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TRAP IS CLOSED

Nogi Has Iron Band About Russians.

HARBIN IS CUT OFF

Whole Army Corps Is Surrounded.

JAPANESE TAKE MUKDEN

Battle at Fu Pass, to Secure Rennenkampf's Escape.

VAST QUANTITY OF PLUNDER

Japanese General Staff Insists That Communication Is Cut—Stories of Japanese Heroism in Hard Struggle.

TOKYO, March 10.—Mukden fell at 10 o'clock on the morning of March 9. The Russians are completely surrounded. Thousands of prisoners and enormous quantities of stores and guns have been captured.

LONDON, March 10.—In the lobby of the House of Commons last night, it was rumored that General Kuropatkin had asked for an armistice, but the report could not be traced to any reliable source.

TOKYO, March 10 (11 A. M.).—Reports from Manchurian army headquarters say that the Japanese have captured Tientsin. The Russians are vigorously holding and defending their fortifications south of the Hun River. A dust storm is interfering with the battle.

SPECIAL CABLE.
TOKYO, March 10.—The belief is general at the Japanese capital that General Kuropatkin cannot extricate himself or his forces from the Japanese trap, and that within a very short time the news will come of his surrender. General Nogi has completed his enveloping movement, and there at present seems no way of escape for the Russian phalanx other than to try to cut their way through the Japanese columns.

The reports that come from St. Petersburg that communication with Mukden has not been interrupted are absolutely misleading, as officers of the General Staff, who are in a position to know exactly what is going on, state that General Kuropatkin has not received reinforcements of men, munitions or supplies since March 1, and that so far as Harbin is concerned, the Russian Commander-in-Chief has been unable to reach that position with messages for at least four days. The Japanese columns have occupied Mukden is believed here, but there is no way of confirming the report, as the Japanese censorship is still absolute, and not until the present movement is successfully carried out can any report be expected to be made public by the General Staff.

The reports from General Nogi's army, which were sent last night, show how swiftly the troops in the field are moving. The veteran commander states that his men are advancing by forced marches at the rate of 25 miles a day, that they first surrounded and cut off not less than one Russian army corps at Tientsin, and that after fixing a cordon about them, the troops of the main army pressed forward and isolated an enormous quantity of supplies destined for General Kuropatkin, which are now in Japanese hands.

It is stated that the Japanese troops completed their cordon shortly before dawn on Thursday, and that now there seems but little prospect of the Russians escaping.

MAY CUT OFF RENNENKAMPF

Russians Must Hold Fu Pass to Secure His Retreat.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 10.—(2:05 A. M.)—St. Petersburg this morning knows little more of the outcome of the battle of Mukden than it knew Wednesday night, and little more of the fate of General Kuropatkin's beaten army. It is not even known whether the railroad has been cut and communications destroyed, though it is believed that the reported destruction of the line by General Kuropatkin's army refers to the damage inflicted Wednesday, which was not serious, though traffic was twice interrupted.

It is evident, however, that the Japanese are pressing closer to the indefensible line of retreat. Their shells occasionally cut the wires of the telegraph lines paralleling the railroad, and civilian line-men are displaying no less bravery than their soldier associates by climbing the poles and replacing the wires under fire.

The most important news received from Russian sources is the Associated Press information that the Japanese have already reached the Hun River. Fu Pass is only 12 miles east of Mukden and well westward of General Linvitch's line of retreat. Whether the extreme Russian left has already succeeded in retreating behind the Hun River and moving down the north bank of that stream to join hands with General Kuropatkin's main force is

not stated, but it is extremely probable that, unless the Russians are able to defend the crossing at Fu Pass, General Rennenkampf's forces will be cut off and have to shift for themselves in the mountainous region north of Plesium against expeditionary forces of Japanese, which are reported from Chinese sources to be retreating toward Tie Pass. The censor allows no word to pass, but it was stated here yesterday that General Kuropatkin had been for some time assembling a force of reserves at Tie Pass and Harbin with this eventuality in view, to defend the pass and positions until he can make or fight his way back.

