

THE BATTLE LINE WAS FOURTEEN MILES LONG

Fierce Fighting in Progress Near Haicheng--Russians Made a Stand at Simoucheng and Claim to Retain All the Positions--General Keller Killed.

Chiefly, July 30--Refugees who have just arrived from Port Arthur confirm the report that a general assault has been begun by the Japanese on the fortress. The Russians are sanguine that the Japanese could not capture the place. The Russians, according to the refugees, are still hoping for succor from Gen. Kouropatkin. They are unwilling to believe the reports of his defeat at Taitcheiko.

Russians Without News From Fortress.

St. Petersburg, July 31--In view of the rumors of the morning and fall of Port Arthur, the general staff authorized the Associated Press to declare positively that not a single position forming a part of the land defenses of Port Arthur has yet fallen into the enemy's hands and that the besiegers are nowhere nearer than eight or ten miles to the fortress. The general staff also declares that the bombardments reported July 26th and 27th were nothing more than preliminaries to an attempt to capture one of the outer positions, probably Luvantua, to the east. If the Japanese succeed in taking one of these positions they will have to bring up siege guns under a tanking fire from the other positions and from cruisers sent out for this purpose. If this proves possible, then only will the Japanese be able to bombard the fortress itself and prepare for the final assault, and it is easy to see what a long, dangerous and difficult operation it is before them.

It was pointed out that no official news had been received from Port Arthur since the fall of the city. The capture of the town by the Japanese nothing from the front was likely to reach Mukden, and there is given out by Victor Alexieff. There is no official confirmation of the report of the sinking of a cruiser and a gunboat on July 28th.

URGES NO QUARTER FOR THE JAPANESE.

Moscow, July 30--The Moscow Gazette urges Russian commanders in the Far East not to give any quarter to the Japanese in battle. "Our great Gen. Suworoff," says the Gazette, "when he fought against the civilized French, often saved the lives of his quater to his troops. This, which is not cruelty or barbarism, was a necessity, and now, necessity forces us in this war to half savage, harsh terms upon the Japanese." "In our war with Japan we are like a man attacked by a viper. It is not enough to frighten it and then leave it to hide in the bush. It must be destroyed, and we must do this in the present instance, without considering whether English and a cosmopolitan platiocracy object. We cannot burden ourselves with thousands of Japanese prisoners, who will spread dysentery, typhus and cholera among the Russian people.

Russians Forced to Retreat to the North.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 1--The Emperor has received the following dispatch dated July 31st, from Kouropatkin: "Three Japanese armies have renewed offensive operations in our southern front. Our rear guard made an obstinate defence until the appearance of considerably superior forces of the enemy, and then gradually retired in the direction of Haicheng.

"A detachment near Simoucheng (15 miles south of Haicheng) successfully withstood the enemy until 3 in the afternoon. The attack was directed against our right flank which, from its position at Kangwa Pass, inflicted great losses upon the Japanese."

"The efforts of the Takuian army and General Oku's army to-day are being mainly directed to cutting our communications between Simoucheng and Haicheng, their operations starting from a line traversing Yansukuan, Tu Pantze and Liao Haits.

"On our eastern front the Japanese began the offensive this morning against our Ikhavuen division, the enemy's main concentration being against its right flank, which was turned.

"The enemy is acting on the offensive between Liao Yang and Saimatze, against our troops posted at Hunter's Bend, and a cosmopolitan platiocracy object. We cannot burden ourselves with thousands of Japanese prisoners, who will spread dysentery, typhus and cholera among the Russian people.

"All our positions were retained at Simoucheng when the fighting ceased at 6 p.m., July 31st, but I have not yet received reports of the operations on the extreme right flank. We retained all our positions held by our eastern force at Yung See pass.

"Gen. Keller, commanding, had chosen this as the point from which to watch the fight. A battery near him was exposed to heavier fire than any other, and he was mortally wounded at 3 in the afternoon. He died 20 minutes later."

"A decisive battle is in progress at Feng Huang Cheng and Siven pass. The separate armies were launched from the east above the two roads, while a third, under Gen. Oku, moved up east of the railway from Taitcheiko to try to cut off the Russian force there from Haicheng.

