

ASSAULT OF JAPS

TOKIO OFFICIALS ANNOUNCE FAILURE THEREOF.

GENERAL ATTACK ON SATURDAY

Both Sides Claim Advantages in Minor Fights Thursday and Friday—Japanese Statesman Says His Country Fights for National Existence.

TOKIO—The imperial headquarters has just issued the following announcement:

"The works for our attack having been nearly completed against Sung-shu mountain (Port Arthur) and the forts lying eastward therefrom, a general assault was made on the afternoon of November 26, but owing to the enemy's stubborn resistance our object has not yet been accomplished."

The Manchurian headquarters, reporting Sunday, says:

"From the night of November 25 until the morning of November 26 a body of the enemy's infantry attacked our troops in the vicinity of Sintung-tun and Shaotaou, but the attack was completely repulsed by us."

"The enemy's artillery, posted to the east of Ta mountain, vigorously shelled the vicinities and Kuchiatzu from 2 o'clock in the afternoon of November 26, but we suffered no damage."

"On the right bank of the Hun river a body of the enemy's cavalry attacked Mamachies on November 25, but was driven back by our forces."

"On November 24 the enemy set fire to Shangtsalmen and most of the village was burned."

Discussing the war and the domestic, financial and political conditions of Japan on the eve of the assembling of the Diet with the correspondent of the Associated Press, Premier Katsura said:

"To insure peace in the Orient and to safeguard our national existence is the extreme purpose of our empire and no sacrifice shall be too great for successfully effecting this purpose."

"Russia, beside violating her pledges in Manchuria, crowned her overbearing and aggressive policy by extending her arms to the Korean peninsula."

"We were highly solicitous to preserve peace, but had no alternative except that of war, which was forced upon us."

"Throughout the negotiations Russia showed a haughty and overbearing attitude, which, as has latterly been shown, was inadequately supported by military strength. Russia allowed herself to be deceived and slighted our empire, for she never believed that Japan would draw the sword of war. Then, after suffering repeated defeats on land and on sea, Russia perceived the mistake she had made, and having discovered the seriousness of the situation, began to take adequate measures."

"The case was different with us, we are alive to the seriousness of the situation and were prepared for exigencies."

"Russia must see that the war cannot be concluded by the issues of a few battles. With us the war means life or death, and not one of our 45,000,000 brethren remains ignorant of the vital issue at stake."

"We are prepared to sacrifice our last man and our last cent for this war."

"The delay in the decisive result of our siege at Port Arthur gives Russia hope of being able to relieve the garrison, and for this purpose she resolved to empty her naval defense at home, while on land corps after corps has been mobilized and sent eastward."

SHOOT THE CASHIER.

Attempt Made to Rob the Platte County Bank at Platte Center.

COLUMBUS, Neb.—At noon an undersized man, apparently a stranger, walked into the Platte County bank at Platte Center, twelve miles north of here, and with drawn revolver in his hand demanded the money from Cashier Schroeder. He was refused and without further ado he fired, the ball striking Schroeder squarely in the breast.

The ball was slightly deflected by a button and passed dangerously near the heart.

A son of William Schelp, who was in the back room of the bank, at once gave the alarm and the robber jumped into his buggy and dashed off to the south. A large posse of citizens was quickly in pursuit. The sheriff started for the scene. The would-be robber had no accomplice.

The bandit was overtaken near Oconee, five miles west of here, at 4 o'clock. He was at once taken back to Platte Center and positively identified by Schroeder. Sheriff Carrig had hard work to protect him from mob violence, but finally got him loaded into an automobile, and he now is safe in jail and carefully guarded. He gives his name as William Holden and says his home is in Michigan. He had been working in the beet fields near Platte Center the last two months.

ENTER INTO A TREATY.

Secret Compact of Chile and Bolivia Made Public.

WASHINGTON—The secret treaty recently signed at Santiago, Chile, between the Bolivian minister at that capital, Senor Alberto Gutierrez, and the Chilean minister of foreign relations, Senor Emilio Bello, in which the emperor of Germany is named as arbitrator of any difficulty arising in the execution of the convention, provided in substance:

First—Bolivia abandons her pretension to the Pacific port and recognizes Chile's right to the province of Antofagasta.

Second—Chile assumes the debts of Bolivia as recognized in article 2 of the treaty of 1895.

Third—Chile appropriates \$2,000,000 for the construction of railroads in Bolivia. She herself is to construct the line from Arica to La Paz, already in operation as far as Tacna, to which she gives a guarantee up to \$800,000 Chilean a year for the construction of three other railroads. The Bolivian section of the line shall become the property of Bolivia in twenty years, but Chilean products shall enjoy preferential rebates over it.

SQUADRON IS AT PORT SAID.

Precautions Taken to Get Rojestvensky Safely Through Canal.

PORT SAID—A section of the Russian second Pacific squadron has arrived here. All precautions have been taken to prevent any untoward incident during the passage of the vessels through the Suez canal.

The division exchanged salutes with the town on entering and the Russian bands played the British national anthem in honor of the presence of the British guard ship Furious. The local Russian representatives visited Rear Admiral Voelkersam's flagship. All the warships are fitted with wireless telegraph apparatus. The ships are not ordered to coal here, but will take water, fresh provisions and hay for their live stock.

The Russian admiral exchanged visits with the commander of the Furious.

Though the larger warships were not ordered to come here the torpedo boat destroyers are coaling from transports and will enter the canal at dawn Friday, and the rest of the division an hour later.

