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WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, MARCH 15, 1905.

R. F. IRVING, Editor and Proprietor

We all Wear Shoes!

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J. H. HARRIS.

UNDER HEAVY FIRE

RUSSIAN ARMY MARCHES TO TIE PASS SUCCESSFULLY.

Two Corps Are Lost—Oyama Captures 30,000 men—Retreat Commenced Just in Time to Avoid Being Surrounded.

Tokio, March 12.—Field Marshal Oyama estimates that the number of Russian prisoners captured will exceed 30,000. The Japanese casualties are estimated at 41,000. The Japanese captured a retreating Russian column at the Pu River yesterday.

Official information from the Russian headquarters in the field, supplemented by dispatches from the Associated Press correspondents with the army of the Russian empire, show that General Kuropatkin, after suffering the most severe defeat of the war, has succeeded, as he did after the battle of Liao Yang, in extricating the remnants of his army from a position which military experts 24 hours before believed would result in its annihilation or surrender. The retreat from Liao Yang has been considered a most masterly event, but it is far overshadowed by the latest feat of the Russian general, who has taken personal command of the troops.

After fighting for nearly three weeks, losing in killed, wounded and missing probably a third of his army, or 100,000 men, and a fourth of his artillery, Kuropatkin gathered together what was left north of Mukden and is taken them toward Tie Pass through a rain of shrapnel, which is being thrown on them from both right and left.

This he seems to have been able to accomplish by resorting to the same tactics which saved his army at Liao Yang. As recently as Thursday last he commenced sending his artillery north by rail and road. That night he destroyed by fire what he realized could not be removed. Even the hospitals containing the more seriously wounded were left behind, so as not to hamper in any way the movement of the army. This movement commenced on Friday morning, and, as the Japanese forces on the east, which were to join hands with the western army and cut off his retreat did not cross the Fushun-Mukden road until Saturday morning, the Russians had a full day's start of their pursuers, and having no guns or baggage to delay them, seem to have made good their escape.

There is still, however, a chance of General Kawamura's army taking a hand in the battle, and should it strike the Russians at Tie Pass or cut their communications to the northward, the disaster to Kuropatkin's once fine army will be complete. The shrapnel fire under which the Russians are again retreating was found not to have a very serious effect, as the army was scattered and straggling, which undoubtedly holds good in the present case.

What part of his army the Russian general has saved apparently is not known at the Russian headquarters. All dispatches indicate that part of his force has been cut off. General Kaulbars seems to have extricated his corps, likewise Bildering, but not so with Linevitch. The Associated correspondent says the Japanese surrounded the First and Fourth Russian corps and added that help could not be sent to them. Their fate is not recorded, and the inference is that they have suffered either defeat or capture. Rennenkamp's fate is still in the balance.

Tie Pass, March 11.—For many weeks all the approaches to Tie Pass are covered with troops, artillery and baggage transports pressing northward, and twenty-five miles away the strong rearguard of troops, which is commanded by General Kuropatkin, is retiring slowly, doggedly disputing with the pursuing enemy every foot of the ground in order to recover the retreat of the army.

The losses in this defeat, which is the most bitter yet experienced by the Russian army, by a moderate computation, is not less than 300,000 men on both sides. The Russians, in addition, sacrificed enormous quantities of mu-

nitions and stores, the greater part of which were set on fire before leaving Mukden.

It is impossible to say whether the Russians will be able to put up a fight and hold this position, or whether it will be necessary to continue to retreat to Harbin, but the rank and file, whose military qualities never shone so brightly as in retreat or defeat, are far from being panic-stricken, and, under capable leadership, and given a brief time to strengthen positions, may be able to check the pursuing enemy at this point.

It was realized that, if any point of the Russian line gave way, all would be lost. The position in the most extreme danger appeared to be north of Mukden station, where it seemed for a time that the Japanese might break through and entirely cut the lines of retreat. General Kuropatkin concentrated heavy columns there, took command himself, and succeeded, during Thursday morning, in forcing the Japanese back from the river, and also in driving out bodies east of the railroad.

It was impossible to support the retiring corps, as the reserves to the last man had been sent to the line of battle at other points, and, as the danger of communication being severed by this attack from the east was imminent, retreat was determined upon and immediately began.

Tokio, March 13.—Army headquarters makes the following announcement:

"All our forces have advanced north, pursuing the enemy in all directions and inflicting heavy damage and they have defeated the enemy who attempted resistance at various places.

"Our forces have completely cleared the enemy out of the districts 25 miles north of Mukden and on Sunday were still pursuing them.

The Russians abandoned countless carts of supplies and ammunition in the district, for 13 miles from the vicinity of Kaoliton, south of Chiuikotzu, west of the railroad and 16 miles north of Mukden.

"No time has yet been had to count them.

"One of the colors captured belonged to the One Hundred and Sixty-second regiment, from the Wilna district, which had been engaged in three previous wars.

"Our Sinmintin garrison has arrested a Russian paroled officer from Port Arthur, who broke his parole at Shanghai and proceeded to Sinmintin.

"Additional stores intended for the Russians have been seized at Sinmintin."

Tokio, March 12.—The following report was received today from Field Marshal Oyama:

"The number of prisoners, spoils and the enemy's estimated casualties against all our forces in the direction of the Shakra follow, but the number of prisoners, guns and spoils are increasing momentarily:

"Prisoners, over 40,000, including General Nakhimoff.

"Killed and wounded, estimated at 90,000.

"Enemy left dead on the field, 26,500.

"Flags, 2.

"Guns, about 60.

"Rifles, 60,000.

"Ammunition wagons, 150.

"Shells 200,000.

