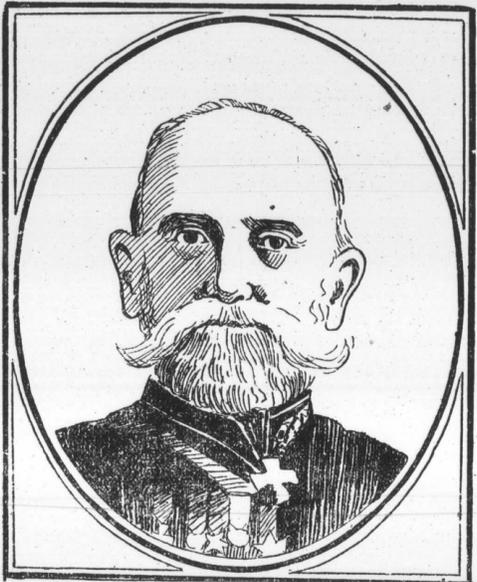


THE CAPTURE OF TIELING SEVERE BLOW TO RUSSIA.

Nothing Definite as to the Result of the Fight Now in Progress North of Tie Pass.

Gen. Linevitch, it is Reported, Will Succeed Kouropatkin in the Supreme Command.

Concessions That France Thinks Russia Should Make to Japan.



GENERAL LINEVITCH, Placed in Supreme Command of the Russian Forces at the Front.

It transpires that Emperor Nicholas upon the advice of Gen. Dragomiroff and War Minister Sakharoff determined that the step was necessary when it became apparent yesterday morning that Kouropatkin while concentrating for a stand at Tie Pass seemed unaware that the Japanese had worked around westward again and practically allowed himself to be surprised. Old reports brought by Gen. Gripenberg regarding Kouropatkin's falling mentality also had influence. Under the circumstances therefore it was considered imperative in view of the exceedingly perilous position of the army to turn over its command to Linevitch, who alone had been able to bring off his army in order after the battle of Mukden. His record during the Chinese war had also demonstrated his capability as a commander. Kouropatkin will return to St. Petersburg forthwith. The task confided to Gen. Linevitch, of withdrawing what is left of the great army of 450,000 men to Harbin, is a desperate one. He is hemmed in on all sides. Gen. Kawamura presumably is pressing northward through the mountains to the eastward ready to swoop down. Generals Nogi and Okuma are on the west of the Russian force; the whole line of the railroad is threatened if not already out, and Chinese bands are even reported to be in the rear of Harbin. A consummation of the Mukden disaster is feared. Nogi's plight in retreat from Moscow with Kutsoff's Cossacks harassing the starving, freezing Frenchmen was hardly as bad or dangerous. Nothing further has arrived from the front, but it is feared that the demoralized battalions which had hardly recovered from the demoralization of the Mukden retreat, have again been thrown into confusion. Field Marshal Oyama's relentless, merciless pursuit. The War Office fears greatly that more of the siege and field guns which Kouropatkin managed to save at Mukden have been sacrificed in the hurried flight from Tie Pass. The question of ammunition and food is also vital as it is known that the Russians were compelled to burn further stores at Tie Pass where the commissariat was only beginning to feed the half famished troops when the new retreat was ordered. But even in the face of the possibility of the complete loss of the army and the advent of winter, the Emperor is already possibly lost, the Emperor still shows no signs of yielding. Preparations for continuing the war on a large scale than ever are proceeding. The die has gone forth that another army of 450,000 men is to be despatched to the far east and in order to avoid delay it has been decided instead of sending only reserve men to form new armies largely of regular units, leaving the reserves to replace the regulars in garrison duty at home. Many military men have contended that it is a fatal mistake to send reserve men to the far east. A division of the Imperial Guard will be sent to the front. It is not improbable that some of this year's conscripts will be sent. Separate armies are to be organized under Generals Grodekoff, Gripenberg and Kamnoff. Even in the most optimistic quarters, however, it is realized that a general mobilization is likely to be accompanied by widespread disorders unless the composition and functions of the popular representation under the Imperial rescript are more satisfactory than now appears probable. Practically no progress is being made by the Boulgan commission. The emperor has been so much occupied with the war situation that he has since postponed action on Gov. Gen. Boulezan's recommendations, and the latter is represented to be so dissatisfied that he desires to resign and turn over his work to his assistant, M. Vatatin.

