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R. F. IRVING
Editor and Proprietor.

Have You Seen Our New Arrivals



Dress Goods,
Novelty Trimmings,
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Lace Belts,
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J. H. HARRIS.

EASTERN WAR NEWS.

JAPAN HAS QUARTER OF A MILLION MEN IN THE FIELD.

Port Arthur, Blocked by Land and Sea, Must Fall to Japanese—Russians Put to Flight in Second Battle and Japs Capture Feng Wang Cheng.

Seoul, May 7.—A dispatch from Antung says that the Japanese captured Feng Wang Cheng, May 4, after fierce fighting, and that the losses on both sides were very heavy.

London, May 7.—Despatches from the far east today indicate the most startling advances in Japan's sensational land campaign.

She has captured Feng Wang Cheng.

She has again put the Russian forces to flight.

She landed troops at Takushan, 40 miles west of the mouth of the Yalu.

She has completely blockaded Port Arthur. Admiral Togo reports wonderful heroism on the part of his men that manned the fire ships and blocked the harbor.

Japanese troops have already thrown up fortifications across the Liao Tung peninsula and have mounted guns.

Japan now has across the Yalu river and into Manchuria almost 200,000 men.

She has more than 100,000 men within 100 miles of Mukden.

St. Petersburg, May 7.—Feng Huang Cheng was captured by the Japanese troops Wednesday.

The losses on both sides are reported to have been heavy.

The Russians officially confirm a retreat, declaring that the Japanese pressed the retreating troops, though with few losses to either side. The Japanese have destroyed the railway at Port Adams, blowing up the bridges.

The ominous silence of General Kuropatkin since the battle of the Yalu is causing uneasiness and filling the air with wild rumors, one of which is that General Kuropatkin's army, in a rapid movement on Feng Huang Cheng, met the Japanese in a disastrous engagement, Kuropatkin being wounded.

Reports from the palace declare that the czar is greatly depressed over the recent reverses at the front. The emperor has telegraphed to General Kuropatkin and Viceroy Alexieff demanding in their reports the absolute truth of the conditions at the front, under pain of severe punishment if they continue to deceive him. The result of this warning is that the emperor has received two distressing reports.

The palace version of General Kuropatkin's report is to the effect that the officers defending the Yalu positions permitted themselves to be surprised, not saving a single gun, horse or transport wagon; that the flight to Feng Huang Cheng degenerated into a rout, and that General Kuropatkin informed the czar that he believes it is impossible to hold the Liao Tung peninsula and Manchuria.

Alexieff's report is declared to be equally depressing.

St. Petersburg, May 7.—It was officially announced tonight that the Japanese have succeeded in gaining a foothold on the Liao Tung peninsula, landing forces at Pitsewo and at Cape Terminal, 15 miles distant, and have cut the line of communication with Port Arthur. Not only that, but Viceroy Alexieff, Grand Duke Boris and many of the higher Russian officers in Manchuria narrowly escaped capture, or at least being penned up in the beleaguered town.

The news that the Japanese had arrived near Pitsewo was transmitted to Port Arthur by a Russian signal corps officer, who sighted the Japanese transport fleet early on Thursday. He immediately notified the viceroy, and preparations were at once made for the quitting of Port Arthur by Admiral Alexieff, Grand Duke Boris and the viceroy's staff, and in a baggage car was placed all important documents of the Manchurian administration, which had been stored at army

headquarters in Port Arthur.

While this was going on the Japanese transports had run close to the beach at Pitsewo, and preparations were made for the landing of troops. The cruisers which had accompanied the fleet shelled the beach, most of the shells being aimed at the small settlement. There was but a small settlement at this point. They had but few guns, and these were but of small calibre. Recognizing, therefore, that it was hopeless to attempt to oppose the Japanese, and also that an extended stay might mean the capture of the entire force, the Russian commandant gave the order to retire.

Following the departure of the Russian garrison, a veritable panic took place among the inhabitants of the town, and within an hour they had fled along the road to the northward. So precipitous was their flight that they left behind them their worldly possessions.

The Japanese landed boat after boat, each crowded to the gunwales with men, and by nightfall a force of 10,000 men had been disembarked with their accoutrements. This was excellent work on the part of the enemy, as the boats could not run close to the beach, and the men were compelled to jump into water up to their waists and wade ashore. A small band of Russian Cossacks held their position on the hills near the abandoned town until the Japanese began their advance, and in this way a complete report of the operations has been placed at the disposal of the Russian officials.

