

OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE.

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OREGON CITY, OREGON, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1900.

ESTABLISHED 1866

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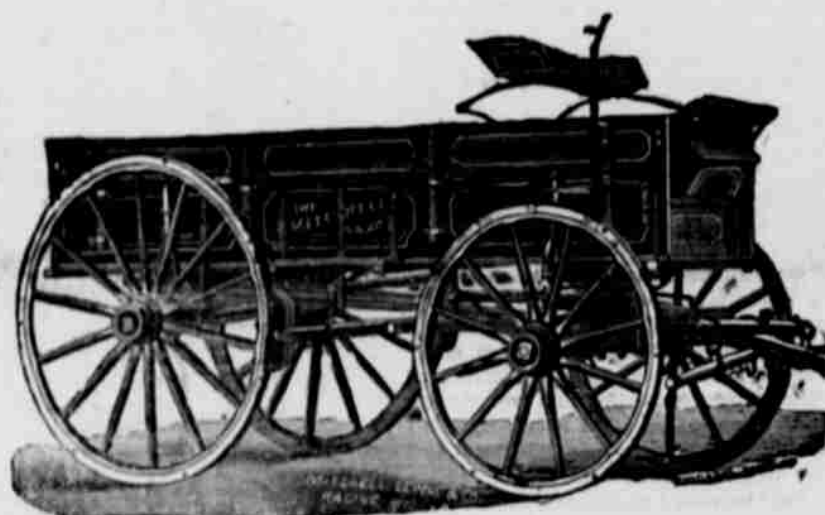
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WAR NOT DECLARED

No Formal Declaration by Russia, Germany or Japan.

CZAR PROTECTING HIS FRONTIER

United States Will Not Sacrifice Its Rights in China at the Invitation of Any Power.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Russia, Germany and Japan have not declared war upon China either separately or in concert. This statement is made upon authority of the highest character. What those nations may do in the next 48 hours or within the next fortnight is a question which no one in Washington is prepared to answer.

A brief dispatch from Che Foo, conveying a rumor current there that Russia, Germany and Japan had joined in a declaration of war upon China, aroused some interested comment among Washington officials and among representatives of foreign governments resident here. Neither in official nor diplomatic circles, however, was the rumor taken seriously. No information of such action has reached either the State department or the legations of the governments primarily interested. The fact is accepted in official circles as a sufficient refutation of the rumor. Officials of the state, war and navy departments were at their desks early today, but up to the hour of closing for the day not a word had been heard from Minister Conger, General Chaffee or Admiral Remy. Since the dispatch from Consul Fowler was received late last Thursday night, the state department has received no advices from any sources in China except a brief cablegram from Minister Conger inquiring how he should route his messages. The text of the dispatch, which, it was explained, was very brief and purely administrative in character, was not made public.

The war department has received no dispatch from General Chaffee known to have come directly from him for about a week. Cablegrams signed "Chaffee" have been received, but as they contained only lists of casualties, it is assumed that they were sent by some subordinate officer in General Chaffee's name. From no official source has the department learned of the departure of 40 Americans from Peking for Tien Tsin, as reported in a special dispatch to a London newspaper under date of August 19. Advices from General Chaffee are expected hourly, as the military telegraph line between Tien Tsin and Peking, which has been interrupted, has been repaired. Imperative instructions were sent yesterday to the commander of the United States forces at Tien Tsin to have the line restored at once, under the protection of a cavalry detachment.

A suspicion exists here that the delay in messages both from and to Washington, is rather between Che Foo and Shanghai than between Tien Tsin and Peking. From Che Foo to Shanghai the telegraph line is in control of the Chinese authorities, and it is suspected they are not as prompt in the transmission of messages as they might be.

In the absence of official information from China or from United States officers there, interest today centered in the diplomatic phases of the existing trouble. The rumor of a declaration of war by Russia, it is explained, may have grown out of the operations of the troops of the czar in the protection of the southeastern frontier of his empire, or it may have arisen from the reported statement of the commander of the Russian forces at Peking that his government was at war with China and therefore he must prohibit communication with the Chinese. Neither the operations of Russia on her frontier nor the prohibition by a Russian general of communication with the Chinese would constitute, it is said, a declaration of war by Russia. No general could declare war. Even his statement that his government had declared war would not make it so.

A declaration of war, it is pointed out by the best authority, is a perfect, distinct and obvious proceeding. In this country a declaration of war may be made only by congress. Among European nations the method of procedure is simpler but quite as obvious. War is declared by them by edict or proclamation. It may be a declaration of war or it may be the official recognition that a state of war exists. In either event the news of such action would be published to the world immediately.

PLAN TO ATTACK MANILA.