The war council, it is also understood, has definitely decided that Vice Admiral

even in winter. The most important Russian town between Tie Pass and Harbin, with the exception of Kirin, which is not on the railway, is Kwan-sung, (also spelled Kunchung). This town is a little over 100 miles north of Tie Pass.

Here were gathered great stores of provisions, alongside of which were erected Red Cross hospitals, the best by far that the Russians had south of Harbin. At all the other stations there were also hospital accommodations, so that if Kouropatkin escapes he has a good country to cross at the most favorable season of the year. Another few weeks and the roads would be impassable. But if he is hard pressed, there is not a defensible position, unless he abandons the railway and seeks safety in the eastern hills. Later in the year, of course, the rivers would afford some protection, but in winter, being frozen, they are as easy to cross as is the country. West of Harbin along the railway the first hills are encountered about midway between Harbin and the Siberian border. These mountains are most formidable, several switchbacks and tunnels being necessary to carry the railway over them.

A SEVERE REVERSE.

Times Correspondent Says Railway Has Been Cut.

A London cable: A despatch to the Times from St. Petersburg says that according to the latest reports, which the general staff does not confirm, the Russians have sustained a severe reverse at Tieling, compelling them to abandon their remaining stores and artillery. It is also reported that the Japanese have cut the railway north of Changtufu. It is not known which Japanese commander is conducting the pursuit of the Russians. One St. Petersburg correspondent says he learns that Gens. Sasselitch and Zarubaieff are commanding the rear-guard, and that Gen. Mistchenko is protecting the Russian right. This correspondent adds that he believes that Gen. Kouropatkin's entire command is now about three hundred thousand men, including the railway guards, the garrisons at Vladivostok, and the fourth army corps, which is just arriving.

According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Chronicle officials at the Ministry of War say that the Russian

army is not retreating to Harbin, but to Kirin and Vladivostok.

The Tokio correspondent of the Telegraph declares that the Russians are so shattered that the Japanese are now able to act independently.

The Telegraph correspondent at Simning quotes an eye-witness of the Battle of Mukden as saying that while the fighting was the hottest south and west of the city, a hundred thousand infantry and artillery belonging to a Russian centre started for Tieling in perfect order. Gen. Kellernberg, a Russian commander, is dying at Mukden, both his legs having been shot off. The Japanese losses were terrible. The slaughter on both sides is believed to outrival the records of the world's greatest battles.

FRANCE TO RUSSIA.

Concessions That Russia Should Make to Procure Peace.

A Paris cable: The attitude of the bankers is fully understood in political circles. While Russia's policy remains what it is the bankers realize the hopelessness of her efforts to obtain a Pacific empire. There is reason to believe that the French Government is advising Russia to relinquish the dream of reconquering Manchuria.

Two courses would meet with French approval—either withdrawal beyond the Amur River, leaving the strongholds garrisoned, or a declaration of willingness to accept peace, provided the whole of the Trans-Siberian Railway remains on Russian territory. The Trans-Siberian Railway must, at whatever cost, remain in Russian possession if the peace is meant to be permanent.

Politicians think the maintenance of Vladivostok in Russian hands would meet with the approval of the British and American Governments, as establishing an effective counterpoise to Japanese predominance on the Pacific. There is no reason to believe that France would advise the Czar to yield to peace suggestions were the possession of the Trans-Siberian Railway assured to Russia.

Los Angeles, Cal.—The violent storm that swept California since Sunday morning from San Diego to Tehachapi Mountains, interrupting all communication by wire with California and denaturing railroad traffic, and flooding the country with three to five inches of rain, shows signs of breaking.

RUSSIAN PEASANTS WANT TO DIVIDE THE LAND.

Agrarian Troubles Increasing and Landlords Afraid to Live on Their Estates.

Taking Advantage of the Imperial Ukase to Petition the Emperor.

Recent Events Have Spread Panic Throughout the Russian Administration.

St. Petersburg, March 20, 2.38 pm.—The Zemstvos, Duomus, throughout Russia, are taking advantage of the imperial ukase issued simultaneously with the rescript conferring upon "individuals and institutions" the right freely to petition the Emperor through the committee of Ministers on all questions affecting the welfare of the empire, to demand representation upon the commission, which is elaborating the rescript. The importance of the ukase, which was largely overlooked at the time, has now become a powerful weapon in the hands of the Liberals, who contend that it necessarily carries with it a complete guarantee of freedom of speech and assembly, without which the right to petition on general questions would necessarily be a farce, and also freedom of the press for the discussion of such questions they now recognize in order to force a test of the Government's sincerity openly to organize clubs for the purpose of debating political questions.

