

SURROUNDED BY JAPS

Movement is Almost Completed and Kuroki and Aki Are Closing In.

THE ENEMY'S FRONT IS EXTENDED.

Russian General Must Now Either Fight or Withdraw Northward—He is Closely Pinned at Haicheng, Where There Has Been Heavy Fighting, the Rear Guard of the Retreating Russians Being in Grave Peril.

St. Petersburg (By Cable).—Though public attention has been distracted from the events of the war during the past week, first, because of the fear of international complications, and, second, because of the assassination of Minister of the Interior von Plehve, the situation at the front is regarded as critical.

The enveloping movement of the three Japanese armies of General Kuroki, Nodzu and Oku around General Kuropatkin's position appears to be almost complete, and the extended line of the Japanese seems to be the only drawback to concerted action.

It is realized here that the Russian general must now either fight or withdraw the whole army northward. Kuropatkin is being closely pressed at Haicheng. At that place General Kuroki's northern column makes it extremely dangerous to remain there, because, while holding the position to give battle against the Japanese, whose advance is always slow and careful, General Kuroki might push through and cut his communications with Liaoyang.

While nothing is definitely known, there are some unofficial indications that matters are rapidly maturing for either a battle or a retreat. For instance, the refusal to accept further press telegrams at Haicheng. This might be construed either that preparations are making for a retirement or that the wires are very crowded, incident to a concentration at Haicheng or Liaoyang.

A few days are expected to determine which course General Kuropatkin has elected to pursue.

There is no inclination here to doubt that there may have been pretty severe fighting at the outer positions of Port Arthur, possibly accompanied by a bombardment from the sea, but it is not believed that the Japanese are yet ready to storm the fortress. The Admiral Withoutin is commanded by the naval forces at Port Arthur, is relied on to put to sea if the condition of the fortress becomes desperate. While no definite information is obtainable, the report that the fortress is short of ammunition is considered by the public as the most disquieting feature of the situation there.

The indications are that the Baltic squadron is on the eve of an important movement. Nothing regarding this can be ascertained officially, but many of the officers already have said farewell to friends and families, and are holding themselves ready for instant service. The Emperor had arranged to inspect the squadron, but his plan was given up owing to the assassination of Minister of the Interior von Plehve.

London, (By Cable).—The correspondent of the Daily Mail at Nanchang, in a dispatch dated July 25, states that there has been heavy fighting for two days in the marshes south of Haicheng during the gradual retreat from Tatchekiao of 5000 Russians forming the rear guard, and that the peril of this force increases daily.

SWEEP BY CONFLAGRATION.

Salisbury, Md., (Special).—Salisbury was visited by one of the most destructive fires she has experienced in a number of years. E. S. Adkins Company's lumber and manufacturing plant here was partly burned down, with a loss of about \$40,000. This amount is well covered by insurance.

Their main flooring mill, sawmill, warehouses and most valuable timber have gone at 1.30 o'clock A. M. A row of dwelling-houses, more lumber and an entire new saw mill are in the path of the flames and only one engine can be worked because of the bad conditions of the water mains.

To the south and east are the Baltimore, Chesapeake and Atlantic Railway Company car shops and the junction and freight house of that railroad and the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railway.

The fire was discovered by one of the two watchmen at the yard and he endeavored to extinguish it, burning his face and hands and singeing his hair. All the records and books in the office were saved.

Georgia Family Murdered. Statesboro, Ga., (Special).—Henry R. Hodges, his wife and three children, living about six miles from Statesboro, have been killed and their home burned. There were bloodstains outside the building. Hodges, his wife and one child had their skull broken, apparently with an axe. Robbery is supposed to have been the cause of the crime.

Murderer Commits Suicide. Chicago, (Special).—After a week of mental anguish, during which he continually wept and prayed, Frank Benedetto, who murdered his wife during a fit of jealousy, committed suicide in his cell in the county jail by hanging himself.

Boy Fatally Shoots His Gun. Pittsfield, Mass., (Special).—Thomas Wagner, a 15-year-old grocery clerk, shot and killed his chum, Patrick O'Brien, in a grove at the foot of Linden street. The boys had been shooting an old-fashioned 32 caliber revolver, and Wagner, supposing all the cartridges had been exploded, pulled the trigger over one that had not yet been discharged, the ball entering the left side of O'Brien's face and lodging in the skull. O'Brien died in a few minutes.

