

KUROKI'S MOVE IN MANCHURIA

First Army's Preparations for Movement to Liao Yang After Crossing Yalu.

CHINESE COOLIES REPLACE COREANS

Under Liberal Payment, with Peking Carts and Many Ponies, Manchus Transport Supplies for the Japanese Forces.

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ANTUNG, Manchuria, May 11.—(From a Staff Correspondent of the New York Herald-Special to The Bee.)—Lieutenant General Kuroki this morning moves his headquarters from this place to a little beyond Feng Huang Cheng, and the movement of the First army toward the Russian position at Liao Yang may be said to be well under way. The second army is already on the railroad near Kin Chow, they say, and we must mark time until they have advanced sufficiently northward to develop the Russian intention. Then it will appear whether the Russians mean to displace General Kuroki's advance at the west of Feng Huang Cheng, and, if so, whether he will give them the opportunity of finding means of getting around them without risking an encounter in such a stronghold.

Blocking the northward advance of the second army is the Russian force at Hail Cheng, and if there is to be a fight at the pass beyond Feng Huang Cheng these Russians at Hail Cheng must also fight, for whichever force retreats first exposes the other to the danger of being turned by the Japanese. The meager reports which reach the correspondents with the First army as to the doings beyond our front are uniformly to the effect that the Russians are retiring all along their line upon Liao Yang and that there they will make a determined stand. If, however, the Japanese battle will be taking place about the time this letter reaches New York, the First and Second armies will operate together and there will probably be a much greater engagement than the one at Chu Liang Cheng.

The Russians have to meet one of the most perfectly organized and completely equipped armies ever sent into the field, an army handled with the highest skill and care, whose thoroughness of provision and provision is amazing. The haste and carelessness which have marked the earlier operations of the Russians will not suffice against the Japanese. There must be an attention to business such as nothing they have yet done in this war would indicate to be possible with them. Liao Yang will give them the opportunity to show whether they can make the change or not. If they cannot make it they may as well begin to negotiate for terms of settlement.

As was the case on the other side of the Yalu, the commanding general of the First army does not go forward until his army is well on its road. The Japanese advance was in Feng Huang Cheng several days ago, and already a considerable force has gone beyond that town. The foreign correspondents have not been permitted to cut for themselves to see just what has taken place, and it is violating no piece of secrecy to say that we are not in the confidence of the general. Very few bits of information have filtered through the devious channels of officialdom to us. Such as have, however, indicate rather that General Kuroki is planning to go around the great pass a few miles to the west of Feng Huang Cheng in preference to fighting there. The pass is 4,000 feet high, and the approach very difficult.

It is a position where a small force could give the entire army a great deal of trouble, so that, difficult as the trail through the mountains elsewhere may be, it is quite natural that the general should prefer them to the hazardous task of forcing his way through the pass. The three divisions comprising the first army; were all sent forward from here soon after the battle at Chu Liang Cheng. The cavalry that had not been employed scouting out the country ahead of the advance line went out three or four days ago. Most of the artillery is also up. A battery of howitzers came in here yesterday afternoon from Chu Liang Cheng and goes on this morning. General Kuroki is not the man to lose sight of the very important part his guns played in his success at the Yalu. His artillery certainly will not be weaker in the next engagement than it was there.

Manus as Coolies. The quantities of supplies of all sorts that have been going forward steadily

since headquarters were established at Antung would indicate that the Japanese have no thought of ever coming back by this road. Train after train has gone up. All day long the road has been full of transportation of one kind or another, carts and ponies all heavily loaded. The Chinese—or, rather, the Manchus—coolies in the pack animal that the Korean brother is. Usually it takes two of him to manage the load a Korean will walk along with for twenty-five or thirty miles a day. But the Manchus is a better man with four legged animals. He has better horses and mules and he knows much more about handling them. He makes one of the clumsiest cart ever designed, a heavy two-wheeled concern, so hard to pull that it takes one mule to manage the cart alone. But it is strong and fairly serviceable and if you hitch in mules enough you can take a big load. It is the same old vehicle used all through northern China and known as a Peking cart. The Japanese have hired or bought many of these and employ Manchus cartmen to handle them. There are two kinds, one covered, for use by travelers, and the other open, used in freighting. The open carts will carry from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds and the number of animals necessary depends on the character of the road and the speed it is desired to make. The road from here to Feng Huang Cheng is very bad, being soft sand for the greater part of the distance. The Manchus cartmen hitch five or six mules to one of these open carts and pile on all the bags of rice or boxes of bully beef they can make stick. The way they go, with one man to direct the cart and three or four others to manage the mules, which are fastened to the axle of the cart by long rope traces, and which go almost where they please, so long as they keep the general direction and stay reasonably near to the main track. The nine mules have been hitched to one cart.

