

DESPERATE BATTLE

Raging Along the Whole Front in Manchuria.

RUSSIANS CLAIM TO HAVE WON AN ADVANTAGE.

Stoessel Coolly Received at St. Petersburg.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

St. Petersburg, March 1.—Lieutenant-General Stoessel arrived here this morning from Moscow.

A quarter of an hour before the train was due it looked as if not more than a hundred persons would be present to welcome the defender of Port Arthur, but the number was augmented considerably and when the train steamed into the depot hundreds, chiefly women, crowded the platform.

The General and his wife entered an open carriage and drove through Nevsky Prospect to the residence of Lieutenant-General Prince Viazmsky, a member of the Imperial council, where they stayed.

The crowds in the streets lustily cheered the General.

The absence of military and naval officers from the platform was very noticeable.

A large force of police surrounded the railway station while at the Viazmsky residence were numerous detachments of Cossacks and Life Guards, apparently in expectation of a hostile demonstration.

Altogether the General's reception was by no means in the nature of a popular demonstration and lacked genuine enthusiasm. Two months ago Russia was singing the praises of the defender of Port Arthur, yet when he comes home comparatively few people assembled to welcome him.

THE WAR RENEWED.

Russian and Japanese Troops Engaged in a Great Battle.

London, March 1.—Fighting on a large scale is in progress between the Russian and Japanese army 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 Monday 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 centre. Much more serious are the Japanese operations against the Russian left wing, which threatened unless quickly checked to oblige General Kuropatkin to abandon the positions on the Hun river which he 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.

A GREAT GENERAL BATTLE.

St. Petersburg, March 1, 1.50 a.m.—Last night's news from Manchuria is of the most important nature, the Associated Press despatch from Mukden, which was transmitted at noon of Tuesday, indicating that a general battle was beginning along the whole of the 100 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 attack on the Russian left by a counter attack on the Japanese left, in which General Kaulbar's initial success is better for the Russians than the best efforts of General Gripenburg, the Russian vanguard being established at the outskirts of Sandiapu. At the same time General Kuropatkin delivered a blow against the Japanese centre, 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 and beaten off the attack on the centre.

The effect of yesterday's developments on Gen. 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.

RUSSIANS SEIZE BRIDGE.

Mukden, Feb. 28, 10 p.m.—The Russians have seized the head of the bridge across the Shakhe River in the centre of the Japanese lines, assisted by artillery firing of particular energy from Putiloff hill and Novgorod hill.

The seizure of the railroad bridge across the Shakhe River was the occasion of a sharp combat. The Russians succeeded in surprising the Japanese bridge guards and reinforced, beat off all attempts of the Japanese to regain possession of it.

The Japanese are using heavy siege artillery in the bombardment of Putiloff hill and Novgorod hill, and this is believed to be preliminary to an attempt to storm them. The losses to the defending forces are insignificant. The roar of artillery firing is echoing unceasingly from the mountains to the eastward to the low flats of the Hun river valley, the scene of General Gripenburg's repulse.

The fight seems to be developing in intensity along the whole line.

FIGHTING ALONG THE LINE.

Mukden, Feb. 28. (Noon).—Fighting is in progress today along the whole line, the Japanese attacking everywhere. All attacks this morning were beaten back and the Russians made counter attacks at many places. On the right flank the Russians occupied the position of Baotatzi, which is close to Sandiapu, and from that position hurled hand grenades across the intervening ravine into the Japanese trenches in Sandiapu, causing heavy loss and great disorder.

OFFICIAL ADVICES.

Washington, Feb. 28.—The Japanese legation received today the following official advice:

"Our detachment on Feb. 23 attacked the enemy at Chinghocheng, 10 miles east of Peshien. Strong snow storm and steep nature of ground and melting ice of Tatzuhe greatly hindered our movements, but by noon our first line managed to press closely the enemy's position and deliver a fierce attack. The enemy consisting of sixteen battalions with twenty guns and holding a strong position with several rows of defensive works, offered stout resistance. At the daybreak of Feb. 24 we renewed the attack, followed by a grenade fighting and in the evening Chinghocheng fell into our hands. The enemy routed northward, burning Chinghocheng, leaving on the field 150 dead. We captured three machine guns, a number of rifles and ammunition. Enemy's losses believed to be considerable. No case of frost-bite in our army."

