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DECISIVE BATTLE IS RAGING

The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

Greatest Artillery Duel of World's History Now in Progress Near Mukden---Japanese Under Oku Turn Russian Right And St. Petersburg Admits That Fate of Kuropatkin and His Army Hangs in the Balance---Oyama Again Sacrifices Pawns on the Battlefield Chessboard---Nogi's Port Arthur Veterans Accomplish the Miraculous Until Utterly Exhausted -- The Crisis at Hand

Giant Armies Lock in Battle Interrupted. The Russian positions in the centre are unchanged.

Snow-Covered Plain Near Muk den Scene of Unprecedented Arthlery Duel.

Japanese Advance Line Extends For Seven Miles—Gains Won at Awful Price.

Tactical Programme of Liao Yang Duplicated With Succes at Mukden.

MUKDEN, March 6.—(Noon.)—
An artillery duel has been raging here since morning to the westward of Mukden, and the Japanese shells are exploding within three miles of the Imperial tembs.

The line of the Japanese advance



open plain, are receiving particular atention from the gunners Throughout the day the Russian batteries replied vigorously to the Japanese fire and the exchange of shrapnel has been terrible.

The whole of the fire is occasionally Si

obscured by dense white smoke from the exploding missiles.

Mukden, March 3.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—The beginning of the withdrawal of the Russian right flank on March 1 precipitated a battle at Chantan, west of Sandepas, when the right flank was ordered to fall back fighting to Taotaitzu, near Nantaran.

On March 2 the Russians captured some machine guns and took a number the Russian position at Shakhe village, some machine guns and took a number of prisoners of General Nogi's Port Arthur army. The Russians lost exforage in the villages north of the Hun

The Japanese attacked Chantan from Sandepas simultaneously with an astounding advance from Llaoyang, the impression being that the Simmintin railway was being employed by them batants confront each other now with

Theatrical and Bold of the war is apparently ent. The Russians consider the situation as being favorable to them or. All the streets and outlying roads are crowded with transports of the army which has been assembled to oppose General Nogl. The events of the last three days have electrified the

Mukden, which was thrown into con-

General Kuroki's army, with a few mintin road.

believed that a formidable force of Japanese is on the way to Tie pass. Russian communication with China

Mukden, March 4.-(Delayed in

Mukden, March 4.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—Refugees are arriving here from Sinmintin and the region north of the Hun river.

At the close of yesterday's battle on the west front, the Japanese who were taken prisoners were unable to walk or remain awake on account of exhaustion and lay like dead under guard. This incident shows the tremendous effort back of General Nogi's endous effort back of General Nogi's

Occasional discharges of artillery are heard to the southwest this morning, and it is reported that the Japanese have fallen back from the position they held when the battle was fought on

With Russian Headquarters, Huan Mountain, March 3.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—At nightfall yesterday (Thursday) flashes in the sky disclosed that a bombardment was in progress along the eastern mountain position. At 8 o'clock Thursday evening the cannonading was renewed in the centre, continuing with vigor until the middle of the afternoon today, at which time it had almost completely subsided.

The Japanese made two infantry charges against Putiloff hill the night of March 2. The Russians report that

army interposed by General Kuropatkin to defend the city and railroads.

The stroke came like lightning out of a clear sky. It is reported that the situation has somewhat improved, but it still is extremely artical.

it still is extremely critical. It is reported that the Japanese have been thrown back in the district of Lunfanshan and are retiring along the Simmintin road; but heavy fighting is continuing there. The Japanese van-

the villages several time

but were beaten off. Twice they attacked Putiloff hill, but both attacks were repulsed. At Oubenespusa a Japanese guard of over twenty battalions made thirteen attacks during the night, of March 3 and the morning of March 4, storming the redoubts most furlously. All these attacks were repulsed with heavy loss. The ground in front of the redoubts was fairly strewn with

ne redoubts was fairly strewn with leaps of Japanese corpses.

The Japanese and Russian artillery are engaged in the Heaviest Battle of the War.

Russian mortars are fired at the Shakhe bridge, and Japanese 11-Inch guns are in full play, but the Russian fortifications, on which they had been working all winter, offer a fairly secure protection for their defenders.

There is little news of General Kuropatkin's operations on the extreme east of the line. The Russians are holding

account of the great extension of the Japanese line. There is the greatest and activity at Mukden.

