

MASSING TROOPS SOUTH OF MUKDEN

RUSSIANS STRENGTHENING THEIR DEFENCE WORKS

Condition of Roads Prevents Any Extensive Movements at Present—May Assume Offensive.

London, Oct. 22.—The Times Tokio correspondent says that dispatches from Oyama's headquarters seem to indicate the Shakhe river as the immediate objective of the original advance, and that appearances suggest that another great battle is imminent in which the Japanese will assume the offensive.

The Standard's Yantai correspondent, describing the final stages of the Shakhe battle, refers to the danger which temporarily threatened Field Marshal Oyama's army near Nen-shih, where the Russians in overwhelming force nearly succeeded in turning the Japanese right and routing the forces sent to protect Oyama's rear. He says it was the indomitable courage and energy of the Japanese infantry that saved the situation.

"The same correspondent, under date of October 17th, says: "General Kouropatkin appears to be preparing to hold the plain in front of Mukden. He is concentrating troops and strengthening his defence works in three lines, the outer along the Shakhe river, the second along the Hun river and the innermost close to Mukden."

SKIRMISHING ALONG THE ADVANCE LINE. St. Petersburg, Oct. 22.—2 a.m.—The rival armies of Russia and Japan, entrenched a short distance from each other south of the Shakhe river, are forced to continued inactivity until the fine weather now prevailing dries the sodden ground.

Russian correspondents report that some regiments of the Fifth Siberian corps have been engaged in a skirmish on the advance line the past few days. The fact that the Fifth Siberians are the only corps hitherto mentioned in reports of the fighting on October 19th, shows that General Kouropatkin has sent the reserves to the trenches. Meanwhile the Cossacks are raiding the Japanese lines.

KOUROPATKIN MAY MAKE NEW PLANS.

Berlin, Oct. 21.—Colonel Gadke, war correspondent for the Tageblatt, telegraphed to his paper to-day from Mukden as follows: "Have been unable to telegraph for two days owing to the absence of the censor on the 19th and 20th. Both armies are much fatigued. They occupy positions in close contact, but only an occasional shot breaks the stillness. A general Russian attack appeared to have been planned for the night of the 20th, but a fresh rain in the Shakhe river prevented it. The Japanese shells are falling slowly. It rained again the night of the 20th.

"The Russian losses were frightful. Single regiments have as few as 800 men left. The Viborg regiment had 20 officers and 300 men killed. The feeling is accordingly grave. To end is visible to the glancing eye. "I have private news from Port Arthur that there is abundant ammunition for two months and provisions for a much longer period. Nobody in the fortress thinks it can ever fall. The Chinese report barbarous cruelties on the part of the Japanese. The more the session of Russian money is dangerous at Newchwang.

"The division of General Kondratyev captured more Japanese guns yesterday." A dispatch to the Lokal Anzeiger from Mukden to-day says the eighth Russian army corps has arrived there and General Kouropatkin will make new plans immediately.

JAPS RETIRE FROM VILLAGE OF SHAKHE.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 22.—Gen. Kouropatkin in a dispatch to Emperor Nicholas, under date of October 21st, says: "The Japanese retired from the village of Shakhe at nightfall on October 20th. Thursday night passed quietly along the entire front." Lieut.-Gen. Sakharoff, in a dispatch to the general staff, says: "The retreat of the enemy from Shakhe was precipitate. We found in the village arms, munitions and provisions, which had been abandoned by the Japanese, who also left behind on our old artillery position one cannon, four limbers and a wagon full of instruments they had previously captured from us. Since the battle of October 16th we have captured altogether fourteen Japanese guns, including nine field pieces and five mountain guns, and have retaken one of our lost guns.

EXPECTED TO HOLD OUT UNTIL FEBRUARY.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 22.—A telegram received by the family of Naval Architect Koutelnikoff, now at Port Arthur, dated October 14th, and sent by way of Chefoo, says: "All well, do not be disheartened, we are working on a Sebastopol." The Associated Press learns that the Baltic fleet will proceed to the Far East at a low economical speed. There is no intention to have the fleet arrive there until February. The admiralty expects the garrison of Port Arthur to hold out

until the fleet arrives. According to calculations of the garrison holds out for another six weeks, the force northeast gales which then begin will sweep the Yellow sea and constitute such danger to the Japanese warships that it will compel Admiral Togo to relax his blockade and the garrison will be able to secure a fresh supply of war ammunition and food.

