BIG BATTLE IN PROGRESS

Tokio Hears a General Engagement Has Begun.

ENGAGEMENT BEGUN.

A despatch to the London Express from Tokio says that a heavy engagement with Gen. Kouropatkin's entire army has begun near Mukden. The Russian positions are being vigorously shelled. Field Marshal Oyama prepared on Friday to carry out the general staff's instructions to assault Mukden and endeavor again to cut off Gen. Kouropatkin's retreat. The Japanese front is 25 miles long. Gen. Kuroki is on the extreme right. He is not yet engaged. He is endeavoring to turn the Russian flank.

ON RUSSIAN FLANKS.

A despatch from Mukden says:—The Japanese are reported to be advancing on both flanks, from the east, south-east and south-west. The outposts are closely engaged twenty miles southward, there being almost constant skirmishing.

Indications point to another great battle in the vicinity of Mukden.

Russian troops occupy all the surrounding villages.

Refugees are flocking in the city. Chinese among them complain of severity on the part of the Japanese.

JAPS REINFORCED.

A despatch from St. Petersburg says:—Gen. Sakharoff has reported the general staff under date of Sept. 17:—"The Manchurian army was nowhere engaged on Sept. 16 or 17. The arrival of considerable reinforcements is noticeable at the advance posts of the whole of the enemy's front, and especially near the Village of Bianipusea and east of the railway toward the Yentai mines."

It is announced from Mukden that both the Russian and the Japanese generals have promised to respect the tombs and palace there.

SHORTAGE OF HORSES.

A despatch to the London Morning Post from Shanghai says that one of the reasons Gen. Kouropatkin was forced to abandon and destroy his vast stores at Liao-Yang was the want of transport, due to the non-arrival of thousands of horses there. These animals had to rest at the depots at various stages of the journey. They were found to be susceptible of diseases from which the local horses were fairly exempt. Of 4,000 animals collected at Omsk two months ago, 3,000 were suddenly attacked with partial or total blindness, requiring several weeks' treatment. A fearful epidemic of glanders is raging in Manchuria.

$60,000,000 A MONTH.

A despatch from London says: The following estimate of the financial position of the belligerents, though necessarily based on guesswork as regards details, is generally accepted as correct in its broad features.

Japan is believed to be spending $15,000,000 sterling monthly in her military operations. As the national debt is small, her other expenditure is far below her receipts, and her trade is increasing even while the war goes on. Her position is excellent, though she had to pay high for her first loan. Her recent successes will probably enable her to borrow more cheaply in future.

Russia's war expenditure is estimated at $45,000,000 monthly. Her finances are far from sound at present, in spite of the vastness of her latent wealth. She has hitherto been living on the French loan raised in May, but an ukase has just authorized the issue of new rente bonds for $75,000,000.

It is believed she hopes to negotiate a large loan shortly in Germany.

24,000 INVALIDED.

A despatch from Shanghai says: The North China Daily News publishes a private letter from a Chinese interpreter employed from 1897 until the end of August last in the Commissariat Department at Port Arthur. The writer says that in February last the department supplied daily 33,000 rations to the Russian land forces alone, the naval forces supplying themselves. "But when," he adds, "we departed, only 15,000 rations were supplied daily to the whole garrison, including the crews of the ironclads, which are now manning the forts. There are now 24,000 sick and wounded men at Port Arthur. Of ammunition of all kinds there are very small stocks, and there are only five weeks' full rations remaining."

The interpreter also says the garrison of Port Arthur, the officers excepted, is anxious to surrender.

STILL SHELLING FORTRESS.

A despatch from Chefoo says: It is stated that the Japanese fleet now approaches Port Arthur much nearer than formerly, and that the warships fire a few shells daily. One of the latter struck a torpedo-boat destroyer that was in dock for repairs, wrecking it and killing seven men. Another smashed several engines in the dockyard, killing an officer and two men. The besiegers are constantly receiving additional heavy guns. Some of these have been mounted in a fort captured by the Japanese two miles east of Golden Hill. This fort is not regarded as an essential point in the defence, although their inability to reply to the fire therefrom, owing to their inferior powder, is annoying the Russians. Five 11-inch guns on Golden Hill, which formerly pointed seaward, have been remounted and three now point landward. All the naval guns, except the 10 and 12-inchers, have been removed to the land batteries. The guns on Golden Hill, which threatened Shuishyen a month ago, cannot now reach that place.

