



TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1904.

VOL. 35.

NO. 53.

JAPS CONTINUE TO MAKE ADVANCES

The Left and Right Flanks of Russian Army Fighting South of Mukden Ordered to Retire.

Thirty-Eight Guns and Number of Ammunition Wagons Captured by Oyama's Forces--Fleet at Port Arthur May Attempt to Escape From Harbor.

Tokio, Oct. 13.—(Evening).—The latest from the front indicates a Japanese success. General Oku's left army alone bagged 25 guns. The Russians made two desperate counter attacks against the Japanese left, but were repulsed with heavy loss.

The Japanese commanders in their report give expression to the admiration of the valor of the Russians. The Manchurian headquarters telegram sent today reports as follows: "In last report our right army has been continuing a vigorous pursuit of the enemy towards the north."

"The column which was dispatched in the direction of Shihchiastoy to intercept the retreat of the enemy from Bensiuh, continues its operations. The central army continues its attack on the Russians, and expects to occupy the line between Tungshankou and Huchukchidai today. The enemy in this direction appeared to retreat continuously until dusk this evening. A report that a large column of the enemy is moving to the southwest and is commencing the erection of defensive works at Chienbungchuan, cannot be verified."

"The number of guns captured by the central column of the left army is instead of eight, as previously reported. The right wing of the central column of the left army captured four guns. The enemy's two counter attacks against the central column of the left army were very daring, but these attacks were repulsed with heavy damage, which was inflicted by our artillery and by a heavy infantry fire."

"The right column of the left army, while pursuing the enemy west of the Shihchi river, captured 25 guns, and the total number of guns captured 25. The supports and the artillery reserve advanced to Kachiatan and vicinity, driving the Russians from Huan-chuan-tai."

"The right wing of the left column of the central army captured 150 prisoners. It is yet too early to measure the results of the tremendous struggle in which Oyama has been engaged for the past three days south of Mukden, but all reports reaching Tokio indicate that Gen. Kouropatkin has been decisively repulsed and severely punished. The Russian commander was evidently caught while making his dispositions with his forces, and he was beaten before he could recover. Much depends on the ability and resolution of the Japanese in following up their advantages."

"Kouropatkin may turn upon favorable ground and succeed in beating back the Japanese onslaught, but the tide seems against him. The Japanese yesterday began a desperate effort to turn the Russian right, and if this should be successful it will carry disaster to the Russian army."

"The struggle around Bensiuh was followed with intense interest here. The Russian force there is estimated at 2,000, and loss would be a severe blow. Estimates of the total forces engaged vary. One telegram from Liao Yang says that the Russians have 200,000 men with 1,000 guns. The Japanese forces exceed the number engaged at the battle of Liao Yang."

"A telegram covering yesterday's operations, which arrived here today, says: 'In the direction of Bensiuh the enemy's attacks have been repulsed at all points. The pursuit of the enemy, undertaken by the main force of the right and centre armies, has progressed remarkably.'"

"The right army has sent a detachment toward Shihchiastoy for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the enemy posted at Bensiuh, and this detachment will reach its destination about 3 o'clock this afternoon. The centre army captured two guns and eight ammunition wagons at San-chuan-tai this morning."

"According to statements made by prisoners, General Kouropatkin, with three divisions, was in the rear of the centre and left columns of this army, after driving a strong force of the enemy before them, took the Russian positions at Langrichieh and its vicinity at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon, and captured eight guns. The enemy fled in a disorderly mass to the north, and our forces pursued them, advancing toward Lin-hanchuan-tai."

"Our force was engaged in pursuing the enemy toward Lungwangmia, south of Wulchihai, at 1:30 this afternoon. The left wing of the central army seized a commanding height, from which it joined the field battery in shelling the Japanese position, and finally drove them out, but the fighting cost us 150 men."

"The Japanese artillery, including the batteries captured from the Russians, did not cease its shell work in shelling the trenches and the retreating Russians. The left army made an advance last night, and early this morning occupied a position close to a village and field occupied by the Russians. The Japanese attacked along the whole front, driving the Russians out of the positions which they retired to yesterday. At 3 o'clock this afternoon the Russians were retiring northward in disorder."

"The Japanese captured a complete Russian battery. The Japanese are pursuing and shelling the retreating Russians, whose loss is probably large."

