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WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1904.

E. F. IRVING, Editor, and Proprietor.

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A BATTLE IMMINENT

JAPANESE ARE PUSHING ON TO MUKDEN WITH 100,000.

Two Important Forts Captured by the Japanese—Kuroki Eluded a Strong Cossack Guard—General Assault Is in Progress Against Port Arthur.

Mukden, Sept. 20.—A battle is imminent. The Japanese are advancing with eight and possibly nine divisions. The crops of tall millet have been harvested, affording a better field over which to fire on the flat plains. The river Hun is the direct front of the Russian army.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 21.—The sensational announcement that General Kuroki has crossed the Hun river unopposed, and that the whole Japanese army is advancing upon Mukden is overshadowed by anxiety for Port Arthur. Moreover, the announcement relative to Kuroki does not receive complete credence here, as being in direct contradiction of official news issued by the general staff. General Kurapatkin announced only two days ago that there was not a single Japanese east of Bentsiaputze. How, it is asked, could General Kuroki with 100,000 men slip past General Repenkaupf's Cossacks and cross the Hun river near the Fushan coal mines, 30 miles east of Mukden. Fushan is situated on the road from Bentsiaputze, where General Kuroki crossed the Taitz river. This road is carefully watched by General Kurapatkin's outposts between Mukden and Sintsintin.

A strong guard has been placed at the Fushan mines, which General Kurapatkin will not give up without a struggle, as the loss of the mines would involve the cutting off of the coal supply for the whole of the Manchurian railway. Nevertheless, it is considered more than doubtful if General Kurapatkin will make a decisive stand south of Tie Pass.

Chefoo, Sept. 20.—Authoritative information has been received here of a general attack upon Port Arthur by the Japanese forces, which began yesterday before daybreak and continued until dark. All indications point to an effort to capture certain of the northwest main forts.

This is the attack for which the Japanese has been preparing for the past 19 days, with slight hope of success. As forecasted in these dispatches, the Japanese attack on Port Arthur is directed against the northeast front. The main object is to capture the fortifications on Kikwan Mountain, Riblung Mountain and the intermediate forts.

The foregoing comes from a Russian officer of standing, whose previous information have been correct. He adds that the attack at the end of August, which was reported as two separate assaults, really constituted a ten days' battle, the fighting being the heaviest during the first three days and the last four days of that period.

Although the Japanese retired August 31 along the greater part of their line, they remained in four supplementary forts on the northeast front, which they had captured from the Russians. These include two first forts, 50 yards from Riblung Mountain, and two others at a somewhat greater distance.

Since August 31 the Japanese have bombarded very slightly, while the Russians have been throwing approximately 1000 shells daily, chiefly against the four Japanese-mentioned. Small sorties, as referred to by the Novikrai of Port Arthur, in the efforts to recapture the positions, have been of almost nightly occurrence and have been uniformly unsuccessful.

If the Japanese succeed in capturing Riblung Mountain or other forts they will realize that this will be one step, although an important one toward the capture of Port Arthur. The Russians who have been observing the new tactics of the Japanese did not expect another strike before the first week in October. The Japanese are endeavoring to proceed slowly, but surely.

During the fighting in August, the attempt to capture Kikwan Mountain cost the Japanese an en-

tire regiment. This statement has been absolutely confirmed, and indicates the monumental proportions of the task which the Japanese have set for themselves in attempting to capture the fortress, which is composed of many forts equally strong.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 21.—Interest is again concentrated upon Port Arthur, owing to the receipt from foreign sources of news that a general storming of the fortifications there has begun.

The telegrams brought to Chefoo by Prince Radziwill have not yet reached the war office. It is understood that these dispatches contain details of the landing of strong Japanese reinforcements at Dalny, which would tend to confirm the belief that it is the intention of the Japanese to storm the fortress, and that the warships will probably take part in the attack. In this event, Rear-Admiral Wiren's division will doubtless go out and engage the Japanese fleet.

Public feeling has been aroused to a high tension by a dreadful picture given by Prince Radziwill of the sufferings of the Russian army there.

Shanghai, Sept. 20.—The general attack on Port Arthur, which began yesterday and in which the Japanese fleet is co-operating, was resumed this morning. The Japanese captured two important forts on either side of Sueszeying, north of Port Arthur.

New York, Sept. 20.—Within sight of her mother, who was powerless to render assistance, the 4-year-old daughter of James Kinley, a manufacturer at Port Washington, Long Island, was swallowed up by quick sand. Her mother fell unconscious and is now in a critical condition.

The little girl was at play only a few feet from home near the shore of the sound when she stepped into a murky pool left by recent rains. The water was only two or three feet deep, but the bottom of the pool was quicksand. Mrs. Kinley rushed to the spot to snatch her daughter from the water and was horrified to see her slowly disappearing in the sand. The woman screamed and then swooned. Workmen from her husband's factory rushed to the scene and the woman was restored sufficiently to tell what had happened. The men set to work to rescue the child, whose body, being light, had not sunk entirely. Several men went down, but were rescued by their comrades, and finally the child's body was recovered.

Berlin, Sept. 21.—A dispatch from Mukden, September 21, to the Lokal Bozeiger says:

"The Japanese on Tuesday attacked Da Pass, 50 miles southeast of Mukden, with what result is not known."

"The Red Cross institutions here are making ready for general engagements."

Shanghai, Sept. 21.—A Chinese who left Port Arthur last Monday reports that, owing to the incessant bombardment of the harbor by the Japanese, the Russian fleet there is determined to break out this week and endeavor to reach Tsinsau, the German port of the Shantung Peninsula.

Paris, Sept. 21.—A dispatch to the Temps from Mukden dated yesterday says:

"Russians executed reconnaissances Monday, which developed that the main army of the Japanese is about 22 miles southeast, under General Kuroki, with two divisions Yentai."

