

DENY REPORT OF JAP VICTORY

RUSSIAN SAY BIG BATTLE IS NOT ON IN MANCHURIA.

Despatch From Kwantung Says 16,000 Japanese Attacked 30,000 Russians There—Washington Hears of Japanese Victory—Bridge Thrown Across Yalu.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—Official despatches have been received covering events of the supposed date of the Japanese victory on the Yalu, but they do not mention any such battle. They are mainly devoted to an account of small skirmishes, while the Russians were opposing the Japanese crossing of the Yalu between April 25 and April 28, in which the only casualties reported were nineteen killed on the Russian side.

Gen. Sassulitch in his report to Gen. Koupovskitch, which was dated today, says that the evening of the 28th, and the following night, Friday, passed quietly. He adds:

"The Russians continue to occupy positions on the right bank of the Yalu. The Japanese have not yet undertaken any active operations."

He also reports that only inconsiderable forces of Japanese have thus far crossed the Yalu. Small bodies of Japanese troops are moving along the right bank of the river, at the mouth of which steamships are arriving. Japanese columns have been seen passing from Yonampoh to Wiju, and their patrols have been south of Singiang.

RUINS OF BATTLE.

Japs Said to Have Attacked 30,000 Russians in Manchuria.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. KIAPANGTZE, Manchuria, April 30.—The first big battle of the war is reported to have occurred on this side of the Yalu River. Sixteen thousand Japanese crossed the river on Thursday and attacked 30,000 Russians, who were holding a strongly fortified position. It was reported this morning that the Japanese has been repulsed and that the battle continues.

It is stated that the Japanese sharpshooters killed many Russians, whose uniforms were conspicuous.

JAPS CROSSING SINCE WEDNESDAY.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—Japanese have been crossing the Yalu since Wednesday. They completed a bridge southeast of Wiju after five days of fighting.

A telegram from the Russian headquarters announces that the Japanese occupied the island of Somalinda, where the Russian scouts lost their leader and eighteen men. On April 25 the Russian fire destroyed the pontoon bridge across the eastern arm of the Yalu, compelling 4,500 Japanese to recross, and occupy an island near Wiju. From this place the engineers constructed a bridge to the mainland, and three battalions crossed despite the Russian fire.

Military authorities here consider it probable that the main Russian force will retire. Nothing has been reported as to the operations of Gen. Rennenkampf's cavalry on the extreme right of the Japanese position. The rapidity with which the Japanese are now advancing above Wiju may compel Gen. Rennenkampf to abandon his flank attack and fall back across the Yalu.

REPORT OF JAPANESE REVERSE.

LONDON, April 30.—A news agency despatch from Liyang said Friday announces that there has been further fighting on the Yalu. The Japanese met with some reverses while attempting to cross the river on Friday, and the Russians secured a brilliant victory. No details are given.

According to a despatch from Newchwang, the main Russian force is concentrating at Tieling, north of Mukden. There is no intention of holding the banks of the Yalu whence the troops are falling back on Fenghanchen.

WASHINGTON HEARS OF FIGHTING.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The State Department has received a cable despatch saying it is reported in Corea that a big battle between the Japanese and Russians has taken place on the Manchurian side of the Yalu, and that the Japanese succeeded in capturing an important position which the Russians were occupying.

No details of the engagement are given in the despatch, nor is it officially confirmed, but military experts here believe that the Japanese are endeavoring to establish strong outposts in Manchuria and that a number of engagements are likely to take place along the line of the Yalu within a very short time.

SINKING OF THE KINSHU.

Japan's Official Account Tells of Men's Refusal to Surrender.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The following despatch from Tokio, giving the Japanese version of the sinking of the transport Kinshu by Russian warships, was made public at the Japanese legation this morning:

"As Ninth Company, Eighty-seventh Infantry Regiment (peace strength about 150), were returning to Gensan in transport, Kinshu Maru, registered tonnage 2,389, after reconnoitering Yiwon and neighborhood, Hangyongdo, they were stopped at 11 P. M., April 25, off Sinpho, by three Russian cruisers and torpedo boats.

"The Russian then approached her. Ship's captain, accompanied by the superintendent naval officer and two other officers, went aboard the Russian, where they were at her disposal. The enemy gave no hour's respite for surrender, but soldiers, officers, discipline, obeying officers' order, refused.

"At 130 A. M. the enemy discharged a torpedo, whereupon our soldiers, forming themselves into lines on deck, exchanged fire with the enemy, during which many of our officers and men perished. At about 2 A. M. another torpedo was discharged, hitting engine room, split transport in two.

"Some coolies and merchants had previously taken to boats, and were subsequently joined by some soldiers after the explosion. Boats then rowed westward and after indescribable suffering men reached Sinpho on the 27th. There were forty-five petty officers and privates, six sergeants and three merchants. Most of crew and coolies appear to have been taken to the military camp.