"The Japanese are using explosives enclosed in boxes provided with Bickford fuses, which they throw like hand grenades. Our garrison is successfully employing similar weapons against the operations below Mukden on Tuesday and Wednesday, which were previously reported in the Associated Press dispatches from Tokio, seem to make the patches of Russian guns captured 38 and ammunition wagons 24. Gen. Oku's army was credited with having taken 23 guns. The Japanese are especially heavy on the Russian left and centre. In a single regiment of over a hundred officers, only eight escaped."

"The Associated Press is informed on the same authority that no information has been received here tending to confirm the report that the Japanese are likely to capture a force on the Russian left, neither is the threatened enveloping movement against the Russian right greatly feared. Kouropatkin having a large number of Cossacks on his right, held in last to meet just such a contingency. It is now evident that Kouropatkin's plan was to press his advantage not directly from the front, but towards the left, for the purpose of getting in the rear of Oyama's triangle."

hension. The number of guns lost is not their ground for two days, gradually approaching the enemy.

"Have not yet received a report of the result of today's fighting on the left wing. Under the conditions of the fighting the losses are necessarily considerable."

"It has ordered that the positions we now hold be stubbornly defended to-morrow."

Emperor Nicholas held a council of war today, at which, it is believed, the appointment of Gen. Kouropatkin to the post of commander-in-chief of the forces in Manchuria was decided upon."

The Baltic squadron will leave Liban tonight for a short cruise."

JAPS WERE FORCED TO ABANDON TRENCH. GUNS WERE LOST AND THEN RECOVERED. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—11:55 a.m.—An official telegram from the front reports that the Japanese captured 16 guns on the right flank of the Russian troops on Wednesday night, though most of these were recaptured.

The Russian army subsequently captured several other guns. The number taken, however, is not stated."

AN ANXIOUS TIME AT ST. PETERSBURG. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—1:05 p.m.—It is now 7 o'clock at night on the battlefield below Mukden, and the fate of Gen. Kouropatkin's forward movement and possibly the fate of his whole army may already have been decided, but no word has yet come regarding the issue.

Naturally the city is filled with countless rumors of defeat and victory. The public has been aroused to the highest pitch of excitement and anxiety by Kouropatkin's dispatch of last night revealing the terrific character of the combat yesterday and acquainting the masses with the details of the Japanese offensive. That, together with the Tokio dispatches declaring that the Japanese forces were everywhere gaining ground and Kouropatkin's concluding statement that the Russian army was being driven to obstinately defend the positions occupied by us," has chilled the enthusiasm with which the news of the Russian advance was received, and has caused fears of impending disaster."

The holiday crowd engaged in celebrating the festival of the "Intercession of the Holy Virgin," which is observed on October 13th, has been dispersed to the bulletin boards, hungrily awaiting news of the issue of the most critical day. The Japanese army was driven back to-day the whole plan of the Russian advance may end in ruin for Kouropatkin. On the other hand if Oyama, having himself made advance, has expected his troops, he may be compelled to fall back on his fortifications."

THIRTY-EIGHT GUNS CAPTURED BY JAPS. London, Oct. 14.—Advice received at the Associated Press that the report of Marquis Oyama, giving details of the operations below Mukden on Tuesday and Wednesday, which were previously reported in the Associated Press dispatches from Tokio, seem to make the patches of Russian guns captured 38 and ammunition wagons 24. Gen. Oku's army was credited with having taken 23 guns. The Japanese are especially heavy on the Russian left and centre. In a single regiment of over a hundred officers, only eight escaped."

The Associated Press is informed on the same authority that no information has been received here tending to confirm the report that the Japanese are likely to capture a force on the Russian left, neither is the threatened enveloping movement against the Russian right greatly feared. Kouropatkin having a large number of Cossacks on his right, held in last to meet just such a contingency. It is now evident that Kouropatkin's plan was to press his advantage not directly from the front, but towards the left, for the purpose of getting in the rear of Oyama's triangle."

RUSSIAN SUPPORTS WERE DISPersed. Tokio, Oct. 14.—5:30 p.m.—An extended report from the Manchurian headquarters reached Tokio during the night and was published this afternoon. It records severe fighting during yesterday and additional Japanese gains. The contest at Bensiuh continues to be undetermined."

Yesterday a force of Japanese cavalry, commanded by Prince Kanin, made a dash for the Russian left flank in the rear of Bensiuh, and partially scattered the Russian supports."

