

THE WEATHER TODAY:
For North Carolina:
Fair.
For Raleigh:
Fair.

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TEMPERATURE:
Temperature for the
past 24 hours:
Maximum, 89.
Minimum, 73.

No. 122

RUSSIA'S WEAKNESS THE OPPORTUNITY OF JAPAN

In the Early Stages of the War the Czar's Army Might Have Been Overwhelmed With Slight Effort---The Situation Greatly Improved in the Last Few Weeks

London, July 16.—At last there is a clear authentic statement of the Russian military position in the far east, so far as terms which make the situation understandable by everybody. It comes in a long letter from Mukden, written by H. J. Whigham, one of the most war correspondents, who writes of the results of two months observation of the Russian force. He demonstrates how desperate was the Russian situation from the outbreak of the war until almost the date of his writing, in the middle of June, and points out that however great were the Japanese successes, they might have been far greater if full advantage had been taken of the Russian helplessness. The letter is so illuminating that the extracts which follow deserve careful attention.

"If we exclude the men necessary for guarding the railway and the small garrisons, there were not more than fifty thousand troops in southern Manchuria when the war broke out.

"It is freely asserted by the Russians themselves that, such being the strength of the Russian army, the Japanese, after the first torpedo attack February 8, could have landed a single army corps on the shores of Tallien bay or at Pitsawo, as they did later, and Port Arthur must have fallen.

"During February there was a small army in southern Manchuria that was advanced slowly, so slowly that the greatest fears about the carrying capacity of the railroad began to be entertained. Troops were landed at Harbin at a rate of less than five hundred a day, and there were days when no one came through. Not until the end of March did a steady flow of reinforcements begin.

"It was during this period of great uncertainty that General Kuropatkin arrived at Liao Yang. He found himself in command of an army of 65,000 men with less than 200 guns, strung out along a single line of railway from Liao Yang to Port Arthur, with one wing thrown out one hundred and fifty miles to the Yalu and the right flank absolutely unprotected except by a few guns in the old fort at New Chwang. The enemy had complete mastery of the sea.

Expeditious to Conceal Weakness

"All sorts of expedients were resorted to in order that the weakness should not be too apparent at New Chwang, where an attack was daily apprehended. Sixty field guns were detrained at the railway station but only two batteries had horses. The rest was there for show purposes only. Nearly every day troops marched through the foreign settlement to the fort and back again in order to give the impression that there was a large force in the neighborhood. When General Kuropatkin came to visit the port he was received by 5,000 men near the fort, of which 3,000 came with him from Tashichiao and returned with him the same afternoon. It was a repetition of the simple theatrical device by which twenty men are made to do for an army, but it had a certain effect.

"Some of the effects telegraphed to Europe was that there was a garrison of from 10,000 to 15,000 at New Chwang, whereas the entire force never exceeded, except on the day of the retreat, twenty-five hundred. But reinforcements were beginning to arrive and trains were bringing two thousand a day. Unfortunately, about the end of June a delay was caused by the breaking of a bridge near Chailin. Then there was a new hindrance when the ice of Lake Baikal began to thaw, and so there was two weeks that no troops arrived at Liao Yang. It is during the period which the Japanese sought to force the Yalu. General Kuropatkin did not have eighty-five thousand men of all arms, but he was better supplied with artillery, having 30 batteries of field guns besides a number of three pounders. Still he could not risk a serious battle at the Yalu because with the army distributed in so large a front he was running a serious danger of being cut to pieces.

Attempt to Relieve Port Arthur

"With an army of 90,000 men and Port Arthur in jeopardy, it seemed necessary to do something for its relief. Unfortunately for the Russians, it is practically impossible for even a much larger army to relieve Port Arthur so long as the Japanese command the sea, for any force advancing southward must leave both flanks and rear open to attack from the sea. That is why the Japanese had no need to hold the Liaotung peninsula in force north of Kinchow. When General Kuropatkin sent General Stakeberg with the first Siberian army corps to attempt its relief he was simply acting under instructions from St. Petersburg and not because he expected to help Port Arthur. As soon as we heard that General Stakeberg had gone to Wafangtien we expected disaster, and this is what happened. General Stakeberg, while endeavoring to turn the Japanese right flank, was suddenly hit on his own right and badly routed. The Japanese were apparently not greatly superior in numbers, but their artillery was infinitely better, both in numbers and in effectiveness, and their tactics, as usual, were perfect examples of how battles should be fought.

Estimate of Contending Armies

"Now the army of General Oku is advancing from the south and General Kuroki is coming from the southeast. When they meet a junction they will form a fighting unit of at least 100,000, and there is still the army of General Nodzu to come. General Kuropatkin has advanced to extricate General Stakeberg, who has lost (officially) 3,000, but probably 6,000, while the rest of his men are badly shaken.

"On the other hand the railway is every day making good the gaps in the ranks, and although the record for June is not so good as in May, troops are still arriving at the rate of 1,500 a day with a large quantity of artillery; so at the time of writing General Kuropatkin must have 110,000 men and not less than 280 guns. Considering that two more army corps are already on the way, he may be considered quite safe at Liao Yang so long as he does not risk another attempt to relieve Port Arthur.

