

JAPANESE ARE CLOSING IN ON PORT ARTHUR

Reinforcements for the Attacking Army Have Been Landed--Russians Continue to Offer a Stubborn Resistance--Mikado's Troops Occupy Kinchou After Severe Fighting.

Chefoo, May 25.—A portion of the Japanese fleet bombarded Port Arthur at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. The attack was witnessed by a Frenchman, who left Dalny on the night of the 22nd, arriving here to-night. He says that eight large warships circled before the entrance of Port Arthur harbor for one hour, firing broadsides at intervals of ten minutes.

Up to the time the Frenchman left Dalny everything was quiet here, but an attack on the part of the Japanese was expected hourly. Military and civil officials were ready to leave. Only a few civilians remained here.

St. Petersburg, May 25.—The Emperor Nicholas to-day received the following telegram from Gen. Kouropatkin, dated May 24th:

"There has been no change in the general situation in the direction of Peng Yang Cheng or the Gulf of Liao Yang with regard to the position of the enemy. It is established that 40,000 Japanese have been concentrated at Peng Yang Cheng, and that there are four line regiments and 50 guns at Pianman.

"The advance of small detachments of Japanese towards Siupen has been observed. It was carried out very slowly and with great precaution.

"A force of 3,000, including infantry of the line and guards and three squadrons of cavalry, advanced May 22nd along the Siupen road, between Sedzheg and Saitzpaudza, on the left bank of the Tayang river. At the same time there was a simultaneous advance of the enemy from the Gulf of Liao Yang and Pianman towards the lower course of the Tayang river, on the road to Lungwangmia.

"The advance guard of these columns crossed to the right bank on May 22nd and one column of three companies and one squadron occupied the Liaotial pass, ten miles south of Siupen, on the Taku Shan road, and the neighboring villages of Onalnesi and Kwankwa.

"On May 22nd, an intermediate detachment, comprising a battalion of foot soldiers and one squadron of cavalry, occupied Pikemiro on the right bank of the Tayang river, on the Taku Shan road, seven and one-half miles from Suidspure.

Communications Cut.—Paris, May 25.—A dispatch to the Temps from St. Petersburg says General Kouropatkin has cut the land communications between the armies of Generals Kasoki and Oku.

The Laying of Mines.—St. Petersburg, May 25.—The British and American press reports of possible protests against the laying of mines in waters of the Liao Tung peninsula because of danger to international commerce evoke much interest here, and are the subject of general remark that there was no talk of protests while Russian ships were being blown up, it only beginning after the Japanese ships met with disaster. Government circles are inclined to think the reports of possible protests are confined to the press.

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The advance of the Japanese indicated that they have recovered from the reported reverse at Kinchou.

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The Red Cross Society has established over 10,000 beds in Manchuria for the purpose of war, and divided the territory from the Volga to the Pacific into four districts, each in charge of a superintendent, whose duty it is to forward supplies and dispatch physicians and nurses where they are needed. There are central establishments at Irkutsk, Chita, Harbin, Mukden and Liao Yang. Port Arthur and Vladivostok have their own equipment.

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OFFICIAL VERSION Of the Arrest of Son and Daughter of Privy Councilor Mereshewsky.

St. Petersburg, May 24.—The report transmitted to the Breslau Zeitung by the St. Petersburg correspondent and published May 18th, of an alleged attempt on the life of Emperor Nicholas, has, according to official statements, the following foundation:

Miss Mereshewsky, daughter of Privy Councilor Mereshewsky, and her brother, are under arrest for possible implications in the recent fire at Krasnaya. She was not arrested at the time of the May parade of troops; no bomb was found upon her, and she has not been hanged.

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The Associated Press is further informed that upon the conclusion of the war, but that the ports will remain open to foreign commerce for an indefinite period, and in the event of a successful termination, the provisions of the decree will probably be extended to the territory covered by the Russian lease of the Liao Tung peninsula. Goods entering without duties can be shipped westward as far as Baikal, where the European Russian tariff will be imposed. While the opening of eastern Siberia to foreign trade will be of great advantage to the United States and Great Britain, the Emperor's advisers were moved to adopt the policy strictly on account of the economic advantages in the development of Russia's Far Eastern possessions.

Medical Precautions.—St. Petersburg, May 25.—The greatest precautions are being taken to prevent the outbreak of epidemics among the troops in Manchuria. Men especially trained in disinfecting are dispatched to

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landed at Pitsewo are travelling down the east side of the peninsula to Dalny, and those that landed at Taku Shan are going to reinforce the Feng Huang Cheng army.

Chefoo, May 26.—There was a violent storm in the Gulf of Pechili last night. A fleet of four ships passed here at noon, going east.

A letter received here from a Japanese correspondent says the Japanese landed troops at Kerr Bay (northeast of Talienwan Bay, Liao Tung peninsula), on May 19th.

NEAR PORT ARTHUR. Among Chinese That Japs Are Within Ten Miles of Fortress.

Chefoo, May 26, 3:30 p.m.—There is a rumor current here among the Chinese that the Japanese are now within ten miles of Port Arthur.