"OYAMA IS STILL KOUROPATKIN'S MASTER." London, Oct. 14.—The London papers have to rely principally on official reports for news from the Far East, but regard Japanese victory assured. The Daily Telegraph says: "Gen. Kouropatkin has shot his bolt. He cannot yet be ordered to retreat, but he has missed it badly. He has suffered not merely a repulse, but a disastrous defeat, whilst Japan's incomparable army, under incomparable generals, have added another glorious page to their chronicle of arms and proved that Oyama is still Kouropatkin's master in every branch of the art of war."

The Daily Graphic describes Gen. Kouropatkin's move as a gambler's chance, and considers that the frank bluntness of his report to the Emperor seems to speak the language of a man who has done his best with the bungling advice of some superior agency. The Standard's telegraphic report of Kouropatkin's dispatch full of tragic meaning, while the Daily News argues that the Russian dash southward was prompted by a desperate desire to relieve Port Arthur rather than to victory Alexieff's malign influence, the end of which, in case of the fall of the fortress, cannot be far distant."

Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post, discussing strategic possibilities, thinks the issue will turn upon which side shall first become exhausted by the protracted operations. Telegrams, he says, do not yet reveal the final decision, but they certainly do not point to the scales turning in Russia's favor. It remains to be seen whether either army kept large reserves to throw in when it becomes apparent that the forces engaged have become exhausted. In this connection Paris, however, reports that the Russian current last week that the Japanese had a strong force west of the Hun river, and says if the Japanese should utilize such a force, it would probably force the retreat of the whole Russian army."

FLEET MAY MAKE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—The admiralty says it has no information in regard to the report from St. Petersburg by way of Paris, of the appearance of five Japanese cruisers off Vladivostok, and discredits it. The admiralty yesterday received important news from Port Arthur simultaneously with the arrival of Gen. Stoessel's dispatch. It is evident that the news relates to the Port Arthur squadron, and cannot be surprising if Rear-Admiral Wirn made an attempt to escape at any moment."

JAPANESE CRUISERS OFF VLADIVOSTOK. New York, Oct. 14.—A dispatch from Paris to the Times says St. Petersburg dispatches report five Japanese cruisers off Vladivostok. The commander-in-chief of the cruisers has summoned the inhabitants to surrender firearms of all descriptions within a week."

HAS ONLY A SMALL SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS. Vladivostok, Oct. 14.—It being six months ago that the battleship Petropavlovsk was sunk off Port Arthur and Admiral Makarov and most of the others on board perished, memorial services were held in all the churches here yesterday. In the extreme left, after a determined resistance, the Russians succeeded in carrying the rocky heights and Hun pass, north of Bensiuh, but the arrival of Japanese reinforcements, Kouropatkin says, made it impossible for the Russians to press the advantage here as the left was too far advanced. It was also with some small distance. Reports from the left, however, only bring the situation up to yesterday afternoon."

into the middle of the enemy's line. Prisoners say General Kouropatkin personally commanded the troops on the main right and General Misticchenko commanded at Bensiuh. A brigade of infantry and a regiment of cavalry crossed the Taltse river, but found themselves in a critical position and retired to the right bank with the Japanese in pursuit. The Japanese hurled back sixteen counter attacks upon their right. The army lost 3,000 men in the fighting around Bensiuh."

A dispatch from Tokio to the Standard says it is unofficially reported that the Japanese right army succeeded in isolating a force of three or four divisions of Russians in the Bensiuh-Kioutan district. It is rumored that Kouropatkin himself is with the force, which seems doomed to destruction. The central army captured eleven guns and the left army twenty-five guns, while the spoils of the right army are expected to be still more valuable."

It is believed here that the disastrous advance was forced on Kouropatkin from St. Petersburg. In any case his move was an unexpected godsend for the Japanese. The Standard's correspondent with General Kanin telegraphing October 11th, says: "After two days' heavy fighting the enemy's resistance was broken this afternoon and the Russians are now in full retreat. The rain has been still more valuable."

The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent asserts that the pursuit by the Japanese is working great havoc to the dispirited Russians, who left their dead and wounded on the field. The Russian forces are estimated at 200,000, with 1,000 guns, and the correspondent says the fighting was the most severe and terrible of the whole war."

