

SIDE LIGHTS ON MUKDEN

Historic Capital of Manchuria
Captured by the Japanese.

HIGHLY VENERATED BY CHINESE

Birthplace of Manchu Emperors.
Consists of Two Cities, an Inner
and an Outer City—Holding of the
Latter—How Famous Treasures
Were Taken For Safety to Peking.

Richard H. Little, the Chicago News
correspondent in Manchuria, thus de-
scribes the city of Mukden, which has
been captured by the Japanese:

Mukden chiefly rejoices in its antiquity.
The city is the ancient capital of
the Manchu rulers of the dynasty that
now sits in Peking on the throne of
China. The history of the town goes
back eleven or twelve centuries. The
great wall around the present inner
city dates back three centuries. It is
forty feet high, twenty-two feet
wide and is in almost perfect preser-
vation. The walls inclose an area exact-
ly a mile square. There is a great
tower at each corner. The eight gates,
two on each side, one called the great
gate, the other the small gate, are dis-
tinguished as the great north gate, the
small east gate, and so on.

Outside the big wall is another city
which at a distance of a mile from the
big wall is encircled by a wall of earth
called the mud wall. This outer city
grew up in the same way that suburbs
grew up around the city. People first
started sloping just outside the city gates
to sell tea or rice or small trinkets to
the people from the country who came
into Mukden to trade. Thus were estab-
lished the markets. The people who ar-
rived after the city gates were closed.
Little communities grew up outside
each gate and spread along the big
highways leading to them. Finally
there were more people living outside
the wall than within. They needed, as
thought they needed, the protection of
a wall. Being too poor to build a wall
like the one that encircled the city
proper, they erected the mud wall.

Inside the big wall is the ancient palace
of the Manchus called the Chamber
of Forbidden Blue Pavilion. There
was formerly a wall around the
palace which took in a considerable
area and was called the Forbidden
City. After the Manchus captured
the Chinese three centuries ago and es-
tablished their rulers on the Chinese
throne this wall was taken down, but
the palace still remains as the ances-
tral home of the Chinese emperor of
the Manchu dynasty. The present em-
peror made a visit to the Chamber
a few years ago. He caused a special
road to be built all the way from Sin-
mintsin to Mukden, over which he jour-
neyed. An immense crowd was ex-
cited by the officials from the people about
the way to pay for the road. The people
convinced themselves with the
thought that any money they could
have a chance to get would be
of the greatest benefit, but the officials
squeezed most of the money. Instead
of grading the road they erected tem-
porary platforms covered with straw
and these, together with the bridges,
hardly held together long enough to
permit of the emperor passing safely
on his return journey.

The palace buildings are more than
four centuries old and are rotten and
crumbling, but they still present a
fairly good appearance. None is over
two stories high, and the architectural
arrangement of a temple. The pal-
ace is gorgeously painted in red and
green and has golden file roofs and
fendish grinning gargoyles. The pal-
ace was full of treasures of all
kinds sent to Mukden by the various
Manchu emperors at Peking. These
emperors seemed to be impressed with
the idea that they were not quite sure
just how firmly their throne was nail-
ed down in Peking and that possibly
some day they might make a very hurried
return to Mukden. So it seemed to
them that it would be a pious duty
to send on much treasure ahead, thus
providing against unforeseen contin-
gencies.

There were countless boxes in the
palace filled with jade vases, dishes
and jewelry of every description.
There was a pearl necklace that com-
missioners say is worth all the way
from \$250,000 to \$500,000. There were
dozens of other pearls of less
value. There were the robes of the
emperor, embroidered solidly in pearls
and other precious stones, and there
was the great crown of the Manchus,
which is covered with jewels. All
these wonders we have gazed upon.
The two mandarins in charge of the
palace liked to show the treasures, al-
though every time they were exhibited
they had to be taken down from dusty
cabinets and a half dozen pearls broken
and as many fresh ones put on
again when the treasures were replac-
ed.

In one room of the palace was a
great collection of all the bows and
guns that belonged to the long dead
Manchu emperors, saddles by the
score, bridles, swords and armor, and
everything studded with pearls, rubies,
turquoise and jade.

The custodians of the palace had
been greatly worried since the war be-
gan to know how to protect the jewels.
The palace walls are old and flimsy,
and a few lusty kicks would have
taken any energetic looter into the
body of holes, where the great crown
of the Manchus sparkled in the dim
light and the white pearl necklace lay
languidly on its blue plush bed. At
first the custodians did not think the
Japanese would ever come very close
to Mukden, but as the Russians were
forced back and back the terror of the
ancient mandarins grew. If the Japa-
nese bombarded Mukden, there was a

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possibility of the city being cut off
and everything destroyed, or in the
confusion of a bombardment the great
treasures, which had been lurking
in the city for just such an emer-
gency, would probably have made a
raid and carried away everything.
The coming of the Manchus de-
clared by the studies of Confucius that they
knew the Russian and Japanese troops
would not be so wicked as to loot the
palace, but it is very probable that they
had some lingering suspicion that dur-
ing the occupation of Peking by the
troops of all nations somebody did a
good deal of unlawful grabbing. The
palace custodians have been greatly
worried in looking over all these
questions, not only because they have
a patriotic pride in saving their em-
peror's jewels, but also because they
have a not ungrounded desire to save
their own heads, which would cer-
tainly be removed if any of the jewels
intrusted to their care were missing.

