4 P.M. EDITION

London Advertiser

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41ST YEAR. NO. 17231 THE ADVERTISER, LONDON, ONTARIO, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1904. PRICE TWO CENTS.

500 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN PERISH IN SUNDAY SCHOOL EXCURSION DISASTER

Steamer General Slocum, With Two Thousand Souls Aboard, Bursts Into Flames Near Hell Gate, Just Outside the Harbor of New York City, and Is Burned to the Water's Edge.

Terrible Panic Ensues, the Excursionists, With Clothing Afire, Leaping Into the Water by the Hundred, Only To Be Swept to Death in the Whirlpools.

Hurricane Deck Collapses, Crushing Many to Death.

PASTOR AND FAMILY DEAD

Captain Sticks to His Post and Finally Beaches Ship—Story of a Survivor.

New York, June 15. — Five hundred persons, mostly children, perished today by the burning of the excursion steamer, General Slocum, near Hell Gate, in the East River. The Slocum, having on board, the annual Sunday school excursion of St. Mark's German Lutheran Church of this city, was on her way up the river to a resort on Long Island Sound.

When just off about One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street, persons on shore saw smoke and flames spring from the upper part of the crowded steamer. A panic ensued on the boat instantly. The crowds on the forward deck, panic-stricken, began to spring overboard or to crowd to the after-part of the boat. The screams of the terrified passengers could be heard on shore, and hundreds of small boats immediately put off to the rescue.

Owing to the rocks on either side of the channel at this point, it was impossible to beach the vessel. The captain stuck to his post at the wheel and headed the vessel straight through Hell Gate for North Brother Island, where she went ashore in the shallow water. Several hundred feet of open water lay between the burning steamer and the shore, and many persons perished either in the water or on the burning vessel after she was beached. It was estimated that the steamer carried more than 2,000 persons.

The General Slocum is the largest excursion steamer in these waters. She has plied for years to Rockaway Beach and could carry about 4,000 passengers.

AT LEAST 500 BURNED.

Hundreds of Others Leap Into the Water as Flames Advance.

The General Slocum had on board the annual Sunday school excursion of the St. Mark's German Lutheran Church, which is located in Twenty-sixth street. The steamer was bound for Locust Grove, beyond Flushing, L. I., and had over a thousand people on board, mostly children.

The latest report is that at least 500 have been burned.

Many were rescued by tugs and other vessels which promptly came to the rescue when the flames broke out.

The pastor of St. Mark's Church, the Rev. George C. Ephass, was on board, with all of his family, and it was ported, was lost. The boat caught fire in Hell Gate, and the flames had complete control before any move could be made to check them. Frightful scenes of panic followed. It was impossible to run the boat ashore because of the Hell Gate rocks on either side, and the captain kept her headed for North Brother Island. Nothing could be done in the way of launching boats, and as the flames advanced the passengers began to jump overboard. They went into the river by hundreds.

WITNESSED BY THOUSANDS.

The disaster was witnessed by thousands of people from both shores of the river, and as rapidly as possible hundreds of small boats and launches set off to render assistance. With the boat burning under his feet the captain stuck to his post in the pilot-house, and the engineer remained at his post below deck until the boat was beached at the lower end of North Brother Island, off Port Morris.

Even then the passengers were not in a safe position, for they were some distance from shore, and the boat was a furnace. Hundreds of small boats, which were scattered about, picked up those who jumped overboard, as rapidly as possible. It is estimated that between 400 and 500 persons sprang into the water.

UPPER DECK COLLAPSED.

Hundreds on Lower Decks Crushed to Death.

An eye-witness said that the greatest loss of life was due to the collapsing of the heavy upper deck. It fell with a crash soon after the fire started, crushing hundreds of persons, who had gathered on the lower dack.

It was then that the greatest panic ensued. There was a living stream of persons going over the rail into the water.

As far as eye-witnesses can determine, the flames originated on the forward part of the boat. Persons who saw the accident from the shore say that almost instantly persons who occupied places on the forward deck began to jump overboard.

Policemen in the Bronx and Harlem saw the blazing boat steaming up the river, and immediately began to turn in alarms for ambulances and fire-boats.

SUCKED INTO WHIRLPOOLS

One Rescuer Tells of Fifty Children Who Perished.