Letters Found on Ricart Disclose Filipino Schemes.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—The war department has made public letters found among the papers of General Ricart, who was arrested by the police near Manila. Among them is an unsigned letter in regard to an attack on Manila in January, 1900. It states that the reason for not carrying out the proposed at-

tack was because of the small number of resolute persons stationed at the gates, and because General Otis had gone aboard a ship in Manila Bay. Another attack was planned, but not carried out because the enemy made a careful search of the city as a result of disturbances the previous day. The letter advises another attack and outlines the following plan:

"Recruit in your command of South Luzon, 3000 men of daring and steadiness. These will enter the walled city armed with knives. The entrance of this number of men will be effected during a period of about three weeks. It will be very easy for the men to do this, and place themselves in safe places, while the rest are arriving. As soon as they all get in I will give the necessary instructions to direct and arrange for co-operation in the blow on the said point of the walled city."

After making suggestions as to the raising of funds, the letter continues:

"At the same time, with all due honor and respect, I inform you, general, that it is my strong belief that to receive a favorable termination of this present campaign in which we suffer defeat continually, not any one of which is of much importance, but they diminish the desire of we Filipinos to pursue with the necessary ardor the longed-for liberty and independence of our dear country. There is no other way of attaining this than by carrying out the blow in the city of Manila, since that piece of land, surrounded with high and massive walls, once taken, we shall be able to dominate its suburbs and, as the foreigners live in them, we shall be forced to have direct relations with them. Yes, general, I agree with persons of greater ability than I that the burning of a few foreign commercial establishments will be sufficient to give a new color to the present critical conditions in the Philippines, but permit me, general, to state my case briefly. How would the foreigners and Americans come to an agreement in regard to the damage and prejudice such a conflagration would cause? How would we find out their agreement? If the property of the foreigners is burned and nothing more is done, we shall not obtain their valuable aid; we shall never get it; but, if in addition, we succeed in obtaining possession of the said walled city, then with our heads nobly erect, we can demand what we want of them and of the enemy, because they first will have to submit to our authority as soon as we can dominate the place where they are."

"I state this, general, for your opinion so that if you approve it I can proceed to make the necessary preparations and arrange, fairly definitely, the movements to take place in the various places, and the proper signals. I hope, general, that you will approve this plan, which is one of the proofs of the ardent patriotism of this, your humble subordinate."

The following, apparently addressed to General Ricart, as chief of the operations about Manila, and signed by Mariana Trias, Lieutenant-General follows the above:

"In answer to your communication, in

which you inform me of your desire to place yourself at the head (in command) of the forces that are to attack if we operate against Manila: I must make known to you the great satisfaction that such a desire produces in me, for just that was the only detail wanting to complete the work of our revolution, and places in an awkward position the so much boasted good policy of the enemy, who, as an ultimate result, would be the only one to pay the fiddler. If your action is carried out in a satisfactory manner, and then there would be appropriate work to extol such determination which, though it will not end the war, nevertheless enough will have been done for the triumph of our cause, and on the part of this government you may be assured that no means will be begrudged to give you as much help and support as you may need to carry out a happy termination of the enterprise."

Another letter, dated June 17, 1900, to Ricart, and signed Mariano Berroga, fixes the 28th of June as the date for the attack. Julian Montalan, on June 4, informs the general of division that the "several juntas will be ready when called out." Another document, dated March 4, 1900, directs a regiment to shed the last drop of blood, if necessary, to carry out the program, and threatens death under the military code to those who do not assemble at the appointed places.

September Weather.

The following data, covering a period of 28 years, have been compiled from the Weather Bureau records at Portland, Or. Month, March for 28 years.

TEMPERATURE.

Mean or normal temperature, 61 deg. The warmest month was that of 1888, with an average of 66 deg. The coldest month was that of 1896, with an average of 57 deg. The highest temperature was 93 deg on the 11th, 1886. The lowest temperature was 36 deg. on the 21st, 1895. Average date on which first "killing" frost occurred in autumn, Nov. 26. Average date on which last "killing" frost occurred in spring, April 11.

PRECIPITATION

(Rain and melted snow). Average for the month, 1.75 inches. Average number of days with .01 of an inch or more, 8. The greatest monthly precipitation was 4.25 inches in 1884. The least monthly precipitation was 0.00 inches in 1873. The greatest amount of precipitation recorded in any 24 consecutive hours was 2.98 inches on the 10th, 1888.

CLOUDS AND WEATHER.

Average number of clear days, 12; partly cloudy days, 10; cloudy days, 8. WIND. The prevailing winds have been from the northwest. The highest velocity of the wind was 45 miles from the south on the 23, 1897. Station: Portland, Oregon. Date of issue, Aug. 25, 1900. EDWARD A. BEALS, Forecast Official, Weather Bureau.



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