

THE COLUMBIA REGISTER

VOL. I.

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WEEK'S DOINGS

Newsy Items Gathered from All Parts of the World.

OF INTEREST TO OUR READERS

General Review of Important Happenings Presented in a Brief and Condensed Form.

A treaty of peace has been signed between Chile and Bolivia.

Russia still realizes that the position of her Manchurian army is critical.

Fire destroyed a large grain plant near Fresno, burning 200 tons of seeded raisins.

English war experts agree that the temporary success of the Russians can have little effect in the end.

Hunters are reported to have killed a number of elk in the mountains of the eastern part of Linn county, Oregon. The game warden is investigating.

According to a Japanese official the Russian forces engaged in the battle south of Mukden consisted of about 200,000 infantry, 25,000 cavalry and 950 guns.

J. E. Bennett, of Portland, has submitted the lowest bid for the construction of the government buildings at the 1905 fair and he is likely to be awarded the contract.

A field party sent out by the reclamation service to investigate the possibility of diverting the waters of the John Day river to the Umatilla lands in Eastern Oregon, says it is too costly. A rough estimate places the expense at \$1,000,000 for a canal.

Prominent Oregon men are likely to be indicted for land frauds.

Kuropatkin is fighting doggedly to prevent an utter rout of his forces.

The Montana mineral display will be transferred from St. Louis to Portland.

All hope of relieving Port Arthur this season has been abandoned by the Russians.

A Massachusetts commissioner has started for Portland to select a site for 1905 fair building.

A number of torpedo boats believed to have been built for Japan have been shipped from Newport News, Va.

A mortar battery exploded at Fort Banks, on the Atlantic coast, killing three artillerymen and injuring eight others.

The losses of the Russian army in the week of battle south of Mukden is placed at 40,000. The Japanese have lost half as many.

The Fourteenth infantry, now in the Philippines, will be brought back to this country next February and stationed at Vancouver barracks, succeeding the Nineteenth, which will be sent to the islands.

King George of Saxony, is dead.

All official advices are withheld at St. Petersburg and the people are prepared for the worst.

The St. Petersburg Vostok admits editorially that the Russians have suffered a telling defeat.

Russia will rush men to the front military authorities believe 150,000 can be transported by April.

Kuropatkin must bear the responsibility for the advance, as it is officially denied that he was ordered to advance.

According to Tangier advices evidence has been discovered that the bandit Raisuli intends to attempt to capture another European.

Telephone operators at Portland are on strike. Both sides are confident and in the meantime the public is suffering many inconveniences.

A sensation has been caused all through Russia by the persistent rumors that the Russian treasury intends to draw upon Russian church property in order to replenish its war chest.

It has developed that a pouch of mail for the United States cruiser Cincinnati, which was aboard the steamer Calchas when she was captured had been opened while in the hands of the Russian officials, subsequently resealed and sent on to its destination.

The Russians are offering fabulous prices to ships to make Port Arthur with supplies.

President Francis says the St. Louis fair lost \$1,000,000 by being forced to close on Sunday.

Fire at Kansas City destroyed property valued at \$100,000.

The Rio Grande is still rising in New Mexico. The river is now the highest in 20 years.

The Duke of Canaught, brother of King Edward, narrowly escaped death in an auto accident.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that five Japanese cruisers have been sighted off Vladivostok.

The New York Rapid Transit company's new subway will be opened to the general public October 27.

OUT OF SERVICE.

The President Moves in Slocum Disaster Inquiry.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The report of the United States commission of investigation into the disaster to the steamer General Slocum was made public today. In connection with the important findings of the commission presented in the report, President Roosevelt, to whom the report was submitted, has written a letter to Secretary McCall, of the department of commerce and labor, briefly summarizing the report and directing him to carry into effect the recommendations of the commission.

The president also directs that Robert S. Rodie, supervising inspector of the second district, steamboat inspection service, and James A. Dumont and Thomas H. Barrett, local inspectors, in charge of the port of New York, be discharged from the service, the commission holding them directly responsible for the laxity of the steamboat inspection to which the Slocum disaster was directly attributable.

Appended to the report is a report from the department of justice on the criminal proceedings connected with the disaster and the life-preserver cases.

SUFFOCATED AT A FIRE.