"Meantime the railway is working well. The thirty-first division is beginning to arrive, and by early August the Manchurian army will be increased by two fresh army corps and at least 200 guns."

William Maxwell, another well known war correspondent, writing from General Kuroki's headquarters at the end of May, gives a careful summary of the Japanese forces. Japan up to this time has put in the field only 81,000 combatants and 34,000 non-combatants, making a total of 115,000. There were available 261,000 who had served three years in the ranks and most of whom are probably in the field by this time. Japan's total resources, without calling out the conscript reserves, are from 400,000 to 450,000, who have been trained for active service.

AMATEUR HOLD-UP

Bandits Ran After Dynamiting An Express Car

Houston, Texas, July 16.—Train No. 5 on the International, and Great Northern has been held up at Keechik, a small station about thirty miles west of Palestine. Five bandits, all young men and apparently amateurs, shattered the express car with dynamite and blew in the end of the second class coach, but without injuring any one of the passengers. One of the robbers was apparently badly hurt, as the explosion appeared to be premature and he was observed to be covered with blood.

MILNER GIVES CONSENT

London, July 16.—The Exchange Telegraph Company has received a dispatch from Pretoria stating that Lord Milner, high commissioner for South Africa, has consented to the burial of the body of ex-President Kruger there.

WASHED ASHORE

A Body Believed to Be That of Kent Loomis

London, July 16.—A body, believed to be that of Kent Loomis, brother of the American assistant secretary of state, who disappeared from the steamship Kaiser Wilhelm II just before she reached Plymouth, early on the morning of June 20, has been washed ashore near Kingsbridge on the Devonshire coast, which is about eighteen miles from Plymouth. A card of Kent Loomis was found on the body, but no dispatches were found. The body was found at 6 o'clock this morning. It is that of a man five feet, six inches in height, and was well dressed in a blue suit and grey overcoat. The pockets contained gold coin, a gold watch, and a card bearing the name of "J. Kent Loomis." The body was taken to some neighboring farm buildings to await the inquest.

RECEIVER FOR AN ELECTRIC COMPANY

Richmond, Va., July 16.—Judge Waddill of the United States district court early this morning named Henry T. Wickham of Hanover county and William Northrup of this city receivers for all the properties of the Virginia Passenger and Power Company in this city, Chesterfield county and the city of Petersburg.

Judge Waddill was in Norfolk and counsel for the Bowling Green Trust Company of New York, one of the creditors of the Passenger and Power Company, left here at 1 o'clock this morning for Norfolk where Judge Waddill was seen and the case was presented by counsel.

The move was made by the Gould interests to prevent the appointment of receivers by the corporation court of the city of Petersburg, where the application for a receiver has been under consideration before Judge Mullen for more than a week.

DECLINED TO SERVE

Defection From Roosevelt In Union League Club

New York, July 16.—There has been some talk at the Union League Club over the apparent refusal of some of the members recently appointed to form the club's campaign committee to serve on the body. At the last meeting of the club about sixty members were named to make up a campaign committee and the list was posted on the bulletin board. Since the list was hung up about half a dozen names have been obliterated by pasting over them slips of white paper. The inference is that these men have declined to serve and there has been talk in the club to the effect that the declinations had been sent in by members who are not in sympathy with President Roosevelt.

PACKERS AND BUTCHERS

Will Fight to a Finish

Reinstatement of Men Who Quit Their Work a Stumbling Block—Negotiations for Arbitration End in Disagreement

Chicago, July 16.—Reinstatement of all men who left their places on account of the meat strike proved a stumbling block in the way of peace at a joint conference held between the packers and representatives of the butcher workmen this afternoon. As a result peace negotiations have been declared at an end, and it will now be a fight to a finish. The strike leaders today conceded everything the packers asked as to the manner in which the differences should be arbitrated, but they refused to accept the offer to take the strikers back as fast as possible in the order they made application.

Accepting the plan of arbitration proposed by the packers, which would admit of a cut in wages, and agreeing to leave everything to impartial arbitration, President Donnelly asked if the packers would agree to reinstate all the men now out within seven days if the strike was called off. His original demand set the limit at three days. The packers replied that they would not consider such a request.

"Will you set a definite time within which you will reinstate them?" asked Donnelly.

The packers said they would not, and Donnelly said there was no need to discuss the matter further, as he would never consent to sacrifice any of the men who walked out. Donnelly said after the conference that foremen and even buyers and clerks have been discharged since the strike because of their refusal to do work in the slaughter houses, and he could not consent to see these men lose their places permanently, even if they were not members of the organization.

The working conditions were slightly improved at the stock yards today, according to the statements of officials. A representative of Nelson Morris and Company said there were 75 butchers at work in that plant. The number of hogs killed was 450, according to this official. The Armour plant also increased its output a little, it being asserted that 1,000 hogs were killed during the day and over 100 cattle.

Many of the largest retailers evidently knew two weeks ago that a strike was coming and they set about to lay in a two weeks supply. These butchers have assured the restaurants and hotels that they will not advance prices of large lots for at least a fortnight.

