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RUMORS ARE VERY CONTRADICTORY

Report That Seymour Killed His Wounded Now Denied.

AMERICA ASKED TO MEDIATE

McKinley Says He Will Stand Between China and the Powers on Certain Conditions--Correct Details of the Battle at Taku.

LONDON, July 24.--The Chinese minister, Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Lub, has communicated to the Press the following dispatch from Sheng, director of Chinese railways and telegraphs and Tao Tai of Shanghai, dated Shanghai, July 23:

"Information from Peking, dated July 18, says that the Tsung Li Yamen deputed Won Jui, under secretary of the department, to see the foreign ministers, and he found every one well without any missing. German accepted."

"General Yung Lu is going to memorialize the throne to send them all under escort to Tien Tsin in the hope that military operations will then be stopped."

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing July 23, says: "A letter from a Chinese official in Shan Tung has been received by an active functionary here containing the following message:

"At the beginning of the month the foreign missionaries made several attempts to send messages out of Peking, but thanks to the strict watch kept on the city, the bearers were all caught and executed. On the fourth instant only 400 foreigners were left alive in Peking, and one night when the big guns were incessantly fired, it was known that all the legations and foreigners were finished, although pretended telegrams contradicted these facts."

PARIS, July 23.--M. Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs, has received a telegram from the French consul at Che Foo, dated July 21, saying:

"The governor informs me that, according to reliable news from Peking, all foreign ministers are safe and the government is taking all necessary steps to deliver and protect them."

LONDON, July 23.--Sir Halliday Macartney, counselor and English secretary to the Chinese legation in London, asserted this evening that the Peking legations were safe and about to proceed to Tien Tsin.

WASHINGTON, July 23.--Administration officials are more hopeful over the situation in China, as a result of the dispatches which have come in the last few days, more particularly European advices of tonight asserting that the ministers are safe. If an answer is received to the second telegram which has been sent through the Chinese minister here to Congress, and that answer should bear internal evidence of genuineness, the situation will be materially improved, and the government, with the additional information which Congress may transmit, will be able to move intelligently toward the rescue of the beleaguered foreigners.

WASHINGTON, July 23.--The president has listened to the appeal of the Chinese government, as transmitted through Minister Wu, and has signified his willingness to mediate between the Imperial government and the powers, but only upon conditions which first must be met by the Chinese government.

The exact nature of the terms proposed by the state department cannot be stated until tomorrow, when it is expected that publication will be made of the text of the Chinese appeal and of the president's message. It is known, however, that the answer is entirely consistent with the statement of principles laid down by Secretary Hay in his identical note to the powers, and, moreover, it accepts as truthful the Chinese statements relative to the safety of the foreign ministers at Peking.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23.--There is

nothing in the extensive reports of Admiral Seymour, which was received here today by the steamer America Maru, to prove the sensational story that was circulated in the early part of this month to the effect that Admiral Seymour, who commanded the Peking relief expedition, killed his wounded to save them from the Chinese.

WASHINGTON, July 23.--The state department has made public the following:

The state department has received a dispatch from Mr. Goodnow, the Consul-General at Shanghai, dated today, saying that Prince Tuan wires that an officer of the Tsung Li Yamen saw all the ministers on the 18th; that none were injured and that no attack was at that time being made. He does not say to whom the dispatch of Prince Tuan was addressed and it is to a certain extent at variance with the dispatch of Mr. Conger of that date, describing the legation as being under fire at the time."

NEW YORK, July 23.--A dispatch to the Herald from Che Foo, July 23, says that the captain of a British steamer, who has just arrived from New Chwang, reports that there arrived there on Thursday a Chinaman professing to be a foreigner's servant, who escaped from Peking on the 12th, on which date the British legation was destroyed and the foreigners butchered. The story is credited in New Chwang.

Another telegram came from the governor of Shan Tung last night. He said: "I have received definite information from Peking that all the ministers are well and there is no illness among them. The proper Chinese authorities are devising means for their rescue and protection."

ST. PETERSBURG, July 23.--Two encounters are reported to have taken place between British and Chinese forces near Wei Hai Wei. The latter, it was reported, were repulsed after a stubborn encounter. No dates are given.

