

following the capture of Ma-Chun-Tan, the Japanese renewed the assault on Tita and dislodged the Russians.

Various reports are in circulation concerning prisoners of war, but it is impossible to obtain trustworthy information as to the number taken.

Field Marshal Oyama, in an order directing the pursuit of the retreating Russians yesterday, prohibited his troops from entering Moukden in masses, in order to preserve respect for the tombs and sacred places of the imperial Chinese household and to protect the welfare of the inhabitants.

Although the extent of the success gained by Field Marshal Oyama's army is unknown, Tokio is already celebrating the victory. Flags are going up all over the city, crowds are eagerly buying extra editions, and congratulations are pouring into the office of the Minister of War and to the army staff headquarters.

RENNENKAMPF'S PERIL.

Russians Fear Eastern Corps Have Been Cut Off.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—St. Petersburg this morning knows little more of the outcome of the battle of Moukden than it knew Wednesday night. It is not even known whether the railroad has been cut and communications destroyed, though it is believed that the reported destruction of the line refers to the damage inflicted on Wednesday, which was not serious, though traffic was twice interrupted. It is evident, however, that the Japanese are pressing closer this indispensable line of retreat. Their shells occasionally cut the wires of the telegraph lines along the railroad, and civilian line-men are displaying no less bravery than their soldier associates by climbing the poles and replacing the wires under fire.

The most important news received from Russian sources is that the Japanese already have reached the Hun River. Pu Pass is only twelve miles east of Moukden and well westward of General Linevitch's line of retreat. Whether the extreme Russian line has already succeeded in retreating behind the Hun River and moving down the north bank of that stream to join General Kuropatkin's main force is not stated, but it is extremely probable that unless the Russians are able to defend the crossing at Pu Pass General Rennenkampf's corps and perhaps additional forces will be cut off and have to shift for themselves in the mountainous region north of Pu-Shun against expeditionary forces of Japanese, which are reported from Chinese sources to be racing toward Tie Pass. The censor allows no word to pass, but it was stated here yesterday that General Kuropatkin had been for some time assembling a force of reserves at Tie Pass and Harbin to defend the pass and positions until he can make his way back.

TIE PASS INVESTED?

New-Chwang Rumor of 80,000 Russians Surrounded.

New-Chwang, March 9.—It is reported that Tie Pass has been invested by the Japanese, and that General Kuropatkin, having no alternative, will probably be forced to surrender within a week.

The Russians have not been reinforced from the direction of Harbin since March 1. General Nogi's army made a forced march of twenty-five miles daily, and, acting in conjunction with General Oku's army, surrounded eighty thousand Russians in the direction of Tie Pass and cut off their supplies.

The hurrying Japanese armies passed a division of the Russians without giving it any attention until the enveloping movement was completed, when they crushingly attacked the Russians on all sides.

THE RAILROAD CUT.

Russian Losses Put at 10,000 in One Action on Northwest.

With the Japanese Left Armies, March 8.—The left armies have cut and destroyed the railroad between Moukden and Tie Pass. Details are not obtainable at present. The Russians are in retreat over the northern roads.

The left column of these armies is at Li-Kam-Pu, seven miles north of the Hun River and five miles west of the railroad, and has had a fierce fight with a Russian force thrice its number. The Russian casualties number ten thousand.

The Russian centre is retreating in great confusion.

Moukden, March 9.—The Japanese yesterday attacked the village of Fudiasa, northwest of the imperial tombs, and a stubborn fight followed, but the Russian advanced guard was obliged to abandon the village.

In the night the Japanese attacked the village of San-Tai-Tse, north of the imperial tombs. The Japanese outposts have reached Hiran-Chan, on the south front, and a heavy cannonade is going on there.

HOLDING HSIN-MIN-TUN.

Japan Asks China to Duplicate Favors Shown to Russia.

Tien-Tsin, March 9.—The Japanese have requested the transportation of 450 tons of rice to Hsin-Min-Tun. Unless the request is met, the Japanese threaten to seize the railroad. It is believed to be a test case. The Russians' constant shipment of wheat and coal to Hsin-Min-Tun was not interfered with, and the Japanese demand impartiality. To-day they again seized the telegraph office at Hsin-Min-Tun.

