

JAPANESE WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE OF THE RUSSIANS.

First Big Battle Will be Fought at Liao Yang.

New Chwang Evacuated and Russians Ready to Retreat.

Landing of Japanese at Kai-Chau Was a Surprise to Russians.

A recent New Chwang cable says—In confirmation of the recent Associated Press despatches, the Russian evacuation of this city has been completed. Nothing remains but the destruction of the gumbat Sivouch, which it is expected will take place early in the morning. The Russian troops marched out in perfect order, Gen. Kouratsvitch leaving with the last regiment.

The Associated Press correspondent has received exclusive information from the highest Russian authority that the Japanese advance will be resisted at Hai Cheng, whence the Russian forces will fall back upon Liao Yang, where they will make a determined stand, with a fighting strength there available of 70,000 men.

If defeated no stop will be made at Mukden, but the retirement will be continued to Thiling, a town at the head of navigation for native craft on the Liao River, 20 miles north of New Chwang. At the same time the Cossack regiments will be employed in the rear of the Japanese army on the Yalu, harassing the troops and interfering with its communications. It is not believed that the Japanese will move into the interior until they have thoroughly established their base here, repeating the movement which they made during the war with China.

The Russians admit the advance of the Japanese army to a point within fifteen miles of Hai Cheng, many of their wounded entering there. The nearest fighting expected before the Japanese reach New Chwang will be at Tash Icho, but it will not amount to much. This city is now guarded by 300 Chinese police, and everything is quiet. The Japanese force at Kai Chou is reported 20,000 strong.

RUSSIA'S FIRST LINE.

The First Great Battle Will Likely be Fought at Liao Yang.

Antung cable, via Seoul, recently says: The concentration of the Russian forces at Liao Yang, will make that place the first line of defense, and the first great battle probably will be fought there. No important aggressive action by this army is expected in the near future. Since the Russian fleet at Port Arthur has been bottled up the Japanese find it possible to safely use this port as a base, and to abandon most of the land transportation through Korea, using the regular army transport equipment for conveying munitions from Antung to the front. The Chinese do not object to the Japanese occupation, because the new comers give employment to thousands at good wages, and furnish a market for provisions at inflated prices. Many Japanese shopkeepers already are established here. The river has not yet been opened to foreign commerce.

The correspondents who remain at headquarters visited the Russian wounded, who expressed satisfaction at their treatment. Their only complaint concerning provisions was that they received no bread, the Japanese army not being provided with stores of that kind.

WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE.

The Japanese Army is Advancing in Three Columns—Wounded at Mukden.

Mukden cable—The fighting line is steadily nearing Mukden, while 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 such advice is 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 Liao Yang are stretching eastward from the railroad along the Mao-Tien mountain range. The Japanese are advancing in three columns, and are now north of Su-Yen and Feng-Wang-Cheng. 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 defense, but north of the Liao Yang to Mukden the country is a flat plain, intersected by rivers. The weather recently has been hot and dry, but the rain which has fallen in the past two days has made the roads almost impassable for vehicles, when the rainy season begins, at the end of June, this plain will be converted into a morass. This condition will probably result in the practical suspension of operations.

Mukden is now the receiving centre for the wounded from the various engagements south of the Mao-Tien mountains. A hospital has been established in the Lama temple in the outskirts of the town, and a field hospital has been located in a wood near the military camp across the station. A similar feature of the situation is the desecration of the Chinese population.

A close observer of the expressions and general attitude of the Chinese can tell how the fighting a hundred miles away is turning. They have raised and mysterious murmurs of indignation through which the result of a battle

ST. PETERSBURG TALK.

What Will Skrydloff Do?—The Japs' Double Purpose.

St. Petersburg cable says—The probability that there will be no further communication with Port Arthur, thus preventing Vice-Admiral Skrydloff (who passed through Irkutsk, Siberia, May 14) from assuming command of the Russian Baltic squadron, which is destined for the far east, Vize-Admiral Rozhkovsky, who has been gazetted to command the latter, is a junior of Vize-Admiral Skrydloff, and would be ordered to report to him as commander-in-chief. Whatever Skrydloff's future plans may be, the Admiralty says he will certainly proceed to Vladivostok and inspect the squadron there.

