

PIERCE ATTACK ON OYAMA'S LEFT CENTRE

Kouropatkin Strikes at Jap Forces in Hope of Breaking Through the Enveloping Lines.

One of Armies Doomed to Overwhelming Defeat—Russian Killed and Wounded Estimated at 23,500, While Oyama is Believed to Have Lost 40,000.

FIGHTING ALL ALONG THE LINE.

Tokio, March 4, 4.40 p.m.—It was announced today from the headquarters of the Japanese army in Manchuria that the fighting on the right, centre and left is resulting in steady Japanese gains.

JAPANESE PURSUIT OF RUSSIANS CONTINUES.

General Oku's headquarters in the field, March 3.—11 a.m.—Via Fusan (delayed).—During last night the Japanese occupied three more villages in the Russian second line of defence, carrying their captured lines 12 miles east of Changtan.

The Russians are falling back on their heavy defences, south of Mukden. The Japanese movement is entirely successful.

MOVING WOUNDED AND STORES FROM MUKDEN.

Mukden, March 4.—1 a.m.—The Russians are holding on desperately to their positions. The fighting has now been in progress six days.

RECENT ARRIVALS WERE DEFEATED.

General Kuroki's headquarters in the field, via Fusan, March 4.—The Russian artillery kept up a heavy fire on the Japanese guns most of the day, and also fired shrapnel at the attacking forces.

JAPANESE CLOSING IN ON THE RUSSIANS.

General Kuroki's headquarters in the field, via Fusan, March 4.—(Delayed in transmission).—The hotly contested engagement waged since midnight across the Shakhe river, from Witosan, is still proceeding late this afternoon, under conditions entailing great hardships upon the attacking force, and favoring those defending the entrenchments.

CAPTURED TRENCHES DURING THE NIGHT.

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RUSSIAN STATION SEIZED BY JAPS.

Newchwang, March 4, 10, via Tientsin.—The Japanese have occupied the first Russian station east of Liao river. The Mukden trail is closed and persons who have invested thousands of dollars in contraband goods are threatened with bankruptcy.

TORPEDO BOATS COVERED LANDING OF TROOPS.

Vladivostok, March 4.—Two thousand Japanese troops have landed at Shengudshin, northward of Korea, to which place they were conveyed by steamers from warships. Artillery, or torpedo boats covered the landing.

MORE ROLLING STOCK FOR SIBERIAN LINES.

St. Petersburg, March 4.—All the rolling stock, which includes 445 locomotives and 51,173 cars, just delivered, will be employed to reinforce the main Siberian line instead of being utilized in general commercial traffic, has been determined.

ATTACHES TO WITHDRAW FROM VLADIVOSTOK.

London, March 6.—The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Tokio states that the Japanese column, Himada, was killed after the capture of Zikajo, and that General Klobor, commander of the second Manchurian army, was wounded and sent to the hospital at Mukden.

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The Russian losses in both flanks are enormous, but it is probable that the defenders of the centre suffered comparatively little by the Japanese bombardment and the beating off of the Japanese attack.

GENERAL KUROKI'S HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, MARCH 4.

The Japanese are making heavy gains of ground west of the railway and have captured great quantities of stores and spoils.

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part of Gen. Nogi's force is in full career for Tie Pass, or whether the Japanese have staked all in a cast against Mukden.

The impetuosity of the peril on the western wing drew 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.

Military critics here point out that the Japanese have put themselves in a critical position by the extreme extension of their lines, leaving themselves open, as they did at Liao Yang, to the possibility of a most effective counter stroke, and probably defeat, if Gen. Kouropatkin should be able to launch a column against the weak link in the chain.

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, strawing breast-works, and even being used by the Japanese to construct hasty entrenchments.

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fell like an avalanche upon the weakened Russian right, doubling it back, and co-ordinated with the advance along the coast of a Japanese column of 40,000 men, which circled around or through Chinese neutral territory.

