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JAPANESE VICTORIOUS IN TERRIBLE BATTLE

BLOODIEST BATTLE OF PRESENT WAR.

Fighting Lasted More Than Ten Days—Casualties Will Far Exceed 100,000.

Tokio, March 8.—Advices received here indicate that Gen. Kuropatkin is badly beaten in the bloodiest battle of the present war.

Mukden, March 8, 4.30 a. m.—The Russian army is evacuating its positions south of Mukden.

Mukden, March 8, 10 a. m.—A heavy cannonading is in progress northwest of this city, causing the walls of houses here to tremble.

An engagement is in progress at the imperial tombs.

Washington, March 8.—The state department is officially informed from Tokio that the Japanese have achieved a great victory before Mukden and that the Russian army is in full retreat. The casualties are numerous on both sides.

St. Petersburg, March 9, 3 a. m.—The battle of Mukden, which has been in progress for more than ten days, has resulted in a Russian defeat.

Field Marshal Oyama has once more proved himself one of the greatest masters of offensive strategy since Napoleon, while Gen. Kuropatkin is now engaged in endeavoring to defend his title as a master of successful retreats and bring off his army with its immense train safely to Tie pass, where a position was long ago prepared with this contingency in view. The problem before the Russian commander-in-chief is more difficult than the one he met successfully at Liao Yang, since now he is threatened on both flanks, his left wing being entangled in a mountainous region far from the railroad. Nevertheless Russian military men here express a fair degree of confidence in Gen. Kuropatkin's ability once more to extricate his army and avoid a Russian Sedan. Besides his skill in rearguard action they base their hopes on the physical condition of the Japanese soldiers who, though they are conceded to be the greatest marchers in the world, are well nigh exhausted by their strenuous endeavors of the last fortnight.

Only to the initiated is the news of the reverse positively known at this time. Emperor Nicholas and high military officers of course were informed by Gen. Kuropatkin's telegram of Tuesday stating tersely that Mukden must be abandoned and they received details of the withdrawal as they appeared in excised positions of the official dispatches given out yesterday. Last evening a newspaper contained a vague report of doubtful origin credited to Chinese sources but the first positive statement was derived from the Associated Press dispatch from Gen. Kuroki's headquarters, the contents of which was quickly telegraphed to many liberals from friends abroad. The report probably will not be printed in this morning's papers, the government, true to its policy of breaking bad news gently, only preparing the way by authorizing the publication of a number of premonitory telegrams. The news, however, is only what was expected, ultimate retirement having been discounted from the moment Oyama inaugurated his brilliant move westward.

Anticipated Retirement.

From information in the possession of the Associated Press it is known that Gen. Kuropatkin contemplated

retirement before the beginning of the battle, and that he had hoped to accomplish it without a serious combat. The Japanese, however, forced him to accept battle. The double turning movement compelled him to send the major part of his reserves to the fighting line and rendering an effective counterstroke out of the question, and the decision to retire was immediately taken on March 6, as was stated by the Associated Press on that day. Withdrawal was actually begun during the night. The great question now, and over which the general staff burned its lights late into the night, is whether Field Marshal Oyama has entangled the Russians in his strategic net sufficiently to prevent a successful retreat to Tie pass.

Gen. Rennenkamff's force to the eastward admittedly is in great danger of being cut off and a considerable force of Japanese appears to be operating on the Russian right well toward Tie pass. If the Japanese succeed in reaching the railroad and interrupting traffic if only for a few hours it may have the greatest consequences for Gen. Kuropatkin, who is now engaged in a race with the Japanese to reach the naturally defensible position of 40 miles northward. Thus far he has stood off all attacks directly against the flanks of his army and holds the way of retreat open. He undoubtedly was forced to abandon a number of siege guns on his Shakhe position, but if he succeeds in turning over the army intact, with the principal portion of its artillery train, to his successor the Russian case will be by no means desperate, for Oyama will again have missed his quarry and a comparatively barren victory will have been purchased at enormous cost of life.

All reports indicate that the Japanese were utterly reckless of sacrifices, making attack after attack, and especially on the centre and westward against machine guns and infantry fire which literally mowed down the advancing column, making human flesh so cheap that the survivors could bastion themselves behind piles of corpses.

After this action Gen. Kuropatkin's deposition may be regarded as certain. War Minister Sakharoff is picked as his probable successor, though Grand Duke Nicholas Nicholaevitch or a board of strategists may be entrusted with the direction of affairs. A strong faction of the army, those high in influence about the emperor, opposed Gen. Kuropatkin from the first, and though his early defeats were condoned because it was realized that Gen. Kuropatkin was doing all that man could do with the tools at his command, it is now felt that after twice having had the opportunity to show what he could do with a powerful army, and having failed to accomplish victory either time, his removal is advisable.