The reserves in certain districts of Moscow, Warsaw, Kiev and Vilna are largely for the purpose of filling the gaps in the ranks of the corps now at the front. It is definitely stated that Gen. Gripenberg's second army will be composed of the second, fourth, sixth, eighth and sixteenth European corps, the sixth Siberian corps and seven brigades of rifles, totalling approximately 200,000 men of all arms. Gen. Skuzarevski has been appointed, at Gripenberg's recommendation, to command the sixth European corps.

Gen. Sakharoff telegraphs that the night of October 21st and 22nd passed quietly.

RUSSIAN LOSSES ESTIMATED AT 60,000.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The Japanese legation to-day received the following cablegram from Tokio: "Marshal Oyama reports that the investigation completed after the battle regarding the Russian losses at the battle of Shakhe, shows that there was about 500 prisoners and 10,550 dead bodies. The trophies of the battle are 25 guns, 6,920 shells, 5,574 rifles and 78,000 rounds of ammunition.

"The dead of the enemy were all buried with honors. The Russian total casualties are estimated at 60,000. Further investigation is proceeding."

WERE IN DANGER OF BEING SURROUNDED.

Mukden, Oct. 21.—[Delayed in transmission.]—The Japanese hurriedly evacuated Shakhe, three miles east of Shakhe station, on Thursday night in order to escape being surrounded. Under the cover of darkness they had to make a hurried flight. The Russian right flank, the latter reported this with interest in their own column. The Japanese made an attack on the Japanese trenches, and they in turn were repulsed. The Japanese immediately followed with another assault, resulting in the capture of an iron railroad bridge and heights south of the bridge, which is five hundred yards from the main fortress.

According to Chinese advisers, which reached here to-day, and which are confirmed in essential points by Japanese reports from Port Dalny, the Japanese made assaults on the remaining outer works of Rihlung mountain at dawn on October 19th, and were repulsed. The following day the Russians made an attack on the Japanese trenches, and they in turn were repulsed. The Japanese immediately followed with another assault, resulting in the capture of an iron railroad bridge and heights south of the bridge, which is five hundred yards from the main fortress.

The importance of these captures lies in the fact that they curtail the Russian fire in harassing the Japanese, who may attempt to advance on the trenches located in the steps of the mountain. This attack seems to have been a surprise.

Since the capture of the points mentioned, the Japanese assert that they have successfully resisted numerous sorties in attempts to recapture them.

At 10 o'clock on the morning of October 12th, seven Russian torpedo boat destroyers emerged from the harbor of Port Arthur, and later they were followed by two more destroyers. The squadron proceeded to Shantung and bombarded the Japanese left bank. Four Japanese destroyers hurried to the scene and the Russians retired to the harbor followed by the Japanese. The pursuit ceased upon entering the mined area.

One Japanese destroyer returning hit a mechanical mine and was severely damaged, but she managed to reach Port Dalny, and is now being repaired. In the meantime the Japanese siege guns continue to drop big shells in the harbor, the Japanese claiming that they damaged the Russian gunboat Gillak and another Russian warship.

A Chinaman who arrived here to-day declares that during the Japanese assault on Rihlung mountain the Russian battle-ships fired almost incessantly to the north.

The Japanese at Takku mountain have dropped a ceaseless storm of shells on the Chinese town, and many rifle bullets also fell in the place.

The Chinaman adds that the fighting was very severe, and that the Japanese loss was considerable. It is asserted that the Russian forces at Port Arthur numbered 5,000 men, excluding the militia, which is not engaged in fighting, but in guard duty.

Winter clothing is very scarce at Port Arthur, shoes particularly. The Russian soldiers are wearing Chinese shoes, and some of them are unable to obtain even these, and wrap rags about their feet. The garrison is greatly worn out by the many months of exhausting, anxious labor and fighting. The town is full of wounded. Flour is plentiful, and the slaughter of horses, mules and donkeys continues.

Chinese who reached Chefoo from Port Dalny say that Japanese reinforcements continue to arrive daily. The Japanese confirm this.

