

# COAST MAIL

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## CRUELTY AT PORT ARTHUR

### Combatants Losing all Humanity

### Red Cross Flag Not Respected

According to Lieutenant Prince Radzivil, of the Russian army, who has just arrived at Ujefoo from Port Arthur, the temper of the belligerents at Port Arthur has reached an absolutely merciless stage. Prince Radzivil served with the British in the Boer war, but he says that until he became aware of affairs at Port Arthur he had no idea that war could be so horrible.

It was not until some weeks ago that serious suspicions were entertained by both belligerents that the other was abusing the Red Cross. The suspicion has been increased by the commission of various acts by the soldiers of both armies until now even flags of truce or surrender are not respected by either side.

Prince Radzivil declares that the men of both armies are absolutely venomous in their antagonism. Lieutenant-General Stoessel has addressed his garrison, saying that the present mood of the Japanese plainly indicates the necessity of resisting them to the last drop of Russian blood, because if the Japanese soldiers entered the fortress it undoubtedly would be impossible for their officers to control them and prevent a massacre. For this reason Lieutenant-General Stoessel is making no objection to civilians leaving Port Arthur.

In consequence of the fact that flags of truce are ignored, numbers of the Japanese dead which have been lying on the slopes of the hills of the northeast defenses for weeks past are still unburied, and the stench in Port Arthur from decomposing bodies when the wind is in the right direction is almost unbearable.

In the course of the assaults which took place in the last four days of August, two companies of Japanese soldiers, according to Prince Radzivil, found themselves at the mercy of the Russians and hoisted a white flag. To this, however, the Russians paid no attention, and continued to volley rapidly into the helpless ranks of the enemy. In the meanwhile Japanese the roar of the companies that had hoisted the white flag saw what their comrades had done and expressed their approval of the surrender by firing their rifles. As a result of the fire and loss, 600 men were

among the decomposing assaults. For wounded men in fluttering handkerchiefs in plea for help, were afraid to venture.

Within a week the last arm had made its last unregarded prayer for help, and the shambles were quiet, but ghastly was the field of horror. Among the heaps of dead the Prince saw two soldiers, one a Russian and the other a Japanese, lying in a death embrace. The teeth of the Japanese were sunk in the Russian's throat, while the Russian had forced two of his fingers into the eye-sockets of his antagonist. The Prince cited this merely as an incident denoting the ferocity of the conflict before Port Arthur.

## ALL QUIET ALONG THE PATOMIC

### No Great Battle Due At Once

Official news from the seat of war in the Far East is still lacking, but the War Office at St. Petersburg appears not to anticipate a great battle in the near future. The officials believe that the Japanese will not hurry on an engagement with General Kuropatkin, owing to the fact that the latter has had time since the evacuation of Liao Yang to strengthen his forces materially, and that the next movement of the Japanese will be directed against Tie Pass.

Public interest is again apparently being concentrated upon Port Arthur, and the reports that the Japanese are tunneling the fortifications there are received at the Russian capital with some credulity.

## DRY GOODS FAKIRS HERE Selling Cheap Piece Goods at High Prices

The MAIL is informed that the town has been infested for several days with dry goods fakirs who go from house to house with samples of cloth and sell shoddy goods at high prices to the unsuspecting housewives. They are adepts at all the arts of imposing on people who are not judges of cloth and are said to be doing a thriving business. Some women are known to have bought pieces of goods they did not want, paying far higher prices than would be asked in any store carrying such goods.

One of their strong suits is the old one of naming a price five times what the goods are worth and then allowing the would-be thrifty woman to beat them down until she is paying only about one-fifth the value of the stuff and thinks she is getting a great bargain.

To deal with such cattle is not only laying yourself open to being robbed but it is rank injustice to our local merchants, who carry stocks of goods the year round for your convenience, and who do their share toward keeping up the town. Spend your money with the honest people and you may see it again, and they will not rob the eyes out of your head in the bargain.

If you think a woman can't keep a secret, ask the office girl.

## HEAVY FIGHTING RESUMED

### Russian Forces Nearly Equal Japs

### Kuropatkin has Good Position

Dispatches from General Kuropatkin to St. Petersburg state that General Rebekampff and General Sampsonoff are conducting important reconnaissances which have resulted in heavy fighting with many casualties. The main reconnaissance was made toward the enemy's front and right flank and the Japanese were driven back.

The Russian losses were slight. The Japanese, Kuropatkin says, are concentrating between Xenais and Bismarck at the south of Mukden.

The Japanese during an encounter Saturday evacuated a village which they held but with slight losses.

The czar has decided to form a second Manchurian army to be made up of corps now being sent to the Far East. Lieutenant General Linsvitch will probably be in command. Kuropatkin will be chief of both armies, but probably without the title of commander-in-chief.

A report circulated here that Rear Admiral Prince Onkumsky had been court-martialed, is emphatically denied by members of the general staff.

There is no secret made here of the general belief that one of the most important and decisive battles of the year will come within a few days and probably in the near neighborhood of Mukden. It is conjectured by the correspondents from what little is given out, that the forces under Kuropatkin have been largely augmented since the fighting at Liao Yang and that, notwithstanding the continued losses of fresh troops which reports show to have been hurried forward to Kuroki, the latter will be met by nearly an equal force.

Kuropatkin will have the advantage of position and is supposed to have been making great headway in preparing defenses for a further stand.

The reports that Kuroki will again attempt to flank and prevent Kuropatkin from keeping the road to Mukden open is scouted as being highly improbable. It is believed that the Japanese can have no other idea than that of compelling him to retreat to a point where he would be hampered throughout the winter by scarcity of supplies to feed an augmented army thus leaving him at the beginning of next spring with practically limited the same force he now has and much farther away from the contested territory.

