

RUSH ON TO YALU

Japanese Force of 100,000
Will Cross Rapidly.

SERIOUS FIGHTING IS NEAR

Russians Repose a Blind Faith in the
Strategy of Kuropatkin, and Intimate
Enemy May Find Itself
in a Trap.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 1.—All news from the front indicates that the armies of General Kuropatkin and General Oku, comprising about 100,000 men, are being rapidly pushed forward, and will be thrown across the Yalu as speedily as possible. Japanese transports have also appeared at the mouth of the river and supported by a few warships, will assist in the operations.

The Japanese seem to be following closely the tactics pursued by them during the China-Japanese war, having already occupied Kullen Cheng, above Antung, where they crossed in 1895. The beginning of serious land fighting is considered to be not far distant, although a heavy movement of troops may not begin for several days, notwithstanding the Japanese are crossing at several places above Wiju.

It is believed that the Japanese anticipated more resistance on the Yalu than they met with, and for this reason their armies were not in a position to cross at the moment the advance force crossed a passage. With the advance body some guns were hurled over and the Japanese outposts were entrenched.

Desultory picket firing is occurring constantly, but no importance is attached to it. While the Russian plans never contemplated strong resistance to the Japanese on the Yalu, it is evident that the latter expected a show of defense of the river, and some surprise is manifested here that practically no attempt was made to impede the enemy's forces. In explanation of this, it is significantly intimated by members of the general staff that General Kuropatkin has some secret plan, and that the Japanese may soon find themselves in a trap. General Kuropatkin's skill as a strategist is a thing in which the Russian army reposes blind faith.

Consider Him a Genius.

"Wall until the moment," officers of the general staff say. They consider the general Kuropatkin's skill as a strategist approaches real genius. Many of the officers assert that as chief of staff, General Kuropatkin was largely instrumental in organizing the victory of General Skobelev and delight to tell how, years ago, during the big field maneuvers at Moscow against Grand Duke Sergius, he drew the whole of the Grand Duke's artillery into an ambush and ending the campaign at a single stroke. It is estimated that it will take the Japanese at least a week to bring over their men and baggage and to prepare for an advance upon the first Russian line, which is strongly posted at Feng Huan Cheng, 50 miles west of the Yalu on the Pekin road.

The general staff does not believe it will be possible for the Japanese to live a successful campaign on this position, the country being exceedingly difficult and also favorable for disastrous ambushes.

The members of the staff are inclined to think the Japanese may try a flanking movement to the northward, but say if they do so it can only be a diversion owing to the bad condition in which the roads will be for the next fortnight. While in the last few days, General Kuropatkin has advised the Emperor that he is well satisfied with the dispositions made of the Russian troops to meet the Japanese advance upon the Feng Huan Cheng line. He has also made a favorable report on the strength of the Hai Cheng line above Niu Chwang, and the conditions on the Liao Tung Peninsula.

Will Now Hold Liao Yang.

It is said that General Kuropatkin, upon his arrival at Liao Yang, considered the expediency of holding that place, but he is now convinced it should, and can, be held. While it is admitted that the Japanese may be able to land at several places on the peninsula, and even cut the railway, it is believed they will not dare to take the risks involved in such movements. Vice-Admiral Togo could easily hold the Russian fleet in port during the disembarkation of the Japanese troops but to insure their safety afterward, he would be compelled to maintain constantly a superior force outside the harbor to prevent the possibility of the Russian fleet seizing the Japanese base and cutting off their communications, leaving them to sustain, unsupported, a land attack.

"An invasion of Liao Tung would be like an invasion of England," remarked an officer of the staff, "as Field Marshal Count von Moltke said: There are many ways in, but not a single way out."

FIND SHE STRUCK MINE.

Experts Report on the Destruction of the Petropavlovsk.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 1.—The following telegram from Viceroy Alexieff, under date of April 30, has been received by the Emperor:

"The special commission appointed to inquire into the cause of the sinking of the battleship Petropavlovsk has established beyond a doubt the fact that the battleship struck a mine laid by the enemy within the radius of the customary evolutions of our fleet on the occasion of its sorties into the outer roads in order to get at the enemy. The explosion of this mine under the boat compartments and bunkers of the Petropavlovsk resulted, according to the view of the commission of experts in which I share, in a series of explosions through the detonation of the proxymine and the 12-inch shells in the ship's magazine and in the explosion of the powder cartridge stores, as well as of the cylindrical boilers. These several explosions were observed in the two minutes which elapsed before the battleship was wrapped in a sheet of flame and disappeared beneath the sea."