Chicagoans have thus far been affected less than the people of any of the other large cities in the country. The general increase in prices for meats here is slight as compared to that in some other cities.

POSITION IN PANAMA

Herman Gudger An Official in the Canal Zone

Asheville, N. C., July 16.—Special. Herman A. Gudger, son of Hon. H. A. Gudger, consul to Panama, has accepted the position of deputy collector of customs and shipping commissioner at Ancon, in the canal zone of Panama. This position was secured for Mr. Gudger through the instrumentality of friends on the isthmus. Mr. Gudger is well acquainted with the customs and manners of the people of Panama, and is thus especially fitted for the position to which he has been appointed. He has spent a number of years in Panama as secretary to his father, and only returned to this city about three or four months ago. He left the latter part of June for the Indian Territory with the expectation of locating in that section, but after remaining there a week he returned to Asheville and is now in Panama.

AS VILAS SEES IT

He Believes That Parker Will Be Elected

Esopus, N. Y., July 16.—Cohoes Democrats have sent the following telegram: "Hoes, N. Y., July 16. "One thousand paraded the streets of Cohoes last night in your honor. Big ratification meeting and banner thrown to the breeze. The first in this state. Great demonstration. "JOHN WALLACE, "M. T. SMITH."

THE ORIENT LIKES US

Attitude of Asiatic People Toward America

San Francisco, July 16.—Herbert H. D. Pierce, third assistant secretary of state, has just arrived here from an inspection tour of the American consulates in the orient on his way back to Washington.

He says that the attitude of oriental countries toward this nation is extremely favorable. This is particularly true of China. The policy of this country, diplomatically, with regard to China, has won the confidence of Chinese officials. They feel that the United States is not looking for territory and not trying to bleed the country, and that it is not true of any other nation which is seeking influence in the orient. For that reason all that can be done to favor this country commercially is done.

SPEECH BY CLAUDE KITCHIN IN DEMAND

Half a Million Copies Sent Out and the Printers Ordered to Deliver Hundreds of Thousands More---National Conventions Too Big for Proceeding With Deliberation

Washington, D. C., July 16.—Special. The speech delivered by Claude Kitchin prior to the adjournment of congress, dealing with strenuously in the executive chair, is the most popular document issued in the campaign thus far, and this fact is giving discomfiture to the Republicans. The Star, the administration organ, devoted more than a column this afternoon, seeking to make it appear that Mr. Kitchin's speech was a bitter personal attack on the president. As a matter of fact the most severe reflections on the president that Mr. Kitchin gave utterance to came from the mouth of General Grosvenor, the high priest of this administration.

The point of Mr. Kitchin's speech was that he used General Grosvenor's reflections and denunciation of Mr. Roosevelt, before he was nominated for the presidency, and finished his task by contrasting reckless statements of the Terrible Teddy. All of Mr. Kitchin's evidence and facts were taken from Republican sources.

The Star, however, does not fail to compliment Mr. Kitchin's effort, as the following paragraph bears evidence: "It was stated at the headquarters of the congressional committee at the Riggs House this morning that the organization has been unable to keep pace with the demands made for a speech delivered in the House of Representatives by Representative Claude Kitchin of North Carolina. Campaign pamphlets dealing purely with facts and figures, and dwelling upon Republican policies, go begging, whereas the pamphlets which have something to say of the president can hardly be printed fast enough to supply the Democratic demand."

HEADQUARTERS IN CHICAGO

Chicago, July 16.—Although Chairman George Cortelyou of the Republican national committee will spend the greater portion of his time at the New York headquarters, to be near the president, the coming campaign will be conducted largely from Chicago. As in 1896 and again in 1900, the main headquarters will be located in this city, rooms having been engaged at the Auditorium Annex.

Chairman Cortelyou and Secretary Dover are expected to arrive at Chicago July 30 or 31 and open the headquarters Monday, August 1.

CANDIDATES FOR SENATOR

Indianapolis, Ind., July 16.—Interest in the contest for the seat in the United States Senate which Mr. Fairbanks will vacate if elected to the vice presidency was heightened today by the formal announcement of the candidacy of Harry S. New, member of the national Republican committee for Indiana and soon to be appointed vice chairman. Congressman Hemmway is the leading candidate against New and his friends are making a fight to control the convention at which three state senators and seven representatives will be nominated. Mr. Hemmway is backed by Senator Fairbanks and Mr. New is said to have the indorsement of President Roosevelt, and it is along these lines that the battle is being waged.

SOLDIERS GUARD A WAGON

South Omaha, Neb., July 16.—United States military authorities and the striking packing house employees nearly clashed today and it became necessary for a detail of soldiers to accompany a meat supply wagon from Armour's through the ranks of the pickets.

During the morning one of the government wagons drew up before the packing house for the weekly supply of meat for Fort Creek. While this was being loaded strike pickets appeared and forced the driver to move on without his supply. An hour later the driver returned and with him came a squad of United States soldiers with their rifles. The meat was loaded without molestation and the wagon and soldiers returned to the fort.