"All military except above mentioned survivors were taken to have died. Of the company lost there were two Cap-

A DOLLAR DUMMY PLAINTIFF.

CLUB CARETAKER, WHO'S SUING AMERICAN SPIRITS CO.

Counsel for the Company Calls Him to the Stand—Put in to Keep the Case From Going to the Federal Court—Had 20 Shares of Stock Over Night.

Frederick G. Reeves, co-plaintiff with Ernest Bros. in their suit against the American Spirits Manufacturing Company for an accounting, was called to the stand yesterday by Levy Mayer, counsel for the company. The case is being tried in the Supreme Court before Justice Vernon M. Davis.

Mr. Mayer wished to show that Reeves was only a dummy plaintiff, and according to his associate, P. Lewis Anderson, had repeatedly had sought to bring the plaintiff into court, succeeding only when a deputy sheriff was sent for him.

Reeves testified that he was the keeper of the billiard room in the Republican Club of East Orange, and was a citizen of New Jersey. Then came this question and answer:

Q. Mr. Reeves, state to the Court the circumstances under which you became identified with the lawsuit that is now on trial? A. Well, sir, as near as I can remember there was a gentleman, an attorney, I believe, whom I personally know, and asked me if I would like to own twenty shares of stock in the American Spirits Manufacturing Company. I told him I did not see how I could at the present time, and he stated the case, that the Ernest brothers were about to make a dividend of \$100,000 for money which had been done away with, that they knew nothing about, and I told him that if he wished me to go into the suit and it was ungentlemanly to do so, which I did, and I took twenty shares, was turned over to me.

Reeves then testified that the certificate was turned over to him at the clubhouse by Hedley Cook, a member of the club. Questions as to Cook's occupation were interrupted by ex-Judge Dittenhoefer, the plaintiff's counsel who said that Cook was a lawyer in his office. The examination continued:

Q. And when he handed it to you what did you do with it? A. He said that I was a member of the American Spirits Manufacturing Company.

Q. And what did you do with it? A. I thanked him very much for his kindness.

Q. Did you give him anything for it? A. Nothing whatever.

Q. What did you do with the certificate? A. Mr. Cook holds it.

Q. How long was the certificate in your possession? A. One night.

Q. And did you endorse your name on the back of it? A. I think it is on the face of it or back. That I cannot swear to.

Q. That was before this suit was begun? A. Yes.

Q. Why did you hand it back to Mr. Cook? A. He told me that he would keep it for me in New York.

Q. Have you seen it since? A. No, sir, he never.

Reeves said that he got no receipt for his certificate, and then came the question: "What were you to get, if anything?" The witness replied: "That I did not care about, because the paper didn't practically cost anything. It was a gift from Mr. Carl Ernst to me."

The witness testified that he read and signed the complaint in the action, though he admitted that he doesn't know what a complaint is. He said that he knew the facts alleged in the paper "only as Mr. Cook represented them" to him.

Reeves said that he had once seen Carl Ernst, his fellow plaintiff, in the latter's office. He had gone there, he said, on Mr. Ernst's invitation, conveyed through Mr. Cook.

Q. Tell everything that was said and done by you on that visit between you and anybody that you met. A. I then met Mr. Carl Ernst and I introduced myself to him, and he just simply said that he wished to see me, that is all, and he paid my carfare and I left his office. That was all that was transacted.

Q. Anything said about the suit? A. Well, I believe Mr. Ernst did say to me, "Mr. Reeves, you know that we are in a suit," or entering a suit, or something similar to that, and that he wished to see me; that was all.

Q. Mr. Ernst handed you your carfare? A. Yes.

Q. How much? A. Well, he gave me a dollar.

Q. What was your carfare from Orange to New York and back? A. Forty-five cents.

Q. Did he ask you what your carfare was? A. No, sir.

Q. Did you tell him? A. No, sir.

Q. He just handed you a dollar? A. He handed me a dollar to defray expenses.

Q. Mr. Ernst said to you, as you have stated, that the suit was on trial or was about to be instituted, or something like that? A. Yes.

Q. And that was all? A. That was all that was said; he said that he wished to be able to say that he had seen me.

Reeves testified that he didn't know where the defendant company's offices were. Neither did he know its transfer agency or its registrar.

Q. Do you know what this litigation is about? Do you know anything about it? A. I read the papers when they were handed to me, and it appeared to me that the Ernest Bros. had done a great wrong, and if I could assist them in any way that was gentlemanly in procuring their funds which they were done out of, I was ready and willing to do it.

The witness said that it had been explained to him that he was wanted as a plaintiff to keep the case from "going to the higher court, or something like that." He couldn't recall being told that his participation would prevent the removal of the case to the United States Circuit Court.