RESERVES CALLED OUT.

A despatch to the London Express sent from Tokio, by way of Shanghai, says that the staff has issued an order calling out the militia, which is Japan's reserve. The first line, including all able-bodied men between 30 and 40 years, is now mobilizing, and probably will be sent to the front before the end of this year's campaign. The departure of these troops will leave the last line of militia as Japan's only military resource. This line includes many men over 40 years of age. The greater part of the militia is now in barracks. The Government did not expect to mobilize them before Spring, but the losses in Manchuria and Port Arthur have necessitated the replensihing of the armies in the field without delay, in order to keep pace with the Russian reinforcements, which are pouring into Harbin.

Details of Field Marshal Oyama's great losses continue to arrive. The Kamazawa Regiment has been the greatest sufferer in the campaign. It has lost all of its officers except one. The friends of the dead soldiers will not be allowed to celebrate funeral rites until the losses are officially announced. The announcement is being withheld, its effect upon the public being feared. The Kamazawa Regiment is now at Port Arthur.

BATTLE ON OPEN PLAIN.

A despatch to the London Daily Mail from Tokio, sent by way of Shanghai, says that the Chinese are greatly alarmed by the prospect of a battle around Mukden, not so much because of the danger to the city itself as because of the practical certainty of the demolition of the Fuhlian. This place occupies a wooded eminence eight miles east of Mukden, and close to the Hun River. It is an important strategic position, which inevitably will be the obect of artillery assaults. Chang Chun, the Chinese Governor, made representations to Pekin on the subject, and requested that diplomatic influence be exerted with the view of inducing the combatants to fight elsewhere. A reply from Pekin directed Chang Chun to appeal direct to the commanders of the Russian and Japanese armies, which was done without, however, eliciting a response. It is now taken for granted that both armies intend to decide their fortunes by a pitched battle on the open plain along the Hun River. The Japanese will not possess the crushing advantage of having hills positions from which flanking movements can be made. As there will be a more equal front, there will be a protracted and fiercer struggle, and the result will be more decisive than at Liao-Yang. The Russians claim that they were unable to hold their former positions against their strategical disadvantages, and that their army was not beaten. While poor peasants are flocking to Mukden, the rich merchants and officials are preparing to escape to Sinminting. There is a shortage of rice at Mukden.

SCENES OF DEVASTATION.

The correspondent of the London Daily Mail at Mukden pictures the pitiable condition of the natives in the area of operations. Chinese refugees, he says, are now pouring into Mukden, as they earlier streamed into Hai-Cheng and Liao-Yang. There are sad processions on every road, carrying remnants of their possessions, a few lean ponies or oxen, little stores of grain and household possessions. Some ride on carts, but many, including women and children, are compelled to walk in the deep mud. All of them abandoned their only real wealth, consisting of standing crops of millet and beans, that were ready for harvesting. Destitution faces them this winter.

The whole fertile plain south of Mukden is depopulated. The Hun River valley, and the country west and east are all deserted. Some of the inhabitants crossed the Liao River and went westward, while others fled to the forests to the east, where Christians hid during the Boxer terror. The neutrality of the villages in the battle area increased their danger in one respect, because each combatant, suspecting the other of sheltering therein on the assumption that their neutrality would be respected, has shelled the places with destructive effect. This explains the apparently wanton burning of many villages around Liao-Yang. Such profits as were made from the employment of labor and the sale of commodities previous to the fighting have gone into the pockets of a few clever exploiters, or have been swallowed up in the devastation following the battles.

ALEXIEFF HAS RESIGNED.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris says that Viceroy Alexieff, desirous to avoid giving color to the reports of antagonism between Gen. Kouropatkin and himself, has asked the Czar to relieve him from the nominal post of commander of the land and sea forces of Russia in the Far East, which command he has never exercised, and that he be required to exercise political functions only. The Czar is said to have consented.

KAISER AND CZAR.

A Polish newspaper, published at Cracow, says that the Kaiser will have a meeting with the Czar at Skiernowice, a town of Poland, 42 miles south-west of Warsaw, shortly and that great political importance is ascribed in St. Petersburg to the meeting.

AMMUNITION EXHAUSTED.

