

RUSSIANS PLANNED A MAGERS-FONTEIN, BUT EVERYTHING WORKED WRONG AT WAFANGHO

ORDERS NOT CARRIED OUT AND ORDERS MISTAKEN LOST
THE DAY FOR GENERAL STAKELBERG—MARVELOUS ACCURACY OF JAPANESE GUNNERY—RUSSIAN SOLDIERS RATTLED BECAUSE THEY MUST FIGHT A FOE UNSEEN WHO MAKES NO SMOKE—DOUGLAS STORY WRITES OF A HOT FIGHT

BY DOUGLAS STORY.
LIAO YANG, AUG. 7.—There was no correspondent, British or American, present at the battle of Wafangho on June 15. It may be, therefore, that an account based upon the statement of the man who planned the fight, an old comrade in other wars, the chief of staff of Gen. Stakelberg, will even now be deemed not too late for presentation.

The battle was designed by the Russians as a second Magerfontein. The infantry lay, strongly entrenched, in positions on the right of the railway. The guns were placed low down on the ground at the foot of the kopjes in the center of the general position.

The plan was to hold the Japanese with artillery and infantry in the valley while a strong force of infantry made a turning movement on the left and permitted a general

brigades to the Japanese right, and doubled its strength there. At the same time men poured into the Japanese left and enabled the enemy to occupy the village of Tiantantse with a force of four brigades, which the Russians had not prepared to meet.

The Russian force detailed to effect the turning movement on the Japanese right did not leave its bivouac until 8 o'clock in the morning, by which time the two armies were fully engaged.

By 9 o'clock it became apparent to Gen. Stakelberg that something had gone wrong with his brigade on the left. He sent to demand an explanation, and at the same time issued orders indicating lines of retreat for the various units engaged, should a withdrawal be rendered advisable.

The brigadier in command of the 35th misinterpreted these instruc-

tion of aim, upon the Russian guns. In 15 minutes the Russian batteries were silenced, and at 9:30 o'clock were out of action.

The Japanese then, shifting their guns to a position between the railway and the river, bombarded the station of Wafangho and the troops in the valley. The station buildings were destroyed, and the greater part of a Red Cross train in waiting there was shattered.

Gen. Stakelberg had not been idle. He had moved his infantry from their position on the southern slopes of the hill to the top of the ridge to the right of, and parallel with the railway line.

At the same time, about 11 o'clock of the forenoon, he posted his reserves—consisting of one regiment of the 35th Siberian division, five companies of the Tobolsk regiment, and ten batteries of artillery—upon the hills overlooking the railway station of Wafangho and protecting his retreat by rail.

Freshly arrived re-enforcements were detained and marched straight from the railway wagons to the spurs of the hills immediately west of the line.

At 11 o'clock, realizing that he was outnumbered, and overweighed in artillery, Gen. Stakelberg ordered the soup kitchens and heavy transport to withdraw. The dust raised by the carts and mule teams in-

ened by re-enforcements, were able to meet and to repulse this attack, saving the Russian position, and permitting Gen. Stakelberg successfully to extricate his troops from their awkward quarters in the valley.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the engagement was finished, and the Japanese held the position.

The fight had an importance altogether outside of its immediate results, because it confirmed the Japanese in their determination to tighten their grasp upon the Russian forces, changing their attack from a number of isolated armies acting independently into one common purpose—the closure upon Liao Yang and Mukden. Reflexly it enjoined upon General Kuropatkin the concentration which has characterized his strategy ever since June 15.

Although the honors of the battle, which was mainly an artillery engagement, fell to the Japanese, it amply demonstrated the Russian foot soldier's dogged power of resistance and extraordinary ability to take punishment from an unseen enemy showering shrapnel upon his positions.

If there be one thing more than another that militates against the Russian troops in this war, it is the impossibility of direct engagement. The men are always upon the defensive, always opposed by an unseen enemy. A distinguished officer remarked to me the other day: "I have been in constant contact with the enemy for two months and a half, fighting 15 engagements, and have only seen the Japanese on three occasions."

Smokeless powder, modern weapons, long distance artillery, affect the morale of troops which are constitutionally brave more than any incident of warfare. Men who will bear any amount of fatigue, who will storm any redoubt, who will face any odds, are, by very reason of their valor, the most difficult to maneuver when the enemy is hidden and beyond possibility of physical reach.

GOES EAST

To defend the municipality in a case that is to be tried in the United States supreme court, October 17, Corporation Counsel Gilliam is going to ask the council to appropriate sufficient funds to send him to Washington. The case is one in which the city is trying to recover \$15,000 from David Kelleher, administrator of the Hill estate, which has been in litigation for years. This amount is due the city for delinquent taxes on the property, but with the accumulated interest it runs up to \$30,000.

