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NO. 21.

A SERIOUS WRECK

Heaviest Damage Experienced in the History of Lake Navigation

LARGE STEAMER GOES TO PIECES

British Steamer Turret Bay, of 2,211 Tons, Goes to Pieces—Five of the Crew Die While Being Taken to Land.

North Sluicy, Nova Scotia, Special.—The worst marine disaster in the history of the St. Lawrence river coast occurred Friday off Cape Breton, when the British steamer Turret Bay, loaded with coal and bound from Sydney to Montreal, struck on the rocks of St. Paul's Island, and sank in deep water twenty minutes later, causing a loss of thirteen lives. Only nine men from a crew of twenty-two were saved. The dead: J. H. Hayden, captain; T. A. Carr, first officer; G. F. Gray, second officer; W. H. Adams, chief engineer; H. S. Matthews, second engineer; George Johnson, boatswain, together with the steward, name unknown; cook, mess-room boy, two firemen, a seaman and a helper.

According to the government agent at St. Paul's Island, the steamer struck near Southwest Light, about 8:30 o'clock Friday morning. A dense fog prevailed at the time, and the sea was running mountains high. Almost immediately the Turret Bay backed off into deep water, but sank within twenty minutes. The crew attempted to get the boats clear, but while thus engaged the vessel plunged down bow first, carrying every man aboard with her. Some of the men struggled to the surface and clung to floating pieces of wreckage. Fourteen persons were taken off the wreckage by the life-saving crew that put out from the island, but five of them died before reaching the island.

The survivors say that they did not know that they were in danger until the vessel struck. The fog was so thick that the shore could not be seen, and, hearing the foghorn at the light-house, they mistook it for the whistle of another steamer.

The disaster occurred nineteen miles north of Cape North. There is a light-house on the northeast point of St. Paul's Island, and also one on the southwest point, and a steam fog whistle is situated near the southwest light. It was this whistle that the crew of the Turret Bay heard.

Admiral at Vladivostok.

Vladivostok, By Cable.—Admiral Skrydloff arrived here Saturday afternoon. He was met at the station outside of Vladivostok by Major Gen. Voronetz and deputations of the military, naval and municipal authorities, as well as by an enthusiastic crowd, and was presented with bread and salt. Entering the town, the admiral drove to the pier in an open carriage and escorted by Cossacks, and boarded the cruiser Rossia, on which a short service was held. The chaplain sprinkled and blessed the admiral's flag before it was run up to the masthead, where it was greeted with a salute from all the cruisers in the harbor.

The admiral addressed the officers and crew of the Rossia, saying: "The Emperor orders me to convey his greeting and loyal thanks for your gallant services in consideration of which he reduces your tour of sea duty to three years."

Admiral Skrydloff's reception was of the heartiest everywhere, he being a great favorite when last at Vladivostok.

Capital Stock Increased.

Trenton, Special.—The Virginia Carolina Chemical Co. filed a certificate with the Secretary of State, increasing its authorized capital stock from \$50,000,000 to \$55,000,000, of which \$25,000,000 is common stock and \$30,000,000 preferred, the latter having 8 per cent. dividends. The certificate is signed by S. T. Morgan, president of the company.

The Flood Damage.

Fort Collins, Colo., Special.—Estimates of the damage caused by the flood in the Cache La Poudre Valley run from \$1,000,000 upwards. The head gates of all the irrigating ditches have been washed away, and miles of embankments destroyed. Unless repairs can be made in time to save water for irrigating this year, the loss will be nearer \$2,000,000 than \$1,000,000. One hundred and fifty houses in the Russian settlement, at the sugar factory, north of this town, were destroyed. So far as ascertained, only one life lost today. The body of a Russian was found today.

Senator Quay Ill.

Beaver, Pa., Special.—Senator Quay left his brother's home, at Morgantown, Sunday, and is located at his own home at this place. At his home it was said the Senator stood the journey well. He was driven from the station to his home in a closed carriage, from which he was carried into the house. The Senator spent a restless night last night, and was not so well this morning. His condition is said to be not so good today as it has been for the past few days.

