BULLET DID NOT KILL THE VICTIM

Cold-Blooded Attempt at Murder in Oregon.

DEEP LAID PLOT FAILED

WOULD-BE ASSASSIN IS PLACED UNDER ARREST.

Cottage Grove, Ore., March 10.—In the mail of the city marshal of this place yesterday was a letter purporting to be written by John Fletcher, stating that the writer was tired of life and had decided to commit suicide, and telling the marshal where to find the body. Fletcher was found as indicated, with a bullet wound in his head, but subsequent developments show that he was shot by John Branton, who, it is said, wrote the letter. The crime being for the purpose, it is alleged, of getting life insurance of $3,000, payable to Branton at Fletcher's death. Fletcher made a statement declaring Branton shot him. Branton was arrested.

Started Home Together.

Fletcher had been living with Branton for some time. Last night the two men attended the Woodmen of the World convention in Cottage Grove, and about 11:30 o'clock started home. When a part of the distance had been covered Branton claimed he saw something near the road that looked like a dog or panther. Fletcher, having a revolver, shot twice in the direction indicated by Branton, nothing resulting. On going a little further Branton claimed to have a violent attack of cramps, saying he supposed it came from eating a late supper. They went a little further, Fletcher building a fire for Branton to warm himself by, as he still complained of pains in his stomach. They remained there about an hour. While here Branton suddenly exclaimed that he saw a panther near and asked Fletcher for his revolver to take a shot.

Shot His Friend.

He took the weapon, walked a short distance away and fired. The ball struck Fletcher in the head and he fell over.

"My God, are you hurt, John?" Branton exclaimed.

He tried to help Fletcher home, but owing to the darkness left him on the road and went ahead, saying he was going for help. He reached the house and started to return with help, when they met Fletcher. He had tied a handkerchief about his head, and this was soaked with blood.

Fletcher asked for a doctor and while the man went for a physician Branton approached the bed whereon Fletcher lay, and said:

"John, if any on asks you who did it, say you did it yourself, or they will be after me."

Branton Arrested.

Fletcher replied that he did not shoot himself and would never say so. When Dr. Corporan, who had been called, arrived, Fletcher declared that Branton had shot him. The foregoing facts he incorporated in a sworn statement. Fletcher was taken to this place, where his eye was removed and his wounds dressed. He made his statement here, and immediately afterward Branton was arrested and charged with attempting to kill Fletcher.

MARRIAGE LICENSES.

Charles W. Gibeaur, Lark, Utah.
Belle Newell, Topeka, Kan.
Frans Astlind, Salt Lake.
Charlotte Kopp, Salt Lake.
Thomas A. Condie, Salt Lake.
Ellen Ronald, Salt Lake.

Take Piso's Cure for Consumption for Coughs, Colds and Consumption. 25c.

MUKDEN AND FUSHUN ARE TAKEN BY THE JAPANESE

(Continued from Page 1.)

ers, declare to be inevitable. It openly is bruited that Rojestvensky's fleet has been recalled and is now on the way homeward. The admiralty, when asked if the report was true, said: "We don't know; call again tomorrow," and declined to comment on the significance of the cancellation of the purchase of colliers or the direction of Rojestvensky's voyage from Madagascar waters. It can be stated, however, that no overtures for peace yet have been made, and none is likely to be made for a few days, before the extent of the disaster has developed.

Aside from peace, defeat may bring other consequences in its train. That an enormous impetus has been given to the reform movement is plain even to the most reactionary conservative; but the immediate result chiefly dreaded is the effect on internal disorders, not only in the capital, but also, since St. Petersburg is not Russia, upon the millions of peasants in the vast agricultural region, among whom the spirit of revolt now is incubating and already has hatched pillage and arson in a few districts. It is believed, however, that the government is able to nip the uprising in the bud and prevent radicals in the cities from bringing off anything more than demonstrations and talk of revolution, aside from the peaceful revolution which has been under way in the last six months, is scouted in well informed quarters.

Apparently Unconcerned.

