

TWO BIG ARMIES

NOW LOCKED IN A DEATH STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY.

THE SECOND DAY'S CONFLICT

Nearly Half a Million Men Engaged in a Battle That May Mean a Crushing Defeat for One Side or the Other.

ST. PETERSBURG.—With the knowledge that the Russian and Japanese armies about Liao Yang are locked in a death struggle the tension in St. Petersburg is strained to the utmost. It is believed here that the fight cannot stop short of the crushing defeat of one side or the other.

All reports so far are favorable to the Russians, though the suspension of all news for many hours has been exceedingly trying and has given rise to several rumors, somewhat tempering the earlier enthusiasm. It is stated officially, however, that the report that the railway and telegraph have been cut north of Liao Yang is untrue.

A member of the general staff said to the Associated Press at midnight: "I can assure you that up to this hour communication with Liao Yang has not been interrupted. General Kuropatkin has taken particular precautions against any attempt to cut the railway. While it is always possible that a small raiding party might slip through the Russian patrols or that hired Chinese bandits might cut the wire, it is a fair supposition that this has not been done."

The highest military authorities here consider that the most critical stage of the battle has not yet been reached, and they believe the fight may continue for some time before either side acknowledges defeat. This is an important consideration by the light of which to interpret any immediate news. It is thought here that in view of the numbers engaged, the desperateness of the assaults and the length of the line (about seven miles), the losses in the two days' fighting cannot fall short of 10,000 on each side. Both sides are straining every nerve, realizing that the fortunes of war for a whole year are in the scale, and neither side is in the mood or the position to spare men in the effort to achieve a final victory.

The battle of Liao Yang will probably rank as one of the great sanguinary battles of history. It is estimated by the general staff that the Japanese armies engaged number seventeen divisions of 15,000 men each, or allowing for inefficients, about 240,000 men. Each division has thirty-six guns, and there are two independent artillery brigades of 100 guns each, making a total of about 800 guns.

The estimates of Russian correspondents range at from 600 to 1,000 guns per side.

In the preliminary fighting on Monday the Russians captured 200 prisoners, who have already arrived at Harbin, and report persists that they captured over forty Japanese guns yesterday.

General Kuropatkin's effective forces are variously estimated at from 170,000 to 200,000 men.

The Japanese Wednesday morning attacked three sides of the Russian position. One of the Associated Press correspondents also mentions a Japanese movement to the northeast of Liao Yang, showing that the Japanese were undoubtedly trying to work around Kuropatkin's rear.

One of the surprising phases of the situation is the endurance of the men. They have been engaged desperately for two days, after more or less severe fighting under unfavorable conditions every day since August 24. It would seem that human endurance could not persist much longer without respite of some sort.

A CLOSE CONGRESS.

Chairman Babcock Discusses the Political Outlook.

WASHINGTON—Chairman Joseph W. Babcock of the republican congressional committee expressed the opinion that the present is the closest congressional campaign he has experienced since 1898.

"What are the conditions which make the campaign closer this year than it has been since 1898?" Mr. Babcock was asked.

"They differ in localities," he responded. "In some the conditions result from the character of the national campaign. In others the conditions are almost entirely local. Then, in some cases, the difficulty is over the kind of men for congress."

"In Nebraska, where there are six members of the house to fight for, the democrats have abandoned the national campaign. They have fused with the populists on the legislative tickets, but not on presidential electors. We redeemed four of those districts two years ago, but they have been going one way or the other by very narrow margins—not by 200 or 300 or 400, but in some instances by twelve or fifteen or twenty votes. Now, the congressional committee has to go in there without the usual support from the national committee."

"There is not much interest in campaign literature," continued Mr. Babcock. "We are sending out speeches on the tariff and some matter relating to the Panama canal; also a few democratic speeches, like that of Bourke Cochran, on the tariff. But we have not had a real campaign of education since 1896. I have never sent out as many documents in any one year as then."

"We expect to have a good deal of speaking. There are about a dozen of the leading republican members of the house on whom we are relying. Chief among them, of course, is Speaker Cannon, who is a splendid vote getter on the stump. He is going to start out soon by special train and will be accompanied on a part of his trip by Representative Watson of Indiana and on the rest of his trip by Representative Adam Bede of Minnesota."

CONTENDING FOR SUPREMACY.

The Two Great Armies Now in Deadly Conflict.

LONDON.—A dispatch from Liao Yang to a news agency says:

"The Japanese artillery fire only ceased at 8 o'clock this evening. The casualties have not been ascertained."

"The Third Russian corps repulsed a hot Japanese assault, the Japanese being hurled back by bayonet charges, first by the Twenty-third, and then by the Twenty-fourth regiment, which repulsed the enemy no less than six times."

"Two Japanese companies which succeeded in occupying a Russian position were mistaken for Russians and annihilated by Japanese artillery fire."

"At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the Japanese concentrated their fire on a Russian southern detachment and also tried to outflank the detachment from the right under the protection of the batteries."

"One company after another was noticed running swiftly to the westward in an attempt to outflank the positions, but a Russian regiment and a battery were ordered to advance and succeeded in forcing the enemy to retreat in disorder, evacuating positions they previously had gained."

"There has been an immense expenditure of ammunition throughout the day, especially on the southern front against the Russian Third corps."

"It is believed that the Russian losses so far have not been very heavy, except to the regiments which sustained bayonet charges. All the men serving one Russian gun except one were killed by shrapnel."

NEBRASKA STATE NEWS

THE NEWS IN NEBRASKA.