THE FIFTH DAY OF THE GREAT BATTLE. Mukden, Oct. 14.—(3:45 p.m.)—The fighting has raged to-day with the same bitterness as on the previous days of the engagement, and the result is still in the balance. The losses on both sides are enormous, that of the Russians being 15,000. Wounded soldiers are being brought in from all directions. Men foot are limping in and using their guns as crutches, the less severely wounded supporting their comrades. Even across the fields are they met taking the shortest and straightest road for help and shelter. It is the most pitiful feature of the bloody drama being enacted at the front when stiffening with wounds, pain-racked bodies sink to the roadside, after the support of the danger and glory of the active fighting have been withdrawn. In the distance the sounds of battle are still faintly heard. The rain has ceased and the sun is shining serenely."

REPORTED TO BE RETIRING NORTHWARD. London, Oct. 14.—A dispatch to a news agency from Mukden, timed 2 p.m. to-day, received by way of Paris, says the Japanese have gained a great victory and the Russian lines are withdrawing slowly northward, having suffered heavy losses. The battle continues and dispatches are strictly censored."

FRESH JAP TROOPS CONSTANTLY ARRIVING. Tokio, Oct. 14.—3:30 p.m.—A report dispatched from the battlefield last night covering the progress of the fighting since the last report is as follows: "The right column of the right army was facing a strong force of the enemy at Chachichien, but owing to the arrival of reinforcements our progress there improved. The centre column of the right army is now attacking a strong battery of the enemy. "The right wing of the left column of the right army after a desperate battle occupied the northern height of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position. "The attack movement of the centre army is proceeding satisfactorily. The force have occupied the heights of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position. "The attack movement of the centre army is proceeding satisfactorily. The force have occupied the heights of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position."

"Our fresh reinforcements are constantly arriving at Yentai and in that vicinity." St. Petersburg, Oct. 15.—The depressing feature of the situation here is that everyone is willing to believe the worst. Thus reports from Tokio and elsewhere stating that the Japanese are advancing and the Russians falling back are accepted with faith based upon the previous Russian retreats. Naturally many reports are current as to the genesis of the forward movement. It is freely stated that Gen. Kouropatkin was forced into the offensive by the pressure of the authorities. This has been officially denied, and as General Kouropatkin's order to advance was given over his own signature, it seems likely that he will have to bear all the responsibility. Friends of Kouropatkin say the present offensive movement was inspired from St. Petersburg, as was doubtless General Sakharoff's movement for the relief of Port Arthur, and that if Kouropatkin's star has set others higher than

into the middle of the enemy's line. Prisoners say General Kouropatkin personally commanded the troops on the main right and General Misticchenko commanded at Bensiuh. A brigade of infantry and a regiment of cavalry crossed the Taltse river, but found themselves in a critical position and retired to the right bank with the Japanese in pursuit. The Japanese hurled back sixteen counter attacks upon their right. The army lost 3,000 men in the fighting around Bensiuh."

A dispatch from Tokio to the Standard says it is unofficially reported that the Japanese right army succeeded in isolating a force of three or four divisions of Russians in the Bensiuh-Kioutan district. It is rumored that Kouropatkin himself is with the force, which seems doomed to destruction. The central army captured eleven guns and the left army twenty-five guns, while the spoils of the right army are expected to be still more valuable."

It is believed here that the disastrous advance was forced on Kouropatkin from St. Petersburg. In any case his move was an unexpected godsend for the Japanese. The Standard's correspondent with General Kanin telegraphing October 11th, says: "After two days' heavy fighting the enemy's resistance was broken this afternoon and the Russians are now in full retreat. The rain has been still more valuable."

The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent asserts that the pursuit by the Japanese is working great havoc to the dispirited Russians, who left their dead and wounded on the field. The Russian forces are estimated at 200,000, with 1,000 guns, and the correspondent says the fighting was the most severe and terrible of the whole war."

THE FIFTH DAY OF THE GREAT BATTLE. Mukden, Oct. 14.—(3:45 p.m.)—The fighting has raged to-day with the same bitterness as on the previous days of the engagement, and the result is still in the balance. The losses on both sides are enormous, that of the Russians being 15,000. Wounded soldiers are being brought in from all directions. Men foot are limping in and using their guns as crutches, the less severely wounded supporting their comrades. Even across the fields are they met taking the shortest and straightest road for help and shelter. It is the most pitiful feature of the bloody drama being enacted at the front when stiffening with wounds, pain-racked bodies sink to the roadside, after the support of the danger and glory of the active fighting have been withdrawn. In the distance the sounds of battle are still faintly heard. The rain has ceased and the sun is shining serenely."

