

REPORT THAT BATTLE IS NOW BEING WAGED.

The Story of Disaster With Tremendous Loss of Life to the Japanese Not Given Credence.

Rumor That Port Arthur Has Fallen May be Premature, but its Fall Now Imminent.

The Czar Said to be Personally Responsible for the War and to be on His Way to the Seat of War.

St. Petersburg cable: The rumor of the Japanese disaster at Port Arthur brought a large number of enquiries to the offices of the general staff. The attitude of the officials there did not tend to encourage belief in the report, and impressed many persons with the fear that the fall of Port Arthur is imminent, and that the story of a disaster had been launched to mitigate the effect of anticipated loss of the fortress. It is reported that the staff has received a despatch from Gen. Stoessel, commanding the Port Arthur garrison, stating definitely that the prospect of a place holding out has been materially lessened since the Japanese mounted heavy guns on Taku Mountain, which reduces the sheltered area of the harbor by nine-tenths.

The tenure of important surrounding forts is also rendered impossible. Gen. Stoessel dwells particularly upon his unrelieved expectation of relief from Gen. Kouropatkin.

A rumor is current this evening that Port Arthur has fallen, but this is not confirmed. There is no reason to believe that the fortress has been captured, but public opinion regarding its impregnability is changing perceptibly. Military officers, on the other hand, believe the report.

KUROKI'S ARMY MENACED.

The Russians Entrenching West of Motien Pass.

London cable: Correspondents with General Kuroki's headquarters report that there are signs that the Russians are greatly increasing their strength to the northward, menacing the Japanese centre and right. Bodies of Russian infantry are constantly moving along the Liao-Yang road toward Motien Pass. They are concentrating and entrenching in a good position a few miles west of the pass, which the Japanese still hold. The Russians are also entrenched to the north of the pass. Meanwhile General Kuroki is steadily increasing his front, taking every precaution to repulse an attack on Motien Pass. One of the correspondents states that Russian scouts from Haicheng have been seen twenty miles west of Feng-Wang-Cheng.

CZAR NOT A PUPPET.

He is Personally Responsible for the War.

London cable: A remarkable article in the Quarterly Review, entitled "The Czar," attracts much attention, owing to the status of that magazine. The editor announces that it was written by a Russian official of high rank. He indicts the Czar as being personally responsible for the war and for the general state of Russia, contending that the Czar is a puppet in the hands of the bureaucracy. He declares that since his Majesty was hypnotized by Pobiedonostzeff, procurator of the Holy Synod, he is filled with a spirit of self-valuation, and regards himself as the centre of the world, the peacemaker of mankind, and the torch-bearer of civilization to the yellow and other barbarous races. He meddles continually and directly in every state affair, domestic and foreign, thwarting the course of justice and impoverishing his subjects. He boasts of his fervent love of peace, yet has plunged his tax-burdened people into the horrors of a sanguinary and needless war. Self-conscious and fickle, he changes his favorites in his fitful moods, insists upon having his own way, and dismisses any Minister opposing him. It was because M. Witte reminded him of his promise to evacuate Manchuria that he was dismissed. Other Ministers implored him to evacuate Manchuria to preserve the peace of the world, but he replied: "I shall have peace and my own counsel, too." When the Grand Duke hinted at the possibility of war, he replied: "Leave that to me, Japan will never fight. My reign shall be an era of peace." The writer avows himself to be a monarchist, opposed to Nihilism, Socialism, and all revolutionary tendencies.

WITH KUROKI'S FORCES.

The Outposts Have Been Extended to Pha Pass.

Liao Yang cable: After the occupation of Kaichau the Japanese southern army entrenched. Detachments of the Japanese are reported by Gen. Mistchenko to be at Hoizapudza and advancing toward Sinidian and Tangchi, the advance posts reaching Koutotsee. The total Japanese force on this front, according to the Russian scouts, is not less than four or five divisions. The Japanese cavalry is concentrated on the left flank.

The Japanese outposts north of Siyen have been extended to Pha Pass. No changes have been made in the positions of the eastern army.

A Japanese fleet is reported to be cruising off the mouth of the Liao River.

CLOSING IN.

Two Japanese Forces Close to Kouropatkin's Main Army.