All the streets and outlying roads are crowded with transports of the army which has been assembled to appose General Nogi. The events of the last three days have electrified the entire army.

The fighting at Putiloff hill and on the centre closed at dark on Thursday, when it was confined chiefly to the west, where the Japanese are occupy.

west, where the Japanese are occupying Sinmintin. Two companies also dashed up the Mukden roads from Singangtai without being arrested, although the Cossacks had been in touch with the Japanese advanced posts for law days, which in the earth and the earth and the demonstration to cover the driving home of General Nogl's blow.

It is believed now that the operation to the eastward was in part in the mature of a feint with the design to draw up reinforcements thither. It

two days.

On March 2-several divisions gave battle west of Mukden, from which city the bursting shrapnel could be plainly seen.

As the result of this was the design it was successful. General Kuropatkin, having sent the first corps to the assistance of General Linevitch. As the result of

The Week's Operations Mukden, which was thrown into confusion, recovered today when it became known that the Japanese had been repulsed.

The prisoners captured showed that the Imperial guards division, formerly Mukden, covering and crossing the Sin-

on General Kuroki's army, with a few buther troops, made the two attacks of the last sixty hours on the Russian force now on the Liao river includes the First, Seventh and Ninth divisions from Port Arthur. Part of the turnstration, while the Japanese flanks sushed back the Russian right and the fifther thanks.

The Russian casualties on March 1 and 2 are reported to have been one hundred in the centre, while the Japanese are believed to have lost more than 1,000. Information obtained individual of the same fanatical bravery and the same fanatical bravery cates that only three divisions of the were as unshaken by heavy losses as Japanese army were engaged, and it is at the siege of Port Arthur.

HEAVY ARTILLERY AGAINST STRONGLY FORTIFIED RUSSIAN POSITIONS.

YAMA REPORTS infantry, 33,000 cavalry, and 35,000 artillery, with 1,504 guns. This estimate does not include troops at Vladivostock and other garrisons, railway guards and other employees. The grand total east of Lake Baikal is estimated at seven hundred thousand men. OYAMA REPORTS

Japanese Are Making Heavy Gains-No Time to investigate Spolls of Victory.

TOKIO, March 5.—(2 p. m.)—Field Marshal Oyama is continuing his great drives around both flanks of the Russian army. His front is now a huge bow, the base on the Shakhe river, the right arm reaching a point east of Fushan, and the left arm extending to a point west of Mukden. He is steadily tightening the great cordon of men and steel. General Kuropatkin is striving desperately to check the Japanese advances, contesting the flank encroachments and hammering the light arm of the light arm of the light arm of the left arm extending to a point west of Mukden. He is steadily tightening the check the Japanese advances, contesting the flank encroachments and hammering the light arm of the Daily Mail at Hong-kong, reports having sighted two Japanese squadrons on Saturday one hundred miles southeast of Hongkong. The first iquadron, comprising nine battle-ships and cruisers, was seen at 2 o'clock in the morning going at full speed, with all light so ut, and the second squadron of mirteen large war-ships was sighted in the afternoon. west of the railway and have captured great quantities of stores and other spoils. There has already been bloody fighting and heavy losses, and this will be vastly increased when the masses

Oyama Reports

enemy into its position, Tita, which is 25 miles southeast of Fushan and Manchuntun, 15 miles south of Fushan. The engagements con-tinue in the Shakhe direction.

"The night of March 3 the enemy made four determined attacks against our position at Housintu-potza and Tungshiatun. All were entirely repulsed.
"In the district east of the rail-

way the enemy was encountered frequently, and small attachments were repulsed.
"In the district west of the railway our force is continuing fierce attacks and has occupied the districts of Wuchenying, five miles west of Shakhe village, and Laish-

enpao, three miles northwest of Wuchenying and Shuhoupa, the terminus of the new rallway con-structed by the Russians.
"The force on the right of the Hun river is dislodging the enemy northeast of Siaopeho, which is be-tween the Hun and Liao rivers, and has advanced north. This force

carried the enemy's defence line between Chantan and Shufangtai and pursued the enemy fiercely. The line now is between Wochiaho, fifteen miles southwest of Mukden, and Taitse, thirteen miles west of Mukden, and Lamupo, four miles north of Tattse. "During a previous engagement the enemy's casualties were heavy.

The spoils we captured were great. No time to investigate. We captured large quantities of provisions at Wanchangpae, and captured a clothing depot at Tasantal." Kuropatkin's Great Army

JAPANESE SQUADRONS MOVING.



