

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1905.

RUSSIANS DEFEATED IN BLOODIEST BATTLE OF THE WAR

Oyama Thundering at the Gates of Mukden While Kuropatkin is Evacuating Positions and Beating a Hasty Retreat Towards Tie Pass Where, it is Said, the Japs May Complete His Disaster--If the Japanese Can Cut the Railroad Now They May Bag the Whole Russian Army--Oyama Hailed Even by Russians as Greatest Since Napoleon.

Tokio, March 8--Advises received here indicate that General Kuropatkin is badly beaten in the bloodiest battle of the present war.

General Kuropatkin is giving ground before the armies of Japan and yesterday he abandoned positions south and southwest of Mukden, burning such of his supplies as he could not carry with him.

The Japanese artillery is thundering at the very gates of Mukden, which position the Russians still hold, but which they are admittedly prepared to evacuate, changing their base to Tie Pass, which is forty miles north of Mukden.

So far as the retreat has progressed it has been orderly. What the Japanese may have in store for the defeated army on its retirement northward remains to be disclosed.

There are reports that General Rennenkampf, the foremost cavalry general of the Russian army in Manchuria, has been cut off on the east from the main force and Japanese troops in considerable numbers are said to be already in the vicinity of Tie Pass.

The retirement unquestionably cost the Russians dear in the matter of supplies and heavy guns. Neither commanders nor correspondents have yet ventured to estimate the number killed or wounded in the eleven days of fighting.

The Russian casualties on the fight Tuesday on the left flank are said to have been fully 7,000.

St. Petersburg Throws Up the Sponge. St. Petersburg, March 9, 3 a. m.--The battle of Mukden has resulted in a Russian defeat. Field Marshal Oyama has once more proved himself one of the greatest masters of offensive strategy since Napoleon, while General Kuropatkin is now engaged in endeavoring to defend his title as a master of successful retreats and bring off his army with its immense train satisfactorily to Tie Pass where a position was long ago prepared with this contingency in view.

Only to the initiated is the news of the reverse positively known at this time. Emperor Nicholas and high military officers were informed by General Kuropatkin's adjutant Tuesday that Mukden must be abandoned and they received details of the beginning of the withdrawal as they appeared in excited portions of the official despatches given out yesterday.

The first positive statement was derived from the Associated Press despatch from General Kuropatkin's headquarters, the contents of which was quickly telegraphed to many Liberals from friends abroad.

The report probably will not be printed in this morning's papers, the government, through its policy of breaking bad news gently, only preparing the way by authorizing the publication of a number of preliminary telegrams.

From information in the possession of the Associated Press, it is known that General Kuropatkin contemplated retiring before the beginning of the battle, and that he hoped to accomplish it without serious combat. The Japanese, however, forced him to accept battle.

The great question now is whether Field Marshal Oyama has entangled the Russians in his strategic net sufficiently to prevent a successful retreat to 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 General Kuropatkin, who is now engaged in a literal race with the 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 in his retreat, but if he succeeds in turning over the army intact, with the principal portion of its artillery train, to his successor, the Russian case will be by no means desperate, for Oyama will again have missed his quarry and a comparatively barren victory will have been purchased at enormous cost of life.

All reports indicate that the Japanese were utterly reckless of sacrifice, making attack after attack against machine guns and infantry fire which literally mowed down the advancing columns making human flesh so cheap that the survivors could bastion themselves behind piles of corpses.

After this action General Kuropatkin's disposition may be regarded as certain. War Minister Sakharoff is named as his probable successor, though Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholasewitch or a duke of sanguine temperament may be entrusted with the direction of affairs.

Great Quantities of Stores Burned. Mukden, March 8, 11 a. m.--Mukden is still in the hands of the Russians, but the withdrawal from the line of the Shalke River is in full progress. The Japanese are making a strong attack north of Mukden. The Russians have retired somewhat from the positions they occupied yesterday in the region of Tatchekiao, but are making a strong stand against the force here. The Russians also are holding the village of Ushuntun, which at nightfall was partly in the hands of the Russians and partly in those of the Japanese.

At 2 o'clock this morning the Russians succeeded in retaking complete possession of the village which is of great strategic importance for the successful accomplishment of withdrawal. No attack on the position at Masayapi has begun at this hour. The Japanese held the heights five miles west of Hushatun though Russian cavalry in this region yesterday drove in outlying parties.

Telegraphic communication with Harbin was destroyed by the Japanese early this morning but has since been restored. The Russians on Tuesday captured 500 prisoners, who appeared to be almost exhausted.

The losses on both sides have been enormous. The casualties on the Russian left flank on Tuesday exceeded 7,000. The burning of commissariat wagons and the destruction of supplies south of Mukden, which have been in progress several days is said by Russian officials to be complete.

Today the situation is more tense. A terrific cannonade is in progress and the streets of Mukden rattle with 10,000 drums.

"Retiring in Perfect Order" Again. Mukden, March 8.--The Russian army is leaving positions south and southeast of Mukden. The sky is lighted with the brilliant glare of burning warehouses, where tons of commissariat supplies have been given to the flames. The retirement is being effected in perfect order, the Russians warding off attacks of the pursuing Japanese. The withdrawal was necessitated by a heavy concentration of Japanese west and northwest of Mukden, whither they have transferred a large share of forces from the southern front to reinforce the original striking force of General Nogi.