Should Kuropatkin succeed in holding his ground at Mukden he would defeat this object and would thereby be enabled to resume the campaign in the spring with a heavy and well equipped force.

## PHOEBE STEELE ACQUITTED

### Of Gomplicity in Mur- der of Infant

### Steele and Suckau Go to the Pen

The case of Phoebe Steele, charged with murder in the second degree for alleged complicity in the killing of her baby, went to the jury just before night yesterday, and about 9 p.m. a verdict of acquittal was rendered.

Earle Steele, under a life sentence, was started for the state prison at Salem this morning in charge of the officers. To a newspaper representative who interviewed him he had little to say, except that he did not contemplate any further proceedings in his case, at present. Before his departure he was allowed by Sheriff Gallier to have a private interview with his wife, which is said to have been quite affecting. It is rumored that the young man expects that after feeling has cooled, a movement for his pardon may be effective, an expectation that is not likely to be realized.

A Suckau was also taken away to serve a sentence of 20 years for rape of his daughter.

## TEACHERS SALARIES NOT SO LOW

### Comparison Made With Other Towns

Tonching the communication printed in another column, concerning the wages paid to teachers in the Marshfield public schools, Mr. Williams, chairman of the Board of Directors, has furnished some figures to the MAIL showing the wages per month paid in different towns of the state. These figures are official, as they were obtained by John F. Hall, clerk of this district, by correspondence with the school clerks at the places named, after the close of the last term of school. Tabulated, they are as follows:

	Principal	Asst.	Others
Athens	\$85	\$60	\$50
Albany	70	45	50
Ashland	75 & 60		50
Baker City		50	60
Corvallis	90 & 60	40	45
Cottage Grove	90	45	40
Dallas	87.50		43.50
Eugene	70	40	55
Hillsboro	85	40	55
Klamath	70	50	35
Independence	80	35	60
McMinnville	100	70	40
Milton	90		50
Portland	80 to 165	55	75
Union	95 & 60	45	60
Roseburg	111.16	60	60
Marshfield	71.10	55	40

A further agreement is now made

with the teachers in the Marshfield school to the effect that those staying with the school will receive a raise of \$2.50 per month each year for two years, or until a maximum of \$55 is reached.

It would seem from these figures that the wages paid here are higher than in any Willamette valley town of even larger size than Marshfield and that they will compare favorably with those paid anywhere in the state outside of Portland.

If there has been any raise in other places since the above figures were obtained, the board has not been informed of the fact.

## CRUISER LENA BEING DISMANTLED

### Uncle Sam Watching for Others

Official orders have been issued by Captain Drake, ordnance officer at the Mare Island Navy-yard, and Gunner Shurtleworth commenced dismantling the Lena on Monday morning. The breechlocks of the larger guns, all the smaller arms except the officers' sidearms and revolvers, ammunition, ordnance, stores and torpedoes will be removed.

Instructions have been sent to Rear-Admiral Goodrich at San Francisco, directing him to detach one ship from his squadron when he leaves for Magdalena Bay to hold the Autumn target practice.

The vessel detached will remain in the vicinity of San Francisco prepared to enforce neutrality should other Russian or Japanese vessels put in at the Golden Gate.

## WYOMING LYING IN WAIT

### To Receive Visiting Cruisers

Believing that the Russian cruiser Korea is on this side of the Pacific ocean to overhaul ships bound for the Orient, the Navy Department has wired instructions to the officers of the Puget Sound Navy yard at Bremerton to hold the monitor Wyoming in readiness to enforce neutrality should the Korea put into this port.

While the Navy Department has no definite information that Russian cruisers are bound for Pacific coast ports, there is considerable talk to that effect, and it has been deemed advisable to have a vessel ready in case of an emergency.

There are several vessels now loading at the Puget Sound for the Orient, and it is possible that the Korea has been ordered to overhaul the boats and search for contraband of war.

## RUSSIAN REFORMERS ARE LOYAL

### No Present Danger of Revolution

### Crisis Will Come When War is Over

A St. Petersburg dispatch says: Investigation of the internal conditions of Russia by a gentleman who has just returned from an extensive tour of the interior, discloses a much better situation than foreigners generally believe to exist in this country. The investigator found absolutely no evidence of an impending crisis, but on the contrary, found special features in the situation making for the contentment of the people. The crops of this year are wonderful harvest throughout Russia, except the three smaller provinces in the south, where growth ruined the crops. On the western border, all through the black-soil belt and especially along the Volga, in southeastern Russia, bountifulness of the yield is almost unprecedented.

The demand for labor is so great and wages are so high that the men thrown out of employment in the mills and factories of the cities have returned to their native villages, where they find plenty of work. Bread for all always discontent in Russia.

It is true that the observer found an intense activity on the part of various revolutionary organizations, especially in the Southwestern Provinces. Circulars and proclamations of the most violent character, most of them printed abroad, had been spread broadcast among all classes of the discontented, in the hope of taking advantage of the war in the Far East to foment a revolt, but his observations led the tourist to conclude that the moment for the ill-wishers of Russia was badly chosen. While it has been noticeable that the war has not been popular with the people, these appearances of discontent, especially in the midst of reverse to the Russian arms are being resented, and, instead of producing the effect desired, have done much to arouse and quicken the patriotic spirit. The gentleman found that many members of the upper classes who were of liberal tendencies, and who have been fighting all their lives for reform, now argue there is a higher duty than internal agitation, and that until the war is over all their sympathies and energies will be with their country in her struggle with a foreign enemy. In the opinion of this investigator, the real crisis in the interior of Russia will come when the war is finished.

When troubled with constipation try Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They are easy to take and produce no griping or other unpleasant effects. For sale by John Frank.