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JAPANESE ARE MASTERS

Hold Liaotung Peninsula With Exception of Port Arthur.

Russians Admit the Situation—Japs Almost Within Striking Distance of Mukden—What the Russians Propose to Do—Will Make a Stand at Haicheng—Meanwhile Main Body of Jap Army is Advancing on That Place.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—Advices received by the general staff show that the Japanese are practically masters of all the southern and of the Liaotung Peninsula, save Port Arthur and the territory commanded by its guns. This result, so promptly brought about is due to the failure of the Russians to make opposition of any consequence to the Japanese advance.

A member of the general staff said to the Associated Press that the removal of the guns from the fortifications erected at Kinchau and the destruction of Port Dalny were primarily for the purpose of concentrating the entire Russian force at Port Arthur. The destruction of Dalny is complete, the breakwater and the buildings as well as the piers and docks have been blown up.

Advancing on Haicheng.

Mukden, May 18.—It was announced here yesterday that the main body of the Japanese force is advancing on Haicheng, about ten miles southeast of Newchwang and Kaipingkiachow, about thirty miles south of Newchwang, and that a smaller force is marching in the direction of Liaoyang. Important developments are probable.

JAPS NEARING MUKDEN.

Mikado's Soldiers Now Almost Within Striking Distance of the Russians.

Mukden, May 18.—The fighting line is steadily nearing Mukden, where Viceroy Alexieff's headquarters still remain. Little reliable information can be obtained by the newspaper correspondents, who are forbidden to proceed to the scene of operations and official information is withheld until advices are sent to St. Petersburg. It is now known, however, that the Japanese are almost within striking distance of the Russians, and that the forces protecting the Liaoyang are stretching eastward from the railroad along the Maotien mountain range.

Advancing in Three Columns.

The Japanese are advancing in three columns and were north of Siuyen and Fengwangcheng Monday evening. Two columns are reported to be working further to the northward, with the object of turning the Russian position and advancing upon Mukden. Numerous small engagements have been fought, but no decisive action has taken place. Port Arthur is now completely isolated by the Japanese expedition at Polandien. The Japanese are now operating in a rugged country, well suited to the Russian defence, but north of the Liaoyang to Mukden the country is a flat plain intersected by rivers.

NEWCHWANG EVACUATED.

Nine Transports of Jap Soldiers Surprised Russians Into Sudden Action.

Newchwang, May 18.—The Russians were totally surprised Monday morning by the announcement that nine transports, convoyed by a squadron of Japanese ships, had suddenly appeared off Kaichau, twenty miles south of Yinkaw, and that 20,000 Japanese troops had already been landed. The disembarkation was completed Tuesday, and the Japanese force is expected here to-day.

Russians Will Stand at Haicheng.

This information accelerated the Russian evacuation, which was carried out in perfect order, and early Monday morning the gunboat Sivo-utch was destroyed. The Associated Press correspondent professes to have received from the highest Russian authority information that the Russian forces will make a stand at Haicheng, and if defeated there will fall back on Liao ang, where a determined resistance will be offered. Should they be again worsted, no stop will be made at Mukden, which the Japanese will be permitted to occupy. It is not believed the letter will advance into the interior until they have thoroughly established and secured their base of operations here.

Why Newchwang Was Left.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—The complete withdrawal of the Russians from Newchwang is believed to have followed the strategic command of the port by the columns sent westward by Gen. Kuroki. The exact conditions under which the evacuation was brought about are not known here, as all the official despatches have been forwarded to the Emperor. The Foreign Office is not

advised as to whom the administration of Newchwang will be handed over, but the authorities express confidence that the Russian commander arranged for the safety of the foreigners before his departure.

KUROPATKIN REPORTS.

Reports That Japs Landed and Began Marching at Kaiping.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—Gen. Kuropatkin telegraphs to the Emperor, under date of May 16, as follows:

"On May 16 our Cossacks encountered a force of the enemy composed of one battalion of infantry and two squadrons of cavalry belonging, apparently, to the Japanese guards division near Kuandiansian and the fusillade lasted for an hour and a half. The fire of the Japanese infantry and cavalry was poor. We had one Cossack wounded, one horse killed and another wounded and two Cossacks missing.

"On May 15 the Japanese vanguard occupied Haihamentsa in the valley of the Platow River, Tsiang-tao in the valley of the left branch

of the same river, Shiftslafutsu and Hitvouchen, in the valley of the Al River and Klandiansian.

"There were no Japanese at Siuyen on May 15.

"On May 14 and 15 the Japanese reconnaissances had not pushed beyond four and a half miles from the Station of Wafandian.

"On May 15 there was no advance of any considerable force of the enemy to the north of Polandien.

"No fresh report has been received regarding the Japanese raid on Kaichau."

"Towards noon 17 steamers approached Siungyuecheng and opened fire upon the town, while five vessels approached the shore.

"At 1.30 p.m. three large steamers appeared off the Cape, and at 3.20 p.m. the enemy landed at Huangtsiatung and commenced a march in the direction of Kaiping."

Continued Feints.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—General Sakharoff reports to the general staff, under yesterday's date, as follows:

"Gen. Samsonoff reports at 11.30 last night that the Japanese confined their efforts to feints at landing in the neighborhood of Siungyuecheng and Kaichau. Their vessels opened fire on the town of Siungyuecheng, on our scouts and on the coast.

"The Japanese squadron left after 5.30 o'clock, proceeding southwest, and several of its vessels remained visible on the horizon until dusk."

One General is Retired.

St. Petersburg, May 18.—It was announced last night that Lieut.-Gen. Zassalitch has been relieved of the command of the second Siberian army division and that Lieut.-Gen. Count Keller, former Governor of Ekaterinoslav, has been appointed to succeed him.

Since the battle of the Yalu it has been predicted that Gen. Zassalitch would not long retain his command, but it is emphatically stated that there is no intention to disgrace him, and that if he returns from the Far East it will be on sick leave and at his own request.

Legislature Upheld.

Ottawa, May 18.—In the Railway Commission yesterday a judgment possessing general interest, as indicating the policy which the commission may be expected to follow, was that upon the application of the municipality of Ste. Cuneconde, Que., for the opening of Dominion street over the tracks of the G.T.R. The application was dismissed with costs, the principal reason being that the Provincial Legislature had passed certain limitations and restrictions on such crossings at that point, and out of deference to the Legislature, which the commissioners assumed had the support of the people in that legislation, permission was refused.

Strike Over at Falls.

Niagara Falls, May 18.—The striking rock drillers and engineers of the Power Development Works have won a complete victory over Dawson & Riley, one of the principal contracting firms. Monday night an agreement was signed, whereby the firm agrees to an increase of pay amounting to five cents per hour to the rock drillers, drillers' helpers and steam engineers, and of two and a half cents per hour to the channel drillers. The agreement went into force yesterday, and continues for a year. The firm has also agreed to take back all the strikers, and that the works shall hereafter be strictly union.

Fell Out of Hotel Window.

Rochester, N.Y., May 18.—J. W. Maynard, traveling for a Chicago firm, was found outside a Brockport hotel yesterday with his neck broken. Every indication points to his falling a distance of 10 feet from the roof of the hotel shed.