A despatch from Tokio says:—Field Marshal Oyama reports that some of the enemy, with a few guns, are posted in the direction of Sankeishi. They frequently fire at the Japanese. There is some Russian cavalry at Wulitatsu and Shuang-Taitsu. The enemy has also been in several places between Sinminting and Mukden.

Gen. Nodzu reports that the ammunition of the Japanese right column was gradually running out on Sept. 3, although the enemy's fire had not diminished. This decided Gen. Noduz to order a bayonet charge. The Russian fire for some time, however, prevented the Japanese from getting in. It was only at 7.50 in the evening that the Twentieth Infantry succeeded in breaking through. Other charges followed Position after position was rushed, but after the entrenchments were occupied the Russians fired fiercely from the walls of Liao-Yang. It was not until 10.20 that Gen. Nodzu's troops occupied the south gate of the city and bivouacked. The whole line of entrenchments and the northern city were not secured until after midnight. Gen. Noduz sent a force east of the city at dawn on Sept. 4 to pursue the Russians, but the destruction of the bridges prevented them from crossing the Taitse River.

SKILFUL RETREAT.

A despatch from London says:—Gen. Kouropatkin's latest report is regarded here as candid, soldierly and lucid, giving a clearer appreciation of the happening than the more graphic accounts of the correspondents. Nevertheless it does not affect the judgement of the critics. The result confirms in the holders of rival views here their respective opinions that the honors rest with Gen. Kouropatkin, whose retreat was one of the most skilful in history, and contrarily, that the Russians suffered a severe defeat, which was prevented from being overwhelming by Gen. Kouropatkin's prompt order to retreat and his skill in conducting the withdrawal. It is held that Gen. Orloff's failure at Sykwantun, or as the Japanese call it, Heiyingtai, decided the result. It is remarked as strange that Gen. Kouropatkin does not refer to the dangerous position in which for a time his movements were placed by Gen. Kuroki.

Unofficial reports received from St. Petersburg attribute to the Cossacks an important part in repelling Gen. Kuroki's turning operations. They occupied a hill. They dismounted and drove back the Japanese with their lances.

There is a story of friction between Gens. Samsonoff and Orloff. During the battle it is alleged that Gen. Orloff asked Gen. Samsonoff to send Cossacks to his assistance. Gen. Samsonoff refused, partly owing to the untried character of Gen. Orloff's troops. The correspondent justifies Gen. Samsonoff's action, declaring that cavalry certainly would have been annihilated.

Nothing has been received enabling a harmonization of the conflicting reports concerning the Russian intention to hold Mukden nor otherwise. It is anticipated that there will be no further serious operations for some days, the Japanese, apart from their exhaustion, being believed to be short of ammunition.

PRIVATE LED BATTALION

General Nodzu reports to Tokio that the heaviest fighting at Liao-Yang occurred during the evening of Sept. 3. The Twentieth Regiment, having previously lost successively commanders, sacrificially assaulted and dislodged the Russians from their redoubts at Yusfangmia There were no Japanese officers above the rank of captain. Capt. Yogami commanding the regiment, led the charge, and inspirited his men. The reserves unhesitatingly filled the gaps in the assaulting line. The men unmindful of wire entanglements and other obstructions, rushed up to the Russian works, shouting "Banzai." One battalion lost all its officers in the first clash, and a private subsequently commanded it. One company was reduced to fourteen or fifteen men. The regiment's losses were from twelve to thirteen hundred.

LEADING MARKETS.

The Ruling Prices In Live Stock and Breadstuffs.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Sept. 20.—Wheat—There is a good demand and the market is firm at $1.07 to $108 for new No. 2 red and white, and $1.09 to $1.10 for old west or east. Goose is firm at 95c for No. 2 east. Spring is steady at 98c to $1 for No. 2 east. Manitoba wheat is firmer at $1.13 for No. 1 northern, $1.10 for No. 2 northern, and $1.06 for No. 3 northern at Georgian Bay ports, and 6c more grinding in transit.

Flour—The market is firm at $4.45 bid and $4.60 asked for cars of 90 per cent. patents in buyers' bags west. Choice brands are held 15c to 20c higher. Manitoba flour is firm at $5.70 for Hungarian patents, $5.40 for second patents, and $5.30 for strong bakers', bags included, on the track Toronto.

Millfeed—Is steady at $17.50 to $18 for cars of shorts and $13.50 to $14.50 for bran in bulk west or east. Manitoba millfeed is steady at $20 for cars of shorts and $18 for bran, sacks included, Toronto freights.