If the latter move is successful this force will be crushed. "The keenest anxiety is felt at the war office for news of progress of the battle. The general staff seems dumbfounded at the number of men the Japanese possess, and consequently Kouropatkin's statement that the Japs are landing another heavy force at the port of Newchwang adds to the solicitude.

SEVERE FIGHTING DURING THE RETREAT.

London, Aug. 1--The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Newchwang in a dispatch dated July 31st, says that there has been heavy fighting for two days in the marshes south of Haicheng during the gradual retreat from Taitcheiko of 5,000 Russians forming the rear guard.

SKIRMISHES ALONG ALL PARTS OF LINE.

Liao Yang, July 30--(Delayed)--Artillery firing occurred at Simoucheng yesterday. It is reported that the Japanese are advancing in the direction of Haicheng and Taitcheiko. The reports of skirmish fighting along all parts of the front are confirmed.

SOLDIERS ENGAGED IN HAND TO HAND FIGHT.

Haicheng, Aug. 1--The Japanese on Saturday attacked the heights of Kangwa pass, the right of the Russian position at Simoucheng. Under cover of darkness the Japanese infantry charged, but the Russian guns drove them back in confusion and silenced two of their batteries. The Russian losses were slight.

On Saturday night the Japanese made a desperate assault on Kangwa heights and failed to hand to hand fight ensued, but the Japanese were again repulsed, fleeing down the hill in confusion. The Japanese are said to have employed their customary trick while advancing of shouting in Russian, "Don't fire, we are friends."

The Japanese renewed the attack at daylight yesterday, taking all their guns at Kangwa heights. By 6 o'clock the fight had developed along the whole front of the 14 miles, and was especially hot against Gen. Mitchenko, who charged the Russian artillery, did magnificently, several times forcing the Japanese batteries to shift their positions.

The latest reports contain all their positions at the hour when this dispatch is sent from Haicheng. The heat is almost unbearable, and is trying to frighten it and then leave it to hide in the bush. It must be destroyed, and we must do this in the present instance, without considering whether English and a cosmopolitan platiocracy object. We cannot burden ourselves with thousands of Japanese prisoners, who will spread dysentery, typhus and cholera among the Russian people.

JAPANESE MOVING FORWARD FROM ALL POINTS.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 1--3.05 p.m.--At last the decisive battle of the campaign seems to be in progress. Having completed its enveloping movement of the Russian position, Gen. Kuroki has moved all points against Haicheng and Liao Yang. Fighting is ranging on both fronts, and still continues.

"According to Kouropatkin's official dispatch to the Emperor, the battle began for the possession of important position at Simoucheng, which is located at the juncture of the Feng Huang Cheng and Siven roads.

Gen. Kouropatkin also reported the retirement of the Russian vanguard on the south front, a short distance in the direction of Haicheng. A fierce determined fighting near the village of San Cheng, the Japanese apparently concentrated considerable forces on the Saimatze side of Liao Yang.

The Russian loss in the fighting on July 31st has not yet been reported, but the Russians held their positions.

VICTORY RESTED WITH JAPANESE ON SUNDAY.

Tianjing, Aug. 1--6 p.m.--It is reported here that Gen. Kuroki was successful in the battle fought near Haicheng yesterday. Heavy firing was heard at Newchwang today against the Japanese, who are reported to have moved their positions at Taitcheiko to the east of the railway station.

The Japanese have removed ten electric mines from the Liao river, and others have been located. A strong Japanese guard has been placed at the Tinkow railroad station. A recent arrival from Port Arthur says the Japanese are five miles distant from the Russian stronghold of Golden Hill. The Chinese excepted the Golden Hill. The Chinese stated that both sides suffered tremendous losses in the operations necessary to bring about the evacuation of the place.

KOUROPATKIN IS BEING HARD PRESSED.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 1--Although public attention has been distracted from the events of the war during the past week, first because of the fear of international complications, and second because of the assassination of Minister of the Interior Von Plehwe, the situation at the front is regarded as critical.