JENERAL KUROPATKIN

PERIL OF THE TACOMA.

ort of Coal and Imprisoned in le Her Position Is Precarious. Tokio, March 5.-It is expected tha

the steamers imprisoned in the ice north of Hokkaido have been carried eastward, where it is probable the floes will break up the vessels. There is no trace of the steamship Tacoma carry-ing provisions for Vladivostock, and reently reported fast in an ice floe i Sayo Straits. It is believed that the Estimates of General Kuropatkin's force between Shakhe and Tie pass, is speedily taken to Vladivostock or prepared here, give a total of slightly, some other port, she is in danger of bemore than 400,000, composed of 335,000 coming helpless.

ADMITS ADVANCES

Names Points Occupied by the **Enemy Without Admitting** Their Significance.

advanced guard of the Japanese left army were five and a hall miles off Mukden station Satur-according to a telegram from Gen-

"Friday night was quiet on the western fiank. On Friday a detachment of our forces on the Mukden-Sinmintin road met and fought a body of the enemy advancing from the westward. Gun firing has been audible since morning in the direction of Spekudri ing in the direction of Suchudzi.

"All is quiet on the centre, exthe Japanese attacked during Friday evening, creeping up to the wire entanglements of our fortifications and hurling hand grenades. The attackers, however, were soon repulsed, without succeeding in damaging the entanglements.

"The Japanese guard during Friday continued its attacks on Kandolesan, and the tenth attack was repulsed at 4 o'clock this morning, the Japanese corpses being piled

high against our earthworks "The enemy's attack against Gatau pass position was suspended towards Friday evening, but a re-newal of it is expected. "Their operations on our left

flank were also suspended Friday evening, and it was noticed that the Japanese troops opposite Kid-iadzu were falling back. "Major-General Schatiloff and Colonel Gurko were among Friday's

"Today (Saturday) the advanced

guard of the enemy which is enveloping our right fiank, was noticed between the Mukden-Sinmintin road and the Hun river, five and a half miles from Mukden "The Japanese today captured Suchudzia, but have not advanced

"They also captured Lanschanpa

"They also captured Lanschanpa after heavy fighting.

"The Japanese advance to Shakhe station was commenced at 5 o'clock this morning, but has been suspended. The enemy has been driven back by volley firing by our advance guard.

"Two Japanese attacks on Putiloff hill at 11 p. m. Friday night, and one at 4 o'clock this morning, were repulsed." In a later despatch of the same dat eneral Kuropatkin says: "The enemy renewed the attack on the Kandolesan positions, but were beaten back at 8 o'clock this morning with great loss. Altogether the Japanese delivered thirteen charges. The attacks have since been suspended.
"Two attacks on the Kutilini re-"Two attacks on the Kutilini po-

paratively quiet on our extreme right. Our detachment at Kuchiatzu (about twenty-two miles east of Liaoyang) advanced somewhat during the night."

General Oku Looks for Fighting "On a Grand Scale."

General Oku's Headquarters in the Field, March 4.—(Delayed in Transmission.)—Late yesterday the Japanese occupied the second line of the Russtan right defences, two miles northward of Bensihu, and fighting on a grand scale is expected.

China Mildly Objects to Neutrality Violation—Japanese Reply.

Sinmintin. The government has not indicated its attitude, but it is expected that the reply will declare that Japan is bound to preserve the neutrality of China as long as Russia does, but that the precedent of the Russians in occupying Sinmintin created a condition of helligerney there and that the operabelligerency there, and that the opera-tion was strictly in the nature of a military necessity for the protection of the rights and interests of Japan.

sian secret service officials, and the Japanese are anxiously searching for him at Hsinmingtun. When he left that place he was accompanied by several Fussian officers, who, it is believed, avoided the vigilant Japanese raiders and regained the Russian lines.

BRAIN CONCUSSION FROM FALL Dr. George H. Duncan Receives Serious Injury Through Runaway.

While driving in the course of his professional round of calls yesterday, a serious accident befell Dr. George H. Duncan, the well-known physician of this city. It seems that the doctor was driving along North Chatham street, when his horse, a nervous and highspirited animal, was subjected to a Kuropatkin should be able to launch as wides apprehension to themselves. Military critics here point out that the Japanese have put themselves in a critical position by the extreme extension of their literature for the possibility of the most effective counters troke, and probably defeat, if General Kuropatkin should be able to launch as professional round of calls yesterday. sudden fright and bolted with the bit column against in his teeth.

