

JAPANESE HAVE CUT LINE NORTH OF MUKDEN

Part of Oyama's Army Has Closed One of Avenues by Which Kouropatkin Hoped to Reach Tie Pass--Awful Carnage--The Japanese Losses Are Estimated at 50,000--Total Casualties During Battle Will Probably Exceed 100,000.

(Associated Press.)
The Japanese apparently are closing into the north and west of Mukden, and to-day's dispatches make it clear that Field Marshal Oyama is making a desperate effort to interpose a strong force between the retreating Russians and the pass.

It has in a measure succeeded as indicated by a dispatch from General Sakharoff, saying that several fierce attacks were made on "our north front during last night," and a Tokio dispatch asserting that the Japanese had cut the railway north of Mukden.

The fighting is now raging around the ancient tombs, and under yesterday's date General Kouropatkin reported that the Japanese had assumed the offensive towards Mukden from the north and northwest.

The reports from Japanese sources indicate that the whole attacking line has advanced, and that the retreat of the Russians is in progress.

St. Petersburg is without advice concerning the situation at nightfall to-day, but in official circles here seems to be centered in the belief that Kouropatkin will be able to extricate his army and retreat safely to the Tie pass positions.

Most of to-day's dispatches relate to past operations, and show that the fighting has been of a desperate character with very heavy losses on both sides.

At Eradong, on the centre, a regiment of chasseurs made a night attack, but the Russians were caught by the Japanese flank, and many of them were killed, fifty being captured.

At Bentsiaputze the Japanese stormed as far as the wire entanglements, but were repulsed with great loss.

An attack on the east front early this morning resulted in the capture of several Japanese positions near Oubenepusa and the seizing of two Japanese quick-firing guns.

The Japanese made a counter attack, and a long and desperate struggle ensued, the Russians captured a third quick-firing gun and are holding the positions.

The Japanese are bringing up supplies by the Simintin road, and apparently are using the railroad as a line of communication.

Thirty-two steamers taken by Japanese.
Tokio, March 8.—The British steamers Venus and Approdite, from Cardiff for Vladivostok, have been captured by Japanese warships.

Since the war began Japan has taken possession of 32 steamers carrying contraband of war.

Tried to regain bank of the Hun.
Tokio, March 8.—Noon.—Imperial army headquarters make the following announcement to-day:

"In the direction of Sinkang, our force advanced towards Haujen. It first occupied Pinshuata and then Haujen.

"The situation in the direction of Tietan and Machuntan is unchanged. On the Shakko river, east of the railway, at 3 o'clock in the morning of March 7th, the enemy's infantry attacked the heights north of Tuchiattun, but were repulsed and left thirty dead on the field.

At 2 o'clock on the morning of March 7th, the enemy's artillery concentrated its fire on the lines between Ta mountain and Wan Pao mountain, and a large body of infantry attacked us, but was entirely repulsed at 4:30 o'clock.

RETREATING OVER THE NORTHERN ROADS.

With the Japanese Left Armies, March 8, noon, via Fusan, March 9.—The left armies have cut and destroyed the railroad between Mukden and Tie Pass. Details are not obtainable at present.

The Russians are in full retreat over the northern roads.

The left column of these armies is at Likampu, seven miles north of the Hun river and five miles west of the railroad, and has had a fierce fight with a Russian force thrice its number. The Russian casualties numbered ten thousand.

The Russian centre is retreating in great confusion.

Nothing to eat since Sunday, and that they had been told this morning either to capture the Russians' dinner or starve.

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"West of the railway we occupied East Manchepao at 11 a. m. on March 7th, and later we repulsed an attempt of the enemy to retake the right bank of the Hun river.

"There are indications of the enemy's gradual reinforcement and a gathering of troops in the vicinity of Yangshiatun, seven miles southwest of Mukden.

"We captured two-thirds of the village of Likuanpao, repulsing a counter-attack made by the enemy with a division. Likuanpao is situated eight miles west of Mukden."