The report that Vladivostok is blockaded is denied at the Admiralty. Telegrams received from Rear Admiral Jessel do not refer to the presence of a single Japanese ship. It is said that the Russians would not have the slightest objection to a blockade of Vladivostok, since it would tie up a Japanese squadron, without causing inconvenience, it being Admiral Skrydloff's plan to risk either of the Russian squadrons until the Baltic squadron reaches the Pacific.

No official despatches were given out this morning, on account of the delay occasioned by the Emperor's journey. His Majesty arrived at Kharkoff this morning, whither all despatches have been transmitted. A special force of operators has been detailed for this purpose.

In the absence of advice, the general staff is continuing its speculation based on the latest reports of the appearance of "some" battle-boats of the enemy in the northwest section of Manchuria. The

AN ALLIANCE WITH JAPAN WOULD BE FATAL TO CHINA—RUSSIA A NEIGHBOR.

Liao Yang cable (delayed) says—A Chinese official asserted to-day in a speech at a dinner given in his honor and in that of the other Celestial officials by the military authorities of Liao Yang that Japan wants an alliance with China in order to use her. The official further declared that the Chinese considered it their duty to preserve good relations with Russia, whose frontiers adjoined China's. He added: "An alliance between China and Japan would be fatal. Japan made war on us once, and Russia's intervention caused her to leave us in peace. An alliance now would enable her to use us and then again attack us." In hunting for the Chinese bandits the Cossacks burned the village of Shontaidza. The military authorities have now organized a subscription for the relief of the villagers, who will be given employment on the railroad.

The Chinese report that Gen. Ma is in the district of Cheng Te Fou, Province of Chihli.

A detachment of Russian troops recently crept upon the rear of the Japanese advance on the road from Feng Wang Cheng to Liao Yang, causing the enemy to fall back slightly.

NEW-CHWANG EVACUATED.

The Last Russian Regiment Left the Place on Monday.

New-Chwang cable says—The evacuation of the city by the Russians has been completed. The evacuation was completed at 10 o'clock last night, with the exception of the destruction of the gumbat Sivouch, which is expected to take place to-day. Gen. Kouratsvitch, the general who has been in command of the place, left with the last regiment.

The troops marched out in an orderly manner. The city is guarded by three hundred police. The evacuation was completed at 10 o'clock last night, with the exception of the destruction of the gumbat Sivouch, which is expected to take place to-day. Gen. Kouratsvitch, the general who has been in command of the place, left with the last regiment.

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COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL.

St. Petersburg cable says—The complete withdrawal of the Russians from New Chwang 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 New Chwang will be handed over, but the authorities express confidence that the Russian commander arranged for the safety of the foreigners before his departure. The Ministry of the Interior denies the reports of riots among the peasants in the Province of Volynia. It is said that the western section of European Russia is enjoying agricultural prosperity instead of bad crops, which are alleged to be the cause of the outbreaks.

GEN. ZASSALITCH SUPERSeded.

St. Petersburg cable says—It is announced to-night that 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 there has been no disposition to act hastily. The Emperor's advisers could not forget that while Zassalitch did not

carry out the plans of operations which had been previously determined upon, he had displayed a stubborn resistance, which showed to the enemy and to the world that the Russians had not lost the courageous spirit of past generations.

What will become of Zassalitch, whether he will remain in the Far East or be assigned to a less important region, cannot be learned to-night, 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. It is generally believed that he will find it convenient to make such an application.

Lieut. Gen. Count Keller recently resigned the governorship of Ekaterinoslav in order to go to the front. He is a soldier rather than an administrator, and is younger than Gen. Zassalitch, being only 54. He participated in three campaigns during the Turkish war. In 1887 he commanded the Imperial Rifle Regiment, and later was director of the corps of imperial pages, by which he was thrown into frequent contact with the members of the imperial family, with whom he is popular. He is considered to be a distinguished strategist, and the possessor of cool judgment.

TO FALL BACK UPON HARBIN.

Almost Certain Kourapatkin Will Do This.