Decreased Receipts.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

St. John, March 1.—Customs receipts for the month of February, 1905, were \$79,181.82, February, 1904, \$102,886.09. A decrease of \$23,684.27.

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TENDER FOR STATION.

Sealed Tenders, addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside "Tender for Station, St. Moise," will be received up to and including

TUESDAY, the 14th day of MARCH, 1905, for the construction of a Station Building and moving and remodeling the present Station at St. Moise, P. Q. Plans and specification may be seen at the Station Master's office at St. Moise, P. Q., and at the Chief Engineer's office, Moncton, N. B., where forms of tender may be obtained. All the conditions of the specification must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., 18th February, 1905. Feb. 24—d131

Intercolonial Railway.

TENDER FOR WHARF.

Sealed Tenders, addressed to the undersigned, and marked on the outside "Tender for Wharf," will be received up to and including

TUESDAY, the 14th day of MARCH, 1905, for the construction of a Pile Wharf and Addition to the Freight Shed at Georgetown, P. E. I. Plans and specification may be seen at the Station Master's offices at Georgetown and Charlottetown, P. E. I., and at the office of the Chief Engineer, Moncton, N. B., where forms of tender may be obtained. All the conditions of the specification must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager.

Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., 18th February, 1905. Feb. 24—d131

SIFTON RESIGNS.

Another Sensation in the Canadian Political World.

MINISTER OF INTERIOR OPPOSED TO EDUCATIONAL CLAUSE OF AUTONOMY BILL.

Provision May be Modified or Bill Dropped for This Session.

(Special to Daily Herald.)

Ottawa, March 1.—Hon. Clifford Sifton, minister of the interior, has resigned his position in the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on account of the introduction of the educational clause in the Northwest autonomy bill.

Mr. Sifton considers this clause establishes a dual system of schools, which goes far beyond that which is in existence in the territories, and furthermore seeks to divert a portion of a very large fund which will arise from the sale of school lands in the Northwest territories.

This fund constitutes an endowment provided by Parliament for public schools.

Mr. Sifton declines to support any proposition for the diversion of this fund from the control of the legislatures of the new provinces.

It is not known what action the government will take in view of the resignation, which will be announced in Parliament this afternoon.

BILL MAY BE DROPPED.

Ottawa, March 1.—Mr. Sifton's resignation is not generally known here yet, but those who know are discussing the situation.

The general opinion is that the educational clause of the autonomy bill will be changed to include nothing more than is contained in the Northwest Territorial Act regarding education.

If this is done the Northwest Liberal members will support the bill and it will go through.

What western members object to is the wording of the clause which they say contains authority for the establishment of a special system of schools.

Supporters of the clause say the intention is to maintain the present system and that the bill does not contemplate anything else.

Some say the bill will be dropped for this session.

THE OBJECTIONABLE CLAUSE

The following is the educational clause to which Mr. Sifton is said to object:

The provision of section 93 of the British North America act shall apply to the said province as if at the date upon which this act comes into force the territory comprised therein were already a province. The expression "the union" in the said section being taken to mean the said date, subject to the provision of said section 93 and in continuance of the principle heretofore sanctioned under the Northwest Territories Act.

It is enacted that the legislature of the said province shall pass all necessary laws in respect of education and that it shall therein always be provided that a majority of the ratepayers of any district or portion of said province or of any less portion or sub-division thereof by whatever name the same is known, may establish such schools therein as they think fit and make the necessary collections of rates therefor.

B. That the minority of the ratepayers therein, whether Protestant or Roman Catholic, may establish separate schools therein, and make the necessary assessments and collections of rates therefor.

C. That in such cases the ratepayers establishing such Protestant or Roman Catholic schools shall be liable only to assessment of such rates as they impose upon themselves in respect thereof.

In the appropriation of public monies by the legislature in aid of education, and in the distribution of any monies paid to the government of a province arising from the school fund established by the Dominion lands act, there shall be no discrimination between the public schools and the separate schools, and such monies shall be applied to the support of public and separate schools in equitable shares or proportion.

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