Asked about Reeves' connection with the suit, Judge Dittenhoefer said last night:

"His testimony was not a surprise, indeed. Mr. Gerber, who is associated with me, stated at the opening of the case the facts that were testified to by Reeves on the stand. He admitted that Reeves was made a plaintiff in order to prevent the other side from carrying the case into the United States Court."

Ernest Bros. brought their first suit against the company in 1901, and that action was transferred by the defendants to the Federal court. Reeves was then made a party to a second action.

Prince Pu Lan's Gifts to Mrs. Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON, April 30. Prince Pu Lan, country of China, the commissioner of that country to the St. Louis exposition, who visited Washington this week, left some interesting gifts for Mrs. Roosevelt.

One of them was a carved lacquer jeweled belt, made at the palace at Peking. The Prince also presented two rolls of brocade satin, put up in silk boxes of Chinese manufacture and antique bronze jar and an antique porcelain vase. The Prince also left gifts for Mrs. May, wife of the Secretary of State, and for Mrs. John W. Foster.

DEWEY PORT WINE AND GRAPE JUICE. Are superior for medicinal purposes. H. T. Dewey & Sons Co., 138 Fulton St., New York.

Preserve your eyesight by using absolutely pure glasses made by Spencer's, 12 Maiden Lane.

EXHIBIT OF MOSQUITOES.

Purpose to Demonstrate the Fever Germ Spreading Theory at the Fair.

NEW ORLEANS, April 30.—One of the most remarkable exhibits for the St. Louis exposition arrived here to-day on the steamer Cuba, and will form a part of the Cuban display. It is a large collection of mosquitoes, charge of Dr. Federico Terralbas, formerly in the United States Marine Hospital service, and now a member of the Havana Supreme Board of Health.

Dr. Terralbas will exhibit the insects at St. Louis, and it is his purpose while there to illustrate the Havana theory of the transmission of the yellow fever germs. All the imported mosquitoes are healthy, but of the species which convey disease. None of them has become inoculated with the yellow fever germs. The mosquitoes in the cage are being fed on sugar and water.

This diet keeps them alive three or four days, which is long enough for them to deposit larvae. The eggs, or larvae, are hatched in a short time, and their life constantly increases. The dead are removed as fast as they die. Dr. Terralbas hopes to have 600 or 800 mosquitoes by the time he reaches the fair. With the sugar and water process he will keep a good supply on hand during the exposition.

In addition, Dr. Terralbas will erect a series of tents at St. Louis, provided with wire screens, the same as were used when the American and Cuban surgeons made a mosquito net for the purpose of showing the fever germs only propagated by mosquitoes biting human beings. Men will be employed for a practical demonstration.

MEAN THINGS ABOUT CHICAGO. Written by Gaius Marius Among the Ruins of the Ten Commandments.

This little old town is a good enough place for most New Yorkers—New Yorkers by birth or by saturation—and it doesn't lose much by comparison. One of the inoculated who is now at Mount Clemens, Mich., winding up a season's exile, has written home a few ideas of the other places gathered by the way. There are reasons for not telling why he picked out the Michigan health resort to prepare for home in any way ideas were not all he gathered on the road. Here is Chicago as the New Yorker saw it after three months of "Rum, razzle and the races" in New Orleans.

"Have you ever spent five weeks alone with your soul in Chicago? To begin with, it isn't a city; it's a geographical ulcer. The bacilli who inhabit it defy analysis. You can walk for ten hours without meeting a clean shirt or a clean conscience.

"At the end of two weeks I felt like the illegitimate child of Lucretia Borgia, by Benedict Arnold. At the end of four I was a moral Gaius Marius, sitting among the ruins of the Ten Commandments.

"After Chicago, what was left of me was sent here for repairs. This is a sort of medical Saragossa Sea to which nearly all the physical wrecks of the nation finally drift.

"Here they bathe in a delightful mineral water which can be reproduced at home by placing a gross of cheap matches in a tub of water and leaving them to soak all night.

"A person who can use all of his limbs is the object of gossip and suspicion. The man who could walk went away yesterday, but we are cheered by the rumor that he will arrive to-day who can use both his hands. And it is among these surroundings that I seek to eliminate the remaining R's of this rotten winter remorse and rheumatism."

He's coming home soon.

CONGRESSMAN RODENBERG WEDS.

First Met Bride While They Were Watching Kilauea in Eruption.

ASBURY PARK, N. J., April 30.—Congressman William A. Rodenberg of Illinois was married here this afternoon. The bride is Miss Mary Brent Ridgway, who formerly resided with her mother on the island of Hawaii. It was while on a visit here in 1901, while he was one of the civil service commissioners, to which place he was appointed by President McKinley, that Congressman Rodenberg first formed Miss Ridgway's acquaintance. For a whole afternoon they watched the great volcano Kilauea, then in violent eruption. He remained two months in the island. Lately he has been a frequent visitor in Asbury Park, where Miss Ridgway passed the winter.