Barley—Is steady at 44c for No. 2, 42c for No. 3 extra, and 40c for No. 3 west or east.

Rye—Is steady at 58c to 59c for No. 2 west or east.

Corn—Is steady at 52c for cars of Canada west. American is steady at 62½c for No. 2 yellow, 61½c for No. 3 yellow, and 60½c for No. 3 mixed in car lots on track Toronto.

Oats—New No. 1 white are quoted at 33c and No. 2 white at 32½c west or east, and old about ½c higher.

Rolled Oats—Are steady at $4.50 for cars of bags and $4.75 for barrels on the track Toronto, 25c more for broken lots here, and 40c more for broken lots outside.

Peas—Are steady at 63c to 64c for No. 2 west or east.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter—The situation of the market is unchanged.

Creamery prints	19c to 20c
do solids	18c to 19c
Dairy tubs, good to choice	13c to 14c
do inferior grades	9c to 10c
Dairy lb. rolls, good to choice	15½c to 16c
do medium	13c to 14c
do inferior	10c to 12c

Cheese—The market is generally steady and quotations are unchanged at 9¾c for twins and 9½c for large.

Eggs—While the receipts are fairly large, the demand is active enough to absorb them, and the market is firm in tone at 18c.

Potatoes—Quotations are unchanged at 60c to 70c for out of store stock.

Poultry—Quotations are unchanged at 13c to 15c for spring chickens and 9c to 10c for old birds.

Baled Hay—Is offering freely, and the market is quoted unchanged at $7.50 to $8 per ton for car lots on track here.

Baled Straw—Is still somewhat scarce, and the market is steady at $5.75 to $6 per ton for car lots on track here.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Sept. 20.—The demand is very fair and prices are steady at 39½c for No. 3 oats in store, and 40½c for No. 2.

Peas—Are steady at 73c afloat, Montreal; No. 2 barley, 50½c; No. 3 extra, 50c; No. 3, 49c.

Flour—Manitoba strong bakers', $5.50 and patents $5.80 per barrel; Ontario straight rollers, in bags, $2.50 to $2.60, in barrels $5.30 to $5.40, and winter wheat patents in barrels, $5.50 to $5.75.

Feed—Manitoba bran in bags, $18 to $19; shorts, 20 to $21 per ton; Ontario bran in bulk, $17 to $17.50; shorts, $19 to $20; moullie, $26 to $28 per ton, as to quality.

Rolled Oats—It is claimed that association prices again prevail, bags being held at $2.32½ per bag of 90 lbs.

Hay—No. 1 is quoted at $9 to $9.50 per ton on track; No. 2, $8; export hay, clover and clover mixed, $6.50 to $7.

Beans—Choice primes, $1.35 to $1.45 per bushel; $1.30 to $1.40 in car lots.

Provisions—Heavy Canadian short cut pork, $17.50 to $18; light short cut, $17 to $17.50; American fat backs, $17.50; American clear fat backs, $20; compound lard, 6½c to 7c; Canadian lard, 6¾c to 7½c; kettle rendered, 8½c to 9½c, according to quality; hams, 12c to 13½c; bacon, 12c to 13c; fresh killed abattoir hogs, $7.50 to $7.75; live heavy sows, $4.50; mixed lots, $5.35 to $5.40; select, $5.50 off cars.

Cheese—Ontario white, 9c; colored 9½c; Quebec, 8¾c to 8⅞c.

Eggs—Select new laid, 21c, and straight gathered, candled, 18c to 18½c; No. 2, 12c to 13½c.

Butter—Fancy grades, 19½c to 19¾c; ordinary finest, 18¾c to 19¼c. western dairy, 14½c to 15c.

BUFFALO GRAIN MARKETS.

Buffalo, Sept. 20.—Flour—Strong. Wheat—Spring unsettled; No. 1 northern old, carloads, $1.34; winter, No. 2 red in store, $1.20. Corn—Quiet; No. 2 yellow, 61c; No. 2 corn, 50c. Oats—Steady; No. 1 white, 35½c; No. 2 mixed, 33c. Rye—No. 2, through billed, 82½c. Canal freights steady.

CATTLE MARKET.