Although rumors of the presence of the latter column westward of Mukden were circulated as long ago as Tuesday, Kouropatkin evidently was taken by surprise, possibly refusing to believe that the Japanese would thus openly fling China neutrally to the effect that he was able to shift sufficient reinforcements west to stem the tide, when the Japanese were within sight of Mukden, but the latest advice is to the effect that the Japanese, exhausted by their tremendous efforts, have everywhere stopped, and now, if ever, Kouropatkin's hour has come.

The Japanese lines are extended over sixty miles, while Kouropatkin's are constantly contracting.

Besides he had the advantage for the offensive operations of the interior of his lines. Military critics declare Oyama has not great enough superiority to take risks. According to the war office, Oyama has not over 70,000 men in extent of Kouropatkin's front, which is about 340,000. Should Oyama succeed, the critics declare that he will prove himself to be a master of military science, and establish a reputation for military genius.

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height northeast of the village at dawn on Sunday.

"East of the railroad at 8 o'clock Sunday morning our force occupied Linchen-tun, three miles southwest of Wanpao mountain, and pressed part of the enemy into the centre of the village, where it is now surrounding them.

"West of the railroad on Sunday our force captured Hanchangpao and Siao-suehpa, and now continues to advance, Suchiatun railroad station is burning."

RUSSIAN TROOPS ARE RETREATING.

Gen. Oku's Headquarters in the Field, March 4, 2 p.m., via Fusan, delayed.—Since last Friday night the Japanese left, which is now extending north and south, had advanced several miles.

The Russians are retreating in great disorder.

The Japanese extreme left is now fifteen miles northwest of Mukden and is advancing rapidly. The escape of the main Russian forces seems impossible.

JAPANESE ARE CLOSING ON MUKDEN.

With the Japanese Left Army, via Fusan, March 5.—The left wing of the service is continuing its advance in the direction of Mukden, attacking small villages in the angle north of the Hun river and west of the railroad.

The Russian center near the railroad began retreating last night, the Japanese advancing on a hill and capturing 15 guns, including howitzers and machine guns.

The Russian loss is estimated at three thousands, and that of the Japanese under five hundred.

The right wing of this force extending eastward has captured Onshinia and Tachucapu close to the railroad, and twelve miles south of Mukden.

The Russian center retired to Tinchajun station, ten miles south of Mukden.

It is believed the Russians have set fire to their stores and retreated.

A general attack is only a matter of hours.

ADMITS RUSSIAN LOSSES ARE HEAVY.

Mukden, March 5.—Delayed.—An official report in the Army Messenger says: "The southern position is unchanged so far as the Shakhe."

After acknowledging that the central army had fallen back from Sinchinpin in order to contract the length of the line of battle connecting the positions, the Army Messenger says:

"The spirits of the men are excellent. Marvellous composure is being displayed considering the approaching crisis."

The paper admits that the Russian losses are great, but the battle is going on successfully. All the units leading from Malchiapu and the western plain, which has been invaded by the battle, are crowded with Chinese refugees.

Opposite Poutiloff hill, the Russians are reported to have captured two machine guns.

HELLING JAPANESE ARTILLERY POSITIONS.

General Kuroki's Headquarters in the Field, via Fusan, March 5.—(Delayed in transmission).—The Russians are to-day using sixteen guns placed in position opposite Witosan, and are shelling the Japanese artillery positions, the village on the plain occupied by troops and the roads where the supply trains are passing to the front, but with no result.

Among the telling work of the Japanese infantry no episode of the war surpasses the achievement of the force which, on the night of March 2nd, gained a footing across the Shakhe river, and is now holding two miles of the front after crawling up bare, stony hills like leeches.

The Russian trenches are now plainly visible, the soldiers moving about freely. Both sides suspend hostilities for three or four hours at midday, and from midnight until morning.

The Japanese are proving as good winter campaigners in every respect as the Russians; a question upon which there was formerly considerable doubt.

WARSHIPS SIGHTED SOUTHWEST OF HONGKONG.

London, March 6.—The German steamer Nubia, according to the correspondent of the Daily Mail at Hongkong, reports having sighted two Japanese squadrons on Saturday one hundred miles southwest of Hongkong.