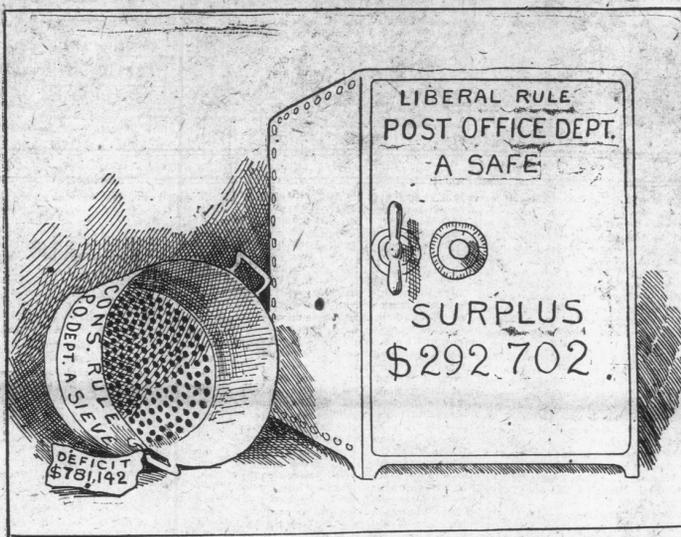
A junk which reached this port to-day from Port Dalny was allowed to leave only on condition that she take no coals, whom the Japanese are using in large numbers in constructing warehouses and removing the dead and wounded. The wounded are taken to the railway and thence are transported to Dalny, from which port they are shipped to Japan.

The Japanese have practically completed immense warehouses between Port Dalny and Port Arthur, and have therein supplies sufficient to last them until spring. Similar preparations have been made at Newchwang, and therefore the Japanese expect the release of sixty transports next month.

SKIRMISHES ONLY REPORTED FROM FRONT.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 21.—1.30 a.m.—Apart from skirmishes and exploits of

CONTRASTS IN NATIONAL PROGRESS ILLUSTRATED



When it is remembered that in addition to reducing the rates of postage from three to two cents on domestic letters and letters to the United States and from five to two cents on letters to Great Britain and the rest of the Empire, the salaries have been increased of postmasters, post-office clerks, railway mail clerks, inspectors, letter carriers, and, in fact, the whole clerical staff of the Post-Office Department, the achievement of a surplus of such proportions, in contrast to the huge deficits which the Post Office Department showed under Conservative rule, speaks volumes both for the business-like character of the present Administration, and for the growth and prosperity of the Dominion under Liberal rule. The above is the surplus for the fiscal year 1903. The accounts of the Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904, show a net surplus of \$304,771, after meeting the expenses of the service in its various branches throughout Canada, including Atlin and the Yukon districts.

scouting parties, there is almost a complete suspension of operations in Manchuria. The heavens interposed to put a stop to bloodshed. Rain, impassable roads and exhausted armies are factors sufficient in themselves to explain the cessation of hostilities, and these conditions are aggravated by a dense fog enveloping the whole of the theatre of war.

Behind this pall either side would be able to change the disposition of its whole force in absolute secrecy, but the obscurity renders dangerous any attempt at a forward movement.

When the curtain of mist is lifted the fighting may be resumed under totally changed conditions.

Associated Press correspondents at the Russian front record the successful repulse of a night attack upon Russian outposts in the early hours of October 19th. The Russians pursued the Japanese and captured a gun, which, under cover of fog, they were able to remove.

The wild flight of rumors continues in St. Petersburg, but equally captures of Japanese divisions, of battalions and scores of guns, alternating with alarmist stories of General Kouropatkin's retreat in the face of the Japanese advance. The war office declares that there have been no serious developments since the capture of Lone Tree hill last Sunday, and attributes the rumors to the desire of the Japanese to deceive.

The Associated Press is informed on good authority that the sixteenth army corps will be the next to start for the front. This corps is stationed at Vilesk and belongs to the military district of Vilna, which is going out as a part of the second Manchurian army, under the former chief of the Vilna district, Gen. Gripenberg. The corps probably will leave in December for Heilung.