REPORTED TO BE RETIRING NORTHWARD. London, Oct. 14.—A dispatch to a news agency from Mukden, timed 2 p.m. to-day, received by way of Paris, says the Japanese have gained a great victory and the Russian lines are withdrawing slowly northward, having suffered heavy losses. The battle continues and dispatches are strictly censored."

FRESH JAP TROOPS CONSTANTLY ARRIVING. Tokio, Oct. 14.—3:30 p.m.—A report dispatched from the battlefield last night covering the progress of the fighting since the last report is as follows: "The right column of the right army was facing a strong force of the enemy at Chachichien, but owing to the arrival of reinforcements our progress there improved. The centre column of the right army is now attacking a strong battery of the enemy. "The right wing of the left column of the right army after a desperate battle occupied the northern height of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position. "The attack movement of the centre army is proceeding satisfactorily. The force have occupied the heights of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position. "The attack movement of the centre army is proceeding satisfactorily. The force have occupied the heights of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position."

"Our fresh reinforcements are constantly arriving at Yentai and in that vicinity." St. Petersburg, Oct. 15.—The depressing feature of the situation here is that everyone is willing to believe the worst. Thus reports from Tokio and elsewhere stating that the Japanese are advancing and the Russians falling back are accepted with faith based upon the previous Russian retreats. Naturally many reports are current as to the genesis of the forward movement. It is freely stated that Gen. Kouropatkin was forced into the offensive by the pressure of the authorities. This has been officially denied, and as General Kouropatkin's order to advance was given over his own signature, it seems likely that he will have to bear all the responsibility. Friends of Kouropatkin say the present offensive movement was inspired from St. Petersburg, as was doubtless General Sakharoff's movement for the relief of Port Arthur, and that if Kouropatkin's star has set others higher than

"The Japanese are using explosives enclosed in boxes provided with Bickford fuses, which they throw like hand grenades. Our garrison is successfully employing similar weapons against the operations below Mukden on Tuesday and Wednesday, which were previously reported in the Associated Press dispatches from Tokio, seem to make the patches of Russian guns captured 38 and ammunition wagons 24. Gen. Oku's army was credited with having taken 23 guns. The Japanese are especially heavy on the Russian left and centre. In a single regiment of over a hundred officers, only eight escaped."

The Associated Press is informed on the same authority that no information has been received here tending to confirm the report that the Japanese are likely to capture a force on the Russian left, neither is the threatened enveloping movement against the Russian right greatly feared. Kouropatkin having a large number of Cossacks on his right, held in last to meet just such a contingency. It is now evident that Kouropatkin's plan was to press his advantage not directly from the front, but towards the left, for the purpose of getting in the rear of Oyama's triangle."

RUSSIAN SUPPORTS WERE DISPersed. Tokio, Oct. 14.—5:30 p.m.—An extended report from the Manchurian headquarters reached Tokio during the night and was published this afternoon. It records severe fighting during yesterday and additional Japanese gains. The contest at Bensiuh continues to be undetermined."

Yesterday a force of Japanese cavalry, commanded by Prince Kanin, made a dash for the Russian left flank in the rear of Bensiuh, and partially scattered the Russian supports."

"OYAMA IS STILL KOUROPATKIN'S MASTER." London, Oct. 14.—The London papers have to rely principally on official reports for news from the Far East, but regard Japanese victory assured. The Daily Telegraph says: "Gen. Kouropatkin has shot his bolt. He cannot yet be ordered to retreat, but he has missed it badly. He has suffered not merely a repulse, but a disastrous defeat, whilst Japan's incomparable army, under incomparable generals, have added another glorious page to their chronicle of arms and proved that Oyama is still Kouropatkin's master in every branch of the art of war."

The Daily Graphic describes Gen. Kouropatkin's move as a gambler's chance, and considers that the frank bluntness of his report to the Emperor seems to speak the language of a man who has done his best with the bungling advice of some superior agency. The Standard's telegraphic report of Kouropatkin's dispatch full of tragic meaning, while the Daily News argues that the Russian dash southward was prompted by a desperate desire to relieve Port Arthur rather than to victory Alexieff's malign influence, the end of which, in case of the fall of the fortress, cannot be far distant."

Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post, discussing strategic possibilities, thinks the issue will turn upon which side shall first become exhausted by the protracted operations. Telegrams, he says, do not yet reveal the final decision, but they certainly do not point to the scales turning in Russia's favor. It remains to be seen whether either army kept large reserves to throw in when it becomes apparent that the forces engaged have become exhausted. In this connection Paris, however, reports that the Russian current last week that the Japanese had a strong force west of the Hun river, and says if the Japanese should utilize such a force, it would probably force the retreat of the whole Russian army."

FLEET MAY MAKE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—The admiralty says it has no information in regard to the report from St. Petersburg by way of Paris, of the appearance of five Japanese cruisers off Vladivostok, and discredits it. The admiralty yesterday received important news from Port Arthur simultaneously with the arrival of Gen. Stoessel's dispatch. It is evident that the news relates to the Port Arthur squadron, and cannot be surprising if Rear-Admiral Wirn made an attempt to escape at any moment."

JAPANESE CRUISERS OFF VLADIVOSTOK. New York, Oct. 14.—A dispatch from Paris to the Times says St. Petersburg dispatches report five Japanese cruisers off Vladivostok. The commander-in-chief of the cruisers has summoned the inhabitants to surrender firearms of all descriptions within a week."

HAS ONLY A SMALL SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS. Vladivostok, Oct. 14.—It being six months ago that the battleship Petropavlovsk was sunk off Port Arthur and Admiral Makarov and most of the others on board perished, memorial services were held in all the churches here yesterday. In the extreme left, after a determined resistance, the Russians succeeded in carrying the rocky heights and Hun pass, north of Bensiuh, but the arrival of Japanese reinforcements, Kouropatkin says, made it impossible for the Russians to press the advantage here as the left was too far advanced. It was also with some small distance. Reports from the left, however, only bring the situation up to yesterday afternoon."

THREATENED FLANK ORDERED TO REREAT. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—Another dispatch from Gen. Kouropatkin, dated early this morning, says regarding the fighting of October 12th and 13th, that the Russians on the right wing defended their advanced positions and also portions of the different main positions, particularly in the direction of Shieh-hai, until towards evening, when Gen. Kouropatkin ordered them to withdraw a short distance. In spite of the fact that the Japanese attacks were chiefly directed against these troops, they held the ground to which they retired."

On the left wing, after a very obstinate struggle, the Russians occupied the rocky hills south of Bensiuh, and near Bensiuh, about eight miles north of Yentai, but the arrival of the Japanese reinforcements preventing them from profiting by this success, and this body being separated from the rest of the troops, Kouropatkin ordered it to retreat. The dispatch reiterates that the Russians suffered heavy losses, but no details have yet been given out. KOUROPATKIN CONFIRMS THE LOSS OF GUNS. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—3:30 p.m.—General Kouropatkin's official report, given out at 1:30 p.m., definitely confirming the loss of artillery attached to the brigade on his right flank as the result of Gen. Oku's attack on Wednesday night, only increased public apprehension.

into the middle of the enemy's line. Prisoners say General Kouropatkin personally commanded the troops on the main right and General Misticchenko commanded at Bensiuh. A brigade of infantry and a regiment of cavalry crossed the Taltse river, but found themselves in a critical position and retired to the right bank with the Japanese in pursuit. The Japanese hurled back sixteen counter attacks upon their right. The army lost 3,000 men in the fighting around Bensiuh."

A dispatch from Tokio to the Standard says it is unofficially reported that the Japanese right army succeeded in isolating a force of three or four divisions of Russians in the Bensiuh-Kioutan district. It is rumored that Kouropatkin himself is with the force, which seems doomed to destruction. The central army captured eleven guns and the left army twenty-five guns, while the spoils of the right army are expected to be still more valuable."

It is believed here that the disastrous advance was forced on Kouropatkin from St. Petersburg. In any case his move was an unexpected godsend for the Japanese. The Standard's correspondent with General Kanin telegraphing October 11th, says: "After two days' heavy fighting the enemy's resistance was broken this afternoon and the Russians are now in full retreat. The rain has been still more valuable."

The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent asserts that the pursuit by the Japanese is working great havoc to the dispirited Russians, who left their dead and wounded on the field. The Russian forces are estimated at 200,000, with 1,000 guns, and the correspondent says the fighting was the most severe and terrible of the whole war."

