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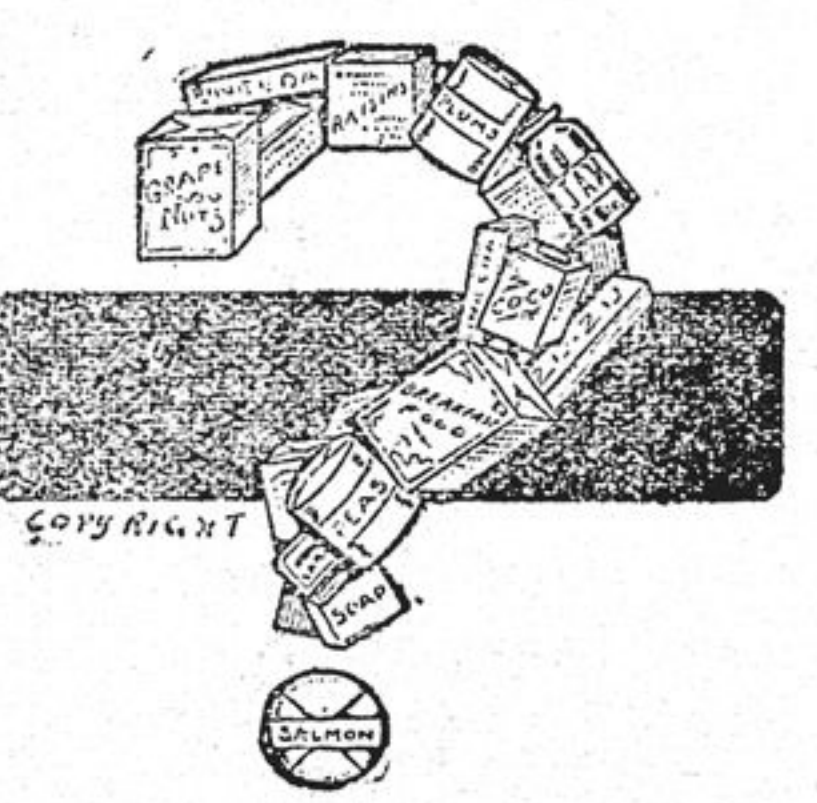
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ARMIES 7 MILES APART

Past Three Months Most Quiet Period of Entire War.

Reconnoitering Parties in Constant Touch, But Losses Are Unimportant—Russian Loss in Friday's Clash 100 Men and a Reverse—Japs Dislodge Enemy From Neighborhood of Puku and Puryong.

Fusan, July 26.—The past three months with both armies has been the most quiet period of the entire war. There has been no engagements at the front, the only encounters being those of reconnoitering expeditions sent out by both armies with a small total of losses.

The Russian and Japanese lines are seven miles apart. The Russians maintain a screen of cavalry outposts, some miles in front of their trenches to guard attacks. Reconnoitering forces from both sides traverse the neutral zone, frequently feeling the strength of the others at the front and making a small weekly list of killed, wounded and captured.

The fight reported on Friday was the first worthy of mention, which has occurred east of the railway. Two Russian reconnoitering forces approached the Japanese line, one about twenty miles, the other seventy miles east of the railway. The first contingent consisted of two squadrons of cavalry, the second of two battalions of infantry. Both retired after brief encounters.

Russians Lose 100.

The Japanese sustained no losses, but those of the Russians are supposed to have been nearly 100.

In the first encounter the Russian cavalry, with its front side a thousand metres long, advanced upon the Japanese line until it came under fire, when it retired in confusion and the infantry advanced. The Japanese fired 40 rounds with a captured Russian battery, when the Russians retired, the Japanese following them for ten miles.

Enemy Dislodged.

Tokio, July 26.—An official report from the headquarters of the Japanese army in Northern Corea, says:

"On Monday, July 25, the army succeeded in dislodging the enemy from the neighborhood of Puku and Puryong and occupied a line to the northward."

Reinforcements For Linevitch, St. Petersburg, July 26.—Reinforcements for Gen. Linevitch are steadily being forwarded. Thirteenth army corps, the headquarters of which are at Smolensk, will leave for the front next week.

MODEST INDEMNITY ONLY.

Peace Truly Wanted Pays Spokesman of Japanese Plenipotentiaries.

New York, July 26.—That Japan will demand an indemnity from Russia in the negotiations for peace, and that the war will be declared at an end at the conclusion of the negotiations at Portsmouth, N. H., next month, is the belief of Baron Komura, head of the Japanese peace mission, as voiced by Ainar Sato, official spokesman for the baron. The party arrived here yesterday.

Mr. Sato, in an interview last night, said: "I am confident that peace will be successfully negotiated by the appointed delegations. The Japanese will be guided by moderation, and no excessive demands will be made, but the sentiment in Japan and Russia is for peace, and in the interests of humanity and propriety there must be peace."

"The cost to Japan, however, has been great. On both sides the loss has been 570,000 men, of which Russia lost 370,000. The war is costing Japan one million dollars a day, and there is a feeling that there ought to be an indemnity."