All the boats at North Brother Island were sent to the assistance of the people in the water, and as fast as they were brought ashore were cared for in the pavilions there.

The patients in the hospitals on the island became almost insane from fright, and at the terrible scenes they had witnessed.

A large part of the crowd on the doomed steamer were children, and there was little hope for them after they had gone overboard. The current in the East River at this point is very strong, and hundreds of little ones were sucked in by the whirlpools at Hell Gate. One man, who went out in a rowboat, said that he saw at least 50 children perish in these whirlpools before he could reach them.

Persons on tugboats say that several hundred bodies have been washed ashore or were towed or carried in boats to the shore of North Brother Island. Almost every other woman who was taken away was calling for her child.

1,000 ABOARD.

New York, June 15. — When the General Slocum left her dock this morning she is said to have had about a thousand women and children aboard. Nearly all belonged to St. Mark's German Lutheran Church Sunday school. Superintendent Rickard, of Believue Hospital, sent word to the officials of the institutions on Ward's Island to send all the doctors they could spare to the scene, and nine physicians were sent. The charities department has dispatched its two boats to the scene.

JUMPED OVERBOARD.

New York, June 15. — A telephone report to police headquarters is that the whole upper portion of the boat is on fire, and that the hurricane deck has caved in. At least 100 people have jumped overboard.

The steamer was surrounded with tugs and was towed to North Brother Island, where she was beached.

An eye-witness, who saw much of what happened to the boat, said:

"The steamer's whistle was blowing for assistance as she came up the river. I saw several persons jump into the water before she was headed for the northwest shore of North Brother Island. Her position made it impossible for those aboard of her to reach land except by swimming. I saw perhaps 50 or 100 persons, mostly women and children, jump overboard. Most of the throng was on the hurricane deck when we plainly seen a portion of it collapse. Many must have been killed instantly."

PASTOR'S PARTY PERISHED.

The excursion was in charge of the social committee of the church headed by Miss Mary Abendschein. In the minister's party, his son said, were the pastor, Miss Abendschein, Assistant-Superintendent Carl Anger, William Schlaefer, the pastor's daughter, Gertrude, his sister, Miss Emma Haas, and W. B. Telmore. At the office of the United States Steamboat Inspection Bureau, it was said, the General Slocum was inspected on May 5, and was reported to be in a thoroughly good condition and ready for the excursion season. Aboard the steamer was all the life-saving apparatus required by law of steamers of her capacity, 2,500.

BURNED TO WATER'S EDGE.

The General Slocum's licensed captain is Capt. W. H. Van Schaeck, one of the oldest excursion captains in New York harbor waters.

The Slocum sailed from the foot of Third street, East River, shortly after 9 o'clock. The exact point she had reached when flames were discovered in the forward part of the boat was off the Sunken Meadows at the extreme east end of Randalls Island. So quickly was the spread of the flames that the captain of the Slocum could not turn and was forced to make head-on for North Brother Island under full steam. By the time the Slocum reached One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth street, the excursionists, driven to the rail, many of them with their clothing on fire, began to jump overboard by twos and threes. When One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth street had been reached, the heat from the fire had become so intense that men, women and children plunged overboard by the score. There was a terrible crash when the boat was beached. The boat was beached at the reef at the northern end of North Brother Island, where she rapidly burned to the water's edge.

MANY OF RESCUED WILL DIE.

It is said the fire started in the lunch counter in the forward part of the boat. When the alarm spread among the passengers the hurricane deck was crowded and when off One Hundred and Thirty-Eighth street this deck collapsed. Many persons were thrown into the water, but hundreds were precipitated into the lower deck, which was itself crowded with women and children. Many of the bodies recovered were horribly burned. Wreckers say that it will be hours before the fire in the hold of the boat is out and the bodies there can be recovered. Both firemen and wreckers say that the greatest loss of life, extending into the hundreds, will be found in the hold.

Many of those picked up alive in the river will die in the hospitals. Most of them were frightfully burned, having delayed leaping from the boat until their clothing was on fire. Some died in the improvised ambulances in which they were hurried from the shore.

TRIED TO SAVE LITTLE ONES.

Every man on board, who could swim, went overboard loaded down with children. Many of these heroes lost their lives, because, burdened as they were they could make no headway against the overpowering swirl of the tide, as it rushes from the East River into the sound.