When the railroad was reached the train bearing the viceroy and his party was in sight, the Japanese made an attempt to capture it but failed. They fired several volleys after it, but the range was too great and the shots went wild.

In the meantime, another Japanese column had been sent toward the southwest, and by marching the better part of the night they were able to secure the roads leading southward.

The Japanese army which has undertaken the investment of Port Arthur numbers fully 30,000 men, and all of them were landed by last night. They intend to march southward before the end of the week, and plant siege guns to bombard the town.

Washington, May 6.—The state department has received a cablegram from United States Minister Griscom, at Tokio, confirming the press reports of the landing of the Japanese on the Liao Tung peninsula, about 40 miles above Port Arthur. The location given in the Japanese dispatches is Kin Chau. This is the narrowest point on the peninsula, and consequently, the minister says, the railroad is practically closed, and the investment of Port Arthur has begun.

According to a telegram received at Rome, May 6, from Chefoo, the garrison at Port Arthur has been reduced to 4,000 men, and all the important documents, money and field guns have been removed to Mukden.

Tokio, May 7.—Further reports of encounters between the Japs and Russians since the general engagement of Saturday last have been received. The latest of these describes a sharp engagement between a force of Japanese cavalry and Russian Cossacks. The Japanese were making a reconnaissance and met the Russian patrol at Fang Shang Cheng, twenty miles from Kiu Len Cheng, where the battle of last Sunday was fought, the Russians retreated and Japs pursued, following the Cossacks to the Ku Cheum river, ten miles from the Russian position at Feng Wang Cheng.

A St. Petersburg correspondent of the Echo de Paris sends the following under date of May 6.

"The general staff believes that the Japanese landed at Pitsewo a number not less than 40,000, and says the bulk of General Kuroki's army this morning was about nine miles from Feng Wang Cheng. The army was advancing in three columns, the third column following the coast, probably in order to communicate with the troops landed at Pitsewo. All the reserve, provisions and ammunition were landed on the Elliott Islands.

The correspondent repeats the report that the Japanese have occupied Fort Adams and says they are advancing on Port Arthur.

Come to Starr's on Saturday to eat Hazelwood ice cream.

HAS COME TO GRIEF

SLADDEN, FORMER EUGENE MAN IS CHARGED WITH SWINDLING.

Supposed to Have Murdered a Number of Wives with Chloroform—Married First in Salem but Was Divorced—Now in Jail in Kentucky.

Los Angeles, May 7.—A startling story which may develop into one of mystery, came to light in Los Angeles today. The chief figure in it is Sidney S. Sladden. He was once a resident of this city. He is now a prisoner in the county jail at Louisville, Ky., charged with having swindled the Pacific Life Insurance Company, of which he was general agent in Kentucky.

Special Policeman Charles L. Foster, who for ten years has been on Sladden's trail, is authority for the statement that effort is being made to prove that Sladden, once the most dashing man about town, is guilty of wife murder. His first wife, who is now living in East Orange, N. J., declares that before she divorced Sladden he tried twice to kill her with chloroform.

Dr. T. L. Magee, of San Diego, certified that the second Mrs. Sladden's death was due to natural causes. Mrs. Sladden No. 1 is positive in her declaration that her husband not only tried to poison her, but that he did poison his second wife. Another one of Sladden's wives, into whose sudden death inquiry is now being made, was a young Chicago woman, who at the time Sladden married her, had two children.

In addition to these three wives Sladden has twice been the husband of a Miss Wilson, of Washington, D. C., and of a young woman who died suddenly in Louisville two months before he married Miss Wilson.

Sidney S. Sladden, at one time in his career, was well known in the Willamette Valley. He was in business in Eugene, where, with his father, he was engaged in the grocery business, and where his father and mother still reside. While living in Eugene Sladden was considered the beau of the valley. He dressed better than most of the young men in those days and was in great demand in all the social affairs, both at Eugene and at Salem.

Charley as he was called, during one of the many social visits he made to Salem, met, fell in love with and married a Miss Nellie Gilbert, in the latter part of 1890. Miss Gilbert was at the time one of Salem's social leaders, and the marriage was looked upon as a good one. It was not long, however, before the young couple began to quarrel. Sladden and his wife lived about a year together, when, to the surprise of everybody, Mrs. Sladden began proceedings for a divorce, charging her husband with cruel and inhuman treatment. Sladden did not contest the proceeding and a divorce was granted.