Killed in Head-on Collision. Sharon, Pa., (Special).—Running 40 miles an hour a passenger train on the Pennsylvania Railroad crashed into an engine in a head-on collision at Sharpville, causing the death of two men and the serious injury of four others. There were but few passengers in the coach next to the engine, and though the car was telescoped, only two men were hurt. Now it is a wreck of memory on the part of the crew in charge of the engine.

NEWS IN SHORT ORDER.

The Latest Happenings Condensed for Rapid Reading.

Domestic.

The large independent operators of the Pocahontas coal region have entered into an agreement to raise the price of soft coal.

Receiver W. G. Tafel, of the New York Savings Bank, was found drowned in a branch of the Licking River.

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SEVEN ARE INDICTED

Federal Grand Jury Acts in Slocum Disaster.

HEAVY BAIL WILL BE DEMANDED.

True Bills Found Against the Captain, the Inspector and a Probationary Officer, the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Knickerbocker Co., and Against the Captain of the Grand Republic.

New York, (Special).—The Federal Grand Jury indicted Captain Van Schaick and Federal Steamboat Inspector Lundberg in connection with the disaster of the General Slocum, on June 15 last, when nearly one thousand lives were lost.

Captain Van Schaick was commander of the General Slocum. Fleming and Lundberg had passed the Slocum at the opening of the season.

United States District Attorney Burnett said that indictments also were found against President Barnaby, Secretary Atkinson and Treasurer Dexter of the Knickerbocker Steamboat Company, and Capt. John Pease, the commodore of the company's fleet.

General Burnett said that when these men and Captain Van Schaick and Inspectors Lundberg and Fleming are arraigned for pleading on Monday he will insist upon bail being fixed at \$25,000 in each case.

PRESIDENT IS NOTIFIED.

An Interesting Ceremony at the Country Home of the Roosevelts.

Oyster Bay, L. I., (Special).—President Roosevelt was notified formally Wednesday afternoon of his nomination for the Presidency by the Republican National Convention. The ceremony took place at his country home, at Sagamore Hill, three miles from this village. In accordance with the wish of the President, the ceremony was as simple as possible.

The formal notification of the action of the Convention was made by a committee representing every State and Territory in the United States. Joseph G. Cannon, Speaker of the House of Representatives, spoke for the committee.

The special train bearing the members of the notification committee and the invited guests left Long Island City at 10:32 A. M. and arrived here at 11:30 A. M. One of the members of the committee were absent. They were James N. Coombs of Florida, Senator Chauncey M. Depew of New York, who is in Europe, and Senator Clarence D. Clark of Wyoming.

Included among the invited guests were men prominent in all walks of life. Among them were personal and political friends of the President in New York State, lifelong friends and neighbors on Long Island, including the pastors of the Oyster Bay churches and the officials of the National and New York State Republican organizations.

On arrival at Sagamore Hill the committee were received by President Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt and National Chairman George B. Cortelyou. All of the house guests of the President were gathered on the veranda, and as the occupants of each carriage alighted they were welcomed by the President and each was presented to Mrs. Roosevelt.

At the conclusion of the informal reception the ceremony of notification began. The members of the family, the house guests and the distinguished visitors were assembled on the veranda.

When Speaker Cannon rose to deliver his speech at 12:40 P. M. he was greeted with applause. When he had finished the President advanced to the veranda and, standing under a great festoon of American flags, delivered his address in response to the notification. As he faced the assemblage he was warmly applauded.

Both the President and Speaker Cannon spoke standing on a chair placed at an angle of the veranda, so that all could hear.

At the conclusion of the address, President Roosevelt received congratulations, and several group photographs were taken on the steps and lawn, with the President in the center.

Balloons to Hurl Explosives.

Washington, (Special).—Friday marked the termination of the agreement entered into by the Powers at the Hague Peace Conference, to which Russia and Japan were signatory, whereby the use of war balloons for throwing destructive explosives was prohibited for five years. Both Russia and Japan are now free to use the balloons to hurl dynamite into an enemy's camp, and developments in this direction will be closely watched by American military strategists.

Farmer Assassinated.