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RUSSIAN RESERVES AT THE TOMBS OF THE MANCHU EMPERORS, NEAR MOUKDEN.

THE COST OF RETREAT.

Vast Quantities of Stores Burned—Suffering of Wounded.

Moukden, March 8, 10 a. m.—An artillery fire is now being directed from the vicinity of the northern tombs against the Japanese forces which are crowding to the railway, where additional troops are assembled to meet this contingency. The narrow strip west of the railroad is literally covered with soldiers and military accoutrements.

The entire south front is now retreating, in conformity with a plan formulated in the consequences of the day's fighting, and the Japanese, apprehending the movement, are rushing north around the Russian right.

The evacuation of the Shakhe position involved several hundred miles of field and overland railways and telegraphs, enormous defensive works, Red Cross supplies, tents, fuel and forage stores. The military roads covered five hundred square miles. The smoke of battle and fire is everywhere obscuring the lines, and it is almost impossible longer to distinguish the configurations.

The hospitals here are now crowded, but the service continues adequate. Only sunlight and the mildness of the weather prevent indescribable suffering among the wounded, and the supports and reserves, who are obliged to dig deep in the wide, shelterless plain, and lie widely extended in order to escape the shrapnel which is sown broadcast for fifteen miles on the west, while all the troops on nearly ninety miles of battle line are constantly exposed.

THE FLANKING COLUMNS STRONG.

Japanese Said to Be Well Prepared for Russian Attempt to Escape.

New-Chwang, March 9.—Northwest of Moukden the whole front is said to be honeycombed with mines.

The Japanese have a large force at Tawa, on the main road, fifteen miles north of Pinglupa, and another large force to the northwest on both sides of the railroad.

Early this morning the Japanese captured Chinese couriers, carrying ruble notes, and beheaded them at Lao-Pin.

Japanese soldiers last night surrounded the European hotel here and captured four Russians. One of them says he is a German, but it is suspected that he broke his parole at Port Arthur.

THE RECAPTURE OF OUBENEPUSA.

Russians Storm Trenches Without Firing a Shot—Japanese General Killed.

General Rennenkampf's Headquarters, Madydan, March 7, morning.—In pursuance of orders to retake at any cost the positions at Oubeneppusa lost at nightfall, the Russians at midnight stormed and recaptured the hills in the centre. A wild review preceded the attack. The regiments selected for this service filed past General Rennenkampf in dead silence with pale, set faces illuminated by the rays of the moon. As the last set of fours passed the general turned his horse and departed, saying: "Send me word when you succeed."

His confidence was justified, for without a shout or firing a shot the storming column swept like a tidal wave over the successive lines of Japanese covering the hills.

Among the Russian and Japanese dead on the hills was a Japanese general in full uniform.

RUSSIAN REPORTS CENSORED.

General Kuropatkin's Dispatches Throw Little Light on the Operations.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—The general staff has made public the following dispatch from General Sakharoff, General Kuropatkin's chief of staff, dated to-day:

Several fierce attacks on the north front were made in the night. They were all repulsed. In other directions the night was quiet.

A dispatch from General Kuropatkin, dated March 8, says:

On the right bank of the Hun River the enemy has assumed the offensive toward Moukden from the northwest and the north. The centre and left flanks of our armies have fallen back without fighting on the entrenched positions on the right bank of the Hun River.

To-day the enemy attacked us on the north front, driving a small detachment of outposts from the village of Fudiasa, about two miles northwest of the village of Treitsan.

In the night Staff Colonel Sapoznik, a Knight of the Order of St. George, was killed. He had distinguished himself by his gallantry.

The attacks of the enemy on one of the Russian positions in the north near Moukden have been repulsed with heavy Japanese losses.

On the west front the enemy attacked our positions, near the village of Niu-Shi-San, but was driven back.

In the attack on our centre we captured a large number of prisoners.

There was no fighting elsewhere during the day.

M. BOULIGAN RESIGNS OFFICE.

Said to Have Consented to Retain Portfolio at Emperor's Request.

London, March 10.—The correspondent at St. Petersburg of "The Morning Post" says that the Minister of the Interior, M. Bouligan, resigned, but that the Emperor requested him to remain in office, and that he consented to retain the portfolio temporarily.



