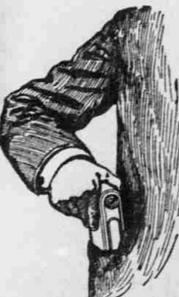


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THE RELATIVE STRENGTH OF JAPAN AND RUSSIA

SIDNEY M. BALLOU

Comparisons between the Russian and the Japanese fleets in the Far East will give different results according to different methods employed. If every vessel rated as a battleship is given equal value the result would be in favor of Russia, but if consideration is given to the age of the ships and the increased power of the more modern vessels, the balance swings in favor of Japan.

Probably the most satisfactory method is that adopted by Fred T. Janes, an English naval writer, by which each ship is considered on its own merits and assigned a fighting value in which gun power and armor protection are carefully considered. Under this strict classification, all ships of any consequence are divided into seven classes, with fighting values ranging from one to ten. As applied to the American squadron which has just left Honolulu, this classification puts the Wisconsin and Kentucky in the first class, the Oregon in the second, the Albany and New Orleans in the sixth and the Cincinnati and Raleigh in the seventh.

The accompanying table shows the result as applied to the armored vessels of Japan and Russia in the Far East. Only armored vessels are considered because upon them depends the command of the sea.

Not only if the Japanese fleet is crushed in the first engagement, but if it fails to obtain a decisive advantage, the war will come to an abrupt end. Japan cannot land troops on the mainland as long as Russia is in a position to dispute with her the mastery of the ocean. The newspapers have given us accounts of Russian fleets ranging from forty to ninety vessels. As a matter of fact, no number of small cruisers, armed merchantmen or torpedo craft will prevent the armored vessels from conveying transports and holding open the sea lines of communication. For purposes of comparison, therefore, the cruisers may be omitted and attention confined to the armored ships.

Under the strict classification already referred to, Japan has four first-class battleships. At the head of these is the "Mikasa," the largest, and, in many respects, the strongest battleship in commission. She was the first ship to carry her six-inch guns behind a solid wall of Krupp armor. The three ships of the "Shikishima" class carry their six-inch guns in casemates in the English fashion, with unarmored gaps between, but they are built on the principle that their best protection is their own gun fire. Besides the usual twelve-inch guns in turrets, each of these battleships has fourteen quick-firing six-inch guns, two less than our recent "Maine" class, but as compensation, carries a formidable secondary battery of twenty three-inch guns. Somewhat less formidable are the "Fuji" and "Yashima," rated as first-class battleships but placed here in the second class. Every one of the six Japanese battleships has done well over eighteen knots on trial, and the "Hatsuse" and "Yashima" made over nineteen. The United States has only one battleship, the "Missouri," which has exceeded eighteen knots on trial.

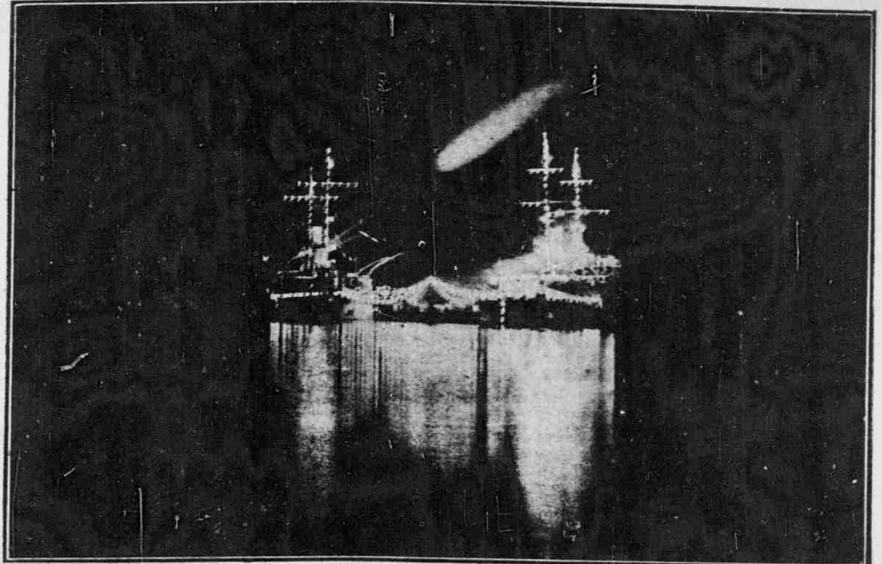
There can be no doubt but the Japanese six armored cruisers will be found in the line of battle when the two fleets engage. A nation which matched its cruisers against the Chinese iron-clads will pay very little attention to the western theory that armored cruisers were not made to fight battleships. These armored cruisers are splendid vessels of their class. It will be sufficient for the purposes of comparison to state that each of them is rated at twice the fighting value of the "New York" or the "Brooklyn." The "Idzumo" and "Iwate" have Krupp armor and a 2 1/2-inch sloping deck behind a seven-inch belt, while the "Azuma" and "Tokiw" carry Harvey-nickel armor of the same thickness. These four are 22-knot boats while the "Takumo" and "Azuma" are a knot or two slower. All the armored cruisers carry four eight-inch guns as their heaviest battery in place of the twelve-inch guns of the battleships.