NEWS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Paragraphs of Minor Importance Gathered From Many Sources.

Through the South.

Henry L. Myers, of Norfolk, was severely wounded by a pistol shot. Mayor A. A. Moss, of Newport News, in a political quarrel struck Committeeman R. W. Perkins.

While blasting at a lime quarry at Tom's Brook, Shenandoah county, Va., a large cave was discovered.

Great preparations are being made at Nashville, Tenn., for the Confederate Veterans' reunion, June 14 to 16.

Kansas City was chosen as the next meeting place of the Southern Baptist convention, and many devotional meetings were held at Nashville, Tenn.

Democratic primaries in Florida resulted in a victory for Senator Tallaferrero for renomination and a likelihood that the State will be for Hearst.

Fire at Waverly, Sussex county, Virginia, destroyed the whole business part of the town, including the bank building, postoffice, and the Norfolk & Western railroad station. Loss, \$60,000; insurance unknown.

The Southern Baptist Convention, which began its forty-ninth annual session in Nashville, Tenn., re-elected ex-Governor Eagle, of Arkansas, president and Rev. Dr. O. F. Gregory one of the permanent secretaries.

Washington Happenings. A number of additional witnesses testified in the trial of James N. Tyner and H. J. Barrett, accused of conspiracy in the Postoffice Department.

Secretary Taft appointed a commission to formulate regulations for the Canal Commission.

Since January 1 the available cash balance in the United States Treasury declined from \$229,374,895 to \$175,714,879.

A lively controversy is being waged between Weather Bureau Chief Moore and W. T. Foster, who is classed as a "long-range" weather forecaster.

Government figures show that Cuban-American commerce has increased greatly since the reciprocity treaty went into effect, in December.

Secretary Shaw transferred to Morgan & Co. in New York, \$40,000,000 in payment for the canal property and received \$25,000,000 in bonds as security in return.

President Roosevelt promulgated the regulations to govern the Isthmian Canal Commission, which will be under the direction of the Secretary of War.

John Mitchell, of the Mine Workers' Union, called President Roosevelt's attention to the situation arising from the mine troubles in Colorado.

In the North.

Dr. V. H. Podstata of Chicago stated that music was a great aid in the cure of insanity.

Dr. Robert Bartholow, an eminent physician and professor in Jefferson Medical College, and a native of Maryland, died in Philadelphia.

It is announced that President Roosevelt will receive no delegations during his summer visit to Oyster Bay.

The President has signed the proclamation opening the Rosebud (S. D.) Indian Reservation to settlement on August 8.

A man believed to have been a New York stockbroker named Shell committed suicide by jumping overboard from a steamer in Lake Erie.

The Illinois National convention at Springfield was marked by scenes of great disorder.

An explosion of powder in a mine at Murphysboro, Ill., killed six and probably more men and injured upward of 80.

The question of heresy trials interested the Northern Methodist General Conference at Los Angeles.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers met in convention at Los Angeles, Cal.

The Knowing Expedition, after extreme hardships, arrived at Glenwood, Newfoundland.

The Republican convention in Connecticut elected delegates to the national convention and endorsed Roosevelt for the Presidential nomination.

Dr. Ira Remsen, president of the Johns Hopkins University, was one of the speakers at the inauguration of Prof. C. S. Howe as president of Case School of Applied Science, in Cleveland, Ohio.

NO RELIEF IN SIGHT

War On Boll Weevil Seems to Be a Hopeless Struggle

COTTON BELT WILL BE PLAGUED

W. D. Hunter, the Department of Agriculture Expert, Thinks That Pest Likely to Cause an Early Price Increase and Ultimately to Do \$250,000,000 Annual Damage.

