

The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

Vol. XVII-No. 27.

CORVALLIS, OREGON, SEPTEMBER 28, 1904.

R. F. IRVING, Editor,
and Proprietor

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J. H. HARRIS.

FIFTY-FOUR KILLED

AND ONE HUNDRED AND
THIRTY INJURED ON PAS-
SENGER TRAINS IN
COLLISION.

Scenes About the Wreck Are Most
Horrible—All the Passengers
in One of the Coaches,
Save Two, Are Killed
—Accident in Ten-
nessee—Other
News.

Knoxville, Ten., Sept. 24.—Run-
ning on a roadbed in a supposedly
high condition of maintenance, and
having about them every safeguard
known to a modern railroad, two
trains on the Southern railway met
head-on near Hodges, Tenn., today,
sending fifty-four people to death
and injuring 130, several of whom
will probably die. Some of the
bodies have not yet been recovered,
and many remain unidentified.

This appalling loss of life and
maiming of the living resulted ap-
parently from the disregarding of
orders given to the two trains to
meet at a station which has for a
long time been their regular meet-
ing point. This action on the part
of the engineer of the west-bound
train is made more inexplicable by
the fact that the accident happened
in broad daylight, and according to
the best information obtainable he
had the order in a little frame in
front of him as his engine rushed
by the station, and a mile and a
half further on came upon an east-
bound passenger train. The possi-
bility exists that the engineer may
have been asleep.

The trains were on time, and were
not making over 35 miles an hour,
yet the impact as they rounded a
curve and came suddenly upon each
other was frightful. Both engines
and the major portions of both
trains were demolished, and why
the orders were disregarded or mis-
interpreted will probably never be
known, as the engineers of the two
trains were crushed, their bodies
remaining for hours under the
wreckage of their locomotives.

The collision was between east-
bound passenger No. 12, and west-
bound passenger No. 15, from Bris-
tol. No. 12 was a heavy train, car-
rying three Pullman's, two day
coaches and mail and baggage car.
No. 15 was a light local train. The
greatest loss of life occurred on the
eastbound train, while on the west-
bound train only the engineer and
fireman were killed.

Relief trains were dispatched
from Knoxville within an hour, and
all the physicians in the vicinity
of the wreck were doing all they
could when the local corps arrived.
The first train arrived here from
the scene of the wreck at 4:20 o'-
clock, bringing about 70 of the in-
jured. Six of the injured aboard
had died while en route to the city,
and after their bodies were taken
off, the train proceeded to a point
near the general hospital, where a
large force of physicians were ready
to receive the wounded. The next
train from the wreck arrived short-
ly after 8 o'clock. It brought the
bodies of 43 dead. The six others
who died en route bring the list up
to 49; and there at least six more at
the scene of the wreck, none of the
bodies of the trainmen having yet
been recovered.

John W. Brown, of Rogersville,
Tenn., a newspaper man, was in
the westbound train. When the
fearful jolt came, he said, all the
seats in the car were torn loose and
people and seats were hurled to the
front end of the car. When he re-
covered from the shock he heard
the screams and groans of the in-
jured and dying in every direction.

"I left the car," said Mr. Brown,
"as soon as I could and walked to
the main part of the wreck. It
was the most horrible sight I ever
witnessed. I saw a woman pinioned
by a piece of split timber which
had gone completely through her
body. A little child, quivering in
death's agony, lay beneath the wo-
man. I saw the child die, and within
a few feet of her lay a woman's head,
the decapitated body being several
feet away. Another little girl whose
body was fearfully mangled was
piteously calling for her mother. I
have since learned that she was Lu-
cille Connor, of Knoxville, and that
both of her parents were killed. I
heard one woman, terribly mangled,

praying earnestly to be spared for
her children, but death ensued in a
few minutes. Both engines and all
of the coaches of No. 15 were
demolished, the smoker and bag-
gage car completely so. The sleep-
ers remained on the track undam-
aged. Both engines lay to the north
of the track, jammed together into
a mass of ruins, the cars which
were demolished were piled on the
wrecked engine."

