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JAPAN'S GREAT BATTLE.

The full statement of casualties in the battle of Liao Yang is not yet at hand, but from the partial reports made for the several days of the continued action it is evident that in killed alone the number will exceed the total casualties in any action at arms since the invention of gunpowder, says the Call.

The greatest modern battles were fought in our civil war. In those actions it was pluck against pluck and grit against grit. The largest number engaged in one action was at Fredericksburg, where the Union army had 113,000 men and the Confederate 78,513, a total of 191,513. The Confederate loss was 1284 killed, 9606 wounded and 1769 missing; the Union loss 608 killed, 4116 wounded, and 653 missing, making a grand total of casualties of 18,036. The next great battle, measured by the number of men in collision and the casualties, was Gettysburg, the decisive battle of the war. There the Union army numbered 97,361 and the Confederate 75,268, a total of 172,629. Though the number of men in action was less than at Fredericksburg, the casualties were much greater. The Federal army lost 3072 killed, 14,497 wounded, 5434 missing, the Confederate army loss was 2592 killed, 12,709 wounded and 5150 missing. This was a grand total of 45,354, of which the killed in both armies numbered 5664. It was a great and stubbornly fought action, in which every form of offense was used, artillery, rifle, bayonet charge and cavalry charge, and desperate courage was displayed by both sides. Yet looking back upon it the number killed on the field was surprisingly small.

Since then, however, there has been great improvement in arms. The army rifle has a larger range, and the fired ammunition and explosives are all different. Not only in small arms has there been a substitution of more efficient weapons, but the artillery is of greater range and more rapid fire. These things alone account somewhat for the greater destruction in the battles fought in the current war in eastern Asia.

In the action at Liao Yang it is believed that a half million of men have faced each other. The Russians have labored under the disadvantage of having no reserves. Kuropatkin's policy of choosing his ground for a stand and gathering upon it his entire force, has brought his entire army under Japanese fire, so that there could be no reserve maintained, out of danger, to come into action and relieve the troops jaded by long fighting. The Japanese generals in this respect outclassed him. They repeat Napoleonic tactics, by having immense reserves, rested and fresh, ready for duty, while the jaded recruit. These tactics permit that incessant assault which gives the enemy no rest.

The outside world will have to wait for the reports of the several commanders, before knowing just what has happened in that awful battle. Both armies exclude war correspondents from any close view of the fighting. On the Japanese side the newspaper men were permitted to sniff the battle afar off, at the comfortable distance of eight miles. It is evident that none got any nearer the Russian side, so that reports from that source are mostly the result of imagination. It is the first modern war, modern in the sense of the rise of the newspaper, in which the belligerents have succeeded in completely muzzling the war correspondents. In the Russo-Turkish war Forbes, the great English war correspondent, had the right of way in both armies. He sat alone with the czar in his field tent, and was able to write vividly, as an observer in touch with events. Now the newspaper men, except for what local color they get, can write up the war just as well at their home desks.

The Japanese officers have been very soldier-like in their reports, which are believed to be accurate, and lack the dramatic elements entirely. The Russians are the same, though they employ a pardonable euphemism when they call a retreat "a change of position."

From the reports given out by both sides it is evident that the total killed will equal all the casualties of Fredericksburg and Gettysburg combined, or a number but little short of the whole Confederate force at Gettysburg. While no man can foresee the effect upon the world's political and commercial geography, it is with no desire to underestimate the

effect of Gettysburg or Sedan that one may predict that the battle of Liao Yang will have the greatest permanent effect upon the world's future history of any action since Marathon or Tours.

Some of the continental military critics try to minimize the Japanese victory at Liao Yang because Kuropatkin's army was not captured. But Lee's army was not captured at Gettysburg. It retreated into Virginia, but the forces of Meade were left in possession of the field, and the battle was decisive of the war.

WEALTH IN THE HAY CROP.

A 20-acre farm near La Conner has produced 122 tons of hay this season, says the Post-Intelligencer. The grass was harvested during the ideal Puget sound dry summer and is in fine condition for market. At present prices it will bring \$1500, or an average of \$75 per acre. Such yields are the rule and not the exception for western Washington meadows. In the central part of the state, where irrigation is practiced, 10 tons per acre is a common report made by the best hay farmers. Land producing such crops should be worth, as an investment, at least one thousand dollars an acre.

The hay crop of the United States is one of the most important farm products. It ranks second to the commercial worth of corn, which is the most valuable single crop in the country. One-fifth of our agricultural wealth comes from the hay meadows. An official report shows that last year the hay crop was valued at \$535,000,000, or nearly \$100,000,000 more than the combined wheat crop. What is true of the country in general applies with equal force to the Puget sound section. Hay is one of the great agricultural kings.