The Russians still hold their position at Madyapu, where a strong attack is expected at any moment. A division of Japanese troops has appeared north of Mukden on the heights west of Hushatun station.

Except for lights at Ushuntun and Tatchekiao, Tuesday was quiet compared with the fighting on the previous days. The Japanese evidently were completing their transfer of troops.

The Japanese arrangements for furnishing ammunition along the enormous front is acknowledged by Russian officers to be admirable.

Japanese Cunning. Mukden, March 7.--One of the Russian detachments advancing on the Simintun road occupied the village of Zinwanche, near Tatchekiao, after a fierce fight, but subsequently were driven out by the Japanese, who are strongly defending Leichetkin, and are being reinforced from both the southwest and northeast.

The Japanese losses were considerable during the attacks on Pontiloff Hill. The Japanese on several occasions turned their backs to the Russian troops, pretending to fire on their own men, and played in the dim light the role of retiring Russians, and so far deceived the Russian forces that they succeeded in getting close to the Russian wire entanglements. The troops acting the part of pursuers were then following them up closely and the troops that had been shamming retreat suddenly turned and resumed the offensive.

Japs Announce Great Victory. Washington, March 8--The state department is officially informed from Tokio that the Japanese have achieved a great victory before Mukden, and that the Russian army is in full retreat. The casualties are numerous on both sides.

Evacuating Mukden. Mukden, March 8--4.30 a. m.--The Japanese last night attacked the Russian positions north of Mukden and forced the Russians to fall back a little. The Japanese are concentrating on the west front. This may be the last despatch out of Mukden, as the telegraph line is in danger of being destroyed. The battle is in full progress.

The Russian army is evacuating its positions south of Mukden. Terrific Cannonading. Mukden, March 8--10 a. m.--A heavy cannonading is in progress northwest of this city, causing the walls of houses here to tremble. An engagement is in progress at the imperial tomb.

Japs Have Held Ground Gained. General Kuropatkin's Headquarters in the field, March 8, via Pusan.--While at some parts of the long battle line the Russians have been able to check the advance of

JAPANESE HALTING BEFORE ATTACK ON RUSSIAN CENTRE BELOW MUKDEN



JAPANESE ADVANCE POINTS OF FIGHTING LINE STOPPING ON THE SHALKE RIVER FROM BUCKLE WHITE

the Japanese, their repeated fierce counter attacks no where have succeeded in forcing the Japanese from any of the ground gained.

In the present stage of the conflict the censorship is necessarily strict and the correspondent of the Associated Press is therefore prevented from attempting to describe the numbers and positions of the Japanese forces. These are fighting now along the Shalke river, where the Russians spent the winter.

Kuropatkin Criticized. St. Petersburg, March 8--A general who has just returned from the front, informed the Associated Press today, that General Kuropatkin's faults as commander in Manchuria are due to his bureaucratic training and his desire to keep everything in his own hands. Instead of relying on the judgment of the army commanders to carry out his general orders, he made of them simply orders for the transmission of specific orders to individual units and kept constantly before him a map showing the location, not only of the corps, but of the brigades and regiments, and undertook to control the movement of every unit.

"The genius of Napoleon," the general referred to added, "could not accomplish the task Kuropatkin set himself."

USEFULNESS (Arthur Gutterman.) Suppose my hair is brown and yours is gray, Suppose my powers grow and yours decline, What solemn scoldist shall dare to say That your avail in life is less than mine? Who gave him eyes to know creation's plan? Who gave him wit to watch his brother's do? Oh, let him live his life as best he can, And leave the weights and balances with God.

Slow, careful Age, and Youth with heedless rest, Still urge the world along, and who may claim That this or that one serves his fellows best, Or measure service done by wage or fame? We live for one another's happiness, And none is useless who with arm or pen Or word or smile gives joy or cheers distress. Yea, none is useless that hath love for men.

River Traveling Bad. Caleb Fox, of Lewis Cove, Queens county, who drove to the city Tuesday, reports the river to be in bad condition, that in some places the slash was up to the horse's knees.

The total diamond output of South Africa to date is put at £45,000,000.

GLAMOUR I have read so long in the Book of the Brave, I hear the tramp of their feet In the quiet village street. I catch the round of an echoing cheer, 'Tis down the night wind, faintly clear, And the drums' unaltering beat.

I have read so long in the Book of the Brave, Their flags go streaming by, Sharp comes the sentry's cry, The shaded light of my study lamp Seems a low glimmer from some still camp Where the sleeping soldiers lie.

I have read so long in the Book of the Brave, I march where the heroes are; On my breast I feel a scar, I turn to gaze on the rayless night, The gloom is chief by a hearse light, And behind--the bronze star! --Lulu Wheldon Mitchell, in the Century.

Copper Company Under the Hammer. Sydney, N. S., March 9--(Special)--The entire property and plant of the Cape Breton Copper Mining Company at Coxheath was sold today at public sale and bought in by Joseph A. Gillies, of this city, for \$30,000. Mr. Gillies, acting in behalf of the bondholders of the property,

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