ANNEXED

The district known as Alki was yesterday annexed to the city of West Seattle at the special election held for the purpose of voting on annexation. The election was one of keen interest, some opposition being made on account of an alleged increase of 15 mills in the taxes on the outlying district, but the district itself voted 17 to 12 in favor of annexation and the West Seattle vote stood 71 to 19.

LOOKING THEM OVER

Prof. Douthitt this morning began the physical examination of the numerous applicants for positions on the police and fire departments. It will not be completed until next week. The capacity and strength of a man's lungs and of all his muscles is accurately ascertained by an instrument constructed for the purpose.

WILL FORCE TRIALS OF GAMBLING CASES

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SCOTT DESIRES THAT GAMBLERS BOUND OVER TO SUPERIOR COURT SHALL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

Prosecuting Attorney Scott has decided that he will force the trials of the five gamblers who are now bound over to the superior court, and will push the cases of the three other gamblers who are now awaiting preliminary hearings.

Scott has frequently been accused of "standing in" with the gamblers, the statement that he is to bring the gambling cases to trial before his term of office expires will come as good news to the citizens of Seattle.

As a result of several conferences between Judge Tallman and members of the Civic Union, Judge Tallman has stated that Scott wants the cases hurried to a conclusion. Tallman's statements to the Civic Union was that while the criminal docket was badly crowded with cases at

present, that it was Scott's desire that the gambling cases should be brought to trial at the earliest possible moment.

There is little chance, however, that these cases can come to trial before the latter part of November or early in December. The Civic Union has been keeping close watch of these cases and has exerted every effort to see that nothing was left undone to bring the law-breakers to justice.

Scott's object in wanting these cases brought to trial before he retires from office is that he desires to make a good record from now on, and that he will endeavor to convince the taxpayers that he has not been as lax in his duty as a county official as the newspapers have accused him of being.

Wa-win-te-pe-koet Laments the Mamaloose of the Great Indian General, Chief Joseph

(Special to The Star.)

NESPELIM, Wash., via Wilbur, Wash., Sept. 27.—Far out across the big Nespeelim, on the hilltops which overlook this deserted, silent camp of the Nez Percés, a lone kioochman takes up a weary vigil just before the break of day.

It is Wa-win-te-pe-koet, the aged first wife of Chief Joseph, who, each morning since the death of the great tye, goes to lament and to pray to the Soc-a-lee-tye, Great Almighty, that the soul of Joseph may be given safe passage to the great hunting grounds and that his bones may, at the final marsh-kopallah, or burial, be laid with those of his father and mother and children in the Wallowa country.

Through the ghostly distances of the breaking dawn comes the long, wailing cry of the kioochman. Piercing, thrilling, almost terrifying at times—at intervals dropping to a low crooning vaguely heard in the stillness, Wa-win-te-pe-koet's lament penetrates the pine boards and cheese cloth linings of the Nespeelim hotel and awakens the unfortunate "tenderfoots" who are doubled up in single beds in the attic.

Just as the sun rises the kioochman solemnly salutes toward the spot fixed for the disappearance of the moon and the wall changes to a wild, sad greeting to the sun, the symbol of Soc-a-lee-tye, to whom she relates the warrior deeds of the departed Hal-ah-kala-keene, or

Eagle Wing, the first war name of Chief Joseph.

As the friendly beams of the Great Almighty reach and touch and warm the lone mourner she sings the untranslatable funeral song of the Nez Percés and descends into the valley to take up her vigil at the fan-like spread of ashes which marks the spots where Chief Joseph's teepee stood at his death.

The few Indians remaining at the camp greet her respectfully as the war chief's senior wife passes and their lips move in an incantation over their departed tillikum and his widow.

Just before sunset one or two devoted women followers of the dead chieftain go to the temporary grave on the hillside and take up the evening vigil. The program is faithfully followed each day.

Only one of Chief Joseph's wives was with him at the time of his death. She was Wa-win-te-pe-koet, the older kioochman. I-a-tu-ton-my, the younger wife, accompanied Chief David William and the band into the hopfields near Yakima.

Before his death Chief Joseph ordered that both of his wives be permitted to view his corpse.

Wa-win-te-pe-koet was the one who found him dead and through her comes a story which is told in whispers among the chief's followers and related to but one white man, Henry M. Steele, Joseph's closest friend among the whites. To the Indians the story comes as further proof of the claim that Hal-ah-kala-keene was a prophet and a seer.