Washington, Special.—Some significant official predictions regarding the ravages of the cotton boll weevil are made in a report soon to be issued by the Department of Agriculture, and written by W. D. Hunter, who has charge of the entomological part of the boll weevil investigation, in which half a hundred experts are now engaged. Mr. Hunter says that conservative authorities agree that unless contingencies at present unexpected occur, the pest soon will cause an increase in the price of cotton throughout the world. By living within the fruit of the plant, the weevil is well protected from any poisons that might be applied; it occupies but fourteen days for development from egg to adult, and the progeny of a single pair in a season may reach 134,969,600 individuals. It adapts itself to climatic conditions and is remarkably free from parasites and diseases, all combining to make efforts at control difficult. The report estimates that the presence of the weevil practically doubles the area of land required to produce a bale of cotton, and that the weevil caused the Texas planters a loss of about \$15,000,000 in 1903. Assuming \$500,000,000 as the value of the normal cotton crop of the country, Mr. Hunter says the probable ultimate damage when the pest has become general over the entire cotton belt would approximate \$250,000,000 annually, providing nothing were done to check it. Planters, however, are adopting changes in methods, that tend to avoid so much damage. The report predicts that the weevil eventually will be distributed over the cotton belt, reaching into new territory at the rate of approximately 500 miles a decade, and it probably always will be as destructive in a series of years as it has been in Texas since 1894. The report suggests that the probability of its being carried to West Africa, elsewhere abroad is not at all remote.

In case the seed happens to be sacked, or even shipped in bulk, there is nothing to prevent the weevils from being carried long distances on shipboard, as they are able to carry the weevil successfully to climatic conditions. It is pointed out, however, that the danger could be avoided by fumigation, or by leaving the seed sacked in store-rooms, isolated from new cotton for a year previous to shipment.

Valuable Mica Deposits.

Asheville, Special.—It is learned that a valuable deposit of mica had been discovered this week on the estate of Philip S. Henry on the mountain east of the city, and that two workmen are now engaged in taking the mica out in great quantity. It is said that while work was in progress on the estate a few days ago mica was discovered close to the Harris place, now included in Mr. Henry's boundary, and about 300 yards from his "Zelandia" residence. Men were put to work digging the mica and chunks of the mineral of the very finest quality have been taken from the mine. The mica is very clear and peels off in large sheets, and is said by those who have seen it to be the finest quality of the product ever found in North Carolina. It is also said that in one day this week over a ton of the finest quality of mica was taken from the mine, and that Mr. Henry will have an expert examine the place to ascertain if possible the extent of the deposit.

Government Crop Report.

Washington, Special.—The weekly crop bulletin issued by the weather bureau, says: Cool weather has been unfavorable for cotton throughout the cotton belt, and drought in portions of the eastern districts has proved detrimental. Complaints of poor stands continue from nearly all sections in the central and eastern districts, but good stands are the rule in Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. In the last-named State the fields are generally clean and the plants are beginning to fruit in the coast districts. Chopping is well advanced, and cultivation in the southern districts is general. Boll weevils have appeared and are increasing in a number of southwest and south central cotton counties of Texas.

In Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, planting is backward, but doing well in Maryland, Kentucky and Tennessee. Transplanting has begun in the two last-named States, and is general in North Carolina. The fruit outlook is generally promising, except for peaches in the most northerly sections. In the Southern States, however, a good crop of peaches, is promised.

Japanese Squadron Fires on a Town.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—General Sakaroff reports to the general staff under today's date as follows: "General Samsonoff reports at 11:30 o'clock last night that the Japanese confined their efforts to feints at landing in the neighborhood of Siung Yue Cheng and Kaai-Chau. Their vessels opened fire on the town of Siung Yue Cheng, on our scouts and on the coast."

"The Japanese squadron left after 5:30 o'clock, proceeding southwest, and several of its vessels remained visible on the horizon until dusk."

To Meet in Atlanta.