Casualties Exceed 100,000.

Tokio, March 9, 6 a. m.—The great battle in Manchuria raged all day yesterday along the entire enormous front. The Japanese were generally victorious, and they drove the Russians from a series of important positions. By nightfall it seemed imperative that Gen. Kuropatkin would have to withdraw his shattered legions and avoid a complete disaster. Indeed, it appeared impossible for him to effect a retreat without heavy loss of prisoners, guns and stores. The continuous battle is already the bloodiest of the war. Upon the ground that Gen. Oku alone gained lie 8,000 Russian dead. The reports from the other armies are expected to triple this figure. It is estimated that the Japanese have lost 50,000, making the

joint slaughter far exceed 100,000 men. Details of the combat are lacking, but it is believed that the Japanese cut the railway north of Mukden leaving only the roadways and a light railway from Fushun to Tie pass as avenues for the retreat of the Russians, but army headquarters refrain from affirming or denying a report to that effect. It is thought that Mukden is still in the hands of the Russians.

WAREHOUSES FOR COTTON.

Meeting of Warehouse Committee Cotton Growers' Association.

Columbia, March 9.—The warehouse committee met in Columbia on Tuesday and permanently organized by electing E. W. Robertson chairman and Mr. F. H. Weston secretary.

An insurance expert in the person of Mr. E. G. Seibels and a representative of Architect C. C. Wilson's office were called in to give estimates as to the insurance rates and the cost of erecting warehouses throughout the state.

Mr. Seibels said that by special arrangements a rate of one-fourth of one per cent. might be obtained on cotton stored in well protected warehouses. Of course the warehouses would have to be protected with sprinklers and be of the most approved style.

The architect said that these warehouses could be built 40 by 100 feet, with gravel roof and best pattern for \$1,200, the sprinkler system to cost about 25 per cent. more. Such a house would have a capacity of 1,000 bales. A 500-bale capacity warehouse could be built for \$800. If storage for any more than 1,000 bales is required separate warehouses should be built.

The resolution by Mr. Burnett was adopted:

"That it is the sense of this committee that we recommend to every community in South Carolina, where the necessity for ware houses exists, to build these ware houses through their own efforts or by outside assistance if proffered, or if possible to attain then at a cost of from \$800 to \$1,200, with a storage capacity, respectively of from 500 to 1,000 bales of cotton."

Mr. LeRoy Springs, of Lancaster, introduced the following, which was adopted:

"That we urge upon the farmers the importance of storing their cotton promptly on being ginned in the standard ware houses where they can get negotiable ware house receipts, thus saving it from loss in weight and damage and putting it in negotiable shape so that they will not be forced to market it except at their own pleasure, as it has been demonstrated by the action of the New Orleans convention that irrespective of the size of the crop, by the judicious marketing of the cotton, reasonable prices can be maintained, which can only be accomplished by the effective ware house system."

On motion of Mr. E. D. Smith this was added to the resolution:

"Any information as to construction or outside assistance can be obtained by communicating with the Columbia office of the Southern Cotton association.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be filed in this office and that a copy be given to the press with the request that all county papers copy it.

The committee then adjourned to meet again at the call of the chairman.

A donkey knows when he has enough—unless he is a two-legged one.

It's easier to make promises during courtship than it is to make good after marriage.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS OF PROSPERITY PEOPLE

SECOND PRIMARY NECESSARY FOR INTENDANT.

Missionary Society of Grace Church Elects Officers—Personal Mention.

Prosperity, March 9.—At the annual meeting of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary society of Grace church the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Mrs. H. S. Boozer.
Vice president, Mrs. W. A. Lutz.
Treasurer, Miss Minnie Cannon.
Recording secretary, Miss Della Bowers.

Corresponding secretary, Miss Blanche Kibler.

Mr. Jno. L. Cook has his new steel roof on his roller mill and is putting in the machinery. Mr. S. L. Fellers, of Prosperity, had the contract for the roof.

Mr. Jas. Monts, of St. Lukes, is suffering from an attack of acute rheumatism.

Dr. Berly Epting, a prominent physician of Greenwood, has been on a visit to his sister, Mrs. G. M. Ables, of our town.

Mrs. Jacob Singley, who has been quite sick for some weeks, was laid to rest in the cemetery of St. Pauls church on Wednesday. She was in her 70th year. Mrs. Singley was twice married and leaves eight surviving children and a number of grand children to mourn her departure. The funeral exercises were conducted by the Rev. J. A. Sligh, assisted by the Rev. P. H. E. Derrick.