Chief Joseph was seated in his teepee as Wa-win-te-pe-koet entered with a load of wood the afternoon of September 21.

"I am going to mamaloose (die) quickly ere suns have come many," said the tye to his kioochman. "Go to the lodge house and bring me my war suit that I may mamaloose as a great chief."

The wife protested, but was sternly suppressed by the chief in a manner so vigorous as to dissipate the fears of the kioochman of his immediate death.

Wa-win-te-pe-koet went to the building used by the tribe as a storehouse and procured the trappings of the chief's gala dress. As she staggered into the teepee with her heavy burden she saw Joseph lying partly on his side near the fire. The predicted mamaloose had come. Joseph died as he had foretold—suddenly and alone.

No one here knows where the great marsh-kopallah, or funeral, will take place. Only a few aged "kiooches" or squaws, were here when Joseph died. The band went to the hop fields and behind were left only a few renegade Snakes and old men. The few Indians here are mostly Okanagans or "breeds." Even the children went to the hop fields, where the "kiooches" labor and the braves revel in gambling and drunkenness.

Two days out of the world is Nespeelim, and not until the Indian runners and the young men arrive will it be known when the great funeral will occur.

It is believed part of the ceremonies will be delayed three weeks or a month, to await the arrival of the Nez Percés bands in the Lapwal country in Idaho.

Red Thunder, Chief Joseph's nephew and trusted lieutenant, is in Montana, where word recalling him has been sent.

The belief is that the funeral will be held as soon as Chief David William and I-a-tu-ton-my arrive with the band from Yakima. The "pot-latch," or closing ritual of death, may be held a month later if precedents are followed.

Meantime Nespeelim is almost deserted. A dozen white men, three white women and the Indian sub-agent, or "farmer," Thomas McCrosin, and the staff correspondent of The Star make up the white population.

Four renegades from other tribes, three old squaws, 10 dogs and 15 halfbreed children are out in the brush, showing up in the "city" at irregular intervals.

WILLIAM FRANCIS GUION.

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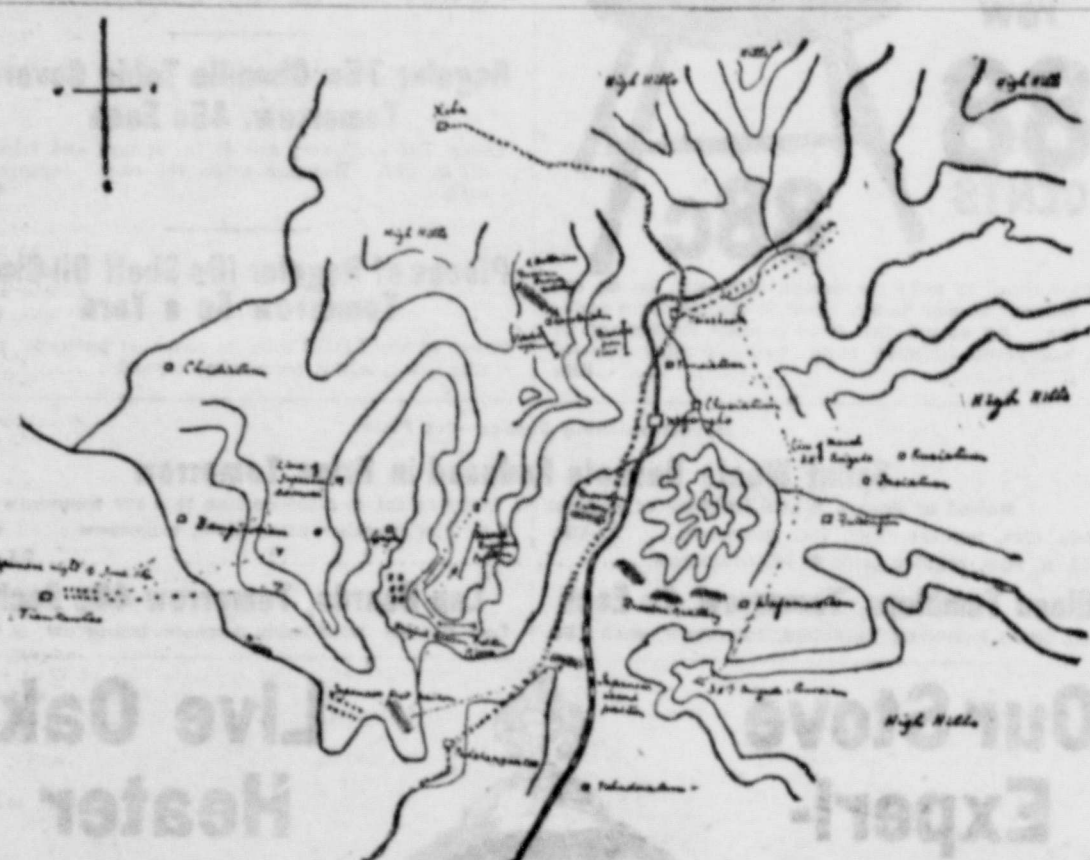
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PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF WAFANGHO. DRAWN BY WAR CORRESPONDENT DOUGLAS STORY.

attack. The cavalry were held in reserve on the right.