Augusta, Ga., (Special).—A special to the Chronicle from Washington, Wilkes county, Ga., says that while Charles J. Tyler, a prominent young farmer of the northeastern section of the county, was at supper with his wife, Dr. Thomas C. Burch emptied two loads of buckshot from the window into the body of Tyler, killing him instantly. Dr. Burch has been taken in custody in the adjoining county.

Waders Swept to Their Death.

Winnipeg, Man., (Special).—While four persons were attempting to wade across Old Mans river, at McLeod, N. W. T., they were swept from their feet and drowned. They are Nellie and Katie Higgins, aged 20 and 16, respectively; Eddie Higgins, aged 6, all members of the same family, and Mary Robinson, aged 21, a friend.

Girls Trapped in a Burning Hotel.

Pittsburg, Pa., (Special).—Fire broke out on the third floor of the Hotel Summerman, in Greensburg, and three girls, employees of the hotel, were burned, one of them, Mary Mustinsky, perhaps fatally. The girls were sleeping on the third floor and when they awoke the hallway was in flames and escape by the stairway was cut off. They succeeded in climbing out of a window and walking along a narrow ledge until they were rescued by firemen.

ONE DEAD; ANOTHER DYING.

Three Highwaymen Shot Nine Superintendent and Stable Boss.

Altoona, Pa., (Special).—P. F. Campbell, superintendent and paymaster of the Puritan Coal Mining Company, at Puritan, Cambria county, and Chas. Hays, a stable boss for the same company, were held up on a public road a mile out of Portage at 10 o'clock A. M. shot in twenty-five places and robbed of \$2805 which they were taking to Puritan to pay the miners.

The three highwaymen, who were apparently Italians, escaped, but the whole mountain top was scoured for them and a number of suspicious characters were arrested.

Campbell and Hays, in a buggy, drove from Puritan to Portage and at 9 o'clock received the money in a bag from the Pennsylvania Railroad station master at that place. It came by express on an early train from Altoona bank. With the money underneath the buggy seat they started for Puritan.

A mile out of Portage at a turn in the road is a clump of trees. Reaching the turn, the three men stepped from the woods and without a word opened fire. One showed a revolver into Campbell's face and fired. The ball struck Campbell in the neck. The other two highwaymen were armed with shotguns loaded with buckshot. They also fired on the two men in the buggy, both shots taking effect. The man with the revolver reached under his seat and pulled the bag of money just as the horse ran away.

Campbell and Hays were thrown into the road and the horse continued on to the stable.

Discharging two more loads of shot at the paymaster and his assistant, the robbers fled in the direction of Lloydsville. Campbell got to his feet and walked toward Puritan. Meeting a farmer with a spring wagon, he told his story and was driven to Portage, where he received surgical attention, and gave an alarm of the robbery. Posses were quickly organized and sent in all directions.

The populace was greatly excited over the daring outrage, and the robbers will not stand a chance of escaping alive, it is captured.

Campbell was brought to Altoona on the express. He is desperately wounded, there being fifteen bullet wounds on his face and body. Two shots pierced his right lung, another hit him in the mouth, and two struck his forehead. Just as the train left Portage bearing Campbell, his assistant, Hays, was brought into town. He died before he could be placed on the train. Hays was terribly wounded in the head and chest, five shots piercing his lungs.

Campbell, who is 36 years old, is one of the best known mining experts in the central Pennsylvania field. The robbery was committed by persons who knew of the paymaster's regular trips to portage every two weeks for the money to pay his men.

CHILD SCARED TO DEATH.

Wild Rampage of a Man Afflicted With Epilepsy.

Philadelphia, (Special).—Seized with a fit of violent epilepsy, Joseph Heiser went on a rampage through Andalusia, on the Bristol pike, on Monday afternoon. He frightened a little girl to death, terrorized the barroom of the Red Lion Inn, smashed furniture at his home and ended by throttling a motorman on a passing trolley car, who finally succeeded in overpowering Heiser and turned him over to the police.

The body of six-year-old Marian Rankin lies in a small casket in the parlor of her parents' home, on the Red Lion road, the victim of Heiser's dementia. The child had always stood in terror of Heiser, and she fled in fright to her mother whenever she saw him.

