

CRUISERS FOR THE FAR EAST

The Czar Witnessed Departure of the Baltic Fleet.

OFF FOR THE ORIENT.

A despatch from Cronstadt says:—The Baltic fleet sailed on Sunday for the Far East. The vessels of the fleet were as follows:

The battleships Souvaroff, Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's flagship; the Navarin, Sissoi Veliky, Borodino, Alexander III., Orel, Oleg, and the Oslaba, Rear-Admiral Voelkersam's flagship; the cruisers Admiral Nakhimoff, Dmitri Donskoi, Aurora, and the Almaz, Rear-Admiral Enquist's flagship, and several torpedo boats and torpedo-boat destroyers.

The fleet will merely touch at Libau, where it will be joined by twelve transports, colliers, and supply ships, already waiting there, and will then proceed direct to the Orient.

The scene on the departure of the fleet was an imposing one, for which the town has long waited. At dawn the first anchor was hoisted on the swift cruiser Aurora, which accompanied by two torpedo boats, slipped out of the harbor. The town was awakened by the booming of the guns of the forts as the Aurora sped out towards Libau, in advance of the main squadron.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the time set for the departure of the remainder of the fleet, the Imperial yacht with the Emperor, Grand Duke Alexis, the High Admiral, and other high naval officers on board, put out from Peterhof, on the other side of the bay, with an escort of three torpedo boats.

Admirals Rojestvensky, Voelkersam, and Enquist went on board the Imperial yacht, and personally said farewell to the Emperor.

Then with destroyers ahead and abeam, the Souvaroff led the squadron down the Finnish Gulf. The water front and the piers and forts were crowded with spectators. The ensigns on the forts and yachts were dipped and guns of each chain of forts across the bay joined in an admiral's salute, while from the signal masts above the forts fluttered a string of colored flags reading:—"Good luck to the Baltic fleet on its long voyage."

TO INJURE THE OREL.

According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Standard, a third attempt has been made to injure the battleship Orel, one of the most powerful of the Baltic fleet. Quite recently, he says a quantity of steel shavings were found on the end of the wick of the lubricators on the main bearings by an engineer. Gen-darmes were then posted at all the important parts of the machinery to watch the workmen. There is authoritative information that the attempt was not the act of nihilists, but of discontented reservist sailors, who are averse to going to war.

MOVING INTO MANCHURIA.

A despatch to the London Standard from Tien-Tsin says that Chinese troops beyond the Great Wall and others from the Tien-Tsin side are reported to be quietly moving into Manchuria. Some of them now occupy both sides of the Liao River. It is stated that these troops will be used to occupy the territory conquered by the Japanese. German military officers are investigating the truth of the reports concerning the movements of Chinese troops.

JAP LOSSES 17,538.

A despatch from Tokio, received at the Japanese Legation, at Washington, places the total casualties on the Japanese side at the battle of Liao-Yang at 17,538 officers and men killed and wounded. Of these, the army of the right (Kuroki's) lost 4,886, the centre (Oku's) lost 4,992, and the left (Nodzu's), 7,681. The number of officers killed was 136, and the number wounded 161.

TROOPS RESTING.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—The Russian army is safely at Mukden. Kouroupatkin having accomplished his retreat in good order in spite of the harassing Japanese, sodden roads, and hampered by more than 12,000 wounded. Beyond this there is no direct news bearing on the military situation. Advices from Japanese sources are significantly lacking, and the exact whereabouts of the three Japanese armies are unknown. No word has been received to indicate the present location of Kuroki's army, which was last reported on the Russian left flank and steadily pushing forward.

Viceroy Alexieff telegraphs that railway and telegraphic communication between Harbin and Mukden is open. The general staff denies that a battle is in progress before Mukden.

Gen. Meyendorff, who is commanding Gen. Kouroupatkin's rear guard, has not yet succeeded in reaching Mukden.

Gen. Kouroupatkin telegraphs that he has decided to hold Mukden as long as possible, but its evacuation is believed to be now in progress.