When police headquarters received the first vague report of the disaster, every source of succor and aid was utilized. The hospitals were notified by telephone, and all available surgeons, nurses and ambulances were rushed to the scene.

The police reserves of a half-dozen stations were hurried out, and more than fifty patrol wagons were sent for ambulance purposes. North Brother Island, where the Slocum was beached, is occupied by municipal charity hospitals, and a considerable number of physicians and nurses were immediately available.

A SURVIVOR'S STORY.

Young Man Tells of Awful Panic on Flaming Ship.

John Edell, 22 years old, one of the

"I endeavored for a few minutes to break through the mad crush and get to my mother and little brother, but I was swept into one corner.

"As the boat kept on her way the breeze drove the flames towards the after part of the ship, where those who, in their panic had not jumped but a few seconds before the flames had swept down upon the children who were struggling about the cream tables and set their clothing ablaze.

"They all rushed to the afterpart of the ship in a stampede that carried those who were near the rail overboard against their will.

"At one time it seemed to me as if the women and children were pouring over the sides like a waterfall. As we made for the shore the captain blew his whistle in one continuous blast and soon boats of all descriptions were making for us from every side of the river.

"I was rescued by a launch just as the boat settled close to the shore.

"When she was grounded the flames had spread over the entire upper and lower decks. There were only a few spots on the boat untouched by the flames and in these were piled up men and women who had fainted, and falling, pinned others to the deck.

"The men from the tugs who could get near the steamboat shouted for those on board to jump, and then the small boats picked them up by the scores."

From all that can be gathered no alarm was sounded when the fire was discovered, but the crew tried to extinguish the flames without alarming the passengers.

Those in the after-portion of the boat did not know it was on fire until the flames had swept back on them. Then there was nothing to do but jump overboard or be burned to death.

survivors of the disaster, gave the following account of his terrible experience, his mother and little brother being drowned before his eyes:

"When we left the pier the decks were packed to the limit of their capacity. The band was playing, the children were frollicking about and we were all having a fine time.

"As we neared Hell Gate children were called down to the lower deck, where ice cream and soda water were served.

"The children were falling all over each over in an effort to get to the tables which held the refreshments. With my mother and my little brother Paul, I went to the engine room to watch the machinery.

"Suddenly and without the least warning there was a burst of flame from the furnace room that rushed up through the engine room and flashed out about us. The flames spread with the rapidity of an explosion, setting fire to the clothing of the women and children who were grouped about the engine room watching the machinery.

"There was the most terrible panic as the burning women and children rushed out among those surrounding the ice cream and soda water tables screaming with pain.

"In the terrific scramble my mother and little brother were swept from me and carried toward the side where the children and women with their clothes burning had begun to jump into the water. The flames spread in bursts that soon had the entire deck enveloped.

"The crew were helpless to render any assistance or make efforts to check the advance of the fire. We were just passing through Hell Gate when the fire started. The captain headed the boat toward North Brother Island and the pilots who were with him yelled frantically to us to stay aboard until they beached the boat.

"But in a moment after the flames had burst from the engine room great numbers began to jump overboard. The women were wild with fright, and snatching their children to them leaped into the whirlpools that carried them towards the rocks on both shores.

TREVES HONORED.

Philadelphia, June 15. — The commencement exercises of the University of Pennsylvania were held today. Besides 650 students who received diplomas, seven distinguished men were presented with honorary degrees. Among them were: Doctor of Laws—Sir Frederick Treves, sergeant-surgeon in ordinary to King Edward, and Jean Adrien Antoine Jules Jusserand, ambassador of France to the United States.

$2,000 PER FOOT.

Winnipeg, Man., June 15.—Some 400 feet frontage on Portage avenue near Main street, taking in the old Spencer block, has been sold for $2,000 per foot. It is said eastern capitalists have bought the property with the intention of erecting a large departmental store.

WEATHER BULLETIN.

TOMORROW—FAIR AND WARM.

London, Wednesday, June 15.
Sun rises..4:35 a.m. Moon rises..6:35 a.m.
Sun sets...8:01 p.m. Moon sets...9:31 p.m.
Toronto, June 14—8 p.m.