When Heiser, waving his arm wildly in the air and screaming at the top of his voice, ran toward her in front of the Rankin home the little girl started to escape from him, but before she had gone a dozen feet she was overcome with terror and fell dead in the roadway. Heiser, who has during the spring and summer months been employed as a farmhand, has been subject to epileptic fits, but never before have they taken a violent form.

Templars' Gift to King Edward.

San Francisco, Cal., (Special).—The California Knights Templar are preparing a gift for King Edward of England in appreciation of the honor conferred upon the Californians in sending a personal representative with the delegation of the highest officers of the great priory of England and Wales to attend the conclave at San Francisco. The souvenir consists of a volume of the history of the conclave, especially bound and ornamented by the King.

For Uniform Corporation Laws.

Nashville, Tenn., (Special).—Through the efforts of Secretary of State, John W. Morton, an arrangement has been made whereby representatives of states and territories will meet in St. Louis, September 2. The object is to discuss ways and means for securing a uniform law incorporation charter and kindred matters. The bureau of corporations of the department of commerce and labor will send a representative.

Gallows Trap Would Not Work.

Uniontown, Pa., (Special).—John Jackson, colored, was hanged here for the murder of Jack Kinney, also colored, whom he killed near Connelville, June 30, 1903, in a quarrel over a game of craps. The trap refused to work and for five minutes the condemned man stood with the black cap on his head while the spring was being adjusted. Death resulted from dislocation of the neck.

Killed by Lightning.

Hazleton, Pa., (Special).—Five persons were killed near here during a severe electrical storm. At Oneida three foreign-speaking miners and a boy were instantly killed by a bolt of lightning while sitting at a table. All four were terribly burned, and the clothing almost completely torn from their bodies. At Quakake Valley lightning struck the home of Miley Hinkle, instantly killing Mrs. Hinkle and seriously injuring her daughter.

VON PLEHVE MURDERED

Russian Minister of Interior Victim of Assassin.

THREE BOMB AT HIS CARRIAGE.

Assassin, a Young Finn, is in Hospital Dangerously Wounded by Fragments of His Own Missile—Widespread Anarchist Plot Suspected and Numerous Arrests Made—St. Petersburg Shaken by Tragedy.

St. Petersburg, (By Cable).—M. Von Plehve, minister of the interior, was assassinated at 9.50 o'clock A. M. by a bomb thrown at his carriage while he was driving to the Baltic Station to take a train for the palace at Peterhof, where he was to make his weekly report to the Emperor.

The assassination is believed to be the outcome of a widespread plot, the existence of which has been suspected for several days.

Numerous arrests have already been made, including that of the assassin, a young man who is believed to be a Finn named Leglo and who is now in a hospital severely and perhaps fatally injured by the explosion of his own bomb.

An accomplice of Leglo, also apparently a Finn, but whose name is unknown, has been arrested. He had in his possession a bomb which he tried to throw, but he was overpowered by the police just in time to prevent great loss of life.

As Minister of Justice Muravieff was driving to the Peterhof palace to report to Emperor Nicholas the assassination of Minister of the Interior von Plehve, stones were thrown at him and his carriage windows were broken. The identity of the minister's assailants has not yet been discovered.

M. von Plehve's assassin wore a brown overcoat and a railroad official's cap. He stood on the sidewalk, just as Minister von Plehve's carriage was about to cross the canal bridge near the station. The minister was seated on a bicycle, and a number of detectives on bicycles, and one of them jostled the assassin, who then rushed into the road and threw the bomb after the carriage.

The missile struck the hind wheel and exploded with fearful force, killing or wounding over a score of persons. Minister von Plehve and his coachman were killed outright, and an officer of the guard was fatally injured.

One of the cyclist detectives arrested the assassin, who endeavored to escape, though wounded by splinters in the face, arm and abdomen. He made no attempt at resistance, however, when seized by the detective, and confessed his crime, but refused to give his name.

The police immediately after the explosion arrested a suspicious individual, who took refuge in a hotel opposite the scene of the tragedy. He carried a bomb so terrific that it was blown by Leglo. As soon as the police saw the bomb they scattered, but an employe of the hotel rushed up behind the accomplice and pinned his arms.