St. Petersburg Little Surprised.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 1, 4:30 A. M.—The finding of the court of inquiry that the battleship Petropavlovsk was destroyed by a Japanese mine has caused little surprise in St. Petersburg. This finding has been expected since Viceroy Alexieff's dispatch of April 21, in which Vice-Admiral Togo's claim that he was responsible for the blowing up of the ship was practically admitted.

ONE HOUR TO SURRENDER.

Japanese Who Went Down With Transport Obey Orders.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—The Japanese legation today received the following official report from Tokyo on the sinking of the transport Kinsulu Maru:

"As the Ninth Company, Eighty-seventh Infantry Regiment, peace strength 150, were returning to Gensan in the transport Kinsulu Maru, registered tonnage 230, after reconnoitering Yikou and the neighborhood of Pangyongdo, they were stopped at 11:25 A. M., April 29, off Sinpho

by three Russian cruisers and torpedo-boats. The Russian then approached her. Her ship's captain, accompanied by two other officers, went aboard the Kinsulu, where they were detained. The enemy gave an hour's respite for surrender, but the soldiers, in strict discipline obeying officer's order, refused. At 1:30 P. M. the enemy discharged a torpedo, whereupon our soldiers, forming themselves into line on deck, exchanged fire with the enemy, during which many of our officers and men perished. At about 2 P. M. another torpedo was discharged and, hitting the engine-room, split the ship in two. Some cooies and merchants had previously taken to boats and were subsequently joined by some soldiers after the explosion. The boats were then rowed westward and after indescribable sufferings the seamen reached Sinpho on the 27th. There were 45 petty officers and privates, six cooies and three merchants. "Most of the crew and cooies appear to have been taken by the enemy. All military, and the above-mentioned survivors are said to have been killed. The company lost two Captains, two First and one Second Lieutenants, the Ensign, 72 privates and two interpreters. Of the survivors, 120 were slightly wounded."

RUSSIAN REPORTS OF FIGHTING

Small Skirmishes Are the Rule, With the Odds Against the Japanese.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—An official dispatch has been received at the headquarters concerning affairs on the Yalu up to April 28. It follows: "Official reports received during the last few days state that on April 22 a movement was seen among the Japanese troops on the Yalu, small detachments moving on the left bank. On April 23 larger bodies concentrated opposite Wiju and the Japanese proceeded to cross by small detachments. About two companies with small body of cavalry crossed at Sipaousikha. From the evening of April 24 onward, reports began to come in to the effect that the enemy was preparing to cross at Wiju, Turen Cheng and Tahan Cheng Ling.

"On the following day the Japanese endeavored to throw bridges across the eastern arm of the Yalu opposite Turen Cheng and Sipaousikha. Toward 2 o'clock in the afternoon they occupied the island of Somlandia and spent the night of April 25 on an island north of Sandakou. The Japanese, who numbered 1500, were received by the fire of our light cavalry, who, being numerically inferior, took boats and crossed to the right bank, whence they kept up a lively fire, occupying a narrow path along the bank sheltered by a sharp ascent. Our light cavalry lost: Chief of the detachment, Lieutenant Somenoff, and 18 men wounded, but their severe fire at short range against the Japanese in close formation must have inflicted considerable losses.

"At 3:30 A. M., April 26, by their firing on the island opposite Turen Cheng our guns destroyed the bridge across the eastern branch of the Yalu toward the island of Somlandia, forcing the Japanese to continue their passage of the river by pontoons south of Wiju. Toward midday a detachment of Japanese with a battery of artillery began a march upon Turen Cheng, but meeting with the fire of our artillery, they retired in disorder and confusion towards the place of their passage. The Japanese battery did not have time even to come into action.

"At 9 o'clock in the evening of April 27 some three battalions of the Japanese crossed the Yalu at the Village of Matousoo, over the eastern branch of the river. The night of April 28 passed quietly.

"On the morning of April 29 our scouts reported that the Japanese had occupied an island opposite Sandakou, having secured advance posts on the left bank of the river.

"Our troops continue to occupy their position on the right bank of the river."

WILL TRY TO KEEP FLEET IN.

