

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1905.

MUKDEN CAPTURED AND KUROPATKIN'S GREAT ARMY SCATTERED AND FLEEING IN ALL DIRECTIONS

Oyama and the Demon Japanese Bring About an Unparalleled Disaster to Russia--St. Petersburg Talking About Peace--Kuropatkin's Force Striving to Reach Tie Pass but is About to be Cut Off by Fifth Jap Army--Fierce Fighting for Two Weeks Never Before Equalled--St. Petersburg's Sorrow--Russians Lose Guns and Stores.

New Chwang, March 10.—According to reliable information received here the Russians have been driven out of Mukden and Fushun and are retreating in a demoralized condition to hill country towards the northeast.

Detached bodies of Russians are strongly entrenching with a view to checking the pursuit but no great rear guard action is being fought.

It will be impossible for the Russians to keep up any sort of resistance for many days as there are now no means of provisioning in the rough country through which they are retreating.

It is believed that the Russians may attempt to reach Kirin, 225 miles northeast of Mukden through the valleys, but a special Japanese corps from the direction of the Yalu river (probably Gen. Kawamura's force) threatens to cut them off. Gen. Kuroki is advancing northwest and is forcing the Russians against Gen. Nog's armies.

The casualties on both sides have been enormous. The Russian sixteenth army corps was practically annihilated at Tatchekiao. Eight thousand Russians fell at Leukuanpo.

The fate of the Russian army of upwards of a quarter of a million men and 2,000 pieces of artillery with which it was confidently expected General Kuropatkin and his lieutenants could prevent the advance of the Japanese beyond the Shalke and Hun rivers positions, is still in the balance.

They have been driven from these positions and are now rushing northward towards Tie Pass, around which are high hills which were prepared for defence after the battle of Liao Yang in September, there being no hope at that time that the Japanese would allow the defeated army to rest south of the Tie Pass.

That the Russians have lost many guns

force is a mobile one and the officers know the mountain well.

Russians Fleeing North.

With the exception of this latter force all the Russian troops are now concentrating on the roads leading northward and it may take another twenty-four hours before their fate is decided. The army, which General Kuropatkin turned over to General Kaulbars when he left Manchuria, and a portion of which General Biderling commanded, consisted of Gregor's cavalry, Mitschenko's mobile division, and the first, sixth, eighth, tenth and seventeenth army corps, extending from the Liao river to the Mandchurian coast.

General Lisenich's army, which held the important positions at the bend of the Shalke river, including Erdagou hill, comprised the first European and the first, second, third and fourth Siberian corps, Ransensamp's mobile division and Samsonoff's cavalry. The troops which arrived in January and February, probably two corps, are not included in this list.

Peace Expected Soon Now.

Even should Kuropatkin extricate his army it is believed in European capitals that peace will soon follow this latest Japanese victory. The calling to St. Petersburg of M. Lowelsky, Russian minister to Denmark, who was formerly in Tokyo, is most significant. No time will be lost in starting the negotiations as soon as Russia intimates her wish to close the war. Shortly after the fall of Port Arthur a high official of the Japanese Foreign office arrived in London with authority to take up the negotiations so soon as Russia declared her desire for peace.

The losses in the operations preceding the battle and those in the battle proper, must have reached enormous proportions, but up to the present neither side has attempted an estimate. They will certainly exceed the Shalke losses, in which the Russians alone lost in killed, wounded and missing, 67,000 men.

Kuropatkin's Hopeless Despatch.

St. Petersburg, March 10.—General Kuropatkin has sent the following despatch to Emperor Nicholas under today's date: "Last night began the retreat of all our armies. During the night there was no fighting, but a heavy cannonade."

The greatest defeat in the history of the Russo-Japanese war was made known in St. Petersburg last night but only in the paltry eight words from General Kuropatkin to Emperor Nicholas, which were flung about the streets in newspaper extras and passed from mouth to mouth. They were thoughts formed instantly in the minds of everyone, and two words were on every lip—Surrender—Peace—the former dreaded, the latter hoped.

