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# The Morning Astorian.

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## DEFINITE INFORMATION THAT ATTACK ON THE LEGATIONS CEASED JULY 14

Whether Ministers Were Then All Slain or Rescued and Removed by Imperial Troops Is Not Yet Known.

### GERMAN PRESS CONDEMNS THE EMPEROR'S BEHAVIOR

Bitter Feeling Against the United States in Germany—Li Hung Chang No Longer Trusted—Advance on Peking Will Be Made This Week—London Despondent, Washington Hopeful—China Asks for Five Days in Which to Produce the Ministers—A Chinese Army Is Now on the Road to Shanghai.

LONDON, July 28.—Hopes of Europe for the safety of at least some of the ministers of the legations at Peking, which earlier in the week had commenced to revive, are now flickering and at the point of extinguishment. It has been pointed out that there has been ample time to get authentic messages signed and dated by the ministers.

This is the consummation of Chinese assurances that will be acceptable. Until such advice has been received, or until the ministers have been handed over in the flesh, the general public and governments interested will not attach any credence to further Chinese statements, or consent to stay preparations for the advance of a relief force toward Peking.

The latest story originating in other than Chinese sources, is a special dispatch from Che Foo, dated July 27, according to which Missionary Wilder, who started for Peking a fortnight ago, has just returned and reports that he found the imperial Chinese forces completely surrounding the Tartar city. He was unable to deliver a message to the legation and in reply to his entreaties the Chinese said they could not allow any one to pass to the foreigners. According to reports the attack on the legations ceased on the afternoon of July 14. Everything was quiet during the remainder of Missionary Wilder's stay. When he left on July 18 a decree had been issued commanding all persons to protect foreigners in China.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Today brought forth the usual crop of edicts and reports from various quarters, and the usual visit from Minister Wu to the state department, hearing directly upon the welfare of the ministers in Peking. This constantly growing mass of assertion is beginning to have a cumulative effect upon the skeptics, and there is a noticeably more hopeful view taken of the state of affairs today.

Beyond the fact that it is scarcely conceivable that Chinese authorities should persist in repeating and strengthening these stories up to the rapidly approaching moment when the whole truth must be disclosed by other agencies, it appeared upon careful consideration of the reports that there was a little more ground for hope as to the safety of Mr. Conger and his colleagues at Peking today than there was yesterday.

The depressing fact is always in mind that the Chinese authorities by their statements are able to communicate with locationers, but for some mysterious reason do not permit these unfortunate to communicate with their own governments.

Minister Wu's statement that Chinese methods are different from our own is scarcely sufficient for the officials here. The minister, however, is honestly trying to get further communication through from Mr. Conger, and it may be that success in this undertaking will afford him brilliant vindication.

While the positive statement is made that it is not the present intention to send any more troops from Manila to China, at the same time it is known that all contingencies have been canvassed and that, if an emergency should arise in China which made it imperative to have additional troops, they will be drawn from the Philippines for temporary duty at least. General MacArthur has been advised by Secretary Root to maintain sufficient transports to carry supplies between Manila and Taku.

BERLIN, July 28.—Emperor William's address to the soldiers comprising the

China expedition forms the subject of general discussion today.

The emperor's instructions to spare no Chinese and make no prisoners are condemned by nearly everybody on the spot, and also by the press. The papers maintain that the "Emperor's" behavior is likely to split up the harmony of the powers, as doubtless some of the powers will not agree to the emperor's instructions.

The feeling against the United States is especially bitter. Emperor William having expected that the United States would steadfastly side with him in demanding adequate redress.

PARIS, July 28.—Yu Kung, Chinese minister here, says he is convinced that the legations in Peking are safe and sound, although some buildings have been destroyed.

While this conviction is not shared by the official and political world here, advices from the Far East during the past week have raised renewed hope that some if not all of the members of the legations are still alive.

Minister Yu Kung asks that China be given another five days' credit to produce authentic and satisfactory news of the legations.

Foreign governments intend to disregard Li Hung Chang's recommendations—which they believe are made in bad faith—not to march on Peking. On the contrary the international expedition will start about the middle of the week, following as closely as possible the railroad.

Although the Japanese minister here scouts the idea of any alliance between China and Japan, the possibility of such a development is taken into consideration by the foreign representatives.

NEW YORK, July 28.—The Tribune publishes the following dispatch from Li Hung Chang, dated Shanghai, July 27, and received at 1:15 this morning: "Peking reports ministers alive. Safely assured. Allied forces entrance Peking unnecessary."