Outwardly St. Petersburg takes the defeat unconcernedly. A stranger in the streets would never know that armies defending the honor and prestige of Russia had just sustained a crushing reverse. There were no crowds last night, no demonstration; no change in the ordinary street life. Newsboys were hawking extras on the streets—mere dodgers with three lines of General Kuropatkin's dispatch, surrounded by wide margins of blank paper—but there was nothing to indicate that the extras were more important than those in which, for a year, General Kuropatkin's dispatches have been issued. The government made no attempt to palliate the shock or explain the significance of the retreat, but simply sent the dispatch, when it was issued by the general staff late in the evening, direct to the papers, with authorization to print. At the clubs and private houses, however, the situation was discussed and re-discussed, conjecture added to the fact, and the invariable query was "What further?"

Liberals Rejoice.

One circle of liberals on receiving the news called for wine and solemnly pledged "new Russia." But generally the defeat cuts deeply and is keenly felt, especially by families represented in the endangered army. The spirit of unpatriotic exultation will do the liberals no good at this time. As the refeat, which one Russian correspondent describes as "slaughter, not battle," entails the sacrifice of so many thousands of Russian lives, the people fear to count up their losses. It is realized that in the fighting before Mukden was evacuated the death roll of the battle of the Shakhe river must have been far exceeded, and the streets of St. Petersburg, where every third woman wears crape, will present a sombre sight when the casualty lists arrive.

STRIKES PATRIOTIC NOTE.

The Russ For Fighting the Japs to the Bitter End.

St. Petersburg, March 11.—(4:35 a. m.)—The Russ, in an editorial article this morning, strikes a stirring note, not minimizing the extent of the defeat in Manchuria, but bidding the people not despair. The article contains no word about peace, its whole thought being uncompromising prosecution of the war, though it is realized that this means months of preparation for another battle, and that perhaps Tie pass may follow Mukden. It does not even demand General Kuropatkin's removal, but says it is first necessary to determine whether Russia has a better general. While holding up the hands of the government in regard to the continuation of the war, the Russ solemnly warns it of the necessity of internal reforms.

Other influential papers are apt to take the same stand and voice a patriotic demand to crown the war with victory and rally all forces for the prosecution of the war.

The Dust Storm.

Up till this time no further dispatches of yesterday's date have reached St. Petersburg, the censors releasing, however, a belated dispatch dated Wednesday afternoon giving details of the retirement to the Hun river and describing the duststorm, under the cover of which General Kuropatkin arranged the disposition of his retreat. "We gasp for air," the dispatch says, "but breathe not air, but a continuous fine powder which is filling space—irritating particles of fine, yellow dust. Every gust of wind raises and swirls this dust. The fog drives in denser columns before it, in which at five or six paces it is impossible to distinguish objects."

Rear Guard Not Pressed.

During the retirement on March 8 the Japanese did not press the Russian rear guard, and the columns reached the Hun positions practically unmolested. At dawn a cannonade was opened against several southern positions, and fighting began at several points northwest of Mukden of the progress of which but little could be ascertained because of the raging duststorm.

Mukden was the scene of nervous uneasiness, shops being closed, hotels and restaurants ceasing to feed customers, Chinese painting over their signs and business being at a standstill. It was almost impossible to get anything to eat. At the station heavy artillery and wounded soldiers were being loaded on long trains, the overtaxed railway operatives, who had been working uninterruptedly for ten days, dispatching as best they could an average of forty trains north daily. From March 3 to March 5 over 1,200 cars loaded with artillery and supplies were dispatched to Tie pass.

WORST FEARS CONFIRMED.

Russian War Office Expected News of a Great Disaster.

St. Petersburg, March 10.—(6 p. m.)—The dispatches of the Associated Press from Tokio and Yinkow today, announcing that Mukden had fallen and that the Japanese had captured thousands of prisoners and enormous quantities of stores and guns, only confirm the worst fears entertained here, the dispatches of the Associated Press received here last night having shown that the trap was sprung.

