

THE ARMIES HOLD STRONG POSITIONS

RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVING AT MUKDEN

Report That Wide Turning Movement Attempted by the Japs Has Been Checked.

Mukden, Nov. 23.—Indications are growing that the Japanese are undertaking a wide turning movement on the Russian left. A large number of commissariat wagons have been observed going eastward, and some artillery exchanges have also been reported from the eastward.

General Kouropatkin has permitted men who have captured horses to sell them to officers, the proceeds to go to the families of men killed in battle.

RUSSIANS LEFT THIRTY DEAD ON FIELD.

Tokio, Nov. 23.—300 p. m.—Army headquarters yesterday received the following telegram from the Manchurian headquarters:

On Monday, November 21st, at 6.30 in the morning our detachment advanced towards Weitzuku, north of Shien-chung, and attacked and occupied the enemy's camping grounds. Subsequently a superior force of the enemy gradually pressed our left flank and rear. Receiving reinforcements, we drove the enemy toward Chenheili at 9.30 a. m. The enemy's strength was six hundred infantry and three hundred cavalry, with four guns. The enemy left 30 dead bodies on the field. We took six prisoners, as well as spoils, including 30 rifles, entrenching tools, ammunition, etc. Our casualties were one lieutenant wounded and 28 men killed or wounded.

MANCHURIAN RIVERS ARE FROZEN OVER.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 24.—2.25 a. m.—A Japanese agent points to the possibilities of a big battle south of Mukden. The Japanese, according to an official report, have received a severe setback in the vicinity of Sianlin, in which they were apparently were attempting to execute a wide turning movement.

Military opinion here scarcely believes it possible that two great armies can winter less than a mile distant from each other, though the heavy defences on each side make it extremely difficult for either to assume the offensive. It is believed, however, that if the deadlock is to be broken, Gen. Kouropatkin will let Marshal Oyama take the initiative, as the Russians have the better of the present position, namely a strong line of defence and Mukden behind them, making satisfactory quarters where the Russian reinforcements are now accumulating for an advance next spring. The Japanese, also, are strongly reinforced. The rivers are already frozen sufficiently to permit of the movement of artillery and commissariat trains, so that the country actually is better adapted to a Japanese advance than during the summer.

RUSSIANS SURRENDER TO THE JAPANESE.

London, Nov. 23.—A dispatch from Tokio to the Standard reports increasing desertions from the Russian garrisons into the Japanese lines, the deserters tell indicating the demoralization of the Russian defenders. The same correspondent says that Russian ships in the harbor no longer fire on the approaching Japanese warships.

A Japanese correspondent, writing to the Morning Post, betrays growing anxiety concerning the Russian second Pacific squadron, which probably is due to the unexpected strength of Port Arthur's resisting powers. He points out the inconsistency of Egypt in permitting Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's ships to coal when not going to a Russian port, accompanied with the refusal of such facilities when the Spanish admiral wanted to take the battleship Pelayo by the Suez route six years ago, and maintains that it is Great Britain's business to compel Egypt to maintain neutrality to the present case.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Port Said says that the Russian ships, when boarded, will be isolated from the shipping, and they will be allowed to take on provisions, but the correspondent adds that it is uncertain whether they will be permitted to coal.

Telegrams from Copenhagen report that the supplementary detachment of the Russian second Pacific squadron is still detained at Skagen by storms. The Japanese, according to a dispatch from Chefoo to the Chinese, are reported to have captured a British steamer laden with 30,000 cases of canned meat for Port Arthur.

SEVENTEEN MEN DROWNED.

Norfolk, Sweden, Nov. 23.—The Swedish steamer Bru, from Grimsby, England, with a cargo, foundered this morning at the entrance of Arko Sound. The entire crew, numbering 17 men, perished.

Chefoo, Nov. 24.—6 p. m.—A huge pile of coal near the railway station at Port Arthur was ignited by Japanese shells on November 20th, and according to Chinese reports the fire is still burning, and it is believed that they left the besieged town on November 22nd.

A Japanese torpedo boat overhauled the junk, but allowed it to proceed. Another junk with six passengers on board was taken ashore, where the junk was burned. The passengers were sent to Daluy.

COAL STORES HAVE PROBABLY BEEN BURNED.