This dispatch was in answer to a message sent three days ago to the viceroy asking for a statement as to the safety of foreigners in Peking.

NEW YORK, July 28.—A dispatch to the Herald from Shanghai says: "Twenty-five thousand armed Chinese are concentrated some distance from here. A competent military authority declares that precautions taken for defending Shanghai are insufficient."

While the existing operations show the emptiness of the Russian bubble, they fully confirm all that has been foreseen of Japanese power. It is officially stated that Russia can provide only 3,500 men altogether, unless reinforced from Europe. Officials of Central China, while strenuous in their efforts to preserve peace, are at the same time preparing for possible war by collecting arms and munitions and strengthening the forts at Woo Sung, Kiang Gin and other points on the Yangtze. Admiral Seymour cannot interfere while war has not been declared.

News of the murder of missionaries is continuously arriving.

NEW YORK, July 28.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

The necessity for a censorship of press dispatches from Shanghai has been proven by the untrustworthiness of all accounts of the massacre alleged to have occurred on July 6th. The foreign offices of Europe must now admit that they have been themselves deceived by sensational journalism, credulous as the state department may have been in accepting Mr. Conger's message for a date which Sheng chose to assign to it.

Sir Claude MacDonald, who was a soldier before he was a diplomat, explains what veterans in the China service have been unable to understand, namely, his method of successful defense for a period of at least nineteen days. From the opening of the siege the embassy guards occupied and held a portion of the city wall, and from this bastion commanded the open spaces around the British and Russian inclosures, and also prevented artillery and rifle fire from the high positions close at hand. The Chinese had been using a three-inch gun, but had not succeeded in organizing an effective attack. Veterans of the service who knew every foot of space in the British inclosure were amazed by the evidence that the assault upon the three legation embassies had been feeble, and were disposed to believe that the danger might have been exaggerated on July 6, just as it had been on June 24, when Sir Robert Hart sent his despairing appeal for rescue.

The Japanese minister gave expression yesterday to apprehension that the worst had happened in Peking, but he did not refer to any special sources of information in his possession. Dispatches until a late hour threw little light upon the situation.

The representatives of the foreign office in Parliament were silent, but I learned from the best sources of information that the feeling there was one of hopelessness and bewilderment, and that the massacre of the legations was regarded as highly probable, and imprisonment of the remnant of the foreign garrison as barely possible.

The sky is so heavily clouded with the mystery of China, the interminable guerrilla warfare in South Africa and the famine in India, that it is hardly necessary for Earl Wemyss to borrow trouble over the chances of an invasion of England next November and the insufficiency of the home defenses. Lord Salisbury has attempted to break the force of these outcries of alarm by a jest about danger from shooting stars in that month, but Lord Rosebery has rebuked him for ill-timed optimism. The curious debate in the house of lords yesterday has reflected the ominous talk of a sudden attack from France, when the home defenses are the weakest. Probably these alarms merely indicate the excessive strain to which Englishmen have been subjected during the last ten months. Enormous purchases of Welsh coal by the Paris government, and well-authenticated reports that Dover and other channel fortifications have been secretly surveyed and charted by French naval experts, and reports made upon the defenses of Liverpool and other ports, are facts upon which the alarmists lay stress, but the stock markets are not influenced by these sinister speculations.

## QUICK AT NEW ORLEANS.

Militia and Special Officers Will Be Retained for the Present.

NEW ORLEANS, July 28.—Militia violence seems to have spent itself and the city tonight is quiet. Mayor Capdeville said today that he had no intention of disbanding the special police or discharging the militia until the last vestige of mob violence had disappeared.

Mayor Capdeville issued two proclamations, one ordering all bar-rooms closed at 2 o'clock and remaining closed until after 5 o'clock Monday morning.

The other proclamation requested all merchants to close their respective places of business at 6 p. m. and keep them closed until 6 a. m. Monday.

## FILIPINOS GIVE A BANQUET.

Failure Because No Political Speeches Were Permitted.

MANILA, July 28.—The banquet in commemoration of the amnesty proved a failure owing to a misunderstanding between the Filipinos tendering it and the American civil and military authorities regarding the speeches.

After two hours' delay the banquet was finally finished. Commissioners Taft and Wright and General MacArthur were in attendance. No political speeches were made.

## NATIONAL CIVIL FEDERATION.

Leading Questions of the Day Will Be Thoroughly Discussed.