THE FIFTH DAY OF THE GREAT BATTLE. Mukden, Oct. 14.—(3:45 p.m.)—The fighting has raged to-day with the same bitterness as on the previous days of the engagement, and the result is still in the balance. The losses on both sides are enormous, that of the Russians being 15,000. Wounded soldiers are being brought in from all directions. Men foot are limping in and using their guns as crutches, the less severely wounded supporting their comrades. Even across the fields are they met taking the shortest and straightest road for help and shelter. It is the most pitiful feature of the bloody drama being enacted at the front when stiffening with wounds, pain-racked bodies sink to the roadside, after the support of the danger and glory of the active fighting have been withdrawn. In the distance the sounds of battle are still faintly heard. The rain has ceased and the sun is shining serenely."

REPORTED TO BE RETIRING NORTHWARD. London, Oct. 14.—A dispatch to a news agency from Mukden, timed 2 p.m. to-day, received by way of Paris, says the Japanese have gained a great victory and the Russian lines are withdrawing slowly northward, having suffered heavy losses. The battle continues and dispatches are strictly censored."

FRESH JAP TROOPS CONSTANTLY ARRIVING. Tokio, Oct. 14.—3:30 p.m.—A report dispatched from the battlefield last night covering the progress of the fighting since the last report is as follows: "The right column of the right army was facing a strong force of the enemy at Chachichien, but owing to the arrival of reinforcements our progress there improved. The centre column of the right army is now attacking a strong battery of the enemy. "The right wing of the left column of the right army after a desperate battle occupied the northern height of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position. "The attack movement of the centre army is proceeding satisfactorily. The force have occupied the heights of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position. "The attack movement of the centre army is proceeding satisfactorily. The force have occupied the heights of Shiao-toku, the key of the enemy's position."

"Our fresh reinforcements are constantly arriving at Yentai and in that vicinity." St. Petersburg, Oct. 15.—The depressing feature of the situation here is that everyone is willing to believe the worst. Thus reports from Tokio and elsewhere stating that the Japanese are advancing and the Russians falling back are accepted with faith based upon the previous Russian retreats. Naturally many reports are current as to the genesis of the forward movement. It is freely stated that Gen. Kouropatkin was forced into the offensive by the pressure of the authorities. This has been officially denied, and as General Kouropatkin's order to advance was given over his own signature, it seems likely that he will have to bear all the responsibility. Friends of Kouropatkin say the present offensive movement was inspired from St. Petersburg, as was doubtless General Sakharoff's movement for the relief of Port Arthur, and that if Kouropatkin's star has set others higher than

"The Japanese are using explosives enclosed in boxes provided with Bickford fuses, which they throw like hand grenades. Our garrison is successfully employing similar weapons against the operations below Mukden on Tuesday and Wednesday, which were previously reported in the Associated Press dispatches from Tokio, seem to make the patches of Russian guns captured 38 and ammunition wagons 24. Gen. Oku's army was credited with having taken 23 guns. The Japanese are especially heavy on the Russian left and centre. In a single regiment of over a hundred officers, only eight escaped."

The Associated Press is informed on the same authority that no information has been received here tending to confirm the report that the Japanese are likely to capture a force on the Russian left, neither is the threatened enveloping movement against the Russian right greatly feared. Kouropatkin having a large number of Cossacks on his right, held in last to meet just such a contingency. It is now evident that Kouropatkin's plan was to press his advantage not directly from the front, but towards the left, for the purpose of getting in the rear of Oyama's triangle."

RUSSIAN SUPPORTS WERE DISPersed. Tokio, Oct. 14.—5:30 p.m.—An extended report from the Manchurian headquarters reached Tokio during the night and was published this afternoon. It records severe fighting during yesterday and additional Japanese gains. The contest at Bensiuh continues to be undetermined."

Yesterday a force of Japanese cavalry, commanded by Prince Kanin, made a dash for the Russian left flank in the rear of Bensiuh, and partially scattered the Russian supports."

"OYAMA IS STILL KOUROPATKIN'S MASTER." London, Oct. 14.—The London papers have to rely principally on official reports for news from the Far East, but regard Japanese victory assured. The Daily Telegraph says: "Gen. Kouropatkin has shot his bolt. He cannot yet be ordered to retreat, but he has missed it badly. He has suffered not merely a repulse, but a disastrous defeat, whilst Japan's incomparable army, under incomparable generals, have added another glorious page to their chronicle of arms and proved that Oyama is still Kouropatkin's master in every branch of the art of war."