St. Petersburg cable—The Journal says it is reported that Gen. Kourapatkin will abandon Liao Yang and retire upon Harbin with 150,000 men and await there the arrival of 55,000 men, on their way from Kharkoff, Southern Russia, and 50,000, who are about to be detached from Moscow district.

The conflict between Viceroy Alexieff and Gen. Kourapatkin is acute. The latter attributes the Russian defeat on the Yalu River to Viceroy Alexieff's orders countermanding his previously given instructions. Gen. Kourapatkin proposes the abandonment of Port Arthur, the junction of the forces, with his army, and the retirement of the united forces to Harbin, maintaining that the Russian force is not sufficient to cope with the Japanese. Viceroy Alexieff holds this course to be folly, as the abandonment of Port Arthur would mean the loss of the fleet, and the suffering of a mortal defeat, and the risk of the extermination of the Port Arthur garrison.

Gen. Kourapatkin, while seeking to make a junction with Gen. Kourapatkin, the Emperor's entourage, it is added, tends to support Viceroy Alexieff.

JAP FIRE POOR.

Kourapatkin Reports Small Skirmishes With Enemy.

St. Petersburg cable says—Gen. Kourapatkin telegraphs to the Emperor, under date of May 16, as follows: "On May 10 our Cossacks encountered a force of the enemy composed of one battalion of infantry and two squadrons of cavalry belonging apparently to the Japanese guard division near Kiandian Sian, and the fusillade lasted for an hour and a half. The fire of the Japanese was poor, and one horse killed and another wounded, and two Cossacks missing."

On May 15 the Japanese vanguard occupied Haihantasa, in the valley of the Patao River, Tsingtau, in the valley of the left branch of the river; Shitsiafutsu and Hitvonen, in the valley of the Ai River, and Kiandian Sian.

"There were no Japanese at Siyuen on May 15."

On May 14 the Japanese occupied Polandien with a detachment of two battalions of infantry and two squadrons of cavalry.

On May 14 and 15 the Japanese reconnaissance had not pushed beyond 4 1/2 miles from the station of Wafandien.

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

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

INVESTMENT COMPLETE.

Port Arthur is Shut Off Both by Land and Sea.

London cable says—There is hardly a line of news reaching Port Arthur. A correspondent at Tien-Tsin claims to have official Japanese authority for stating that its investment by land and sea is considered complete. Communications of every kind with the fortress have been entirely cut.

Another despatch from Tien-Tsin asserts that the Russians are keeping up communication as far as possible, but Japanese from Kaiping are scattered all over the peninsula.

The rumor persists that Russian torpedo boats have managed to get out of Port Arthur.

A report from Seoul states that the Japanese have been attacking Port Arthur since Monday. It is believed, the statement to the contrary notwithstanding, that Dalny has not yet been occupied by the Japanese.

The Tokio correspondent of the Chronicle refers to two wounded officers who were taken prisoners, as the sole Japanese survivors of the last gallant attack by a company of 24 men on Golden Hill fort at Port Arthur. The correspondent possibly refers to a naval action, though the wording of his dispatch suggests a land storming. Similar mysterious fragments of news percolate through the Japanese censorship from time to time.

The Chefoo correspondent of the Chronicle again refers to the danger to navigation off Shan-Tung, owing to loose mines, of which several are known.

GROUND HEAVILY MINED.

Storming of Port Arthur Would Entail Frightful Loss.

St. Petersburg cable says—A member of the general staff said that the removal of the guns from the fortifications erected at Kin-Chau and the destruction of the piers at Port Dalny were primarily for the purpose of concentrating the entire Russian force at Port Arthur. If the men and guns were scattered the effect would have been to distribute the means of defense of the fortress over a number of points strategically weak. The destruction of Dalny was the result of no sudden determination, but was due to the probability that a force attempting to hold this place could be separated from Port Ar-

RUSSIANS DRIVEN OUT.

Russians Preparing to Destroy the Gunboat Sivouch.

Chefoo cable says—As a result of the engagement which the Japanese had on Monday with the Russian garrison at Kai Chau, on the west coast of the Liao Tung Peninsula, 23 miles directly south of Kin Kow, the port of New Chwang, the Russians were driven out of Kai Chau, the nearest point to New Chwang, with the exception of the Liao River, where there is sufficient water to allow of the landing of troops.

