Our fire, however, ceased immediately in view of the great distance of the enemy's squadron.

"At 8:15 o'clock our entire squadron lined up the roadstead. The Japanese squadron roared off in a southeasterly direction, evidently in order to avoid giving battle, and toward 10 o'clock disappeared below the horizon."

Remarkable Surgical Operation.

Baltimore, Md., March 28.—Raymond Moore, 18 years old, has undergone a remarkable surgical operation at Baltimore university hospital. Pneumonia left him with a persistent formation of pus in the pleural cavity.

To relieve him, the surgeons removed the sixth and seventh ribs on the right side, and in their places substituted hard rubber tubes to drain the chest. It is expected that in about six months the pericostum of the missing ribs will form new bones. The patient is convalescing.

A MURDERER COMMITTS SUICIDE.

George Crossman Killed Himself
To Avoid Arrest by the
London Police.

FOUND WOMAN'S BODY IN TRUNK

He Had Had Eight or More Wives—
Fate of Some of Them Uncertain
And Unknown.

London, March 26.—Polygamy and its influence over George Crossman, who had eight or more wives, and the developments following from the suicide of Crossman are absorbing public attention.

On the night of March 23 Crossman, who was living in the respectable suburb of Kensalrie, killed himself to avoid arrest by the police, whose suspicions had been aroused regarding the contents of a trunk which Crossman was sending away from his house.

On opening the trunk the body of a woman was found encased in cement. An investigation proved that she was murdered about six months ago, and that she was one of Crossman's wives.

Five of his wives were traced and found alive. One wife is dead and two are missing. The body found concealed in a decomposed condition even to the skull, which had been split with an axe.

The police believe it possible the investigation may prove that Crossman adopted a similar method in ridding himself of other superfluous wives, of which it is suspected he may have had several who have not yet been traced.

Though only 30 years old, Crossman's career rivals that of famous criminals. Under various aliases he led a double and even a triple married life. He was an engineer, composer, wig maker or book maker. His chief means of support, however, appear to have been to give himself to his wives, several of whom he secured through advertisements.

In 1889 Crossman was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for bigamy, and while he was in prison he was still on parole. Yet his neighbors always regarded him as a respectable man, who led a quiet and uninteresting life.

Crossman's first wife died, apparently of natural causes, in 1887. He remarried in 1888 at Maidstone, and the same year contracted a bigamous marriage at Aldon, with the result that he was sentenced to five years in penal servitude. Good conduct in prison enabled him to avoid the full term.

Once free, he set to work to marry by wholesale. Wife number four was quickly secured. She and her baby recently were living at Crossman's house at Kensalrie.

At Reading, Crossman secured a fifth wife, under the name of Seaton. A month later he again married. The whereabouts and fate of this sixth wife are still uncertain. Having these wives living at different places, Crossman took a fourth wife, making a total of seven up to that time. For a year he kept up the deception, and apparently none of his wives had the faintest suspicion of his polygamous living.

Crossman found his eighth wife in the young daughter of a London railroad employee, and she is supposed to be the victim he encased in cement.

At the time of his suicide Crossman had five known wives living and several children. The discovery occurred through the suspicions of a lodger to whom Crossman let some rooms at Kensalrie. For some time the lodger had noticed an obnoxious odor and complained of it, but Crossman attributed it to the drains.

At the same time Crossman was living with one of his wives in the same room where the dead body of wife number eight was concealed. In a trunk. The lodger traced the odor thence, and Crossman agreed to send the trunk away. During the evening of March 23, while moving the trunk, the lodger's suspicions were further increased, and when he saw a black fluid ooze out of the trunk he went to a police station.

Just as the greasy load was lifted into a cart the police appeared. With a cry Crossman started to run. For three-quarters of a mile he fled for his life. The police gained on him, and just as the foremost of the pursuers was on his heels Crossman drew from his pocket a razor and cut his throat from ear to ear. Death was almost instantaneous.

The body found in the trunk is that of a young well-formed woman, only partly decayed. The police theory is that Crossman, while he was undressing, struck her from behind with an axe, severing a portion of the skull, part of which is now missing.

Irrigation in Oregon.

Washington, March 27.—The census bureau today issued a preliminary report on irrigation in Oregon in 1903. It shows that the irrigation conditions there were above the average. Better methods of management and a more economical use of the ordinary water supply are urged in order to greatly increase the number of acres that may be brought under irrigation.

In 1902 the number of farms reported was 5,133, with an irrigated area of 439,718 acres, an increase since 1899 of 51,671 acres, or 13.2 per cent for the three years. The per cent of increase for the 10 years from 1893 to 1899 was 118.2.

In 1902, 2,555 irrigating systems were in operation, representing a total construction cost of \$2,089,600, an average of \$18 per system, and \$4.76 per irrigated acre. The total length of main canals and ditches was 3,653 miles, an average of 14 miles per system.

The aggregate number of acres irrigated by the 2,517 systems receiving water from streams was 428,925, belonging to 4,978 farms. The average cost per acre was \$4.81. The 114 systems supplied with water from springs irrigated 16,799 acres on 131 farms, the average cost per acre being \$2.13.

Twenty-four well systems irrigated 972 acres, representing 24 farms, at an average cost per acre of \$15.27. The stream systems cost, initially \$2,082,188 for the 3,694 miles of main canals and ditches, and the necessary dams and headgates. The first cost of the spring systems was \$22,985, and the length of main ditches was 49 miles. The construction of the well systems was \$4,536.

Two Negroes Murdered.

De Witt, Ark., March 26.—Two more negroes have been put to death near St. Charles, making 11 negroes that have been killed as the result of the rioting which began last Monday.

Kellie Johnson, the last of the band of negroes that caused the trouble, was shot to death today. Perry Carter was found dead in the woods near where the five negroes were slain Thursday night by citizens.

All is reported quiet tonight at St. Charles. It is the belief that the most objectionable negroes have been slain, and no further trouble is looked for.

RHEUMATISM AN INDESCRIBABLE TORTURE

Because Rheumatism sometimes comes on suddenly it doesn't prove that it is a chance disease or one due to accidental causes. It takes time for it to develop, and is at work in the system long before any symptoms are felt. The blood is the first point of attack, and the poisonous acids that cause the aches and pains are then distributed through the circulation to different parts of the system, and settle in joints, muscles and nerves; and when the system is in this condition it needs only some exciting cause like exposure to night air, damp, chilly weather, or the cold, bleak winds of winter, to arouse the slumbering poisons and bring on Rheumatism. The severity of the attack depends upon the amount of acid in the blood and the quantity of acid matter in the joints and muscles. Some people are almost helpless from the first, while others have occasional spells or are uncomfortable, restless, nervous and half sick all the time from the nagging aches and pains. Rheumatism is a disagreeable companion even in its mildest form. It grows worse as we grow older, and frequently stiffens the joints, draws the muscles out of shape and breaks down the nervous system. A disease that originates in the blood, as Rheumatism does, cannot be cured with external remedies like liniments and plasters; such things scatter the pains or drive them to some other part of the body, but do not touch the disease or improve the condition of the blood. The thin acid blood must be restored to its normal purity and strength, so that all poisonous substances may be carried out of the system, and no medicine accomplishes this in so short a time as S.S.S., which not only neutralizes the acids and counteracts the poisons, but builds up the general health at the same time.

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