The enveloping movements of three Japanese armies of Gen. Kuroki, Noda and Oku around Gen. Kouropatkin's position appears to be almost complete, and the extended line of the Japanese seems to be the only drawback to concentrated action. It is realized here that the Russian generals must now either fight or withdraw the whole army westward. He is being pushed across at Haicheng. At this place General Kuroki's northern column makes it extremely dangerous to remain there because, while holding the position to give battle against the Japanese, should advance is notoriously slow and careful, General Kuroki might push through and cut his railroad communications to Liao Yang.

While nothing is definitely known, there are some unofficial indications that matters are rapidly maturing for either a battle or a retreat. Kuroki's refusal to accept further press telegrams to Haicheng is shown by the fact that one of the correspondents of the Associated Press had to ride through to Mukden to file an account of the Taitcheiko fight. This might be construed either that preparations are making for a retirement or that the wires are very crowded incident to a concentration at Haicheng or Liao Yang.

A few days are expected to determine which course General Kouropatkin has elected to pursue. There is no inclination here to doubt that there may have been pretty severe fighting at the outer positions of Port Arthur, possibly accompanied by a bombardment from the sea, but it is not believed that the Japanese are ready to storm the fortress. Rear-Admiral Wisnietzki in command of the naval force at Port Arthur, is relied on to put to sea if the condition of the fortress becomes desperate.

While no details are obtainable, the report that the fortress is experiencing a shortage of ammunition is considered by the people as the most disquieting feature of the situation there. The Vladivostok squadron is expected back in port to-day or to-morrow.

The indications are that the Baltic squadron is on the eve of an important movement. Nothing regarding this can be ascertained officially, but many of the officers already have bade farewell to friends and families, and are holding themselves ready for immediate service. The Emperor had arranged to inspect the squadron, but his intention was given up owing to the assassination of Minister Von Plehwe.

COUNT KELLER KILLED BY FRAGMENT OF SHELL.

Mukden, Aug. 1--It is reported that Lieut-General Keller has been killed east of Liao Yang.

Lieut-General Count Keller at the opening of the war was commandant of the second Siberian army division. He was 54 years old, and resigned the governorship of Kerlinoosoff to go to the front.

Keller took part in the three campaigns of the Russo-Turkish war. In 1887 he commanded the Imperial Russian corps of Imperial pages by which Keller came in contact with the members of the Imperial family with whom he was in great favor.

Gen. Keller was considered to be the possessor of cool judgment, and to be a fine strategist. Though a strict disciplinarian Keller was a kindly and careful officer and popular with his men. He wore a short grey beard, had keen blue eyes, and dressed in khaki. His only decoration was the cross of the military order of St. George. He sustained two reverses at the hands of the Japanese recently, July 4th and July 17th, being repulsed in attacks on the Motien Pass.

DIED FROM WOUNDS IN TWENTY MINUTES.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 1--The report of Lieut-General Keller's death is confirmed. He was killed July 20th while repelling the preliminary attack of General Kuroki's army on the Motien Pass, 30 miles east of Liao Yang. The general was standing near a battery which was subjected to a terrific fire when a shell burst close to him, and he fell mortally wounded, dying 20 minutes later. Before the general expired he had the satisfaction of knowing that the Japanese attack had been repulsed.

General Zasselsch may now command the first Siberian corps. The case of General Keller is deeply felt in court circles. He was a personal friend of the Emperor. His sister, Countess Klemm, is one of the leaders in the St. Petersburg society.

REPORT OF DEATH OF KELLER IS CONFIRMED.

London, Aug. 1--A dispatch to a news agency from St. Petersburg confirms the report of the death of General Keller, saying he was killed by a fragment of a Japanese shell at the time he was opposing the Japanese advance along the railway near Haicheng.

ALEXIEFF GOING ON AN EXTENSIVE TOUR.

Mukden, Aug. 1--The Associated Press learns on unquestioned authority that Victor Alexieff is about to leave Mukden on an extensive inspection tour of the vice-royalty.

CAPTURED POSITIONS BUT LOST HEAVILY.

