

TO STARVE OUT FORT

Japanese Will Make Fewer Assaults at Port Arthur.

COST OF LIFE IS TOO GREAT

Considerable Fleet the Main Object of Recent Desperate Attacks—No Sign of Life on the Russian Vessels During Battle.

TOKIO, Dec. 9.—In disabling the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, precluding the possibility of its being able to reinforce the second Pacific squadron, the Japanese have accomplished the main object of the desperate assaults against the fortress which they have been making for the past three months.

The recent cessation of mine-clearing was taken as evidence that the fleet did not intend to make a sortie.

There was no sign of life on the Russian ships during the bombardment, and from this fact it is concluded that the bluejackets took refuge on land or that they are engaged in the land defenses.

With the Russian second Pacific squadron approaching, those in Tokio cannot comprehend the failure of the Russians to die hard and to inflict all possible damage on the Japanese fleet, even at the cost of weakening the effective garrison.

Now that the Port Arthur fleet has been disabled, it is deemed impossible for the Russians to overcome the inferiority of the second Pacific squadron to Togo's fleet, unless, at present unforecast, the Black Sea fleet should pass the Dardanelles.

The following report, dated December 8, 30 P. M., has been received from the commander of the naval land batteries in front of Port Arthur:

"Eight shells struck the protected cruiser Pallada today and set her on fire. Simultaneously she began to list to port, lowering astern. She is deemed unfit for navigation.

"During the action we discovered the gunboat Giliak to the landward north of the battleship Peresvet and bombarded her. Eleven of our shells were effective. This vessel is deemed to be almost disabled.

"The hits made by our naval and siege guns today are estimated to be 22. The armored cruiser Bayan caught fire at 11:30 o'clock this morning, and the fire was not extinguished at 4:15 in the afternoon. Evidently the cruiser is seriously damaged.

"The results of our bombardment of the battleship Suvorov, the mine ship Amur and the transports, are not yet known."

Another report from the same commander dated at 3 o'clock this (Friday) morning, is as follows:

"As the result of our naval gun bombardment yesterday (Thursday) the Bayan was hit six times and the Amur 14 times. The Amur is sinking astern.

"Our cannonade directed against the storehouses and arsenals at the northeast base of Palyu Mountain resulted in 26 hits, causing great damage.

The hits mentioned were made with shells from heavy guns, but by the small shells are not mentioned in the report.

TALKATIVE CAPTAIN TO SUFFER Clado Will Be Disciplined for Attacks on the Admiralty.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 9.—The Associated Press is authorized to make the following statement:

while a Yoid detachment of the same strength had similar orders to capture Akasaka Hill. On November 30 it became necessary to reinforce the attackers with a detachment under Major Shizuta.

The same correspondent says that the Russians at Port Arthur on December 7 resumed mine-clearing operations, presumably to enable the torpedo-boat destroyers to attempt to escape and join the Baltic squadron.

The Daily Telegraph's Tientsin correspondent reports that General Oku, after a three-days' artillery engagement, drove the Russians on Sunday out of the small lofty island of Gushan in the river two miles below Liao Yang.

It is added, abandoned a quantity of supplies and several guns, and retired to a position eight miles northwest, whence they heavily bombarded the Japanese setting fire to kerosene depots and causing a great conflagration which did not cease until Wednesday.

The Japanese are still gallantly holding the island with a handful of men. Their casualties, it is alleged, number 500.

Prisoners Report Food Scarce. HEADQUARTERS OF THE JAPANESE THIRD ARMY, BEFORE PORT ARTHUR, Dec. 8, via Fusan, Dec. 8.—Russian prisoners report that the food supply of the garrison is insufficient.

The men subsist on short rations of bread, made of a mixture of flour and coarser grains, while the officers get horseflesh twice a week.

Dysentery and typhoid, the prisoners say, are prevalent. Owing to the bad weather, a supply of fresh vegetables cannot be obtained, and the supply of tinned meat was finished a month ago.

The appearance of the prisoners goes to substantiate their statements. They are well clothed, but emaciated.

