



JAPANESE PRESSING ON. ENCOUNTERS ON YALU.

Sharp Skirmishing, but No Confirmation of Great Battle.

Reports received by the State Department of a great battle north of the Yalu, resulting in a Japanese victory, lacked confirmation. The Russian official dispatches gave details of the skirmishes which accompanied the Japanese advance, but made no mention of a serious engagement.

Heavy fighting, according to the recent advices from the front, is not far off, the Japanese armies having continued the movement to gain a foothold in Manchuria, although the main bodies have, apparently, not yet crossed the river.

A Danish royal decree said that in order to enforce neutrality in case of the spread of warlike operations to Denmark's neighborhood inner sea passages would be closed by mines, and warships of the belligerents would not be allowed to enter the harbor of Copenhagen.

HAMPERING THE ADVANCE

Russians Harass Japanese—Kuro-patkin Well Pleased.

St. Petersburg, April 30.—An official dispatch has been received at headquarters concerning affairs on the Yalu up to April 28. It is as follows:

Official reports received in the last few days state that on April 22 a movement was seen among the Japanese troops on the Yalu, small detachments moving on the left bank. On April 23 larger bodies concentrated opposite Wuju, and the Japanese proceeded to cross by small detachments. About two companies, with a small body of cavalry, crossed at Siao-Poussikhe. From the evening of April 24 onward reports began to come in to the effect that the enemy was preparing to cross at Wuju, Turen-Cheng and Tchao-Chen-Ling.

On the following day the Japanese endeavored to throw bridges across the eastern arm of the Yalu opposite Turen-Cheng and Siao-Poussikhe. Toward 3 o'clock in the afternoon they occupied the island of Samalinda, and spent the night of April 25 on an island north of Sandakou.

The Japanese, who numbered fifteen hundred, were received by the fire of our light cavalry, who, being numerically inferior, took heat and retreated to the right bank, whence they kept up a lively fire, occupying a narrow path along the bank, sheltered by a sharp ascent. Our light cavalry lost the chief of the detachment, Lieutenant Semenov, and eighteen men wounded, but their severe fire at short range against the Japanese in close formation must have inflicted considerable losses.

At 10 o'clock on April 26, by their firing on the island opposite Turen-Cheng, our guns destroyed the bridge across the eastern branch of the Yalu toward the island of Samalinda, forcing the Japanese to cross at the passage of the river by pontoons south of Wuju.

Toward midday a detachment of Japanese with a battery of artillery began a march upon Turen-Cheng, but meeting with the fire of our artillery, they retired in disorder and confusion toward the place of their passage. The Japanese battery did not have time even to come into action.

At 9 o'clock in the evening of April 27 some three battalions of Japanese crossed the Yalu at the village of Matoutseou, over the eastern branch of the river. The night of April 27-28 passed quietly.

On the morning of April 28 our scouts reported that the Japanese had occupied an island opposite the village of Sandakou, having screened advance posts on the left bank of the river. Our troops continue to occupy their positions on the right bank of the river.

All news from the front indicates that the armies of General Kuroki and General Oki, comprising about 100,000 men, are being rapidly pushed forward, and will be thrown across the Yalu as speedily as possible. Japanese transports have also appeared at the mouth of the river, and, supported by a few warships, will assist in the operations. The Japanese seem to be following closely the tactics pursued by them in the Chino-Japanese War, having already occupied Kullen-Cheng, above Antung, where they crossed in 1905.

The opening of serious land fighting is considered to be not far distant, but, although the Japanese are now crossing at several points above Wuju, a heavy movement of troops may not begin for several days. It is believed that the Japanese anticipated more resistance on the Yalu than they met, and that for this reason their armies were not in a position to cross at the moment the advance forced a passage. With the advance body some guns were hurried over and the Japanese posts entrenched. Desultory picket firing is going on but no importance is attached to it.

KUROPATKIN'S STRATEGIC PLANS.

While the Russian plans never contemplated a strong resistance to the Japanese on the Yalu, it is evident that the latter expected a show of defence of the river. In explanation of this it is intimated by members of the general staff that General Kuropatkin has some secret plans and that the Japanese may soon find themselves in a trap. In General Kuropatkin's skill as a strategist the Russian army puts a blind faith. Many of the officers say that as chief of staff Kuropatkin was largely instrumental in organizing the victories of General Skobelev, and delight to tell how, two years ago, at the big field manoeuvres at Moscow against Grand Duke Sergius, Kuropatkin drew the whole of the Grand Duke's artillery into an ambush, ending the campaign at a single stroke.

