

The prisoners, having been disarmed, were placed under strong guards on Colonel Shield's trains, which had been awaiting the result a few miles ahead, and taken to Nanaimo; whilst the wounded were given such assistance as was possible and subsequently transported to that city also.

"Cougar" Joe having selected a hundred men acquainted with the district was entrusted with the command of a company of scouts, and supplied with means of repairing the telegraph line (which had been cut at many points), as also the necessary instruments which would enable four expert telegraphists accompanying him to communicate whatever useful information he acquired whilst engaged in retracing his course towards the devastated city of Victoria in search of information. Immediately after their arrival at Nanaimo the Japanese prisoners were transported to Vancouver under escort, and thence to the interior.

Being interrogated by Gen. Woolmer-Williams Col. Toki stated that Gen. Vis-

count Taro Katsura was in supreme command of the Japanese forces; born in 1849 in the province of Negato, he belonged to the Samurai family and the Choshin clan: in the war with China he commanded the Third Japanese Division with such skill that the Chinese called his troops the "Ever Victorious Army." A brilliant soldier, he is also known as a great statesman, having attained a high reputation as Prime Minister of Japan.

The town of Nanaimo, within a very few hours after receiving news of the Japanese invasion, had been thronged with people from the outlying districts of Cowichan, Duncans, Chemainus, and the islands to the south; whilst the mining population to the north, even from Stewart and Comox poured in its hundreds of stalwart miners, prospectors, and hardy pioneers; men who were skilled with the rifle and inured to hardship; who needed no invitation, but came without delay from mountain and valley, on foot, or by boat and canoe to aid in defence of the country.

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