General Kuropatkin is no maker of phrases, his words never are quoted like the famous "All is lost save honor," but his laconic message hides more than probably any other sentence in the literature of war. St. Petersburg knows nothing of the extent of the disaster, nor even the lines of Kuropatkin's retreat; whether he routes to Tie Pass is still open; whether he is endeavoring to cut his way through to safety, or whether, as many of the pessimistic believe, he has taken to the mountains. If it be the latter he will inevitably be hemmed in and starved into surrender, as Marshal Bazaine was at Metz.

The despatch has been studied as closely as was ever the most obscure text of scripture over which dogmatists have wrestled, and from the words "all our armies" the optimists draw the deduction that the bulk of the Russian force got away clear, the commander-in-chief sacrificing, however, the devoted rear guard, who flung themselves as prey to the Japanese volleys who were pressing in on their trail and sacrificing also, it is concluded on every hand, the greater part of his heavy artillery, especially the siege guns, and enormous quantities of supplies and munitions.

Of the present situation of the army—whether it is utterly routed or merely beaten; of the proportion of Russians left in Japanese hands, or of the prospect of the escape of the remainder—St. Petersburg at this moment knows less than the smallest hamlet in America. Since the Associated Press Mukden despatch was filed at 5 o'clock Friday morning, no despatch, save the brief official announcement of the retreat, has come from the Russian army; General Kuropatkin's preceding despatch, giving the last but scanty details as to the positions of the army having been written at 9 o'clock Thursday evening. The members of the general staff threw up their hands when asked for information. "We know nothing. We hope he will bring the army off safely but we do not know how he will do it. We only

know he has commenced to retreat; that is all."

Everyone is now discussing peace, which many of the staunchest advocates of the war, bureaucrats and officers, now declare to be inevitable.

Rojevsky's Fleet Recalled.

It is openly bruited that Rojevsky's fleet has been recalled and is now on the way homeward. The admiral, when asked if the report were true, said: "We don't know; call again tomorrow," and declined to comment on the significance of the cancellation of the purchase of colliers or the direction of Rojevsky's voyage from Madagascar waters. It can be stated, however, that no overtures for peace have been made and none are likely to be made for a few days, before the extent of the disaster has developed.

Aside from peace, defeat may bring other consequences in its train. That an enormous impetus has been given to the reform movement is plain to even the most reactionary Conservatives; but the immediate result chiefly dreaded is the effect on internal disorders, not only in the capital, but also, since St. Petersburg is not Russia, upon the millions of peasants in the vast agricultural regions, among whom the spirit of revolt is now incubating and already has hatched pillage and arson in a few districts. It is believed, however, that the government is amply able to nip these uprisings in the bud and prevent radicals in the city from bringing about anything more than demonstrations, and talk of revolution, aside from the peasant revolts which have been under way for the last six months, is scouted in all well-informed quarters.

St. Petersburg Calm.

Outwardly St. Petersburg takes the defeat unconcernedly. A stranger in the streets would never know that armies defending the honor and prestige of Russia had just sustained a crushing reverse.

OYAMA'S TRIPHAMMER

Washington, March 10.—Fushun has been captured by the Japanese forces, according to the following cablegram received by the Japanese legation from Tokyo under today's date: "Our detachments occupied Fushun on the night of March 9 and now are attacking the enemy who is posted at the angle of the heights north of Fushun."

KUROPATKIN'S LOSSES SO FAR ARE 156,000 KILLED, WOUNDED AND PRISONERS

Washington, March 12.—The Japanese legation has received the following cablegram from the foreign office at Tokyo, dated today: "The armies on the Shalke quarter, report up to Sunday morning the following approximate figures, which are still increasing: Prisoners, over 40,000, including Major General Nachumos; Russian corpses on the field, 26,500. Other Russian casualties, 90,000. Trophies.

Two ensigns. Sixty guns. Sixty thousand rifles. One hundred and five ammunition wagons. One thousand army wagons. Two hundred thousand shells. Twenty-five million shots for rifles. Seventy-four thousand bushels of grain. Materials for light railroad for forty-six miles. Three hundred wagons for light roads. Two thousand horses. Twenty-three Chinese carts full of maps. One thousand Chinese carts full of clothing. One million portions of bread. One hundred and fifty thousand pounds of fuel. Two hundred and twenty-three thousand bushels of horse allowance. One hundred and twenty-five thousand pounds of hay. "The report from the Sing Ping quarter has not yet been received."