St. Petersburg cable: Steadily and cautiously Gen. Oku's army from the south, and Gen. Nodzu's army from the east, are closing upon Tatchekiao, where Gen. Kouropatkin is reported to be entrenching. One hundred and thirty thousand men are involved in the movement. The next few days will determine whether and to what extent Gen. Kouropatkin intends to make a stand at Tatchekiao, the possession of which by the Japanese would compel the immediate evacuation of New-Chiang.

The outposts of the armies are scarcely 15 miles apart. The slowness of the advance is apparently due to the natural difficulties in the way of a rapid movement of the Japanese eastern flanking columns.

Lieut. Gen. Sakharoff reports that Gen. Kuroki is massing his troops near the Pkhanlin Pass and moving out by both roads from Haicheng. Heavy pressure is being made upon the Russian Tatchekiao untenable.

All the Japanese energies now seem to be concentrated on Tatchekiao and Hai-Cheng. The operations to the north, which throughout may have been feints, have been suddenly suspended.

THE RUSSIAN SORTIE.

Admiral Togo Reports That One Cruiser Was Crippled.

Togo cable: Admiral Togo reports on the Russian sortie from Port Arthur on July 9, stating that the Japanese torpedo-boat destroyer which signaled the enemy's presence, attacked the Novik appeared to be crippled. The Bayan steamed ahead, engaging the Japanese destroyers, which retired, but four Japanese cruisers speedily arrived and assisted in the attack. They impeded the Russian steamers that were dragging for mines. One of the Russian warships, keeping inshore under the batteries, crept nearly to Lung Wang Tung, probably meaning to support the forts that were meeting a land attack. The remainder of the report repeats the previous accounts of the sortie. According to official accounts, the boom at the entrance to Port Arthur is formed of logs, with their ends outward. They are joined by three cables. The Russians are able to anchor in deep water beyond the boom.

RUSSIAN SHIP GOT AWAY.

Hwang-Ching-Tao Islanders Tell of Chase After Big Warship.

Chicago report: The Daily News last night published the following from its Chinese correspondent: "At Hwang Ching Tao the islanders insist that a warship, painted white, with four yellow funnels, steamed out of Port Arthur at 9 a.m. on Thursday,

and, keeping a southeasterly course, had the Miaotao Islands abeam when it perceived the Japanese ships, and, turning back, circled to the north of Hwang Ching Tao, then made off at full speed in the direction of Thokai Island, pursued by eight Japanese torpedo boats. One fisherman said that his boat was almost run down by the Russian cruiser, the decks of which were packed with men. The Japanese boats were seen returning about 5 p.m.

Many drifting mines have been seen this cruise. One of these was a Russian electro-contact mine. The others were not familiar to us. All these mines were in neutral waters. The mine situation here is much worse than it was at Dalny. Apparently the Russians place no limit on their sending out of floating mines. It is almost impossible to see these mines in a heavy sea or when sailing against the sunlight. It is utterly impossible to see them at night or in fogs.

"Many inoffensive junks have been destroyed by striking them. The Fawan passed a fragment of a blown-up junk to-day."

SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.

Russians Cannot Understand Japanese Movements.

A St. Petersburg cable: The Japanese advance to Tatchekiao is shrouded in mystery. No telegrams have been received by the general staff or the Admiralty since Lieut. Gen. Sakharoff's despatch of July 10, with the exception of a report from Gen. Kouropatkin covering the events detailed by Gen. Sakharoff.

The Japanese account of the fighting at Kaichou is offset by the admission that they are being greatly worried by Gen. Rennenkampf's Cossacks.

It has been intimated by the general staff that it is probable that the Japanese will not attempt to take Yin Kow before they capture Tatchekiao, as otherwise they would be liable to an unexpected attack from the Tatchekiao force, which is within easy distance, thanks to the railroad.

The Japanese advance north will perhaps be delayed for some days until the southeastern column converging at Siandian compel Major-General Mischenko to draw off, leaving Siyen road clear to Tatchekiao and Tatchekiao.

As soon as the Japanese troops enter Yin Kow and succeed in removing the mines from the mouth of the Liao River, the Japanese gunboats lying along the coast will come up, but it is not believed that the Japanese will venture to land a considerable force or to send war material so long as the Port Arthur squadron is able to come out whenever it likes.

DRAWING THEM ON.

Gen. Kouropatkin's Strategy Has Not Changed.