The announcement furnished a miserable end to the Russian carnival week.

This being a holiday, the war office was closed to the public, hundreds of people in quest of news besieging the doors in vain. Inside the gloom was intense. Officers stood around discussing the catastrophe seemingly without a ray of hope. At 4 o'clock the officer of the general staff who gives out official dispatches approached a group of waiting foreign correspondents and said, disconsolately:

Nothing to Give Out.

"No dispatches from Kuropatkin today." That was all. Usually he had been ready to offer explanations, but today he said in reply to all inquiries:

"We have absolutely nothing."

Another officer, who was asked by the correspondent of the Associated Press for his opinion of the report that the major portion of the armies of Generals Bilderling and Kaulbars were cut off, said he thought that considering the situation last night anything was possible. It was his idea that Kuropatkin may have deliberately sacrificed 100,000 men by hurling two or three corps at the Japanese in order to bring off the bulk of his shattered army.

The official reports which have arrived are being held at the Tsarskoe-Selo, where a council of war is in progress. They will be given out later. It is very questionable if a large portion of the Russian army has been made prisoners and also whether Kuropatkin will attempt to make a stand at Tie pass, although the place offers natural advantages for defense, and besides has been fortified.

JAPS CLOSED IN.

Evacuation of Mukden Became a Stern Necessity.

Mukden, Thursday, March 9, midnight.—(Filed at 5 a. m., March 10.)—Nature today raised her hand against the wholesale slaughter west and northwest of Mukden, the hurricane of wind which has been raging since morning having raised a blinding duststorm upon the broad, flat Liao river valley in which it was impossible, at times, to see at a distance of 200 paces. Unable to distinguish objectives, both armies necessarily ceased to a large extent their artillery and rifle fire, and a strange boding of quiet reigned along the western and northern fronts. There is strong reason to believe, however, that the Japanese columns spent the day in an intermittent movement northward to occupy positions for a still more vigorous attack on the railroad the minute the storm clears.

The situation is too extremely serious to discuss, and owing to the censorship on the mails cannot be given, but in general, the line held by the Japanese yesterday, west and northwest, were as follows:

Beginning at the village of Suhetun, on the Hun river, and running north through the village of Lifuyantun, six miles west of Mukden railroad station to Tatchiekiao, then turning northwest along the valley of the Pu river to the village of Taudyatun, nine miles northnorthwest of Mukden and six miles west of the railroad, and thence continuing generally northward toward Tie pass.

In places the Japanese bent their lines sharply inward, as at the imperial tombs which their shells are reaching and where the railroad turns eastward.

One small body of Japanese crossed the railroad to the east of the line.

Mukden Evacuated.

Beyond this scene columns of Japanese with artillery were moving north, one after another, and the evacuation of Mukden became imperative. All day long military trains were departing northward, and the railroad line was closed to civilian and passenger traffic.

Both the railroads and telegraph lines were several times damaged by the Japanese, whose shells reached the railroad. The Red Cross, both nurses and surgeons, distinguished themselves by working under fire, and a regiment of the Imperial Rifles fought with indescribable valor. The double eagle on top of the standard of this regiment was carried away by a shell and should it is claimed here, be replaced by a St. George's cross, which every survivor earned. The commissariat arrangements were working better than expected in the face of such a battle, the troops receiving hot victuals.

FIGHT BEGAN BEFORE DAWN.

Japanese Placed Siege Guns During the Night.

Mukden, March 10, 10 a. m.—The Japanese last night pushed up from the south across the abandoned plain between the Shakhe and Hun rivers, and are, as this dispatch is filed, about five miles south of the latter, and from the Hun, opposite Machiapu, and northward. Japanese batteries are pouring in a ceaseless fire. The Japanese succeeded in emplacing siege guns and mortars at Diushantun, about six miles west of this city, when they opened fire before dawn. Diushantun was the scene yesterday of the bloodiest and most desperate fighting of all this terrible battle. Its possession was vital to the Japanese, who stormed it again and again. The Russians dislodged them, but the Japanese finally recaptured the village after much hand-to-hand fighting.