ARE RESIGNED TO THE INEVITABLE.
St. Petersburg, March 8, 8 p. m.—The dispatch of the Associated Press from its correspondent with the army of Gen. Kuroki announcing the withdrawal of the Russians from their positions on the Shakko river and that the Russians were in full retreat was the first definite news received here to the effect that the battle was ended and that Gen. Kouropatkin was making the best of his way northward. But it does not come unexpectedly. The defeat of Gen. Kouropatkin had been expected since Field Marshal Oyama made his brilliant strike against the Russian right.

much less severe, and at points complete calm prevails, both commanding general as being forced by the tremendous efforts of the last few days to give their soldiers a breathing spell and get up ammunition for the final struggle.

The most intense anxiety regarding the progress of the Japanese turning movement on the Russian right. It is significant that Kouropatkin's official dispatches to-day only bring the report of the western operations up to Monday night, whereas he reported the situation at the Russian centre and left till Tuesday night.

No press dispatches from the front filed to-day have arrived up to this hour.

RUSSIANS LOST 10,000 IN FOUR DAYS' FIGHTING.
With the Japanese left army, Saturday, March 4th, 1 p. m., via Tientsin, March 8th.—The first four days' fighting this bank has resulted in the complete turning of the Russian right, and promises the certain defeat of the entire Russian army.

The two left armies have swung north to a point on the main highway, five miles north of the Mukden line, and are now parallel to and four miles westward of the railroad and advancing directly east.

The Russians at first made a strong fight, but later resistance was slight, retreating in disorder before the onward rush of the Japanese, who have advanced over twenty miles in four days, constantly in touch with the enemy.

To-day's report shows the Russian troops almost in a panic-stricken condition, one army corps retreating without making practically any resistance.

It is estimated that the enemy's losses were over ten thousand.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—3 a. m.—The battle of Mukden has resulted in a Russian defeat. Field Marshal Oyama has once more proven himself one of the greatest masters of the school of strategy, and General Kouropatkin is able to defend his title as a master of successful retreats, and bring off his army, with its immense trains, safely to Tie pass, where a position long ago was prepared for this contingency.

The problem before the Russian commander-in-chief is much more difficult than the one he met successfully at Liao Yang, since now he is threatened on both flanks, his left wing being entangled in a mountainous region far from the railroad. Nevertheless Russian military men here express a fair degree of confidence in Gen. Kouropatkin's ability once more to extricate his army and avoid a Russian Sedan! Besides his skill in rearguard actions they base their hopes on the physical condition of the Japanese soldiers, who, though they made some of the greatest marches in the world, are well high exhausted by their endeavors of the last fortnight.

Only to the initiated is the news of the reverse positively known at this time.

From information in the possession of the Associated Press, it is known that Gen. Kouropatkin contemplated retirement before the beginning of the battle, and that he had hoped to accomplish it without a serious combat. The Japanese, however, forced him to accept battle. "The double turning movement compelled him to send the majority of his reserves to the fighting line and render an effective counterstroke out of the question, and the decision to retire was immediately taken on March 6th, as was stated by the Associated Press on that day. Withdrawal was actually begun during the night.

The great question now and the one over which the general staff burned its lights late into the night, is whether Field Marshal Oyama has succeeded in pulling his army out of the jaws of disaster without a serious combat. The Japanese, however, forced him to accept battle. "The double turning movement compelled him to send the majority of his reserves to the fighting line and render an effective counterstroke out of the question, and the decision to retire was immediately taken on March 6th, as was stated by the Associated Press on that day. Withdrawal was actually begun during the night.

General Rennenkampf's force on the eastward admitted is in great danger of being cut off, and a considerable force of Japanese appears to be operating on the Russian right well toward Tie pass. If the Japanese succeed in reaching the railroad and interrupting traffic, if only for a few hours, it may have the greatest consequences for Gen. Kouropatkin, who is now engaged in a literally race with Japanese to reach a naturally defensible position forty miles northward. Thus far he has stood off all attacks directly against the flanks of his army and holds the way of retreat open. He undoubtedly was forced to abandon a number of siege guns on his Shakko position; but if he succeeded in turning over the army intact with the principal portion of artillery train to his successor, the Russian case will be by no means desperate, for Oyama will again have missed his quarry and comparatively barren victory will have been purchased at enormous cost of life.