Toronto, Sept. 20.—Exporters' cattle were offered in decidedly limited numbers, but the enquiry for them was not particularly active. Buyers quoted the range at $4.40 to $5 per cwt., and said that extra choice stock would be sold at a premium on these figures. The best grades would sell fairly free, while medium cattle would be of little attraction to buyers.

Milch cows sold with freedom, and any good cow brought good figures. The highest price reported was $64, while a number brought $50 to $60 a piece. The range was $30 to $64 each.

The prices prevailing for butchers' cattle were as follows:—Best butchers', $4.25 to $4.40; fair to good loads, $4 to $4.25; medium to fair, $3.50 to $4; common to fair cows, $2.75 to $3.25 per cwt.

The following were the quotations for stockers and feeders:—Stockers, Calves, 400 to 600 lbs., best, $3 to $3.25; medium, $2.75 to $3; inferiors and roughs, $2.35 to $2.60; stockers, 600 to 800 lbs., best, $3.25 to $3.50; medium, $3 to $3.25; rough, $2.60 to $2.80; feeders, 950 to 1,050 lbs., good, $3.60 to $3.80; short-keeps, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs. $4 to $4.25 per cwt.

The following were the quotations for sheep and calves—Export ewes, $3.75 to $4; export bucks, $3 to $3.25; lambs, $4.50 to $4.60 per cwt.; culls, sheep, $3 to $4 each calves, $2 to $10 each, and 3½ to 5c per lb.

Hogs were quoted as follows:—Selects, prime bacon hogs, 160 to 200 lbs., off cars Toronto, $5.25; fats and lights, $5 per cwt.

IN SHAM BATTLES.

Disasters at Army Manoeuvres in Germany.

A despatch to the London Express from Lubeck describes a series of disasters that occurred at the German military manoeuvres. Two privates were shot in one sham battle, and one was killed. Over fifty were unhorsed and more or less seriously injured in a cavalry charge. In another charge a lancer transfixed and killed a hussar. Another hussar was wounded, necessitating the amputation of a leg. A private lost both his legs in an artillery contest at Muhlenreichsen. An officer was severely injured by the explosion of a military balloon and a corporal was mortally injured by another explosion. In a cavalry charge at Cchoenhausen two officers and twenty men were thrown from their horses and injured, some of them fatally. In another charge 48 were thrown from their horses. A sergeant was killed in an infantry attack and a dragoon was fatally wounded by a lancer. There were similar casualties in other districts. On the first day of the manoeuvres the Emerpor commanded the reds or invading force, and won a brilliant victory over the blues, the defenders. The next day he commanded the blues and gained a striking and decisive victory over the reds.

ARCTIC SAILS.

Off for Three Years' Cruise—Capt. Bernier in Command.

Quebec, Que., Sept. 18.—There were thousands of spectators on the Kings Wharf and on the Dufferin Terrace when the steamer Arctic left at 12.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon for her three years' cruise in the waters of Hudson Bay and Mackenzie River.

The Minister of Marine and Fisheries, Hon. R. Prefontaine, went on board at 10.15 p.m., after having thoroughly inspected the steamer this morning, and addressed the crowd from the bridge of the vessel.

To Capt. Bernier, he said that he had full command of the vessel and its crew, and that he was responsible for the ship.

One of the members of the Mounted Police, named Blakeny, who was married yesterday, has quit the expedition with the consent of the Minister of Marine, and will return to Regina with his wife.

Mrs. Moodie, wife of Major Moodie accompanies her husband on the Arctic.

CRIME IN NEW YORK.

Citizens' Appeal for Better Police Protection.

A despatch from New York says: Murders, highway robberies, burglaries and crimes of violence in New York made such an appalling record that newspapers and committees of citizens are making frantic appeals to the authorities for better protection. The frequency of such crimes was not realized until the newspapers began to compile and publish lists of such length that the city is alarmed. Here is the situation in the borough of Manhattan alone, as summed up by Herald:

"In addition to the twenty-two murders since Aug. 1, in which there have been less than a half dozen arrests, and the seventy-two cases of felonious assault, in which no arrests have been made, it was learned from authentic records outside the police department that within the same period there have been fifty-four cases of burglary and highway robbery in Manhattan and the Bronx without a single arrest. This does not include many other cases in which arrests have been made."

Thos. Atkin, of Allenford, Ont., was crushed to death by a traction engine at Macdonald Station, Man., on Saturday.