The wedding, at 3:45, took place in the parlors of the Grand Avenue Hotel, Dr. John L. Taylor, pastor of the Presbyterian church, officiated. Mr. and Mrs. Rodenberg left for Asheville, N. C., this evening.

The Congressman's secretary, Edward E. Miller, returned to Washington, where, it is said, no inkling of the marriage had been received. It is noted, however, the fact became known and the Congressman was overwhelmed with telegrams of congratulation before his departure.

The bride is a descendant of John C. Calhoun. She is also a member of the old Ridgway family of Philadelphia. Congressman Rodenberg is a native of East St. Louis. He has been twice elected to Congress, and was renominated a short time ago for a third term. He is 38 years old.

RETURNED LOST BANK BOOK.

Whereupon Its Owner Has Berger Arrested, Saying He Demanded a Reward.

Charles Berger, a musician, who lives at 104 West 129th street, bought some second hand furniture at an auction last February and took it home. A dresser was among the things.

His young son rummaged among the drawers, found a bank book and was kicking it around the room when the musician came in. He saw the book and showed it to Clara Sidney had \$1,000 on deposit in the Greenwich Savings Bank.

The musician hunted for the woman, but could not find her for a long time. Finally he learned that an Edward Sidney lived at 64 East Third street. He went there and found that Edward Sidney said his wife had died last February and he had sold his furniture. He had a dresser such as the one sold at auction.

He did not know that his wife had money in a bank, but was glad to learn about the \$1,000 deposit. When the musician went to the Fifth street station on Sidney's complaint that Berger had demanded \$250 for the return of the book.

The prisoner was arraigned in the Yorkville police court yesterday and said he had not refused to surrender the book unless \$250 was paid for it. He said the other man had promised to give him \$250 if he would bring the book to him.

Magistrate Pool held him for examination to-morrow.

A dozen very attractive and instructive articles in the Free Trade News of May, five cents at newsdealers.

WHEN BOTH SIDES TIRE OF WAR.

KING EDWARD STANDS READY TO ACT AS MEDIATOR.

European Observers Believe That Point Will Be Reached, but Not Soon—Do Not Expect Decisive Victory for Either—Hope for General Agreement in Asia.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, April 30.—Mediation or intervention in the Far East has been the prominent topic of the European press during the current week. It did not need Russia's sharp repudiation of all such suggestions to demonstrate how fatuous all ideas of this nature are in the present situation. Nothing could be more obvious in diplomacy than the impossibility that Russia would listen to any proposal for stopping hostilities so long as the present humiliation by Japanese arms continues.

The German press has been most prominent in assuming that plans are already being formulated by King Edward for bringing the war to an end within a reasonable time. There is probably just this amount of foundation and no more for the idea of British intervention, namely, that when the time arrives, as probably it will, that both sides realize the futility of continuing the exhausting struggle, King Edward will be glad to proffer his services as mediator, or, rather, as initiator of negotiations. There is little hope that the war will be reached for a long time to come.

The extreme Russian view was presented yesterday by Henry Norman, who, dazzled by the sight of war treasure in the Russian vaults at St. Petersburg, proclaims that there is only one possible end of the war and ridicules the idea of intervention at any stage. Mr. Norman's opinion is not shared by the most unprejudiced European observers, who are inclined to believe that the most probable end of the war will be a stalemate. Such a result, of course, a long way off, and the chances of new developments, accidental or otherwise, are so great that anybody who would venture a definite prophecy would be rash indeed.

The best thing to hope for is that meantime some understanding will be reached between the European powers and the United States for the adjustment of rival interests in Asia. The steady weakening of both belligerents, which will inevitably occur, must tend to render such negotiations more possible. This, more than the immediate problem, is undoubtedly engaging the attention of the British, French and, perhaps, the American Governments. The question is so vast and so complicated that considerable time must elapse before even the point of negotiation is reached. It is enough for the present that the real friends of peace among statesmen are strongly impressed by the fact that in this direction lies security for future amity among the nations, and that probably if left unaltered it will be a menace which any possible ending of the present war must fail to remove.

The key to the situation would be an agreement between Great Britain and Russia, and the feasibility of this is still actively discussed. The idea continues in the Utopian stage. No basis for the suggested convention has been put forward. It is not even known, of course, that King Edward or the authorities of the two countries conceive such a proposal to be within the range of practical politics. Satisfactory negotiations are reached, it is enough for the present that the real friends of peace among statesmen are strongly impressed by the fact that in this direction lies security for future amity among the nations, and that probably if left unaltered it will be a menace which any possible ending of the present war must fail to remove.

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