All reports indicate that the Japanese were utterly reckless in their making attack after attack, especially on the centre and westward against machine guns and infantry fire, which really mowed down the advancing columns, making human flesh so cheap that the survivors could bastion them selves behind piles of corpses.

After this action, Gen. Kouropatkin's deposition may be regarded as certain. War Minister Sakharoff is picked as his probable successor, though Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievich or a board of strategists may be entrusted with the direction of affairs.

Pence advocates point out as a significant fact the departure of Vice-Admiral Rojestrensky's squadron from Madagascar, half way between Mukden and Tie pass, and intimates that perhaps the recall of the fleet may have been adopted in view of the latter event. The movement, however, is still open.

The losses already exceed those of any battle of the war.

The fanaticism displayed by the Japanese is shown in an instance mentioned by a Russian correspondent, who describes how a captured Japanese broke away from his captors and threw himself head foremost into a Chinese well.

While the defeat of Kouropatkin has revived the tide of peace, it is too early yet to measure its full effect.

If Kouropatkin succeeds in drawing off his army, no matter how badly shattered, the war office insists that the situation will be unchanged, repeating the old argument that Kouropatkin, with his army still intact, will again avail himself of the disadvantage of lengthened communication.



Give the Children

"FRUIT-A-TIVES" whenever the head aches, the stomach gets upset, or Constipation troubles them. Little folk may take them every day in the year without fear of ill-effects. It's just like giving them ripe apples, oranges, figs and prunes. That's what

Fruit-a-tives

are. The fruit juices are so combined by our secret process, that the medicinal action is intensified, many degrees. Nothing like them to keep the children plump and rosy—and free of the stomach and bowel troubles of childhood. Equally effective with grown folk for going to a box

FRUITATIVES, Limited, OTTAWA.

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In diplomatic circles, unless Oyama has crushed the Russian army, little hope is held out that the Imperial resolution to continue the war will be altered. Much, it is agreed, will depend upon the internal developments which follow when the full magnitude of the reverse is known.

Naturally the city is full of rumors, the most persistent of which is that the Russian west front, which practically extends north and south to protect the line of retreat, has been broken and that the bulk of the Russian army has been forced eastward in the direction of Fushun. Should this prove to be true General Biderling's part of Linsevitch's army is certain to be trapped.

FIGHTING AROUND THE IMPERIAL TOMBS.
Mukden, March 9.—2:30 a. m.—The Japanese yesterday attacked the village of Pudiasa, northwest of the Imperial tombs, and a stubborn fight followed, but the Russian advance guard was obliged to abandon the village.

During the night the Japanese attacked the village of Santaito, north of the Imperial tombs. The fight continues as this dispatch is filed.

The Japanese outposts have reached Hiranchan, on the south front, and a heavy cannonade is in progress here now.

RUSSIAN NORTH FRONT ATTACKED.
St. Petersburg, March 9.—The general staff has received the following dispatch from Gen. Sakharoff, Kouropatkin's chief of staff, dated to-day:

"Several fierce attacks on our north front were made during the night. They were all repulsed. In other directions the night was quiet."

Gen. Sakharoff's reference to the Russian north front would seem to indicate that a Japanese force is between Mukden and Tie pass. Though the Japanese may have cut the telegraph lines along the railroad it is possible that field telegraph lines have been run between Fushun, where Kouropatkin may have his headquarters, and Tie pass, thus accounting for the seeming conflict in the advices from Tokio and St. Petersburg regarding the severance of the Russian line of communication.

SHIPOINERS STRIKE.
Thirteen Men Employed at B. C. Marine Railway Demand Higher Wages—An Investigation.

Tuesday about thirteen shipjoiners employed at the yards of the B. C. Marine Railway, Esquimalt, submitted a petition requesting that their wages be raised. This was refused by the company, regarding the job on hand to a considerable extent. Geo. Caldwell, president of the Trades and Labor Council, and officials of the shipjoiners' union, were immediately informed of the trouble and instituted an investigation.

Visiting Esquimalt, they heard the strikers' contention and afterwards interviewed the proprietors, the Messrs. Bullen. It was found that the men demanded wages above the regular scale, and that their other misunderstandings were too trivial to warrant a strike. Therefore they were notified that the union could not accord them any support.