To that end Gen. Stakelberg ordered the 35th brigade of Siberian Rifles to march at daybreak eastward behind the first line of hills, to encircle the Russian center and the highlands beyond, and so come in upon the Japanese right about the time the main attack should have developed.

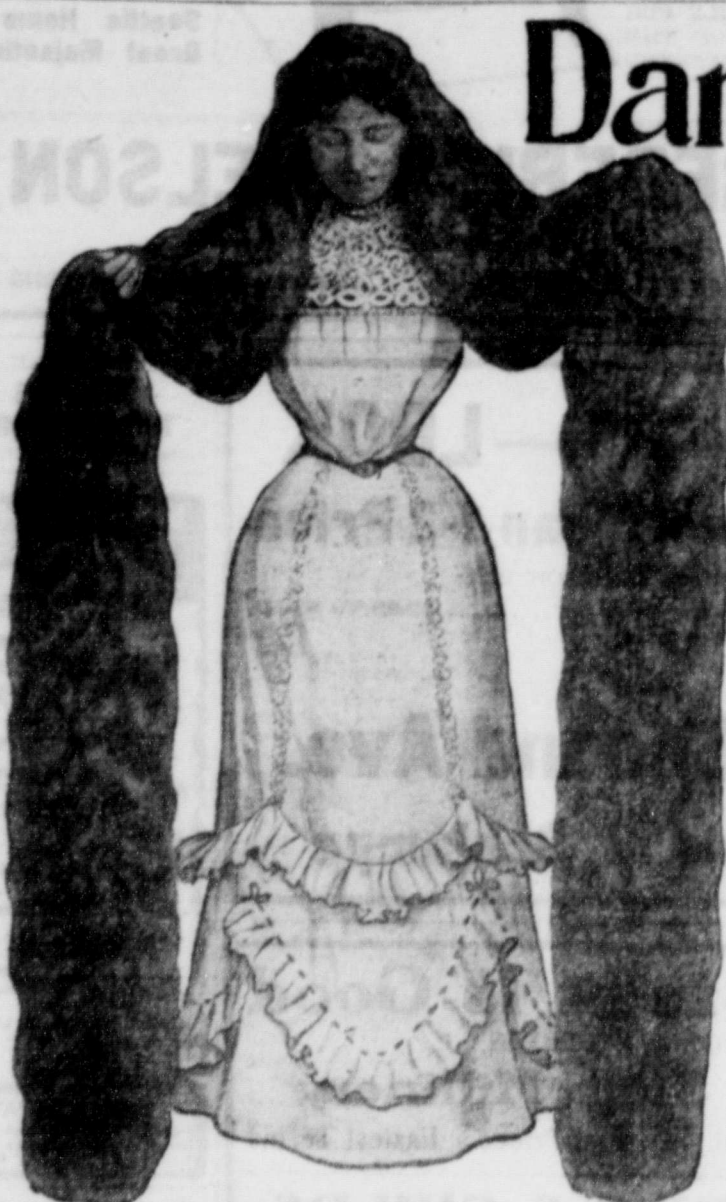
The plan was robbed of its efficiency by the heavy re-enforcements received by the Japanese in the course of the night of June 14. These re-enforcements added four

divisions, and commenced at once to fall back upon his reserve position. By the time this was corrected, the forenoon had practically passed, and the 35th brigade came into action for the first time at 11 o'clock, when it gave a welcome relief to the Japanese pressure on the center.

Meanwhile, the Japanese had attacked our positions with artillery from a point in the loop of the river considerably to the west and south of the Russian main batteries. From there the enemy poured a terrible fire, marked by remarkable accuracy of range and precision.

formed the Japanese of the movement, and they at once pushed the infantry attack upon the Russian right and on the center of the position. The 35th Siberian Brigade withdrew too late from its dangerous position on the enemy's flank and suffered severely in its long march backward under fire to regain the main column.