The Moscow and St. Petersburg Zemstvos have already voted strong resolutions demanding representation on the rescript commission.

The strike situation seems to be everywhere improving. The Social Democrats here have advised the strikers who are without money, and confronted with starvation, to return to work and less than 1,000 workmen are now out. On the other hand the prospects of agrarian disturbances on a large scale are becoming decidedly more threatening, and are causing the deepest concern. Many landed proprietors are afraid to go back to their estates. The movement has not assumed a political phase, but is in the old form of a demand for a redistribution of the land. Agitators are shrewdly spreading the report that the Emperor has decreed such a division, telling the peasants that the proprietors do not want to submit and thus setting them against the landlords "in the emperor's name." The agitation has now spread to Simbirsk Province, where they are making ready to begin a division of the land as soon as the snow melts. It is reported that the terrorists have formally notified the Russian Government that they will cease their activity for a month and await the result of the rescript. A story is current that a plot in the aristocratic page corps has been unearthed, incriminating papers having been discovered on the person of a student named Verbofsky, son of the general of that name and on another student. The authorities however, deny all knowledge of the plot.

A Peasant Revolt.

New York, March 20.—A Paris despatch to the Times says: The Russian Socialist Revolutionary party is organizing the peasant revolt in Russian and

Federal Life Assurance Company OF CANADA

23rd Annual Report and Financial Statement

For the Year Ending December 31, 1904.

The twenty-third annual meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held at the head office of the Company, in Hamilton, on Tuesday, March 7th, 1905, the President, Mr. David Dexter, in the chair. The following reports and financial statement were submitted:

DIRECTORS' REPORT

Your Directors have the honor to present the report and financial statement of the Company for the year which closed on the 31st December, 1904, duly vouched for by the Auditors.

The new business of the year consisted of two thousand two hundred and fifty applications for insurance, aggregating \$3,146,500, of which two thousand one hundred and seventy-seven applications for \$2,010,400.00, were accepted. As in previous years, the income of the company shows a gratifying increase, and the assets of the Company have been increased by \$285,970.52, and have now reached \$2,148,773.37, exclusive of guarantee capital.

The security for policyholders, including guarantee capital, amounted at the close of the year to \$3,018,773.37, and the liabilities for reserves and all outstanding claims, \$1,962,935.56, showing a surplus of \$1,055,837.81. Exclusive of uncalled guarantee capital, the surplus to policyholders was \$185,837.81.

Policies on eighty-two lives became claims through death, to the amount of \$157,040.00, of which \$12,585 was reinsured in other companies.

Including cash dividends and dividends applied to the reduction of premiums, with annuities, the total payment to policyholders amounted to \$198,911.34.

Careful attention has been given to the investment of the company's funds, in first-class bonds, mortgage securities, and loans on the company's policies amply secured by reserves. Our investments have yielded a very satisfactory rate of interest.

Expenses have been confined to a reasonable limit, consistent with due efforts for new business.

The results of the year indicate a most gratifying progress. Compared with the preceding year, the figures submitted by the directors for your approval show an advance of thirteen and a half per cent. in assets.

The assurances carried by the company now amount to \$16,647,806.23, upon which the company holds reserves to the full amount required by law, and, in addition thereto, a considerable surplus.

The field officers and agents of the company are intelligent and loyal, and are entitled to much credit for their able representation of the company's interests. The members of the office staff have also proved faithful to the company's service.

Your directors are pleased to be able to state that the business of the company for the past two months of the current year has been better than in the corresponding months of last year, and that the outlook for the future is very bright.

DAVID DEXTER, President and Managing Director.

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the President and Directors of the Federal Life Assurance Company:— Gentlemen,—We have carefully audited the books and records of your company for the year ending 31st December last, and have certified to their accuracy.

The cash and journal vouchers have been closely examined and agree with the entries recorded.

The debentures, bonds, etc., in the possession of the company have been inspected, whilst those deposited with the Government or banks have been verified by certificate, the total agreeing with the amount as shown in the statement of assets.