JAPANESE AND RUSSIAN GENERALS WHO LEAD THE OPPOSING ARMIES AROUND MOUKDEN.

RUSSIAN STAFF SILENT.

Information Refused—People Welcome Countrymen's Defeat.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—The general staff officers furnish no clear explanation of the situation at Moukden, declining to make public any details beyond those contained in the official dispatches.

The atmosphere of the War Office is intensely gloomy. The officials admit that General Kuropatkin has suffered a bloody defeat, but they say that it is not a disaster.

The most important development of the day is the report that a flying Japanese column has appeared northeast of Moukden and is heading rapidly west. This probably is part of General Kuroki's army, which is making a detour by forced marches and swinging around to effect a junction with General Nogi. If the manoeuvre succeeds the net will be closed.

It is said here that General Kuropatkin and his staff are now at Pan-Chia-Tun station, on the railroad ten miles below Tie Pass.

In addition to the Eastern Chinese Railway and the Mandarin road, it turns out that the Russians have a narrow gauge railroad connecting Moukden with Tie Pass, over which to effect their withdrawal.

The feature of the situation is the satisfaction of the Radicals, who do not attempt to conceal their joy, and frankly acknowledge that the bigger the disaster the better they will be suited. They seemingly would like to see half a million of their countrymen perish at the hands of their country's foes for the embarrassment it would cause the government.

One of General Linevitch's corps was hurriedly withdrawn last night and dispatched to the support of General Kaulbars's hard pressed forces, who were fighting off General Nogi's flanking legions west and northwest of the city.

At the same time the remainder of General Linevitch's army fell back to the north bank of the Hun River, where it checked temporarily the pursuing columns of General Kuroki, who hemmed him in west, south and east.

All day yesterday and last night wounded, munitions, baggage and stores streamed northward. The railroad and the Mandarin road were almost blocked at the last moment, notwithstanding the fact that an immense amount of stores was removed last week. The Russo-Chinese Bank moved to Tie Pass on Sunday.

The trains were run under the fire of Japanese guns, some projectiles reaching the railroad. General Nogi has already reached a point opposite the station of Sou-Ha-Tai, half way between Moukden and Tie Pass, but it is believed that his left is swinging still further north for a blow at the line of communications which would realize Field Marshal Oyama's plan for closing the iron ring.

While the defeat of Kuropatkin has revived the talk of peace, it is too early yet to measure its full effect. If Kuropatkin succeeds in drawing off his army, no matter how badly shattered, the War Office insists that the situation will be unchanged, repeating the old argument that Kuropatkin, with his army still intact, will again await reinforcements, while the Japanese will suffer under the disadvantage of lengthened communications.

One of the most persistent rumors here is that the Russian west front, which practically extends north and south to protect the line of retreat, has been broken, and that the bulk of the Russian army has been forced eastward in the direction of Pu-Shan. Should this prove to be true, General Eiderling's part of General Linevitch's army is certain to be trapped.

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STRENGTHENS BORDERS.

Russia Is Moving Troops Toward the Indian Frontier.

St. Petersburg, March 9.—Russia is steadily reinforcing her military strength, both in men and guns, in the direction of the Indian frontier. Sensational rumors of the dispatch of reinforcements for Russian Turkestan were current two months ago, but they were then denied. The Associated Press is now in a position to affirm their truth on the authority of a traveller of unimpeachable veracity, who has just arrived from Tashkend and who was a personal witness of military activity on the recently completed Orenburg-Tashkend and other strategic railroads through Merv to Krasnovodsk. Troops, guns and munitions of war have been moving southward for two months. Between the middle of January and the middle of February fifty-six military trains, mostly carrying artillery, arrived at Tashkend. The guns were mostly sent from Merv, whence a purely military railway line goes to Kuruk. The traveller in question was informed that Russian troops had crossed the Pamirs through Terek Pass and garrisoned Kashgar. The Orenburg-Tashkend Railroad was so crowded that the traveller was forced to return by way of Krasnovodsk.

