

CHINESE ROUTED AT PING-YANG

AN ARMY OF TWENTY THOUSAND MEN PUT TO FLIGHT.

**The Great Battle of Sunday Morning
in Northern Korea—Sixteen Thou-
sand Chinamen Killed, Wounded,
and Made Prisoners—Ping-Yang
Now in Possession of the Japanese
Forces, and China Without an
Effective Army in Korea.**

LONDON, Sept. 17.—A Central News dispatch from Seoul, dated 6 P. M. Sept. 16, says a great battle has been fought at Ping-Yang, between the Chinese and Japanese troops, in which the former were utterly routed.

On Thursday a Japanese column from Pong-San made a reconnoissance in force, drawing the fire of the Chinese forts, and thus ascertained their positions. The column then fell back in good order, with little loss. By Friday night all the Japanese were in position for a combined attack upon the enemy. The Gensan column threatened the left flank of the Chinese, the Pong-San column threatening the Chinese centre, while the Hwang-Ju column operated against the right, which had been reinforced the day before by a detachment of marines from the fleet at the mouth of the Tai-Tong River.

The Chinese had utilized the old defenses at Ping-Yang and had thrown up new works, making the position an exceptionally strong one.

The battle was opened on Saturday at daybreak by a Japanese cannonade of the Chinese works, which was continued without cessation until afternoon, the Chinese responding. The work with the heavy guns showed good practice. At about 2 o'clock a body of infantry was thrown forward by the Japanese and maintained a rifle fire upon the enemy until dusk. Throughout the day only the Pong-San column was engaged. The Chinese defenses had suffered greatly, but the losses on either side were small, both the Chinese and Japanese having taken advantage of all the shelter available. The Japanese troops, however, had gained some advanced positions.

The firing continued at intervals during the night, and in the meantime two Japanese flanking columns had formed a cordon around the Chinese. At 3 o'clock in the morning an attack was made by the Japanese columns simultaneously and with admirable precision. The Chinese lines, which were so strong in front, were found to be weak in the rear, and here the attack was a perfect success. The Chinese were completely taken by surprise, and were thrown into a panic. Hundreds were cut down, and those who escaped death, finding themselves surrounded at every point, broke and fled. Some of Viceroy Li Hung Chang's European-drilled troops stood their ground to the eastward, and were cut down to a man.

The Pong-San column, swarming over the defenses in front, completed the rout. Half an hour after the attack was opened, the positions at Ping-Yang were in possession of the Japanese.

It is estimated that 20,000 Chinese soldiers were engaged in the battle. The Japanese captured immense stores of provisions, munitions of war, and hundreds of colors.

The Chinese loss is estimated at 16,000 killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. Among those captured by the Japanese are several of the Chinese commanding officers, including Gen. Tso Fung, Commander in Chief of the Manchurian Army, who was severely wounded.

The Japanese loss is only 30 killed and 270 wounded, including 11 officers. Most of the casualties among the Japanese occurred during the first day's fighting, and very few were the result of the night attack.

The Japanese forces are in active pursuit of the fugitives, who have thrown away their arms and readily yield themselves prisoners. A desultory war may be carried on for some time, but, unless China shall succeed in getting another army into the peninsula, Korea will undoubtedly remain in possession of the Japanese.

Within ten hours after the conclusion of the battle the military engineers had completed a field telegraph line from Seoul to Ping-Yang. A large number of prisoners were brought into the Japanese camp from houses in which they had hidden themselves during the final assault. Several thousand Chinese fled toward a valley to the northward, and, upon finding their retreat in this direction cut off, surrendered in a body. Ping-Yang is now being searched, in the belief that a number of important Chinese officers are in hiding in the city under the protection of friendly Koreans.

The number of Chinese who were killed in the battle is estimated at 2,300. The walls of Ping-Yang were badly shattered by the cannonade which was poured upon them by the guns of the Japanese, but the city itself is only slightly damaged.

The Japanese Emperor has telegraphed from Hiroshima, where the headquarters of the army is situated, congratulating Marshal Count Yamagata upon the success of the Japanese arms.

Marshal Yamagata has issued a general order commending the valor the troops have demonstrated on the battlefield. The order concludes with an expression of pride on the part of Marshal Yamagata at being in command of so brave an army.

A flying column of the Japanese army is pushing northward, with the object of taking possession of the mountain passes. At the same time a proclamation has been issued promising full protection to the Koreans if they will refrain from acts of hostility toward the Japanese. On the other hand, they are informed that if they give shelter to or engage in traffic with the Chinese they will be summarily dealt with by process of martial law.

A dispatch from Tokio says continuous artillery salutes are being fired in celebration of the victory of the Japanese army.

The Shanghai Mercury prints a special edition, containing dispatches from the front, and in its editorial comments on the result of the battle, expresses full appreciation of the crushing defeat and great slaughter of the picked troops comprising the Chinese army engaged. The paper dilates upon the consequences of the disaster to the Chinese arms, and expresses well-grounded fear of a speedy Japanese invasion.

Advices from Yokohama say that dispatches from Japanese headquarters at Hiroshima confirm the report of a Japanese victory at Ping-Yang.

A dispatch to the Central News from Shanghai says the Chinese are fearfully excited over the news of the defeat and great slaughter of the Chinese Army at Ping-Yang on Friday and Saturday.

Advices received at the Japanese Legation in this city officially confirm the report of the absolute and crushing defeat of the Chinese in the recent engagement at Ping-Yang.

Official advices from Tien-Tsin received at the Chinese Legation yesterday make no mention of a battle having occurred at Ping-Yang. Sir Halliday McCartney, Secretary of Legation, while admitting the possibility that the Chinese may have met with a serious reverse, does not accept as accurate the reports received from Seoul.

SHANGHAI, Sept. 17.—A Central News dispatch from Tokio says that four Chinese Generals, Tso Paokwei, Wei Jiukwei, Ma Yukoweng, and Sei Kinlin, together with 14,500 other officers and men, were taken prisoners by the Japanese at Ping-Yang. The Japanese outnumbered the Chinese three to one.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—Official confirmation has been received at the Japanese Legation of a general engagement between the Chinese and Japanese forces at Ping-Yang, near the northern frontier of Korea, on the 15th inst., resulting in a decisive victory for the Japanese forces. Details of the engagement are expected by the officials of the legation, and are looked forward to as of much importance, as promising the first authentic official news of the fighting in Northern Korea, respecting which so many conflicting reports have been published.

Mr. Miyaoka, Secretary of Legation here, who has been transferred to Berlin, not to Vienna, as reported, took leave this morning, and will sail on the steamship New-York for his new post of duty. He will be succeeded here by Mr. Amano, a man older than the Minister, who speaks, with more or less fluency, English, French, and German, reads Italian, and can write in Russian, and has been Secretary of Legation to the Governments of each of those countries.

No official information has yet been received at the legation of the progress of the fighting in the vicinity of Peking.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Sept. 17.—Advices received in this city from Yokohama state that a corps of trained female nurses has been dispatched from the Tokio Train-

ing School to the military hospital at Seoul, and others are being trained for this service.

Throughout all Japan the women have caught the war fever, and the greatest enthusiasm prevails. A number of women of high rank have offered to go to the seat of war as volunteer nurses, and others have even offered to raise a corps of female soldiers.

The Direct United States Cable Company issues the following: "Messages for Reunion and the following Madagascar ports, Tamatave, Stemarie, Diegosuarez, Nossiobe, and Mayotte, may be accepted till midnight on Saturday, the 22d instant."

The Great Northern Company reports that the latest messages received from Yokohama show over eight hours in transit.