Congressman H. R. Gibson, from
the second congressional district of
Tennessee, was a passenger in a
day coach on the eastbound train.
He and another man, whose name
is not known, were the only per-
sons to escape alive from the dem-
olished car. Congressman Gibson
was en route to Russellville, Tenn.,
to deliver a political address.

Chefoo, Sept. 25.—Without in-
terruption the Japanese are contin-
uing their savage onslaught upon
Port Arthur and after fighting for
hours amid a rain of shell, they
have succeeded in capturing six im-
portant forts. The assaults upon
these strongholds were made with
an utter disregard of life and so
soon as one company had been
wiped out another was moved for-
ward and thrown into the breach.

The storming of these forts was
begun Monday last and Tuesday
night the attacked positions were
in the hands of the Japanese. The
assaults upon the forts were made
simultaneously, the Japanese bat-
teries in the rear and the warships
concentrating their fire upon the six
positions and the infantry rushing
up the hills with fixed bayonets.

Tuesday evening a supplementa-
ry fort fell after a desperate strug-
gle. At Fort Esteshan the furore
of both attack and defense beggars
description. The Japanese attack-
ed the fort from all sides, swarm-
ing up the hill over the dead and
wounded and meeting the defend-
ers on the wall. There a combat,
such as history has very few to tell
of, developed.

Rifles and swords were thrown
away, as the men were too near
each other to use any but short
weapons effectively and hand-to-
hand fighting began, lasting far in-
to the night. The number of dead
and wounded in this attack alone
exceeded several thousand, many
officers being killed on both sides.
Both inside and outside the walls
lay heaps of dead. The fighting
did not cease until nearly all of
the garrison were killed or placed
out of the fighting by being wound-
ed. The massacre of Russians in Fort
Esteshan is said to be the worst of
the war.

There was a let-up in the firing
on Friday, but on Saturday the as-
sault was resumed.

Information, believed here to be
thoroughly authentic, is to the ef-
fect that the Japanese commanders
have firmly determined to make
this the final attack upon the for-
tress and not to cease the bombard-
ment and infantry attack until
Port Arthur has fallen or surren-
dered.

Butte, Mont., Sept. 24.—A Bil-
lings (Mont.) special says: Ten
prisoners, among them some of the
most desperate criminals ever con-
fined in the Yellowstone county
prison, made their escape from the
jail last night, and are still at large.
Among the prisoners who escaped
were Edward Grady and Orton Mos-
ier, who held up the Owl saloon
here some time ago and killed Of-
ficer Hannah, who had attempted to
capture them.

The jailbreakers worked with
such great skill and so quietly that
none of the prisoners except those
who escaped knew of what was go-
ing on. The break would probably
have not been discovered until
morning had not the escaping men
secured guns and held up J. W.
Caughan, a business man who was
returning home. Caughan reported
the matter to Sheriff Hubbard's
office, and then the officers discov-
ered that ten of their prisoners had
got away. There were 28 inmates
in the jail at the time of the escape.

A posse was immediately organ-
ized and started in pursuit. Sheriff
Potter, of Carbon county, who has
caught so many desperate men, was
in town and immediately joined the
posse.

Tokio, Sept. 23.—An official tel-
egram states that a detachment of
Japanese attacked a force of Rus-
sians near Heintuchuang on Sept.
20, and that the Russians were
driven off, leaving 19 dead. The
Japanese losses are reported as be-
ing slight.

JAPS CONTROL WATER

PORT ARTHUR FORTGUARD-
ING SUPPLY TAKEN.

Second Fortress Captured—Assaults
Cost 3,000 Men—Russian Troops
Refuse to Surrender, and
Nearly the Entire Force
Is Killed or Wounded.

Chefoo, Sept. 25.—As a result of
the battle before Port Arthur, which
began on September 19, the Japane-
se succeeded in capturing several
important positions, and today the
Russian tenure of the big forts
guarding the north, northeast and
northwest sides of the town is seri-
ously threatened.

