

OFFER OF MERCY

Nogi Will Allow Slavs to Surrender.

STOESSEL IS IGNORED

Communication Sent to Troops at Port Arthur.

IS CARRIED BY A PRISONER

Japanese General Declares It in the Interest of Humanity to Prevent Further Slaughter—Reply is Anxiously Awaited.

CHEEPOO, Nov. 8.—The Japanese besieging Port Arthur, ignoring Lieutenant-General Stoessel, the commander of the Russian military forces there, have ordered terms of surrender to the Russian general, according to a dispatch leaving Port Dainy yesterday. In the meanwhile the ceaseless activity of picks and spades continues. The Japanese are gradually advancing in the trenches, which spell inexorable fate to the watching Russians. A Russian prisoner captured October 25 said the troops composing the garrison of Port Arthur were in want and despondent. They saw the fruitlessness of the struggle. Hopeless of relief, with food scarce and medicine and hospital supplies insufficient, it was admitted by the Russians that a Japanese victory was ultimately inevitable. The soldiers, according to the prisoner, see no reason for prolonging the resistance which brings glory to their officers but only hardship and death to them. Upon hearing the prisoner's story, General Nogi assembled his staff, discussed the matter briefly and then, under the light of a bicycle lamp, drafted a letter to be circulated among the soldiers themselves, the prisoner having promised to deliver it in mercy to his comrades. The letter related General Kuropatkin's retreat and his inability to make an impression on the army of Field Marshal Oyama, to say nothing of breaking through his forces and relieving Port Arthur. The letter also pointed out that the second Russian Pacific squadron has just started on its slow voyage, continuing, it called attention to the relentless advance of the Japanese trenches, making it a matter of weeks when the Japanese would reach the Russian main strongholds. In conclusion, the letter offered humane treatment to all who surrendered, saying it was in the interest of humanity to prevent further useless slaughter.

In the darkness of the early morning of November 4 several copies of the letter, written in Russian, were given to the prisoner, who regained the Russian lines unobserved by his officers. That night the Russian returned, saying his comrades would answer within a few days. He said the temper of the men seemed to show that while they were mutinous towards fate, they also did not like the idea of an unconditional surrender. The letter did much, however, to dispel among the Russian troops the impression fostered by their officers that a massacre would follow a Japanese victory. The company which the prisoner belonged to originally numbered 30, and now totals 20 men. As the Japanese are sufficiently near the summit of the hills to render tunneling highly practicable, much of the work is now being done. The Russians are building counter tunnels. Whichever side finds its tunnel under the enemy's blows up the latter's tunnel. To prevent explosives being rolled down into their trenches, the Japanese have made rungs or hillocks of earth above the trenches. Five Russian mine-sweeping steamers have been sunk by Japanese shells.

PREPARING FOR BATTLE. Both Armies on the Shkake River Strengthening Their Positions.

TOKIO, Nov. 8.—Reports received from the Japanese armies on the Shkake River state that the opposing forces are strengthening their positions along that river, and are otherwise busily preparing for another great battle. Scouts are constantly in touch and outpost skirmishes are frequent. There is, however, no likelihood of a general engagement for the present.

The Russian transport service is efficient and troops and guns are constantly arriving to fill the gaps made in General Kuropatkin's forces by the crushing losses at the battle of the Shkake River.

TO PROTECT RUSSIAN FLEET. Suez Canal is Lined With Special Guards for Entire Length.

PORT SAID, Egypt, Nov. 8.—The Russian Consul-General at Cairo and the naval attaché of Russia at Constantinople have arrived here, in anticipation of the arrival of the Russian Black Sea Pacific squadron. Extraordinary precautions are being taken for the protection of the warships. Special guards have been posted on the banks the whole length of the canal.

Operations Satisfactory to Japanese. TOKIO, Nov. 8.—Since the last reports from Port Arthur were given out, on Saturday last, no official news has emanated from army headquarters regarding the progress of the besiegers. It is understood, however, that the operations are proceeding satisfactorily, though slowly, as the limestone formation and rocky character of the ground interferes with the work of the sappers and miners. It is now considered that the capture of Fihlung Mountain and the Eastern group of forts of the Kokwan Mountain without the securing by the Japanese of Anshu and its Mountains will be insufficient to force the abandonment by the Russians of the city proper.