The peach crop about Humboldt is being harvested and is very fine.

A party of twenty Fremonters left Fremont to attend the conclave of Knights Templar at San Francisco.

Ervin Corey, the youngest son of A. Corey, a prominent farmer living north of Sutton, dropped dead while playing in the yard.

Announcement was made by the populist state central committee that Presidential Candidate Watson had been secured to make four speeches in the state during the campaign.

Miss Annetta Sprung, who taught German in the high school at Plattsmouth last year, has resigned to accept a similar position in the schools of Lincoln. No one has yet been selected to fill the vacancy.

Reuben Newton and Bill Bennett broke jail at Butte, undoubtedly assisted, as the window bars were broken from the outside and the locks on the steel cages where the men were confined were taken off and are missing. Considerable damage was done to the jail.

John Wiggins, for thirty years a resident of Columbus, is lying at his home in a critical condition as the result of a stroke of paralysis. His physicians say that he has practically no chance to recover. Mr. Wiggins is 55 years old, and for many years was engaged in the live stock business at Columbus.

The farmers organized a branch of the Farmers' exchange at Bee, Seward county, last week, with 400 subscribers. The president is O. E. Bedford; secretary, F. E. Bek; trustees, J. E. Moravic, O. E. Bedford and U. J. Battefelder. This is the fifth branch of the company to be organized in Nebraska. Other branches are in Richardson and Otoe counties.

Two boys named Smith and Ridgley, whose homes are near Cortland, left home about a week ago, taking a team belonging to a relative of one of them. They told their parents that they were going to the Blue river on a fishing trip and nothing has been heard of them since their disappearance. Sheriff Trude has been requested to join in the search for them.

The dedication of the new M. E. church at Dorchester took place last Sunday. Rev. G. W. Abbott of Geneva, Neb., preached the dedicatory sermon. At the close of the sermon the pastor, Rev. T. A. Hull, stated the cost of the building to be \$6,000. To this the audience responded cheerfully, and in just eight minutes over \$400 was raised, and everybody joined in singing the doxology.

John L. Pope, the engineer at the Harris brick yard just south of Fremont, was caught in the fly wheel of his engine and so badly injured that he died in a few minutes. A boy by the name of Stout, who was in the engine room at the time, says that Pope turned on the steam a little and then took hold of the spokes or rim of the fly wheel to start it. He slipped and his left arm went under the belt, drawing his body up against the wheel and breaking his neck.

There are 463 cases to go on the supreme court docket for the September term. This is twenty-three more than the number of cases on the docket for the September term last year, and proves conclusively that the litigation in the supreme court, instead of falling off, is increasing at a famous rate. With this great increase in the number of cases which must be disposed of, there is a prospect of another glut such as that which existed three years ago when it took the average litigant from two to three years to have his case determined in the supreme court.

ARGUE FOR ASSESSMENT RAISE.

Attorney General Attempts to Defeat the Church Howe Injunction.

AUBURN.—The case wherein Hon. Church Howe obtained a temporary injunction restraining the county clerk from extending on the tax rolls the 5 per cent increase made by the State Board of Equalization came on for hearing on the motion filed by the attorney general and county attorney to dissolve the temporary order before Judge W. H. Kelligar of the district court. Attorney General Prout and his deputy, Norris Brown, together with County Attorney Quackenbush, argued the case in support of the motion, and Edgar Ferneau and H. A. Lambert represented the plaintiff. The first contention of the attorneys for the defense was that the court had no jurisdiction of the case; that the board acted judicially, and its action was final and could not be reviewed by a court of equity. This contention was overruled by the court, which announced that in a proper case a court of equity would grant relief. The case was then argued on the question whether the petition stated a cause for action, and whether there was any equity in the bill, and on this phase the court took the case under advisement, and will render an early decision.

One of the contentions of the plaintiff is that the authorities cannot tax a man on a valuation of his property for more than the true value thereof, and that any law that permits it, or any attempt to do so is illegal and in violation of the constitution.

The motion to dissolve is in the nature of a demurrer, and the attorney general announced his intention to stand on his motion, should it be overruled and take the case to the supreme court, where he hopes to get a speedy hearing.

Alleged Forger Arrested.

YORK, Neb.—On August 23 a man stopped at the Miller hotel and registered as E. H. Seaman and wife. He remained one day and when he called for his bill presented a check upon a leading lumber firm of Davenport, Ia., and payable at the Citizens' National bank of that city. The draft was protested and the bank notified here that it was a forgery. Mr. Miller at once began the search for the man who signed his name E. H. Seaman. He was traced from here to Hastings, Sutton and Fairmont, where he took the train for Fairbury. The sheriff of Jefferson county was notified and on his arrival at that place he was arrested and placed in jail.

Flagman Has a Close Call.

KEARNEY.—George Smith, a Union Pacific flagman at the Central avenue crossing, met with a painful accident, and at the same time had an exceedingly narrow escape from being crushed beneath the wheels of a locomotive. He attempted to step upon the pilot of an approaching locomotive and missed his footing. His foot was caught beneath the pilot, and while he held on he was dragged for some distance, his foot being turned and the side and top of it ground into the gravel beneath the pilot.

Wreck Spills Wheat.

GRAFTON.—As a freight train from the west was slowing up for this station a car of stone destined here for street crossings, broke down. Four cars following were demolished and the contents, wheat and corn, scattered about. The front trucks were torn from another car of wheat which remained on the track. Passenger train No. 12, coming just after the wreck, backed to Sutton and went around by way of Lushton.