This is a carnival week, according to the Russian calendar, but the stern hand of fate has moved the dial forward and plunged the city into Lenten gloom and despondency. The pessimism yesterday was even deeper than on Wednesday. Many military officials are openly speculating as to how long the fragments of the only great army of Manchuria will be able to hold the line on the Hun River, and if Field Marshal Oyama has actually succeeded in placing his trap, how long it will be before thousands of Russians will be effecting in Japan a junction with their Port Arthur comrades.

RUSSIANS DRIVEN FROM TIETI

Japanese Now Attack Fortifications North and East of Mukden.

TOKYO, March 10 (11 A. M.).—The following telegram has been received from the Manchurian army headquarters in the field:

"In the direction of Singchin for some distance our force has been attacking the enemy, who is making an obstinate resistance in strong positions. Finally, in the neighborhood of Tiet, our force, at 3 o'clock Thursday morning, completely dislodged the enemy, whom it is now pursuing."

"Our force in the vicinity of Manchun continues in hot pursuit of the enemy towards Tientsin."

"In the direction of the Shakkie and east and south of Mukden we entirely pressed the enemy to the basin of the Hun River. We stopped on the left bank and attacked the enemy's strong fortifications west and north of Mukden. Our attacks against the enemy, who is obstinately resisting, is being pushed vigorously."

"A heavy dust storm obscured the sun Thursday and as a consequence the darkness precluded seeing any distance."

JAPANESE CROWD TO RAILROAD

Russians Strive to Beat Them Back—South Front Retiring.

MUKDEN, March 10, 10 A. M.—(Delayed in Transmission).—An artillery fire is now being directed from the vicinity of the ancient Manchou Temple against the Japanese forces, which are crowding to the railway, where additional troops are assembled to meet the contingency. The narrow strip west of the railroad is literally covered with soldiers and military accoutrements.

The entire south front is now retiring in confusion. A plan formulated upon the consequences of the day's fighting, and the Japanese, apprehending the movement, are themselves rushing north around the Russian right.

Proceeding the retirement last night, the heavy firing which extended along the entire south front was for the first time audible at Mukden throughout the entire night and increasing with the day as it approached the west and north. It ought to be impossible now for the Japanese to turn the Russians from the Hun River position, but the issue appears to entirely depend on the extension of the battle-line northward and up the railway.

The evacuation of the Shakkie position involved several hundred miles of field and overland railways and telegraphs, enormous defensive works, Red Cross supplies, towns, fuel and forage stores, the latter of which it was necessary to burn. The military roads covered 500 square miles. Fires are everywhere obscuring the lines and it is almost impossible longer to distinguish the configurations. The hospitals here are now crowded, but the service continues adequate. Only sunlight and the mildness of the weather prevent indescribable suffering among the wounded and the supports and reserves, who are obliged to dig deep on the wide, shelterless plain and lie widely extended in order to escape the shrapnel which is now broadcast for 15 miles on the west, while all the troops on nearly 90 miles of battle-line are constantly exposed.

HE MAY TRY TO HOLD MUKDEN

Kuropatkin's Plan Condemned as Leading to Worse Disaster.

SPECIAL CABLE.

LONDON, March 10.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times, writing this morning, states that the latest information the Russian General Staff has is that General Kuropatkin still holds Mukden, although he has abandoned all of the outlying defenses, and is concentrating his efforts to the defense of the city.

The correspondent states that advice received from Harbin shortly after midnight declared that the advance of General Oku's troops had finally been checked by concentrated artillery fire, and the Russians could hold out for some time yet, although the troops are terribly exhausted by their long-continued exertions.

General Kuropatkin, according to the experts of the General Staff, hopes to be able to cope with the Japanese by diminishing the length of his front and gathering all of his forces together.

The correspondent states that this action of the Russian Commander-in-Chief is bitterly criticized by the Russian military experts, who declare that, if he is unable to attain his object, there will be nothing left to him to do but surrender to the Japanese, as while he is devoting his attention to an endeavor to withstand the Japanese efforts to capture Mukden, they are pushing troops northward to cut off his retreat.