New Japanese Loan. LONDON, Nov. 8.—The prospectus of the new Japanese loan of \$50,000,000 will be issued tomorrow or Thursday. Half of the amount will be offered in New York and half in London. The price is 95% with interest at 6 per cent. The loan will be secured by a second charge on Japanese customs. Dealings in the loan have already commenced at one-quarter premium.

Artillery Firing Continues. MUKDEN, via Peking, Nov. 8.—Artillery firing was continuous all along the line on Monday and interspersed this morning. A battle might commence at any hour. It will be a question of many days, if not weeks, to decide the position, which is the most interesting since the commencement of the war. Each side is waiting for the other to attack.

Linevitch Arrives at Mukden. MUKDEN, Nov. 8.—Lieutenant-General

Linevitch, recently appointed to the command of the first army, arrived today by special train and was met by General Sakharoff. He was enthusiastically received by all the troops. His escort consisted entirely of men who had been decorated with the St. George's cross. General Linevitch will assume command immediately. The Russian front extends 60 miles. Quiet was broken the morning of November 7 by a Russian cannonade of an intensity that has had no parallel in weeks.

Crew of Russian Ship at Shanghai. SHANGHAI, Nov. 8.—The officers and crew of the Russian torpedo-boat destroyer Ryezhinski, which the Japanese cut out of the harbor at Chefoo on August 12, at the village of Shikabe. The official was the exception of the commander, who escaped at Woosung. He is probably now somewhere bound on a German mail steamer.

Prominent Chinaman Gains as Spy. SHANGHAI, Nov. 8.—It is reported here that a Chinese official of high rank was executed by the Japanese on November 2, at the village of Shikabe. The official was discovered in the act of spying on the movements of Japanese troops. It is said, on the order of Cheng Chi, the military Governor whose province is Shengking.

American Attaches Returning. ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 8.—Captain Carl Reichmann and Lieutenant-Colonel Walter S. Schuyler, the United States military attaches with General Kuropatkin's army, are returning to the United States, having been recalled by the War Department.

WILD SCRAMBLE FOR TRAINS Long Island People Are Delayed Hours by Installation of New Device.

NEW YORK, Nov. 8.—A great blockade of passenger trains at the Long Island City terminal of the Long Island Railroad, due to the installation of a new system of switches, began to give way early today. Trains of minor importance were disregarded, however, in an effort to get things running on the main line. Thousands of commuters reached Long Island City by ferry after their day's business in Manhattan, only to find little hope of getting home by rail. Some of the regular trolley parties, and finally reached home after two or three hours' ride by circuitous routes. Trains from the East continued to arrive regularly as long as the rolling stock held out, but they got no further than the yard limits. The officials had quite as much trouble getting trains into the yards over the great network of tracks as they did in getting them out; that a shortage of cars soon resulted. A big crowd of racgeons on the way to Aqueduct gathered soon after the morning rush had been disposed of. Running of the regular racetrack specials was out of the question. A string of 30 cars were coupled into one train and got away at the hour for the departure of the regular last train. Trolley officials were quick to recognize their opportunity, and the cars on their lines regularly passed the terminal in a continuous procession for hours, greatly relieving the situation. In the scramble for seats on the trolley cars during the rush hours many women and children were knocked down and severely injured.

Officials of the Long Island declare there is nothing wrong with the new switching device, but say the trouble is due entirely to lack of experience by the men. The plant, which has just been installed, is one of the largest in the world, operating many more switches, block and signals than any before constructed. A four-story switch tower contains 157 levers, which operate all the switches and signals in the yard, attached to 24 terminal tracks. Formerly it required 105 men to handle these switches on the ground, while with the new system but 12 men are employed.

Will Indemnify Americans Later. NEW YORK, Nov. 8.—John T. Abbott, who recently took charge of the Puerto Plata Custom-House, in order to liquidate a judgment against the Santo Domingo Government, has arrived here. The custom-house at Puerto Plata is working out the indemnity which the Santo Domingo Government owes American citizens. Having full power in the matter, Mr. Abbott has been liberal with the government in the 30 days he has been in charge and has turned over most of the monies for Government use. The indemnity payments will be taken out later on. He is in this city at present on a brief business trip and will sail for Santo Domingo again tomorrow.

Trial in Dolbeer Will Case. SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 8.—At the opening session of the Dolbeer will contest, the trial of which has just com-

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