Asked as to the probability of an armistice, Mr. Sato said that that probability would be among the first questions the plenipotentiaries would consider. Based on previous treaty negotiations, Japan will make the demands for Russia's consideration he said. The peace terms were formulated by the Emperor of Japan and his council.

Witte Is Welcomed.

Of the attitude of the Japanese plenipotentiaries toward the Russian delegates, Mr. Sato said: "We admire M. Witte and Baron Rosen. The announcement of M. Witte's appointment was more welcome to us than that of any other person could have been. We recognize him as a great statesman."

Of the future of China, Mr. Sato said: "If the central Government could work in harmony with the district or Provincial Governments, China would become a great power, but at present that seems to be impossible." Japan's attitude toward China was most friendly, and she felt that it was more or less under Japan's protection. This protection, by way of illustration, Mr. Sato said, was "not so strong over China as that of the United States over South America."

Mr. Sato emphasized the announcement made frequently before, that Japan does not seek territorial aggrandizement, saying: "We want in Manchuria equal opportunity, or what Mr. Hall called 'the open door'."

Japan Over Populated.

Mr. Sato said Japan is over populated, and that in the opening up of Manchuria and Corea, an attractive field for immigration would be nearer home than those offered in Hawaii or this continent.

Mr. Sato said that while a desire for peace was the sentiment of Japan it was not a desire for peace at any price. "Japan is in a prosperous condition at present," he said, "and the war taxes do not fall heavily upon the people yet. There has already been subscribed \$250,000,000 to a new internal loan, and our prosperity is further indicated in the success of our foreign loans."

America An Ally.

As to Japan's attitude toward America, Mr. Sato laughingly asked: "You mean the yellow peril," and then continued enthusiastically: "We are almost boyish in our enthusiasm and friendship for America. While we are friendly with China as Orientals, our greatest friends are England and America. We regard America as an ally without a treaty."

Baron Komura and his party arrived at Jersey City early yesterday from Chicago, and proceeded at once to the Waldorf Astoria, where they will be quartered until the baron's departure for Portsmouth. The baron met his colleague on the commission, Kogoro Takahira, Minister at Washington.

College Chums.

Oyster Bay, July 26.—Baron Komura, the principal peace envoy of Japan, probably will call on President Roosevelt this week at Sagamore Hill.

Both the president and Baron Komura are graduates at Harvard, and, having become personally acquainted, with each other several years ago, have some personal matters in common. The call of Baron Komura on the president, if made, will be entirely informal.

Witte's Farewells.

Paris, July 26.—M. Witte yesterday made his parting calls on Premier Rouvier, other Government officials and the diplomatic corps, preparatory to sailing from Cherbourg for New York on the Kaiser Wilhelm de Grosse today.

Cassini Is Quoted Again.

New York, July 26.—Count Cassini, formerly Russian Ambassador at Washington, expresses the opinion, according to The Herald's Paris correspondent, that all now depends on the Japanese, and that if their demands at the coming peace conference are reasonable peace is assured.

RUSSIFICATION OF POLAND.

Polish Better Classes Petition the Committee of Ministers.

St. Petersburg, July 26.—Three hundred leading representatives of the better classes in Poland to-day presented a memorandum to the committee of Ministers appealing against the policy of the Government looking to the Russification of Poland.

Riots in Caucasus.

St. Petersburg, July 26.—Disturbances resulting from strikes are reported from several places in the Caucasus. During a conflict between Cossacks and a mob in Perm the Cossacks fired, killing two and wounding many.

Strike On in Warsaw.

Warsaw, July 26.—Four thousand workmen in the Warsaw Iron Works and 5,000 in the Dombrows Steel Works struck yesterday for higher wages. The striking bakers destroyed a baker shop in Grochowska street, and in the disturbance which followed one person was killed.

WILL WATCH LEGISLATION.

Convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities at Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, July 26.—The convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities opened yesterday with a large attendance from the east, Manitoba and the Territories. Mayor Urquhart of Toronto, in the absence of Mayor Laporte of Montreal, president of the union, occupied the chair.

Mayor Thomas Sharpe welcomed the delegates to Winnipeg.

Ald. Couture of Montreal responded on behalf of the convention.

The president's address was given by Mayor Urquhart, who referred to the battle at the House of Commons over the Toronto & Hamilton Railway two years ago, in which Montreal came forward to fight for the rights of Toronto. There should be Provincial union in each Province, meeting annually, and appointing delegates to the convention of the Union of Canadian Municipalities. Provincial organization could look after legislation in Provincial Parliaments, while the Dominion union could watch the interests of municipalities in the Ottawa House.

The annual report of the secretary-treasurer was read by W. D. Lightall. The union, he said, has had a history of continued success since its formation. There are now on roll 130 members, comprising practically all the leading municipalities of Canada.

The principal event of the year had been the formation of the Dominion telephone committee, which had been the means of throwing a flood of light on the telephone situation. In Ottawa and Montreal the municipal forces were lining up for a corporation fight.