"Small arms ammunition, 725,000,000 rounds.

"Cereal, 15,000 koku (about 75,000 bushels.)

"Fodder, 55,000 koku.

"Light railway outfit, 45 miles.

"Horses, 2000.

"Maps, 23 cartloads.

"Clothing and accoutrements, 1,000 cartloads.

"Bread, 1,000,000.

"Fuel, 70,000 tons.

"Hay, 60 tons; besides tools, tents, bullocks, telegraph wire and poles, timber, beds, stoves and numerous other property.

"No reports have been received from our forces in the direction of Singking."

The battle is officially designated as the battle of Mukden.

College View Poultry Farm.
Barred Plymouth Rocks, Brown Leghorns, Eggs, \$1 per 15 at yards.
My Barred Rock hens are of the best laying strain on Coast. I have added cockerels from Parks world's best egg strain. Brown Leghorns as good as the best.

S. H. Moore, Corvallis, Ind. phone 555.

A STRONG CASE

CONVINCING PROOF FOUND AGAINST HERMANN FOR BURNING LETTERS.

Hermann's Attempt to Prevent Investigation of the Benson-Hyde Frauds Caused His Resignation and Exposure—How He Was Found Out.

Washington, March 10.—After reviewing the evidence on which Binger Herman was recently indicted in this city for destroying public records, officials of the department of justice have come to the conclusion that the government has a "perfect case" against the Oregon congressman. That is the opinion expressed today by one of the men who aided in working up the case.

Not only has the government got hold of the shorthand notes of Hermann's secretaries who wrote the letters which were copied in his "private" letterbooks, but it has obtained many of the original letters, and it is said that these letters and notes clearly establish the fact that the letters destroyed did pertain to public business.

The government is preparing to meet any emergency and to take any steps deemed advisable to strengthen its case. In this connection, an authorized statement was made by an official of the interior department which throws light on a charge that has been repeatedly made against Hermann by Secretary Hitchcock. This statement as published here to day, shows how the government got its first inkling of the operations of the Benson-Hyde land ring, and is as follows:

"The right hand man of Hyde and Benson was J. H. Schneider. When the business grew so extensive and Schneider saw what money his employers were making, he grew avaricious himself and made a demand on Hyde and Benson for a large sum of money, threatening to expose them if he did not get it. They declined to give up all he asked, arguing that he was well paid for his part in the transaction, but, after discussion, did give him him \$5,000. Schneider went to Arizona. He still thought he had been used shabbily by Hyde and Benson, and from Tucson wrote to them renewing his demands for money. They refused and Schneider then turned his attention to the land office. He wrote to Commissioner Binger Hermann informing him that, if a special agent was sent to him, he could give information regarding land frauds that would open the eyes of officials and give the commissioner an inkling of what was going on in California.

"This letter from Schneider, with several others from him of the same kind, was pigeon-holed in the office of the commissioner or in the division of special agents and nothing was done. But some one else got an inkling of what was going on and began to complain. Letters poured in to the commissioner and were promptly pigeon-holed. Until the pressure became so great

that something had to be done. Therefore, in June, 1902, a special agent of the office in Tucson was directed to visit Schneider and learn what he could. At the same time, and by the same mail, a letter was sent to the same special agent giving some instructions to make certain investigations in another part of the country immediately. So it was not until September that the story of Schneider was told to a department official.

"When that story did become known, Mr. Hitchcock got an inkling of the way things were going and took charge of affairs. He sent for Hermann and, after upbraiding him for his conduct, demanded his resignation. In the meantime, the secretary sent for special attorney Pugh to make an investigation of the cases, and Mr. Pugh reported that, while there was evidence of fraud to an enormous extent, he could not get proper evidence to convict the offenders. He asked that some one experienced in the detective business be assigned to the cases and Mr. Hitchcock sent for Chief Wilkie, of the secret service. Mr. Wilkie assigned Agent Burns to the work and progress in the investigation dates from the time Mr. Burns took charge."

Are you going to build? See Whitney about concrete blocks. Cheaper than rock or brick.

The prettiest and best wall you can get for that new house is Whitney's concrete blocks.

"Short" on Peruna but "Long" on prunes. Italian prunes, 50-pound boxes, \$1.50. F. L. Miller.

Blocks for piers at Whitney's.

Louisville, Ky., March 11.—Caleb Powers today completes five years in jail. On March 10, 1900, he was arrested at Lexington, and on March 10, 1905, he is in jail in Louisville awaiting his fourth trial on the charge of complicity in the murder of William Goebel.

Three times he has been tried. Twice he has been sentenced to life imprisonment and once to death. Three times the court of appeals, the highest judicial tribunal of the state, has reversed the finding of the lower court and sent the case back to drag its weary length along the slow ways of the law.

When will the end come? When will the case be decided one way or the other? Will the hope which must be eternal in the breast of Caleb Powers continue to sustain him through the days, the months and the years to come, as it has for five years past? For there will have to be another trial at least.

Five years gone from his life; used by the commonwealth of Kentucky in an effort to determine whether he is innocent or guilty. Such is the sombre reflection of Powers as he sits in the Jefferson county jail today and keeps his doleful anniversary. And no matter how strong may be his hope of final vindication, there remains the bitter thought that no court, not even the court of appeals of Kentucky, nor the supreme court of the United States, nor any court on earth, can give him back those five years of his young manhood, from 31 to 36, that are gone forever.



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Each will be offered at reduced prices. This reduction is made for cash only. There are special prices on Rubber Goods—men's, women's, boys', children's rubber boots, rubber and oil coats. We also call your attention to our large assortment of Millinery Goods which are offered on special sale.

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