"Our various detachments have been pursuing the enemy from all directions and inflicting considerable damage upon him every where. Occupied on the afternoon of the 10th of March the line extending thirteen miles to the north of Hun Ho and are still continuing pursuit on the 11th of March."

Japs' Total Casualties 41,222.

"Our detachments which proceeded northwards on the morning of the 11th of March from the neighborhood of Puhoo met a large column of the enemy retreating northwards and after hand-to-hand fighting we enveloped the column, which finally surrendered."

"Near Mukden we are now engaged in clearing remnants of the routed enemy, some of whom are continuing resistance, while the others cease to surrender."

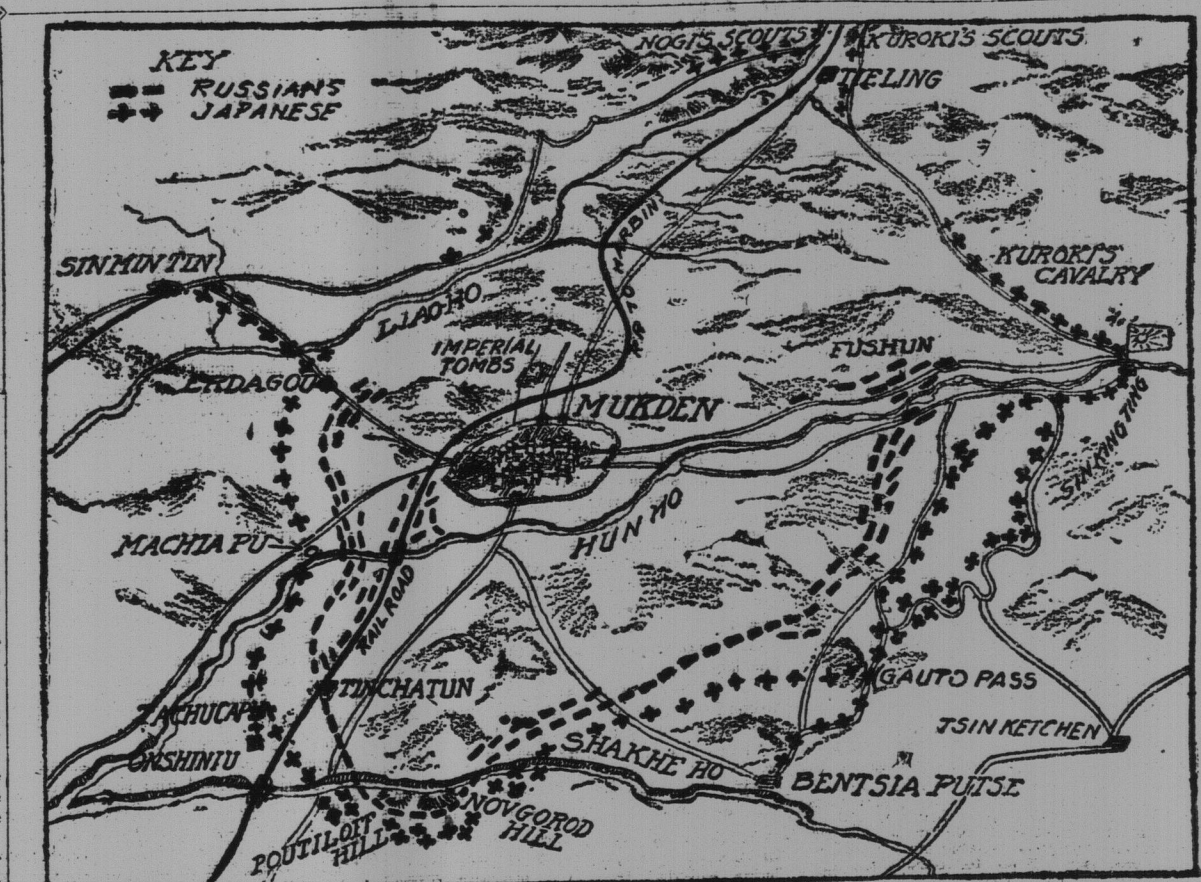
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"According to the report received on the morning of the 11th of March the number of Russian prisoners was estimated up to the tenth of March at 20,000, and since then is continuously increasing."