Of the Russian fleet, the only ships in the same class with the four big Japanese battleships are the American-built "Retvizan" and the newly completed "Tsarevitch." Each of these is 3,000 tons smaller than the "Mikasa" and carries two six-inch guns less, but is well protected with Krupp armor. The "Pobleda" and "Peresviet" were built as fast, light battleships whose big guns are only of ten-inch calibre instead of the usual twelve-inch. Only the first named has an armored belt complete from stem to stern, and their high, unarmored sides will present excellent targets for the Japanese quick-firers.

The next group of three battleships of the "Poltava" class takes us back to the date and general design of our "Iowa" with scant armor, unprotected ends, and the protective deck laid flat on top of the belt instead of bending down to re-enforce it. It is straining a point in their favor to put them in the same class with the "Fuji" and the "Yashima" which are better armored and three knots faster.

Of the armored cruisers, the "Gromovoi" (Thunderer), is a good, modern, fighting ship, carrying a heavier battery than any one of her Japanese rivals, though ranked a class below them on account of her incomplete belt and inferior protection. She has a designed speed of twenty knots, and being wood sheathed and coppered can maintain it for a long period without docking. The "Bayan" is a much smaller vessel, but is new and fast. The "Rossiya" and the "Rurik" are older ships, heavily gunned, but carrying very light and incomplete armor.

Russia has now in eastern waters practically every armored ship not bottled up in the Black Sea. Only the "Osliabia," a sister of the "Peresviet," is missing, having been delayed by



THE ILLUMINATED BATTLESHIPS AT THE HONOLULU NAVAL DOCK, ON THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 26, 1903. (Rice & Perkins, Photo.)

running ashore in the Mediterranean. The Baltic is left to the protection of two antiquated vessels, too old and slow to make the trip. The Japanese missed a decisive point in not forcing an issue in time to enable them to intercept the "Tsarevitch" and the "Bayan," which have just joined the main fleet.

It may be truly said that a comparison of fighting machines does not tell the whole tale, for the man behind the gun is an all-important factor. Yet here, again, while there is no reason to suppose that the Russians are inferior in any respect, theirs is the unknown quantity. The Japanese factor is known: the victors of Yalu, the men who took the old wooden "Hiyei" through the line of Chinese ironclads, the men who froze at their wheels in the torpedo dash on Wei-Hai-Wei, are better proven in modern sea fighting than any other nation.

With her inferiority in armored vessels, Russia's best tactics would appear to be to avoid a fleet action. This course would either keep Japan from sending her army to the mainland until the enemy was caught and blockaded, or else would compel her to embark that army in spite of the threat of a powerful "fleet in being" whose whereabouts was perhaps unknown. No matter how well the transports might be conveyed, this latter proposition is an uncomfortably dangerous one. Even with the enemy's fleet securely blockaded, the United States can testify as to the uncertainties attending such an expedition.

It is probable, however, that Russia will not care to incur the loss of prestige consequent on a continued avoidance of the Japanese fleet. In that case, we shall see for the first time modern battleships pitted against each other.

As regards the strength of the combatants on land, the calculations must necessarily be more uncertain, but the various factors may be pointed out. To any campaign whatever, on Japan's part, the command of the sea is a necessary prerequisite, but given that command, she would have a mobility and security of communication that would give her a great advantage. The problem with Russia is not how many men nor how many rifles she has in Manchuria, but how large an army she can feed and reinforce by means of the Siberian railway. It is true that Port Arthur is an advance base and must in the long run have communication with the main base or starve.

In spite of the indifferent success of Japanese winter campaigns in the past, there is every reason to believe that in this case the season will prove to be to Japan's advantage. If Japan secures the sea, for Russia's line of communication will be along the Siberian railway, and the Siberian railway in winter is not a thing to be depended on. The writer investigated it last winter while in Germany from the standpoint of a prospective passenger, and the prospects were not alluring.

Visitor: "My man, what brought you here?" Convict: "Insomnia, mum—de cop couldn't sleep, and so he wuz patrolling his beat!"—Puck.