The weather in Canada today has been for the most part fair and warm, but scattered showers and thunderstorms have occurred in Ontario and Manitoba.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Dawson, 44—70; Port Simpson, 42—50; Victoria, 50—64; Kamloops, 52—82; Calgary, 38—76; Winnipeg, 46—62; Port Arthur, 46—70; Parry Sound, 58—72; Toronto, 50—68; Ottawa, 54—78; Montreal, 54—74; Quebec, 46—76; St. John, 46—64; Halifax, 42—76.

FORECASTS.

Wednesday June 15—8 a.m.

Today—Moderate westerly winds; fair.

Thursday—Moderate winds; fair and moderately warm.

TEMPERATURES.

Stations.	8 a.m.	Min.	Weather.
Calgary	40	40	Fair
Winnipeg	56	40	Clear
Parry Sound	60	48	Fair
Toronto	66	52	Cloudy
Ottawa	64	60	Fair
Montreal	60	60	Cloudy
Quebec	62	56	Rain
Father Point	68	58	Cloudy

WEATHER NOTES.

Showers have occurred in Ontario and Quebec, but fair, moderately warm weather prevails throughout the Dominion, with a favorable outlook.

The highest and lowest readings of the thermometer at the local observatory for the 24 hours ended at 8 p.m. Tuesday were: Highest, 76°; lowest, 50°.

NOT EARL GREY

London Chronicle Says He Will Not Be Sent to Canada.

London, June 15.—The Daily Chronicle says it is authorized to contradict the report that Earl Grey will be appointed Governor-General of Canada.

AMERICANS GOT THEM

Canadian Engineers Refused by the G. T. Pacific.

Winnipeg, Man., June 15.—In the evidence at the G. T. P. alien labor inquiry at Edmonton yesterday it was shown that although there were many applications from Canadians, nearly all appointments had gone to Americans.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

Petrolea Girl Badly Scorched by the Electric Fluid.

Petrolea, Ont., June 15.—During a thunderstorm yesterday afternoon, Tillie, the 11-year-old daughter of Charles Simmons, was struck by lightning while standing by the stove in the kitchen. She was badly burned about the right wrist and left thigh and leg, and was unconscious for some time. Medical assistance was at once called in, and it is thought she will recover. The legs and door were blown off the stove, but no other damage was done.

TUNNEL OR BRIDGE

M. C. R. to See if Former is Practicable for Detroit River.

Detroit, Mich., June 15.—President Ledyard, of the Michigan Central, before closing negotiations with the other railways for a bridge across the Detroit River, has decided to satisfy himself upon the merits of a tunnel for the same purpose. Accordingly there will be a full investigation of the tunnel proposition before any further action is taken with reference to a bridge. Enginers will make investigation of the Detroit River bed to ascertain if a tunnel is practicable.

THREE PERISH ON RIVER COULONGE

Employes of Eddy & Co. Swept to Death in Poplar Rapids.

Ottawa, June 15.—In Poplar Rapids, on the River Coulonge, three rivermen in the employ of the E. B. Eddy Company were drowned on Saturday. Their names are Gordon Macdonald, 20 years of age, stepson of Mr. R. H. McManus, Janeville; Joseph Miron, 23 years of age, son of Mr. Augustus Miron, Lett street, Ottawa, and Oscar Fournier, of Lac Ste. Marie, Que.

BUDGET DEBATE MAY STAND OVER

A Further Discussion of the Dundonald Incident Likely to Take Place.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Ont., June 15. — The budget debate was expected to close tonight or tomorrow at the latest. That was the arrangement reached some time ago between the party whips, but it is just probable that a discussion may arise today on the Dundonald case. If that happens then it will go on all day, and the budget debate will have to stand over. The correspondence in the Dundonald matter has not yet been brought down in full. There are letters which were written to Mr. Fisher by Col. Smart, which have been referred to in the House, but which have not yet been presented, and no doubt other correspondence. It may, on this account, that a day will be set for the discussion of the subject.

LORD AYLMER TO TAKE CHARGE

He Has Been Invested Temporarily With the Command of the Canadian Militia.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Ottawa, Ont., June 15.—Lord Aylmer was today invested temporarily with command of the militia. He will proceed at once to militia camps. He goes to Niagara first.

Sir F. Borden was asked today whether it was intended to ask the British Government for an officer to command the militia in place of Lord Dundonald. He replied that the bill now before Parliament provided for the appointment of an inspector-general. If the bill carried then the position of general would be abondoned. It is probably Mr. Laurier will make a statement to the House.