RUSSIAN ROUTED. Enemy's Cavalry Driven From Position Near Liao Yang.

Tokio, May 26, 8 p.m.—Gen. Kuroki reports that on Wednesday afternoon in the battle of To Pa the enemy's cavalry took up a position at Pa Toa, but the Japanese routed them. During the afternoon a Japanese patrol captured one officer and one private.

The above dispatch apparently refers to a battle having been fought north of and not far from Liao Yang, but the spelling of the towns referred to in the Russian, Japanese, Chinese and Korean dispatches conflict to an extent which makes it impossible to accurately locate the points designated.

BOMBARDED FORTRESS. Alexieff Says Report of Jap Attack is Current, But is Not Confirmed.

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Duke Peter of Oldenburg, the Emperor's brother-in-law.

The train is the finest railway hospital ever constructed. It consists of two sections, the first composed of 14 ambulances, fitted with every appliance for the comfortable transportation of the wounded. The second section contains the first-aid posts, supplied with every adjunct of the modern operating room, tiled interiors capable of instant cleaning, disinfectants, stores, instruments, bandages and dressings, operating tables. These cars are intended to be detached from the train and sent to various points wherever they will be of the most use, along the line. The remainder of the train contains a library, chapel and bath-room, including a special arctic bath, an X-ray car with dynamo, and all appliances for the treatment of patients. There went out with the train three doctors, four stokers of mercy and three assistants.

The hospital not only furnished the entire train, but furnished \$500 monthly to aid in the purchase of delicacies for the sick.

KINCHOU OCCUPIED. Attack Began This Morning and by Noon Position Was in Hands of Japs.

London, May 26.—The correspondent of the Central News agency at Tokio cables that the Japanese attacked Nan Chow Lin on the narrowest part of the Kwang Tung peninsula yesterday, and drove back the Russians by main force.

The attack on Kinchou, the dispatch says, was begun at day-break, and by noon Kinchou was in the hands of the Japanese, who occupied the castle. The fighting continued during the afternoon, and was of the most desperate character. It is believed the casualties were heavy.

The Japanese report up to 7.34 p. m. had not received any news in connection with the news agency reports from Lokio of severe fighting at Kinchou.

STRUCK BY SHELL. Officer and Twenty-Four Men Killed on Japanese Torpedo Boat Destroyer.

Tokio, May 22.—During the reconnaissance of Port Arthur made by Vice-Admiral Togo on Friday last week, a Japanese torpedo boat was struck by a Russian shell, killing one officer and twenty-four men.

WAR CORRESPONDENTS. No More Allowed to Join Manchurian Army--Russians Prepare For a Long Campaign.

St. Petersburg, May 26.—Viceroy Alexieff has decided not to allow any more foreign newspaper correspondents to join the Manchurian army, at least for the present. None of these at Mukden have yet been allowed to go to Liao Yang much less to the front, and when permission is granted it is probable that some sort of pledge will be exacted which will require them to remain there until the end of this year's campaign, or to join the Manchurian army, at least for the present.

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METHODIST CONFERENCE. Resolutions Adopted at the Closing Session Yesterday—Church Membership.

New Westminster, May 25.—The Methodist conference deliberations concluded this morning. Yesterday was a very busy day.

A resolution was unanimously adopted expressing high appreciation of the services rendered by Rev. Elliott S. Home, D. D., as churchman and citizen.

The state of war report noted an increase of 292 for the year in church membership.

By resolution authority was granted the president and secretary to negotiate with the Wesleyans of England and any other parties with the object of having the appointment of Esquimaux chaplaincy placed in the jurisdiction of this conference. Several resolutions appreciative of the services rendered by Rev. J. P. Hicks, editor of the Recorder.

By formal resolution the conference was recorded as deploring the British government's introduction of Chinese labor into South Africa and expressing the hope that unemployed British subjects might be offered inducements to enter the latest adoption of our empire.

Rev. Dr. Sutherland, who left for his return trip to Toronto in the afternoon, was here called to the platform for his valedictory. He spoke of the general hopeful spirit evinced in the conference and the optimistic method of dealing with the problems now before the people. A resolution, moved by Rev. Dr. Whittington, was endorsed by the conference, expressing appreciation with his work and presence.

Reports were presented by the Sabbath school and Epworth League committees. In connection with the latter it was reported that while the number of leagues throughout the province had declined, the membership had increased. C. S. Keith moved that the conference approve of the organization of branches of the Boys' Life Brigade. Approval was granted.

A YOUNG SETTLER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT Killed While Cleaning Loaded Gun—Two Dwellings Destroyed by Fire—Cigarette License.

Winnipeg, May 26.—J. A. McDonald, a young settler in Qu'Appelle district, while cleaning a loaded gun yesterday, received the contents in his body, with fatal results. He was 26 years of age, and came from Glenarry, Ont.

Two Fires. The residence of W. Blanchard, at Port Williams, was destroyed by fire, the people being awakened by a baby's cries in the house full of smoke. The loss is \$1,500. V. Constant, of La Broquerie, Man., lost his home and stable by a brush fire.