M. Krutikid, the engineer of the Eastern Chinese railway, telegraphing from Algatchi, in the Trans-Baikal territory, under date of Friday, July 20, reports the occupation of Chailar by Chinese troops. The Russians, according to this dispatch, continued to concentrate at Chailar.

NEW YORK, July 23.--A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

The English attitude of unreasoning unbelief respecting everything coming from official sources in the Chinese provinces is not justified by inherent probabilities. Leader writers who are cracking jokes over the credulity of their American cousins in swallowing Chinese dates whole will find it difficult to explain the motive of the Imperial government in either forging or raising the date of Mr. Conger's dispatch, and in wantonly deceiving one power after another with false assurances of the safety of the legations. Until some intelligible motive for such treachery is supplied it would seem prudent to give to the Imperial government credit for telling at least part of the truth.

Optimist views are confined to small circles here, but several plausible reasons are assigned for them. One is the evacuation of the country around Tien Tsin by the Chinese troops, since it implies a decline of Boxer fanaticism. Another is the quieting down in the southern provinces, for the reports of risings at Canton and disturbances caused by the black flags are still unconfirmed. Another is Li Hung Chang's journey northward, which will be continued from Shanghai, for he would hardly venture to pass through the allied fleets and camps as the new governor of Pe Chi Li if he were not assured of the safety of the ministers. To these reasons is added the inherent probability that the Imperial government would not stultify itself by silly mendacity if the ministers had been massacred, but would identify itself with a successful rebellion in the end as it has done in the beginning.

Thoughtful men, reasoning from these premises, are disposed to believe that the empress dowager has succeeded in enforcing her authority, and is protecting the remnant of the legations, for not even the most sanguine optimists are prepared to admit that assaults as determined as those described by Sir Robert Hart and Minister Conger have not been attended with severe loss of life.

This view represented the hopeful

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

HEAVY LOSSES FOR THE BRITISH

One Hundred Wounded and as Many Captured by the Boers

LINE OF COMMUNICATION CUT

Bold Raid by General De Wet--Forces Active in Many Places and Many Killed and Wounded on Both Sides.

BERLIN, July 23.--The Daily Express has the following from Machodorp: "There has been severe fighting during the last three days, and the Boers have inflicted heavy losses upon the British at Dedodorp. Six hundred women and children from Pretoria have arrived at Barberton."

LONDON, July 23.--Letters reaching London from the British troops in the Orange River Colony assert that both men and horses are on short supplies and are not fit for hard work. If this be true, there is little cause for wonder at the failure to capture DeWet and at the apparent paralysis of operations.

LONDON, July 23.--General DeWet has again succeeded in cutting Lord Roberts' communications both by railway and telegraph, and captured 100 of the Highlanders. The story of the federal commander's bold raid comes in the form of a telegram from General Forester-Walker, dated at Cape Town, Sunday, July 22, as follows:

"Kroonstad, July 22.--Following from Broadwood sent by dispatch rider to Honing's Point, wired thence to Kroonstad:

"Have followed command since July 16. There was hard, sharp fighting at Palmietfontein, July 19. We were prevented from pursuing the larger by darkness. Eight hundred Boers were found. Our casualties were five killed and seventy-six wounded. Will reach Vaal Krantz today. Enemy doubled on its way back through Paarde Kral in the darkness. Shell march tomorrow to Roozendaal Station. Send supplies for 2000 men and horses, also any news of the enemy's movements. I believe the command consists of 2000 men and four guns, and is accompanied by President Steyn and both the DeWets."

General Knox continues: "The wire and main line of the railway north of Honing's Point have been cut, and also the telegraph to Pretoria via Potchefstroom. According to my information DeWet has crossed the railway and is going north."

General Kelly-Kenny telegraphs from Bloemfontein under date of Sunday, July 22: "The railway has been cut north of Honing's Point and a supply train and 100 Highlanders were captured by the enemy. A report was received this morning that a large force of the enemy is marching on Hoespruit. All communication with Pretoria is cut off. The Second and Third cavalry brigades are following the enemy."