The Chinese, who recently arrived here from New Chwang, while confirming the above, also say that the Japanese are skirmishing on either side of the railroad north and south of Kin Chau.

Circulars have been posted at New Chwang and in its vicinity, signed by the chief of staff of the Japanese army, advising the Chinese to maintain order and secure stocks of provisions and transport wagons, for which the Japanese will pay full value.

The small Russian guard remaining at New Chwang is ready to leave on the near approach of the enemy.

Quantities of wood and oil have been placed on board the Russian gunboat Sivouch, in New Chwang waters, to be used in destroying her by fire when the Russians evacuate New Chwang.

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SAVED WIFE, LOST SON.

North Brandon Family's Struggle in the Water.

Brandon, May 23.—A sad accident occurred this afternoon in which Gilbert Posthelwaite, nine years of age, was drowned. William Posthelwaite, with his wife and son, were driving into town, when nearing First street bridge the horse got into a washout and before help came the three were in deep water, over their heads, and being carried away by the swift current of the river. Mr. Posthelwaite told the boy to hold on to the buggy while he tried to save his wife.

When she succeeded in getting hold of the top of a maple tree Mr. Posthelwaite went to rescue the boy, but he had disappeared beneath the water. The father clung to another maple. James Brown and Malcolm Melness, who were passing, rescued the wife, who was brought to shore, where everything was done for her comfort.

The boy's body has not been found. Mr. Posthelwaite is a well-known farmer of North Brandon.

MAIL BAG RIFLED.

Stolen From the G. T. R. Station at Napanee.

Kingston despatch.—A mail bag was stolen from the G. T. R. station at Napanee early on Sunday morning. The contents consisted of letters on the tracks 300 yards from the station in the afternoon, and the police were notified. The bag was found some distance away. It is said to have contained 1,000 letters and several registered parcels and letters. One registered package, addressed to W. P. Deroche, Napanee, was untouched. Only one registered letter is missing.

The rain-soaked and mutilated letters were gathered together and will be delivered to the owners. In many cases the addresses are almost obliterated, as the bag lay in the rain all Sunday morning.

FAST GROWING WHEAT.

Grain Sown a Week Ago Now in Vigorous Growth.

Winnipeg, May 23.—The latest crop reports sent in by Canadian Northern Railway station agents show that wheat seeding is about finished, and the seed planted a week ago is up and growing vigorously under the genial influence of the prevailing summer weather. Grain has been gotten in by good season in spite of the late opening of spring. All conditions are most gratifying, and farmers are well pleased with the prospects. Next week they will begin sowing barley and oats, and the following week flax will be sown.

BOUNTY-FED STEEL.

A Cargo From Canada the Subject of Comment.

London, May 23.—The Glasgow Herald declares that the submarine cargo of steel and pig iron on the way from Nova Scotia to the Clyde is full of interest to Britain and America. The question of the open door to Canada, so British finished products if Canada is to become a live one in the early future. The paper deprecates the fact that Scottish iron masters have not diversified their capital long ago to the iron fields of Newfoundland and eastern Canada, instead of the unsatisfactory fields of Spain.

MONTEAL, MAY 23.—Misleading reports have been circulating from this city depicting what has been a rather an "Italian invasion of Montreal." As a matter of fact the number of Italians who have passed through this city so far this spring are not seriously in excess of other years.

that arrangements have been made to insure the frequent transmission of despatches, which, if captured, are unintelligible to the Japanese, as they are in cipher.

SUBMARINE BOATS.

Russians Convinced Togo Used Them in His Operations at Port Arthur.

St. Petersburg cable says—The Admiralty is now convinced by mail reports received from Port Arthur that Vice-Admiral Togo used submarine boats in his operations. A letter from Lieut. Gen. Stoessel says that he was standing on Golden Hill when the Russian battleship Petropavlovsk went down, and he saw a submarine boat torpedo the battleship. Lieut. Schreiber claims he distinctly saw the periscope of a submarine boat, and could trace the course of the vessel. Officers of the Russian battleship Pobeda testified that a submarine boat discharged a torpedo against their ship, and they fired at the submarine boat, hoping to sink it, but failed.

