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BATTLE BETWEEN BOXERS AND BRITISH

Forty Chinese Killed by a Body of Marines.

AMERICANS ASK FOR CRUISER

United States Government to Take Prompt Action to Protect Its Citizens, But Will Enter into No Political Intrigue With Other Powers in China.

LONDON, June 12.—Sixteen British marines, reconnoitering in advance of the international column marching to Peking, fought and chased 2,000 Boxers on Monday, killing twenty or thirty.

A correspondent accompanying the column, in a dispatch dated at Tien Tsin, June 11, says:

"While working parties, accompanied by a patrol of sixteen British marines, commanded by Major Johnson, were repairing the line Monday afternoon, three miles beyond Lofa, they encountered small parties of Boxers who were destroying the line. The Boxers moved away from the advancing marines and apparently dispersed into the country, leaving the rails moved and the sleepers burning. The marines, when two miles in advance of the first train near Lang Fang, suddenly perceived the Boxers streaming from the village on the left. It was estimated that they numbered 2,000, some of them being mounted, and they were trying to get between the marines and the train. The marines retreated, keeping up a running fight for over a mile, killing between twenty and thirty of the Boxers. The Boxers pursued the British for some distance. Then, seeing more marines from the train coming to their assistance, Major Johnson's sixteen halted and poured a heavy and continuous fire into the crowd, driving them across the front of the reinforcing bluejackets, who punished the Boxers severely with their Maxims. The Boxers fled and, the Europeans following up their success, cleared out two villages.

"The total loss of the Boxers is estimated at forty killed and wounded. The British loss was nothing. Unless their loss causes the Boxers to lose heart, the international column will have much trouble before it reaches Peking.

"Evidences of General Nieh's operations were found in headless bodies. The whole country presents a desolate aspect, entire villages having been deserted.

"The expedition numbers 2,044, as follows: British, 915; German, 250; Russian, 300; French, 128; Americans, 104; Japanese, 52; Italians, 40, and Austrians, 25."

The Times, in an extra edition, publishes the following dispatch from Peking, dated June 12:

"The chancellor of the Japanese legation, Sugiyama Akira, while proceeding alone and unprotected on an official duty, was brutally murdered by the soldiers of Tung Fuh Shiang, the favorite bodyguard of the empress, at Manigate railroad station yesterday."

WASHINGTON, June 12.—The following dispatch was received at the state department today:

"Chin Kiang, June 12.—Secretary of State: A large number of natives, members of the organized secret society, are halted here. The people are very apprehensive, having no protection. They want a cruiser sent."

"MARTIN." Martin is United States consul at Chin Kiang.

The cabinet meeting was attended by Secretaries Hay, Hitchcock, Long and Gage, and Postmaster-General Smith. It was devoted largely to the discussion of the Chinese situation. Secretary Hay laid before the cabinet the dispatches from Minister Conger, which indicates that the situation is very critical. The steps that have been taken to reinforce Admiral Kempff were gone over.

It was decided to stand by the policy which has been entered upon of pushing measures for the protection of lives and property of American citizens and acting independently as far as possible. It may be that in the accomplishment of this result, the forces of the powers will have to act in unison for the protection of all foreign residents in the disturbed districts, but this is to be the extent of the American activity. The Chinese government will be looked to under the general laws of the country of nations to restore order and to make such reparation as is proper. From any political schemes in which any of the powers may become involved, the United States is to hold aloof. This is the general policy heretofore outlined, and it will be adhered to.

The navy department has cabled discreetly to Rear-Admiral Kempff at Taku, to inform him that marine reinforcements have been ordered to him from Manila.

GOVERNING THE SOUTH AFRICANS

England Has Decided Upon Plan of Civil Settlement.

RUMORS OF BOER SUCCESS

Statement That Steyn is Again in Bloemfontein Discredited in London—Important Strategic Move by British Troops.

LONDON, June 12.—It is learned by the Associated Press that the government has at last decided upon a plan for the civil settlement of South Africa. The details are kept most secret, but it can be safely said that the Orange River colony and the Transvaal will become crown colonies. Sir Alfred Milner, it is declared, is to be high commissioner of South Africa, in spite of the opposition he has incurred.

The crown colony form of government can be best understood with reference to the system in vogue in the West Indies, Sierra Leon and Ceylon. Endeavors will be made to put this in force as soon as possible in the Transvaal and Orange River colony, though it is scarcely expected that the details will be announced or some parts of the work be begun for a few months.

While the civil settlement will be drawn up so as to be eventually independent of military enforcement, it is realized that the initial work must be effected with the co-operation of the troops.

The colonial office is said to be of the opinion that the maintenance of good-sized garrisons at such centers as Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Johannesburg and Pretoria will be necessary for a long time after the crown colony system gets in working order. For this reason, and others put forward by Sir Alfred Milner, the idea of granting an autonomous form of government has been abandoned.

