

BATTLE AT PING YANG

Terrible Slaughter of Chinese Soldiers in Northern Corea.

Force of Twenty Thousand Almost Surrounded by the Japanese Army and Partly Annihilated.

CHINESE LOSS ABOUT 16,000

While that of the Victors Was Less than 300 All Told.

The Celestials Surprised by a Night Attack, Thrown Into a Panic and Bayoneted by Hundreds.

LONDON, Sept. 17.—A dispatch received here from Seoul, dated yesterday, says that during the evening of Thursday last a Japanese column from Pong San made a reconnaissance in force, drawing the fire of the Chinese forts and ascertaining accurately their disposition. This done, the Japanese fell back in good order, with little loss. On Friday night all the Japanese forces were in position for a combined attack. The German column was threatened by the Chinese left flank. The Pong San column was facing the Chinese center and the Hwang Zu column was operating on the Chinese right. The latter column had been reinforced the day before by a detachment of marines and late jackets from the fleet stationed at the mouth of the Tai Hong river. The Chinese utilized their old defenses at Ping Yang and had thrown up new works with the result that their position was exceptionally strong. The battle opened on Saturday morning at daybreak, with a direct cannonade upon the Chinese works and this fire was continued without cessation until afternoon. The Chinese fought their guns well, replying effectively to the Japanese fire. At 2 p. m. a body of Japanese infantry was thrown forward in skirmish order and kept up a rifle fire upon the enemy until dusk. All the fighting during the day was done by the Pong San column. The Chinese defense suffered exceedingly from the fire, but it is not thought the losses on either side were great, as the troops, both Chinese and Japanese, took every advantage possible of the shelter, which the earthworks on one side and the nature of the ground on the other afforded them. The flank attacks upon the Chinese position did not develop any material advantage during the day, although the Japanese gained in position, but they mainly occupied the same ground at night as when the attack was opened. Firing was continued, at intervals, throughout the night. In the meantime the two flanking columns of Japanese drew a cordon around the Chinese troops and at 3 o'clock in the morning the Japanese attack was made simultaneously by all the columns, and with admirable precision. The Chinese lines, which were strong in front, were found to be weak in the rear, and the Chinese, unsuspecting of the Japanese attack from that quarter, were taken by surprise, became panic-stricken and were cut down and bayoneted by the hundreds. So well was the Japanese attack directed that the Chinese were surrounded at every point, and eventually sought safety in flight. Defending the intrenchment, however, were some of the Japanese. Hwang Chang's picked Chinese troops, drilled by Europeans. These soldiers made a determined stand to the last and were cut down to a man. The Pong San column, swarming over the trenches of the Chinese front, completed the rout of the Chinese and the whole of the latter's position was captured by the troops of the Mikado.

CHINESE LOST 16,000. Some idea of the manner in which the Japanese attack was made may be judged from the fact that half an hour after the early morning attack commenced the strongly-defended position of Ping Yang was in the hands of the Japanese troops. It is believed that the Chinese position at Ping Yang was defended by 20,000 Chinese, of whom only a few succeeded in escaping. The Japanese victory was brilliant and complete. An immense amount of provisions, arms, ammunition and other stores, in addition to hundreds of flags, were captured by the Japanese. Among the most prominent commanding officers in the Chinese army were captured. The Japanese loss was trifling when compared with that of the Chinese, only a few Chinese being killed and 250 wounded. Eleven Japanese officers are included in these numbers. The loss of the Japanese was practically nothing during the first day's fighting. The loss of the Japanese during the night attack was very small, due to the fact that the Chinese, taken by surprise, became panic-stricken, threw away their arms and fled, thus throwing into confusion the regiments which otherwise might have been counted upon to make good their position. The Japanese, when this dispatch was sent, were in active pursuit of the fugitive Chinese, and as nearly all of the latter were without arms, having thrown them away during the panic, they will undoubtedly surrender so soon as the active operations of the war in China are concerned, the war is practically at an end for a long time to come, and the main land of Corea may be said to be completely in the hands of the Japanese. The Koreans who have shown sympathy for the Chinese and a few detached bands of Chinese troops may continue a guerrilla warfare for some time to come, but until China succeeds in getting another army into Corea that country will remain in the undisturbed possession of Japan. And, in view of previous reports received as to the condition of the roads in the north and the utter impossibility of moving guns and supplies southward, it is not likely that there will be any fighting of importance in Corea during the present year. The Japanese are, naturally, highly elated over their victory, and it is hoped that it may serve as the basis for peace negotiations.

A dispatch received to-day gives further details of the capture of Ping Yang by the Japanese forces. The Chinese were thrown into the hands of the Japanese strong par-

ties of infantry and cavalry were assigned to the surrounding of the town. A search was made of the houses for Chinese soldiers, and many were found and taken to the Japanese lines. The Japanese in their final assault several thousand of the Chinese defenders threw down their arms and fled panic-stricken to the northward. The Japanese, however, controlled the entrance to the town, and the Chinese found their retreat in this direction cut off. Whole regiments seeking to escape from their arms were compelled to surrender. It is now stated that the number of killed will not exceed 2,000. The remainder of the Chinese army, some 15,000 men, are either wounded and in the hands of the Japanese or are unhurt prisoners of war.

The Emperor of Japan has telegraphed to the Japanese army, congratulating the victory he has achieved over the enemy. The field marshal has issued an order in which he commends the troops for their action. The dispatch adds that the Japanese outnumbered the Chinese three to one. Their artillery was also vastly superior to that of the Chinese. The Japanese army column is now pushing northward for the purpose of securing the passes, and thus preventing another Chinese army from marching into Corea. A proclamation has been issued promising protection to the Koreans as they refrain from acts of hostility toward the Japanese.

Confirmed at Washington. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—A telegram has been received at the Japanese legation announcing that a general engagement between the Japanese and Chinese forces took place at Ping Yang, near the northern frontier of Corea, on the 15th inst., and resulted in a decisive victory for the Japanese.

BRITAIN AHEAD OF US. Why Uncle Sam Has Not a New Treaty with Japan. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—In the ratification of the new treaty between Great Britain and Japan, at Tokio, on Aug. 25, the United States, for the first time since Commodore Perry, in 1854, opened the ports of Japan to our trade and negotiated the first treaty of commerce, has allowed a European power to take the initiative in forwarding the recognition of Japan as a fully civilized sovereign power. This occurred through no lack of a desire on the part of Japan to accord its first place in such negotiations, and, in fact, a mutual effort to arrange a new treaty has been making for the past ten years. This undoubtedly would have been successful and the United States would have preceded Great Britain in cementing the friendship between Japan and the United States by a treaty of commerce, and the initiative in forwarding the recognition of Japan as a fully civilized sovereign power. This occurred through no lack of a desire on the part of Japan to accord its first place in such negotiations, and, in fact, a mutual effort to arrange a new treaty has been making for the past ten years. This undoubtedly would have been successful and the United States would have preceded Great Britain in cementing the friendship between Japan and the United States by a treaty of commerce, and the initiative in forwarding the recognition of Japan as a fully civilized sovereign power.

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Friends Discuss Social Purity and Rejoice at the Overthrow of Congressman Breckinridge.

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