The greatest secrecy is observed. Travellers, who are rare, must be provided with special permits from the Minister of War and are kept under the closest surveillance. The baggage of this traveller was twice seized and searched. It is most significant that local officials have been ordered not to permit Englishmen to travel in Russian Turkestan, and steamship captains on the Caspian Sea have been forbidden to allow Englishmen to land on the eastern shore. At Krasnovodsk the informant of The Associated Press was told that two English officers who were travelling in disguise are languishing in prison.

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AWAITING KAWAMURA.

English War Critics Expect Sudden Blow Eastward.

London, March 10.—In the opinion of English military critics, General Kuropatkin's forces are doomed to complete disaster. Careful study of all the avenues of possible escape and the dispositions of the victorious Japanese armies leads to the conclusion that the best he can hope is to save a mere remnant of his army after devoting whole divisions to slaughter. Much importance is attached to General Kawamura's mysterious, unlocated army, which is momentarily expected to complete the closing of the net around the defeated host by appearing somewhere in the extreme east, in the neighborhood of Ying-Fan, thus blocking the sole remaining route—Ying-Fan to Tie Pass through Wan-Kia-Kou Pass.

The "Daily Telegraph," in an editorial well reflecting the general opinion here, says: "The greatest battle in the world's history promises to end in the world's greatest military disaster. Even if Kuropatkin succeeds in snatching half his host from the terrible ring of fire, how can Russia hope to send out another army to dislodge the Russian forces? Kuropatkin's disastrous defeat ought to mean the end of the war, unless the Czar's blindness is incurable and he waits for further sledgehammer blows to fall, inevitable as those of fate."

RUSSIAN SHIPS USELESS.

London Hears Four of Rojestvensky's Are Too Heavily Armed.

London, March 10.—According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of "The Daily Telegraph," a telegram from Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky, not yet published, states that four of his warships are incapacitated for firing because they are too heavily armed, and that the problem of coaling has become so difficult that he feared he would be unable to proceed to the Far East. No further news has reached London concerning Rojestvensky's squadron, but reports are current at Dover that all the ships of the Baltic fleet have been ordered to return to the English Channel pending further instructions.

PEASANTS BURNING PROPERTY.

Eighteen Estates Sacked in Tchernigoff District—Troops Called.

London, March 10.—A dispatch from Kieff to "The Daily Mail" says:

Three hundred peasants from the Orlovka district are advancing southwesterly. Burning and looting of estates is going on. Eighteen estates have already been sacked. The Michaeloffsky sugar refinery, in the Tchernigoff government, has been burned, and all the employees have been robbed. It is also reported that the peasants have burned the Deruginoff refinery, belonging to the Crown. A strong military force has been sent to suppress the rising.

NEW RUSSIAN LOAN ASSURED.

Paris, March 9.—One of the bankers forming the syndicate which is floating the new Russian loan said to-day that the negotiations in Paris and St. Petersburg were practically completed. However, he added, the issuance of the loan will not occur before May, and may be further deferred. The amount of the loan is now fixed at \$100,000,000. The rate will probably be a shade higher than 4 1/2 per cent. This and other conditions are still under discussion, as the French bankers insist that the conditions should be exceptionally favorable, in order to secure a ready sale of the bonds. In the meantime the syndicate has privately underwritten the entire amount of the loan, which will not be offered to the public until its formal issuance.

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IRISH SECRETARY CHOSEN.

Walter Hume Long Accepts Post—Mr. Balfour's Majority Small.

London, March 10.—Walter Hume Long, president of the Local Government Board, has accepted the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland. It is expected that Premier Balfour will formally announce the appointment to-day. It is still possible, however, that a hitch may occur, as it is believed that H. O. Arnold-Forster, Secretary for War, who is in bad health and dissatisfied with the constant criticism of his work, has determined to resign. If this is so Mr. Balfour will be faced with new difficulties, and may be obliged to have recourse to a reshuffling of the Cabinet seats.

In the divisions taken in the House of Commons yesterday the government majorities were again dangerously small, owing to the difficulties the whips experienced in keeping government members in attendance. With a view to overcoming this trouble the tariff reformers have decided to dine together on Mondays and Thursdays in settlement of the North Sea claims and the incident was thus closed.

RUSSIA PAYS NORTH SEA DAMAGES

London, March 9.—Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador to Great Britain, today paid \$225,000 to Foreign Secretary Lansdowne in settlement of the North Sea claims and the incident was thus closed.

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