It is estimated here that it will take the Japanese at least a week to bring over their men and baggage and to prepare for an advance upon the first Russian line, which is strongly posted near Feng-Wang-Cheng, fifty miles west of the Yalu, on the Peking road.

FLANKING MOVEMENT.

The general staff does not believe that it will be possible for the Japanese to deliver a successful frontal attack upon this position, the country being exceedingly difficult and favorable for ambushes. The members of the staff are inclined to think the Japanese may try a flanking movement to the northward, but say that if they do so it can only be a diversion, owing to the bad condition in which the roads will be for the next fortnight.

Within the last few days General Kuropatkin has advised the Emperor that he is well satisfied.

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All purgatives are too harsh to be persevered with. Bohn's Laxatives cure constipation without causing the least nausea or discomfort.—Adv.



DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE MEETING AT ALBANY.

NEWS OF TWO CAPITALS.

AFFAIRS IN LONDON.

No Mediation in Far East—Cost of War—Royal Academy Pictures.

(Special to The New-York Tribune by French Cable.)

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London, April 30.—The rumor mongers have ceased chattering over the chance of mediation and intervention in the Far East. The Russian government has announced authoritatively that it will carry through the war, and at the end of the campaign conduct negotiations with Japan directly, without allowing the intervention of any European power. This is virtually what Lord Salisbury said when outsiders attempted to embarrass the Foreign Office in the Boer war, but the Russian note contains a reminder, easily understood, that the settlement reached between the two fighting powers will not be revised like the treaty of San Stefano by the European Congress. The rumors of mediation have come from German sources, and have been caught up in France, where public opinion is not wholly reconciled to the new relations of friendship with England, but prefers undiluted partisanship for Russia. The English press, with the analogies of the Boer and the Spanish-American wars pointing against meddlesome diplomatic activity, has not taken a serious view of the Continental rumors, but it is apparently convinced that undue enthusiasm for the Japanese cause is a fatal error of judgment. "The Spectator" says bluntly that England stands to lose in any event. Henry Norman, in the new number of "The World's Work," contends strenuously that Russia will win and that the Japanese will resent British inactivity. Japan will prove a most embarrassing ally if the conquest of Manchuria and its restoration to China be the ulterior aim and defeat be courted. Japan, if victorious, must assume a protectorate over China and create a revival of Oriental ambition which may be troublesome to the English in India. Diplomatic speculation is more copious than war news. The raid of the Vladivostok squadron on Port Gensan was not a decisive or brilliant operation, yet it was helpful to Russia as an indication of the facility with which Japanese sea transport can be harried. The earlier accounts of Japanese fanaticism and Russian cruelty were too strongly colored, and the sinking of the Kinshtu Maru, according to the revised version, was a less barbarous affair. Land operations are still suspended, and the two hundred newspaper correspondents are mainly employed playing billiards.

The cost of the war is a problem which interests financiers. The Russian expenditures for the first six months are estimated at \$200,000,000, and the Japanese outlay at \$140,000,000. Russia expended \$500,000,000 in a single year of warfare with Turkey, and the present campaign, with 400,000 troops in the field, ought to be even more costly. There is no market for either Russian or Japanese loans here, but the value of money is falling at Berlin, and financial operations are possible there.

The government here has escaped the budget votes with two narrow majorities. The tea trade is making a vigorous protest against increased duties in Ceylon, and the Indian merchants contend that it is the heaviest tax on tea since the time of Charles II, and that colonial trade will be destroyed by the importation of inferior Chinese tea. Mr. Balfour is indifferent to colonial protests when the free trade budget has relieved him from immediate critical anxieties. The ministers are pulling the boat easily in slack water, and Mr. Balfour's hand is alone on the tiller. Mr. Chamberlain is taking care of his health and carrying out the pledges given to Mr. Balfour, but the Tariff Reform Commission is working vigorously and systematically, and receiving strong support from the great industries and income tax payers. Winston Churchill's consent to stand for the Liberals of Manchester in the next election was not unexpected. At least half a dozen Free Trade Unionists will follow him, but as the pioneer backslider from Toryism he will read his title clear to the Under Secretaryship of the coalition Devonshire Ministry, if the present government can be bowled out by hook or by crook.

The opening of the St. Louis Exposition receives generous treatment in the English press in long dispatches and descriptive and historical articles. The British exhibit is regarded as comprehensive and well organized and strong, especially in the artistic and educational sides. It divides attention with the new Sargents in the Academy and Watts's grand statue designed for the Matoppo Hills, where Cecil Rhodes is buried.