"The Japanese junks turned back after succeeding in getting up the Liao river almost to Simintin."

"A great battle is expected along the Hun river."

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DYNAMITE EXPLOSION

ELECTRIC CAR BLOWN UP BY STRIKING BOX OF DYNAMITE.

Six Killed Outright and Nineteen Are Injured—Explosive Fell From a Wagon—Japanese Attack Russians at Da Pass.

Melrose, Mass., Sept. 21.—An outward-bound electric car containing 32 persons was blown to pieces in this city tonight by striking a 50-pound box of dynamite that had fallen off an express wagon. Six persons were killed outright, three more died of their injuries within an hour and 19 others on the car were taken to the hospitals suffering from severe injuries. At least a score of persons in the immediate vicinity of the explosion were hurt by flying glass and splinters.

So great was the force of explosion that all but ten feet of the rear portion of the car was blown into small pieces, while windows within a radius of a quarter of a mile were shattered.

The immediate vicinity of the accident presented a fearful spectacle, when those in the neighborhood reached the scene. The ground was strewn with legs, arms and other portions of the bodies of those who had been killed, and shrieks and groans came from the writhing forms of the injured. The car contained mostly men on their way to their homes in this city.

For more than three hours there was the greatest confusion. Thousands of people rushed about trying to find relatives and friends, and the hospitals were besieged. The police arrested Roy Eenton, driver of an express wagon. Eenton, it was learned, was carrying two 50-pound boxes of dynamite on his wagon, and did not know until he reached the express office that one of the boxes had dropped off. He hurried back in the hope of picking it up, but the electric car reached the box first.

The report was heard for many miles. Directly opposite the scene was the Masonic building, every window of which was shattered, and through one of the windows a human foot was blown. A score of persons within 100 yards of the car was knocked down and rendered deaf by the concussion.

Muscatine, Sept. 12.—Posses gathered by three special trains and reinforced by scores of citizens in the neighborhood are blindly pursuing five men who, shortly after midnight, stopped a Rock Island passenger train on a sharp curve at mile-post No. 230, near Letts, Ia., and robbed the express car of a sum of money estimated at from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Two packs of bloodhounds are assisting the posse.

There are more than a hundred men in the regularly organized party and twice that many more are searching separately with more or less diligence, stimulated by the offer of \$1,000 reward offered jointly by the railroad company and the United States Express Company.

The robbers are supposed to have left the line of the railroad near Letts, toward which place they started on the locomotive of the train which they had robbed.

The passengers were not molested. Nine of the trainmen showed fight, and no one was hurt.

The train was one which left Chicago at 6:45 last night. It was due to pass Letts shortly before 1 o'clock.

At 12:30 o'clock, as it was passing upon a short curve a few miles east of Letts, the engineer stopped in answer to a signal.

Five men covered the engineer, the firemen, the express messenger and the conductor with revolvers, uncoupled the engine from the rest of the train, entered the top car and blew open the safe. They took the contents of the strong box and ran to the engine, on which they immediately started rapidly toward Letts.

The railroad officials said at first that nothing of value was taken from the safe. Later today it was said that the robbers obtained between \$10,000 and \$20,000 worth of booty.

Some of this, it is said, was in coin, but the greater part was in

currency and easily carried.

There was no way in which the trainmen could pursue the robbers or get word ahead of them. By the time the conductor could walk to the nearest telegraph office the robbers had at least an hour's start.

The engineer and firemen of the train furnished pretty accurate description of three of the men.

The robbery was committed at a place known as Whiskey Hollow, about four miles out of Muscatine, at the end of a sharp curve, and exactly where a similar hold up was engineered two years ago by the Chicago barn bandits.

A fusillade of shots was fired along the side of the train to prevent interference by the passengers. The messenger of the express car was compelled to open the door. The car safe was dynamited and the contents taken, after which the train crew was compelled to return to the passenger coaches, the engine was cut off and the robbers mounting it, ran it west through Letts and to within two miles of Columbus Junction, where the engine was left standing on the track. The manner in which the robbers handled the engine, their knowledge of the fact that Letts was a closed station at night, and the selection of a point contiguous to Columbus Junction to abandon the engine, convinces the officers that the robbers or some of them are experienced railroad men.

Portland, Me., Sept. 13.—Returns from the little towns in the back woods today and a careful revision of last night's figures place the republican plurality in yesterday's state election at about 27,000.

Returns from 450 cities, towns and plantations out of 522 give William T. Cobb, rep nominee for governor, 75,954, and Cyrus W. Davis, democrat, 50,017. The same places in 1900 gave Hill, republican, 72,541, and Lord, democrat, 39,714. The republican gain over 1900 is now estimated at 5 per cent, and the democratic gain at 24 per cent.

Next year's senate probably will stand 27 republicans and 4 democrats, as against 29 republicans and 1 democrat in the last legislature. It is estimated that the House will consist of 121 republicans and 30 democrats. The late House stood 131 republicans and 20 democrats.

The heaviest democratic gains were in Cumberland county, where the party re-elected Pennell as sheriff, a senator and county commissioners.

Cyrus W. Davis, the democratic nominee for governor, said:

"I am very well satisfied with the democratic gains in the cities and towns where we were able to appear before the people and discuss the issues. Looking at the result from a national standpoint, I do not see how the republican party can possibly derive any comfort from the return."

Chicago, Sept. 13.—Chairman Cortelyou refuses to comment on the Maine election. Harry New said: "We did not place the same significance in the Maine result as we did in that of Vermont, and had prepared to meet a falling off in recent pluralities."

The republican managers sent their chief spellbinders to Maine, among them Fairbanks, Taft, Moody, Beverage and Wilson.

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