LONDON, June 12.—The war office posts the following dispatch from General Buller:

"Headquarters in Natal, June 11.—We have forced Almond's Nek. It is not marked on the map, but is the last defile to Charlestown Flats. The enemy were in considerable force, with several guns in position. The brunt of the fighting fell upon the Second Dorsetes, who carried the position at the point of the bayonet, and the Third Cavalry Brigade, who were heavily attacked on our right from the very broken country around Ikellim mountain. I hope our casualties are less than 100, which, considering the extreme length of the position, is much less than expected.

"The whole attack was directed by Hildyard, whose dispositions were extremely good. The artillery, Tenth Brigade and Third Cavalry did most of the work."

The war office has received the following dispatch from General Kelly-Kenny:

"Bloemfontein, June 12.—Our troops from the north are at Hoening Spruit (south of Roodeval, where the Boers cut the British lines of communication) having defeated the enemy. They will be at America siding tomorrow at 8 a. m. General Knox moves out from Kroonstad to intercept the enemy. Fuller particulars later."

LONDON, June 12, 9:12 p. m.—The war office has issued the following from Buller to the secretary of war:

"Joubert's Farm, June 12, 5:12 p. m.—We are encamped four miles north of Volkrust. Laing's Nek and Majuba were completely evacuated by the Boers last night. General Cleary, from Ingogo, is now coming over the Nek. I have had to camp here for want of water. A correct list of yesterday's casualties will be sent as soon as received."

A plentiful crop of reports has been filtering through Lourenco Marques. According to these, General Dewit, with 13,000 burghers, is marching on Johannesburg, the Boers have retaken Bloemfontein, where President Steyn again occupies the presidency, the British having sustained a severe defeat at Elandsfontein, lost 750 killed and wounded and 150 prisoners in a fight at Vredefort.

ANTIS TO FIRE THEIR FIRST GUN

Ohio Democrats Will Hold State Convention Today.

CHICAGO PLATFORM GHOST

Resolutions Indorsing Unlimited Coinage—Boes McLean Has Everything His Own Way—Dewey for Vice-President.

COLUMBUS, O., June 12.—The McLean men controlled the preliminary meetings today, but they are evidently playing for harmony more than for places, and may not carry out the same program in the democratic state convention tomorrow. John R. McLean's friends are in the majority on the new state central committee that was selected this evening and will select the campaign chairman and the members of the state executive committee at a later date. It is claimed that the McLean men who are securing control of the party organization tonight for another year have all they wanted, and although they could carry everything tomorrow as they also have a majority on the convention committee, that here will be a free for all contest for the state ticket and delegates and alternates at large to the Kansas City convention.

The opposition to McLean comes from the silver extremists. The ultra silver delegates also appear to be dissatisfied with the proposition to endorse Dewey for the vice-presidential nomination.

The platform, which will be submitted to the committee on resolutions tomorrow, was in the main prepared by General A. J. Warner. It reaffirms the Chicago platform.

General Warner is president of the American Bimetalle League and a pioneer advocate of unlimited coinage, but, in explaining his platform, he said there had been more important issues raised since 1896 than the restoration of silver to its constitutional place in coinage. He spoke of "the mission of the constitution under the administration of imperialism, militarism, conquest, aggression and corruption" as the greatest danger that ever threatened the country. He also held that the trusts outranked silver now as an issue.

CLARK HONORED.

Montana Democratic Convention Endorses the Willy Senator.

BUTTE, Mont., June 12.—Democrats who left the Silver Bow county convention yesterday and organized a convention of their own, today named a full delegation to represent this county in the state convention. Senator Wm. A. Clark heads the delegation. Their resolutions set forth that the organization of a separate convention was necessitated by the actions of the faction in control of the party machinery, and the refusal of the convention of yesterday to accord to the other side any voice in the proceedings.

The actions of Hon. Wm. A. Clark, in his endeavors to prevent the debasement of the ballot in this state are endorsed, and Congressman Campbell's course, in congress and in the senatorial investigation is denounced, and the resolutions call him "a moral and political leper" whose proper place is before the bar of justice instead of in the house of representatives.

VICTIMS OF EDMONTON TRAIL

Arrive at Wrangle After an Absence of Two Years.

WRANGLE, Alaska, June 8, via Seattle, June 12.—James McLaggan of North Dakota, J. L. Hewn, of Edmonton, B. C., and H. Calbert, of Amesburg, Mass., victims of the ghastly Edmonton-Dawson trail, came down the Sticken river from Glenora, B. C., today, on the steamer Strathcona.

They are a party of five that left Edmonton two years ago and reached the Upper Liard post.

They found considerable fine gold on the river bars, but not in sufficient quantities to pay. They spent the winter at Glenora, B. C., and are to start for Nome, via Skagway, by the first boat going north.

WILL GO TO EUROPE

Habbi Wise of Portland Chosen Delegate to International Congress.