Rev. Mr. Dale, missionary of the A. R. P. church to Mexico, preached two very interesting sermons in the A. R. P. church here Sunday. Mr. Dale is canvassing the church in the interest of a training school for young men in Mexico.

Messrs. George Harmon, Raymond Fellers and Oscar Simpson spent Sunday at home.

Mr. C. F. Lathan, of Little Mountain, was in town Tuesday.

Mr. S. S. Birge, who has purchased Little Mountain, has been down there this week proving his purchase.

Mrs. Quattlebaum has gone on a visit to her son at Bamberg.

Mrs. J. W. Blanton has returned to her home in Graniteville, after a pleasant visit to the parental home.

The Sorosis will give their play, "Mr. Bob," Friday night. Admission 25 cents and 10 cents. A pleasant time is in store for all who attend.

The Sorosis will give its annual banquet in the city hall on Friday evening, March 17.

Mr. P. D. Simpson is expected home next week from his work in the Atlanta College of Pharmacy.

Mr. L. C. Merchant is now with Hawkins Bros., in the machine department.

Miss Amanda Lee, after a pleasant visit to her sister, Mrs. Boyd, has returned home.

The primary election passed off quietly with a fine vote polled.

The result of the election was:
For intendant, Dr. Jacob S. Wheeler, 50; Dr. E. N. Kibler, 50.

Warden—A. H. Hawkins, 56; S. S. Birge, 55; D. W. Boland 53; W. T. Gibson, 49; J. B. Fellers, 48; S. L. Fellers, 37; G. M. Ables, 48; J. P. Bowers, 54.

Messrs Hawkins, Birge, Boland, and Bowers were nominated. Drs. Wheeler and Kibler will run the race over on next Tuesday.

There was quite a little sensation in town Wednesday. It was a case of two souls with but a single thought; two hearts that beat as one. Mr. Ambrose Wessinger was married to Miss Agnes Lybrand by Rev. P. H.

E. Derrick, at the St. Philips parsonage, in town. Our congratulations to the happy couple.

THEIR BONDSMEN LIABLE.

When Constables, Acting in Official Capacity, Exceed Their Authority.

The state supreme court has decided that a constable's bond is liable on the civil side for damages. This leaves to juries the right to fix damages for complaints on account of the conduct of dispensary constables.

The Wieters case from Charleston is generally known of and the supreme court decided that all of the bonds of the dispensary constables are liable in the pending suits. The suits were brought by Mr. J. P. K. Bryan, of Charleston, and he has thus far won in his contention that the bondsmen were liable.

The opinion in the case was rendered by Associate Justice Ira B. Jones. There were three separate cases, all of which were decided in the one opinion. The action in each case was against one of the state dispensary constables. The circuit court refused the motion in each case to strike out certain portions of the complaint, and an appeal was taken by the constables interested, through their attorneys.

The paragraph in the complaint to which exception was taken by the counsel for the defendants recited that May was under bond for \$500 for the faithful performance of his duty as a constable and that on the night of August 22, 1903, he committed a breach of the said bond by violently assaulting Wieters. The constables moved to trike out all reference to the bond as irrelevant, on the ground that the bond was not liable for the damages resulting from the assault.

The circuit judge refused on the ground that the bond was liable for damages, occasioned by the acts of the constable, where he exceeded his lawful authority. This is affirmed by the supreme court. The court says:

"If an officer, a state constable, while attempting to exercise some duty of his office, abuses or exceeds his authority or executes it in an unlawful manner to the injury of another, his bond is liable. To illustrate: If a state constable, in an attempt to discharge a duty of his office in the seizure of contraband liquor or the arrest of one openly violating the dispensary law, should, without just excuse, commit an assault and battery, or, if in overcoming resistance he should so exceed his duty as to become the aggressor in an assault and battery to the injury of another then there is liability on his bond. But an assault and battery, committed by a constable under a bold assumption and usurpation of authority, without process and authority of any kind, would not be covered by the terms of his bond."

Elliot Dexter, the leading man with Miss Florence Davis in "The Player Maid," is one of the handsomest young leading men on the stage, and has the face and figure generally considered characteristic of a matinee idol. He is a conscientious and talented young actor, who has won a place for himself in his chosen profession. He is by birth a Texan, and is very popular through the south.

A woman is always sure she knows some old-fashioned remedy that would cure her husband's headache if she could only remember what it is.

There is something wrong in the home that is not the happiest place on earth.

Some people never enjoy themselves unless they are getting out an injunction on another's happiness.