The cigarette license has been finally fixed at \$50 by the city council. Two Years For Robbery.

A former well-known lacrosse player, Fred Bryant, received at Calgary a sentence of two years for robbery.

Bishop Eden Declines. Bishop Eden, of Wakefield, Eng., has declined nomination for Metropolitan of Rupert's Land, having written his refusal to the synod secretary.

ALLEGED MURDER. Trial of Norman Williams Now in Progress at the Dalles, Oregon.

The Dalles, Ore., May 25.—The trial here of Norman Williams, on a charge of murdering Alma Nesbit, near Hood River, Oregon, four years ago, is a case which is probably the most peculiar in the criminal history of the Pacific Northwest.

On March 28, 1900, Alma Nesbit, a girl from Oregon, was seen at nightfall with Norman Williams at Hood River, Oregon, to go to a home in the city of Williams. It is alleged that the woman Nesbit was a home-stead relinquinment, to the claim for which the woman Alma Williams had started on the night of March 28, 1900. Evidence of foul play was discovered.

FIRE AT NEW WESTMINSTER. Shingle Mill and Dwelling Destroyed—Loss More Than Fifteen Thousand Dollars.

New Westminster, May 24.—Fire broke out yesterday afternoon in Kirkpatrick's shingle mill on Fourth avenue, near Fifteenth street. On arriving, the firemen saw that the mill was doomed, and turned their attention to the neighboring industries.

In front of the burning mill was Messrs. Cross Brothers' floating dry dock, on which the tug Phoenix had been hauled out of the water for repairs. The new tug Vida was lying inside the drydock and close to the shore. The firemen, after a hard fight, managed to save the dock and the two boats. The dock was submerged and the Phoenix floated clear. The decks of the Vida were kept flooded until all danger was passed.

In the meantime the residence of W. H. Vanden, the well-known cannery, had caught fire and was soon destroyed.

A year ago the mill was totally destroyed by fire. It was then owned by Mr. Welsh, who rebuilt and sold out to Thomas Kirkpatrick, of Vancouver. Mr. Kirkpatrick is the present owner. The amount of the loss will not be known until the insurance companies make an estimate. It will likely be between \$15,000 and \$20,000, with no insurance. Mr. Vanden's loss will be over \$1,600.

Great pains were taken to teach the present Empire of Japan literature, to develop her artistic taste, and to school her in the writing of graceful verse.

COLWOOD THE SCENE OF MIMIC WARFARE. Bluejackets Attacked the Marines and Finally Captured the Position—Twelve Pounders Used.

Mimic warfare was in progress at Colwood Thursday, and the sound of firing was distinctly heard in the city throughout the day. It was a wind-up of the celebration on the part of the men of the navy, and while it lasted the strife, figuratively, was furious. There were no war correspondents on the scene, the commanders of the respective forces conducting the tactics of Japanese and Slavs in emboldening their plans and operations with impenetrable secrecy.

Now that the engagement has been fought, however, the public may be apprised of the particulars which, briefly, are as follows:

Early in the morning a party of about one hundred and fifty marines from the ships landed at Belmont and proceeded to Colwood, where they took up a position. They were under the command of Major Chown, of the flagship, and fortified their post with a battery consisting of maxims and twelve pounders. Subsequently several hundred bluejackets, under the command of Commander Sandeman, followed and attacked the marines with the utmost valor. The battle lasted the greater part of the day, and for a time the fortunes of war were undecided. Ultimately, however, the sailors, by a series of strategic manoeuvres, succeeded in capturing the position.

This is not an annual event, nor one of any regular schedule, but it is the opinion of some of the officers that such a sham battle should be conducted more frequently. Of course, owing to the departure of the ships on their customary cruises, the opportunities for this kind of training are more or less limited, but there is no doubt that besides proving more than ordinarily interesting and exciting to those taking part, they are also considerably instructive.

PROBABLY MURDERED. The Body of a Man Found Near Eagle, Alaska.

Dawson, May 26.—The body of a man was found below Eagle, Alaska, yesterday. The man was identified as W. S. Evans, and it is believed he had been with an axe. United States authorities are after the supposed murderer.

The body of a man found on a bar in the Yukon near Stewart is thought to be Constantine, who was killed by Fournier and Labelle. The body, which is in a very advanced stage of decomposition and difficult to identify, has been brought to Dawson for the inquest.

GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC. The Debate Will Probably Be Closed Before the House Adjourns.

Ottawa, May 26.—L. Borden is speaking at length this afternoon on the Grand Trunk Pacific. It is expected that the debate will close, and the bill be read a third time before the House adjourns.

W. Sloan, of Nanaimo, is in the city to-day.

ISOLATED. No News From Tibetan Expedition For Three Days—Reinforcements Ordered to Front.

Sirma, British India, May 26.—The British Tibetan expedition at Gyantse is isolated, and no communication has from it been received for three days. Further reinforcements have been ordered to the front.