Gen. Kuroki's vanguard is now fourteen miles from Mukden. The reports that he was nearer Mukden probably arose from bodies of Chin-

ese bandits being mistaken for some of his troops. It is believed that the Japanese are still resting their main forces.

Gen. Stakelberg still retains his command. He telegraphs that there was no fighting during Sept. 8.

The Russians continue to hold Sintsintin, and Russian cavalry is operating over a wide area east of Mukden to prevent a Japanese column from slipping through and making its way north.

It is expected that the railway route around the northern side of Lake Baikal will soon be used for the first time. It will greatly decrease the difficulty of transporting troops and supplies to the Far East.

OVER 12,000 WOUNDED.

A despatch from Mukden says:—The Russian retreat here has been accomplished without losses, and with the precision of a review at Krasnoye Selo. The accommodation of wounded between Liao-Yang and Mukden tested to the utmost the resources of the Red Cross. Most of the transport was carried in the roughest kind of two-wheeled carts, but the arrangements for providing the troops with food along the line of retreat worked magnificently.

During the five days, from Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, 12,300 wounded were treated in Red Cross ambulances, the Sisters of Mercy vying with the doctors in physical courage and resistance to fatigue.

Much of the Japanese success is attributed to the millet fields, in which the Russians were not accustomed to manoeuvre.

ODDS FAVOR JAPANESE.

A despatch from London says:—Military experts say the war is working towards a double climax at points far apart, and the odds against Russia for permanent purposes are becoming heavier, rather than less. The Japanese, once the Port Arthur siege is over, will reinforce their armies in the north faster than their opponents under the best circumstances can gain strength. They have river communication into the heart of Manchuria. Several hundred miles of track of the Siberian Railway are in their possession, and they are altering the gauge. They hold the central mountain frontier, from which it will take larger forces than Russia can hope to maintain permanently in the field to dislodge them. Throughout Japan new levies are drilling and everything is being prepared for the maximum emergencies of a second campaign. The Japanese empire may be tested to its utmost in ultimate developments of the struggle, but a tolerable certainty is she will keep all she holds.

TWO ARMY CORPS.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—Beside the formation of two fresh army corps as the first answer to the Japanese success at Liao-Yang, the Russian army at the front will be re-organized, probably in the form of two armies, in command of Gen. Linovitch and Gen. Baron Kaulbars respectively, with Gen. Kouroupatkin as commander-in-chief. Gen. Kaulbars will go out with the two army corps now organizing in the Governments of Kazan, Odessa, Vilna and Kiev. Gen. Linovitch has been ordered by telegraph from Vladovostock to Mukden. This decision is due in part, doubtless, to the growing unwieldiness of the big force under Gen. Kouroupatkin's command, and which will be largely increased by constant reinforcement.

Gen. Kouroupatkin heretofore has handled every detail of the vast organization. The work is too much for one man, and he is now almost broken down under the strain. It is known that the Emperor is personally one of Kouroupatkin's strong supporters, and it is thought the General will in all probability retain chief command of the two armies. Kouroupatkin, however, has been seriously criticized by some of the Emperor's close military advisers, and it is possible that he may eventually be superseded.

VIVID WAR PICTURES.

In the course of a description of the fighting around Liao-Yang, M. Dartchenko, the well known Russian correspondent, draws some vivid pictures confirming the stubborn valor displayed by both sides. The Russians at one time pursued two Japanese battalions through the millet fields to Saitza and surrounded them. A desperate fight ensued. The Japanese refused to accept quarter, preferring death to surrender. The Russians would have liked to have spared them, but there was no alternative in the circumstances but to kill them all. In another part of the field the Japanese reached a trench which had been abandoned by the Russians. Another Japanese force, believing that the trench was held by the enemy, shelled the position and then captured it by assault. On reaching the trench, and realizing that they had killed their own comrades, they fell on the prostrate bodies in the trench and covered them with tears.

The Russian frontier guards re-

MOST OF THIS PAGE IS MISSING