

## MEETS HIS DOOM

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### NEXT IN LINE FLEES LAND

### Two Other Brutal Officials Are Warned—Peasant-Rising Against Land-Owners—Czar Yields to Railroad Men.

#### SPECIAL CABLE.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—The Warsaw correspondent of the London Morning Leader writes that Prince Vasiltchikoff has been murdered. The Prince, who has won for himself great hatred because of his active work against the students and strikers of Warsaw in his capacity of head of the military, was labeled No. 2 on the list of assassinations drawn up by the revolutionists, says the correspondent. The dispatch adds:

"Count Priedzielski, the brutal Russian officer, who was No. 3 on the list, on receiving his death warrant from the revolutionists, bolted the country."

General Novosiltzoff, No. 4 on the list, has drawn the death penalty on himself by his recent order for the arrest of the officers who refused to fire on a woman.

"Baron Nolken, Chief of the Warsaw police, is No. 5 in the death list. He received word that in a day or two he would see his proper release in hell."

The correspondent also reports further disorders in Warsaw Friday afternoon. Troops, he says, fired on 400 workmen who were about to resume work at the Vistula Railroad workshops. Five of the workmen were killed and 20 wounded.

Colonel Iadchenoff, the superintendent of the railroad, requested the military officers to arrest the officer who had commanded the firing. On their refusal, the superintendent resigned his post.

### PEASANTS SEIZING THE LAND

### Revolt Now Extends to Rural Districts—Reservists Desert Colors.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 25 (U.S. A. M.).—The beginning of a dangerous movement has been observed among the peasantry of some of the southern provinces, where agitators are circulating reports that the Emperor will on March 4 issue a manifesto providing for a general division of lands. A new allotment has been the dream of the Moujiks ever since emancipation, and, according to private reports, the stories have spread like wildfire and are implicitly believed.

In the government of Tonia a large proprietor went to his estate last week and found the peasants at work measuring and staking their shares. In response to his demands for an explanation they told him of the coming manifesto. Refusing to listen to his declaration that the report was absurd, they would only say:

"We have heard the Little Father has decided."

When the proprietor asked what would become of him, they replied:

"Oh, we will leave you the buildings and 40 acres."

Once the peasantry becomes possessed of the idea that the Emperor has willed a division of land, it will be exceedingly difficult to disabuse their minds, and agrarian troubles on a large scale are feared.

The Moujiks are likely to turn on the proprietors, as they did several years ago in the provinces of Saratoff and Poltava, when anarchy reigned for some time.

Among the reservists agitators are spreading the story that the war is over. A case is cited which occurred a fortnight ago at Riazan, where 500 reservists who had been called on fifty told the officer they did not intend to serve.

"The war is over," said the leaders. "We know you simply want to make money out of a contract for feeding us. We will not serve," and off they marched. An instance is also given of reservists who actually left a railway train after they had been started for the front.

Private reports also leave no room for doubt that the strikes in the whole region below Moscow are almost entirely political in character. The situation in the South of Russia is becoming worse instead of better, and contains many factors which are causing the authorities the greatest alarm. The possibility of the necessity for the dispatch of troops to the Caucasus is already being considered.

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### All Races in Caucasus Combine in Revolutionary Movement.

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## GREAT BATTLE ON

### Japanese Have Begun the Attack

### TURNING THE FLANK

### They Force Russians to Retreat on Defenses.

### THROUGH MOUNTAIN-PASSES

### Decisive Battle of War Being Fought on the Russian East Flank—Attempt to Capture Redoubts.

#### ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 25.—A dispatch from Sachetun, dated February 24, says:

"The Japanese in superior numbers forced the Russian detachment at Takahetchen to abandon their base at Beresneff Hill. The battle has been desperate on both sides. The result is not yet known."

TSINKHETCHEN, Feb. 24 (via Mukden).—There was fighting along the whole line in this district today. The Japanese, continuing their persistent and systematic advance, drove in the Russian vanguard posts and came into touch with Russian fortified positions.

A stubborn combat is expected tomorrow, the Japanese apparently intending to attempt to drive out the Russians and capture their redoubts. The Japanese are closing eastward.

### GREATEST BATTLE OF THE WAR

### Kuropatkin Now Ready to Hurl His Army at Oyama.

SPECIAL CABLE.  
ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 25.—Another great battle to the south of Mukden is imminent, if it has not already begun. The preparations for the fight, which have been progressing ever since the cessation of heavy fighting in the beginning of the winter, are now complete, and General Kuropatkin is ready to throw his entire force against that of Field Marshal Oyama in a clash beside which the past battles of the war are liable to sink into comparative insignificance.

It now seems certain that the offensive movement begun by Kuropatkin on January 25 was, as he himself stated, but a preliminary move, more in the nature of an extended scouting tour than an actual general battle. The Russian Commander-in-Chief knew the position of the Japanese forces, but he did not know at what points they were strongest, and the forward movement, which ended so disastrously, showed beyond a doubt that the Japanese were ready to meet any move which the Russians might make.

Both sides are now in better condition to fight than they have been at any time since the beginning of the war. Both armies have been heavily reinforced, and the probabilities are that the forces which will clash will be greater than in any of the conflicts thus far. That the Russian Commander feels the coming clash will be testified by the fact that the Red Cross institutions at Mukden, Harbin, Tieling and Irkutsk have been instructed to prepare for the accommodation of from 50,000 to 100,000 wounded.