PORTLAND, June 12.—A special to the Evening Telegram from New York says:

The third annual convention of the Federation of American Zionists was brought to a conclusion last evening. President G. Gotthel, Stephen S. Wise, of Portland, Or., Rev. D. Schaeffer, of Baltimore, and Rev. B. Feisenfeld, of Chicago, were elected delegates to the central committee on the international congress in London on August 12.

RUSSIAN BANKER HERE

M. Rothstein, Arrives in New York, Causing Considerable Comment.

NEW YORK, June 12.—There is some comment in banking circles over the presence of M. Rothstein, of St. Petersburg, in this city. His visit to this country is said to be in the interest of a large Russian Government Railway loan.

Mr. Rothstein called on President Stillman, of the National City Bank. Mr. Stillman said later that it was absurd to talk about the floating of Russian bonds when even the United States bonds are not in active demand, and the presidential election is coming on.

SCREENS AND SCREEN FRAMES, FIRE AND DRAUGHT SCREENS....

A NEW CONSIGNMENT JUST RECEIVED

FOLDING BEDS
MANTEL BEDS
CHINA CLOSETS and
LIBRARY CASES

Nothing from any other sources lends color to these stories, with the exception of the last, which is probably the Boer version of the disaster to the battalion of the Derbyshire regiment at Roodeval. In regard to President Steyn being at Bloemfontein, a dispatch from Maseru, Basutoland, dated June 11, says Steyn was then at Vredevet, 200 miles from Bloemfontein.

General Buller appears to be making substantial progress, and ought soon to be occupying the railroad at Charlestown, whence presumably he will advance with Hoberis.

A dispatch from Lichtenburg, dated June 11, says 60 Johannesburg mounted

police with a Maxim gun have surrendered to General Hunter.

A probable explanation of the reports that the British force is moving through Swastland comes in a dispatch from Port Elizabeth, dated June 11, announcing the return there of the British cruiser Doris from Koos Bay, whither she had taken a number of whaleboats with the object of landing an armed force, presumably part of a plan to penetrate into Swastland. The Boers, however, got wind of the expedition, and the force was not landed.

According to a Cape Town dispatch, the cabinet crisis continues. It is added that should Premier Schreiner succeed to the bond, as he threatens, his action would place the minority in the assembly.

Among the members of the Yeomanry killed at Lindley was W. T. Power, proprietor of the Canyon ranch in North Texas, and a son of Sir W. T. Power.

LONDON, June 12.—Two pieces of news encouraging to the British in the official dispatches are that the broken communications of Lord Roberts are in a fair way to be mended by the forces moving northward and southward and driving off the roving commandos, and that Sir Redvers Buller is at last master of Laing's Nek. Telegraphic communication with Lord Roberts is expected to be restored today, as a dispatch from Bloemfontein, dated yesterday, says the railway is in British possession again and that the work of repairing the line is going on rapidly with abundant material warehoused at Bloemfontein.

From the subjoined telegram it would appear that General Hunter was in command of the troops referred to by General Kelly-Kenny in his dispatch from Bloemfontein, June 12:

"General Hunter is coming up rapidly from the northwest, having severely defeated a large commando of Boers who had destroyed two miles of the railway north of Kroonstad."

The war office casualty returns up to June 9 aggregate 23,664, besides 752 officers and 12,353 men sent home as invalids, but not including the sick in the South African hospitals.

LONDON, June 12.—It is officially announced that General Buller reports Almond's Nek has been forced.

NEW YORK, June 12.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: Bad news from the Free State comes out slowly from the war office. The line of communication was cut on Wednesday, the day after Lord Roberts entered Pretoria, but the fact was not admitted until Saturday, nor the truth revealed until yesterday that there had been severe fighting at Roodeval, and that the militia battalion of the Derbyshire regiment and other details had been taken prisoners. These details were guarding the railway where the Boer raiders struck the line of communications, and their casualties were severe, about a hundred being killed and wounded. So far as reported, the defense of the militia was clearly vigorous, but the force was outnumbered, and the Boers were enabled to destroy the railway for over 20 miles.

Lord Methuen, after reaching Lindley by a forced march from the railway, left a garrison there and headed for Hellbro to join General Colville, but was fighting with a Boer force on Thursday within 10 miles of his destination. Whether this force was returning from Roodeval with its prisoners or was an auxiliary column hovering about Hellbro, is uncertain. Apparently the raiding column remained on the railway for several days, for a casualty list reached General Knox at Kroonstad under a flag of truce. General Kelly-Kenny has ordered General Knox to go north, but the direction taken by the raiding forces is not known. General Paget's garrison at Lindley would appear to be in imminent danger.

This unfavorable news has caused keen disappointment in military circles here, but there is no disposition on the part of well-informed men to censure Lord Roberts.

The Free State forces have delivered an effective counter stroke and have taken over a thousand prisoners at Lindley and Roodeval. They have thrown the British campaign into disorder by their brilliant strategy, and have learned by experience how much mischief they can cause by harassing the British line of communications.