The Japanese are following the same course with the Manchus that they pursued with the Koreans. They pay with great liberality for everything they take. It is expensive, but it is unquestionably a wise policy. The result is manifested in several ways. One of the most important things to the army is that the things which it needs and which are so often hidden away on the approach of troops and very difficult to obtain are easily had here. The Chinese have shown from the first that they were not afraid of the Japanese. They have been about the town here all the time with their carts and mules, many of them as busy as they could be about their old vocations. When the army undertook to hire or buy carts and mules the quartermasters had plenty of offers at once. The price went skyward in long leaps, but that seemed to make no difference to the army. A mule that in ordinary times would fetch a good price if he sold for sixty Mexican dollars now brings from 125 to 200 yen without any trouble or haggling, and a yen is worth about 30 cents more than a Mexican dollar. In ordinary times the hire of a cart and three mules, with the services of the cartman, is only about \$4 a day. The Japanese have sent it up to \$10 or \$12, and even in some cases \$15. Surely it will not be from the thrifty cartmen who are profiting so enormously by the advent of the Japanese that complaints will come hereafter. To be sure, the Japanese pay in their army notes, and already these notes are at a considerable discount, in spite of the stringent regulations issued to enforce their circulation, but at the prices paid for everything the holders of the notes can stand the discount and still make huge profits.

Chinese Traders at Antung. The change from the Korean to the Manchurian side of the Yalu is very decided. Thrift and enterprise mark the Manchurian, and shiftness had the Korean. Here are

houses well built and substantial, with brick walls and solid tiled roofs. Chu Liang Cheng and Antung are prosperous looking towns. The streets are wide and fairly clean, astonishingly so for Chinese towns. There are plenty of large buildings, several of them showing the dignity of magisterial mansions. The main street of Antung is lined on both sides with large, solid shops, each with a spacious compound behind it, surrounded by the customary Chinese living rooms. Even the mud huts that flank the business center of the town show the more substantial character of the Chinese from the Korean side. The spirit which differentiates the Chinese from the Korean is manifest everywhere. The traditional thrift of the Chinese traders is shown in the manner in which their business goes on, steadily despite the military occupation of their town. Even on the day when the Japanese entered Antung many of the shops were open and the oil mills did not shut down. Curious to think the Chinese is, he was yet too much occupied with his business to stop to look very long at the newcomers.

Antung is a town of some 10,000 inhabitants. It lies along the north bank of the Yalu, covering the flat ground between the water and the hills for a distance of two miles or thereabouts. The river divides it into two parts, the western being the main business center. The main stream of the Yalu washes the Antung bank, and there is sufficient depth of water for steamers drawing nearly ten feet. The current is very swift and the navigation difficult, for the channel is tortuous, winding in and out among innumerable sandbars, with sharp turns and tricky shifts. From the hills about Wu we could see Antung quite plainly on clear days, and always there was a fear of junk masts in the river. The junk now line all the bank in front of the town, and the river front is a scene of great activity constantly. The junk men lost no time in getting back to business after the battle. They were up the river as far as Wu on the morning of May 2, and the next day were taking employment from the Japanese, shifting stores from the Korean side down to Antung.

One of the principal industries of Antung and this part of Manchuria is the production of beans. The farmers raise large crops of them, which are sold to millers in the town, who extract the oil and press the residue into large cakes shaped like griddles, which are used for horse and mule feed. The oil is a good lubricant. It goes chiefly to Che Foo. There is also a considerable silk industry here, the product being very similar to the heavy pongee known throughout the east as Che Foo silk. Besides beans the farmers grow good crops of corn, millet, wheat, barley and some rice. Lying along the river now is a large quantity of timber, most of which looks to be of old cut. It is nearly all pine, roughly squared into heavy sticks, and a good part of it seems to have been used at some time as sills or frames for large buildings. The Russians had piled up a lot of it in front of the building on the water front used by General Kuroki for his headquarters. They had also dug trenches about the place which they had used, as did General Kuroki. Three staples, oil, cotton goods and flour, seem to have formed the principal items of trade in the shops. The oil was both Russian and American, the cases I have seen being about equally divided. The flour came largely from the mills at Shanghai, and so did the cotton goods, although American flour is now here in plenty and there are some good stocks of American cottons.

The difference between the Korean and Manchurian sides of the river, which is so marked in the appearance and character of the towns, is just as clearly defined in the country. In Korea there seemed to be no agricultural work whatever going on. We