Four Persons Lose Lives in a New York Tenement House.

New York, Oct. 19.—Four persons were suffocated and 15 were overcome by smoke in a fire which gutted a five-story brick double tenement house at 15 Moore street, Williamsburg, early today. Two of the injured, a boy and a girl, probably will die. Incendiarism is suspected.

The fire originated in the basement and ran up a dumb waiter shaft causing the crowded flats to fill rapidly with smoke. The flames spread through the flats on the fourth and fifth floors, and escape for the persons asleep there was cut off. Firemen and police did heroic work and soon rescued more than a score, 15 of whom were almost suffocated. These were removed to St. Catherine's hospital. Two children among the number were in a dying condition.

One fireman in attempting a daring rescue was overcome by smoke and had to be carried out by his fellows.

The loss was only about \$3,000. Several fires occurred in the neighborhood during the early hours today, all of suspicious origin. They appeared to have been started by the same hand as all were discovered in the basements of tenements. Only the one noted, however, was accompanied by loss of life.

EARNESTLY DESIRE PEACE.

Japanese Shocked at Victory Won With Such Shedding of Blood.

Tokio, Oct. 19.—There is a strong appeal for peace in the appalling tragedy which is now under enactment in Manchuria. Both armies have fought furiously for a week, and desperate fighting still continues. It is probable that the death toll will be largely increased before the final shot is fired.

The preliminary reports indicate that about 60,000 men on both sides have been either killed or wounded, the larger portion of them being Russians, since the armies of the two belligerents closed in combat.

Even the Japanese, to whom the great victory is of paramount importance, seem to be shocked by the slaughter of their enemies. The Japanese people are receiving the news from the field of battle calmly, and there can be heard no shouts in the streets proclaiming the victory of their nation. Few flags are displayed. Probably later on there will be a procession with the consequent jollification, but there are heard many expressions of opinion that no demonstration of any kind could be held. A prominent Japanese said to the Associated Press correspondent tonight:

"We have won a sweeping and a decisive victory which may prove to be the salvation of our country's existence, but we regret both our own losses and the terrible slaughter which our forces have inflicted on the enemy. We regret still more the necessity which forced us to engage in this war."

Suffers From Hurricane.

Mexico City, Oct. 19.—News has reached this city that the town of San Blas, on the Pacific coast, has suffered severe damage as the result of a hurricane.

Word from Tepic, a town south of San Blas, stated that 250 huts, occupied by the poorer classes, were totally demolished. During the storm, which was very severe, hundreds of people fled to nearby mountains, fearing a tidal wave. Several sailing vessels foundered, but so far as can be learned no loss of life resulted either on land or sea.

Pict Battered by Guns.

Tokio, Oct. 19.—It is officially reported that the Russian fleet at Port Arthur is suffering severely from the fire of the Japanese land batteries. Reports of a recent attempt by the fleet to sortie are unfounded, as is the reported capture of another blockade runner.

RACE OF WAR

Russians Try to Make South Shore of Hun.

ROADS ARE IN THEIR FAVOR

Retirement Is Ordered After Terrific Fighting, in Which Much Damage Is Inflicted.

Liao Yang, Oct. 19.—General Oku, commanding the Japanese left, has advanced from his position on the south bank of the Shakhe river in the direction of Chienliuchangtsen, 15 miles north from Hang Cheng, with detachments pushing on the double quirk to the west of Fushung, and the east of Fuling. It is General Oku's object to make impossible the retreat of the Russian right along the railway. The enemy's main force is based at Chienliuchangtsen, extending for three miles northward with isolated bodies of troops on both sides of the railroad. Russian reserves are located above and below the bridge leading across the Hun river, northwest of Manhaiiao, and the Russian right is hastening to reach this position.

The rearguard has already been engaged by the Japanese, but the Russian scouts posted on the hills east of Mandafu were observed yesterday afternoon and a change of plan of Russian retreat is expected.

The retreat of the Russian right was preceded by a terrific attack on the part of General Oku's forces, which resulted in a stubborn struggle lasting over three hours, covering a territory of nearly five miles. The Russian artillery directed a steady fire at the extreme right flank of the Japanese left, forcing it to retreat one mile across a series of low hills. There a rally was effected and reinforcements were received from General Oku's main army.

