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CABLEGRAM FROM CONGER GENUINE BUT PROBABLY WRITTEN TWO WEEKS AGO

Sly Chinese Officials Succeed in Deceiving Secretary Hay by a Message Stating That the Ministers Are Still Alive.

RUSSIANS AND FRENCHMEN AIDED BOXERS AT TIEN TSIN

Stench of Burning Corpses Fills the Air--Russians Killed Wounded Chinese--500 French Soldiers Fled Precipitately Before the Boxers--Chinese Killed Women to Prevent Their Capture by the Russians--Chinese Emperor Asks for French Mediation and Reproaches Japan for Her Unneighborly Conduct.

LONDON, July 21.--The Conger dispatch fails to carry conviction to either the British press or public. Its genuineness is not disputed, for, as is pointed out here, the Chinese must possess quite a sheet of such messages, which the minister fruitlessly endeavored to get transmitted, from which they could easily select a non-committal dispatch to serve the required purpose.

It is supposed that Conger omitted to destroy his cipher, code and that this is now in the possession of the Chinese, in which event the selection or concoction of dispatches would not be difficult. It is argued that the dispatch, if it were a genuine reply to an inquiry of the American government would go more into details. A slight ray of hope is admitted in the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Conger are known to have been on very friendly terms with the empress dowager, but the universal opinion here is that if the dispatch is genuine, the date is falsified.

The bare possibility that the news of the massacre was premature, however, has had its effect, and the government has issued a semi-official disclaimer of responsibility for the proposed memorial service in St. Paul's Cathedral, while the newspapers are calling for a postponement of the service until all doubts are set at rest. Dispatches from Yokohama announce that another division of Japanese troops is en route for China, accompanied by a siege troop for the reduction of Peking.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail asserts that Emperor Kwang Su telegraphed to the Mikado an expression of regret for the murder of the Japanese chancellor, of Peking, and pointed out that the community of interests between China and Japan in the east against the ambitions of the Western powers should lead the Japanese emperor to make common cause with China and to assist in the restoration of peace.

The Mikado, according to this correspondent, replied that the action of the insurgents was in complete violation of their international laws and that the murder of Von Kettler was a grievous offense. The Mikado added that the Chinese government should suppress the disorders and rescue the ministers, thus disarming the hostility of the Europeans. His majesty's dispatch concluded thus: "Japan is cordially friendly, and is only sending troops to rescue foreigners in Peking and to restore order. She has no ulterior objects hostile to China, and if proper measures are taken she is prepared to use her influence to conserve the interests of the Celestial Empire."

WASHINGTON, July 20.--Secretary Hay explained his reasons for placing reliance in the authenticity of Minister Conger's dispatch, saying it was a complete reply, in code, to the code message sent to him, and that its authenticity was vouched for by the Tsung Li Yamun. "Of course," said Secretary Hay, smiling, "I am not omniscient and may be fooled, but I cannot see how the authenticity of Minister Conger's cable can be questioned."

Secretary Hay says he attached no significance to the use of words "Chinese troops" in the message. They did not, in his opinion, mean that the Chinese government troops were besieging the foreigners. He seems to entertain little doubt but that the Chinese government itself was doing all in its power to suppress the Boxer insurrection.

WASHINGTON, July 20.--As soon as Minister Conger's cablegram had been

dispatch is an old one which had been intercepted by Chinese officials. While they refuse to make public the text of the message sent by Secretary Hay on the 11th inst. to Minister Conger, through Minister Wu, they say that the message received today from Minister Conger is a satisfactory reply to the one sent by Secretary Hay.

It is further pointed out in support of the authenticity of Minister Conger's message that the bombardment of which he speaks did not begin according to all accounts, until July 6, although the legations had been besieged and attacked prior to that time, but not with artillery.

ROME, July 20.--The Italian consul at Hong Kong telegraphs under date of Tuesday, July 17, that Li Hung Chang informed him that he was going to Peking to negotiate with the powers in compliance with a dispatch signed by the emperor and empress dowager. The consul asked him to forward a dispatch to the Italian minister, Signor Baggi, but Li Hung Chang replied that he had no means of doing so. Li Hung Chang, the consul reports, notified the directors of customs that they must obey orders from Canton, not from Peking. The viceroy of Nankin has given similar instructions for Shanghai.

PARIS, July 20.--The foreign office has received information from a Chinese source in which, however, certain reliance may be placed, that the foreign ministers at Peking have not been massacred. According to this information, on July 7 the ministers were attacked and the legations burned, but the foreigners succeeded in crossing the city to Prince Ching's palace, which was then barricaded, and the Europeans were holding their own up to the time the news left, July 9. Since then nothing has been heard from Peking.

NEW YORK, July 20.--The Presbyterian board of foreign missions today cabled to five stations in China formal permission to missionaries to leave the country at once if they deem it wise.