ARMORED VESSELS IN THE FAR EAST.					
JAPAN.					
BATTLESHIPS.					
Class I. (Average fighting value 10.)	Tons.	Knots.	12-in.	8-in.	6-in.
1900, Mikasa	15,200	18.6	4	14	20
1899, Asahi	15,200	18.3	4	14	20
1899, Hatsuse	15,000	19.11	4	14	20
1898, Shikishima	14,850	18.78	4	14	20
BATTLESHIPS.					
Class II. (Average fighting value 8.)	Tons.	Knots.	12-in.	8-in.	6-in.
1896, Fuji	12,500	18.5	4	10	16
1896, Yashima	12,500	19.2	4	10	16
ARMORED CRUISERS.					
Class III. (Average fighting value 6.)	Tons.	Knots.	12-in.	8-in.	6-in.
1899, Idzumo	9,800	22.04	4	14	12
1900, Iwate	9,800	21.8	4	14	12
1898, Azuma	9,750	22	4	14	12
1898, Tokiwa	9,750	22.7	4	14	12
1899, Yakumo	9,850	20.7	4	12	12
1900, Azuma	9,436	21	4	12	12
Total Fighting Value, 104.			24	24	156
Total Guns			24	24	156

During. On the maps, it runs around Lake Balkal, but on the ground it doesn't, and the only transportation promised the ticket holder when the lake is frozen over is across the ice on sledges. East of the lake its reputation is evil for blizzards, snow drifts, and delays. The passenger schedule from Moscow to Port Arthur is twenty-two days, but freight trains are reported to take as many weeks. The worst constructed part of the railway is that nearest the scene of war, the branch running through Manchuria to Dalny and Port Arthur. This is the line of communication which Russia must guard at all points from an enterprising foe, and must keep working under war conditions through a Siberian winter.

S. M. BALLOU.

A Clean Reading Room.

Few Associations have been so generous to the public as has the Honolulu Association in throwing open its reading room. This privilege has been appreciated by some, by others abused. We do not believe that the contributors to the cause wish to encourage idleness or maintain a room where men who seldom take a bath congregate and finger the literature until the clean man who follows him is obliged to shut his eyes. Then, too, some finely illustrated magazines have been mutilated and occasionally have disappeared. We desire to be accommodating, and still propose to be; but do not consider it wise to be so overridden or to lose paying members by the presence of too numerous loafers of questionable cleanliness. The following plan will be tried for a time, at least: The front room, commonly known as the game room, will be made a public reading room, containing the daily papers and some other reading matter. The main reading room will be a members' reading room and library. The members realize that Honolulu often contains strangers, tourists and young men looking for work, which will keep them in the city, and perchance buy them a membership ticket when settled. With such men the members propose to share their reading room, placing a sign on the door, "For Members and Strangers." A man who has lived in the city for three or four months will no longer be classed as a stranger. Those who will not or cannot pay the most reasonable membership fee will still be allowed to read the daily papers, but not in the large room, after December. We believe this consideration for members is entirely reasonable, and we are convinced that it is time that some of the steady readers, who have been with us a long time, shared in supporting the Association.—Y. M. C. A. Association Review.

Visitor: "My man, what brought you here?" Convict: "Insomnia, mum—de cop couldn't sleep, and so he wuz patrolling his beat!"—Puck.

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

HONOLULU, OAHU.

Recorded Dec. 28, 1903.

E. R. Peters to L. M. Barkhausen, D Lot 2 Blk. 4 Pearl City and lot 22 Blk. J, Kalaualoke Tract, Honolulu, \$400.00. Dec. 10, 1903.

I. E. Lamb to P. Gleason, Par rel, Lots 25 and 27, Apill-Kanepaiki Tract, 10000 sq. ft. Dec. 11, 1903.

Albert Trask to E. H. Emerson, Mtg. Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 13, 15 & 16 Blk 6 area 45000 sq. ft. and lots 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 Blk 5, area 25000 sq. ft., Kaula-lani Tract, Mokuauia, Kalihi, \$1000.00, 2 yrs. @ 8 per cent. per an. Dec. 24, 1903.

The B. F. Dillingham Co. Ltd. & Henry F. Allen agree that the second party shall receive a com. of 2 1/2 per cent. upon all purchases and 1 per cent. upon all gross sales of sugar, made by him for Puna Sugar Co. Ltd. during 15 yrs. terminating July 18, 1916, & H. F. Allen agrees to adv. to party of the first part for the account of Puna Sug. Co. Ltd. sums not to exceed \$20000.00 at one time. July 18, 1901.

L. S. Thompson to Geo. C. Hewett of Waiohinu, Kau, P atty. Dec. 28, 1903.

Yuen Kee & Co. to C. Brown, assmt. Jdgmt. award No. 6712 for \$6,835.70 on which 10 per cent. has been pd. \$1.00. Dec. 28, 1903.