The extreme right returned to its original position, supported by heavy artillery fire from three strong points. After an artillery duel of less than half an hour, the Russian fire opened all along the line and a furious attack was delivered by the Russians, which temporarily stopped the Japanese advance. The enemy was repelled, but repeated the attempt to dislodge the Japanese vanguard six times, being worsted in every instance, but inflicting great damage and sustaining terrible losses.

After the sixth advance the Russians turned to a hasty retreat. They left their dead and several guns behind, but managed to take with them the greater number of the latter and their wounded.

CZAR MUST TAKE INITIATIVE.

Baron Hayashi Tays Japan Cannot Judge If It Is Time for Peace.

London, Oct. 19.—The Japanese minister here, Baron Hayashi, in an interview today, on the result of last week's fighting, said to the Associated Press:

"The war will be continued through the winter, which in some respects is more suitable for operations than the summer. The next point of real importance to be taken is Tie Pass. When that is accomplished there is nothing to prevent the Japanese advance to Harbin."

The minister expressed the utmost confidence in the immediate continuation of the Japanese advance, adding:

"With reference to the peace arabilities, I can only say that the desire for peace is but a natural feeling of humanity, and the result of the horror we all feel at the awful carnage now taking place. But it is late in the day to be terrified at what is happening. It should have been foreseen and prevented. It is not for Japan to judge if the time has arrived to talk about peace. This rests with the government of Emperor Nicholas."

Time to End War.

Washington, Oct. 19.—The war in the Orient has enlisted the closest attention of the administration, and it is felt that the time is approaching when it will be in order for the great neutral powers to move toward the restoration of peace. President Roosevelt has from the first stood ready to use his good offices to stop hostilities, but he is stopped from moving by the fact that it has been the unbroken rule of our government to wait until it is assured that both sides to a controversy of this kind are willing.

Russia After Fast Cruisers.

London, Oct. 19.—The Daily Telegraph's St. Petersburg correspondent gives credit to the report that Russia is purchasing seven fast cruisers, three each from Chile and Argentina and one from Brazil.

SETTLERS WILL GET DUES.

Government Completes Investigation of Eastern Oregon Cases.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The interior department, acting under a special act passed at the last session, has completed an investigation of the cases of Sherman county settlers who have been dispossessed of lands lying within the limits of the grant to The Dalles Military Wagon Road company, in Eastern Oregon. The report of the findings is confidential, and will be submitted to congress early in December.

The evidence collected will be sufficient to enable congress to take final action for the relief of these settlers. It will show the terms on which the Eastern Oregon Land company, the successor to The Dalles Military Wagon Road company, is willing to relinquish its title to the disputed lands, and allow them to revert to the settlers. It will also show the state of improvements which the settlers made on these lands while temporarily in possession. Congress must decide whether an appropriation shall be made to buy from the company its title to these lands, in order to restore them to the settlers, or whether it is better to reimburse the settlers for the losses they sustained by reason of being dispossessed.

The land company, it is said, is inclined to deal fairly with the government in this matter, and will waive its title to these lands provided the government pays its price.

Many years have elapsed since these disputed lands were eventually awarded to the land company, and in that time a number of original settlers have disappeared. These few cases cannot be reported upon. All the facts obtainable have been collected, and congress will be able to compensate settlers who sustained losses through no fault of their own, but rather through a faulty decision of the land office.

COLORADO TRAINS COLLIDE.

One Man Is Dead and Fifteen Others Injured, Two Badly.

Pueblo, Oct. 18.—As a result of a head on collision today between the east bound California limited passenger train No. 6 and a west bound freight train on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad a mile and a half west of Portland this forenoon, one man, J. E. Doney, was so badly hurt that he died tonight and 15 others received injuries two of them perhaps fatally.

The accident was due to the failure of the freight to take the siding at Portland and allow the passenger train, which was running on schedule time and had the right of way, to pass. Both locomotives were completely wrecked, the baggage and express cars were telescoped and piled up in a heap, the forward end of the day coach was smashed and five freight cars loaded with merchandise were demolished.

The Pullman cars were not damaged. The passenger train was running about 35 miles, and the freight 20 miles an hour, when the collision occurred. Great confusion followed the collision, and exaggerated reports regarding the disaster were circulated.