Every Courtesy Shown Prisoners. HEADQUARTERS OF THE THIRD JAPANESE ARMY, BEFORE PORT ARTHUR, via Fusan, Dec. 8.—Two Russian officers captured at 303-Meter Hill, one belonging to the navy and the other to the army, are being treated with the greatest courtesy by the Japanese staff.

In consideration of similar treatment accorded to Japanese officers captured by the Russians, special arrangements have been made to transport the officers to Japan.

This is taken as an indication of the disposition of both sides to end the ferocity characteristic of the fighting for months past, during which quarter was never asked nor given.

Stoessel is Overruled. HEADQUARTERS OF THE THIRD JAPANESE ARMY, BEFORE PORT ARTHUR, via Fusan, Dec. 8.—The Japanese regard the refusal of the Russians to accept an armistice, which had been asked for and granted for the purpose of gathering the killed and wounded on 303-Meter Hill, as the overruling of the humane desire of General Stoessel by the officers commanding the force.

It is feared by these officers, the Japanese think, that their men would desert and give the Japanese the advantage of information regarding the forts.

Russian prisoners report that General Stoessel's order was overruled by the garrison commanders.

Thirty-Six Japanese Officers Killed. TOKIO, Dec. 9 (10:30 A. M.).—Imperial army headquarters has published a list of 36 officers killed and 23 wounded. No mention is made of where these casualties occurred, but it was presumably at Port Arthur.

Ural in West African Port. DAKAR, West Africa, Dec. 8.—The Russian cruiser Ural has arrived.

SAYS GERMANY IS SAVING HER Military Critic Says Otherwise Russia Would Have to Sue for Peace.

BERLIN, Dec. 9.—Russia would be compelled to sue for peace if Germany, as well as Germany's ally, Austria-Hungary, permits the carrying out of its Western European frontier, which is now hourly in progress.



ECONOMY IN HOUSE

First of the Appropriation Bills Is Passed.

NO SALARIES ARE INCREASED

Legislative, Executive and Judicial Departments Provided For—Holiday Recess Will Extend From December 21 to January 4.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The House today passed the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill almost as it came from the committee and adjourned until Monday.

The Civil Service Commission provisions disposed of, there was no longer debate on any item today.

Throughout the session the policy of retrenchment held full sway and all attempts to increase salaries failed.

The House passed a resolution to adjourn on December 21 until January 4 for the usual Christmas holiday.

When the appropriation bill was taken up, on a point of order by Perkins (N. Y.) the provision appropriating \$10,000 for compensation and expenses of specialists to make investigation into the Department of Commerce and Labor with the object of securing uniformity of economical and business-like methods was stricken out.

In criticizing the paragraph of the bill relating to the Bureau of Corporations, Baker (Dem., N. Y.) said his complaint was not that too much money had been appropriated for the pay of special attorneys, special examiners and special agents, but that no use had been made of the money.

He had been assured by a friend in the Department that an investigation had been made of one corporation, whose books were so kept that it could not be ascertained whether that corporation had made \$100,000,000 or \$1,000,000. It was, he said, a notorious fact that a steel rail association existed, and yet he had been informed that the House judiciary committee would report adversely on the resolution to investigate that association on the ground that it was a rumor.

In a stentorian voice he declared, amid Democratic applause, that "no rumor so strenuous, so terrible, that it can take the American people by the throat and exact an undue tribute of \$20,000,000. He ridiculed the idea that any one did not know of such an association.

THE POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

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House Coats, Tailor-Made \$3.50 to \$15
Lounging Robes, \$5 to \$20
Bath Robes, . \$3.50 to \$10
Fancy Vests, \$2.50 to \$7.50
Pajamas, . . . \$2.50 to \$10

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Novelties in English Squares, Ascots, Four-in-Hands, 50c to \$3. On display in our windows.
BAGS AND SUIT CASES
An acceptable present for any gentleman. Some choice selections, \$5 to \$25.

BEN SELLING

Leading Clothier



tee on the Swayne impeachment case. The minority were given until Monday to file their report.

The House adjourned until Monday.

MORE PAY FOR DIPLOMATS.