This action follows a resolution adopted at a special meeting of the board yesterday. The stations cover the entire Empire as far as it is open to communication at present. The missionaries addressed are Rev. George Cornwall, at Che Foo; Rev. Paul Bergen, Tsing Tau; Rev. George F. Fitch, Shanghai; Rev. Dr. H. V. Noyes, Canton; Rev. W. M. Campbell, Kiung Chow, Island of Hainan.

Rev. Dr. Leonard, secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society, cabled as follows to the Rev. Frederick Brown, Che Foo: "Give location of missionaries. Anxiety intense."

PARIS, July 20.--The Chinese minister at Paris has transmitted to M. Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs, for communication to President Loubet, a telegram from the emperor of China, which was despatched by the governor of Shan Tung, Thursday, July 19, asking the mediation of France with the foreign powers. The telegram makes no allusion to the foreign minister at Peking.

M. Delcasse informed the minister that Loubet's reply would be addressed to the French legation at Peking, where the Imperial government can obtain it, but first the government of the republic will wait until it is certain that the French minister at Peking is safe and sound.

NEW YORK, July 20.--A dispatch to the World from London says: The Daily Mail correspondent at Shanghai telegraphs under date of July 19:

"The Boxer menace is hourly approaching nearer. Shanghai city and the foreign settlements are full of suspicious characters, and in the native quarters a continually increasing number of armed Chinese are arriving from the north."

"The troops in the Woo Sung forts are being reinforced daily, and a number of new guns have been placed in position. The foreign consuls today presented a united protest against these offensive preparations. Viceroy Li Kun Yih replied that he had ordered the work of strengthening the forts to cease immediately, but the local commander still persists in the operations, and refuses to heed the viceroy's remonstrances. These forts completely command Shanghai, and the guns already mounted are capable of blowing the foreign settlements to pieces in 12 hours."

LONDON, July 20.--To add to the gloom occasioned by the extremely serious import of the news showing the daily developing strength of the anti-foreign movement in the south of China, comes this morning from Shanghai a report that 20 missionaries and 100 native converts have been murdered at Tai Yuan, a fortified and populous city in the province of Shan Sea, on the Fuen Ho, an affluent of the Hong Ho, 25 miles southwest of Peking.

The report is not yet corroborated, but it tends to confirm the belief that the hope that the Central and Southern viceroys would hold aloof from the Boxer rising never had much foundation. If this massacre has occurred in the province of Shan Sea, there can be little question that the intense anxiety at even Shanghai is fully justified,

for an attack later by the masses of Chinese gathering in and about the International concessions would mean horrors compared with which the massacre at Peking would be insignificant.

The rumor is again current in Shanghai that the empress and emperor are preparing to retire from the capital to See-Ngan-Fu.

The authorities at St. Petersburg are satisfied that the measures for the relief of Tientsin, which is identical with Charbin, will be successful. With a view to showing his good faith, the Chinese minister at St. Petersburg has begged the Russian foreign secretary to examine all dispatches arriving for the legation before their delivery.

Indian troops are daily arriving at Hong Kong, en route to Taku. A Hong Kong dispatch reports a daring act of piracy within the harbor there. A score of pirates armed with revolvers seized a launch and took it up the Canton river, capturing two junks en route. After looting the craft, the pirates abandoned them.

LONDON, July 21.--The Daily Express has received the following from Tien Tsin, dated July 19: "Casualties in three days' fighting before the native city at Tien Tsin exceeded 1,000. It is now certain that there were several Russians and also Frenchmen fighting on the Chinese side. The Chinese killed their own women by wholesale to prevent them falling into the hands of the Russians. "Yesterday the whole native city was in flames, and the stench of the burning corpses was unspeakably horrible. "Among the incidents of the fighting July 12 was the precipitate flight of 500 French troops from Annam. They had been ordered to hold an important front, but, on being charged by Chinese with bayonets, the entire detachment bolted panic-stricken. "The Russians killed all the Chinese wounded, in revenge of the Peking massacre."

BRUSSELS, July 20.--The Belgian consul at Shanghai sends the following dispatch under date of July 19: "Sheng, the Chinese administrator of telegraphs, announces that the foreigners in Peking were safe and sound on July 19. An Imperial decree, dated July 16, orders the viceroys of Tien Tsin to appraise the damage caused by the troubles and orders the local militia to repress the rebellion."

LONDON, July 20.--A bill prohibiting the exportation of arms to China was introduced in Parliament today.

WASHINGTON, July 20.--As was anticipated, the Japanese government has given its cheerful assent to the application of the United States government for permission to land troops and military supplies at Nagasaki in transit to Taku, China.