WRONGED MEN BLAMED.

Windsor, Ont., June 15. — Windsor merchants are complaining bitterly against the action of the Government in enforcing the law to close up hotel bars on Saturday night and Sunday. They say the young men of the city go to Detroit, become intoxicated and create scenes on the ferry boats and on Windsor street. Windsor hotelkeepers get the blame for the intoxication.

VLADIVOSTOCK FLEET FREE; NOW IN FIGHT WITH JAPS

Three Russian Cruisers in Big Naval Battle With Enemy in Korean Straits.

NOVIK GETS OUT OF PT. ARTHUR AND ENGAGES JAPS

London, June 15. — A dispatch to the Central News from Tokio, filed this (Wednesday) afternoon, says a naval engagement, is now in progress off Tsushima Island, in the Korean Straits, between three Russian cruisers, which escaped from Vladivostock, and a number of Japanese ships.

No details have yet been received.

The Central News' dispatch adds that the Vladivostock squadron was first reported June 14 from Oki Island, off Kiota, Japan, in the Sea of Japan. Later in the day cannonading was heard northwest of Nagato, on the Japanese coast in the Straits of Korea.

The captain of a Japanese merchant ship reports this morning that his ship was fired upon by a Russian warship.

Heavy cannoading was heard early this morning in the neighborhood of Oki Island, and subsequently came news of the engagement already referred to in the Tokio dispatch.

Tokio, June 15. — 10:30 a.m. — The Vladivostock squadron is reported in the Korean Straits. Firing has been heard on Tsushima Island, lying off the southwest of Honshiu Island. It is possible that an engagement is progressing.

Nagasaki, June 15. — 4 p.m. — A Russian naval squadron was lately sighted off Okishima Ken and Yamaguchi Ken, and sounds of firing, it is now stated, were heard yesterday off Iki Island.

Tokio, June 15. — The entrance to the harbor at Port Arthur having been cleared of obstruction, is now open for the passage of ships in and out. Yesterday the Russian protected cruiser Novik steamed out to sea and engaged with vessels of the Japanese blockading fleet.

Tokio, June 15. — Private advices have been received here from Kelsumuto, a town at the north end of Iki Island, in Krusenstern Strait, to the effect that an engagement was in progress between Japanese and Russian warships.

Nagasaki, June 15, 5 p.m.—A telegram received from Oki Island says that Japanese warships have engaged a Russian squadron near there and that the result of the encounter is not yet known.

LEFT VLADIVOSTOCK.

St. Petersburg, June 15., 3:35 p.m.—No information is obtainable here regarding the reported engagement between the Russian Vladivostock squadron and a Japanese squadron in the Korean straits. But it is quite likely that a naval fight has occurred or is about to occur. Vice-Admiral Skrydloff has left Vladivostock with the armored cruisers Gromoboi, Rossia and Rurik, and some torpedo craft.

As this fact is already known abroad the Associated Press betrays no confidence of the authorities here in making this definite announcemnt.

If the report that the Russian protected cruiser Novik made a sortie from Port Arthur yesterday is true it demonstrates that the entrance is free and doubtless was preliminary to the egress of the whole squadron for the purpose of effecting a juncture with Skrydloff's squadron. The news of a devisive sea battle may, therefore, arrive at any hour. Before Admiral Skrydloff left Vladivostock the Russian protected cruiser Bogatyr, which went on the rocks off Cape Gamova, was hauled off and towed into the harbor of Vladivostock. She is now in dock.

SAW THE FLASHES.

Che Foo, June 15.—Noon.—The captain of a steamer which passed through the Gulf of Pe Chi Li last Monday night reports seeing the searchlights of a large fleet, also flashes from their guns, 28 miles southwest of Port Arthur. This observation was made, the captain states, between 10:30 o'clock Monday night and 3 o'clock Tuesday morning. He was unable to discern the lights of any opposing vessels.

Chinese cruisers and land forces are watching closely to prevent the exportation of contraband goods for either of the belligerents. Complaints have been made that the Japanese are drawing a supply of fresh provisions from here.

A letter received here from Liao Yang says that the Russians are not downcast over recent reverses. The Russian report that the Japanese had suffered a severe reverse north of Kin Chou has not been confirmed.

JAP REPULSE AT VANFANGOW; THE RUSSIANS HEAVY LOSERS

Attempt to Dislodge the Czar's Troops Failed.