As a result of this a number of the shipjoiners returned to work on Wednesday morning.

It is expected that the matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the union, and some attempt will be calculated to bring about an amicable settlement of all difficulties.

RUSSIANS BEHEADED BY CHINESE AS SPIES.
Newchwang, March 9.—Via Tientsin, March 9.—With the Japanese flags flying, a band of Chinese bandits fledged two young Russians, who were alleged to be spies, at Simintin.

The first one executed was evidently an officer, but he was wearing a Chinese overcoat. He knelt without a murmur and while his companion watched the death stroke.

which held the centre back upon the Hun river, was clinging all the day desperately to Madypau, at the southwest of the city.

One of General Linsevitch's corps was hurriedly withdrawn during Wednesday night and dispatched to the support of General Kuroki's hard pressed forces, who were fighting off General Nogi's flanking legions west and northwest of the city. At the same time the remainder of General Linsevitch's army fell back to the north bank of the Hun river, where it checked temporarily the pursuing columns of General Kuroki, who hemmed them in west, south and east.

All day yesterday and last night wounded, munitions, baggage and stores streamed northward. The railroad and the Mandaria road were almost blocked at the last moment, notwithstanding the fact that an immense amount of stores, etc., was removed last week. The Russo-Chinese bank removed to Tie pass on Sunday.

The trains were run under the Japanese guns westward, some projectiles reaching the railroad.

General Nogi, according to the latest authentic Russian reports, has already reached a point opposite the station of Sengai, half way between Mukden and Tie pass, but it is believed that his left is swinging still further north for a blow at the line of communications, which would realize Field Marshal Oyama's plan for closing the Hun ring.

The Tokio report, that the railroad is actually cut, is not confirmed here, the telegraph office, on the contrary, declaring the communication with General Kouropatkin is still open.

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the centre of the circle with a flourish of trumpets. They were stripped and their arms bound together behind their bodies. They were then turned over to a six-foot executioner, who smilingly drew his red sheathed sword, afterwards wiping the blade on the clothing of the dead man.

When the executions were finished the corpses were left lying on the sunlit road. Bugles were sounded and the band savagely swung into their sad duties, while the infantry fell into line and departed from the scene of execution.

JAPANESE GENERAL FOUND AMONG DEAD.
General Rennenkampf's headquarters, Madypau, March 7.—In pursuance of orders to retake, at any cost, the positions at Oubenepusa, lost at nightfall, the Russians laid midnight storm and recaptured the hills in the east. Among the dead on the hills was found a Japanese general in full uniform.

REPORTS REGARDING FLEET UNCONFIRMED.
London, March 9.—No confirmation has reached London of the report that Vice-Admiral Rojestrensky's squadron is returning from Madagascar to Jubilt, nor are there any dispatches printed in the morning newspapers throwing further light on the position of affairs in Manchuria.

Should the report concerning Vice-Admiral Rojestrensky be confirmed, it will be regarded here as a strong indication of Russia's desire to arrange terms of peace.

LARGE QUANTITIES OF SUPPLIES BURNED.
With the Japanese left armies, March 7, 8 p. m., via Fushun, March 9.—The Japanese made two attacks on the village at the angle of the railroad and the Hun river to-day.

The Russians are making a strong resistance in a dozen villages in this vicinity, and are burning large quantities of supplies.

A movement of the Russians northward was visible this afternoon. It is uncertain whether it is a retreat or a reinforcement of the right wing.

The Japanese left armies advanced perceptibly across the plain in the direction of Mukden during the afternoon.

A heavy artillery fire continues this evening.

HAS NOT VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW.
New Haven, Conn., March 9.—Baron Kaneko, of Tokio, who has been in the United States for several months on a mission created for him by the Mikado's government, delivered an address on the present war before the students of Yale last night. He said among other things that Japan is fighting the war according to the rules of civilized warfare, and is trying to follow international law. Two professors of international law are with each army corps, and two with each squadron. Thus far, he said, Japan has not been guilty of a single violation of the rules of international law. On the other hand Baron Kaneko said Russia has repeatedly offended against such laws, and has not been fair.