The Bourse Gazette's correspondent at Mukden sticks to the story that the Japanese are slowly retiring. On the other hand, several other correspondents telegraph that operations have been suspended owing to the rain. They say the armies are confronting each other across the Shakhe river, and that nothing important is expected for several days.

The Russian correspondent says a rear-guard engagement has occurred east, but gives no details. Possibly the correspondent refers to the report from Tokio of the Taitse river engagement. A dispatch to the Bourse Gazette from Mukden, dated October 19th, says that on October 18th a detachment of the Russian vanguard, on the west front, surrounded a Japanese battalion and compelled it to lay down its arms.

FIGHTING CONTINUES AT PORT ARTHUR.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 21.—1.42 p.m.—The two armies face each other across the Shakhe river, but operations are at a standstill.

The war office has no fresh news this morning except a list of the losses of General Ekki's seventy-first division of the fifth Siberian corps and General Morozoff's first division of Lieut.-General Rainski's corps. Each lost half a dozen officers. The official list of officers killed and wounded October 12th and 13th totals 172, including Major-General Rainski, and seventeen officers killed. The wounded are in the proportion of one to six. The list for the heaviest day's fighting is still unreported, but it is thought that the losses were not so heavy as those reported.

News from Port Arthur, brought to Chefoo by a junk which left there October 18th, says a bombardment which began October 16th was still proceeding without interruption. Many buildings had been damaged, and ships

in the harbor had also been hit by shells. The Japanese main force are now posted at Ludsting, where they have placed guns of large calibre on Inukda mountain.

The two armies are receiving fresh supplies of ammunition, and there is indication of a renewal of hostilities, with the Russians taking the offensive.

The weather is cold. A rough estimate of the Russian losses during the recent battle places them at 45,000, of which 10,000 were killed.

The correspondent of the Associated Press who filed this dispatch was attacked by Chinese bandits while riding to rejoin his corps.

MADE RAID ON THE JAPANESE LINES.

Mukden, Oct. 21.—[Delayed in transmission.]—The total losses during the ten days' fighting (the correspondent does not mention whether they were Russian or Japanese) were 40,000.

The Army Messenger to-day announces that the Russian column eastward of Vancouvo October 18th and occupied without resistance Wan-fu pass and the valley of Hun pass, lying eastward. Wan-fu pass is part of Kourou pass, and on the same parallel as Sakhe Pu on the road to Fushan and Bentaisutze.

The Army Messenger also confirms the reports that a detachment of the twentieth rifles, under Capt. Dembsky, raided the Japanese lines during the night of October 18th and brought back two Japanese guns minus their breechlocks.

JAPANESE MAY LAND AT POSSIBLY BAY.

Possibly Bay, Russian Manchuria, Oct. 22.—A Japanese torpedo boat has been sighted in Gashery bay in the extreme northeastern part of Korea, not far from Possibly bay. A number of Japanese spies have been arrested in this neighborhood, which is believed to foreshadow the commencement of Japanese landings near Possibly bay.

NOTHING KNOWN OF LEADER'S PLANS.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 22.—With the closing of the week, the semi-panic produced by the heavy reverse sustained by Gen. Kouropatkin's army last week has, in a great degree, disappeared, and a much more cheerful air pervades the war office. The great clamor which threatened to engulf the Manchurian army has been avoided. Gen. Kouropatkin has again displayed consummate skill in preventing Field Marshal Oyama from reaping the fruits of victory. By withdrawing his shattered left wing under shelter of the right centre, he succeeded in the gigantic task of taking 30,000 wounded off the field of battle, and more than this, according to all indications, he reorganized and reformed his broken legions, and again confronts the Japanese across

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Sunlight Soap is useful in more ways than one. It will demonstrate its wonderful cleansing power in every cleansing operation.

the Shakhe river. A resumption of the conflict on a large scale is believed to be imminent.

That Gen. Kouropatkin, after losing close on to 40,000 men, was able to assume the offensive within a fortnight constitutes a feat in military history. The situation shows that he is more determined than ever to secure strong advanced positions across the Shakhe. It is known that the left has actually pushed forward eighty and the idea that the operations contemplate only rear-guard actions seems negatived. Nevertheless, dispatches to the Associated Press from Mukden to-day say that Kouropatkin has been fortifying positions on the Hun river behind him, which might indicate that he purposed only to make an active defence below Mukden.

