



NATIONAL.

Secretary Hay, in order to preserve the neutrality of China, sent February 10th the following instructions to the American representatives in St. Petersburg, Tokio and Pekin:

"You will express to the minister for foreign affairs the earnest desire of the Government of the United States that in the course of military operations which have begun between Russia and Japan, the neutrality of China, and in all practicable ways her administrative entity shall be respected by both parties, and that the area of hostilities shall be localized and limited as much as possible, so that undue excitement and disturbance of the Chinese people may be prevented, and the least possible loss to the commerce and peaceful intercourse of the world may be occasioned."

(Signed)

John Hay.

At the same time this Government informed all the Powers signatory of the protocol at Pekin, of its action, and requested similar action on their part. This move of the United States is generally well received abroad.

President Roosevelt has issued a formal proclamation declaring the neutrality of this Government in the Russo-Japanese War, and warning all persons of the general tenor of laws and treaties in this behalf.

The State Department has instructed Ambassador McCormick to ask the Russian Government at St. Petersburg for an explanation of the compulsory detention in the harbor of Port Arthur of the American steamship *Pleiades*. The ship is owned by the Boston Tow Boat Company.

The Senate has adopted a joint resolution authorizing a survey to determine whether a

tidewater ship canal across the state of Florida is feasible.

FOREIGN.

The first week of the war has been an almost unqualified success for Japan. On Monday night, February 9th, the Japanese torpedo boats made an attack on the Russian fleet lying in the outer harbor of Port Arthur. They succeeded in torpedoing three vessels—the battleships *Retvizan* and *Czarevitch* (about 13,000 tons each) and the protected cruiser *Pallada* (6,630 tons)—retiring without loss. The Russians were clearly caught napping. Tuesday morning a fleet of fifteen Japanese warships made an assault on the Russian ships in the outer harbor of Port Arthur; the engagement lasted only about an hour, but the Russian ships were driven into the inner harbor and four of them were disabled by shots taking effect below the water line. The Japanese fleet received only very slight damage. At Chemulpo about the same time a Japanese fleet bottled up the Russian armed cruiser *Variag* (6,500 tons) and the torpedo gunboat *Koreitz* and forced them to fight. Both Russian vessels were sunk, with no loss to the Japanese. The Russian torpedo transport *Yenisei* was blown up as the result of accidentally striking a mine at Port Arthur, and ninety-one men were lost. Although not confirmed by St. Petersburg it is probably true that 19,000 Japanese troops have been landed at Chemulpo, Korea, that Masampho has been seized, and that a Russian railroad bridge has been blown up.

GENERAL.

Much comment has been raised among college men through the adoption of new eligibility rules by Brown University. These rules declare that men who have received pay for summer baseball shall be eligible for Brown teams. The adherents of the new rules claim that many men who are amateurs in spirit are kept off teams through having played summer ball in ignorance of the rule, while the opponents claim that professionals in spirit would be brought into the