Tokio, Nov. 24.—8 p. m.—Telegraphing today the headquarters of the army before Port Arthur reports:

"The conflagration in the buildings

near the arsenal, caused by our naval guns, which was reported yesterday, began about noon November 22nd, and continued until 2 o'clock on the morning of November 23rd. It is probable that the coal stores have been burned."

Manchurian headquarters, in a telegram dated November 23rd, reports: "At midnight on November 22nd six hundred of the enemy's infantry attacked Sing-lun-tan. Our advance detachments resisted the attack for several hours, safely retiring to the main body. The village was entirely burned by the enemy."

"At dawn on November 23rd, the enemy made several surprise attacks near the Shakhe railway bridge and at Raot-zuy, but were entirely repulsed."

KOUROPATKIN MAY ASSUME OFFENSIVE.

Mukden, Nov. 24.—The artillery has been silent for two days. The opinion prevails that if the Japanese do not attack, General Kouropatkin will take the offensive again.

RELEASED PENDING THE FINAL DECISION.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 24.—A bond to cover the value of the British steamer Calchas pending a final decision in her case has been filed, and she has been telegraphed to Vladivostok to release her.

RUSSIAN WARSHIPS REACH PORT SAID.

Port Said, Nov. 24.—A division of the Russian second Pacific squadron has arrived here. All precautions have been taken to prevent any untoward incident during the passage of the vessels through the Suez canal.

The division consists of the battleships Sissoi Veliky and Navarin, the cruisers Jemchug, Almaz and Sviatiana, the torpedo boat destroyers Bodri, Blazhko, Beoumprechni, Eyziri, Bravi, Bedovi and Buiny, and the transports Gertchakoff, Voronej, Kital, Tamhoff, Kieff, Jupiter, Morkur and Vladimir. The division exchanged salutes with the town on entering, and the Russian bands played the British National Anthem in honor of the presence of the British guardship Furios.

The local Russian representatives visited Rear-Admiral Volkensam's flagship, the Russian admiral's vessel, which arrived here yesterday.

The Russian admiral exchanged visits with the commander of the Furios.

Though the larger warships were not ordered to coal here, the torpedo boat destroyers are coaling from transports, and will enter the canal at dawn tomorrow, and the rest of the division one hour later.

Admiral Volkensam indignantly denied that the Russian officers or sailors created disturbances at Canen, Island, of Crete. He says that the disturbances were carried on board, but no one was killed or wounded. There were no desertions as reported by an English newspaper.

WATCHING MOVEMENTS OF FAST YACHTS.

London, Nov. 24.—A telegram from Port Said says:

"There is considerable interest in the movements of three fast yachts, the Florentina, Catarina and Emerald, which have just traversed the canal. The Florentina is owned by Comte De Vitali, of Marseilles. The Catarina belongs to the firm of Charpentier & Nisard, of Genoa, and the Emerald belongs to Sir Christopher Furniss. The latter, however, is not on board, and it appears that both the Emerald and the Catarina have been chartered by individuals whose names the agents refuse to divulge at the request of the charterers. The Catarina is expected to increase the number of officers assigned to ships. Admiral Converse recommends that the number of lieutenants be increased from 350 to 400, and that the number of lieutenant commanders be increased from 200 to 300.

Because of the important part played by torpedo craft in the war in the Far East, it is deemed advisable that the larger vessels of this type be commanded by lieutenant commanders. The report says that the youngest American commander to-day on the day he attained that rank was older than the average age of the British and German officers, and about the same as the average of English and German. He had passed the compulsory retirement age for Japanese captains, and the number of commodore and captains that do not gain promotions at certain ages, the flow of promotions and the ages of officers in the different grades will not be satisfactory."

SAYS JAPANESE WILL WINTER IN PORT ARTHUR.

Chicago, Nov. 23.—The Daily News tonight publishes a cablegram from its correspondent with the Japanese troops out of Port Arthur, reading as follows:

"Gen. Kodama, chief of the Japanese general staff, after a thorough examination of the situation at Port Arthur and a conference with Gen. Nogi, gave out an interview.

"You have seen Port Arthur and may think it easy to take," Gen. Kodama said, "but it is a most difficult task."

"Of course," I said, "it consists of thirty powerful forts, and the Russians have spent ten years of engineering. The natural defences are strong, and there is a stubborn army of fighters within, cleverly commanded."

