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Japanese Draw a Cordon of Steel Around the Russians Ready to Fall on Linevitch and Annihilate His Army

KUROPATKIN OFF AG'IN, LINEVITCH ON AG'IN BUT THE RUSSIANS SEE THEIR FINISH-VITCH

New Commander-in-Chief Notifies the Czar That He Has Taken Command, But Nothing Doing as Yet.

St. Petersburg, March 18.—A telegram from General Kuropatkin to Emperor Nicholas, dated March 17, says: "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDERS OF YOUR MAJESTY, RECEIVED MARCH 16, I HANDED OVER TO GENERAL LINEVITCH TO-DAY THE COMMAND OF THE LAND AND SEA FORCES OPERATING AGAINST THE JAPANESE."

General Linevitch, in a telegram to the emperor, under the same date, says: "IN PURSUANCE OF THE ORDERS OF YOUR MAJESTY, I ASSUMED COMMAND TO-DAY (March 17) OF ALL OUR FORCES, MILITARY AND NAVAL, OPERATING AGAINST THE JAPANESE."

A couple of brief messages from Kuropatkin, dated March 16, say: "The rear guard of our armies was engaged March 15 on a ridge southeast of Tie Pass and near the village of Pelituan. At night the rear guard fell back to a position at the bend of the Liao River, near the village of Kamuluta, without being pressed by the enemy."

"On March 16, our armies continued their march. On March 15, the Town of Fakoman (25 miles northeast of Mukden) was occupied by Chinese bandits."

DISPERSED THE CAVALRY.

And Occupied the Heights North of the Tie Pass.

Washington, March 18.—The Japanese legation to-day received the following telegram from the foreign office at Tokio:

"On Thursday last our detachment on the right side of the Liao River dispersed eight Russian cavalry squadrons (which had artillery with them) and thus occupied the heights north of Tie Pass, on the right side of the Liao, and cannonaded the retreating enemy, which consisted of one infantry division and 10 cavalry squadrons."

JAPS CAPTURE 20,000.

Russians Still Continue to Retreat to the North.

Tokio, March 18.—(8 p.m.)—Beyond the general retirement of the Russians along the railway northward, little is known here of the details of the past three days' events in Manchuria. Various reports of the number of additional Russian prisoners captured are in circulation. One estimate is 20,000. It is impossible to confirm the reports. There is much speculation over the extent of the Russian retirement. Harbin is regarded as a logical base, but it is suggested that they may attempt to hold the Kirin line. The country between Kaiyuan and Sungari is inhospitable.

CASTRO WANTS FREE HAND

To Deal With France and the United States.

Paris, March 18.—Official advices are to the effect that President Castro of Venezuela is seeking to settle his complications with Germany and Great Britain, probably with the view of leaving him a free hand in dealing with the complications with the United States and France. The latter awaits the decision of the court at Caracas before determining its course. However, France has not subscribed to the position of some of the other European governments in entrusting to the United States the enforcement of rights against South American countries. On the contrary, this government expects to enforce its own rights, although whatever action is finally decided upon will undoubtedly be communicated to Washington, with a view of the securing of American cooperation.

Jewelry His Undoing.

William Fitzsimmons, who claims Detroit as his home, was arrested Saturday by Detective Forrest. He is charged with bringing a gold watch and diamond ring into Canada. The articles are alleged to have been stolen. Fitzsimmons has been stopping at 48 Nelson street.

HEAVY ACTION ON.

YINKOW, Manchuria, March 18.—It is reported that the Russian rearguard is fighting a heavy action in the vicinity of Kaiyuan, about 20 miles north of Tie Pass.

PUSH ON.

TOKIO, March 18.—Formerly the conservative element in the high councils of Japan favored setting a limit to the Manchurian advance. It opposed advancing to Harbin, but the results of the victory at Mukden are removing opposition and the bulk of opinion and judgment now favors pressing advantages and carrying the war to the utmost limits possible.

Japs Cut Telegraph Wires Pressing In On All Sides

St. Petersburg Admits That Its Manchurian Army Will Have to Be Sacrificed.

St. Petersburg, March 18.—Telegraphic communication with the retreating Russian army has been cut for over twenty-four hours, but the authorities hope it is only temporarily, declaring that they have no information that the Japanese have reached the railroad in General Linevitch's rear. Nevertheless, with the curtain down, the war office naturally is the prey of the direst forebodings.

The last word from the front was contained in a telegram from one of the Associated Press Russian correspondents, the only correspondent with the retreating army. It presaged an attack from the rear. The telegram, although dated Changtunfu (forty miles north of Tie Pass) at 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon, was sent from Kaiyuan, thirty miles north of Tie Pass, and reached St. Petersburg only this morning.

