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TWICE-A-WEEK EDITION VICTORIA, B. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1904. NO. 54.

JAPS REPULSED FIERCE ASSAULTS

Russians Suffered Severely in Attacks Made on Armies of Oku, Nodzu and Kuroki.

The Japanese Admit the Loss of Fourteen Guns--St. Petersburg Has Not Abandoned Hope That Kouropatkin May Be Able to Resume the Offensive.

Mukden, Oct. 18.—1.30 p.m.—The Russian forces at 11 o'clock this morning penetrated the Japanese centre, and it is reported captured 11 or 12 guns and 150 prisoners east of the railway.

At another point during the day the Sikhuan regiments took 24 guns. The Japanese after a terrifically stubborn resistance were compelled to retire along their whole line, losing heavily. In some places there were 600 corpses of the Japanese. In spite of this the Japanese were undaunted.

They have brought up siege guns and have left no stone unturned to retain the mastery of the situation. Every step the Russians have pushed forward to-day has been in the face of a stubborn resistance that has cost the Russians dear.

The Japanese seem to be willing to fight until they are annihilated. To-morrow will be the day of the battle which will decide.

MUST PROTECT THE HUN RIVER BRIDGES. St. Petersburg, Oct. 17.—The news from the front to-night is more reassuring, from the Russian standpoint. The situation is still regarded as very critical, but General Kouropatkin is apparently holding the Japanese firmly on his front and right wing, even having reached Shikha river, and the withdrawal of most of an extensive Japanese flying movement, both on the east and west, is no evidence that they are actually retreating.

General Kouropatkin's left wing has been heard from, and the Associated Press has the first connected account of the fourth day's fighting in front of Lushan and Saitchou, resulting in the final withdrawal of the strong Russian column which had been sent to turn the Japanese right.

The situation at this date may be described as follows: General Kouropatkin has slightly advanced his centre, occupying Shikha. Directly behind him, at a distance of nine miles, lies the Hun river, and across the bridges spanning this river the Russians must retire in case they retreat on Mukden.

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REPORTS FROM THE JAPANESE ARMIES. Tokyo, Oct. 17.—The following report dealing with yesterday's events reached Tokyo to-day: A small body of the enemy at Kao-kunchi retreated before our pursuit, part of which halted at Hsu pass and part at Kaoti pass. Our pursuing column occupied Ouanchi.

The enemy's head on the field in the direction of our left army on October 17th increases the total to about 4,000. They remain in front of the left army, but they are too numerous to count.

On July 26th Ansha and Ojokel mountains were bombarded, and then attacked by the Japanese, who were repulsed with heavy losses. The attack on Ojokel mountain was renewed successfully the next day, the Russians defending their position bravely.

On July 26th the Russians were forced to retire from a new line they had occupied. Since then the Russians have fought several active battles, and later in the day the Japanese successes were accomplished there, but they were careful considering the momentous difficulties the Japanese encountered in a

country which is a string of natural fortresses almost impregnable. The Russian losses were about 1,600, while those of the Japanese were 1,000. In advancing the Japanese right has moved 20 miles to the left, about ten miles from its present position in front of Port Arthur.

MADE TWO ASSAULTS ON THE LEFT ARMY. Washington, D. C., Oct. 18.—The Japanese legation has received the following cablegram from Tokyo: "Marshal Oyama reports that on Monday night the enemy twice made fierce assaults on the front and the right column of our left army, and some small assaults in the direction of our centre and right armies. We repulsed them all inflicting heavy losses."

THE CAPTURE OF GUNS BY THE RUSSIANS. Tokyo, Oct. 18.—1 p.m.—The Russians enveloped Gen. Yamada's column on Sunday, October 16th, and captured 14 guns. The Russians are now concentrating in front of the left army, under Gen. Oku, and the centre army under Gen. Nodzu, and another great battle is expected.

FIGHTING WAS IN PROGRESS LAST NIGHT. Mukden, Oct. 17.—9.40 p.m.—Cannonading, ranging far beyond that of previous days of the fight, which is now entering on the second week, can be heard from the south.