Soon after this Sladden went east and his Eugene friends heard later that he was located in Chicago. The next heard of him was that he had gone to St. Louis. Through friends it was learned that he had again married and that his second wife had died of tuberculosis. It was not long after this that Sladden gave his Oregon friends another surprise by enlisting for service in the Philippines in one of the California regiments. This was in 1899. He served about a year, secured his discharge and returned to San Francisco. On his return to this country he visited his mother and father at Eugene, but he did not stay long, and the next thing heard of him was that he was local manager of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance company, with offices at Louisville, Ky.

Less than a year ago he had a flying visit to Portland, on business, but was called back before the trip was over. While living in Kentucky he made several visits to Washington, D. C., to see his daughter, who was attending one of the convent schools at the capital. His third marriage took place a couple of months ago. It was a sudden affair, and Sladden and his bride took a trip to Europe. He had no sooner sailed than it was

discovered that his accounts with the insurance company were not straight. The Louisville papers printed stories of his shortage in his accounts, which, it was said, amounted to several thousands of dollars.

Whether there was an attempt on the part of the insurance company to have Sladden arrested while he was in Europe having a good time is not known, but a number of American newspapers printed a cable dispatch from Germany stating that a Sidney Sladden had been arrested on the charge of raising a draft and forging the signature of Secretary of State John Hay. How he got out of this scrape is not known, but he reached Boston two weeks ago. There he gave out an interview stating that the charges against him were all false and that he was going to sue the newspapers for libel.

Sladden's being charged with murder comes as a shocking surprise to the friends of his father and mother and those who have known him. It is generally discredited, for it was known that he was very fond of his second wife, and during her illness he was very devoted.

Walla Walla, Wash., May 6.—Zenon Champaux, the first Washington murderer to be executed under state supervision, died a death at the state penitentiary this morning that astonished onlookers for its composure. Champaux slept all night, declined any stimulant, dressed himself and actually forged ahead of his two guards as he walked up the scaffold stairs. He made no statement, but with the words, "God Bless you all," nodded his head for Warden Dryden to press the lever. His neck was broken instantly.

Champaux's pulse beat the normal 68 as he ascended the gallows. Religious emotion is given as the cause of the unusual display of self-possession, the condemned French Canadian having implicit faith in his hereafter.

"I shall eat breakfast with mother this morning," he wrote his brother in the province of Quebec. His father wrote him from Quebec a couple days ago saying he had spent all the money he had and had exhausted every resource to save his son.

Zenon Champaux killed Lottie Brace, a variety theatre performer, in Riley's Arcade Theatre, Seattle, in the early part of November, 1902. He had met the woman in Alaska previously and became infatuated with her. He spent most of his money on her. Finally she threw him aside. He went to the theatre where she was employed with the intention of killing her. He stabbed her in the brain with a hunting knife as she was leaving the theatre and she died the next day from the wound.

His first trial was dramatic. He feigned insanity, fought his jailors and acted in every way like a mad man, but a jury declared him sane. His case was appealed to every possible court but the convicted man's attorney gave up all hope of staying the execution.

Champaux stated before leaving for the state prison that he wished to die and cursed his attorney for trying to save his neck. Champaux's wealthy relatives in Eastern Canada, however, made a hard fight to save him from the scaffold.

A POSITIVE NECESSITY.

Having to lay upon my bed for 14 days from a severely bruised leg, I only found relief when I used a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment. I can cheerfully recommend it as the best medicine for bruises ever sent to the afflicted. It has now become a positive necessity upon myself. D. R. Byrnes, Merchant, Droversville, Texas. 25c, 50c, \$1.00. Sold by Graham & Wortham.

Belgrade, May 7.—A letter from Queen Natalie, the widow of King Milan of Serbia, declares that the disasters Russia has met with in the War with the Japanese are the just punishment of Heaven.

She says that the czar was responsible for the tragic end of her son, King Alexander. She says also that the czar's mother will now be spared the sorrows that were inflicted upon the mother of the murdered king of Serbia.

Strayed.

One bay mare with roached foretop, Star in forehead. About 1000 pounds. Came to my place about 10 days ago. W. F. Whitby.

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