

PRISONERS IN PEKIN

Members of the Foreign Legations Are in Danger.

SLOW MARCH OF RELIEF COLUMN

One Hundred Thousand Chinese Troops Guarding the City's Gates—Foreigners May Seize Taku.

LONDON, June 15.—This is the situation in China. It appears that the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express, writing last evening:

"It is really a state of siege. The members of the foreign legations in Peking are virtually prisoners. The Chinese troops are only restrained from attacking them by fear of the Legation guards. Monday the Ministers are altogether unable to come to the frontiers. The commanders of the relief column, which is made up of an enforced and isolated band of men from Tien Tsin and Pekin. The walls of the capital are guarded by 300,000 Imperial troops. The gates are heavily defended with modern guns. General Tung, acting under orders from the Empress Dowager, says that no more foreign troops should enter the sacred city.

"Monday the Ministers sent a demand to the Tzuang Hui Yamen that the gates be opened, declaring that otherwise the foreign troops would enter forcibly. To this reply was given. A second message was unanswered, or had not been answered when the latest news left Pekin. Sir Charles MacDonald's latest message says that the Legation is capable of sustaining an effective defense unless attacked in force.

Russia, this correspondent asserts, notwithstanding assurances to the contrary, sides with China. Some of the foreign troops are already reported to be in the environs of Pekin, and the attitude of the Chinese troops is increasingly menacing.

"The streets of Pekin," continues the correspondent of the Daily Express, "are reported to be nothing but anti-foreign mobs clamoring for the destruction of the Legations and the death of the foreign Ministers. Even were the Tzuang Hui Yamen disposed to restrain the violence of the reactionaries, it is considered highly improbable that they would be able to hold them in check. For the foreign Ministers the crisis will arise when the relief column enters Pekin. The relief column is the foreign troops who are sent to battle with the horde of Chinese troops massed outside the gates, which now include the Imperial troops from Shan Hai Kuan.

A disquieting element in the situation is the fact that, although the Russo-Chinese telegraph line from Pekin, via Khabarovsk (Eastern Siberia), is working, the transmission of messages is rigidly refused. From Tien Tsin it is reported that the foreign forces in the harbor will attack the Taku forts, and, if necessary, bombard them.

The international column appears to be still at Long Pan, engaged in slowly re-organizing the railway. The dispatch from Tien Tsin to the Daily Mail, dated June 14, cannot be effected for weeks. The force is short of provisions, and, as it is without rail transport, it must march to the railway.

The report that the mixed forces will seize the Taku forts is taken to mean that the foreign commanders expect no aid from the Chinese. They are determined to make Taku secure as a base from which to operate.

NO REPORT FROM CONGER. Army Troops in the Philippines May Be Withdrawn.

WASHINGTON, June 15.—Nothing has come to the State Department from Minister Conger at Pekin since last Tuesday evening, and the officials have settled in the belief that the destruction of the relief column reaches the Chinese capital will Conger be able to resume the use of the cable.

It is ominous that nothing has been heard from the United States Consul at Chin Kiang since his first appeal for the sending of a warship to that point, and it may be that, too, has been isolated. The Consul at Chefoo is in a better position, for a cablegram received at the Navy Department today says the gunboat Yorktown arrived at that port. She will probably be at Chefoo on the way to Taku. She is within the range of the relief column and can be summoned by Admiral Kempff if he needs reinforcements, at short notice. It is probable, however, that the Yorktown will serve better the purpose of remaining in the vicinity of Chefoo as the Boxers are reported to be active in that section.

Admiral Rowley called the Navy Department as follows: "Captain, June 15.—At Kempff's request I shall send the Iris about the 20th with coal and stores for 300 men for three months. The Iris is a big collier and 4,000-ton ship. Nine hundred men make up the personnel of the flagship Newark, the gunboat Yorktown, and the gunboat Taku, and can be summoned by Admiral Kempff if he needs reinforcements, at short notice. It is probable, however, that the Yorktown will serve better the purpose of remaining in the vicinity of Chefoo as the Boxers are reported to be active in that section.

LANDING OF FOREIGN SOLDIERS. Japan Refused to Be Outdone by Russia.

NEW YORK, June 15.—A special to the Herald from Washington says that the Russian and Japanese troops are on their way to Pekin. These forces are supplementary to those landed by the naval squadrons at Taku, and so far as known here are sent without seeking the approval of the other powers. Certainly the United States has not been apprised of the Russian and Japanese troops, bent on counterbalancing the preponderance of British marines in the relief column, ordered her troops to proceed from Fort Arthur. Upon being informed of the action of the St. Petersburg Government, and of the murder of one, and perhaps three regiments, de-king, Japan decided that its interests de-

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