THREATEN TO SEIZE THE RAILWAY.
Tientsin, March 9, 2 p. m.—The Japanese have requested the transportation of 450 tons of rice to Simintin. Unless the request is complied with the Japanese threaten to seize the railroad. It is believed to be a test case.

The constant shipment of wheat and coal to Simintin by the Russians was not interfered with and the Japanese made no attempt to seize the line. They again seized the telegraph office at Simintin.

REMOVING RUSSIANS FROM PORT ARTHUR.
Tokio, March 9.—The Japanese government has decided to bring 2,500 incapacitated and wounded soldiers home from Port Arthur via Chefoo.

HOW DR. YON STAN'S PINEAPPLE TABLETS GIVE INSTANT RELIEF.—They're handy to carry—take one after eating—or whenever you feel stomach distress—coming on—sufferers have proved it. The only remedy that will give instant relief and permanent cure—no long tedious treatments with questionable results—best for all sorts of stomach troubles. 35 cents—36.

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The first one executed was evidently an officer, but he was wearing a Chinese overcoat. He knelt without a murmur and while his companion watched the death stroke.

The second captive was clothed in Chinese clothing throughout. He whimpered for a moment, but regained his nerve, and struggled fiercely. He was thrown and killed while long trumpets fanfares were being played. Besides it is difficult to transport them.

On last Monday night the bandits surprised a small body of Russian scouts and killed 22, besides capturing the two who were beheaded. The bandits suffered a slight loss.

SCHOOL CLAUSE FOR AUTONOMY BILL

WILL PROBABLY BE COMPLETED THURSDAY

Ministers Requested to Amend Criminal Code to Prevent Use and Sale of Trading Stamps.

Ottawa, March 9.—There was a meeting of a sub-committee of the cabinet appointed to prepare a school clause of the autonomy bill this forenoon. It is said that a satisfactory clause will be prepared to-day. Hon. Clifford Sifton was at to-day's meeting.

Trading Stamps.
Over 500 of a delegation representing the leading cities of Ontario and Quebec, and backed by resolutions of boards of trade of British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, called on the government to-day and asked that the criminal code be amended so as to prevent the use and sale of trading stamps, which are declared to be a nuisance and eating the life-blood of progress. Consideration of the matter was promised. Quebec and Ontario have passed laws, but some judges hold them unconstitutional.

Cable Landing.
The Dominion has been applied to by the Commercial Cable Company for a fourth cable landing at Canso.

Conservative Caucus.
There was a Conservative caucus to-day, M. Lake presided. A resolution of condolence and sympathy with Mrs. D. P. Clarke, widow of the late E. P. Clarke, M. P., was passed, and another with Mr. Martin, M. P., Prince Edward Island, upon the death of his wife. There was some discussion on the school clause of the autonomy bill, but no definite line of action was taken. A couple of reports of the sub-committee upon the work of the session were considered.

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DOMINION MAY CONTROL DOCKYARDS

WHICH WILL BE HOME OF CANADIAN NAVY

Reported Agreement with the Imperial Government—Transfer Likely to Take Place in July.

Ottawa, March 9.—It is understood on good authority that the Imperial government has agreed that the Dominion authorities should have control of the dock yards at Halifax and Esquimalt, which will be made the home of the Canadian navy.

The details of the transfer have not yet been completed, but it is likely they will be by the 1st of July, when land defences are to be transferred to the Dominion.

Seeks Explanation.
London, March 8.—Speaking in the House of Commons upon the naval estimates, Gibson Bowles commented on the abandonment of Esquimalt, which he said looked like the abandonment of the North Pacific squadron. He asked what had justified the step. Had the government an understanding with the United States, and was Canada going to build a navy? He urged the government to settle all doubts by further explanations.

Closure, however, was applied by the Speaker remarking an opportunity would occur in committee.

NORTH SEA CLAIMS.
Russia Has Paid Great Britain Three Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars.

(Associated Press.)
London, March 9.—Count Benckendorff, the Russian ambassador to Great Britain, to-day gave \$325,000 to Foreign Secretary Lansdowne in settlement of the North Sea claims.

WILL IMPROVE SMELTER.
(Special to the Times.)
Nanaimo, March 9.—The Tye smelter at Ladysmith will close down to-night for three weeks to install a hot blast in the furnace to do away with fumes