St. Petersburg cable: Military officers continue to believe that Gen. Kouropatkin's retreat from Kaiping has been the result of profound strategy, which will be triumphant shortly. They declare that the rains caused havoc in Gen. Nodzu's army, which is short of food and forage, and which has been decimated by dysentery.

The unusually well informed military critic of the Ruskyy Viedomosti, believes that Gen. Kouropatkin is deliberately surrendering his strategic positions like that of Kaichau for the purpose of drawing on the Japanese into the open country at or above Tatchekiao, where the Russians will be able to deploy large forces and to derive full advantage from their superior cavalry. He attributes Gen. Oku's advance to the necessity of helping to the stubborn resistance of Gen. Zarpubaietf, commander of the Fourth Siberian Army Corps, whose forces will be cleared out before a southern advance is made.

The critic thinks that the Japanese game of strategy is to effect a juncture between Nodzu and Oku, in order to force Kouropatkin to the northward, and if this plan should be successful to combine with Kuroki near Liao Yang.

GEN. OKU'S ADVANCE.

His Army Only Twenty Miles From Haicheng.

London cable: The Takushan army, which is marching north from Siyen, is reported from Shanghai to have reached Shimu Cheng, less than 20 miles from Hai Cheng. It is evident that Gen. Oku's advance on Tashichou is steadily continuing, though all the reports are official. Even the loquacious General Sakharoff has been silent since he left Kaiping behind. It is stated in New-Chiang that the Japanese have placed a garrison at Kaiping, while the main body moves on Tashichou, from which place their outposts are ten miles distant. The Russians have estimated to number 11,000 of all arms. Their artillery is weak. The approach to the railway is guarded by cross trenches and mine entanglements. The correspondent quotes a Russian staff officer as saying it is doubtful whether a stand will be made there or at Hai Cheng. There is nothing to confirm the rumor from Paris that the Japanese vanguard is at Yin Kow. Telegrams from that place do not mention the presence of Japanese, and are equally silent respecting the withdrawal of Russians from Yin Kow, which is reported from Shanghai and Tien Tsin.

It is stated that Japanese vessels have been seen cruising off the port, causing the expectation of a combined land and sea attack.

GENERAL KOUROPATKIN.

Aimed to Crush the Three Jap Armies in Detail.

London cable: The Tokio correspondent of the Times says that General Kouropatkin's strategy at Kaiping is much discussed by military officers in Japan, where his original intention is interpreted as having been to crush the three Japanese armies in detail, first striking Gen. Oku's corps, then the Takushan force, after which he would find himself on Gen. Kuroki's left flank, but his action at Kaiping was wholly devoid of offensive initiative, especially on the last day, when the main armies were engaged. Gen. Kouropatkin seems to have aimed chiefly at securing his retreat inasmuch as, having abandoned the heights east of the railway with little resistance, he obstinately held the eminences to the west until noon, thus covering the carriage of his wounded to Yin-Kow, and finally maintained an artillery action from the heights north of the town pending the withdrawing of his infantry northward. This strategy is plainly inconsistent with any plan of striking crushing blows. It is therefore conjectured that General Kouropatkin felt the pressure on the left flank from the Takushan army since the latter force began a forward movement towards Tomuching simultaneously with Gen. Oku's advance upon Kaiping. The correspondent mentions the official reports received of this advance. Tomuching is identical with Shimu-Cheng. The fighting lasted two days, and ended in the Russians being driven back. The casual-

MOVEMENTS OF THE JAPANESE TAKUSHAN ARMY.

Tokio cable: The Japanese Takushan army is northward from Siyen. It fought a series of small battles with the Russians on July 9 and 10. The army is divided into two columns, which advanced against the Russians. When the first column approached Chikuchang, the Russians retreated southward through the valley, but at five o'clock in the evening they took up a position on the heights west of Chou-Chia-Chang. The Russians were dislodged at dusk, when the second Japanese column advanced on the road toward Tongchia, repulsing small bodies of the enemy en route. They attacked the advance line of the Russians near Situngklau. The Russians were reinforced and compelled the Japanese to withdraw. At dawn on July 10 both columns attacked and dislodged the Russians from the heights west of Sinciauku. The Japanese pursued them, and again attacked a strong position held by the Russians at Situeh-kou. After a desperate fight the Japanese occupied the position.