WASHINGTON, July 20.--The following statement has been given out at the state department:

On the 11th of this month, the state department communicated a brief message, asking tidings from Minister Conger, in the state department cipher. Minister Wu undertook to get this into the minister's hands, if he were alive. He has succeeded in doing this. This morning the state department received a telegram from Consul-General Goodnow at Shanghai, saying: "The governor of Shan Tung informs me that he has received today a cipher message from Conger of the 18th."

A few minutes later Minister Wu appeared at the state department with a telegram from Tsoai Shang, dated the 20th of July, which had been received by Minister Wu at 8:30 o'clock this morning, reading as follows: "Your telegram was forwarded and, as requested, I send reply from the Tsung Li Yamun, as follows: "Your telegram of the 15th day of this month (11th of July) received. The state department telegram has been handed to Minister Conger. Herewith is Minister Conger's reply to the state department: "Mr. Conger's cablegram is as follows: "In British legation. Under continued shot and shell from Chinese troops. Quick relief only can prevent general massacre." The message is not dated, but it is understood was sent from Peking on the 18th. This reply was in the state department cipher, and it is regarded by the state department as genuine, inasmuch as forgeries seem, under the circumstances, impossible."

NEW YORK, July 20.--A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: The wildest rumor in print is a story that Russia has been secretly intriguing with Prince Tuan and that Li Hung Chang is behind these negotiations. The Chinese camarilla which has defied the civilized powers will be anxious to create discord among them. Rumors of this kind will be started wherever there is a press writer at a Chinese seaboard creditous enough to cable them to Europe or America. The czar reigns over Russia and he cannot have rushed into the embrace of a red-handed assassin like Prince Tuan. The anomalous condition of de facto warfare which has not been legalized by a declaration of war is illustrated by Li Hung Chang's journey northward

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

CHINESE POLICY DECIDED UPON

America Will Not Consent to the Partition of China.

REFUSES TO DECLARE WAR

Will Co-operate With Other Powers in Restoring Order and Punishing Guilty Officials, but Will Prevent Dismemberment if Possible.

CHICAGO, July 20.--A special to the Times-Herald from Washington says:

As a result of the cabinet meetings held Tuesday and Thursday, the policy of the United States concerning the great world's crisis in China is fully and definitely decided upon. The substance of the policy is as follows:

1.--The United States will under no circumstances join in the partition of China among the powers.

2.--The United States will use all its influence, to the utmost extent short of war, with European nations, to prevent the dismemberment of the Chinese empire.

3.--The United States proposes to have a veritable settlement of the Chinese troubles, and its voice will ever be raised against spoliation and in favor of preservation of China's territorial and governmental entity, along the lines set forth in Secretary Hay's note to the powers dated July 3.

4.--The United States will not declare war upon China on account of the showing of facts, no matter what other powers may do.

5.--The United States, acting independently and for itself, will co-operate with the other powers in restoring order in China, in punishing all officials, high or low, found guilty of crimes against human life, in setting up a stable government which may give guarantee of security of life and property and freedom of trade.

BECKHAM NOMINATED.

Democratic State Convention at Lexington, Kentucky.

LEXINGTON, Ky., July 20.--Governor Beckham was nominated by the Democratic state convention for governor of Kentucky by acclamation at 3:05 this morning.

After the names of Judge Black, of Barbourville, and Judge Tarvin, of Newport, were placed in nomination, the roll call of the convention began. When McClean County was reached at 3 o'clock Beckham had the 547 votes necessary to nominate. Then Black and Tarvin's names were withdrawn, and the latter moved that the nomination of Beckham be made unanimous. The motion carried, and Beckham was escorted to the platform where he made his speech of acceptance.

FIRE AT M'MINNVILLE.

Town Narrowly Escaped Destruction Yesterday.

M'MINNVILLE, July 20.--Fire started this morning at 1 o'clock in Fred Hibbs' bicycle shop. It spread rapidly to adjoining buildings, but was quickly subdued by the fire department within 20 minutes after its arrival.

No wind was blowing, which was a great help in stopping what threatened to be the greatest fire in the history of this city. The total loss was about \$7,000.

DAMAGES ARE HEAVY.

On the Tellus, \$30,000; on the Belgian King, \$10,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 20.--The collier Tellus, which was in collision with the transport Belgian King, is being rapidly discharged of her cargo. A rough estimate by an expert places the damage to the Tellus at \$30,000, while \$10,000 will have to be spent on the Belgian King in repairs. The owners of the Belgian King here filed a libel suit against the Tellus for salvage in towing the disabled steamer to this port.

BOUND FOR MANILA.

CHICAGO, July 20.--Inspector-General Higgins and Paymaster Hugh R. Belknap, of the department of the Lakes, have received orders to proceed to San Francisco for service in the Philippines.

WHEAT MARKET.

PORTLAND, July 20.--Wheat, Walla Walla and Valley, 55c @ 56c; bluestem, 55c.

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