

BURNS GREAT HOLE

MILLIONS LOST IN FIRE RAGING AT NEW ORLEANS.

SWEEPS THE RIVER FRONT

ILLINOIS CENTRAL FREIGHT TERMINALS DESTROYED

Dozen Squares of Modern Wharves Eaten Up, Together With Freight Cars and Residences—Loss May Be \$5,000,000.

NEW ORLEANS.—Fire involving millions of dollars' loss in physical property, and which strikes a serious, if temporary, blow at the immense export trade of New Orleans, swept the river front and wiped out the vast freight terminals of the Illinois Central, known as the Stuyvesant docks.

Nearly a dozen squares of modern wharves and freight sheds, two magnificent cars, and vast quantities of freight, including 20,000 bales of cotton, were destroyed, together with a large number of small residences. The fire was raging fiercely at midnight, at which time it had nearly reached the north end of the Illinois Central property. It has not been determined whether there has been loss of life. The ocean shipping seems to have escaped serious damage. Two firemen and several dock employes were injured.

The loss may exceed \$5,000,000.

The Stuyvesant docks extend from Louisiana avenue almost to Napoleon avenue, a distance of twelve squares. The wharves between these two points were covered with miles of trackage, steel and iron sheds ran the whole distance. Two grain elevators were of the most modern construction, the upper one having a capacity of a million bushels.

Much cotton, several hundred thousand packages of sugar, great quantities of cotton seed oil and oil cake, and lumber and every conceivable variety of bushels handled by the Illinois Central was put aboard ships at these docks. The docks and improvements have been under construction for ten years past, elaborate preparations and investments having been made after the constitutional convention of 1893 made it possible for the road to invest permanently at this point.

The fire was discovered shortly after 7 o'clock. It is said to have resulted from a journal that had not been sufficiently oiled. The whole plant was equipped with gigantic water tanks and fire extinguishing apparatus, but the blaze, small at the beginning, almost instantaneously got beyond control. The response of the fire department was prompt, but owing to the fact the terminals were not readily accessible because of fences and tracks, the engines found difficulty in reaching the flames.

In half an hour the fire covered two squares, the lower elevator was practically consumed and the fire was sweeping with irresistible fury up and down the river. As soon as it became known that the zone of the fire was the Stuyvesant docks harbor tugs hastened to the wharves and vessels that were moored there were pulled out into the river. At the same time switch engines were rushed to the wharves and hundreds of box cars loaded with freight were drawn to points above the upper end of the terminals before the fire could reach them. Hundreds more, however, were consumed.

The wind was blowing down the river as the blaze began, and the fire spread with greater speed in that direction. By 9 o'clock the lower elevator and sheds and wharves from Amelia street to Louisiana avenue, a distance of six squares, had fallen in. Fortunately, Louisiana avenue is a broad thoroughfare, and the further spread of the fire beyond that point into a residence section was checked. Between the points named, however, the flames swept to complete destruction many cottages of the poorer classes, the occupants in a great many instances losing all they possessed.

The river boats, the employes of the road and the fire department concentrated all their energies in an effort to save the upper elevator between Ansterlitz and Constantine streets and check the fire at that point.

THE FIGHT HAS BEGUN

BRISK BATTLE BEING WAGED ON THE SHAKHE RIVER.

Bitter Attacks Made on Stoessel on Eve of His Arrival—Man Once Exalted Returns Almost in Disgrace

ST. PETERSBURG.—Belated official reports of the attack on the Russian left at Tsinkhetchen do not satisfy the curiosity of the public as to what is going on in Manchuria, but the military authorities explain that the Japanese probably are attempting only to force in the Russian advanced position. An Associated press dispatch from Tsinkhetchen is interrupted at an interesting point and does not give the losses or final results of the battle, but it is evident both sides lost heavily.