### RUSSIANS BEGAN MOVEMENT

### They Occupied Advanced Positions, From Which They Were Driven.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 24 (U.S. A. M.).—Official dispatches given out today dispose of the rumor of General Kuropatkin's retirement from the Shakhe, but, taken in connection with the Associated Press Tinkhetchen dispatch, show that operations of an important nature are in progress in the mountain region to the eastward.

The movement was precipitated by the Russians, who last week sent out two divisions and occupied well-advanced positions. The Japanese attacked these positions in force. The Russians retired slowly by fighting, and Thursday evening were driven within their fortified lines. The latest dispatches prophesied heavy fighting on Friday.

The War Office attaches considerable importance to the blowing up of the bridge south of Hailcheng, and predicts it will interrupt the transportation of munitions for some time.

### CLOSING IN ON RUSSIAN FLANK

### Japanese Movement Seems to Be to Outflank Enemy.

SHENKIN, Manchuria, Feb. 24 (via Mukden).—It is reported here that the Japanese are closing in on the Russian east flank. As a result of this movement it is possible that there will be either a general engagement or at least a counter movement by the Russians along some part of the line, especially if, as is thought, the Japanese have returned to their original tactics of making flanking movements from the mountains. The early advent of Spring now makes possible operations in and from the mountainous districts.

For the past three weeks the Russians have suffered no material disturbance, with the exception of comparatively unimportant damage to the railroad and to a bridge near Kuan Chia Pass, as the result of Japanese raids, aided, it is alleged, by Chinese bandits. Since the receipt of news of the movement of an unidentified armed force of unknown numbers behind the Russian right wing, the Russian have taken measures for the purpose of minimizing the opportunities for brigands, and the belief that Chinese bandits are to some extent being organized and brought into the country.

Reports of a victory at Vladivostok in anticipation of an attack on that place by the Japanese are confirmed, but the town continues in its accustomed gaiety, in which the civil and military elements participate. The channels of business intercourse there are in their normal condition, notwithstanding the fact that the strongest patrol by the Japanese of the straits between the Island of Sakhalin and the coast of Japan has completely interrupted the movements of shipping. Supplies at Vladivostok, it is reported, are plentiful, though prices are high. The naval attaches of foreign governments are leaving Vladivostok by request of the Russian authorities.

The number of refugees at Mukden has been greatly reduced because of the transfer of them to the government reservation east of Kuangchenta. The very considerable number remaining at Mukden, however, are now in receipt of adequate care, this being rendered possible by the free import for their use of grain from the north.

### VLADIVOSTOK BLOCKADE TIGHT

Crew of Wyfield Returns and Tells of Capture by Japanese.  
VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 24.—The steamer Wyfield, which arrived this afternoon, brought 13 members of the crew of the British steamer Wyfield, which was seized by the Japanese gunboat Musashi on January 25 in Tsugaru Straits. The Wyfield carried hay, barley and foodstuffs from San Francisco via Comox. She tried to reach Vladivostok through La Perouse Straits, but encountered ice and injured some plates on her bow, causing her to leak.

Then Captain Watson steered for Tsugaru Straits and was half way through when the Musashi signaled her. In reply to signals, Captain Watson answered that he was bound to Vladivostok and was seized and taken to Hakodate, thence to Yokosuka, where the vessel was condemned. Captain Watson and officers will leave for San Francisco without delay.

The steamer M. S. Dollar, which was seized through the Tsugaru Straits by the Japanese gunboat Musashi, was captured and followed, and the Dollar was captured near Yokohama. She was also taken to Yokosuka and condemned. Her crew will be sent home by the next steamer.

## PARES ITS CLAWS

### Kennedy Has Substitute Commission Bill.

### SATISFACTORY TO SENATE

### House Shows Disposition to Get Off Its High Horse.

### ELECTIVE BOARD PROPOSED

### Lower Branch of Washington Legislature Struggles All Day With Draconic Measure—Requires Two-Thirds Vote.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 24.—(Special).—The House and Senate are now on the verge of a deadlock over the railway commission bill. While the House labored all day over the Crane-Dickson bill, debated proposed amendments, answered to roll-calls, and finally brought the bill to the verge of passage, another bill was in course of preparation, and just before the adjournment of the Senate it was submitted by Senator Kennedy as a substitute for his drastic measure introduced earlier in the session.

There is no doubt as to the ability of the friends of the Kennedy bill to pass their measure in the House, as they have almost two-thirds of the members, and there is no doubt as to the ability of the friends of the Crane-Dickson bill to pass their measure in the Senate. But one house of the other must recede from its position within the next 15 days or there will be no commission bill.

Kennedy's new bill is a wide departure from his bill introduced in the early part of the session. The points of widest divergence are in the selection of the commissioners and in the initiative rate-making and joint-rate features. It also contains several features not mentioned in any other bill so far introduced. These include an anti-pooling provision and a requirement for the posting of tariffs and giving of notices of change adapted from the interstate commerce law, and a provision that when a railroad company is unable to furnish all the cars needed, those on hand shall be justly distributed.

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