After occupying Kaichou, Gen. Oku's army on Sunday moved northward. The Russians have strong defenses at Tapingshan, Ningshan, Nangmatat, Chingchishan, and camp near Kouchianao. General Oku will probably attack these positions as soon as his troops are rested.

In the fights of July 8 and 9 the Japanese lost about 150 men. The Russian losses are believed to have been heavier than the Japanese.

THAT JAP DISASTER.

Some Doubt Yet as to the Truth of the Slaughter.

St. Petersburg cable: Under yesterday's date the correspondent of the Associated Press with the Russian headquarters at Liao Yang, whose telegrams heretofore have been conservative and reliable, has written: "There is here of the 'joyful news of the brilliant repulse of the Japanese assault upon Port Arthur with a loss of 30,000 men' of the enemy were blown up with mines. The correspondent says whose masses and adds that the Russian losses were 1,800, and that Major Gen. Fock pursued the Japanese to Nengpa Pass.

The correspondent says the reports are causing general rejoicing, and concludes: "It is believed that Gen. Oku will now retreat to the south."

It is possible that the correspondent is confusing Major-Gen. Fock's pursuit at the attack made by him on July 5 on the Japanese right flank, when he was also reported to have driven back the enemy to Nengpa Pass.

The popular jubilation in St. Petersburg over the reported great defeat of the Japanese before Port Arthur is being chilled by the failure to clear up the source of the reports. While eagerly expressing hope for direct official confirmation of the news, the papers counsel its acceptance with reserve.

FIGHTING GOES ON.

Japanese Troops Entrenched and Awaiting Reinforcements from Kai Chou.

New-Chiang, July 20m.—(Delayed in transmission.)—It is reported that the Japanese troops advancing on Kai-Chou have entrenched and are awaiting reinforcements. Heavy firing has been heard day and night, proving that the Russians are making a stubborn resistance.

Russian officers who come into New-Chiang frequently from Ta Tche Kiao say that place is well fortified. There are only a few soldiers here. The gunboat Sivoutch is still in the River Liao, and it is believed that she will resist should the Japanese attempt to take New-Chiang. Her officers and crew say they will never surrender.

Last night two Japanese scouts dressed as Chinese rode on horseback through the city. Ships now enter the port without being searched outside, but a strict censorship is still maintained at the telegraph station at Yin Kow.

Russian and low class continentals are coming here in the expectation of gathering plunder in the interim between the expected evacuation by the Russians and the occupation by the Japanese.

ORDERED BREAD PLATES.

New York, July 17.—According to the Herald's Milan correspondent the Russian Government has ordered 100,000 bread plates from a local company en-

EX-PRESIDENT KRUGER DEAD.

Former Head of Transvaal Died in Switzerland This Morning.

Clarens, Switzerland, July 14.—Paul Kruger, former President of the Transvaal Republic, died here at 3 o'clock this morning from pneumonia and supervening heart weakness. Mr. Kruger lost consciousness on Monday. His daughter and son-in-law were with him at the time of his death. He had been out only once since his arrival here, at the beginning of last month.

The ex-President's body was embalmed, and will be placed in a vault pending funeral arrangements. Application will be made to the British Government for authority to transport the remains



PAUL KRUGER.

to the Transvaal. In the meantime they will be temporarily interred here.

Mr. Kruger, who was staying at the Villa Du Boichet, had been gradually failing for some long time, but he was able to attend to affairs, read the newspapers and receive visits until Saturday. A change for the worse set in on Sunday, he became unconscious Monday and remained so until his death. Mr. Kruger was attended by his physician, and by his secretary, Mr. Redel.

On several occasions Mr. Kruger had expressed a desire to be buried beside his wife, in his own country.

A Pathetic Figure.

Paris, July 14.—The death of former president of the Transvaal Paul Kruger, at Clarens, Switzerland, aroused widespread regret here, owing to French sympathy for the Boer cause and personal admiration for the ex-president. When he recently fell Montone his health was gradually failing through old age, constitutional disorders and throat troubles, which restricted to the lungs. Kruger resisted the idea that his physical powers were failing. He had arranged to return to Montone next fall, releasing the picturesque villa which he had occupied on the outskirts of the town. Nevertheless, his near friends recognized that Mr. Kruger's once rugged constitution was gradually going to pieces.