On the eve of General Stoessel's arrival here a section of the press is attacking him bitterly. These papers have printed all the stories tending to show that the garrison of Port Arthur was not at extremities when it capitulated the Sivo even alleging mistreatment of the inhabitants of the city. The majority of the papers, however, resent criticism in advance of the official investigation as being unjust and unwarranted. On account of the death of Grand Duke Sergius all the plans for a big public ovation for General Stoessel have been countermanded and the man who a few weeks ago was extolled as the hero of the war returned to the Russian capital almost like a soldier in disgrace.

Accordingly to an apparently well grounded report Minister of Finance Kokovoff will soon leave the emperor's cabinet and be succeeded by M. Roucaloff, a former assistant to President of the Council of Ministers Witte and strong supporter of that statesman. There are various reports concerning the proceeding of the session of the councils of ministers but in all of them are indications that M. Witte played the most prominent part, as he did at the preceding meeting. It is known that the matter of reforms was taken up, but left undetermined.

Street sales of the Russ have been suspended on account of an article in its issue of Friday reciting conditions in Russia and asking whether they indicate the existence of a government. The Journal Nershadney is planning to resume publication under the franchise of its predecessor the suspension of which expires March 1, but under restriction.

The Russ says the committee of ministers decided at the meeting to indefinitely postpone the question of the consideration of the convocation of a zemsky zabor owing to the impossibility of summoning the assembly until exhaustive rules governing the examination thereof, etc., have been drawn up.

TSINKHETCHEN.—The Japanese attack on Beresneff hill developed into an encounter of the most sanguinary nature. The Japanese, pressing forward a bayonet charge, were received with pyroxin hand grenades and were blown up by buried mines, but Japanese machine guns, which took positions to support the advance, were silenced for a time and beaten back. The Japanese came on with greater resolution, however, and the Russians finally yielded the hill in the face of greatly superior numbers and a determined series of attacks which continued night and day. The Japanese on Friday attacked a hill opposite with great loss.

News has just been received that the Japanese renewed the attack on Tsint pass.

ST. PETERSBURG.—General Sakharoff, General Kuropatkin's chief of staff, in a dispatch reports that when the Japanese attacked and captured Beresneff hill they were in superior force and advanced literally over the bodies of their own men. The Japanese loss was very heavy, the dead lying in heaps. The Russian losses have not yet been ascertained.

The text of General Sakharoff's dispatch is as follows:

"We evacuate Beresneff hill after a severe fight, the enemy having a considerable superior force. The attack on Tzielint pass was repulsed. At Beresneff hill the Japanese advanced over the bodies of their own dead in the face of exploding surface mines and through barbed wire entanglements. Their losses were considerable. Ours have not yet been ascertained."

JUMP THE RIVER

JAPANESE ASSUME AGGRESSIVE AND CROSS SHAKHE

Determined Efforts to Break the Strike on Railroads Vital for Transportation of Men and Munitions

ST. PETERSBURG.—According to the Associated press dispatches from Mukden the Japanese, crossed the Shakhe river, but the place of crossing was eliminated by the censor. The advance was checked by the Russian reinforcements. This is the most important news from the front. Fighting is continuing on the Russian left flank, with indications that the Japanese are planning a demonstration against the center but Russians believe their positions are impregnable.

How great the prosecution of the war is embarrassed by the internal situation is made manifest by the exceptional measures inaugurated to break the railroad strike on lines vital for the transportation of provisions, troops and munitions. The demands of the men in the matter of wages have been granted on government roads and the same point has been conceded in the case of employes of government arsenals and arms and munitions factories. In addition, a statute has been found under which striking railroad employes in time of war are subject to arrest and punishment by martial law and all railroad strikers have been notified of the penalty under this law if they interfere with military traffic.

The Russian naval program still hangs fire on account of the failure of the ministry of finance to allot an appropriation, which may not be made until a new loan is floated. In the meantime representatives of foreign shipbuilding firms who are here after contracts are cooling their heels in the corridors of the admiralty. Mr. Gauntlet of Newport News, and Simon Lake, the submarine boat builder, are the latest arrivals.