LONDON, July 23.--The war office has received a telegram from Lord Roberts, dated Pretoria, Sunday, July 22, which says:

"Methuen continued his march and occupation of Heikport and engaged the enemy's rear guard at Zindfontein, July 20. Casualties, one killed and one wounded."

"Early Saturday he attacked the enemy again at Oliphant's Nek and completely dispersed them, inflicting a heavy loss. Our casualties were slight. By these successes, Rustenburg has been relieved, and Methuen and Baden Powell have joined hands."

"Hunter reports that Bruce Hamilton secured a strong position on Spitzkoppe yesterday, with a battery and the Cameron Highlanders and 500 mounted men. Our casualties were three killed and Captain Kiehl-Hamilton of the Oxford, Captain Brown and Lieutenant Stewart and thirteen men of the Camerons wounded."

TROOPS GET YELLOW FEVER.

Nine Deaths and Eleven More Cases in Cuba.

HAVANA, July 23.--Yellow fever has broken out in the barracks of the Seventh United States cavalry and First United States Infantry, in Pinar del Rio. There have been nine deaths during the month and eleven cases are now under treatment.

QUARANTINE MUST BE RAISED.

Japan Sends an Ultimatum to the State of Colorado.

DENVER, Col., July 23.--Governor Thomas today received a brief communication from Secretary of State Hay inclosing an extended letter from N. Nabeshima, Japanese charge d'aff-

airs at Washington. The letter is in the nature of a demand upon the part of the Imperial government of Japan that the Colorado state board of health raise the quarantine on Japanese subjects.

The Japanese, according to Nabeshima's letter, should not be included with the Chinese in anything. He says that they are not given to plague and never have been.

SMALL-POX AT NOME.

Nineteen Cases in All Only One of Which Reported Since July 5.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23.--Advice from Nome received by the Alaska Commercial Company, state that up to July 19 there had been nineteen cases of small-pox in camp, only one being reported since July 5. According to the records of the custom house, 114 vessels have entered Nome and 12,437 passengers have landed, not including those who came down the Yukon river, nor those who landed from vessels which did not report to the customs officers.

From 6,000 to 10,000 persons will probably winter at Nome.

NEGRO FIEND LYNCHED.

Sheriff Dangerously Wounded a Man While Defending His Prisoner.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., July 23.--Elfish Clark, the negro who yesterday assaulted Susan Priest, a 15-year-old girl, was taken from jail tonight and lynched near the spot where his crime was committed.

His body was riddled with bullets. Will Vining, who attempted to rush through the crowd and up the jail steps, was shot by the sheriff and dangerously wounded. The mob drove the sheriff and his prisoner into the third story of the building.

NO SUNDAY TRAVEL.

President McKinley Cancels an Appointment Because It Would Necessitate Sunday Travel.

CHICAGO, July 23.--President McKinley, who was scheduled to reach Chicago Monday, August 27, to attend the national encampment of the G. A. R., today notified Executive Director Harper that inasmuch as it will be necessary Sunday travel to reach here on that day he will change his plans. He will arrive in Chicago Saturday, August 25.

NO EXPORTATION OF ARMS.

House of Lords Hurries Through the Bill to Keep English Arms Out of China.

LONDON, July 23.--The house of lords this evening passed its second reading the bill empowering the queen to prohibit the exportation of arms and ammunition to any country "when there is reason to believe that these or others may be used against British forces or foreign forces co-operating with them."

TOWNE WILL RUN.

Rumors That He Will Not Refuse the Populist Nomination for Vice-President.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 23.--A story circulated here today, though not credited to Bryan or his visitors, is to the effect that Charles A. Towne will remain on the ticket as the Populist candidate for vice-president for the good his candidacy will do in the strongly Populist states of Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota.

LAUNCH EXPLODED.

Two Killed and One Fatally Injured on Long Island Sound.

NEW YORK, July 23.--By an explosion of a naphtha launch on Long Island sound tonight, Mrs. A. E. Crowe and her 18-year-old son, Chilton, were instantly killed, and E. A. Crowe, a wealthy resident of New Rochelle, was fatally injured.

ASSIGNED TO CHINA.