The Japanese force from Tiantantse successfully accomplished, in a wide turning movement, the maneuver designed by Gen. Stakelberg for his own left. The Russian reserves, however, materially strengthened



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AT THE THEATERS

JOSEF HOFFMANN.
Seals for Josef Hoffmann's recital tomorrow evening at the Grand opera house will be at a premium by tomorrow afternoon, as Seattle's music lovers are numerous and all are interested in the distinguished pianist, whose marvelous playing as a little child has in thrill vast audiences. Musical circles will be well represented and the talented young musician will be warmly welcomed. The evening will be a fashionable one and a social event.

THE NEILLS.
"Barbara Fritchie" has scored a hit at the Seattle theater this week, a fact largely due to the excellent work of Edythe Chapman as Barbara. The play is elaborately staged and the performance is well worth seeing.

Next week, beginning with Sunday matinee, the James Neill company will present "A Gentleman of France," a powerful drama in eight scenes depicting the intrigues of court life in the reign of the French king, Henry of Navarre. One of the features of this play is a duel to the death on the broad stairway of the palace. James Neill, who is considered to be the cleverest swordsman on the American stage, will cross blades with an expert opposite.

"MICHAEL STROGOFF."
"Michael Strogoff," the romantic Russian drama which has thrilled audiences for a double score of years, is running at the Alcazar this week and is excellently handled by the original Wiedemann company. The members of which have returned from their European engagement. "Michael Strogoff" is drawing well and is scoring plenty of applause with every performance.

Next week the Wiedemanns will present the popular melo-drama, "The Silver King."

"COON HOLLOW."
"A Romance of Coon Hollow" will continue through the rest of the week at the Third Avenue, a benefit performance for the House of Good Shepherd being billed for Friday evening. "Coon Hollow" is a rural drama with many attractive novelties of staging and a reservoir scene of strong realism.

Next week "For Her Sake," a new Russo-Siberian drama, will be presented.

BIG EXCURSION

The regular excursion train to the Yakima fair yesterday morning carried 458 persons from Seattle and 403 were carried on another train going from Tacoma. It is estimated that the additional passengers picked up in the smaller train swelled the number of the two trains to about 1,100.

LEARNED SOMETHING

CITY DADS FOUND THAT PRIVATE COMPANIES CAN BUILD ELECTRIC PLANTS IN HALF THE TIME AS CITY

Fully convinced that they had learned many things of importance that will be of value to them in the conduct of the municipal lighting plant, the members of the city council, accompanied by Assistant Engineers Scott and Jeffery and President Purth, of the Seattle Electric company, returned from their two days' trip to Electron last evening. They arrived so late that they did not feel like meeting to take up the city hall ordinance and other important matters as scheduled last night. Chairman Rude of the special committee will call the meeting tonight or tomorrow.

The city fathers found that the Stone & Webster plant had a capacity five times as great as that of the municipal plant, the output of which will be 4,900 horse power. The Puyallup plant, one of the greatest in the west, was completed within 13 months. The municipal plant has been under construction for two years and is not yet completed. Every portion of the power house and the dam was inspected.

SWINDLED

After picking out a nice suit of clothes, a swindler, whose name is unknown, successfully passed a check for \$30.50, pocketed the change and walked out of the establishment of Alex Bridge, a Second Avenue clothier, yesterday. The spurious paper was drawn on the Scandinavian American bank in favor of A. Widmer. It was signed by Eitel Bros., who, it has been ascertained, have no account at the bank.

Deputy County Auditor James P. Agnew has sent out a force of eight men for the purpose of selecting the polling places in the county districts for the coming election. The county surveyor has also been ordered to prepare maps showing the boundaries of the different precincts of the city which will be completed within the next week.

WRONG NUMBER

License Inspector Marsh discovered yesterday that no license was row of residences at 504 Third Avenue. He informed the license committee at its meeting last Monday that a license was wanted at the above location, but the proposition deferred action for a week. Now Mr. Marsh has learned that the proposed location is across the street, at 509 Third Avenue, where there has already been a saloon.

PIONEER DEAD

James Long, an old pioneer of Florence, dropped dead yesterday morning at the Providence hospital while making his will. Attorney L. M. Stern was assisting him at the time in drawing up his will. He was 74 years of age, but very active and in good health except for his heart.

Brakemar, J. W. Steele, who met death through a head-on collision on the Northern Pacific last Saturday at North Yakima, was buried here Tuesday afternoon. A number of relatives reside in this city.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

\$300.00 cash and \$20.00 PER MONTH will enable you to turn your rent paying for a home. SEE THOSE BEAUTIFUL 4 and 5-room cottages on East Union, between 26th and 27th avenues; all modern. Bath, toilet and electric light, etc. Open fire place, terra cotta mantles. Car will pass door very soon.

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