New Orleans, Special.—President J. A. Van Hook, of the Southern Wholesale Grocers' Association, who is in New Orleans, announced that the next annual convention would be held at Atlanta on June 8th, 7th and 8th. All of the auxiliary associations have not voted, but enough votes have been received to indicate that Atlanta will be the choice of the majority of the delegates.

Forces Active.

Mukden, By Cable.—It was announced here that the main body of the Japanese forces is advancing on Hatching (about ten miles southeast of New Chwang) and Kai-Ping and Kai-Chou (about 35 miles south of New Chwang), and that a smaller force is marching in the direction of Liao Yang. Important developments are probable.

MORE PROFITABLE LEASE

Governor Aycock Gets Best Offer Yet on A. and N. C. Railroad.

Raleigh, Special.—Several weeks ago Governor Aycock received a proposition from a Philadelphia firm of bond dealers to lease the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway for fifty years, the rate offered being over 5 per cent. on an average. Ten days ago the members of the firm came here, saw the governor, then made a complete inspection of the road. Last week they sent the Governor a new proposition, on their own motion, which is by far the best ever received. It is for a fifty-year lease, the rate offered being 3 1/2 per cent. for the first ten years, five per cent. for the second ten years and 7 per cent. for any part of forty-nine years after the first ten years, so added; all interest to be paid to the State in advance, in January and July; also agreeing to pay interest on the bonded debt, but desiring that the railway company shall issue refunding bonds to the amount of the present debt, on or before the date present bonds fall due, at the lowest rate of interest obtainable; further agreeing to build in five years thirty-five miles of new road, to be a feeder of the Atlantic & North Carolina Railway, and within ten years thereafter not less than fifty miles more of new road, also as a feeder; the lessors to have power to examine the road at any time, and if it is found that the lessees are not keeping the property up to the standard of condition in which they received it, that upon notice from the lessors the lessee shall make repairs before the end of the lease year; the actual supervision of the road; the proposition further setting forth that its makers are not connected with the Atlantic Coast Line or with any other railway, but that the proposition is made in an individual capacity entirely.

Governor Aycock said that this proposition would almost average 6 per cent. for the first fifty years, and then, after a moment's calculation said the exact figure was 5 5/8 per cent. The Governor added that it was a substitute for the first bid, and was a much better one. The Governor was asked if it had not all the time been his purpose to lease. He replied: "It has been my purpose all along to lease the road, when I could lease it to persons who would keep the lease, improve the road and secure the people, but I have at no time been willing to lease the road for less than its value, or with out sufficient guarantees to secure the performance of the terms of the lease."

Receiver Appointed.

Atlanta, Special.—The Brady Union Stock Yards Company was placed in the hands of a receiver here by petitioning creditors. Judge Newman, of the United States District Court, named T. D. Meador, vice-president of the Lowery National Bank, as receiver. The liabilities of the firm are placed at \$125,000, the assets at \$108,000.

Plant Commits Suicide.

Macon, Ga., Special.—Robert H. Plant has committed suicide. He was president of the Plant Sons' Bank, recently placed in the hands of a receiver. A coroner's jury, on the evidence of the nurses and others about the house where Mr. Plant lived, returned a verdict of death by his own hand. He took an opportunity to slip from the house upon the short absence of the attendants, and, securing a revolver, shot himself through the head. His dead body was found on the back porch of his home. Mr. Plant leaves a wife and nine children.

Section Hand Killed.

Hamlet, Special.—Allen Bennett, a negro section hand of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, was run over and killed by a switch engine on the yard here Thursday night. While attempting to board the front of the engine, his foot missed the step and the engine passed over both of his legs, mangling them severely. He was taken to the office of Dr. H. F. Kinsman, the railroad surgeon, where an operation was performed, in which both legs were amputated. He died half an hour later.

Meeting of Business League.

The next meeting of the National Negro Business League will occur in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 21st and September 1st and 2nd.