Kodama stretched out his hand, intercepting me. "I hold Port Arthur here," he said.

"Where will you winter about Port Arthur?" I asked. "You are not building barracks and have only shelter tents."

"I shall winter inside," replied the general. "I will take the fortress soon. I hesitate to use my big guns, for fear of hurting the non-combatants. I cannot say what will damage the big guns but I am sure it is the first time that coast defence guns have engaged each other."

"How about food?" I asked. "It is reported that you permit transports and junk to run the blockade, wishing only the glory of taking the fortress by assault."

"That is absolutely false," replied Gen. Kodama. "Our blockade is perfect. The Russian forts are well built on the Belgian model. The general situation of the forts also is singularly good. They are iron-plated toward the sea, but toward the land they are only earthworks, with some masonry and a little concrete. A clever engineer designed them. We find them absolutely changed since the China war, when we took Port Arthur in one day. They are now built to resist the whole force of the Russian army."

"The conflagration in the buildings

others felt. Now we cannot say any single fort is the key. All are so strongly fortified that we must then in detail. The capture of one means only the capture of that individual fort, not a series as formerly. Study as we may, we find it difficult to locate a point which has carried fortification to such an extent."

SECOND DIVISION OF THE SQUADRON SAILS.

Cape Skagen, Denmark, Nov. 24.—The second division of the Pacific squadron sailed this morning.

RETURNING HOME.

The Zemstvos Have Concluded Sessions in St. Petersburg—Minister Receives Memorial.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 23.—The meeting of the Zemstvos is ended, the members to-day dispersing to their homes. They are leaving in high spirits, confident that the situation is unfavorable to it. According to the days of November 10th to 22nd will mark a turning point in Russian history.

"The Rubicon is crossed; no retreat is possible," is the motto. In his opinion, at last night's joint meeting of editors and literary men and the Zemstvos, the greatest enthusiasm prevailed and the fallen support was pledged to the programme adopted.

There is an intimation that the Emperor has already been advised of the results of the meeting, and has expressed himself as unfavorable to it. According to a story which is told, with much circumstantiality, M. Pobedonostsev, the procurator-general of the holy synod, informed the Emperor that, in his opinion, autocracy had reached the parting of the ways. "There will be no middle course. We must hold firmly to the old regime or be prepared to meet a revolution."

At the same time, from the opposite direction, the Nashe Zisiet (Our Life), a new Radical paper, authorized by Minister Sviatopolk-Mirsky, indulged in a direct attack on the Emperor, with the result that the minister ordered the suspension of the publication. The action of the Emperor is considered very unfortunate, as it places a powerful weapon in the hands of Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky's enemies.

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RUSSIA AND STATES.

UNITED STATES NAVY REQUIRES MORE OFFICERS.

Admiral Converse Recommends Increase in Number Assigned to Ships—Favors Advisory Board.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 23.—How badly the United States navy is supplied with officers, and how seriously this condition may affect the navy and the nation, are plainly told in the annual report of Rear-Admiral Geo. A. Converse, chief of the bureau of navigation, approved by Secretary of the Navy Morton to-day.

Experience, especially in gun fire, he says, has shown that it is necessary to increase the number of officers assigned to ships. Admiral Converse recommends that the number of lieutenants be increased from 350 to 400, and that the number of lieutenant commanders be increased from 200 to 300.

Because of the important part played by torpedo craft in the war in the Far East, it is deemed advisable that the larger vessels of this type be commanded by lieutenant commanders. The report says that the youngest American commander to-day on the day he attained that rank was older than the average age of the British and German officers, and about the same as the average of English and German. He had passed the compulsory retirement age for Japanese captains, and the number of commodore and captains that do not gain promotions at certain ages, the flow of promotions and the ages of officers in the different grades will not be satisfactory."

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Among Sailors for the Black Sea Fleet—Number of Men Were Wounded.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 24.—According to private telegrams from Sebastopol, a port of the Black Sea fleet, a mutiny broke out on November 22nd, under the influence of the revolutionary propaganda. The mutiny, if it is really a mutiny, was suppressed by the authorities. No information can be obtained at the present time.

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TRAINING STATION.

United States Committee Has Selected a Site Thirty Miles North of Chicago.

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