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that fact, the concealment of the town is complete from all points except the river directly in front of it, and thence only a small part can be seen. It is a scattering place, the buildings standing far apart, with many vacant lots among them. Disputed Timber Concessions. Piled here and there among the buildings are great stacks of timber. Nearly all of this timber is old, as the timber at Antung, and much of it shows that it has been used, some of it for a long time. Manifestly it was not cut by the Russians, and the business done by the company under its timber concession was not working up the Korean forests, whatever else it may have been. The timber seems to have been floated down the Yalu from its upper reaches, and the company may have found it more profitable to buy such timber than to attempt to get out new for itself. There were no hills in sight from the neighborhood of Yongampo which showed timber worth the labor of working. These huge squared logs are a valuable asset to the Japanese, who have put sawyers at work already to rip them up into planks and boards. A great many thousands of railroad sleepers can be cut out of these timbers, whether for the narrow gauge roads of Japan and the one the Japanese are now hurrying through Korea or for the five-foot road the Russians have built in Manchuria, and which the Japanese hope to find a market for them before the summer is much older. Nothing seems to have been done by the Russians at Yongampo, except the erection of these buildings and the collection of these piles of timber. The top of a steep hill just back of the row of residences was leveled off and a sort of fort prepared there, but that was the only defensive enterprise undertaken of which any trace remains. The Japanese now have a signal station there, with various meteorological instruments to determine the velocity of the wind and the amount of rainfall. The Russians evacuated the place early in April and the Japanese came in three weeks later. A great transformation has been wrought by the Koreans and the Chinese in the interval. Every floor had been ripped up from residence, office, barracks and stable. Some of the roofs had been taken away and the wooden siding of the stable as far up as a tall man can reach had been torn down and carted off, leaving only the roof and the upper part of the sides, supported by the uprights. Every window in the place had either been smashed to little pieces or carried bodily away. Even the sashes were taken out. The Japanese have replaced them all by tacking strips of thin cotton cloth to the walls to cover the apertures. For floors the Japanese have either leveled up the earth or laid down rough boards. One building had been fired by the natives and only the walls were left. The others are all habitable, with the temporary repairs made by the Japanese, and are now used for offices, storehouses or barracks. The old barrack serves the purpose for which it was erected, except that it shelters Japanese instead of Russian soldiers. The sawmill shed is piled high with bags of rice and barley and boxes of meat and pickles. The little tram track which helped the Russians to run their timbers about from pile to pile now carries trucks loaded with stores for the Japanese soldiers. The newcomers have dug wells and put up scullery lights, preparing to be as comfortable as may be and to stay a long time. Already there is talk that under the new Japanese protectorate the Koreans will cancel the Russian concession, and no dividends are likely to be paid by the latter company. Base, but Not a Good Port. Yongampo has succeeded Chinnampo already as the base for the First army. It is

attributed this in large part to the fact that the men throughout the country over which the Japanese were operating were working for them as packers in preference to tilling their fields as usual. On the Manchurian side, however, there is great activity in the fields. The farmers who have lands on the islands in the river, which were between the two armies, so that they could not be worked until after the battle, were out with their plows promptly on the 10 of the month, and on the afternoon of the 15, when a 100 rods along the river bank between Antung and Chu Liang Cheng, I saw many of the fields almost entirely plowed. Back from the river the agricultural work had not been so much delayed by the military operations, and already some of the crops are showing above ground. This is a fact of great importance, which the Koreans know nothing. It is an indication of what may be done in the way of trade if the war results in such a settlement that these towns are really opened to commercial activity. Yongampo's Russian Settlement. Fifteen miles down the river from Antung, on the south bank, lies the place called Yongampo, of which much has been written and little known. Here was the headquarters of the Russian company which obtained the celebrated timber concession, believed by the Japanese generally to have been merely a cloak for political schemes. A five-minute look about the place reveals something of the extent of the Russian plans. Close up under the hills that lie directly on the river bank stands a row of solid brick and stone houses, intended for residences of officials. They are all on the flat ground, only a few feet above the water at high tide, but so screened by the hills as to be quite out of sight even from passing vessels, except such as come close in. From well out in the river three or four buildings are visible, one of which is a long, corrugated iron, sides and roof, and would cover machinery enough to work up all the logs in Korea in a short time. Half a mile back of the row of residences there is a long, substantial building, which was erected as a barracks for the Russian garrison sent out to guard the "timber concession." It is a fine, commodious barracks, with plenty of large windows and several huge fireplaces, very necessary adjuncts to any building in this country if the tenant means to be comfortable during the winter. Behind the building was a long wooden stable, floored with heavy planking and partitioned off into roomy stalls for the horses. It was the only wooden building in the concession, all the others being of brick and stone, with either tiled or corrugated iron roofs. The bricks were made in kilns only a little further inland, there being apparently plenty of good brick clay at hand. There is, too, one smaller wooden building, a structure that looks as if it might have been intended for a jail, but was, so the Japanese say, a magazine for stores. It is built of heavy square timbers, dove-tailed at the ends and without windows. The native village at Yong An Pho is a curious mixture of Chinese and Korean. The streets are wide and reasonably clean, the huts partly Chinese and partly Korean, mostly of mud with thatched roofs. A few have iron roofs. The village was manifestly built under Russian supervision, for the streets are straight, which is possible with Chinese but out of the question with Koreans. All these buildings—Russian, Chinese and Korean—stand on what was land under cultivation, mostly in rice, judging from the dikes that cut it up into small fields. There are plenty of fine hills near by; in fact, they form screens all around the place, and the Russians seem to have chosen the site for building because of

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