WERE ALL COLORED

Bishop Turner Declares God Never Made a White Man

HE CREATED QUITE A SENSATION

Chicago, Special.—"God never made a white man. In the beginning all men were black but in his wanderings on earth many of them became bleached. In their unnatural paler these bleached men now look with contempt and indifference, often with prejudice and hate, upon their brothers, the negroes who have retained the color God gave them."

So said Rev. H. M. Turner, Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in an address at the annual conference. Many negroes were present and applauded wildly. The bishop continued:

"What we negroes need is more education. We should write books of our own, poems and scientific treatises of our own, in harmony with our color and race. Don't learn songs like 'Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.' A song I would not tolerate if sung in my presence. I don't want to be misunderstood, and will say to the white man, whose race is at the same time the meanest and best I ever saw, that wherever our race tries to rise and rule he will help us."

North Carolina Republicans.

Greensboro, Special.—The State Republican convention met at noon on Wednesday, being the largest attended in the history of the party. Two hours were consumed in a speech of welcome by C. P. Frazier, a response by J. J. Britt, an able address by Chairman Rollins in calling the convention to order, and selecting committees for permanent organization, credentials, resolutions and adjournment was had until 3. The appointment of the committees on credentials by the chairman, who will settle the contests of the eighth district, involving the regularity of Blackburn's nomination to Congress, and Yates' victory for him, made the complete triumph of what is known as the Federal office-holding element, headed by Collector Duncan.

The following State ticket was nominated on Wednesday night: Governor, Chas. J. Harris, of Jacksonville; Lieutenant Governor, Isaac M. Meekins, of Pasquotank; Attorney General, W. H. Yarborough, of Franklin; Secretary of State, J. J. Jenkins, of Chatham; Treasurer, C. G. Bailey, of Davie; Auditor, Frank Linney, of Watauga; Superintendent of Public Instruction, C. P. Frazier, of Guilford; Corporation Commissioner, D. H. Abbott, of Pamlico; Commissioner of Agriculture, W. R. Dixon, of Craven; Labor Commissioner, J. Y. Hamrick, of Cleveland; Supreme Court Justice, R. M. Douglas, of Guilford, and W. A. Montgomery, of Warren.

Electors of State at large, J. J. Britt, of Buncombe; R. Z. Linney, of Alexander; Delegates to the national convention, Thomas S. Rollins, E. S. Blackburn, E. C. Duncan, B. F. Mebane; alternates, R. H. McNeill, Claudius Dockery, Mark Brown, H. L. Grant.

The nominee for Governor is a wealthy leather manufacturer and miner of the mountain district, aged 50, who came to this State from Minnesota 28 years ago and is a member of the firm of Reese-Harris Tanning Co.

Roosevelt and Hill.

Grand Rapids, Special.—With no prospects of light except on question of resolution declaring for primary reform, the State Republican Convention was called to order here today to select four delegates and alternates at large to the National Convention. President Roosevelt was endorsed. Indications early in the day are that Hill will be endorsed for the Vice-Presidential nomination.

Eighty-Five Doctors.

Raleigh, N. C., Special.—Eighty-five young physicians have registered for an examination for license practice that begins before the State Board of Medical Examiners. It is expected that fully 125 will register before the register closes. The State board consists of Dr. Fletcher, Asheville; Dr. Pressley, Charlotte; secretary, Dr. F. H. Russell, of Wilmington; Dr. Parrott, of Kingston; Dr. Battle, of Greensboro; Dr. Kert, of Leasburg; Dr. Laughlin, of Greenville. The examination will be completed and the successful applicants announced before the State Medical Society which meets here next Wednesday.

A Small Flood.

Winston-Salem, Special.—The heaviest rain in years visited this section Tuesday night. Reports are coming in that all small streams in the country are high and that nearly every bridge has been washed away.

Meeting of Business League.

The next meeting of the National Negro Business League will occur in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 21st and September 1st and 2nd.

TAR HEEL TOPICS

IN PARAGRAPHS

In a Critical Condition.