Chinese information places the
Japanese losses under 3,000 for the
three days' fighting, and this com-
paratively small casualty list is due
to the successive care used by the
Japanese in making their prepara-
tions for the advance. Russian
sources, however, are said to have
information that the Japanese losses
were unusually severe, amount-
ing to fully three times the number
mentioned above.

Possibly the most important cap-
ture during the three days' fighting
was that of Fort Kuropatkin, which,
while of minor value with regard to
preventing the entrance into the
town of the Japanese, has been con-
structed for the purpose of protect-
ing the source of the garrison's wa-
ter supply. The control of this
water supply is now in the hands
of the Japanese.

As was announced in these dis-
patches September 20, the battle
began before daybreak on Septem-
ber 19. At this hour the citizens
and the garrison of Port Arthur, af-
ter the enjoyment of weeks of com-
parative security, awoke to the
thunderous reports of artillery along
the line extending from the west of
Iz Mountains to Kihlung and Ki-
wan Mountains. This was but a
preface to the assault which was
destined to result in the capture of
three new and important Russian
positions, together with six small
but annoying forts lying between
Shushiyon and Rivung Mountain.

During the day and night of the
19th and until noon of the 20th the
bombardment continued without
cessation, and many shells falling
from quarters which previously had
been silent made it obvious that
the Japanese had at least succeeded
either in mountain many heavy
guns in new positions or in strength-
ening their old positions. The fight-
ing during this period was compar-
atively trivial.

At noon of September 20 the Japane-
se right and center, the former
being to the west and the latter to
the east of the railroad, commenced
to advance. The troops made use
of the trenches and infrequent nat-

ural cover that lay in their way.
The small forts to the south resist-
ed this advance but briefly, their
garrisons not being strong numeri-
cally. Since the beginning of the
bombardment the artillery fire from
Fort Kuropatkin had been growing
steadily weaker, and it having be-
come apparent that it had been
practically silenced, the Japanese
assaulted the fort.

Fort Kuropatkin is situated to
the south of Palichuang and to the
northeast of the parade ground, on
a low hill. It derives its name
from the time when General Kuro-
patkin inspected it, pointed out the
weakness of the position, and or-
dered that it be strengthened as far
as possible because of the necessity
of protecting the water supply.

While situated in the chain of
main forts, Fort Kuropatkin never
has been as strong as them, and af-
ter severe fighting it fell into the
hands of the Japanese. This cap-
ture lessens further the strength of
the fort on Riblung Mountain,
which is now threatened from a new
quarter as well as from Palich ang.
At 5 o'clock on the afternoon of the
20th the Japanese captured a sup-
plementary fort, which, from the
lower ground, threatens the fort on
Iz mountain. This ended the
heavy fighting for the day, although
the Japanese later were compelled
to resist several sorties.

During the night the heavy bom-
bardment of the Russian positions
continued, the Japanese fire being
directed with particular vigor a-
gainst another supplementary fort,
3,000 yards to the west of the fort,
on Iz Mountain, and regarded as
highly important because of its
bearing on the Iz and Anshu
Mountain forts.

The next day, after having
pounded the position unmercifully
and until its fire had slackened visi-
bly, the Japanese delivered their
assault. They met with a stubborn
resistance. They were exposed to
the fire of machine guns and rifles,
and they made heroic efforts to
reach the crest of the slope.

They leaped over trenches and
embankments and tore down the
entanglements in their path until
at length they entered the fort. The
Russian troops there refused to de-
sert their position, even in the face
of superior numbers which confront-
ed them and desperate hand-to-
hand fighting occurred inside the
fort.

Eventually almost the entire
Russian garrison was either killed
or wounded.

The foregoing information has
been obtained from a Chinese of
impeachable trustworthiness.

As the Chinese from whom the
correspondent of the Associated
Press obtained his information left
Port Arthur the night of September
21, he is unable to say whether the
battle was renewed on the 22d or
not, although junks which have
come in here bring reports of a light
bombardment on that day.

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