Togo Wants No More Raids by the Vladivostok Squadron.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 1, 4:35 A. M.—A dispatch received here from Viceroy Alexieff, says:

"The continued presence of the Japanese squadron off Vladivostok has convinced the authorities that Vice-Admiral Togo had taken to heart the statements made him through his failure to consider the possibilities of mischief by the formidable Russian division at that port, and is now seeking means to stop further raiding operations in the sea of Japan. It is evident that as soon as the Japanese were informed of the operation of the Russians in Korean waters, the government instructed Vice-Admiral Togo to discontinue his operations and send it to Vladivostok to cut off the Russian ships and confine them to the harbor, so they could do no further damage. The former purpose failed, owing to the celerity of Rear-Admiral Yezens's movements.

While there is no expectation that Rear Admiral Yezens will risk an encounter with a superior force by putting to sea, even on a raiding expedition, it is said he is a bold, careful commander and will spring surprises upon the Japanese.

JAPANESE FLEET IS ACTIVE.

Alexieff Reports its Appearance in the Gulf of Ussuri.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 1, 2:40 A. M.—In a telegram to the Emperor, dated April 30, Viceroy Alexieff says:

"About 2 o'clock yesterday morning, four Japanese torpedo-boats appeared in the Gulf of Ussuri off the Skypier light-house, but shortly afterward put out for the open sea again.

"It was reported from Askold Island, at 1:50 in the morning, that ten Japanese cruisers and six torpedo-boats were coming up from the south. They steamed first in the direction of the Gulf of Ussuri, without coming within range. At 10 o'clock in the morning they headed toward Cape Gamova and steamed along Ruskly Island, as far as Scott Island, eventually disappearing in a southerly direction in a thick fog which prevented further observation of their movements."

RUSSIA HEAVES SIGH OF RELIEF

Press Heartily Approves Note Declaring There Can Be No Mediation.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—With-out a dissenting voice the Russian press approves of the decision of the government, as announced in its circular note, not to permit mediation and warning the powers that they must keep their hands off when the terms of peace are settled. The Svet says:

"All Russia heaves a sigh of relief. We are going to establish ourselves on the Pacific without sharing the spoils of victory."

RUSSIANS SUSPECT CHINA.

Accuse Her of Making Secret Treaty With Japan.

PEKIN, April 30.—It is declared here that certain Russian officials are circulating a story accusing China of having made a secret treaty with Japan regarding the port of Amoy and the province of Fu Kien, and containing the statement that prominent Chinese and Japanese officials already have left Shanghai for Amoy to arrange the preliminaries of the treaty. Chinese and Japanese officials here unite in denying this accusation.

CHINA IS AMAZED.

Russian Interference With Telegram Causes Feting of Alarm.

PEKIN, April 30.—The Russian censorship over telegrams has been extended to the station at Hain Min Tun, which is in

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Manchuria, and about 30 miles west of Mukden. The Chinese government is greatly amazed at what is termed Russian interference with the telegraphs at Hsin Min Tun, with which place communication hitherto has been free and regular.

That Russians are about to enforce martial law in the country west of the Liao River has been confirmed, and in certain diplomatic quarters here the feeling that Russia is seeking an occasion to quarrel with China is gaining ground.

Russian Force on the Yalu Now Large

REAN HAI KWAN, April 30.—Missionaries who have just arrived at Niu Chwang report that when they left An Tung ten days ago the Russians in that vicinity numbered 20,000 men, and had

strongly fortified positions between An Tung and the Ai River, which empties into the Yalu about 20 miles northeast of An Tung. There were also some Russian forces at Hsin Yen and Feng Huan Cheng, where bases had been established. These two places are respectively about 65 and 45 miles to the northwest of An Tung.

The Russians along the railroad line, according to the missionaries, were burning bean cakes, endeavoring, with some success, to prevent the export of this product.

Vladivostok Still Free From Attack.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—The absence of telegram from Rear-Admiral Yezens is regarded at the Admiralty as proof that the Japanese have not attempted to bombard Vladivostok. It is under-

stood that Vice-Admiral Choukin, now commanding the Naval Cadet School, will succeed Vice-Admiral Skrydloff as commander of the Russian Black Sea fleet, and that Admiral Korsekoff will succeed Admiral Choukin.

Denmark Declares Strict Neutrality.

STOCKHOLM, April 30.—King Oscar has signed a decree declaring strict neutrality between Japan and Russia during the war. The decree is similar in terms to that issued by the Danish government.

Russia Protests to China.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—Russia has called the attention of the Pekin government to reports received from the Russian military authorities indicating that stray officers are making their way

through Mongolia to the railway near Harbin with the intention of deserting it. The officers who were executed ten days ago at Harbin came through Mongolia.

Foreign Military Attaches Leave.