CHICAGO, July 28.—The committee on organization of the National Civic Federation announces the executive council or governing body for that organization. The council will act until the first annual meeting, and is as follows:

A. C. Bartlett, P. I. Bonebrake, Jas. H. Bowman, D. Russell Brown, J. W. Cutler, Edward F. Dunne, James P. Eagle, James H. Eckels, William D. Foulke, Harry A. Garfield, Samuel Gompers, Frank W. Gunsulius, William B. Harper, Abram S. Hewitt, Frederick W. Holla, William Wirthmore, Clark Howell, Samuel Insull, Theodore C. Search, Willis J. Abbott, William F. King, Edward Rosewater, John Ireland, Jeremiah W. Jenks, Aaron Jones,

## BREAK-UP OF THE LIBERALS

London in the Throes of a Political Revolution.

THIRD PARTY TO BE FORMED

Will Lady Churchill Spurn the Plebeian Name of Mrs. West?—Welsh Coal Supply Diminishing—Promiscuous Americans in London.

LONDON, July 28.—Almost as remarkable as the break down of long established social customs before the liberal party. Were a general election far distant, the condition of the liberal party would be serious, but in view of the fact that the country is face to face with dissolution, the situation of the opposition seems hopeless. The formation of a third party is generally considered almost inevitable as the result of the internal dissensions now raging in the liberal ranks.

The imperialists have thrown off the mask and demanded control of the party, maintaining that both by numbers and influence they are entitled to dictate its policy. In this they are opposed by the "forwards" or "anti-imperialist liberals," with a vigor and bitterness that can only be compared to the acerbity with which the Gladstonians assailed the liberal unionists when home rule brought the parting of the ways.

The climax of the strife that has been simmering since the commencement of the Boer war came Wednesday when one-third of the liberal party voted to condemn Chamberlain, and all his works. One-third voted with the government to sustain him, while the smallest section of all, including the nominal leader, abstained from voting at all.

It is scarcely surprising that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman should be anxious to throw up his thankless task, but that only represents a minor feature of this grave situation. One of the liberal whips, William Alexander McArthur, member for Leicester, has openly thrown off allegiance by voting with the government, an almost unprecedented action on the part of one holding such a position. Herbert Gladstone, the chief whip, is on the point of resigning to show disgust with what he believes to be the disloyalty of Sir Edward Grey and others who follow him.

Meanwhile the imperialist section has demanded that Sir Edward Grey assume the leadership, which would be another way of bringing Lord Rosebery back into active political life. Such a development would never be swallowed by John Morely, Secretary Wilfred Lawson, Henry Labouchere, Leonard Courtney and their followers.

Campbell-Bannerman's consent, under pressure, to temporarily retain the leadership is but a slim guarantee of peace within the liberal ranks, for upon any repetition of Wednesday's scene, he will promptly resign. It is impossible to see how such a repetition can be avoided and so another secession from the liberal ranks, equal in gravity to the split of 1886, may be confidently expected.

The government is considering the appointment of a royal commission on the question of the future of the naval coal supply. This action is greatly due to the increasing production and cheapness of American coal and the diminishing supply of Welsh steam coal, with which warships are furnished.

Four members of the ways and means committee of the United States house of representatives were in London this week, namely: Chairman Seneca Payne and Congressman Charles H. Grosvenor, of Ohio; G. W. Steele, of Indiana, and John Dalsell, of Pennsylvania. All of these gentlemen came in search of recreation. General Grosvenor will return to the United States August 12, in time to be present at the firing of the opening gun in the presidential campaign at Lewiston, Maine. Messrs. Payne, Steele and Dalsell have gone on a trip through the country. They are now at Oxford. They will make the tour of Ireland before returning to the United States August 25.

Of the host of other American notables recently arrived may be mentioned George J. Gould, of New York; Charles T. Yerkes, of Chicago; and Archbishop Corrigan, of New York. The latter, with Cardinal Vaughn, was welcomed by the Duke of Norfolk back to England.

Anticipations of the West-Churchill wedding have formed one of the chief topics in society this week. Quite a burning question is whether Lady Randolph Churchill will retain that name or be known as Mrs. West. It appears that everywhere except at the court she may retain her present name.

(Continued on Page Four.)

## WHEAT MARKET.

PORTLAND, July 28.—Wheat, Walla Walla, 55c @ 56c; Valley, 55c; blue-stem, 53c.

## PRICE OF SILVER.

NEW YORK, July 28.—Silver, 60c.

## Sea Side Specialties

VERANDA FURNITURE  
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A new line of these just received.

Steamer Chairs, Folding Camp Chairs, Canvas and Wire Cots always on Hand.

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