Brief, But Significant.
It was very brief, saying simply that the army was retiring in good order and destroying the railroad as it went, but was constantly pressed by the Japanese, the rear-guard action being continuous. There were ominous words in the concluding sentence, as follows: "WE BELIEVE THE JAPANESE ARE MAKING A WIDE TURNING MOVEMENT NORTH, AND THAT THEY ARE READY TO FALL UPON US WHEN WE GET OUT OF THE

WEST OPPOSES CLAUSES.

Ex-Mayor Cousins of Regina Speaks of Autonomy Bill.

Winnipeg, March 18.—Ex-Mayor Cousins of Regina, who has been twenty-three years in the Territories, speaking on the feeling of the people of the Territories, said: "It has been stated in the debate in parliament that the people of the Territories are fully satisfied with the autonomy bills, with the exception only of the educational provisions. This is far from being the fact. The people of Medicine Hat, for instance, passed resolutions opposing the educational clause, the lands clause and the election clause."

"All the deformities of the bills are not yet known, I venture to say. For example, the bills impose on us our present electoral system, whereby the enumerators have practically absolute power until such time as the Dominion parliament chooses to change it. Ought we not to have the right to make our own election laws?"

"I believe, personally, that the government will withdraw the bills. The people of the Territories would infinitely prefer to have them withdrawn rather than have them go thru in their present form."

"We are white, and we are of age, and we believe we are entitled to full provincial rights."

BIRTHS.

RUSSELL.—At 102 Walmer road, on Tuesday, March 14th, the wife of J. T. Russell of a daughter.

RING-LIKE GROUP OF MOUNTAINS WHICH SURROUND THE TIE PASS GORGE.

In the long retreat to Harbin the Russians only have the advantage of the Mandarin road so far as Kaiyuan, whence it bears eastward to Kirin, while the railroad continues north to Harbin. According to the general staff, however, a good wagon road runs parallel to the railroad.

But for an army of a quarter of a million men, encumbered with impediments, with an active enemy relentlessly pursuing and operating on its flank, and the constant threat of the enemy closing the line of retreat, it is admitted that the single railroad and wagon road afford poor prospects of Gen. Linevitch being able to bring off the remnants of the army confined to his rear without a tremendous sacrifice of life.

Forced to Capitulate.
If the Japanese actually succeed in throwing a strong force across the line of retreat, it is recognized that the army might be forced to capitulate.

In the meantime the mobilization of a new army has already begun in several provinces, although the order has not yet been published.

A division of the Imperial Guards at St. Petersburg received orders to-day. The newspapers generally endorse Linevitch's selection as temporary commander-in-chief on the ground that Kuropatkin's lack of success made his supersession imperative. At the same time it is recognized that Kuropatkin's failure also rests on other shoulders, and pity is expressed at his sad fate.

SUNDAY WEATHER.

The weatherman says strong breezes and rains will blow to-day. The day will be unsettled and showery for the most part and colder at night.

BIG STICK IN SPOONER'S HANDS DEFIES THE WHOLE UNIVERSE

No Government in the World Can Take Anything from the United States, Says One Senator.

Washington, March 18.—Mr. Carmack of Tennessee caused an interesting diversion in the senate to-day by having the secretary read a despatch from Des Moines, Iowa, quoting Representative John A. T. Hull, chairman of the house military affairs committee, as saying that the Japanese were anxious to acquire the Philippines and proposed to take steps to seize them after the war with Russia was over. Mr. Carmack said the views expressed by Mr. Hull were concurred in by American naval officers in the far east, who were unanimous in the opinion that Japan resented the intrusion of the United States in Asiatic affairs and was disposed to bring the question of controlling the Philippines to the test of arms. He presented a letter from Secretary Taft, recently published, as to the in-

HOW HAWKEY RUTAN IN HIS OWN DEFENCE

Completely Contradicts Phil Lott's Story in Almost Every Important Detail.

Belleville, March 18.—(Special.)—The trial of Ed. G. Rutan for conspiracy in connection with bogus ballot boxes went on to-day. Pretty much the same evidence as that given at the preliminary investigation was presented, but a few new and important points came out.

CHARLES COCHRANE, proprietor of the Albion Hotel, Kingston, testified that certain boxes addressed to one Kerfoot had come to his place last October, and had been taken away by Rutan, who had told him the boxes were expected before they came.

LAYTON GUESS, liveryman, of Kingston, swore to driving Rutan and some boxes of literature from the Albion Hotel to Shibley's house at Harrowsmith.

Important Evidence.

Important evidence entirely new was given by Returning Officer Franklin of Frontenac, who swore that he had given 125 ballots to Deputy Returning Officer Hawkey, and the latter had denied receiving more than 100. The returning officer had then consented to credit Hawkey with 100, and had changed the figures in his sheet to correspond. Patrick Shortell, the returning officer's clerk, corroborated that official's testimony.