The same letters describe the reverence of the Russians for the overcoat of the late Vice-Admiral Makaroff when it was taken out of the water. On its approach they bared their heads, made the sign of the cross and prayed for the repose of the admiral's soul.

It is officially denied that Viceroy Alexieff has gone to Liao Yang to assume command of 20,000 troops, and that Gen. Kourapatkin has left Liao Yang for Harbin. It is said that Kourapatkin is either at Liao Yang or in its vicinity.

Letter From Stoessel.

Paris cable says—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris has been shown a letter from Lieut. Gen. Stoessel, now in command of the military forces at Port Arthur, relative to the loss of the battleship Petropavlovsk, in which is the following: "As the squadron approached the entrance to Port Arthur the battleship Pobeda was struck by a Whitehead torpedo discharged by a submarine boat. We saw the submarine for a few seconds and I ordered that it be fired at, but the boat was not hit."

Another letter from Gen. Stoessel says he saw two submarine vessels in the roadstead on April 15.

FIGHT OR RUN.

London Papers Wonder Whether Kourapatkin Will Fight or Retreat.

London cable says—No further news has reached London, throwing light upon the appearance of Japanese troops northeast of Mukden, or indicating what route they reached that point, so unexpectedly. The Japanese are so successfully in hiding their movements that it is only possible to guess at them from the vague indications in Russian official despatches.

According to the Standard's Tien-Tsin correspondent, Gen. Kourapatkin has left for Harbin, Viceroy Alexieff still being at Liao Yang, with 20,000 troops.

It is noticeable that Russian despatches seldom name the place whence they are sent.

According to a question greatly discussed in the London papers this morning is whether Gen. Kourapatkin has succeeded in ascertaining that the Japanese are threatening his rear so near the Mukden line, or whether he has elected to fight.

In any case, it is considered that any day may bring news of a great battle in this district, as the transport difficulties are believed to be so great as to make it almost impossible for General Kourapatkin to direct a rapid retirement. Indefinite reports continue to reach London of Japanese bombardments of Port Arthur and Dalny.

The Standard's Odessa correspondent confirms the report that Gen. Kourapatkin's aggregate forces for the impending battle do not exceed 100,000 men.

Shanghai despatches report that the Chinese are greatly gratified with the Japanese invitation to the Tartar Viceroy of Mukden to re-establish the administration of the railway and induce Chinese traders to return and resume business.

EXECUTION OF TWO JAPS.

St. Petersburg cable—Details have been received here from Harbin regarding the execution, April 21, of the two Japanese officers, Yukoka and Oki, for attempting to dynamite bridges and destroy telegraph communication on the Eastern Chinese Railway. The prisoners admitted they were part of a detail numbering 100 men, whose purpose it was to destroy the railway at various points. When told that they must have been extremely brave people, they replied: "Not at all; we are only carrying out our duty and the order of the Mikado."

Both prisoners were executed April 21 between the new and old towers of Harbin, in the presence of a large crowd of Chinese and Japanese. The bodies were shot instead of being hanged, upon order of Gen. Kourapatkin. A strong guard was thrown about the spot to hold back the public at a distance of 400 yards. No photographs were allowed to be taken.

The younger prisoner refused to allow the changing of his eyes. When told it was necessary, according to Russian law, he asked that an exception be made in his favor. The elder Japanese, a staff officer, wept, and finally allowed himself to be blindfolded calmly. One of the men was a Catholic, and made a final confession to a Russian priest, there being no representative of the Catholic priesthood in Harbin.

RUSSIAN CONVICTIONS.

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For some days he and kind of way he tried to win his wife back. He visited her in the hospital, but she would not see him. He visited her in the hospital, but she would not see him. He visited her in the hospital, but she would not see him.

They spent the day together, and she was better than she had been for some time. She was very happy, and she was very beautiful. She was very beautiful, and she was very happy.

Her dislike of him was not shared by her mother. She was very kind to him, and she was very kind to him. She was very kind to him, and she was very kind to him.

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