The heavy concentration of both Russians and Japanese between the Manchurian road and the railroad makes certain a tremendous collision at this point. The Associated Press learns that a portion of the eighth army corps, which had reached Harbin, is hurrying southward. While the Japanese evidently are determined to pursue the policy followed by them since the beginning of the war, of concealing the extent of their losses, the war office believes that their casualties must be at least three-fourths as great as those of the Russians, probably in the neighborhood of 30,000.

The weather has again become clear, but it is very cold and the soldiers are reported to be suffering. A correspondent writes that twelve Japanese were found Friday night by a detachment of Cossacks. They were unconscious and half frozen, and were conveyed to the Russian camp, where they were cared for.

MASSING BEFORE GEN. KUROKI'S ARMY.

Tokio, Oct. 22.—The armies of Oyama and Kouropatkin continue to confront each other, but neither has again assumed the aggressive.

According to a report from the Japanese Manchurian headquarters, telegraphed yesterday, the Russians are massing a heavy force against the right army, but the purpose of this force is not indicated.

It is believed that the Russian casualties before the left army equal an army corps. The right army (Gen. Kuroki's) reports fewer losses than the left army, but there have been greater Russian casualties before it. Last night the Russians fiercely attacked the left army, but were repulsed.

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STORE IMPROVEMENTS. Substantial Alterations Have Been Effected in the Fit-Reform.

It is quite evident that the general prosperity in the country at the present time is being felt in this city. There seems to be a movement towards improving the business centre, particularly store fronts, where greater efforts are being put forth to display to the best advantage the goods for sale. Victoria in this respect stands pre-eminently where in the West, and for that matter in the Dominion, are there better store fronts made or more elegantly dressed windows. The owners of property on Government street are to be congratulated on their public spirited efforts to improve their store fronts. Messrs. J. A. & John Douglas are setting a whole some example, having just spent some considerable money in effecting extensive alterations in their store fronts, and no doubt increase very considerably their already flourishing business. The improvements made by Messrs. Douglas, has to be commended. The store fronts present an elegant appearance, and will be able to make a splendid profit, and no doubt increase very considerably their already flourishing business. The improvements made by Messrs. Douglas, has to be commended. The store fronts present an elegant appearance, and will be able to make a splendid profit, and no doubt increase very considerably their already flourishing business. The improvements made by Messrs. Douglas, has to be commended. The store fronts present an elegant appearance, and will be able to make a splendid profit, and no doubt increase very considerably their already flourishing business.

MUSKETRY INSTRUCTION. Classes Will Be Conducted by Sergt. Major McDougal on Friday Evenings.

Lieut.-Colonel Hall, commanding Fifth Regiment, has issued the following order: "The following men, having been granted their discharge, are struck off the strength of the regiment: No. 19, Gr. F. Smith, October 19th; No. 42, Gr. E. J. Ryan, October 19th; No. 43, Gr. E. John, October 19th; No. 50, Gr. G. D. Black, Oct. 19th; No. 75, Gr. H. Bailey, Oct. 19th.

Officers commanding companies will be organized according to lines laid down in Canadian Infantry Drill, 1904.

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THE RUS

A Fleet of Fifteen Squ

Hull, Eng., Oct. 23.— & Co., solicitors for the Hull fishing boats, have a fleet of fifteen square rigged fishing boats, and the decapitated boiler and mate have been on board a mission ship.

Captain and Sailors Injured—A

The steam trawler of the British Vips and a little later damaged by shots, the holes in her hull. It is feared that other done to the trawlers, a more trawler was lost.

According to other Russian ships were steering about 220 miles east by head at 11 o'clock on the weather being hazy lines of several vessels, sailing in a line. Whilst the crew were warships' searchlights, them, in the glare of

men's crew observed to a mission ship and shot, many of the crew injured. Another trawler sunk, but the Moulmei the news to Hull, has to her fate.

The news has created a panic in Hull. The M with her leg at half past eight, and the trawler about 220 miles east by head at 11 o'clock on the weather being hazy lines of several vessels, sailing in a line. Whilst the crew were warships' searchlights, them, in the glare of

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