

The Morning Astorian.

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TWELVE HUNDRED OF THE ALLIES FALL IN BATTLE WITH THE BOXERS

Heavy Losses Suffered by the Russians and Japanese Six Miles From Tien Tsin on the March to Peking.

FIERCE ANTI-FOREIGN FANATICS IN POWER AT PEKIN

Members of the Tsung Li Yamun Who Favored Foreigners Were Cut in Twain—Earl Li Informs Consuls That the Ministers Have Left Peking but is Not Believed—Rumor That Li Hung Chang Committed Suicide—One Thousand Native Mohammedans Massacred—Danger Spreading Up Yang-tze Valley.

LONDON, Aug. 7.—"The advance of the allied forces commenced today," cables the British consul at Tien Tsin, under date of August 4.

This is the first official information received here that the attempt to relieve Peking has begun. It is accepted as correct.

The British consul does not mention any fighting, but the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Sunday, says:

"The relief column is reported to have suffered a check. The Chinese are said to have adopted Tugela tactics, and after several hours of fighting, to have retreated." This is the only message received in London this morning bearing on the reports of Admiral Remy and Commander Taussig, regarding an engagement at Pei Tsang.

In the same cablegram, which was read in the house of commons, the consul at Tien Tsin says:

"News from the Japanese legation has been received up to August 1." Therefore the edicts announcing the safety of the ministers on that date are confirmed.

Yesterday the Chinese minister communicated to Lord Salisbury a message from the Tsung Li Yamun, dated July 31, which contains this important statement:

"A successful termination of the conference with the ministers for their conveyance under escort to Tien Tsin is expected, but on account of the recommencement of hostilities at Tien Tsin code telegrams for transmission to the foreign representatives are considered undesirable."

This appears to confirm the statement that the Chinese will not endeavor to stop the march to Peking by using the ministers as hostages.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—The announcement received through Rear Admiral Remy and Commander Taussig of reported heavy fighting on the river beyond Tien Tsin was news of interest in the Chinese situation. Little doubt was expressed at the department that the news was substantially correct. It is probable that a later report may reduce the list of casualties among the international forces, but it is evident that the move on Peking is at last fairly under way, and that strong opposition has been encountered.

War department officials who have been reticent for several days as to the news from the seat of war admitted today when the naval dispatches were received that the announcement of a battle was not unexpected. The more optimistic are inclined to think that such a severe blow as the Chinese must have received at Pei Tsang will result in the speedy disintegration of the forces now opposing the march of the international column.

In line with this prediction, it was prophesied that the Chinese government would find means to send the ministers from Peking under escort and thus stave off an advance upon the capital. On the other hand a number of officers in positions to judge equally well held that the fight at Pei Tsang was only the beginning of the strenuous resistance that should be continued to the gates of Peking or beyond. It was urged in support of this view that the Chinese had a hundred men to lose against one of the allies; that they were well armed with modern guns and had apparently an abundance of ammunition.

It is stated that much apprehension exists at the reappearance in Peking politics of that rabid and anti-foreign fanatic, Li Ping Heng. It is certain that, with Li Ping Heng and Prince Tuan in control of the de facto government in China, a religious war of Jewish-like fanaticism probably will be waged against all foreigners, and the

friends of the more liberal Chinese statesmen are exceedingly anxious as to their fate under the Tuan-Li regime.

The war department is in receipt of a dispatch from General MacArthur announcing that he has shipped additional artillery supplies to Taku for use in the Chinese campaign. These supplies include several Gatling guns and the remainder of the rifle and howitzer siege train.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—The following cablegram has been received at the navy department:

"The Foo, Aug. 6.—Bureau of Navigation. The British torpedo-boat destroyer Fame reports unofficially an engagement at Pei Tsang Sunday morning from 3 to 7:30. Allied loss in killed and wounded, 1200, chiefly Russians and Japanese. Chinese are retreating. TAUSSIG."

The Foo, Aug. 6.—Bureau of Navigation. Washington: Official report believed reliable says about 1600 allies heavily engaged the Chinese at Pei Tsang, daylight 5th. REMY."

Pei Tsang is the first railroad station about six miles northwest of Tien Tsin, en route to Peking. Taussig, who signed the first dispatch, is in command of the Yorktown, which is at the Foo.

PARIS, Aug. 6.—The French consul at Chung King telegraphs under date of August 3, that the situation is becoming more serious on the Upper Yang Tse Kiang. The English Consul, he says, has left, with the custom-house staff, and the French consul intends to leave, with his Japanese colleague. The mail service has been stopped.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—A Shanghai special, dated August 5, says:

"Li Hung Chang has officially informed the consuls that the ministers left Peking for Tien Tsin last Friday, August 3, with General Lung in command of the escort. The consuls are by no means disposed to credit Earl Li's statement.

"All other reports that have reached London indicate that the ministers have not left Peking."

It is learned now that the members of the Tsung Li Yamun who were put to death for their alleged pro-foreign proclivities were not beheaded, but were cut in twain, this being the severest penalty under the Manchu code.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: News from China at midnight was a mass of contradictions and surmises. The most startling rumor in the air was the story that Li Hung Chang had committed suicide, but it was discredited. It was considered more probable that he was intriguing with the Russian officials and striving to break up the concert of the powers.

Rumors that the allied army had advanced toward Peking were varied with the details of an eight hours' engagement with the Chinese, but this theory slimmered down to a skirmish a few miles west of Tien Tsin, which had already been reported.

