

PORT ARTHUR INVESTED.

Latest Development of the War in the Far East.

Paris, Feb. 18.—An eminent military authority, connected with one of the embassies, said today that Port Arthur was practically besieged, and it was a serious question whether this would not compel either the abandonment or the surrender of the fortress with its men and material.

The repairs to the Russian warships damaged during the bombardment of February 9 are now rapidly proceeding.

The railroad is undamaged and Port Arthur is clam. All troops are eagerly awaiting an opportunity to meet the Japanese in an open fight.

The report that 3,000 Russian troops had arrived at Chin Tien Cheng, opposite Wiju, on the Yalu River, is confirmed, as is the report that the Russians have occupied Wiju itself. They have 2,000 troops at Wiju and the first collision is expected somewhere in that vicinity.

A telegram from Port Arthur says the Japanese have captured two more steamers.

Heavy snow storms are reported throughout Korea.

The Hsi-Ping reports that she was fired on by the Russian ships and forts when seeking shelter in the outer roadstead of Port Arthur and that she was then ordered to Dalny, where she was detained four days, in spite of her captain's protests.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—No official announcement has yet been made regarding the report from Tokio of a second Japanese torpedo attack at Port Arthur. There are reports here, but they lack official confirmation, that an attack made on Port Arthur on February 16 was repulsed after heavy firing on both sides. According to the story this attack was intended as a feint to cover a landing at Talién Wan Bay, but it failed, because the Russian guns were placed with great foresight to command that shore. A Russian expert says the Japanese evidently hoped the adjacent group of Eliot Isles would cover this movement as they did the same thing during the China-Japanese war, landing simultaneously at Talién Wan and Kiu Chou, thus cutting off Port Arthur from each side of the Liao Tung Peninsula.

The frank statement of the government in its communique of this morning of Russia's unpreparedness, owing to Japan's sudden precipitation of hostilities, and warning the Russian public not to expect immediate victories, confirms the opinion which has existed here that Russia will act upon the defensive until her army is fully mobilized and the equipment of the commissariat is in perfect working order. There are now over 300,000 men in the field, but this number will be largely augmented. About 50,000 men are required to guard the railroad.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 18.—An official proclamation explaining the unpreparedness of Russia for war, and the necessity for the exercise of patience by her people, has been issued here. It says:

"The unity and strength of the Russian people leave no room for doubt that Japan will receive the chastisement she deserves for her treachery and provocation to war.

at a time when our beloved sovereign desired to maintain peace among the nations. The conditions under which hostilities are being carried on compel us to wait with patience news of the success of our troops, which can not occur before decisive actions are fought by the Russian army. The distance to the territory and the desire of the emperor to keep peace are the causes of the impossibility of more complete and earlier preparations for war. Much time is now necessary in order to strike at Japan blows worthy of the dignity and might of Russia, and, while sparing as much as possible the shedding of blood of her children, to inflict justice upon the nation which has provoked the struggle. Russia must await the event in patience, being sure that our army will avenge an hundredfold that provocation."

Madrid, Feb. 20.—At a reception here last evening Viscount Garcia and the Russian minister, and Japanese charge d'affaires became involved in a heated discussion. The Japanese feeling that he was insulted, left a challenge. A duel is expected.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Rear Admiral Evans has sent a message to the navy department telling of a threatened uprising in China, and on his advice 1500 marines will be held ready in the Philippines for any emergency.

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