The first squadron, comprising nine battleships and cruisers, was seen at 2 o'clock in the morning going at full speed, with all lights out, and the second squadron of thirteen large warships was sighted in the afternoon.

RUSSIAN WARSHIP PATROL RED SEA.

Aden, March 6.—A Russian warship is reported to be patrolling the centre of the Red Sea. She has been turning her searchlights on passing vessels.

WORK STOPS ON SHIPS CHARTERED BY RUSSIA.

Hamburg, March 6.—The fitting-out of the Hamburg-American steamers Belgravia, Phoenicia, Valesia and other vessels chartered by Russia, or sold to the Russian West Asiatic line, has seemingly ceased. No explanation has been furnished of this cessation of work.

MAY SUCCEED SIFTON.

(Associated Press.)

Montreal, March 4.—Private information comes from Ottawa that Hon. W. Templeman, the British Columbia representative in the cabinet, is likely to succeed Hon. Clifford Sifton as Minister of the Interior.

EDUCATION CLAUSE BEFORE MINISTERS.

QUESTION LIKELY TO BE SETTLED SHORTLY.

Lumber Delegates Will Meet Hon. W. S. Fielding on Tuesday—Aids to Navigation.

Ottawa, March 3.—The Northwest members were conferring to-day on the educational clause of the Autonomy Bill. The more the subject is discussed by the Western members, the more firmly they are convinced that the original position they took was to be the best.

They notified the government in the first instance that the present conditions in the Northwest in regard to education were the only ones which they could accept.

But the bill goes very much further. To settle all disputes upon this point, the Northwest members will frame a clause and submit it to the government. It will embody what they will support and can defend. It will contain all that is now in existence in the Northwest Territories as far as the school system is concerned, and nothing more. This ought to be satisfactory, but there are those in the East who want to go very much further, although maintaining that the clause as now framed merely gives what the people now have.

The men from the West say this is all that they want and upon this point it is settled. The crisis still hangs over the parliament buildings at Ottawa. One would think that as the matter had simmered down to one of the phraseology of a clause, it would be easily disposed of, but seemingly the reverse is the case. It is not so easy to predict at this stage which way it is to go.

Draw Up New Clause.

Ottawa, March 4.—The Northwest members have all agreed to an educational clause to be inserted in the Autonomy Bill. This new clause has been presented to Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It provides exactly for the present system of the schools in the Northwest, which the Western members agreed to support in the first instance, and which they are still willing to adhere to.

Ottawa, March 6.—The cabinet had the Northwest members' educational clause for the autonomy bill before it again to-day. While there is not much difference between the West and the government on this matter, still no settlement has been reached.

The Northwest are holding out for the clause which they have proposed. The government wants it slightly changed, but the members have not so far agreed to this. However, negotiations are proceeding, and it is expected that a settlement will soon be reached.

In the House to-day R. L. Borden asked if Sir Wilfrid Laurier had decided to make any change to the autonomy bill, and the Premier replied that a bill was always subject to amendment. He was not prepared to say whether this bill would be amended, but if so it would be in accordance with parliamentary practice.

To Meet Minister.

The British Columbia lumber delegation will meet Hon. W. S. Fielding, the minister of finance to-morrow.

Members entertained.

Duncan Ross and W. Sloan were guests of the parliamentary press gallery on Saturday evening.

Lights and Alarms.

W. Sloan, M. P., has been informed by the minister of marine, that his appointment to the lighthouse board has been granted, and that 30-day lights will be placed at Uchelet and Village Point lighthouses at Putney Point, Malcolm Island and Grey Island, Port Simpson, and fog alarms at Egg Island and Clavroquet. Instructions have been issued to carry out this work. The fog alarm will be among the most powerful on the Pacific Coast, costing \$20,000 each.

Roosevelt Inaugurated.

Washington, D. C., March 4.—Theodore Roosevelt, of New York, and Charles Warren Fairbanks, of Indiana, were to-day inaugurated respectively President and Vice-President of the United States. A few months ago they were elected with the greatest popular acclamation ever accorded the President or Vice-President by the people of the Republic.

