

IN DESPERATE STRAITS.

Kuropatkin Taking Great Chances With His Centre at Shakhe in an Endeavor

To Extricate His Left Wing, Which is in a Most Precarious Situation.

RUSSIANS SAY THEY CAPTURED MANY GUNS.

Reports from Russian sources give a more hopeful view of the situation of General Kuropatkin's army. That commander has occupied and holds the town of Shakhe, the possession of which for several days was first with one and then the other contending armies.

Reports from the Russian left wing, for the safety of which there had been much anxiety, are no later than the night of October 13. It had been fighting for two days for possession of Tunin and Saitchou passes, important strategic points, but up to the time of the sending of the last despatch, the Japanese were still in possession of the passes.

In order that this column may be able to rejoin the main Russian army, it is necessary that General Kuropatkin should hold the bridges over the Hun river and the position he now occupies on the Shakhe river. There is no indication that the end of the great battle is at hand. Estimates of the losses show a wide divergence, but are as a rule lower than those given in Sunday's despatches.

Russians Turn Tables on Japs.

MUKDEN, Oct. 17.—The Russian forces at 11 o'clock this forenoon penetrated the Japanese center, and it is reported captured 11 or 12 guns and 150 prisoners east of the railway. At another point during the day the Siberian regiments took 24 guns.

The Russian operations today have been quite successful. The Japanese after a terrifically stubborn resistance were compelled to retire along their whole line, losing heavily. All the trenches carried by the Russians were filled with the Japanese dead.

In one not very large trench there were counted 600 corpses of Japanese. In spite of their losses the Japanese were undaunted. They have brought up siege guns and have left no stone unturned to retain the mastery of the situation. Every step the Russians have pushed forward today has been in the face of a superior resistance that has cost the Russians dear. The Japanese seem to be willing to fight until they are annihilated.

Kuropatkin's Position Critical.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 18.—The news from the front is more reassuring from the Russian standpoint. The situation is still regarded as being critical, but General Kuropatkin is apparently holding the Japanese firmly on his center and right wing, even having re-crossed the Shakhe river, and while there are rumors of an extensive Japanese flanking movement both on the east and on the west, there is no evidence that they are actually occurring.

SIR WILFRID AT TORONTO.

The Liability of Canada in Connection With Building

Of Great Transcontinental from Ocean to Ocean.

A Plain Exposition of the Facts Upon the Subject.

In Premier Laurier's great speech at Toronto he thus referred to the liability of the country in regard to the building of the transcontinental railway:

On the other side of the line, from Winnipeg to Port Simpson, where the road is to be built by the G. T. P. Company, and on the mountain section, which extends from the prairie to Port Simpson, about 480 miles, we shall guarantee the bonds of the company. Mind you, we shall not pay the money, but we shall guarantee the bonds. It is true that he who guarantees sometimes pays, and so far I want to present the subject to you fairly. But I have this to say: at the present time our engagement is simply to guarantee and not to pay. And we have every reason to believe, and we feel sure, that in the prairie section from Winnipeg to the mountains we shall never be called upon to pay a dollar, because that portion of the road will pay from the start. In the mountains also we have reason to believe that we shall never be called upon to pay a dollar either of interest or of capital, because there also we expect such a development of the country, both of agriculture and of minerals, that there is every reason to believe that it also will pay from the start.

Fruit-a-lives

or Fruit Liver Tablets

are the juices of apples, oranges, figs and prunes—purified, evaporated, and compressed into tablets. They never fail to cure all Stomach, Liver and Kidney Troubles. At druggists. 50 cents a box.

General Kuropatkin's left wing has been heard from. The Associated Press has the first connected account of the four days' fight in front of Tunin and Saitchou passes, resulting in the final withdrawal of the strong Russian column which had been sent to turn the Japanese right, though General Mitchenko seems to have actually penetrated a considerable distance inside the Japanese line.

The report of the operations of the Russian left wing is still three days old and since that time no news has been received from this column. The situation at this date may be described as follows:

General Kuropatkin has slightly advanced his center, re-occupying Shakhe river. Directly behind him at a distance of nine miles lies the Hun river and across the bridges spanning this stream the Russians must retire in case they retreat to Mukden. General Kuropatkin must continue to firmly hold his center and right flank in order to prevent the Japanese getting possession of the Hun river bridges. Thus he will cover the withdrawal of his apparently beaten west wing.