Chofoo, July 31--2 p.m.--A Japanese merchant has received word from a Chinese, whom he trusts, to the effect that the Japanese have occupied every position surrounding the besieged fortress of Port Arthur with the exception of Golden Hill. The Chinese stated that both sides suffered tremendous losses in the operations necessary to bring about the evacuation of the place.

CRUISER DIVISION IS READY TO SAIL.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 1--Preparations have been completed for the departure of the Russian cruiser division. The commander of the cruiser division of the second Russian Pacific squadron, now lying off Kronstadt. The warships will weigh anchor and put to sea under seal of orders within three days. It is also believed that the auxiliary cruisers Don and Ural, which are probably the ships reported as having passed Copenhagen, will also be ready to sail.

This time the admiralty has resolved that there shall be no question of the right of the Japanese to stop the ship. The Don and the Ural will replace the St. Petersburg and Smolensk, which will come home and be refitted.

A current story of an attempt to blow up a building in Neva yards by a man in a boat is untrue. It is only a distorted version of the fact that M. Von Plehwe's assassin's accomplice, which the true account was called from here on July 29th.

WOUNDED RUSSIANS REACH LIAO YANG.

Liao Yang, July 30--A Japanese officer who had been taken prisoner and a hundred wounded and disabled Russians have arrived here from the east, where they were taken to a concentration camp. The Japanese column marching toward Mukden.

The Russians have taken very few prisoners, probably because of their having fallen back from the battle field in each engagement, leaving the Japanese in possession of spoils. The Japanese in command of the Russian force at Port Arthur, is relied on to put to sea if the condition of the fortress becomes desperate.

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NO DETAILS OF THE SINKING OF STEAMER.

Vladivostok, July 31--No details have been received here of the capture of the Vladivostok squadron, except the statement to the effect that a portion of the crew and passengers of the ship, were taken to the Indian department in courtly justice, and the ship was subject to consideration.

JAPANESE EROOPS RELEASED PRISONERS.

Liao Yang, July 31--All is quiet on both the south and east front. The statement that British residents of Newchwang, headed by the British consul, made a pro-Japanese demonstration upon the arrival of the Japanese in that town, is denied. On entering the place they gave each of them three rounds of free ammunition, and told them to tell the Russians that the Japanese never killed their prisoners!

WHY THE HIPSAUNG WAS SENT TO BOTTOM.

St. Petersburg, July 31--The Russian vessel Hipsaung, which was sunk upon the British embassy, was a Russian torpedo boat on July 16th, as communicated to the British embassy, relates that the Hipsaung was steaming from Poo Chow Bay, which is in the occupation of the Japanese, at night time without showing lights. The torpedo boat fired ten shots at the Hipsaung, which instead of stopping replied with rifle shots. The Hipsaung then tried to escape in the fog, whereupon she was sunk by the torpedo boat.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Colonial Secretary Lyttleton Says Present Period is One of Anxiety. London, July 30--Colonial Secretary Lyttleton, addressing the British Medical Society at Leamington to-day, many foreign delegates being present, said: "It is no rhetorical exaggeration to say that at the present moment we live in a period of great anxiety. Obviously the first duty of the country, the ministers and the crown, is to assert with firmness the rights of citizens of this country and to protect, so far as in them lies, their lives, property and liberty scarcely less important, it is right to remember two things: First, in the dealing with a foreign country it is right to credit her with a friendly and reasonable spirit towards us; secondly, that it is right to use no such language in any remonstrance that may have to be made which will cast upon the side of unauthorized aggression the honor of the government which has not sanctioned those acts."

"You may well imagine how in endeavoring to force these principles the example of the King has been of the people's voice designating M. Witte as M. Von Plehwe's successor does not represent the views in official quarters, where, perhaps, there exist jealousies caused by the strong personality of the former finance minister."

MADAME PLEHWE WIDOW OF THE DECEASED STATESMAN.

She broke down, but calm. She went to the office residence of the late minister. Friends tried to persuade the widow not to look at the remains of her husband, but she could not resist the impulse. The sight of the body caused the widow, who suffers from heart trouble, a terrible shock, and she fell to the floor. Doctors revived her, and she went to the minister's villa on the islands of the N. Va.