R. Maka et al to Ching Ah Young, acknowledgment of lease. Dec. 23, 1903. KOOLAUPOKO, OAHU.

S. B. Kaiwi et al to S. Cullen, Mtg. 7-8 share in Hui land at Waikane, \$150.00. Dec. 17, 1903.

EWA, OAHU.

O. R. & L. Co. to E. R. Peters, D Lot 2 Blk 4 Pearl City, \$600.00. Nov. 25, 1903.

HILO, HAWAII.

LeBlond and Smith vs. A. Humburg, assignee U. Kanai, Replevin, \$150.00 withdrawn.

Wo Yee vs. Lubisa, asst. Jdgmt. for pliff., \$96.95 account.

Wise & Ross vs. Tong On, Lan On, et al, asst. Jdgmt. for pliff., \$85.50, services rendered.

HAMAKUA, HAWAII.

M. Silvestre and wife to A. Freitas, D realty at Niupea, \$1.

M. Pimental to J. de Suze, D portion of lot 2 of Hamakua Homesteads, \$1. Nov. 30, '03.

M. de Canté and wife to Jos. Casinha D realty at Niupea, 33 47-100 acres, \$334.70. Dec. 12, '03.

J. Waiohinu and wife to A. Lidgate, mtg. realty at Paaulo, 1 1-8 acres, \$260. 1 yr at 12 per cent. per annum. Aug. 8, '03.

E. Horner to J. de S. Ramos, D realty at Paaulo, \$1,000. Dec. 19, '03.

K. Kanaha and wife to Pacific Sugar Mill mtg. realty at Keaa, 8 2-3 acres, \$100. 2 yrs 3 months 11 days at 10 per cent. per annum. Dec. 22, '03.

Annie Hall, by guardian, to Jose de Gouveia, rel. realty at Nienie, 12 acres. Dec. 28, '03.

LAHAINA, MAUI.

Won Sing to G. G. Seong, B. S. int. in G. G. Seong & Co. (gen. mdse.), \$400. Dec. 26, '03.

DISTRICT COURT.

Executions issued: J. W. Pratt vs. Namakalele, \$41.67; Con Sterling, \$156.05. J. M. Vivias, \$71.94; J. H. Wise, \$47.46; Wong Shin King, \$191.82; George Kaia, \$48.66; E. C. Halsim, \$45.44; John A. Baker, \$24.42; L. D. Timmons, Deft., F. J. Testa, Garnishee, \$14.26; John K. Nakoooko, \$6.33; Edmond Hart, \$98.37; Wm. Lucas, \$163.85; C. B. Malle, \$567.94; Will E. Fisher, \$114.91; J. W. L. McGuire, \$120.74; C. J. Willis, \$32.92; J. M. Monsarrat, \$72.54; F. W. McKinney, \$102.46; R. William Holt and Geo. H. Hall, \$122.85; E. W. Quin, \$163.06; Solomon Mahelona, \$246.10; A. S. Kalele-oppa, \$13.29; Peter P. Daves, \$12.90; Sam Kanahale, \$25.50; John O. Crowder, \$95; Kale Akapai, \$23.60; L. Ah Pau, \$18.70; W. N. Kananoo, \$100.44; J. Kamakalalani, \$26.60; Lani Kauahi, \$24.80; A. B. L. Hao, \$78.08; Nellie Hao, \$25.72; H. Z. Dobson, \$30.71; C. A. DeCew, \$10.44; Chu Gum, \$25.40; J. L. Kuikahi, \$18.30; Chas. A. Kidder, \$60.10; W. Dunbar, \$13; Annie de la Cruz, \$201.88; A. K. Palekaluhi, \$52.52; S. Kaiapoepoe, \$65.54; George Muller, \$41.85; Koaleiwal, \$21.80; Mrs. M. Makena, \$29.21; Tom Pedro, \$34.10 Mrs. James Ahalo, \$49.26; M. Kanemato, \$67.40; Maunakea, \$94.75; Napahuekole, \$26; J. H. Thompson, \$23.15; Namakakapu Kelupaina, \$43.65; Annie Harris, \$172.55; Benj. Kaue, \$41; Rose Hopkins, \$217.90; J. A. Apo, \$106.60; Nallo (w), \$7.90; Antone Pacheco, \$13.80; Edward Drew, \$10.70; W. B. O-pulano, \$164.81; Wm. Paoakalani, \$43.25; John D. Holt, Jr., \$1,579.50.

J. W. Pratt vs. Island Realty Co. Ltd. execution, \$2,209.10.

J. W. Pratt vs. J. S. Walker, execution, \$79.35.

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