Many Famous Officers Will Serve Under General Chaffee.

WASHINGTON, July 23.--It is generally understood in military circles that Brigadier-General Fred Grant, Adjutant-General Thomas Barry and Brigadier-General James H. Wilson have been selected for assignment to China under General Chaffee.

BANK ROBBER CAUGHT.

Found in Portland Yesterday. Having Fled From Virginia.

PORTLAND, July 23.--Joseph Rapley, wanted in Williamsburg, Va., for robbing the Peninsula bank of \$5,500 last May, was arrested here today.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

FORT SCOTT, Kas., July 23.--Three threshers working near here were killed by a bolt of lightning today.

CANADIANS GET AMERICAN SOIL

Surveyors Put Alaskan Mines Within Canadian Territory.

MINERS ENTER A PROTEST

Pacific Coast Chambers of Commerce Are Appealed to--Rich Porcupine Mines Lost to America--Loss of \$250,000 Yield Annually.

SKAGWAY, Alaska, July 16, via Seattle, Wash., July 23.--The work of delimiting the provisional boundary in the disputed Alaska-Canadian territory having been completed in that part crossing the Dalton trail and touching the Porcupine district, the Americans in the district find that they have lost a large part of what they believed was rightfully American territory. The survey has been run and monuments set within the last few weeks.

The surveyors simply followed their instructions as set forth in the modus vivendi agreed to provisionally some months ago. The survey and demarcation of the line leaves nearly one-half of the Porcupine gold mines in British territory. The American miners in Porcupine have addressed a protest to President McKinley. Copies of the protest have been sent to the Chambers of Commerce at Seattle, Skagway, San Francisco and Portland, with a request for co-operation. The Porcupine placer mines, it is estimated, will yield \$250,000 this year.

CAMPANIA COLLISION.

The Great Liner Narrowly Escaped Total Destruction.

NEW YORK, July 23.--The Herald's London correspondent, describing the Campania-Embleton collision, says: Dr. J. Warren, a passenger from New York, said that he looked out of his stateroom porthole when he heard the crash. In a moment he saw the wrecked ship sliding past the Campania, and he rushed on deck. All was confusion on the deck. The Campania's passengers had rushed out of their staterooms without dressing.

"Women were in hysterics," he says. "I saw two sailors of the wrecked bark clinging to an overturned life boat. They were two of those saved. Five others, I am told, were found together, clinging to a spar. When we struck the bark the wooden topmast began to fall. The lookout in the crow's nest thought the whole mast was going. He jumped for his life into the sea. He was picked up by a life boat. The apprentice boy from the bark told me that his captain, upon rushing on deck, cried: 'Every man for himself.' A Norwegian jumped from the bow of the bark. He was undoubtedly killed in the collision."

This boy said it was a miracle the Campania had not been blown to pieces. The boy said: "We were carrying a lot of dynamite and gunpowder to New Zealand. Our cargo of explosives was distributed fore and aft. She was struck amidships. Had the collision occurred either fore or aft, the Campania would surely have been destroyed."

TWO DROWNED AT FRISCO.

Boat Capsized Just Inside the Golden Gate.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23.--By the capsizing of a boat from which they had been fishing, Ernest Guidner and his eight-year-old son were drowned off Lime Point, just inside the Golden Gate. Dave McWhirter and E. Makowski, who were also in the boat at the time of the accident, clung to the keel and were saved by the prompt work of the lighthouse keeper at the Point. They could not explain how the disaster occurred.

ORANGE CROP SAVED.

Arizona Drought Has Killed Only One-Fourth of It.

PHOENIX, Ariz., July 23.--Reports today resulting from an investigation of the damage by the recent drought state that the orange crop has not been damaged so seriously as at first reported, and that there will be three-fourths of a crop. The first picking will be marketed early in November.

GOVERNMENT'S GOLD.

Holdings Reach the Highest Point in American History.

WASHINGTON, July 23.--Government's holdings of gold today reached the highest point in its history, and amounted to \$127,424,432.

WHEAT MARKET.

PORTLAND, July 23.--Wheat, Walla Walla and Valley, 50c @ 64c.