The report telegraphed here from New York that Japan had intimated to Secretary Hay terms on which she is willing to make peace, and that Mr. Hay had instructed Ambassador McCormick to convey the intimation to the Russian government has created much interest coming on the heels of rumors current in St. Petersburg that Russia is willing to end the war upon substantially the terms as these attributed to Japan. The foreign office declares that on such intimation has been received and furthermore expresses itself as sceptical regarding the reliability of this report. The foreign office also repeats the assurance that Russia's position is unchanged.

It is semi-officially announced that in view of the appearance of Japanese troops in the rear of the Russian army west of the railway, Russia will address a circular to the powers protesting against Japan's persistent violation of the Chinese neutrality.

Aside from the news of the resumption of the Japanese attack on Guato pass the war office has no dispatches from the front and does not attach great significance to the fighting eastward, saying that the forces engaged are comparatively small, though they are suffering heavily. The Associated press dispatches verify this conjecture. The position at Tsinkhetchen, about seventy miles east of Mukden is far advanced in comparison with the general line and the retirement of the Russians was only as far as the general alignment, but the dispatches intimate that the Japanese are now concentrating against the whole left flank, at which is being heavily reinforced in preparation for extensive fighting.

A correspondent of the Associated press who has investigated personally the reports that large forces of Japanese are in Mongolia says they do not exceed 600 Japanese and 3,000 Chinese bandits.

A dispatch from General Kuropatkin dated February 26 says:

"The enemy is continuing the offensive against the front of our Tsinkhetchen detachment, and has turned both its flanks. The Japanese have also advanced against Kantie pass, turning our left flank, but all his attacks on Tangu and Beydalung have been repulsed. His offensive movement against Komapud has also been repulsed. At some positions our rifle men forces the Japanese outposts to retire."

FIGHT OF WAR ON

DEATH STRUGGLE STARTED IN THE SHAKHE VALLEY.

RUSSIANS AGGRESSIVE

KUROPATKIN ABLE TO REPEL INITIATIVE ATTACK

General Kuroki Founding Away and Seemingly Gaining Ground—Clash Of Arms Along the Entire Front.

Fighting on a large scale is in progress between the Russian and Japanese armies in Manchuria, General Kuropatkin, after meeting the initiative of the Japanese in the eastern part of the Shakhe valley, assumed the aggressive in the western portion, and under cover of a heavy artillery fire from Putiloff hill and Novgorod hill succeeded in driving the Japanese from a position in the outskirts of Sandiapu. Simultaneously the Russians attacked and captured a railroad bridge on the Japanese center. Much more serious is the Japanese left wing which threatens unless quickly checked, to oblige General Kuropatkin to abandon the positions on the Hun river which he has occupied and fortified during the winter. There is no confirmation of the report that the Russian commander-in-chief has notified the emperor that retreat northward has become imperative.

ST. PETERSBURG.—Last evening's news from Manchuria is of the most important nature, the Associated press dispatches from Mukden, which were transmitted indicating that a general battle was beginning along the whole of the hundred miles of front occupied by the two armies.

General Kuropatkin appears to have taken a leaf out of Field Marshal Oyama's book and replied to General Kuroki's attacks on the Russian left by a counter attack on the Japanese left, in which General Kaubars' initial success is better for the Russians than the best efforts of General Gripenberg, the Russian vanguard being established at the outskirts of Sandiapu. At the same time General Kuropatkin delivered a blow against the Japanese center, seizing a railroad bridge across the Shakhe river.

These reports, therefore, give a more hopeful aspect to the situation as the Russian army, though driven out of Da pass, appears, to have succeeded in stopping at least for the moment the further advance of the Japanese eastward an beaten off the attack on the center. The effect of yesterday's development on General Kuropatkin's reported intention to withdraw from the Shakhe is problematical. Retirement in the face of an enemy, which is extremely hazardous under any circumstances, is doubly dangerous when the armies are grappling in a general engagement, but if General Kuroki succeeds in rolling up the Russian left much further the perilous expedient may become necessary. The counter strokes on the right and center may possibly be intended to cover the withdrawing trains and stores. However, General Kuropatkin is determined to stand and fight out the battle on the line which he has held during the winter, and if he should be able to administer a vigorous check to General Kuroki, he has secured a good position for his second movement in the great game.