Dr. Duncan, with the good nature and courtesy which is part of his nature, had en route taken up a little girl, Mabel Booz, daughter of Mr. Thomas Booz, assistant foreman of the Daily Times, to give her a drive, and thus unwittingly committed her to an adventure, which, luckily in her case, ad a fortunate termination.

In passing over a rough piece of ground, it seems that the doctor, in his solicitude for the protection of his little charge, and in an endeavor to reach the dragging reins, lost his balance and fell heavily to the ground. The terri-fied child was carried a considerable distance farther, but succeeded in extricating herself through the rear of the vehicle, and fell comparatively un-

In falling from the equipage, Dr. Duncan, though he escaped superficial injury, was seriously hurt about the head, and lay helpless in the roadway. It was not long, however, before assistance arrived, and the doctor was carried to the residence of Mr. Graham, the glazier, resident on North Chatham street, where he was soon after attended by Dr. Carter, who was quickly

It was found that Dr. Duncan had suffered no superficial injury. There were no cuts or bruises visible, but the ussion of the brain.

The patient was subsequently removed to St. Joseph's hospital, and there received the very best attention from his medical brethren. His injury was superceded by unconsciousness, and in this condition he was at a late hour last evening. Dr. Carter stated last evening that it was impossible to say what the final outcome of his injuries might be, although all will hope for the best-in an early recovery. for the best—in an early recovery.

Dr. Duncan, although a comparative-

ly young man, ranks almost as one of the pioneers among the present day practitioners of Victoria. He was enpractitioners of Victoria. He was engaged in his profession here for a number of years, joining his brother, the late Dr. John A. Duncan. Upon the bursting of the Klondike discoveries with meteoric glamour for the world. Dr. George Duncan removed to Dawson, where he engaged in practice until the memorable Islander disaster almost four years ago, in which Dr. John A. Duncan lost his life. Dr. George shortly thereafter closed up his business affairs in the Yukon and returned to Victoria, taking up the practice of his deceased brother, which he has since continued.

Kuropatkin's Fate in Issue

lictory or Defeat Contingent **Upon Outcome of Battle of** Mukden Plain.

Extreme Extension of Japanese Line Gives Russians Chance to Strike Fatally.

Mikado's Generals Stake All Upon Success of Attack-

T. PETERSBURG, March 6.—(3:25 a. m.)—The fate of General Kuropatkin and his army hangs in the balance today, dependent upon the result of the fighting almost on the outskirts of Mukden.

Nogi's Men of Iron.

According to latest reports this morning, the fighting went well for the Russians, who beat back the wave that threatened to roll over Mukden as it had over the fortifications of Port Arthur; but nothing is known as to what is going on heaved the line of break is going on beyond the line of break-



ence of the peril on the west wing has withdrawn attention from the operations on the centre and left, where the fighting has been extremely heavy, and on the left especially, where the Japanese gains are sufficiently great to cause apprehension to themselves.

The Weak Link in the Chain. In other respects the situation also resembles that at Liaoyang, the Japanese making a costly demonstration to hold the Russians in their fortifications on the centre, and throwing away the lives of thousands in order to give the flanking force an opportunity to adminster a telling blow.

A feature of all accounts of the fighting reaching St. Petersburg is the emphasis laid on the awful carnage. There is reference after reference to dead piled high on the ground over which an attack was delivered, strew ing breastworks, almost hiding

The Russian losses in both flanks are conceded to be enormous, but it is claimed that the defenders of the cen-tre suffered comparatively little by the Japanese bombardment and the beating off of the Japanese attack.

The attacks delivered by General Nogi's Soldiers Were Marvellous in view of the forced marches which they made for sfx days, recalling the records of Stonewall Jackson's "Foot Cavalry." They entered the battle with the greatest dash and fought day after day with vigor, but those of them whowere taken prisoners dropped to the ground, utterly exhausted and hardly able to speak. They had not eaten for two days, which accounts for their utter fatigue.

General Kuropatkin's line of communication has not been touched, although it is in extreme jeopardy. His right flank is bent so sharply backwards that it may necessitate the abandonment of the Putiloff and Nov-

possibly are with both flanks.

A hopeful sign is the postponement