COL. PERCY SHERWOOD swore to examining the ballots cast in the riding of Frontenac, and finding that 25 ballots were unaccounted for. Messrs. Tapping and McDonald swore that a bogus ballot box was used by Hawkey on Nov. 3 at Clarendon and Miller poll. Robert Emmet Harpell told the story of the dropping of the boxes in Sydenham Lake.

He was fiercely cross-examined by Mr. Maybee, and the defence seemed to be trying to make out that it was Harpell and not Rutan who should be indicted for conspiracy.

Rutan in the Box.

The most sensational feature of the case came this afternoon, when Ed. G. Rutan took the witness stand in his own behalf. His evidence was practically a bland denial of nearly all Phil Lott and Harpell had said. He said he was working for Shibley copying circulars the day he was asked to drive Phil Lott to Kingston. He was sent for a livery rig, and when he came back Phil Lott was there. He drove Phil Lott to Kingston, but did not get a letter from Shibley to Reilly, as Phil Lott said. They did not discuss election matters, and never mentioned ballot boxes at all. Phil Lott, Rutan said, pulled the letter to Reilly out of his pocket, and asked Rutan to show him where Reilly lived. Rutan again denied that he carried the letter from Shibley to Reilly. Rutan also denied that Reilly drew diagrams of the boxes, as sworn to by Phil Lott. Rutan said he had been approached by Shibley to go to Whitney's Hotel and call for a couple of boxes of literature in

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SAW LOG INDUSTRY CLOSES ALL INTERIOR SALT WORKS

Utilization of Lumber Waste as Fuel Gives Sarnia and Windsor Control of Product.

The policy which compels the manufacture of Canadian sawlogs in Canada, beneficial as it is to the country as a whole, is just now giving some small Ontario towns a rather severe blow, by causing the salt wells to close down. The R. & J. Ranford Salt Works, at Brussels and Clinton, are shut down, as also are the McEwan Salt Works, at Salford. So are those at Goderich, except the Lake Huron and Manitoba Milling Company's well and those immediately on the lake. Others will likely close down within a week or two, under agreement with the Dominion Salt Agency, which controls the output of the Canadian Salt Company of Windsor, the R. & J. Ranford Company of Clinton, the Empire Salt Company of Sarnia, and the North American Chemical Company of Goderich.

Fear Mills Sufficient.

Salt is the sediment from brine pumped out of the earth, and evaporated by steam. Previous to the establishing of three of the largest sawmills in Canada, at Sarnia and Windsor, this steam was made from coal, but when the sawmills were established there was so much refuse that the slabs could not be sold, and to economize the refuse was used to create steam to evaporate salt. These four mills at Sarnia and Windsor can turn out 3500 barrels of salt a day, which is sufficient for the Canadian trade, and, as there is no expense in fuel to create steam, the refuse from the sawmills being of no other value, an agreement has been reached by which these wells will be developed to the full extent of the waste from the sawmills, and those at other places closed up.

Interior Works Handicapped.

The interior wells always have been handicapped, more or less, by the wells on the lake front. The farther inland coal had to be shipped the more expensive it became, and even in Goderich, where some of the wells were up town and coal had to be carted from barges to the wells there was quite a difference in the cost of the output compared with the wells on the lake shore, at which barges could unload their coal direct. Now, with practically a free fuel, the wells at interior places are put out of business altogether, and those at Goderich will also close up, except the Lake Huron and Manitoba Milling Company's well, which makes salt with the exhaust steam, and runs night and day the year round.

FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

Winnipeg, March 18.—The heavy rush of American immigration is now on permanently. Within a week nearly 100 cars of settlers' effects were handled from the States over the Soo line and to Canadian points by the C.P.R. alone. Minnesota, Iowa and the Dakotas are largely represented in the settlers coming in during this period.

The Royal Family.

Will be represented at Automobile Headquarters, 24 Temperance street, during the coming week. The Queen automobile in various models and the Royal Tourist.

The Royal Tourist is the automobile which was selected at the New York Show by a number of Toronto's most experienced automobilists, and will no doubt be the most popular high powered touring car on the Canadian market this year.

The Queen is a sixteen horse-power, side entrance, tonneau vehicle, at a popular price.

The Automobile & Supply Company will be glad to demonstrate the running qualities of these vehicles to those interested.

Adams' good Office Furniture—City Hall Square.

Wouldn't Pay for His Meal.

Peter Sarniter keeps an eating-house at 317 Yonge street. On Saturday afternoon Edward Newton, 117 Centre avenue, had his appetite with him. Peter's place looked good to him and he ordered a meal. After getting outside of it he refused to settle. When Peter insisted on payment it is said Mr. Newton assaulted him. Newton was arrested by P. C. Taylor.