The Royal Academy collectively is a poor exhibition. Nearly all the painters are distinctly below their own average. Sargent is better than last year, with three notable successes and three failures. The best work is the portrait of the Countess Lathom in a rich brown evening dress, with gauze floating over her bare arms, and brown wraps behind. The face and the figure are painted with restful dignity, and the brush work in the dress is amazing. It rivals Van Dyck's most picturesque portraits in

Continued on fourth page.

ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION OPENED.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT STARTS THE MACHINERY FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

Secretary Taft Speaks for the National Government—Ceremonies Witnessed by the Greatest Crowd Ever Known in St. Louis.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis was formally opened yesterday afternoon with impressive ceremonies, and in the presence of a vast throng.

President Roosevelt pressed a key in the White House that set the machinery in motion, and delivered a brief address.

On the exposition grounds addresses were made by Secretary Taft, as the personal representative of President Roosevelt; ex-Senator Carter, of the national commission; President Francis of the exposition company, Senator Burnham, Representative Tawney, Mr. Skiff, the director of exhibits; E. H. Harriman, representing the domestic exhibitors, and Michel Lagrave, Commissioner General for France, for the foreign exhibitors. A hymn written by E. C. Stedman was sung.

PRESIDENT STARTS IT. THE OPENING EXERCISES.

Machinery at St. Louis Set in Motion from the White House.

Washington, April 30.—President Roosevelt today pressed the gold key which completed the electrical circuit and released the gigantic power of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis, putting in motion the 40,000-horsepower machinery and the cascades on the exposition grounds. The ceremony occurred in the East Room of the White House at precisely 1:14:30 o'clock, Eastern standard time. As the President pressed the key the 3d Battery of Artillery, stationed on the grounds of the Washington Monument, fired a national salute of twenty-one guns. Congratulatory messages were then exchanged between the President and David R. Francis, president of the exposition company. The ceremony was witnessed by a notable assemblage. Among those who were guests of the President in the East Room were the members of the Cabinet, except Secretary Taft, who is in St. Louis as the personal representative of the President; the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, Senator Frye, president pro tempore of the Senate; Speaker Cannon of the House of Representatives, ambassadors, ministers and other representatives of foreign governments; the Missouri delegation in Congress and prominent people in civil life. The Marine Band, stationed in the vestibule of the White House, furnished music.

Half an hour before the actual opening of the fair the invited guests assembled in the East Room, where arrangements for the ceremony had been completed. The telegraphic facilities were under supervision of Major Benjamin F. Montgomery, of the signal corps, chief of the telegraph and cipher bureau at the White House. Three circuits between the East Room and the Administration Building of the exposition were provided by the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company. One was installed as a circuit over which the President released the mechanical power of the exposition, another was employed for the interchange of messages and the third was held in reserve in case of the failure of either of the other two to work properly. The connections were made by insulated cables through the switchboard in the White House telegraph room. The mahogany table which supported the telegraph instruments was in the south end of the East Room. On it rested a great dais, covered with blue and gold plush, to the top of which was attached the gold key with which the President closed the circuit. The same dais and the same key have been used on several similar occasions. In 1893 President Cleveland used the key in starting the machinery of the Chicago Fair, and in 1898 it was used to start the exhibit of the American Electrical Institute. The key and dais have been in the possession of General E. S. Greely, President General of the Sons of the American Revolution. At the table, arranging the preliminaries, were Major Montgomery and E. W. Smithers, the chief operator of the White House. The St. Louis end of the circuit was directed by P. V. Degraw, a bell circuit connected the telegraph table with a signal bell on the roof of the White House. As the President pressed the key Major Montgomery pressed a bulb he held in his hand, that action ringing a bell on the roof. Instantly Private B. F. Hill, of Company B, of the signal corps, who stood there, dropped a flag, thus signalling the battery of artillery that the machinery of the fair had been started. The salute followed. The battery was in command of Captain Charles T. Sumner, First Lieutenant E. P. Nones and Second Lieutenant Henry P. Kilbourne.

The members of the Cabinet, members of Congress and other civilian guests assembled in the

Continued on second page.

DOCKERY OVERLOOKED.