Enormous Russian Force Engaged.

TOKYO, Oct. 17.—The following report dealing with yesterday's events reached Tokyo today:

"A small body of the enemy at Kaokuanchi retreated before our pursuit. Part of it halted at Hua Pass and part at Kaotai Pass.

"Our pursuing column occupied Cuanzchi.

"The enemy, a brigade strong, is now assembling in a village a thousand metres to the northwest of Fenchu. Its artillery remains at the eastern end of the village. A force of about two batteries of artillery is visible on the heights northwest of Ta Pass.

"The state of the enemy in front of the centre army remained unchanged until evening.

"On Oct. 16 the enemy made six counter attacks against our left column of the left army but the attacks were entirely repulsed and heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

"At sunset, five or six battalions of the enemy, with two or three batteries again attacked the same column. The column is now repulsing them.

"The enemy's dead on the field in the direction of our left army on Oct. 15 increases the total to about four thousand. Many dead remain in front of the left army, but they are too numerous to count.

"An official estimate prepared at imperial headquarters places the Russian force engaged in the battle of the Shakhe river at 200,000 infantry and 20,000 cavalry with 150 guns.

Well, then, if the whole of this road would be built, and cost absolutely nothing—no; there is one exception which I am bound to make: for seven years on the eastern section we have agreed with the Grand Trunk Pacific Company that we shall exempt them from the rent; that we shall give them the use of the road for seven years for nothing; that we shall pay the rent ourselves during that time. In the mountain section we shall for seven years also pay the interest upon three-fourths of their bonds. Therefore, that is all we have to pay. We have to pay interest upon the whole road for seven years; that is upon both the western and mountain sections we have to pay the rent or interest during that period. And how much will that be? I will not bore you with figures; I will give you the figures compiled by the experts of the Finance Department, who calculate that what we would pay in interest for seven years represents a sum in cash which, if it were put in the bank today would amount to a little more than \$13,000,000 and a little less than \$11,000,000. That is all we would have to pay for the construction of the road if our expectations and contracts prove to be as accurate as we think they are. I ask you, my fellow-citizens, if we can get that tremendous railway for \$14,000,000 do you think that will be so very heavy a burden for the Canada taxpayers, when I tell you that the surplus we had in the year 1902-3 was \$14,000,000, and last year, 1903-4, it was \$15,000,000? This is the project I have to lay before you, this scheme and plan of the Government.

THE MISSION SERVICES

At St. Dunstan's Being Very Largely Attended.

St. Dunstan's church was again crowded to the doors last evening when the second evening service of the mission took place. Rev. Father Hanrahan was the celebrant and Rev. Father McDermott of Peterborough preached a very eloquent sermon, taking for his text, the Second Commandment—Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain—and was listened to with rapt attention by the large congregation present. At 5.30 o'clock this morning Rev. Father Carney said Mass and gave a short instruction on contrition and satisfaction for sin. This evening at 7.30 there will be Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The mission services will be continued all day tomorrow and will close tomorrow evening.

Spangled robes in amber effects have made their appearance in Paris.

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Soothe you and give you instant relief.

For sale everywhere. Price, 25 cts per bottle.

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Cures Habitual Constipation, Terrible Liver, Sick Headaches.

For sale everywhere, 50c per box or by mail on receipt of price.

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Fashionable Tailor, Opposite Post Office

Big Boom in Lamps

Our Annual Fall Sale on Lamps is continued this week. In this line you will find Parlor, Sitting Room, Dining Room and Hall Lamps in great assortment. Prices to suit everyone.

Hall Lamps, regular price \$5 50, now \$4.74.
" " " 3.25 " 2.89
" " " 3.50 " 2.99
" " " 1.50 " 1.25
Parlor Lamps " 6.00 " 4.98
" " " 6.75 " 5.99
" " " 8.00 " 7.34
Library hanging lamps, was 5.00 " 4.49
" " " 8.00 " 6.87
Sitting room lamps, " 1.25 " .99
" " " 1.90 " 1.64
" " " 2.75 " 2.44
" " " 2.25 " 1.99

Also a number at equally good bargains. If you want lamps take advantage of the sale. Goods will go back to the regular price when sale is over.

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