ATTACK ON HUN RIVER BRIDGE

Japanese Night Attack Repulsed North of Mukden.

MUKDEN, March 9.—The Japanese this morning bombarded the bridge on Fu Pass, on the Hun River, 12 miles east of Mukden. The Russian artillery replied vigorously. The cannonading lasted an hour.

At present the Japanese are making

HUNT IS ON RACK

Strong Testimony and Some Wrangling.

PLACES WHICH KEEP OPEN

Favoritism on Chief's Part Is Charged.

SEEN AFTER HOURS IN SALOON

Patrolmen, It Is Testified, Are Told Not to Be Over-Zealous in Reporting Violations of Law—Other Testimony Contrary.

THE CHARGE.—That Chief Hunt does not use his authority to close them; that he shows favoritism among saloons; that he transferred an officer for reporting a saloon open.

THE DEFENSE.—Chief Hunt says he will show that if saloons are open it is because his officers do not report them to him; that he has issued orders to see that all saloons are closed; that he never removed or reprimanded an officer for reporting a saloon open.

THE EVIDENCE.—That saloonkeepers declared officers were afraid to report them because they paid for the privilege of keeping open after hours; that warrants were not issued when officers reported saloons breaking the law; that Chief Hunt told officers they need not exert themselves to see that saloons were closed; that saloons are open all over town after hours. In support of Chief Hunt, several patrolmen testified that he had always instructed them to be vigilant in reporting violations of the law by saloonkeepers.

In the little detectives' room at the Police Station at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon there began an investigation that will either end in the complete vindication of Chief of Police Hunt or in the declaration by the members of the police committee of the Executive Board that Charles H. Hunt, Chief of Police, is given to showing favoritism to saloonkeepers who violate the closing law.

At the hour mentioned there appeared

Councilman Flegel, who charges that the head of Portland's Police Department knows the saloon-closing ordinance is being openly violated and raises no hand to prevent the breach of the law, that Chief Hunt compels certain reports to observe the law and allows others to do as they please; that certain officers who have dared to report that certain saloons, alleged to be under the protection of the Chief, have violated the law, have been transferred from preferred beats to "sagebrush" beats to patrol in the midst of patches of woods.

Police Committee Present.

Police Commissioners Sichel and Beebe were there, ready to listen to testimony

SAID AT THE TRIAL.

EX-POLICEMAN JOHNSON—"I asked Chief Hunt what he was going to do about that saloon. I said it before a police committee. Chief Hunt said later, 'J. C. Johnson, you hadn't ought to say that before a committee-man.'"

EX-POLICEMAN HEMSWORTH—"Chief Hunt told us we needn't exert ourselves to see if saloons were open."

SERGEANT TAYLOR—"Chief Hunt said officers might get over-zealous in their duties."

GEORGE H. HOWELL—"Chief Hunt, you were in the Alcazar saloon between the hours of 1 and 4 o'clock A. M."

forthcoming. George H. Howell, of the Executive Board, was there to aid Councilman Flegel in conducting the investigation. Numerous patrolmen, sergeants, captains, a detective and two ex-police officers were present to give testimony, having been subpoenaed for that purpose.

While awaiting the arrival of the fiscal stenographer, Councilman Flegel arose to state what he intended to show.

"I am going to prove that saloons throughout the city are open at all hours of the night in violation of the closing ordinance, that Chief Hunt is aware of the condition of things, and that he takes no steps to see that the ordinance is properly enforced, even going so far as to show favoritism among the resorts and transferring patrolmen who dare to report saloons for which Chief Hunt has a kind feeling. I am going to call as witnesses several ex-officers, several civilians and several men who are at present on the police force. Sir, I do not want to call any police officer unless I positively know that he will not be afterward made to suffer for anything he may say here."

Mr. Sichel sprang to his feet.

"If that is to be the attitude of this investigation, I refuse to sit here and listen to it," he shouted.

"You may do just as you please," replied Mr. Flegel.

Mr. Sichel reached for his hat, thought better of it, and sat down again.

"It is a reflection to say that if officers testify here, even against their Chief, they will suffer for it afterward," put in General Beebe.