Dead Lie Unburied.

Eye witnesses say the dead scattered in the streets, courtyards and houses have been unburied four days. Rifles and other arms lie about wrenched and twisted. Hand grenades were thrown by the Japanese, and the garrison was subjected to the concentrated fire of as many as a hundred guns. Once Diushantun in their hands, the Japanese can train guns on Mukden railroad station, and it has been held at frightful cost. The Japanese are also concentrating their efforts about seven miles north of Mukden and about five miles west of the railroad, with the object of breaking through and cutting off the surrounding troops below. A blinding dust storm has been raging since daylight, and the day promises to witness a gruesome encounter, the result of which no one here can foresee.

IRON RING CLOSED.

Nothing Remained But Attempt to Break Through.

St. Petersburg, March 10, 10 p. m.—The extent of the disaster to General Kuropatkin's army is, as yet, unknown here, but the most sinister reports receive credence, and the public believes that Field Marshal Oyama has succeeded in closing the iron ring around at least a large portion of the army. Communication with Mukden apparently is cut, as no word has arrived dated later than yesterday at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when the situation of General Bilderling, who commands the rear guard and the thousands who were fighting off the Japanese assaults almost at the walls of the city, west and north of Mukden, was desperate. Even from the east General Kuroki pushed through until Fu pass, less than eight miles east, where the Hun bends sharply to the northward, was under the Japanese guns.

The opening in the net was then only twelve miles wide, and nothing but a miracle, in the opinion of many experts, could then have saved the situation.

To make matters worse, General Nogi's left west of the railroad, and General Kawamura's army on the east, were reported, by forced marching northward, to be ready to throw themselves across the Russian line of retreat.

All accounts agree the battle of yesterday morning must have been fought under dreadful conditions. A dust storm of hurricane violence was blowing, concealing friend and foe, while through the opaque yellow veil the streams of wounded and camp followers plodded northward.

The war office this morning had little consolation to offer the pitiful inquiries for news. The papers are filled with long lists of those killed in the earlier days of the fighting, and the churches are crowded with wives, mothers and sisters praying that their loved ones be spared.

At last all classes seem to have joined in the common grief.

Fanatical Japanese Valor.

All hope of Kuropatkin waiting for an opportune moment to strike and convert defeat into victory has been abandoned, even by the military critics, and the papers in a dolorous strain chronicle the last and worst reverse to the Russian arms. The only consolation they find is that the Russian troops have been conquered by a wonderful foe, declaring there is something uncanny about the desperate expedient which the Japanese successfully employed at Dieushantun when, during the storm, the Japanese lines actually faced about, apparently firing into their own reserves, deceiving the Russians, and backing into the Russian wire entanglements before the ruse was discovered. History, military men say, does not parallel such desperate fanatical valor as here. The papers at the same time are filled with recrimination.

Russian diplomacy is blamed for not including in the theatre of operations the territory west of the Sinmintin road, which Field Marshal Oyama used to accomplish his bold turning movement, and criticism is heaped upon Kuropatkin.

The Russ, however, while admitting Kuropatkin's failure as a strategist, insists that the responsibility should not be shouldered by him alone. The real cause of the Russian defeat, the paper boldly declares, is "the bureaucracy which is incapable of efficient administration, and the vicious system which kills all initiative in the men out of whom soldiers are made and keeps them in ignorance, while the system of our adversary creates good and intelligent soldiers."

RESPITE GRANTED.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 10.—Governor Folk today granted a respite of thirty days to William Rudolph, convicted of the murder of Detective Charles Schumacher at Union, Mo., and sentenced to be hanged on March 17. A petition for the respite was signed by large numbers of Irish Catholics, who protested against an execution on St. Patrick's day.

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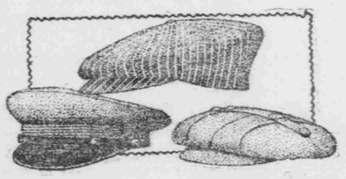

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