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'HOLY RUSSIA'S' CRUELTY.

Japanese Refugees Brutally Treated at Port Arthur.

BRITISH SHIP FIRED ON.

"Holy Russia" is showing that she still retains her old-time brutality under the varnish of modern-day civilisation.

It will be remembered that a number of Japanese refugees took refuge on the British steamer Wenchow, which was lying in Port Arthur harbour at the time Admiral Togo made his first attack on February 8. The wretched people had given no cause of suspicion; they were only too intent on reaching their own country. Other Japanese were on land, and were refused permission to embark on another British ship, the Rasvel.

The Wenchow was forbidden to sail from Port Arthur, and, not daring to run the risk of being captured by a Russian shell, remained there till last Monday, when she was at last given permission to depart.

She arrived at Chifu on Monday, and the Japanese have given an account of their sufferings during the period of detention.

The message communicated by Viscount Hayashi to the Japanese Government is as follows:—

A number of Japanese refugees from Port Arthur arrived at Chifu by the British steamer Wenchow. They give the following account of their sufferings while at Port Arthur. (The account is in many parts.)

SHORT OF FOOD AND WATER.

February 8.—The Japanese are forbidden to disembark in the British steamer Rasvel. All the Japanese are prohibited from going out of the harbour.

February 9.—Eight Russian soldiers are watching the Japanese on the British steamer Wenchow, and their being allowed to land. The Wenchow is detained.

February 10.—Over 300 Japanese on board the Wenchow are short of food and water.

February 11.—Over 300 Japanese on board the Wenchow are short of food and water.

February 12.—Over 300 Japanese on board the Wenchow are short of food and water.

February 13.—Renewed appeals are made to the Russian to give some food at least to infants and old men. 100 Japanese reached the Wenchow, they say they were robbed of all their belongings and rendered penniless.

February 14.—At five o'clock in the afternoon the Wenchow is allowed to sail.

February 15.—Arrived at Chifu in the morning. The diary ends. The Minister's communication is also reported that there is general discontent among the mounted Manchurian banditti and Russian soldiers are pillaging everywhere.

The shopkeepers are all armed to protect themselves against plunder by the Russian soldiers.

BRITISH SHIP FIRED ON.

From New York to-day comes a message that the British cable has been received from Admiral Weymouth that the "floating Bob Evans" of the Spanish fleet and that the situation at New-chwang is becoming more and more serious. News-chwang is a Russian port, and such action has even less chance of success than at Port Arthur.

Another telegram comes a Reuter's telegram giving details of the act of Russian aggression against a British ship.

The British steamer "Hisping," says the message, arrived today (Thursday) from Chifu. It is reported that she was fired on by a Russian warship, and by the forts when sheltering there, and she was ordered to Port Arthur.

The ship was ordered to Port Arthur, and detained there for no apparent reason for four days, in spite of constant protests from the captain.

Further War News on Page 2.

RUSSIAN OFFICER SHOT DEAD BY HIS COMMANDER.



When the Japanese torpedo boats attacked the Russian fleet in Port Arthur a number of the Russian officers were ashore at a circus. A St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs that Admiral Alexeieff has held an inquiry into their conduct, and being convinced of the guilt of a lieutenant, he drew his revolver and shot the young officer dead in the presence of his comrades.