No Place for Missouri in World's Fair Programme.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

St. Louis, April 30.—Governor A. M. Dockery of Missouri was left off the programme for the opening of the World's Fair, and so was Missouri. The State had one to stand up for her on the platform, and her name was not mentioned officially. Mayor Wells of St. Louis was on the programme to speak for the World's Fair city, but Missouri and Missouri's Governor were overlooked.

Governor Dockery to-night recalled what he and the State had done for the World's Fair. He spoke of the Missouri Building being the finest among the State buildings, of the \$1,000,000 appropriated by the State, of the laws passed giving the World's Fair Corporation what was asked, and, finally, of the State holiday which he, as chief executive, had named at the request of the World's Fair management in honor of the opening day. He is a sadly disappointed man, and the members of his personal staff are decidedly angry, and not backward in expressing their anger. They feel that an affront has been offered the chief executive of the State. They say that he can make as good a speech as anybody on the programme, that he had a better State to talk about than had any other opening day speaker, and that he should have been invited to speak.

All this morning, until everybody went out to the opening, Governor Dockery's friends were telling him how badly they thought he had been treated. They said that they were making their first and last visit to the fair. They tried to include the Governor in this statement, but he would not say positively whether it was his last visit to the exposition.

YALE MEN IN FIST DUEL.

Fight to Settle Dispute on Top of East Rock.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

New-Haven, Conn., April 30.—Two Yale athletes, Samuel Alderman and William Leavenworth, fought a fistie bout on the top of East Rock this afternoon to settle a dispute. Their controversy began late on Friday night, when Alderman was escorting two young women home. Leavenworth walked past and said something like this: "Come around to my room if you want some old clothes." Alderman, who deals in students' clothing, resented the remark at such a time, and he replied to Leavenworth in spirited language. One challenged the other to go out on the green and fight it out, but it was decided that the police might interfere, and as they wanted to satisfy their honor it was decided to select a more secluded spot.

The top of East Rock was named, and this afternoon the principals walked there with their friends. They got down to business. They made their ring rules, and agreed to hit each other at any time, but not to hit foul. Alderman weighs 134 pounds more, and Leavenworth about fifteen pounds more. Alderman is about 5 feet 6 inches tall, Leavenworth 5 feet 10 inches. Leavenworth had the better of the fighting from the start, and Alderman called out after twelve minutes that he was ready to quit. After they had shaken hands, the two left the field with their friends.

Leavenworth was one of the Yale halfbacks last fall. He captained the freshman eleven a year ago. He is a Sheffield Scientific School junior. Alderman is a member of the senior class in the law school. He was the champion middleweight wrestler of Yale a year ago.

YALE ATHLETE SECRETLY MARRIED.

Last Year's Freshman Crew Captain Weds Daughter of Iron Manufacturer.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

New-Haven, Conn., April 30.—William James MacMahon, Yale's freshman crew captain last year, quietly slipped away last month and married a schoolmate's niece, Edna MacKay, of Pittsburg, daughter of a wealthy iron manufacturer. The wedding took place on March 18, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. Dr. Richardson, rector of the Church of the Ascension, Pittsburg. The wedding was announced to-night.

Mr. MacMahon has returned to his studies in the Yale Law School. His bride is at her home. MacMahon will complete his law school work and will probably be a member of the Yale crew and football eleven next year. There is no rule at Yale which removes from college, or even from athletic teams, a student who marries.

THE THOMAS TAKES OUT \$17,000,000.

Silver Coin for the Philippines—Soldiers for Honolulu.

San Francisco, April 30.—The United States transport Thomas sailed to-day for Manila by way of Honolulu. She carries 22 recruits for the army in the Philippines, besides the 26th and 2d batteries of artillery, which are to be stationed at Honolulu. Her treasure vault contained \$17,000,000 in silver coin for the Philippines, and she had a full cargo of army supplies.

FAST TRAVEL ON ENGLISH LINE.

London, April 30.—A train on the Great Western Railway this evening eclipsed all records for the conveyance of American mails between Plymouth and London, covering the distance of 247 miles in 237 minutes. The last 118 miles of the run were made in ninety-nine minutes.

MEYER STATE CHAIRMAN

M'CARREN LANDS A PLACE.