"Our total casualties since the afternoon of the 28th of February to the morning of the 12th of March were 41,222."

Summary of War News.

While General Kuropatkin has apparently succeeded in saving more of his art-



MUKDEN TO TIELING—VIEW SHOWING RUSSIANS ENVELOPED

of all this terrible battle. Its possession was vital to the Japanese, who stormed it again and again. The Russians dislodged them, but the Japanese finally captured the village after much hand-to-hand fighting.

Eye witnesses say the dead scattered in the court yards and houses have been buried for four days. Rifles and other armaments about wrecked and twisted. Hand grenades were thrown by the Japanese and the garrison was subjected to the concentrated fire of as many as a hundred guns. This position once in the hands of the Japanese, they could train guns on Mukden railroad station, and therefore the Russians have been holding it at a frightful cost. The Japanese are also concentrating their efforts about seven miles north of Mukden and about five miles west of the railroad with the object of cutting off the surrounding force below.

Fushun in Jap Hands.

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Summary of War News.

While General Kuropatkin has apparently succeeded in saving more of his art-

ery than seemed possible, his losses in men, ammunition and commissariat in the battle of Mukden are far greater than earlier reports indicated and even that portion of his army which he succeeded in extricating from the positions around Mukden, is still in serious danger.

The Japanese Generals realizing that with a little more speed they could have inflicted a crushing defeat on the Russian army after the battle of Liao Yang, determined not to again allow an opportunity to pass and are following after the defeated and sorely tried Russian forces. While a small portion of Kuropatkin's army has reached Tie Pass, the greater part of those who escaped from the battle of Mukden are still struggling northward, being at last accounts between 12 and 16 miles from their goal with the Japanese, flushed with victory and reinforced by fresh men, harrying them from all sides. Even should the remnant of the army reach Tie Pass, it is hardly possible for it to make a stand there against the overwhelming force opposing it, especially as the Russians must be worn out and weakened by the loss of men, guns and ammunition.

It is more likely that Kuropatkin will fall right back to Harbin with what he can save and wait there for the reinforcements that St. Petersburg already has promised him. A possible obstacle to this plan is General Kawamura's army which has not yet been located and which also may be heading for the northern capital. General Kuropatkin admits that 1,100 officers and 46,931 men are not responding to roll calls. This is rather vague. It may or may not include the thousands of wounded who have been sent north and again it may not include the losses suffered by the third army, with which the commander-in-chief was not in communication for some time.

The figures given by the Japanese war office appear more reasonable, namely: 40,000 prisoners, 25,500 dead left on the field and 90,000 killed or wounded. The latter figure of course, including the dead found by the Japanese. The Russian losses, therefore, total more than 160,000 men, or more than one-third of the whole army.

The fact that the Japanese report the capture of only 60 guns indicates that General Kuropatkin at the last moment, succeeded in sending a considerable portion of his artillery northward on the railway. The Japanese losses up to this morning were reported at 41,222, not including the army which pushed north between Mukden and Fushun.

Official Russia is determined to carry on the war and St. Petersburg reports that orders have been issued for the mobilization of more troops. This may prove a difficult task with the temper of the Russian people in its present condition. There is still hope in St. Petersburg that Russia can exhaust Japan financially and for months there has been talk of the mobilization of an army on the Siberian border, which would compel Japan to keep her vast army in Manchuria.

Russia Will Fight to Bitter End.

St. Petersburg, March 13, 2:10 a. m.—The immediate answer of the Russian government to the defeat at Mukden will be the announcement that a new army will be raised and the forces in the Far East reorganized; that Vice-Admiral Rojevsky will be ordered to sail on and try conclusions with Togo, and that the war will be prosecuted to the bitter end.