MARINE MATTERS

VIEWS OF SECRETARY MORTON ON THE SUBJECT.

SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION

To Build Up Shipping Interests We Must Meet Competition of Other Nations—Rear Admiral Hartington Reads a Letter from Morton.

WASHINGTON—The merchant marine commission resumed its session Friday. Senator Gallinger, the chairman, announced that the hearings were about concluded, but that the commission had thought it proper at this time to invite naval and post-office department officials to be present Friday, the former to submit their opinion of the desirability of a merchant marine as auxiliary to the navy and the latter to speak of the benefits to accrue to the postal service as a result of an improved merchant marine.

Secretary Metcalf of the department of commerce and labor was also invited to attend the hearing.

Secretary Morton's views of the relations of the government to the merchant marine in the foreign trade was that it was simply a question of competition. He said that in order to build up a large American shipping interest in this country it will be necessary to meet the competition of other nations. It will further be necessary, he declared, to in some way recognize the mail contracts, the subsidies, the bonuses and the premiums of Germany, England and other countries. The American owner of sea-going craft and the American sailor, he said, must be given equality in all respects if they are not to be handicapped by foreign competition. It was his idea that all ships built in this country should be constructed in accordance with plans approved by the navy department, so that in case of war the department could make good and efficient use of them. He added that he was not sure but that the seamen also should have a naval training.

Rear Admiral Luce read a letter recently submitted to him by Secretary Morton, to be laid before the committee, in which he referred to the dependence of the merchant marine and the navy. He asserted that the money paid to foreign carriers of products of this country went to enrich the countries with which the United States might some day be at war, thereby indirectly adding to the navies of those countries and their naval reserves at the expense of our own. He favored subsidies as the means of building up the merchant marine.

Declaring that it was through nursing a particular British industry, the carrying trade, that England owed her supremacy of the sea today, Captain Mahan said that American shipping should be encouraged to come into existence and to compete with the carrying trade of the world.

Rear Admiral Hartington favored the building of steel ships, and said that the laws of the United States should be changed so as to permit the merchants of this country to run American ships as cheaply as foreign owners could run them. He declared that the merchant officers of the United States were not all that could be desired regarding competence, and that as regarding education and training they did not compare favorably with foreign merchant officers.

Crew of Rastoropy.

WASHINGTON—Mr. Fowler, the American consul at Che Foo, in a cablegram received at the state department, says that the Chinese have ordered one of their cruisers to convey to Shanghai the officers and men of the Russian destroyer Rastoropy, which was recently blown up in Che Foo harbor.

FOREST RESERVES.

There Appears to Be More Than is Really Needed.

WASHINGTON—In his annual report for this year Commissioner Richards of the general land office recommends the exercise of more deliberate consideration of preparations looking to establishment of forest reserves than has been exercised in the past.

The report adds: "Both the importance of the objects to be accomplished and the many local interests to be considered necessitate great care in proceeding further in this direction. The government can well afford at this juncture to delay action in establishing additional reserves until the force of forest experts now engaged upon the work can, by practical field examinations and scientific research, establish beyond reasonable doubt in what localities and to what extent further areas should be set apart for this purpose."

During the last fiscal year nine reserves were created, bringing the total number up to fifty-nine and increasing the aggregate covered by forest reservations to 62,763,494 acres.

The report shows a falling off of \$1,741,401 in the total receipts of the office as compared with the previous year, and a decrease in the area of public land disposed of, amounting to 6,418,477 acres. With the exception of 1903 the cash receipts were greater than any previous year. The patents issued for the year numbered 56,386, and exceeded those for any other twelve months in the history of the office. The receipts were \$9,283,341 and the land disposed of aggregated 1,406,821 acres. Of this quantity 10,171,265 acres were entered under the homestead law, 2,353,854 were patented as railroad selections and 1,306,261 under timber and stone entries.

Speaking of the frauds committed under the timber and stone acts Mr. Richards says: "During the last year it was decided to use the corps of examiners of surveys to investigate in the field all applications for surveys which alleged settlement and the result has proven the wisdom of this course."

"In the timber, no real settlement of any extent was found, but in most cases a camping hut, without furniture and destitute of the means of housekeeping, was all that the examiner could discover on the ground. It was learned that these alleged settlers resided in distant towns and cities and that they were induced to lend their names by promises of rewards after the survey was accomplished, evidently having no intention to make their homes on the land. This investigation has resulted in materially checking the absorption by unscrupulous persons of the timber now standing on the reserves."

PRESENTS THE IOWA CASE.

Gov. Cummins Interviews the Acting Secretary of War.

WASHINGTON—Governor Cummins left for New York Tuesday night. He saw Acting Secretary of War Oliver in relation to the inscription on the tablets to be erected by Iowa regiments on the battlefield of Shiloh. The old contention regarding the time when the Iowa regiments, the Fifteenth and Sixteenth, entered the battle, is still the subject of much controversy, but Governor Cummins insists that the reports of the colonels of the two regiments, which are the only official reports of the participation of the regiments in the fight, should be accepted. He insists, after a review of the official reports in the department that the only direct evidence regarding the two regiments come from Colonel Reed and Colonel Chambers, and that in the absence of other direct evidence the Shiloh commission should accept those as the time when the regiments went into action. Acting Secretary Oliver decided to hold open the question pending the return of Governor Cummins to Washington.