THE CHINESE POPULATION OF MUKDEN DISPLAY LITTLE ALARM. Business in the streets and markets proceeds as usual. The wounded from the fight at Tumin pass state that some positions were under fire from both sides, and that it was impossible to remove the wounded.

IT IS ALLEGED THAT JAPANESE SEARCHING PARTIES WORKING AT NIGHT HAD BEEN WOUNDED, AND WHENEVER A REPLY WAS MADE IN RUSSIAN, BAYONETED THE SUFFERERS. Some, it is said, saved themselves by feigning death.

MASSING BEFORE THE RUSSIAN CENTRE. St. Petersburg, Oct. 18.—The general staff has received the following dispatch from General Sakharoff, dated to-day: "The Russians repulsed a Japanese attack on the right wing during the night of October 17th, and seized the village of Shalandy, on the bank of the Shikha river, and east of Shikha."

ARTILLERY FIRE LASTED ALL NIGHT. Mukden, Oct. 18.—5.30 a.m.—It rained during the night, but the Russian artillery did not cease for a moment. The day broke cold and with a cutting wind. The roads have been ruined by the rain.

REPORTS OF SUCCESS OF RUSSIAN TROOPS. St. Petersburg, Oct. 18.—2.08 p.m.—The issue of the bloody drama below Mukden is still in the balance. There is no attempt to minimize the severe character of the reverse suffered by General Kouropatkin's army, but as yet there has been nothing absolutely decisive.

ARE TERRIBLY BATTERED. The Emperor this morning received Kouropatkin's and Sakharoff's reports of the Russian attack on and capture of the village of Shalandy, half way between Lone Tree hill and Shikha, and simultaneously the storming of the former, thereby gaining two positions of the highest importance on the south bank of the Shikha river.

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by Gen. Kouropatkin or Gen. Sakharoff, except in a reference to an unsuccessful Japanese attack near Shikha. The Associated Press Mukden dispatch evidently refers to this affair in reporting that the Japanese left had been beaten off with terrible slaughter and its retreat cut off by a Russian army.

There is no official confirmation here of the report from Tokyo that a Russian attack on the Japanese right on October 17th had been repulsed. If this report should prove true it may be serious for the Russians who crossed the Shikha while the river was fordable. According to the Associated Press Mukden dispatch the water has since risen, man high in consequence of heavy rains, and therefore it will be well nigh impossible for the Russian army to recross the river, owing to the absence of bridges.

It becomes more and more evident that the resources of the country cannot support a large army. Gen. Kouropatkin remains with the troops, having abandoned his headquarters at Mukden. It is reported that the Japanese made a furious attempt to take a wooded hill near Da pass last night. The firing began at 11 o'clock and continued with little let up through the night.

TRYING TO FIND WEAK POINT IN LINE. Mukden, Oct. 17.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The continual vigilance of the combatants, and especially the serious attacks by the Japanese army on the Russian advance, promises further fighting, although already there have been nine days of unprecedented and exhausting conflict. The Japanese have been alternately testing the Russian centre and right flank, holding the Russians in a bitter day-to-day resistance in the line of front. The Japanese apparently feared another Russian advance would develop a superior force of reserves.

THE RUSSIAN LOSSES DURING THE BATTLE. Mukden, Oct. 18.—The fighting of October 17th was confined to the Russian centre at Shikha river, and was mostly artillery fire, the Japanese using big guns and high explosive shells.

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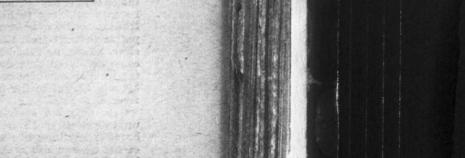
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HON. A. G. BLAIR WILL NOT ENTER POLITICS

Ex-Minister Finally Disposes of Opposition Hopes That He Will Oppose the Government.

(Special to the Times.) Ottawa, Oct. 19.—The statement that Hon. A. G. Blair intends taking the stump against the government in the present campaign is not correct. He made the explicit statement to your correspondent that he had no intention of going into politics.

Asked if he was going to practice his profession, he replied he was going to be professionally employed. In regard to the stand taken by Mr. Blair on the Grand Trunk Pacific, which was that he stood aloof, being in favor of neither political party, there is no reason to believe that he has changed his mind. In fact it is said that in his communication to the Premier he has made this clear.