"I will confine the investigation simply to the subject of saloons being open and the Chief knowing of this condition of things," said Mr. Flegel. He then called the first witness, ex-Patrolman J. F.

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SHOOT A FRIEND

Forges Letter That It Is Suicide.

WOUNDED MAN FAILS TO DIE

How John Branton Planned for Insurance.

JOHN FLETCHER, THE VICTIM

Pretends to Fire at Panther and Hits Companion, Sends Letter to City Marshal Signed With Name of Man Thought Dead.

COTTAGE GROVE, OR., March 9.

(Special).—In the mail of the City Marshal of this place this morning was a letter purporting to be written by John Fletcher, stating that the writer was tired of life and had decided to commit suicide and telling the Marshal where to find the body. Fletcher was found as indicated, with a bullet wound in his head, but subsequent developments show that he was shot by John Branton, who also wrote the letter, the crime being for the purpose, it is presumed, of getting life insurance of \$500, payable to Branton at Fletcher's death. Fletcher has made a statement declaring Branton shot him. Branton was arrested this evening.

Fletcher had been living with Branton for some time. Last night the two men attended the Woodmen of the World convention in Cottage Grove, and about 11:30 o'clock started home. When a part of the distance had been covered Branton claimed he saw something near the road that looked like a dog or panther. Fletcher, having a revolver, shot twice in the direction indicated by Branton, nothing resulting. On going a little further Branton claimed to have a violent attack of cramps, saying he supposed it came from eating a late supper. They went a little further, Fletcher building a fire for Branton to warm himself by, as he complained of pains in his stomach. They remained there about an hour. While here Branton suddenly exclaimed that he saw a panther near and asked Fletcher for his revolver to take

a shot. He took the weapon, walked a little distance away and fired. The ball struck Fletcher in the head and he fell over.

"My God, are you hurt, John?" Branton exclaimed.

He tried to help Fletcher home, but owing to the darkness left him on the road and went ahead, saying he was going for help. He reached the house and started to return with help, when they met Fletcher, who had done his best to get home, though suffering intensely. He had tied a handkerchief about his head, and this was soaked with blood.

Fletcher asked for a doctor and, while the man went for a physician, Branton approached the bed whereon Fletcher lay, and said:

"John, if anyone asks you who did it, say you did it yourself, or they will be after me."

Fletcher replied that he did not shoot himself and would never say so. When Dr. Corporan, who had been called, arrived, Fletcher declared that Branton had shot him. The foregoing facts he incorporated in a sworn statement. Branton was brought to this place, where his eye was removed and his wounds dressed. He made his statement here, and immediately afterward Branton was arrested and charged with attempting to kill Fletcher.

A letter addressed to the City Marshal, received in the morning, read as follows: "I am tired of life. Am going to kill myself. You will find my body on the road between town and Branton's ranch. John Fletcher."

Branton's father, who lives at Lorrane, reached here this afternoon, examined the letter and declared his son never wrote it, as he knew his son's handwriting. It is believed the letter was written by Branton and that he deliberately attempted to slay Fletcher for the life insurance of \$500 payable to Branton on Fletcher's death. The policy is with the Woodmen of the World. Claude Branton, a brother of the suspected man, was hanged at Eugene a few years ago for the murder of a man in the Cascade Mountains. John Branton has had three wives, all of whom are dead, and the authorities believe Branton is responsible for some of the deaths.

BRYAN LOSES THAT \$50,000.

Connecticut Supreme Court Holds Sealed Letter Inoperative.

HARTFORD, Conn., March 9.—The Supreme Court of Connecticut today handed down a decision in the case of Philo S. Bennett, in which William J. Bryan has figured as a possible beneficiary to the extent of \$50,000, as provided in a "sealed letter" left by Mr. Bennett, and finds no error. The decision upholds the Superior Court, which rendered judgment to the effect that the clause in Mr. Bennett's will containing the paragraph in regard to the \$50,000 to be left to Mr. Bryan is inoperative, and that the fund is part of the residuary of the estate.

Counsel for Mr. Bryan, when asked tonight if the case would be taken any higher, said that it would not be.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 9.