Tammany and Up-State Leaders Displaced—Haven Betrayed.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Albany, April 30.—Smoothly and noiselessly the wheels of the Hill machine to-day ground out Cord Meyer, of Queens, as chairman of the Democratic State Committee and Senator Patrick H. McCarren, of Kings, as chairman of the executive committee. Charles F. Murphy was not present to witness the final consummation of the Hill control. He sent Thomas F. Smith, secretary of Tammany Hall, as a proxy, and an explanation that he was physically unable to stand the strain incident to seeing his Brooklyn opponent, Patrick H. McCarren, named as executive chairman. There was only one feature that marred the otherwise harmonious execution of the plans of the Hill platform, and that was the protest of M. Z. Haven, ex-Senator Hill's original candidate for State chairman, against the violation of the pledge made to him that in return for his work at the Syracuse primaries he should be named as State chairman. Thirty-eight votes to one smothered this protest founded on a promise at the State committee meeting. Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed after the meeting by up-State members because New-York City was so largely represented on the executive committee.

Nothing could have been more striking than the well ordered and well oiled proceedings of the Hill machine. When the State committee assembled and the doors had been closed on the proceedings, ex-Lieutenant-Governor Sheehan arose and moved that the State committee be allowed to go outside its own ranks for a chairman. M. Z. Haven, of Syracuse, to whom had been promised the place, and who made a vigorous protest at a preliminary caucus, demanded



CORD MEYER. Chosen chairman of the Democratic State Committee yesterday.

a rollcall on this proposition, involving his political execution. This was granted, and ex-Senator Hill was reasonably sure of his strength, and Haven cast a single vote against the motion.

CASSIDY PROPOSES MEYER'S NAME.

Borough President Cassidy of Queens then proposed the name of Cord Meyer as State chairman, and without opposition the motion was carried. With similar dispatch John N. Carlisle was re-elected secretary and William F. Balkan treasurer, to succeed Eugene Hughes. John A. Mason was re-elected to his onerous post as clerk, and then State Committeeman Burgard, of Erie, the representative of Norman E. Mack, arose and named the list of members of the executive committee, headed by Senator Patrick H. McCarren. Without any protest from the Tammany members this part of the programme was put through. Senator McCarren was named as chairman, and the following members of the committee were named, with power to increase their number: Ex-Mayor Hugh J. Grant of New-York City, who took the place offered to Charles F. Murphy and spurned by him; W. S. Rodie, of New-York City, an officer in the Manhattan Club and a close personal friend of Chief Judge Parker; George Hall, of Ogdensburg; J. J. Kennedy, State Committeeman from Erie, and ex-Lieutenant-Governor William F. Sheehan, also credited to Buffalo.

This ended the Hill programme, and the committee promptly adjourned, the Tammany men fleeing to the railroad station to escape the city. One of the chief features of the meeting was the absence of the Tammany "gold plated delegation" that attended the previous meeting. W. Bourke Cockran, Senator Victor J. Dowling and Senator Thomas F. Grady were all absent, as were Patrick H. Keahan, William Dalton, Daniel F. McMahon, Thomas J. Dunn, Harry C. Hart and Thomas McAvoy. Borough President Haven, of the Bronx sent a proxy, but the other Tammany committeemen did not even take the trouble to do this. "Big Tim" Sullivan was the chief Tammany light present, and he was discreetly unobtrusive.

SOME SATISFACTION FOR TAMMANY.

Tammany members endeavored to get some satisfaction out of the naming of Cord Meyer as State chairman. They claimed him as a regular member of their organization, by virtue of the fact that he is a vice-president and a fully authenticated member of the Democratic Club. A good deal of discussion was provoked as to whether or not Meyer bolted the ticket in 1890, and the retiring chairman of the State committee, Frank Campbell, insisted that he had been twice refused when he sought to negotiate a campaign contribution in that year. A certificate of regularity was, however, patched up for Meyer as soon as the question of campaign "sugar" was fully discussed. It was recalled with apprehension, however, that Meyer "also ran" for Secretary of State in 1903, the Maynard year.

The flat refusal of Charles F. Murphy to serve on the executive committee, that is, to serve under the chairmanship of Senator McCarren, a position diplomatically offered to him by ex-Senator Hill, created no surprise, and ex-Senator Edward Murphy, Jr., of Troy, named ex-Mayor Hugh J. Grant in his stead.

The whole performance of the meeting accentuated the fact that ex-Lieutenant Governor William F. Sheehan is rapidly becoming a rival of ex-Senator Hill in the Democratic camp. Recognized as the personal representative of Chief Judge Parker, he is able to do business with the Tammany leaders, who will have no dealings with ex-Senator Hill. The suggestion was advanced on many sides to-day that he had personally arranged the election of Cord Meyer with Charles F. Murphy, and forced him on ex-Senator Hill. The abandonment of Haven.

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Adv.