DESERET EVENING NEWS: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1904.



JAPAN ANSWERS RUSSIA'S CHARGES

Declares That Their Refutation is Found in the Action of Russia Herself.

HER DELAY HAD A PURPOSE.

She Refused to Meet Proposals and All The While She Was Preparing For War.

Washington, March 1 .-- The following authorized statement received today from his government is given out by the Japanese minister:

"The Russian government has charged Japan with having treacherously obtained a victory by a sudden sttack upon Russia, who was bent on maintaining peace. It is further asseried in these communiques that since a rupture of diplomatic relations can never be looked upon as the opening of hestilities, and since Japan did not issue a declaration of war until the 11th of February, she has been guilty of a fagrant breach of the principles of international law in making, as early as the 8th of February, most unwarrantable attacks on Russian men-of-war and merchant vessels.

"The answer to these charges may be found in the action of Russia herself. That her government never enter-tained any sincere desire for peace can be clearly seen from its own conduct. Throughout the whole course of the nesolutions Russia persistently refused to meet the proposals made by Japan in a moderate and conciliatory spirit. These delays could not be construed as otherwise than wanton and unnecessary. She put off the settlement of the questions at issue, while at the same time busily extending her naval and military preparations.

Her warlike preparations in the far east had been under way since last April when she failed to carry out her treaty engagements. During that time the increase made in her naval strength in the far east was as follows:

"Three battleships, tonnage 38,488; one armored cruiser, tonnage 7,727; five cruisers, tonnage 26,417; seven destroy-ers, tonnage 2,450; one gunboat, tonnage, 1334: two vessels for laying mines, tonnage, 6,000; total number of vessels, 19, with a total tonnage of 82,415. In addition to these vessels the Pussian government sent torpedo destroyers in sections by rail to Port Arthur, where the work of putting them together has been hastened and seven of them have already been completed. Futhermore, vssels of the volunteer fleet were armed at Vladivostock and hoisted the Russian naval ensign. The Russian government also ordered to the far ast one battleship, three cruisers, three destroyers and four torpedo boats, of a total tonnage of about 30,740, which berian railway, the Russian govern-ment sent to China two infantry bri-grades, two artillery battalions and a large force of cavalry; troops have been Russia to the far east, until the Russian force was over 40,000. At the same time plans were being made for send-"During the same period there has been the greatest activity possible at Port Arthur and at Vladivostok, and work has been carried on day and night to strengthen the fortifications of those naval ports, while forts have been built at Hunchun, Liao Yang and other strategic points, and large quanti-ties of arms and ammunition have been sent to the far east by the Siberian rallway and the vessels of the volunteer fleet.

"In the middle of October last a train of 14 cars was hurriedly sent from Russia laden with the equipment of a field hospital. From these military and naval preparations of every description, made during the progress of the ne-gotiations, it is quite evident that Russla was not inclined to a friendly set-tlement of the questions then under dis-cussion between Japan and herself, but sought solely by here military pre-ponderance to force Japan into submission. During the latter part of January and up to the beginning of February Russian military activity was still fur-ther intensified.

tions or that she was unprepared for

"Seeing that the situation had be-come so critical that it admitted of no

further delay the Japanese govern-ment was compelled to break off nego-tiations that had proved abortive and

war?

"On Jan. 21 about two battalions of infantry and a detachment of cavalry were sent from Port Arthur and Dalny to the northern frontier of Korea, and on Jan. 28 a formal order to prepare for war was chem by for war was given by Admiral Alexieft to the forces which were stationed in the vicinity of the Yalu. On Feb. 1 the military commandant at Viadivostock, under the orders of his government, re-quested the Japanese commercial agent at that port to notify his nation that a state of siege might be proclaimed at any moment, and they must make immediate preparations to withdraw to Habnrovsk. About the same date all of the warships at Port Arthur, except a battleship then under repairs, made a naval demonstration by leaving port, a havai demonstration by leaving port, while troops were advanced in large numbers from Llao Yang toward the Yalu. In view of these facts who can say that Russia had no warlike inten-

## ports Favorably on It.

to take the necessary steps for self-pro-tection. But the responsibility for the Washington, March 1 .- The senate challenge to war rests not with Japan, but solely with Russia. committee on finance today made a favorable report on the nomination of H. "On the 6th of February Japan an-Smith Woollley, nominated for assayer nounced to Russia her decision to ter-minate the pending negotiations and to at Boise, Ida. There has been quite a take such independent action as she might deem best to defend her porsition contest over the nomination on account of certain reports against Woolliey on file in the treasury department. Noth-ing in the way of charges were filed with the committee, but Senator Teller might deem best to defend her porsition menaced by Russia, and to protect her established rights and legitimate in-terests. At the same time the govern-ment of Japan informed the Russian government that as its moderate and unselfish proposals in the interest of a firm and lasting peace in the far east had not received the consideration reserved the right to introduce a reso-lution calling for the secret service reports of the treasury regarding the investigation made by the department. Woolley is a "Mormon" bishop, and his appointment was made at the ur-gent request of Senator Heyburn, in the had not received the consideration which was their due, Japan had re-solved to sever her diplomatic relations with Russia, which for the reason face of strong opposition from Idaho. named had ceased to possess value, and Republican senators denied that sec ret service officials who conducted the investigation of the charges had con-victed Woollley of the offenses charged,

"The term 'independent action' naturally included the opening of hostilities. The fact that Russia was un-able to understand it in that light is, of course, no reason why Japan should be responsible for the misinterpretation and in opposition to the resolutions said that the reports are on file at the treasury department where any senator may examine them without publicimade by Russia. It is the almost unanimous opinion of international jurists that a declaration of war is not

The nomination will come up again at a subsequent session.

San Francisco, March 1 -- The United States army transport Sherman sailed today for the Philippines, via Honolulu. She carried the Twelfth infantry, commanded by Col. J. W. Bubb, 400 in-fantry and 100 cavalry recruits, besides a large number of officers, as passen-In her hold were 1,500 tons of gers. army supplies. Before her departure the transport was inspected by Maj. Gen. MacArthur. Capt. F. L. Winn of Twelfth infantry did not sail with the the regiment, as he has just been appointed an alde on the staff of Gen. MacArthur

an indispensable prerequisite to the opening of hostilities. Indeed, it has Twelfth Infantry Sails.



joined the Russlan squadhave ron in the far east had not circum-stances subsequently compelled Russia These vessels, if addrecall them ed to the others brought to the far east during the progress of negotiations, would have made a total increase in Russia's naval strength of about 113,000

During the same period the increase of Russia's land forces in the far east has been equally marked. Since the 30th of last June, when under the pretext of trial transportation on the Si-

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been the common practice in recent wars to declare war after hostilities have been begun. Japan's action, therefore, is not open to the least criti-clsm in this regard. From the standpoint of international law it must be understood that the charges made against her do not come with good grace from Russia, inasmuch as there 'are not only many historical instances

to withdraw her legation.

of Russia herself resorting to hostolities without declaration of war, but one case, that of her invasion of Finland in 1808, when she began war before there had even been a rupture of diplomatic relations."

east of the Rocky Mountains was held here today to form a permanent or-ganization. A committee was appoint-ed to prepare a measure to be introduced in Congress to prohibit the man. ufacture of so-called "sugar wines." A resolution was passed pledging every member present to make and sell only pure wines, and to have them

properly labeled. Th new organization is to be known



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