

# Sylvan Valley News

Our County—Its Progress and Prosperity the First Duty of a Local Paper.

MINER & BREESE.

BREVARD, TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1904.

VOL. IX--NO. 9

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## Japan and Russia.

### Concise Statement of Events Which Have Led up to the Present War.

1860—Russia annexes extreme eastern part of Manchuria, thus securing the port of Vladivostok.

1881—Russia occupies more Manchurian territory.

1885—Russian colonies established in Manchuria.

1891—Czar Nicholas III. issues a rescript for the building of the transiberian railroad.

1895—Treaty of Shimonoseki, making peace between China and Japan. France, Germany and Russia compel Japan to withdraw her claims as to portions of the Liaotung peninsula, and Japan yields to superior force.

1896—Private treaty between China and Russia, the latter promising to defend China against the world; Manchurian railway agreement perfected.

1897—Germany gets possession of Kiau-Chow; Russia takes the opportunity to seize Port Arthur and Talien-wan.

1900—Boxer rebellion gives further opportunity to Russia to fasten her grip on Manchuria.

1901—Protests by Japan and other powers to Russian encroachments on Chinese territory.

1902—Treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan is signed January 30. China-Russian treaty signed April 8 for the evacuation of Manchuria by Russia, and declaring the province to be an integral part of China. China's commercial treaty with Great Britain signed September 5.

1903—Russia fails to keep pledge to evacuate Manchuria, and April 23 demands new conditions as to the carrying out of the Manchurian treaty.

June—Japan and the United States object to the new conditions, and Russia begins movements on the Yalu river under pretense of taking up timber concessions.

July—Japan protests and presses Korea to open the port of Wiju to foreign trade. Great Britain and the United States concurring in the demand. Pavloff, Russian minister to Korea, makes threats.

August—Japan proposes a modus vivendi the 12th, and negotiations are opened. Japan presses Russia for fulfillment of all treaty conditions.

September—Russia gives new pledge that New Chwang and Mukden would be evacuated October 8, but later demands grants for landing places and military post stations, and Japan evinces resentment.

October 8—China signs commercial treaties with Japan and the United States.

October 15—Japan agrees to recognize dominant interests of Russia in Manchuria, but wants Chinese sovereignty unimpaired. It also demands recognition of Japanese influence in Korea and the opening of Yongampho and

other ports, besides a neutral zone on both sides of the Yalu river.

October 30—Reoccupation of Mukden by Russia is reported.

December—Japanesediet opens the 10th and the government is censured for the inadequacy of its measures.

December 17—Russia makes reply to Japan's last note, but it excludes Japan altogether from the Manchurian question.

December 21—Russia is asked to reconsider its reply.

Emergency ordinance is issued in Japan, giving the government unlimited credit.

December 29—High court of war is held, with the emperor in the chair. Admiral Togo is put in command of the fleet; he captured the Taku forts in 1900.

1904—Jan. 5—Japan sends final note to Russia, intimating that her demands must be acceded to or war will result.

January 8—Review of troops is held at Tokio and great enthusiasm is shown.

January 15—Russia delays answer and Japan shows impatience.

January 30—Minister Kurino makes inquiries at St. Petersburg as to when a reply to Japan's last note may be expected.

February 3—Russia's reply is sent to Tokio, but proves unsatisfactory.

February 5—Baron de Rosen, Russian minister, is notified at Tokio that Japan intends to sever diplomatic relations with Russia.

February 6—Minister Kurino, Japanese envoy, demands his passports at St. Petersburg and receives them, and Baron de Rosen is notified to quit Tokio.

February 8—Japan declares she will take military and naval steps to protect her interests in the east.

Feb. 9—Japan transports guarded by warships, began landing troops in Korea. The Japanese fleet attacked the Russian fleet at Port Arthur and torpedoed two battle ships and a cruiser. The Russian losses were fifteen killed and seventy-four wounded. The Japanese fleet was uninjured.

Feb. 10—The Japanese troops blow up a bridge on the Manchurian railway, killing thirty Russians. The Mikado's troops entered Korea in force, transports being guarded by warships. The Japanese fleet engaged the Russian squadron at Chemulpo and disabled two vessels.

Feb. 11—Secretary Hay issued a declaration of neutrality. Most of the other great powers are expected to do likewise. The Japanese captured five commercial steamers belonging to Russia, in Korean waters. The czar was cheered at church service at St. Petersburg.

Feb. 11—A second naval battle takes place off Port Arthur and both fleets were injured. The Korean ruler took refuge in the

French legation at Seoul. The Chinese steamer Fu Ping was fired on by Russians at Port Arthur and three Chinese were wounded.

Feb. 12—Four Russian cruisers shelled two Japanese merchant steamers off the coast of Herunshi, sinking one, the other escaping. The Russian torpedo transport Yenisei was blown up by the explosion of a mine at Port Arthur and four officers and ninety-one seamen were lost.

Feb. 13—The Japanese landed 600 troops near Talien Wan, where 410 of them were sabered by Russian Cossacks, and the remainder succeeded in getting to the ships' cover. Japan appealed to the United States to secure the release of 400 Japanese prisoners at Port Arthur. Viceroy Alexieff left Port Arthur and removed his headquarters to Harbin.

Feb. 14—St. Petersburg officially admitted that a large Japanese army had been landed on Manchurian soil, and that the Russians were yet unable to keep the invaders back.

Feb. 16—Admiral Alexieff officially notified St. Petersburg of the following losses to the Russians: Battle ships Retvizan, Ozarevitch and Piltava, disabled at Port Arthur by Japanese torpedoes; armored cruiser Bozun disabled by Japanese fire at Port Arthur; cruisers Pallada, Novik, Askold and Diana, disabled at Port Arthur; first class armored cruiser Variag and torpedo gun vessel Karietz destroyed by Japanese at Chemulpo; five merchant vessels captured by Japanese fleet.

Feb. 17—Russia massed thousands of troops in Manchuria and they are scattered along the banks of the Yalu. The Russians are charged with cruelty to prisoners of war and to Japanese women and children in Port Arthur. St. Petersburg officially denied that the czar needs more money to prosecute the war.

Feb. 18—Russia has lost 942 men in fights and accidents in the Far East since the war began. The total Japanese losses are estimated to have been less than 50.

Feb. 19—Port Arthur is besieged by the Japanese both by land and sea. Viceroy Alexieff and staff have left the Russian Gibraltar to its fate and it is thought the Japanese flag will fly above the fortress there. The czar faces two wars and must not only fight the Japanese, but placate domestic foes nearer home.

Feb. 20—Thousands of Japanese and Russians face each other along the banks of the Yalu in the vicinity of Yalu and the first great battle of the war is hourly expected.

The outbreak of hostilities found the Japs ready, while the Russians were unprepared. As a result more than half the Russian navy in the Far East was destroyed or disabled in the first four days.

To be exact Russia lost, either disabled or destroyed, 4 battle-ships, 4 armored cruisers, 2 second class cruisers, 1 gunboat and 1 torpedo transport.

The Russians lost in guns put

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Continued on page 8.