There is no danger from overproduction of hay. It is a staple forage in every country. Dairymen must have hay for their cows on which they expect to make profits. Horse owners require hay to feed their animals whether in the harness or standing idly in the barn. Every transportation line reaching the orient or Alaskan cities must carry hay as an important item of shipping. It goes to all ports and commands first-class prices. The demand for hay increases with the opening of new fields of commerce. This will continue to expand.

Hay farming offers superior inducements to men owning farms or those who can get lands in any section of this state. The grass does not die because of cold winters or dry summers. It is a perpetual evergreen in western Washington and almost the same in the central and eastern portions of the state. Only a few months in the year are required to be devoted to harvesting the crop. When once planted a field lasts for a lifetime. Wise management of a small tract insures an income throughout a generation. There are thousands of acres of cheap lands ready for the occupancy of hay farmers.

SOUND SENSE AND LAW.

A recent case decided by the Pennsylvania supreme court will be of interest to men who prefer riding on the rear platform of trolley and inter-urban cars, instead of taking seats provided for them inside. In the Pennsylvania case the plaintiff, who sued for \$10,000 damages, preferred the open air and the rear platform and was severely injured by a rear-end collision, the facts showing that there was carelessness on the part of the company through the conductor of the car. The lower court held, however, that there was contributory negligence, or carelessness, on the part of the passenger because of his remaining on the platform, where he had no business to be, and refusing, or neglecting, to take a seat within the car. The supreme court said:

"A passenger who stands on the platform assumes not only all the risks of the road, but all the risks of his position. Unless he can give a valid reason for not sitting within the car the passenger must hazard all the perils of being elsewhere."

The opinion of the court will strike the average reader as sound in sense as well as in law. Following out reasonable deductions from the opinion, it would seem that the passenger has no right to occupy the platform when there is room for him even to stand within the car. It is true that if all seats were occupied he could give what the court calls a valid reason for not sitting within the car. But the space within the car is for the passenger, sitting or standing, so far as the perils of the road are involved, and he can only use the platform when not only the seats, but the entire space within the car, is occupied. At the same time, either more cars or larger cars would not come amiss to the users of traction or of inter-urban lines.

In Cook county, Ill., a divorcee has been granted in 12 minutes after the filing of the papers. The record was smashed to splinters. "Divorcees granted while you wait" might well be set up as a sign over that tribunal of Themis.

Mr. Addicks again declares that the democrats can not buy Delaware. This may be just his way of declaring that he will not sell.

Russia reports that her trade in Manchuria is sadly unsettled by the war, although she is making many transfers in the real estate line.

DO YOU BELCH

Or have Heartburn after your meals? If so, you know how miserable you feel. You're afraid to eat this or that and as a result you become thin and rundown. Take our advice and try a dose of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters before each meal. You will notice an improvement from the very first dose, and when taken regularly always cures a Weak Stomach, Weak Kidneys, Poor Appetite, Nervousness, Indigestion, Dyspepsia and Malaria.

HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS

REAL WEDDING ON THE STAGE.

Anderman Makes Kitty Woods Mrs. Wells as Part of Show at Miner's. New York Sun: Just before the last act of "Looping the World" at Miner's theater, in the Bowery, last night, Tom Miner, manager of the house, stepped before the curtain.

"There's going to be a real wedding here in about a minute," said he. "This ain't no press agent gag. It will be the real thing. Your old friend, Alderman Marks, will tie the knot."

There was wild applause. Alderman Marks appeared back on the stage, leading by the hands Kitty Woods and Billy Wells, both of whom are playing in "Looping the World." Billy had made a quick change from the get-up of a Dutch comedian into a Tuxedo and a clean face, and Kitty was blooming in a black and orange satin gown and a picture hat with the same brilliant color effect. Alderman Marks performed the ceremony with people in the audience climbing all over each other trying to see the show.

Somebody threw a bag of rice and then it rained rice for five minutes. Occasionally an old shoe or an apple was thrown on the stage. One enthusiastic person threw a glass of beer for which he had no more use. He was removed by the police after Kitty had informed him that he was no gentleman.

Band at the Star.

Tomorrow there will be a new bill at the Star, with the Royal Italian band of Portland, featured. This band is the best in Portland or the northwest and is the favorite in the metropolis. Gaston and Harvey, Australian comedians, singers and dancers; the Great Stansfield and others will compose the attractive and crackerjack bill at the Star for the ensuing week.



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