The Daily Graphic describes Gen. Kouropatkin's move as a gambler's chance, and considers that the frank bluntness of his report to the Emperor seems to speak the language of a man who has done his best with the bungling advice of some superior agency. The Standard's telegraphic report of Kouropatkin's dispatch full of tragic meaning, while the Daily News argues that the Russian dash southward was prompted by a desperate desire to relieve Port Arthur rather than to victory Alexieff's malign influence, the end of which, in case of the fall of the fortress, cannot be far distant."

Spencer Wilkinson in the Morning Post, discussing strategic possibilities, thinks the issue will turn upon which side shall first become exhausted by the protracted operations. Telegrams, he says, do not yet reveal the final decision, but they certainly do not point to the scales turning in Russia's favor. It remains to be seen whether either army kept large reserves to throw in when it becomes apparent that the forces engaged have become exhausted. In this connection Paris, however, reports that the Russian current last week that the Japanese had a strong force west of the Hun river, and says if the Japanese should utilize such a force, it would probably force the retreat of the whole Russian army."

FLEET MAY MAKE ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—The admiralty says it has no information in regard to the report from St. Petersburg by way of Paris, of the appearance of five Japanese cruisers off Vladivostok, and discredits it. The admiralty yesterday received important news from Port Arthur simultaneously with the arrival of Gen. Stoessel's dispatch. It is evident that the news relates to the Port Arthur squadron, and cannot be surprising if Rear-Admiral Wirn made an attempt to escape at any moment."

JAPANESE CRUISERS OFF VLADIVOSTOK. New York, Oct. 14.—A dispatch from Paris to the Times says St. Petersburg dispatches report five Japanese cruisers off Vladivostok. The commander-in-chief of the cruisers has summoned the inhabitants to surrender firearms of all descriptions within a week."

HAS ONLY A SMALL SUPPLY OF PROVISIONS. Vladivostok, Oct. 14.—It being six months ago that the battleship Petropavlovsk was sunk off Port Arthur and Admiral Makarov and most of the others on board perished, memorial services were held in all the churches here yesterday. In the extreme left, after a determined resistance, the Russians succeeded in carrying the rocky heights and Hun pass, north of Bensiuh, but the arrival of Japanese reinforcements, Kouropatkin says, made it impossible for the Russians to press the advantage here as the left was too far advanced. It was also with some small distance. Reports from the left, however, only bring the situation up to yesterday afternoon."

THREATENED FLANK ORDERED TO REREAT. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—Another dispatch from Gen. Kouropatkin, dated early this morning, says regarding the fighting of October 12th and 13th, that the Russians on the right wing defended their advanced positions and also portions of the different main positions, particularly in the direction of Shieh-hai, until towards evening, when Gen. Kouropatkin ordered them to withdraw a short distance. In spite of the fact that the Japanese attacks were chiefly directed against these troops, they held the ground to which they retired."

On the left wing, after a very obstinate struggle, the Russians occupied the rocky hills south of Bensiuh, and near Bensiuh, about eight miles north of Yentai, but the arrival of the Japanese reinforcements preventing them from profiting by this success, and this body being separated from the rest of the troops, Kouropatkin ordered it to retreat. The dispatch reiterates that the Russians suffered heavy losses, but no details have yet been given out. KOUROPATKIN CONFIRMS THE LOSS OF GUNS. St. Petersburg, Oct. 14.—3:30 p.m.—General Kouropatkin's official report, given out at 1:30 p.m., definitely confirming the loss of artillery attached to the brigade on his right flank as the result of Gen. Oku's attack on Wednesday night, only increased public apprehension.

Go. Ld. Shoes, Hats, Etc. The Left and Right Flanks of Russian Army Fighting South of Mukden Ordered to Retire.

Go. Ld. 25c. A protective measure in the weather. The Left and Right Flanks of Russian Army Fighting South of Mukden Ordered to Retire.

Go. Ld. melters of silver Ores. at ISLAND, B. C. for the sea.

THOS. KIDDIE Smelter Manager. The Left and Right Flanks of Russian Army Fighting South of Mukden Ordered to Retire.

LAND REGISTRY ACT. The Left and Right Flanks of Russian Army Fighting South of Mukden Ordered to Retire.

hereby given that 6