Now that Mr. Blair has given up the chairmanship of the railway commission he would naturally want to be left free to defend himself should occasion arise of his views being misinterpreted by either side. That he intends going back to New Brunswick is also denied.

Seen this morning Mr. Blair said that he will not be drawn into any controversy over what appears in newspapers. He has made his statement, and he thinks it is sufficient. For the present he is going to act on the board until his resignation is accepted. Although he will not hear any more cases, he says he is going to assist in preparing judgments in those that have been heard, that is in all cases where the evidence is complete. This applies to the Western cases.

As to what position Mr. Blair intends accepting, there is some room for speculation, but after all there is not very much, as there are not many openings in Canada where a salary of more than \$10,000 can be secured. His principal complaint against his present position was that the salary was too small.

ably owing to rain and the impassable condition of the roads. KOUROPATKIN SAW OKU AND STAFF. Mukden, Oct. 15.—(Delayed in transmission.)—Toward evening of October 11th the Russians moved forward, Gen. Kouropatkin personally directing the operations on the centre right flank, where the fighting was the hottest.

Standing there, Kouropatkin could see through his field glasses a group of Japanese officers on the opposite heights at a distance of three or four miles, and in their midst a hoisted battle flag. These were probably Gen. Oku and his staff watching the progress of the battle.

RUMOR THAT JAP FORCES IS ISOLATED. Mukden, Oct. 19.—Lone Tree hill, won by the Russians after a desperate struggle, was the object of a gallant but unsuccessful attempt at recapture by the Japanese. In spite of the awful slaughter with which they had been driven from the hill, the Japanese returned to the charge during the night of October 17th. Recognizing that the hill was the key to the position on the southwest front, nine regiments participated, creeping up through the night and delivering a furious assault at dawn. But the hill has been bought too dearly by the Russians to relinquish it, and the Japanese were driven back with terrible slaughter.

It is reported that Gen. Mistchenko's Cossacks, under command of Adjutant-Gen. Gavriloff, were engaged in a hot fight on October 17th towards the southeast. A Cossack horse battery silenced the Japanese guns and drove back several Japanese battalions, but were unable to capture the guns, which the Japanese succeeded in carrying off.

Shakha station, or what is left of it, has been recaptured by the Russians, who will shortly reopen it for railway traffic with Mukden. It is reported that the Russian army is advancing.

News has just been received that the Japanese left has been driven back with heavy losses and its retreat cut off. A Russian regiment is now being hurried to the scene in the hope of completing the rout.

An officer has just returned from Gen. Mistchenko's division and reports that a sanguinary fight has taken place at Laitchou, fifteen miles southeast of Shakha, to which Gen. Kouropatkin has returned in order to preserve communications between the Russian centre and eastern flank. The October 17th was a determined attempt to cut the line of communications at this point and attacked under cover of a terrific cannonade. Out of two companies of the Russian rifle brigade fifty men only were left. Two companies that had expended their ammunition prior to the last Japanese attack lay in the trenches until the Japanese were within a few paces, then the Russians hurled a volley of stones, charged and broke the attacking line, compelling the Japanese to flee.

There was a furious day-to-day on both sides of the great Mandarin road. Gen. Kouropatkin is indefatigable, personally directing the forward movements. Nothing seems to affect him, but he wears his

usual quiet smile under all circumstances. The last Japanese defenders of the Lone Tree hill, two artillery officers, refused quarter and died fighting with their swords beside their guns.

BAYAN REPORTED TO HAVE GONE DOWN. London, Oct. 19.—A dispatch to the Morning Post from Shanghai says it is reported there that the Japanese shells have sunk the cruiser Bayan in the harbor of Port Arthur.

BATTLE MAY BE RESUMED IN FEW DAYS. Mukden, Oct. 19.—5 a.m.—Yesterday passed off quietly. No firing was heard last night. The Japanese appear to be slowly falling back.

A glance seen above their encampments may indicate that they are burning their stores prior to withdrawal. This morning broke chilly but clear. As soon as the roads are drier, a resumption of battle is probable, as the Russians are in close touch with the Japanese.