The dispatch from Hartford, Conn., announcing the decision of the Supreme Court in the Philo S. Bennett will case was read to Mr. Bryan over the telephone in tonight. Mr. Bryan said that he presumed that the decision ends the contest.

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READY TO SERVE

Special Session Is Little Opposed.

NO PAY IS ASKED

Solons Would Amend Omnibus Bill.

PUT NORMALS ON MERITS

Inconvenience and Extra Expense Saved State.

REFERENDUM A COSTLY MOVE

Objection is Made on the Part of Some, Favorable to Senator Haines' Plan, to Giving Pledge to Governor.

The Oregonian interviewed a large number of members of the Legislature yesterday as to the project of Senator Haines to call an extra session for the purpose of amending the \$1,000,000 appropriation bill so that the State Normal Schools shall be obliged to stand on their own merits. It is stipulated by Senator Haines that the members shall agree to serve without compensation, and it is to be further arranged that they shall take up no other topic of legislation at the special session.

Sentiment of the Legislature in the main seems to be favorable to an extra session, though there is strong opposition on part of the minority. It is realized that a referendum is imminent and that the appropriation is certain to be tied up and in the end voted unless curative legislation is undertaken at an early date. Members who favor a special session view with uneasiness the consequent inconvenience to the state institutions as well as the extra expense. Nearly all of them appear to agree that the taxpayers have a grievance as to the Normal Schools, but they are not agreed as to the exact method of meeting the situation.

Some of the members who are favorable to an extra session do not think that the Governor has a right to stipulate what they shall do when they get to Salem, and a few say that, if they are called together again, other important measures will be taken up. Some of them do not want to promise the Governor anything, though they are willing to serve without pay. A number are noncommittal, while some have not had time to consider the matter.

President Kuykendall is disposed to think that a special session is inexpedient, in that it may involve the state in legal tangles. Senator Miller of Linn, who led the fight against the Normal Schools, expressed himself as fully opposed to the scheme of Senator Haines.

It seems to be clear, however, that the greater number of members, so far as heard from, think that it would be advisable to make an endeavor in a special session to put to rest the widespread agitation for the referendum. Governor Chamberlain has been advised by some of his friends not to take action, but his inclination is undoubtedly to issue a proclamation convening the Legislature, if he shall be satisfied that it is the desire of the majority to extricate the state institutions from the dilemma in which they have been placed and to meet the general public demand for reduction of the amounts given to the Normal Schools.

Members who have expressed themselves as being favorable, or at least not unfavorable, to the special session, are as follows:

Senators—Avery, Booth, Brownell, Croas, Valdez, Hodson, Holman, Halsey, Nottingham, Pierce, Siebel, Wright.

Representatives—Bingham, Burns, Coon, Caldwell, Capron, Colwell, Coffin, Griffin, Huntley, Jagger, Jayne, Kay, Killingsworth, Linthicum, Mills, Muir, Bettlemier.

The following members are opposed to the session or object to Haines' plan:

Senators—Coburn, Farrar, Hobson, Kuykendall, Loughery, Miller, Rand, Tuttle, Wheaton.

Representatives—Burgess, Burns (Clatsop), Laws.

WOULD SERVE WITHOUT PAY

Legislators Will Not Bind Themselves to Chamberlain by Pledges.

Members of the Multnomah Legislative delegation say they will go to Salem though the Governor call an extra session. None of them declared himself hostile to a special session. Each, should an attempt be made to line them up into pledging themselves to the Governor for this or that, strong opposition would develop. Just as among members of the last delegation from this county when Governor Chamberlain tried to bind them with pledges before he called the special session in December, 1902.

The Multnomah lawmakers profess willingness to serve the state without pay of mileage, except Representative Madison Welch, who says he won't serve anybody for nothing.

In the delegation the sentiment is strong and near to overwhelming that if a special session will prevent a referendum and fix up the appropriation bill the way the people wish it and cost

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SKETCHED AT THE INVESTIGATION OF CHIEF OF POLICE HUNT BEFORE THE POLICE COMMITTEE.