The explosive is believed to have been composed of pyroxin, as it gave off little smoke. The force of the explosion was so terrific that it not only broke every window within a radius of half a mile but reduced the heavy paving stones to powder, heaved up the pavement and flung a heavy piece of the ironwork of the carriage across the canal, severing the thick mast of a large vessel, and stunning the captain of the vessel. Everybody in the street was knocked down and more or less bruised.

When the officers of the law, headed by Minister of Justice Muravieff, had terminated the necessary formalities by drawing up a written report of the crime, the minister of the interior was conveyed to a humble chapel adjoining the station, the windows of which miraculously escaped destruction.

The priests and people, with characteristic Russian piety, at once joined in solemn religious services. In front of the station was filled with a reverent crowd of peasants and laborers, and the busy hum of traffic was silenced.

A priest proclaimed "the eternal memory of the departed servant Wenckel," while all those in the congregation dropped to their knees.

A no less impressive service was conducted in the minister's stately residence in the evening, to which only intimate friends were invited by M. von Plehve's assistant, M. Duronov, who is temporarily in charge of the ministry of the interior.

The magnificent staircase and the reception rooms were draped in black. The body of the minister was completely covered by a white shroud, which concealed the ghastly mutilations. It reposed in a black and oak casket in the corner of the vast hall, surrounded by luxuriant palms. Gendarmic and non-commissioned officers stood sentinel at the head of the casket, while at its foot were two high officials of the ministry.

A special edition of the Official Messenger, which was distributed late in the afternoon, contained only a brief announcement of the death of M. von Plehve and the intimation that an official requiem would be conducted.

The Emperor, who was at the Villa Alexandria, at Peterhof, was greatly affected by the news, coming, as it did, atop of the bad tidings from the seat of war and fears of international complications. The Emperor almost broke down when he was informed of the minister's murder.

FINANCIAL.

Chandler Bros. & Co. say: "We still expect to see higher prices." Morgan brokers say United States Steel preferred should sell to points higher.

The Westinghouse Company's \$4,000,000 new 5 per cent. notes were all sold in a day.

A bond house of Philadelphia has issued a circular letter quoting 500 street railway bonds at 105 1/2.

Wheat exports this week were 1,281,000 bushels, against 2,781,000 for the same week last year.

Some brokers think that the time is very near at hand when the Rapid Transit Company will buy the Fairmount Park trolley line.

If the Lake Superior Company can get good enough ore to make steel rolls it will have a market for all its product for years to come. Premier Ross, of Ontario, says the requirements for new construction will exceed 500,000 tons annually for the next four or five years.

When Sully was king cotton rose about 17 cents. Now it is just about half that. That is what a 12,000,000-bale crop does to a cotton bull.

BRITAIN MAKES DEMANDS.

Russian Government Must Salute British Flag.

London, (By Cable).—The British Government has sent instructions to Sir Charles Hardinge, the British Ambassador to Russia, to energetically protest against the sinking of the British steamer Knight Commander by the Russian Vladivostok squadron.

Until the presentation of the note to the Russian Government the greatest secrecy will be maintained regarding its contents, but it is known that the fullest reparation shall be made by Russia or measures will be taken to follow up the diplomatic demands.

The British note, as Sir Charles Hardinge will submit it, will not mention the amount of indemnity Russia must pay the owners of the ship and the British subjects having goods on board the vessel, but all that will be sought will be the establishment of a principle of indemnity and apology. A salute of the British flag must also be conceded and the future protection of neutral shipping assured.

That the Government regards the sinking of the Knight Commander as a breach of international law was confirmed by Premier Balfour in the House of Commons.

A lengthy meeting of the defense committee took place, under the presidency of Herbert Morrison, at which the Attorney General, Sir Robert Finlay, was present. The Attorney General does not usually attend these meetings, but it was stated that the questions at issue between Russia and Great Britain were under discussion, and that Sir Robert was called in to advise as to the questions of international law.

The attitude of the British Government is the result of the thorough consideration given to the reports received from Sir Claude MacDonald, the British Minister at Tokio, and the examination of international law, authorized by legal experts. The dispatches received from Sir Claude MacDonald confirm the reports that the Knight Commander had no contraband of war on board for Japan. The Government and all the British press are agreed, and it is the point that the British Government is authorized by legal experts. The dispatches received from Sir Claude MacDonald confirm the reports that the Knight Commander had no contraband of war on board for Japan.

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