The injured were taken on relief trains to hospitals at Pueblo and Salida.

JAPAN HAS SHIPS IN WAITING.

Torpedo Boats Built at Newport News Transferred at Sea.

Newport News, Oct. 18.—Two of the Lake submarine torpedo boats built at the shipyards here, and believed to be destined for the Japanese or Russian governments, were hoisted on board the Kennebec today. According to the foreman in charge of the 200 men engaged in loading the craft, the Kennebec will sail for Boston before daylight.

It was stated on apparently good authority tonight that the Kennebec will be met up the coast by a steamship now lying far at sea, and the big floating derrick, the Ox, from New York. The Ox, it is asserted, will lift the submarines from the deck of the Kennebec, and transfer them to the waiting steamer, which will proceed with them to their destination.

Seizure of Mail Considered.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Postmaster General Wynne today had a brief conference with Secretary Hay regarding the opening of the mail bags for the United States cruiser Cincinnati by Russian officials. The brief report on the subject which has just reached the postoffice department was given to the state department and will be included with the other papers relating to the seizure of American mails on the British steamer Calchas, for representations to the Russian government on the general subject.

Flood Still Delays Trains.

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 18.—The Santa Fe road still has a washout of about 12 miles between here and Albuquerque, and it will be several days before trains are running. All other roads are running trains regularly. It is still rainy here, however, and the Rio Grande river is rising slowly.

ARMY IN TRAP

Kuropatkin Is Cut Off With Four Divisions.

ATTEMPT AT RESCUE FATAL

Japanese Force Will Be Reinforced With Idea of Dealing a Crushing Blow to the Enemy.

Liao Yang, Oct. 17.—This city is in a turmoil of excitement over the reports brought in by wounded soldiers from the right wing of the Japanese army that General Kuroki has caught General Kuropatkin in a trap, having cut him off with four Russian divisions which he attempted to save, and now has the Russian commander isolated and enveloped east of Bensiho. The general engagement continued all day yesterday. Russian losses so far are estimated at 15,000. The Japanese have also suffered heavily, but no figures are available.

The bearers of the news of the latest Japanese victory state that Field Marshal Marquis Oyama has ordered vast masses of reinforcements to the assistance of General Kuroki to enable him to execute the coup as planned.

General Kuroki is pushing the Russian divisions eastward in order to make their isolation complete and to preclude the possibility of Russian reinforcements reaching them.

The Japanese are fortifying their positions to the north. Another of General Kuroki's columns today captured the Shaotakan hills to the south of Bentelaputze after a series of fierce engagements, in which 1,200 Japanese and nearly 1,500 Russians fell. An entire battery was captured, and now the hills, which may be called the key to the Russian left advance, are in the hands of the Japanese.

A crushing defeat has been administered to the Russian right by General Oku at Yenti. The entire Russian lines, extending from the Hun river to the railroad, were driven back 20 miles with terrible losses on both sides, and but for the awful punishment suffered by the Japanese, General Kuropatkin's right would have been completely crushed. As it is, the flank is utterly disorganized and the Russian commanders are endeavoring to rally their forces northeast of Changtan.

On both sides in the battle raging near Mukden there have been such losses in killed and wounded as mark the contest as one of the bloodiest battles in history. Already the losses at Liao Yang have been approximated, and the indications are that they will be exceeded. The Russian advance has been converted into a stubbornly fought retreat. The result, according to the Russians, is still to be determined.

On both sides the soldiers have shown the utmost tenacity and bravery, and whole regiments have gone down before the fire of the enemy. In official circles of St. Petersburg there is a disposition to argue that even should General Kuropatkin be obliged to retire upon Mukden, his position will be quite as favorable as it was when the order to advance was given October 6, and that, on the other hand, the Japanese powers of further resistance will have been materially weakened.

ROOSEVELT PREPARING TO ACT.

He Will Soon Address Notes to Powers Regarding Peace Conference.

Washington, Oct. 17.—The president is preparing to redeem his promise to the delegates to the Interparliamentary Peace conference to secure another meeting of plenipotentiaries of the powers signatory to the Hague convention, with a view to revising and adding to that instrument.