Salisbury, Special.—Mr. Lawson Josey, of Rowan county, the old man upon whom a most sickening mutilation was committed near this city Saturday night by Thomas Foll and Adam Pool, is in a very critical condition and is not expected to recover. In view of his precarious condition his deposition concerning the perpetration of the crime has been taken, and the perpetrators are still in the county jail awaiting developments. The three men were returning to their homes in the country together in a wagon, and it is said all were drunk. When not far from the city Josey states that one of the men held him while the other mutilated him with a pocket knife and left him bleeding and half dead on the side of the road where he was found Sunday morning. A very delicate operation was performed on the old man, who is about sixty years of age, by Dr. C. M. Poole. The prisoners express the opinion that they will be released from jail, but make no further statement as to the attack upon Josey, who is an inoffensive old gentleman.

Stole a Watch.

Asheville, Special.—Two negroes, Hirschel Thomas and Jim Harmon, were given a preliminary hearing and bound over to court on a charge of the larceny of a gold watch from Miss Dearing, of Jacksonville, Fla. Miss Dearing, who was a visitor in the city, lost her watch on September 20, last year, and it was believed that it was stolen, although no clue could be obtained. Harmon and Thomas yesterday offered a watch for sale, and upon investigation it was found to be Miss Dearing's property. It seems that Harmon had stolen the watch and hidden it under a bush, where it remained until he had sufficient nerve to get it this week and attempt to sell it.

White Man Hanged.

Kinston, Special.—Frank Davis, a white man, charged and convicted of waylaying and murdering Charles Pate, also white, last September, was hanged at the jail here Thursday at 12:20. The neck was broken by the fall and life was extinct in 12 minutes. Contrary to expectations, Davis made no statement on the gallows. He did not display much weakness and only words were farewell to Sheriff Wooten and Deputy Sheriff Sutton.

Daniels Put to Death.

Newbern, Special.—Alfred Daniels, the murderer of E. G. Simmons, father of United States Senator F. M. Simmons, was hanged at Trenton, at 1:38 p. m. The execution was without any special incident. Daniels displayed great nerve, and said that he was unjustly tried. He maintained that he was innocent of intentional murder, claiming he shot Mr. Simmons in self-defense. There was a large crowd in town, but the hanging was private, being witnessed by only those who had tickets.

Negro Lynched by Negroes.

Weldon, Special.—A negro tramp was lynched at Seaboard, N. C., Thursday night, by a crowd of his own race, who swung him up for an assault upon a 7-year-old colored child. A policeman was on his way to jail with the man, when he was overtaken by an infuriated mob of blacks, who tore the prisoner from the officer's buggy and hanged him to a near-by tree.

North State Items.

In the Democratic primaries for Mecklenburg county held last Tuesday Glenn received a small majority for Governor, Stedman being a close second in the race.

The \$300,000 building at Wake Forest College is under construction, and the corner-stone will be laid by the senior class next week.

Charles J. Harris, of Hillsboro, the nominee of the Republicans for Governor, is known as the "Kaolin King." He is the largest producer of that mineral, used in making china, in the United States.

The grading of the Raleigh & Pamlico Sound Railway has now reached the point within 200 yards of the Seaboard Air Line track in Raleigh. Next week the work of grading towards Neuse river will begin, where there is a gap of four miles and in about a month 12 miles will be graded. Then the iron can be laid, in case crosses can be secured. There are very hard to get, as farmers are too busy to cut them and there is fear that they may not be cut before autumn. Even the old roads are having trouble in procuring ties.

The government report on the North Carolina climate for April says the mean temperature for the State was 54.8 degrees, which is 2.9 below normal. The average rainfall was only 1.47, which is 2.35 below the normal. The average snowfall for this State was 3.10 of an inch.

There are now 55 rural free delivery mail routes in this State; this being a very remarkable increase in a year.

King Edward and Leopold wrote letters of sympathy to the widow of Henry M. Stanley.