The Associated press bears from a high source that General Kuropatkin considers his position on the Shakhe river to be menaced to such an extent by General Kuroki's success on the left flank as to necessitate the immediate withdrawal of his army to Tie pass, and has so advised Emperor Nicholas. No confirmation of this is obtainable in military circles here, where it is pointed out that with the Japanese pressing the whole Russian line, such an operation must almost inevitably end in a disaster of the first magnitude.

General Kuropatkin, in a dispatch to Emperor Nicholas, says: "Ten attacks made by two Japanese battalions and some cavalry west of the village of Tansingtung have been repulsed. The Japanese renewed the attack in the morning of February 27 and were again repulsed. They left a hundred corpses in front of our positions. The Russian loss was six men."

NEBRASKA NOTES

The electric plant at Sidney is nearly completed.

Many wild ducks and quails were killed by the recent cold weather in the vicinity of Sutherland.

The members of the modern Woodmen of Cass county will hold their semi-annual convention at Plattsmouth on April 5.

Arthur Reese, an employee of the Union Pacific at Grand Island, broke two finger bones and a one in his hand while at work in the shops there.

Kirpatrick Bros. & Collins of Beatrice shipped another trainload of grading equipment together with several carloads of horses to Onaga, Kan.

The Methodists of Stella have bought the tenant house on the farm of A. J. C. Robb two miles west of town and are having it moved in on the lot east of the church to be used as a parsonage.

Falls City business men are discussing better waterworks and sewerage improvements. A mass meeting for that purpose was held Monday night. Decisive action will be taken next Monday night.

While enroute to Beatrice with a wagonload of chickens from Odell H. Joy experienced no end of trouble in making the trip on account of the condition of the roads. It required four horses to pull the wagon which was overturned at one point along the route resulting in the death of forty fowls.

Fifteen members of Interior lodge No. 9, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at Pawnee City drove over in Meigs Saturday night to visit the lodge at this place. The lodge team came along, as work in the initiatory degree was to be put on here. A social and fraternal time was had.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Barnes was celebrated at Table Rock at their home. A reception was held from 2 to 5 in the afternoon under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief corps, of which they are members. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes have resided here since 1883.

The regular February term of the district court convened in Columbus Judge Hollenbeck of Fremont presiding. The cases were assigned for trial at a meeting of the bar last week. The docket is a large one and contains ninety-five civil and thirteen criminal cases. Along the civil cases are several actions for damages.

The big buildings which for thirteen years contained the machinery that ground out sugar from beet roots at Norfolk are now empty. The last carload of wheels and boilers has been shipped to Lamar, Colo., and the masons are patching up holes in the walls which the removal of the mammoth engines made necessary. Manager Bundick expects to leave almost any day this week and the plant will be abandoned within a very few days more. The property is to be restored to the original donors who contributed to the cash bonus at the outset.

James Markham, who lives near Fairbury attempted to kill himself with a .32-caliber revolver. He is still alive, but the chances for his recovery are very slight. No cause is assigned for the act.

Ed Hart, a section foreman on the Burlington railroad, was struck by a switch engine in the local yards at Nebraska City. His left leg was broken below the knee and he sustained a number of severe bruises. He was removed to St. Mary's hospital, where his injuries were dressed.

D. Neels who is employed on the farm of Simon Patton west of Nebraska City lost a portion of his right hand in a corn sheller. His hand was caught in the cog wheel of the sheller and the first finger and a portion of his hand was torn off before the machine could be stopped.

William Heesch, a Hall county farmer while sawing wood on his farm near Grand Island met with an accident that cost him part of his foot. His foot came in contact with the buzzing saw and cut before the machinery in the sawmill could be stopped.

Schlusstock Bros., of West Point the noted shippers and breeders of horses are now in St. Joseph Mo., disposing of several carloads of Nebraska draft horses all raised in Cumby county. This firm is building up an immense export trade in horses and affording a ready and profitable market for the breeders of horses in this county for their surplus stock.