THE CONCESSION TO TREADGOLD

REPORT MADE BY MR. JUSTICE BRITTON

Would Not Have Been a Bad Thing for Yukon Territory--Ottawa Notes.

Ottawa, Aug. 1--The report of Mr. Justice Britton on the Treadgold and other mining concessions in the Yukon was presented to parliament by the Premier to-day. The judge says that there was a strong feeling in Dawson upon the creeks against the concession, and it was with difficulty that a calm and judicial enquiry was held. It required courage for Mr. Justice Britton to give the report which he has now made public.

Mr. Justice Britton first deals with the question of water. He says that only claims enjoying water facilities can be properly worked. Opponents of the Treadgold concession were agreed upon this point. Rich pay streaks of many claims were worked out, and there was not a word of complaint. There was nothing in the report says, criticizing the mode Mr. Treadgold is getting these claims.

Mr. Justice Britton then deals with the question of the water supply. He says that the concessionaires did not need to sell water. As to the rates for the water, he says that the concessionaires did not need to sell water. As to the rates for the water, he says that the concessionaires did not need to sell water.

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CONNECTED WITH TERRORIST PLOT

PUBLIC SO REGARD YESTERDAY'S CRIME

Russian Press Pays Tribute to Von Plehwe's Work--Little Revealed by Police.

St. Petersburg, July 29--All the newspapers this morning agree that in the assassination of Minister of the Interior Von Plehwe, a great personality has been taken off in the midst of his work. The Novoye Vremya says: "M. Von Plehwe was a strong intellectual man, but most of all, he had a thorough insight, and knew well what particular features were wanting to make up a true balance of Russian national life."

The Russ declares that the dead minister's faithful man will live in connection with agricultural and peasant reforms, and that it is an infinite pity he was taken off in the midst of his work, leaving his plans all unperfected.

The Official Messenger says: "His death is an irreparable loss to all truly patriotic Russians. He was a faithful servant of the throne and the Fatherland. He was intellectual and of a firm will, not sparing himself in health, strength or private interests where public duty was concerned. He did not accomplish all he set out to do, still his name must be handed down on the list of the great and true servants of his country."

Funeral to-Morrow. Von Plehwe's funeral will probably be held to-morrow. The newspapers print unusually full and free accounts of the crime, having been officially notified that no restrictions will be placed on news or comment, save as they might injure the work of the police in unravelling the conspiracy back of the crime, which work is already well under way.

Nothing yet has been discovered to throw any light on the antecedents of the assassin. Fifty bystanders were injured by the explosion of the bomb, but only seven of them were seriously hurt.

Police Are Reticent. The name of the assassin of the minister is not given in the Constantinian Bourse Gazette as Prof. This is not confirmed by the police, who if satisfied that they have established the identity of the murderer are carefully guarding the facts, perhaps to throw his accomplices off the scent.

Connecting the Crime. The general public is disposed to regard the crime as intimately connected with the far-reaching terrorist plot revealed last summer by the arrest of Gerschunin, the Russian revolutionary agitator at Kiev, where he had gone to organize an attempt on the Emperor's life. Baron de St. Saphirin, a former official of the St. Petersburg. The perpetrators of the murders as well as the victims were to be selected by lot.

The series of crime resulting from this conspiracy began with the attempt on the life of Privy Councillor Pobodnosoff, chief procurator of the Holy Synod, who was fired at by a man named Logovskii, March 22nd, 1901. It included the killing of M. Bogdanovitch, ex-governor-general of Ufa, European Russia, who was assassinated May 19th, 1903; M. Hopteloff, former minister of public instruction, who was shot by Peter Karpovitch, February 27th, 1901, and died March 15th of the same year from the effects of his wounds, and of Sipiagin, M. Von Plehwe's predecessor, assassinated April 16th, 1902, by a student named Balmashov. There were also the attempts on Prince Gortchakov, now governor-general of Finland, while governor of Kharkoff, he being fired at four times on August 11th, 1902, and Prince Galitzin, governor-general in the Caucasus, who was stabbed by three natives in the outskirts of Tiflis, October 27th, 1903.