This is the present temper of Emperor Nicholas and his dominant advisers, voiced in a firm official announcement that the position of Russia is unchanged and that the initiative for peace can only come from Japan. Should the island empire choose to tender "moderate" terms and recognize its adversary as the power in the Far East, peace could be easily arranged; but the voice of her diplomacy in various parts of the world indicates that she is not ready to do this, and the Russian government, with the full magnitude of the disaster at Mukden still undetermined, but with the 1905 campaign completely already hopelessly compromised, retreat to Harbin inevitable and Vladivostok practically lost, declares that the time has not yet come when Russia can be forced to humiliate herself.

Will Be Hard to Raise Another Army.

But while this is the official attitude nothing but peace talk is heard in St. Petersburg. The difficulties of another mobilization on a large scale will be enormous; in fact, it is stated in some quarters that it will be impossible. Nevertheless it might be accomplished. The real hope, however, for anything like a successful termination of the war is admitted to rest upon the prospects of the financial exhaustion of Japan. Russian resources, it is figured, can stand the drain better than those of Japan, and a protracted campaign, it is hoped, will bring about Japan's financial ruin. Financial Minister Kokovtsov, at the conclusion of the conference on the national finances a few days ago, is said to have tapped the table before him and exclaimed: "We can win the war at this desk."

The Russian capital is still in ignorance of the nature and extent of the reverse in Manchuria. The only information of its magnitude is that which has been de-

(Continued on page 7, second column.)

KUROKI, THE KING OF FLANKERS



GENERAL KUROKI

and large quantities of ammunition and supplies is certain, for with but a single track railway to the north it would be impossible to remove the large stores which had been gathered together at Mukden. These, it seems, have been destroyed.

The Japanese have not yet reported the capture of guns which they generally do almost immediately, but it seems hardly likely that Kuropatkin could have removed all his artillery.

On the first of January, according to correspondents who have just returned from Mukden, the Russians had in position along the Shalke and Hun rivers, 1,600 guns, including a number of six and eight-inch guns on cement foundations straddling the railway just north of Shalke station. In addition many guns arrived at Mukden during January and February, so that the Russian artillery, when the battle started, must have numbered nearly 2,000 pieces.

It is likely that Kuropatkin has sacrificed some of these and is bending all his energies to extricating his army. That this task is a difficult one all of the de-

to be moving from the east towards Kuropatkin's line of retreat. Should he reach the military road, which runs almost in a direct line from Fushun to Tie Pass, before the passage of the Russian army, the circle will be complete, as Nog's guns already command the railway and should soon control the Mandchurian road, which is but a short distance east of the railway and runs parallel with it.

The army of General Kaulbars, which has been pressed back across the western plain, fighting every inch of ground, is moving northward to protect the line of retreat from the attacks from the westward, while General Biderling is protecting the rear against General Oku and Nodra, and Lisenich is doing his best to hold the military road against Kuroki. They have numbers against them, but have succeeded against odds in similar retreats before. The appearance of General Kawamura would render futile all their efforts. General Rennenkampf's force of somewhat less than 10,000 men, which has been operating on the extreme left, is in a precarious position, but the

WAR HOME FROM WHICH BEATEN GENERAL IS DRIVEN



GENERAL KUROPATKIN'S HEADQUARTERS JUST OUTSIDE MUKDEN.

Mukden Has Fallen.

Washington, March 10.—The Japanese legation today received the following cablegram from Tokyo: "Our troops occupied Mukden 10 a. m. Friday. Our enveloping movement since some days proved successful and the bloodiest battle is now proceeding in various places near Mukden."

Terrific Work of Japs.

Mukden, March 10, 10 a. m.—The Japanese last night pushed up from the south across the abandoned plain between the Shalke and Hun rivers and are, as this despatch is filed, about five miles south of the latter stream. From the Hun, opposite Manchuria and northward, Japanese batteries are pouring in a ceaseless fire. They succeeded in emplacing siege guns and mortars at Dushantan, about six miles west of this city, whence they opened fire at dawn. Dushantan was the scene of the bloodiest and most desperate fighting

Nogi, who adds to his Port Arthur laurels



LIEUT. GENERAL NOGI.