President Roosevelt, in the course of his inaugural address, said: "Much has been given to us, and much will rightfully be expected from us. We have duties to others and duties to ourselves, and we can shirk neither. We have become a great nation, forced to the fact of its greatness in relation with the other nations of the earth, and we must be have as becomes a people with such responsibilities." Adjoined.

Washington, D. C., March 4.—The 58th congress came on an end-to-day, when the senate and house adjourned sine die.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Paris, March 4.—The government has reached a complete agreement with the committee of the Chamber of Deputies on the details of the bill providing for the separation of church and state, thus insuring early action.

SWEDISH STEAMER SEIZED BY JAPS.

Tokio, March 4.—The Swedish steamer Yeggs was seized by a Japanese warship on March 3rd.

THE STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY BETWEEN THE RIVAL PARTIES IN RUSSIA.

Interesting Side-Lights on Events Leading Up to Issue of Edict by the Czar.

St. Petersburg, March 6.—The history of Friday's Imperial rescript, as it has been authoritatively disclosed to the Associated Press, sheds a curious and illuminating light upon the struggles for ascendancy between the force of reaction and liberalism, which are raging about the Emperor, again compelling one to draw a parallel with the French revolution, and impressing the truth of Prince Bismarck's famous remark that everything King Louis XVI. did to preserve his throne came a day too late.

Representatively the decision to permit representatives of the people to participate in a consultative capacity in consideration of projected reforms and preparation of laws had been taken by the Emperor three months ago, on the advice of Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky, who had been actually incorporated in clause 3 of the December manifesto. Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky's heart was set upon this scheme, making it a condition of his continuance in office; but at the last minute, yielding to the pressure of the reactionaries, led by the Grand Duke Sergius, and M. Pobedonostseff, procurator of the Holy Synod, it was stricken out, and Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky, under the sunshine of whose inspiration the hopes of the whole nation burst into bloom, stepped down. Had Emperor Nicholas then clung to his original resolution many painful events since the first of the year, including the assassination of his uncle, might have been avoided.

The project on much broader lines was again revived by M. Yermoloff three weeks ago at the meeting which inaugurated the new cabinet, and the Emperor's direct presidency. The Emperor insisted upon preserving the principle of autocracy, and some divergent views also developed among the ministers. Between that meeting and February 24th the ministers compromised their differences. When it was presented the proposition contained the rescript. His Majesty, while withholding his definite approval, asked that it be placed in concrete form. This was done in the intervening week. The text is believed to be largely the work of Finance Minister Kokovsov, although the Associated Press is not in a position to absolutely affirm it.

In the meantime Prince Merstchensky, who is the editor of the Grasshopper, the satirical organ at the capital, and who always enjoys a large influence at court, drew up a draft of Friday's manifesto as a counterpoise to the rescript, just as the Grand Duke Sergius had done in the December manifesto. Prince Merstchensky sent the draft to M. Pobedonostseff, who wrote a letter to the Emperor recommending it. The manifesto was signed and issued at midnight on Thursday without their knowledge, or after consultation with any of the ministers, who were thunderstruck. But upon their arrival at Tsarsko-Selo on Friday afternoon the ministers were relieved when the Emperor informed them that the manifesto would not interfere with the rescript, which he had resolved to sign, explaining the connection between the two, as stated in the Associated Press dispatches of March 4th. It is the fact, however, that the ministers were so fearful that some adverse influence might intervene before it could appear in the regular morning edition of the Official Messenger of Saturday, that it was made public instantly upon their return to St. Petersburg, and at the same time the ministers ordered its publication in a special edition of the Messenger.

Notwithstanding the paean of praise with which some of the Russian papers greeted the document, hailing it with expressions as "the dawning of a new era for the Slav race"; "the rubicon of mistrust has been crossed"; "the moment for which we have been thirsting with the people, longing and tormented souls has arrived"; there is the greatest diversity of views as to what is actually intended; but by evident design all translate the rescript as a promise of a real step toward the autonomy of the provinces, and decide it as a delusion and a snare