The more recent murders of Governor-General Borikoff, of Finland, who was shot by Eugene Schampunn June 6th, and died the following morning, and of Vice-Governor Andreff, by Elnadelpoff, Trans-Caucasia, assassinated July 17th last, probably are not connected with this plot. The latter crime was probably due to private vengeance.

The arrest of Gerschunin was conducted under dramatic circumstances. He had been shadowed by the Austrian police, and upon his arrival at Kiev tried to escape by jumping from an electric car after an exciting chase. Gerschunin was captured, and he and two others, one of whom was a woman, were taken to Moscow and sentenced to a term of years by the Emperor, with Von Plehwe's acquiescence, extended mercy and commutation of the sentences to 15 years' imprisonment. Gerschunin is now serving his sentence in Schusselberg prison.

Temporary Successor. St. Petersburg, July 29--M. Dourouvo, the under secretary of posts and telegraphs, who has been appointed acting minister of the interior as the late Von Plehwe's senior associate, may remain in charge of the bureau for some time, but he is not likely to be confirmed.

Many projects undertaken by M. Von Plehwe, like administrative reforms, are at a standstill as the result of his death. The popular vote designating M. Witte as M. Von Plehwe's successor does not represent the views in official quarters, where, perhaps, there exist jealousies caused by the strong personality of the former finance minister.

Madame Plehwe Arrived. Madame Plehwe, widow of the deceased statesman, arrived here this morning. She broke down, but calm. She went to the office residence of the late minister. Friends tried to persuade the widow not to look at the remains of her husband, but she could not resist the impulse. The sight of the body caused the widow, who suffers from heart trouble, a terrible shock, and she fell to the floor. Doctors revived her, and she went to the minister's villa on the islands of the N. Va.

Later the correspondent of the Associated Press learned that while the identity and nationality of the assassin had not been recovered by the police, and his accomplice, appeared, a man, but whose name is unknown, and who was arrested last night, are still definitely established, the police are making progress in unravelling the skin. The are amazed to find how far-reaching was the conspiracy. There is nothing yet, however, to prevent its connection with that of Gerschunin. The documents found show the existence of a probable plan to murder ministers, but the most remarkable feature is that it did not include the Emperor.

St. Petersburg, July 30--The police declare that they have not yet ascertained the name of the assassin of Minister Von Plehwe. He says he was arrested, but refuses to answer questions, and his accomplices will not speak. The police expect to have this fall the names of the assassins invariably with their countries not to answer questions.

Preparations have been completed for a grand funeral to-morrow. The Emperor will possibly attend the service at the church. It has developed that the police for some time past have been aware that a party of fifteen anarchists had arrived in St. Petersburg. Several arrests were made, and the police had secured the assassination of the minister of the interior, and the police had the assassin's house marked and a trap set for his arrest on the night of July 14th, but he did not return home.

The bomb which the accomplice dropped in the canal after the assassination of the minister, was not exploded. It is foreign made, though it is believed to have been made in St. Petersburg. It is small and melon-shaped, and is successful in its use as powerful as the one that killed Von Plehwe.

The assassin of Von Plehwe was examined by an investigating magistrate and refused to make any statement. He says he was actuated by humanitarian motives and does not express the slightest regret.

An account of the tragedy published this afternoon says that the assassin attempted to commit suicide by shooting. He had a revolver in his hand when seized. The operation on him was so successful that he is expected to recover in three weeks. The murderer is still in the hospital. He is a handsome man of about 25 years of age, with blonde hair and eyes.

LETTER FROM ANDRE.

Christiansia, Norway, Aug. 1--Dispatches received here report that a Norwegian writer has found north of Spitzbergen a letter from Prof. Andre, dated 1808. The text of the letter is not disclosed.

Prof. S. A. Andre left Spitzbergen in a balloon Aug. 15th 1818. He has not been definitely heard from since, though a number of unfounded reports have been circulated in connection with the accident.

Most Victorians will remember "The Queen of Laughter," one of the old widely-known theatricals on the road. They played before large audiences, and were popular in Victoria. They are now on the rocks; they are in New Jersey. They are on the point of a plan to murder ministers, but the most remarkable feature is that it did not include the Emperor.

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