LOSE TWO VESSELS

Plucky Japs Meet With Another Disaster On Sea

SUNK BY MINE AND COLLISION

The Battleship Matsue Struck a Russian Mine and the Cruiser Yoshino Was Rammed During a Fog by the Katuga.

Tokio, By Cable.—Vice Admiral Togo has reported as follows:

"A report from Rear Admiral Dewa says that the cruiser Kasuga and Yoshino collided during a fog off Port Arthur on May 13. The Yoshino sank, only 90 of her crew being saved.

"On the same day the battleship Matsue struck a Russian mine and sank."

Giving details of the disaster, Vice Admiral Togo says:

"At 11 minutes past 1 in the afternoon of May 13, in a deep fog off Port Arthur, the Kasuga rammed the Yoshino, striking the latter in a few minutes. Ninety of her crew were saved.

"The same morning the Matsue, while cruising off Port Arthur, covering the landing of the soldiers, struck a mine ten knots southeast of the harbor entrance. She signaled for help, and instantly struck another mine. She sank in half an hour. Three hundred of her crew were saved by torpedo boats."

The Yoshino was a cruiser of 4,180 tons displacement and 15,000 indicated horse-power. She was built in England, was launched in 1892, was 250 feet long, had 64½ feet beam, and her draft was 17 feet. The armament of the Yoshino consisted of four 6-inch guns, eight 4.7-inch guns and twenty-three 3-pounders. She had five torpedo tubes, her armored deck was 4½ inches thick and her gun positions were protected by shields. The cruiser's speed was estimated to be 23 knots, her coal capacity was 1,000 tons, and her crew numbered 300 men.

The Matsue was a battleship of 15,000 tons displacement and of the latest model. She was only completed in 1900, was built in England, was 190 feet long, had 76½ feet beam, drew 27 feet of water, had 16,300 indicated horse-power, and was fitted with water tube boilers. She was completely armored with steel. Her armament consisted of four 12-inch guns, fourteen 6-inch guns, twenty 12-pounders, eight 3-pounders, and four 2½-pounders. She had four torpedo tubes, her estimated speed was 19.11 knots. Her crew numbered 741 men.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—The loss of at least two Japanese warships is officially confirmed. A message dated Port Arthur, received by carrier pigeon at Mukden, was transmitted to the Emperor early yesterday morning, saying that two Japanese warships had been lost off that port. The message followed the Emperor to Kourak, and no one here knew its contents until late last night, when foreign telegrams brought full details of the Japanese loss.

Early in the afternoon, reports of the sinking of the Shikishima and the Fuji, on the authority of Russian refugees from Dalny, began to circulate and aroused the most intense interest. When, later, confirmation came of the sinking of the Japanese warships, the greatest enthusiasm was manifested.

Without reference to its effect on the campaign, the people attribute the enemy's disaster to divine interposition in the Russian cause.

In naval circles the Japanese catastrophe is a matter for rejoicing, though regrets are expressed that brave men have lost their lives. But this feeling of sympathy is swallowed up in the greater thanksgiving for the blow inflicted on the sea power of the enemy. It is pointed out that the Matsue was one of Japan's finest battleships, and that the loss of two, and possibly four warships at intervals of a few days, cannot fail to deeply affect Japan and to influence the course of the campaign. The general staff tonight is without direct news of the sinking of the Japanese ships, but there is an impression that it may be true. The reports, at any rate, have infused fresh life and enthusiasm in official circles, where it is believed the tide has turned.

No surprise is expressed by the admiralty at the Japanese vessels striking Russian mines, the admiralty expecting that such a mishap to Vice Admiral Togo, particularly since the naval commanders at Port Arthur have faithfully duplicated his plan, which resulted in the sinking of the Petropavlovsk.

Warships Unrestricted.

Washington, Special.—China has been informed that the Washington government claims the right to dispatch warships, not only to those Chinese ports declared by treaty to be open to the world, but also upon the inland waters of China, where by treaty with China they are authorized to engage in business or spreading the