The state department will address separate notes to every government represented in the last conference, inviting suggestions to the time and place of meeting, and without doubt, in the spirit of caution that is always exhibited by diplomats, many of these governments will seek to secure an ironclad agreement as to the scope of the conference. Many limitations are expected to be proposed in this way, and it is realized that much difficulty will be experienced in securing harmony.

Embezzler Must Do Time.

Honolulu, Oct. 17.—The supreme court has handed down a decision denying the appeal of B. H. Wright, convicted of embezzlement of public funds in February, 1903. Wright's trial was the first growing out of a number of public works department embezzlements. He was sentenced to three years' hard labor by Judge de Bot. The number of Japanese coming into the islands during the recent weeks is less than the average has been for some time. There is a slight increase in the number of Koreans.

Company Declares Dividend.

Chicago, Oct. 17.—The usual quarterly dividend of \$2 per share from net earnings was declared today by the Pullman company. The annual statement for the fiscal year ending July 31 shows the net surplus for the year of \$3,741,823.

REGARD DEFEAT AS COMPLETE.

London Papers Agree That Kuropatkin Has Shot His Bolt.

London, Oct. 15.—The London papers have to rely mainly on official reports for news from the Far East, but the dispatches thus far received regard a complete Japanese victory assured, and editorialize from this point of view. Says the Daily Telegraph:

"General Kuropatkin has shot his bolt. It seemed to be speeding well toward the mark, yet missed it badly. He has suffered not merely a repulse but a disastrous defeat, while Japan's incomparable soldiers under incomparable generals have added another glorious page to the chronicle of war and proved that Oyama is still Kuropatkin's master in every branch of the art of war."

The Daily Graphic describes General Kuropatkin's move as a "gambler's throw," and considers the frankness of his report to the emperor seems to speak the language of a man who has done his best with the bungling advice of some superior agency.

The Standard finds General Kuropatkin's dispatch full of tragic meaning, while the Daily News argues the Russian dash southward was prompted by a desperate desire to relieve Port Arthur rather than by Viceroy Alexieff's malign influence, the end of which, in case of the fall of the fortress, cannot be far distant.

Spencer Wilkinson, in the Morning Post, discussing strategic possibilities, thinks the issue will turn upon which side shall first become exhausted by the protracted operations.

"Telegrams," he says, "do not yet reveal the final decision, but they certainly do not point to the scale turning in Russia's favor. It remains to be seen whether either army kept large reserves ready to throw in when it becomes apparent that the forces engaged have become exhausted."

COST OF FEEDING THE ARMY.

Commissary General Reports the Expenses Reduced to a Minimum.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The annual report of Brigadier General J. F. Weston, commissary general of the army, says the total cost of feeding the army during the past fiscal year was \$8,821,750. During the year the losses were \$418,650 in the Philippines; \$7,467 on the transports and \$129,853 in the United States, Alaska, Porto Rico and elsewhere.

General Weston says it is difficult and often impossible to prevent losses of perishable stores. General Weston urgently recommends the passage of a bill by congress to give authority to all officers entrusted with the disbursement of subsistence funds to hold restricted amounts of such funds in their personal possession. He says the exigencies of the public service require an open disregard of the restriction of the existing laws in cities where the treasurer or an assistant treasurer is located. He urges legislation authorizing the sale at public auction of accumulated subsistence stores in good condition.

General Weston says the problem of feeding the army in the Philippines was a difficult one, but "it has been successfully solved, and subsistence affairs in the archipelago are now run with system and economy."

The subsistence department, it is stated, was able to make a contract for fresh beef for the fiscal year, 1905, by which an annual saving of over \$140,000 was effected. The running expense gradually have been reduced to a minimum, the report says, and a saving of more than \$40,000 made in wages of civilian employes alone.

Wreckage from Troopship.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—The schooner Gotama, which arrived here early this morning from Kurile island, reports that on August 4, when 40 miles south southwest of Cape Curat, she sighted a mass of floating wreckage. She made out parts of a mast. Captain Macomber later succeeded in getting closer to the wreckage, and established that it was from the Japanese troopship Kinshiu Maru, which was sunk by the Russians last April, when 200 perished. Entangled in the wreckage were a number of headless trunks.

Great Dockworkers' Strike Ends.

Marseilles, Oct. 15.—The coal heavers who have been on strike for nearly two months have agreed to resume work on the employers' conditions. This brings the great dockworkers' strike to an end.