The accompanying statements, viz. revenue, assets and liabilities, show the result of the year's operations, and, also, the financial position of the company.

Respectfully submitted, H. S. STEPHENS, CHARLES STIFF, Auditors.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1904

| RECEIPTS. | |
|--|-----------------|
| Hamilton, March 1st, 1905. | |
| Premium and annuity income | \$ 542,288 83 |
| Interest, rents, and profit on sales of securities | 56,220 51 |
| | \$ 598,509 34 |
| DISBURSEMENTS. | |
| Paid to policyholders | 198,911 34 |
| All other payments | 191,620 70 |
| Balance | 238,186 20 |
| | \$ 598,718 24 |
| ASSETS, DECEMBER 31, 1904. | |
| Debentures on bonds | \$ 685,283 83 |
| Mortgages | 70,148 83 |
| Loans on policies, bonds, stocks, etc. | 400,815 33 |
| All other assets | 348,605 29 |
| | \$2,148,773 37 |
| LIABILITIES. | |
| Reserve fund | \$1,887,724 81 |
| Death losses awaiting proof | 24,070 75 |
| Other liabilities | 24,070 75 |
| Surplus on policyholders' account | 185,837 81 |
| | \$2,148,773 37 |
| Asset | \$2,148,773 37 |
| Guarantee capital | \$2,000,000 00 |
| Total security | \$3,018,773 37 |
| Policies were issued assuring | \$ 3,010,400 00 |
| Total insurance in force | \$16,647,806 23 |

The foregoing reports and statements were received and adopted on the motion of President David Dexter, seconded by Vice-President Lieut.-Col. Kerns. The retiring directors were re-elected, and at a subsequent meeting of the directors held at the office of the company, Mr. David Dexter, President and Managing Director, Col. Kerns and Rev. Dr. Poth were re-elected.

AGED DETROIT MAN MEETS A HORRIBLE FATE.

Clothing Caught Fire and His Body Burned to a Crisp.

Detroit, March 20.—Pinned under a burning table, surrounded by angry flames that reached out from all sides and from the floor beneath him, aged Robert Carter slowly roasted to death, shortly before noon to-day, and his body now lies at his late residence, a blackened and unrecognizable human form.

The old man, who has been residing for several years with his niece and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. William Briggs, 371 Lansing avenue, was usually left alone in the house during the day, the husband and wife being absent at their occupations. At noon a 12-year-old daughter of Mrs. Briggs would come home from school and prepare dinner for herself and Mr. Carter.

It had been the custom of the old man to have the kitchen fire lighted and everything in readiness for the preparation of the noonday meal, and he was employed at this duty when it seems, his clothing caught fire from the coal stove, the lid of which was found removed. Being helpless from age and injuries received earlier in

FAMILY OF FATHER JOHN.

U. S. Soldiers Say Nice Things at a Kingston Military Banquet.

Kingston, March 20.—Comradeship and good-fellowship were in evidence at the banquet last night given by the R. C. F. A. sergeants, in the Tete du Pont Barracks, to the visiting sergeants of the 90th U. S. Infantry of Sackett's Harbor, N. Y. An address was presented by the visitors, in which they said:

"It is an honor to sit with you in a gathering which likely has never occurred before. Such a feeling of comradeship and good-fellowship never existed at any time as at the present between those in the British and American services. We call each other cousins, why not brothers? Are we not children of the same parent? True, the elder child got on his ear and set up in business for himself, and is doing pretty fair, but the other children have no cause to complain of their share in the old man's business."

Why not in this day of trusts and competition in other lines of business extend it to the family business of Father John? Anyone that would try to prove this merger illegal would have a sorry countenance after he had been finished. If the elder child should get into trouble, does anyone doubt but that father and children all would come to his assistance? And does anyone think but that if the father or any of the other children needed any assistance the elder child would hesitate an instant? No. If not brothers, then what? First, our God; second, our country; third, our King and President; and then our family, the English-speaking nations."

The visit was terminated this afternoon when the United States officers were again driven in vans across to Lorder to Cape Vincent, where they entertained for Sackett's Harbor. After a hearty farewell and many protestations of warmest friendship, two vans started about 2 o'clock from the gates of Tete du Pont Barracks amid the resounding cheers of a large number of artillerymen. As the vans drove through the bugle corps gave a farewell salute. The visitors leave shortly for the Philippines on service.

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