It is believed that everything in the
palace has been safely taken away and
that all the jewels and more valuable
articles in the palace collection have
been safely stored in Peking.
After the retreating Russian army
had left Peking there came reports
of how the Japanese shells fell into
the walled city and how several fires
were started. It is known that as the
Russians retreated a lot of Chinese robbers
helped themselves to whatever they
wanted and that as they finished the
Japanese advance guard came in and
drove them away and then went to
looting with great enthusiasm. While
it is said that the Japanese confined
their depredations chiefly to chickens,
eggs and everything that could be any
readily be carried as food and did
not take jewels or jade ornaments,
the crafty mandarins of the palace be-
lieved that there were no jewels or jade
ornaments in Peking and that if the
looters found themselves standing in
the great purple palace of the Manchus,
surrounded by pearl necklaces and
diamond studded saddles, they might
turn their attention from chickens and
eggs to things of greater value.

So it is said that forty carts speak
ed out of the palace grounds some time
ago under the escort of a heavy guard
of soldiers and left the city in the di-
rection of Sinmintsin. In these wagons
doubtless were stowed away the pre-
cious heirlooms and jewels of the
Manchus.

anyhow, it was a mean trick to play
on the hardworking chunchuns.

The reputation of the Chinese for
Mukden can perhaps hardly be real-
ized by occidental peoples, says the
New York Times. The feeling of the
English for Westminster abbey, of the
Italians for Rome, may serve to give



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an idea of it. But in the far east the
veneration for the past, as expressed
in the worship of ancestors, is usually
an important part of religious belief,
and for this reason Mukden is the most
sacred city in the whole great Chinese
empire. It was at Mukden that in the
year 1625 Nurhachi, the famous found-
er of that dynasty, established himself.
It was there that the ancestors of the
Manchu emperors were buried.

Four miles east of the city is the
tomb of the founder of the Manchu
dynasty, Nurhachi. The sepulcher itself
forms a great mound built up over the
cavity. In front of this stands a ter-
race hall, the whole being surrounded
by a high wall pierced by one grand
gateway, which looks three miles
long. The avenue of approach is span-
ned by two lofty and elaborate arches
of carved stone, the bases of their col-
umns resting on carved finenesses of
brass.

Mukden stands in the middle of a
great alluvial plain about 250 feet
above the level of the sea. All the soil
around it is rich and highly cultivated.
It is reported to have had a population
of 200,000, chiefly Chinese. The houses,
both those of the Chinese mandarins
and peasants and those of new build-
ing construction, are built on a mag-
nificent scale.

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Specimen Ballot
Town of Barrington, Election Tues-
day, April 4th, 1905.

Leroy Powers
Town Clerk

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Regular Nomination | <input type="radio"/> Petition Nomination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Supervisor
A. H. BOEHMER | <input type="checkbox"/> For Supervisor
H. H. WILLIAMS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Town Clerk
LEROY POWERS | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Assessor
JOHN C. PLAGGE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Collector
STEPHEN J. PALMER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Commissioner of Highways
HENRY BRINKER | <input type="checkbox"/> For Commissioner of Highways
HERMAN HOMUTH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For School Trustees
D. M. MILLER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Justices of the Peace
F. H. FREYE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Constables
H. M. HAWLEY | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JOHN BRASSEL | |

Specimen Ballot
Town of Ela, Election, Tuesday,
April 4th, 1905.

H. L. Prehm
Town Clerk

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> People's Ticket. | <input type="radio"/> Union Ticket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Town Clerk
H. L. PREHM | <input type="checkbox"/> For Town Clerk
H. L. PREHM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Assessor
FRED L. THIES | <input type="checkbox"/> For Assessor
FRED L. THIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Collector
WILLIAM TONNE | <input type="checkbox"/> For Collector
H. J. HAGGERTY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Commissioner of Highways
HENRY PEPPER, Jr. | <input type="checkbox"/> For Commissioner of Highways
HENRY PEPPER, Jr. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Justices of the Peace
D. HUNTINGTON | <input type="checkbox"/> For Justices of the Peace
D. HUNTINGTON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CHAS. W. KOHL | <input type="checkbox"/> GHAS. W. KOHL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For Constables
WM. C. GEHRKE | <input type="checkbox"/> For Constables
WILLIAM SPUNNER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRED HOEFT | <input type="checkbox"/> FRED HUNTINGTON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For School Trustee
E. A. FICKE | <input type="checkbox"/> For School Trustee
E. A. FICKE |

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