Visitors described him as being a pathetic figure of calm endurance. His eyesight had dimmed but he sat much at times with his bible open before him, muttering well known passages. He avoided references to the Boer war, but when it was occasionally mentioned he showed no resentment and expressed the belief that Providence would eventually render justice to the Boer cause.

GRAND LODGE OFFICERS ELECTED AND BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT BRANTFORD.

Brantford, July 13.—The Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias of Ontario concluded the annual meeting this afternoon with the installation of officers, who were elected as follows: Grand Chancellor, W. C. McDonald, Toronto (acclamation); Grand Vice-Chancellor, A. G. Burdick, Prospect, London (acclamation); Grand Prelate, C. V. Campbell, Algoma, Sault Ste. Marie; Grand Keeper of Records and Seals, Alex. Coulter, Toronto; Grand Master of Arms, B. Dunlop, Petrola; Grand Master of the Exchequer, John Burs, Hamilton; Grand Inner Guard, A. Ramsperger, Bismarck Lodge, Hamilton; Grand Outer Guard, T. F. Gough, White Lily, Strathroy.

The thanks of the Grand Lodge were tendered to Calanthe Lodge, No. 26, of Brantford, for entertainment provided. The usual grant of \$50 was made to the Pythian Review under the same conditions as before.

Deputy Grand Chancellors Gough, of Strathroy; W. R. Cunningham, of Sault Ste. Marie, and W. J. Stewart, of Toronto, reported for their districts, giving a summary of the work done during their terms. The recommendation of the latter that the Supreme Lodge be requested to lower the age limit to 18 years instead of 20 was fully discussed, and the Supreme representatives were instructed to again bring the matter up.

In the afternoon the officers were installed by Supreme Representatives A. G. McWhinney, of London, and D. J. Peace, and after the report of the Mileage and Per Diem Committees the Grand Lodge adjourned to meet again in London next year.

HOW TO REACH INDIA.

Kouropatkin has Plan Prepared, But Is Too Busy To Carry It Out.

London, July 18.—The Daily Express to-day prints what it claims is General Kouropatkin's signed plan of invasion of British India, which, it is stated, was filed in the Russian War Office as an official method of procedure in case of a war between Russia and Great Britain. The document goes into minute details and is three columns long. Briefly summed up, Gen. Kouropatkin divided such a war into two campaigns, one ending with the capture of Herat and the other (after two or three years' administration of the territory, with the capture of Kashmir, Kandahar and Kabul. After that, says Gen. Kouropatkin, the British would find themselves without native support in India proper.

The plan deals minutely with the methods Russia ought to adopt to secure the co-operation of the Persians and Afghans by an elaborate system of gifts and subsidies. It estimates that one Afghan army corps and one Trans-Caspian corps would be required in the initial stage of the campaign, which "I should prefer to begin in November, as the weather is healthier for the men and all Russian ports are frozen. A casual belli can, any time when required, be found through a collision between Russian and Afghan outposts."

DOUKHOBORS MARCHING.

Another Party Reported Heading for Winnipeg on a Pilgrimage.

Winnipeg, Man., July 18.—A Minitonas, Man., despatch reads: A band of about sixty or seventy Doukhobors, consisting of men, women and children, passed through Minitonas last evening, and stayed till this morning. They are on a pilgrimage, looking for their Saviour, Jesus Christ. By their talk they are without money. Their faith is that the Lord will provide, and their reasoning is that the Doukhobors love the Lord; the Jewish work for bread, and if they love Jesus they will feed the Doukhobors.

The band contains many who were on the previous pilgrimage of a year ago. The Council gave them potatoes and oatmeal, and said was all they had to eat since leaving Swan River. It is understood that they are between Minitonas and Fishers, on their way to Winnipeg.

This party is followed by a larger one now near Swan River. Only a portion of the Thunder Hill colony is struck by this new craze.

most uninformed people of the present day, in America. This is regarded to the exhibition world. The exhibitor, who has in his possession these half-bred dogs, is not so far from understanding how any animal instincts can be bred in a male is a mere half-bred. Then the daily press, misleading the public, made of attack on the bred to a "savage bulldogs are not savagely poor fighters. With all the strength of it is about the end of the.

FOR HOMECREASERS.

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Press Goods Colors.

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the Pulpit.

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