Secretary Hay Urges Congress to Increase Salaries of a Number.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—In the estimates for the Diplomatic and Consular Service forwarded to Congress by Secretary Hay, recommendations are made for increases in the salaries of a large number of officers in the service.

It is recommended that the salary of the Minister to Argentina be increased to \$2000; that of Minister resident to Liberia \$350, and that provision be made for a Minister to Roumania and Serbia, and one for Greece and Montenegro and for a Consular Agent in Bulgaria.

Increased salaries are recommended for the secretaries of Legation to Turkey and Switzerland. A third secretary is proposed for the Legations to Italy and Austria and a new Consulate at each of the following places at the salaries named: Alexandria, \$300; Belgrade, \$300; Bucharest, \$300; Carlsbad, \$300; British North Borneo, \$300.

TO GIVE BOARD MORE POWER.

Roosevelt Active in Behalf of Interstate-Commerce Commission.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Enlargement of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission is one of the questions which will be pressed vigorously at the present session of Congress.

It is said that in the mind of President Roosevelt no problem is more important than this to all the people.

In conference with members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the President has emphasized the views he advanced in his message for the extension of the powers of the Interstate Commerce Commission. With several members he discussed the subject today.

Until 1897 the Commerce Commission had the power to regulate freight rates, but the Supreme Court then decided that, under the law, the Commission had no such authority.

ing operations in the 35 principal cities of the United States for the month of November, 1904, as compared with the month in 1903, the Construction News-Magazine will say there has been a total increase of about 25 per cent.

FILIPINO CHARACTER.

People Who Never Say "No" and Never Do "Yes."

F. W. Atkinson in World's Work.

An experience of three years in the Philippines has brought me to the conclusion that the Filipinos are incapable of self-government.

They are managed by a few ambitious leaders. They have not yet cultivated a sense of fair play and tolerance for those who differ in opinion, and yet, although the gift of self-government in full measure was not possible, the United States bestowed it to a degree by granting practical autonomy in provincial and municipal affairs.

There are some 600 towns in which natives have, in the main, the same control over their local affairs as is enjoyed by the residents of towns of corresponding size in the United States.

But a concentration of governmental powers has been found. Very few of them, however, show executive ability, and some of them betray obstinate inefficiency and inactivity.

The tendency everywhere in the East is in the direction of one-man power; and, too often in the Philippines, the Mayor, or Provincial Governor, dominates everything, so far as he can. He is very ready with promises; but, as some one has said, "the Filipino never says 'no,' but never does 'yes.'"

When asked for information, he studies you, and is inclined to give you the answer he thinks you want. Indirectness is a trait, and the giving of gifts by subjects to those in authority, is a custom common in the Philippines.

From instinct, the Filipino agrees with the boodler's opinion that there is no use in holding an office unless it can be turned to profit. It is hard for Filipinos to understand that the giving of presents to government officials is not right; it is very difficult for them to believe that a man, because he happens to be white, has any scruples against it.

BOATS MAY MAKE DASH.

Russians Resume Mine Operations at Port Arthur.

LONDON, Dec. 10.—According to the Morning Post's Shanghai dispatch the Japanese forces, with the exception of those manning the forts, have already retreated to Laotie Mountains.

Details continue to filter in of the capture of 303-Meter Hill. The Daily Telegraph's correspondent before Port Arthur explains that the capture was due to a strong feint against the eastern fortifications on the night of December 3, the position of 303-Meter Hill being an enfilading one, forcing the Russians to evacuate without a contest, to a parallel line of semi-permanent defenses, extending eastward and irregularly over the slope within a half mile north of Etze Mountain.

The Japanese casualties at 303-Meter Hill alone exceeded the total of the battle of Nanshan, according to the Daily Mail's Tokio dispatches.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon of November 23 a Tomoyasu detachment with a battalion of infantry and a company of engineers received orders that they must capture 303-Meter Hill,

while a Yoid detachment of the same strength had similar orders to capture Akasaka Hill. On November 30 it became necessary to reinforce the attackers with a detachment under Major Shizuta.

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