TOKIO, April 30.—Fourteen foreign military attaches who have been assigned to the first army left Tokyo today by rail for the port of Shimonoeki. They will sail May 1 for an unknown destination, and a large crowd of people bid them farewell at the railroad station.

Japanese Prisoners Sent Away.

ST. PETERSBURG, April 30.—A party of 146 Japanese prisoners who were recently removed to Tomsk from Vladivostok, Harbin, and Dalny, where

they were when the war broke out, have been sent to the village of Kolpashevo, 200 miles distant, where they will remain until the opening of navigation.

TOO LATE TO CLASSIFY.

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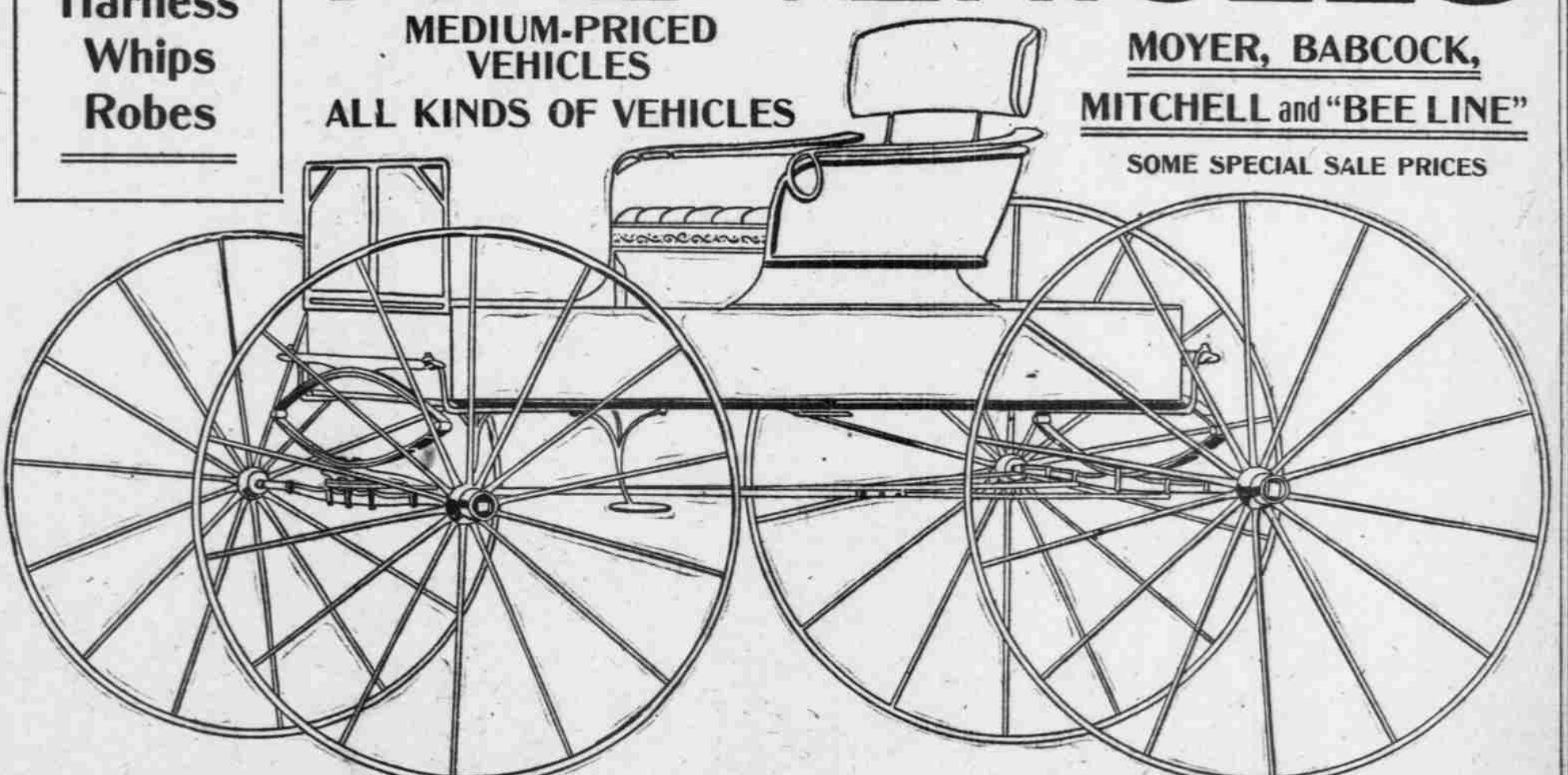
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