TWO RUSS LEADERS KILLED

St. Petersburg Believes the Japanese Have Received a Severe Check—Vanfangow Being Shelled.

St. Petersburg, June 14. — Emperor Nicholas has received the following telegram from Lieut.-General Baron Stakelberg, bearing today's date:

"A battle began at noon around the Russian position four and half miles south of the station of Wafanhoon (Vanfangow), the enemy making repeated attempts to dislodge our left flank. The attack was repelled and we retained our position.

"The first regiment occupying the left flank of our position sustained severe losses. Its commander, Col. Khavastounoff, and Adjutant Su-Lt. Dragostaff Nadochinsky, were killed. Gen. Gerngross was wounded, a shrapnel bullet shattering the right side of his lower jaw, but he remained on the field."

Emperor Nicholas has received the following dispatch from General Kuropatkin, dated June 15:

"This morning the advance of two Japanese divisions was discovered northward from Pu Lan Tien. The advancing forces at 2 p.m. were observed to extend from the village of Vand Chou along the valley of the Tassa, one division advancing by the Tassa valley. The enemy halted at 4:30 p.m., occupying the villages of Tao Tsia Tung, Chang Tsia Tung and Lui Tsia Tung and the heights southward of Vand Chou. I have not received detailed information of our losses today, but Lieut. Tcherepakhin and several soldiers were wounded. According to our intelligence, no advance of the Japanese from Siu Yen toward Taling Pass was observed today."

JAPANESE REPULSED.

The general staff has received the following dispatch dated June 13, from Major-General Karkevitch:

"During the nights of June 11-12 the Japanese attacked our advance posts near the village of Utsaten, south of Wan Fang Tien station and about the Pitsewo Pu Lan Tien line. The Japanese were repulsed with loss. The same night, after fighting lasting until morning our detachments took possession of the pass and heights near the village of Lui Tsia Tung. Our losses in these encounters were four soldiers killed and eighteen wounded.

"During the evening of June 8, Lieut. Lang, while engaged in a reconnoissance in the neighborhood of Ontachetsa, ten miles northeast of Ai Yang Meun, was attacked by two companies of Japanese. He succeeded in forcing his way through after a hand-to-hand fight.

SHELLING VAFANGOW.

A dispatch dated Liao Yang, June 14, says: "Japanese artillery today opened upon Vafangow (a station on the railway 25 miles above Kin Chau). Details are awaited.

MAY BE JAP CHECK.

St. Petersburg, Wednesday, June 15, 3:16 a.m. — The general staff remained in session until almost 2 o'clock this morning to translate and give out Lieut.-General Baron Stakelberg's message announcing the fight at Vafangow. This unusually late hour indicates that the authorities attach considerable importance to the dispatch.

It is thought here that the Vafangow affair may prove to have been quite a heavy fight. The fact that the Russians held their position in the face of heavy losses also supports this theory, and it is believed that it may turn out to be a severe check to the Japanese northern advance. The movement of 3,000 Japanese north of Kuan Dian Sian only adds to the blindness of the situation in the northeastern field of operations. It is unquestionable that the Cossacks have been worrying the Japanese north of Feng Wang Cheng, and the movement may be merely an effort to clear the country. At the same time this movement holds the possibility of a demonstration against Mukden, one of the main roads leading directly east from Mukden toward the region to which the Japanese are now advancing. The consensus of opinion, however, is that the advance is more in the nature of a demonstration than as preliminary to an actual attack.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

A special dispatch from Liao Yang, dated June 14, says: "Yesterday (Monday), at the battle of Vafangow, Japanese troops, numbering 20,000, tried to pass our flank, but were discovered. We changed our position, flanking the Japanese, and opened a heavy fire. The result is unknown." The same correspondent, in a later dispatch, says: "Today (Tuesday), the battle continues. The Japanese have opened a heavy fire on our center. On the night of June 12, southwest of Vafangdian, the Cossacks came in contact with the Japanese, and drove them from their position. We lost two men. The Japanese losses were 15 men and 20 horses." The date of the first dispatch does not agree with the Associated Press dispatch from Liao Yang or with Lieut.-General Baron Stakelberg's message to the Emperor, both of which indicate that the battle took place yesterday (Tuesday). It is thought improbable that there have been two actions.