There were persistent reports from Chinese sources that the allied commanders had disagreed on various points and could not be induced to order an advance upon the capital. These differences of opinion were probably exaggerated, but there was probably a substratum of truth for these Chinese fictions. The Americans, British and Japanese commanders are described as eager for a decisive action, whereas the Russians and Germans do not consider the united column as strong enough for the work, and assume that it will be forced to retire to Tien Tsin if it starts prematurely and

inadequately supplied with food and ammunition.

The responsibility for inaction is saddled upon every contingent except the American column, which, according to all press accounts, is pulsating with energy and anxious to march upon Peking with the least possible delay.

Two facts stand out among all these rumors of disensions. One is the reluctance of the Chinese viceroys and imperial officials to have the relief columns set in motion, and the other is the impracticability of having an army conducted by a consulting board of six generals, or admirals. Two sections of the allied forces, the Russian and the German, are believed to be hanging back on the ground that Vice-Admiral Seymour's mistake must not be repeated, and that marching orders must be deferred until the transport is in perfect order and the troops are ready to go up to the capital with an irresistible rush.

Chinese reports that Russia insists upon acting independently and is objecting to an advance upon Peking are not credited with those who are watching the crisis more closely. Some commanders are more cautious than others, and the urgency of a relief expedition is an open question when the legations are not under attack and are probably receiving supplies with the sanction or complicity of the officials.

The powers must stand together in a just resort in rescuing the legations. Some of the most astute students of Chinese affairs assert confidently that the legations will be escorted to Tien Tsin as soon as the imperial authorities are convinced that Russia cannot be detached from the campaign and that a relief column will be dispatched to the capital.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—A dispatch to the Herald from Tien Tsin says:

The allies are to make a reconnaissance at once starting with 4000 men against General Ma's army.

The Fourteenth United States Infantry has arrived. Preparations for the advance on Peking are being pushed forward. A number of native boats have been commandeered. All lighters have been seized which will stop business with Tien Tsin. The combined forces are ignoring all commercial interests. This could not be avoided without detriment to the military operations. Land transports will be difficult, as heavy rains are reported to the north.

The Boxers are raiding the villages south of Tien Tsin. One thousand Mohammedans were massacred. The Chinese are said to be operating from Sha Hai Kwang to Tung Chow.

It is reported that the Chinese have made overtures to ransom the Peking diplomats and close the war.

The emperor and dowager empress are believed to be still in Peking. Their flight or death would produce a great change. The Chinese now silent or nominally loyal will become progressive when they have nothing more to fear. The fate of those who have heretofore dared to utter pro-foreign sentiments terrifies even the semi-enlightened officials. Chang Yen, son of a former Chinese minister at Washington, is still exiled. Yung Wing is in hiding. The Manchu party once exterminated, the people will welcome reform.

Li Hung Chang has not put in an appearance at Tien Tsin. His former residence, where he received General Grant and other notables is now occupied by Cossacks.

Quite large quantities of bar silver were taken from the native city. The Americans and Japanese are said to have about a million and a half ounces each of the government treasure. The Russians have placed their flag upon the salt piles.

Most of the British engineers on the railways have received notice to quit.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—A dispatch to the Journal and Advertiser from Shanghai says:

Director of Telegraphs Sheng in an interview says that two members of the Tsung Li Yamun, or Chinese foreign office, were put to death for alleged friendliness to the foreigners, and adds to the previous story the names of the officials and the circumstance of their death. He says the victims of Li Ping Heng's wrath were Hau Cheng, formerly minister to Russia and more recently imperial director-general of railways, and Yuan Chang. They had been doing good work in suppressing the Boxers and had supported the efforts of Prince Cheng to save the foreign ministers and restore order in Peking. For this they incurred the displeasure of Li Ping Heng, and notwithstanding their high office as members of the Tsung Li Yamun, they were led out on July 28 and beheaded, as a warning to others who might seek to befriend the besieged ministers. Price Ching protested, Sheng declares, but his efforts were unavailing.

This, according to Dr. Sheng, shows that Li Ping Heng is master at Peking, and he adds that Tung Fuh Shiang has 20,000 troops in the vicinity of Peking. He fears that should the allies force an entrance to Peking, he will compel the emperor and empress dowager to evacuate the palace and place themselves under his protection. Then he will most likely murder the foreign ministers. Unless Tung is suppressed, Sheng fears there is no hope for the legations.

Li Kung, Chang Chi Tung, Li Hung Chang and Sheng, according to the lat-

ter, sent an urgent message to the empress requesting that General Jung Lu be permitted to escort all the foreign ministers to Tien Tsin, where the viceroys could meet and care for them. This was sent prior to July 26, on which day Li Ping Heng arrived in Peking and had an audience with the empress.

On August 1 the same viceroys sent a message. Sheng received an answer to the first in the form of an imperial edict dated July 30, ordering Jung Lu to provide an escort for the ministers to Tien Tsin, whenever the latter should fix the date for the departure. There was no intimation, however, whether the ministers would avail themselves of this chance of reaching the coast or would regard it with suspicion and wait in Peking for the arrival of the relief column.

DEMOCRATIC APPOINTMENTS.

List of Sub-Committees Given Out by Chairman Jones of the National Committee.

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—Chairman Jones, of the Democratic national committee, gave out the list of sub-committees of the main body today. Former governor Stone, of Missouri, was named on the executive committee, and Norman E. Mack, of New York, was left off. The only representatives of the Eastern states on this body are committeemen Guffy, of Pennsylvania, and George Fred Williams, of Massachusetts.

John R. McLean, of Ohio, is put at the head of the ways and means committee. Fred Dubois, of Idaho, is one of the advisory committee.

NEW HAVANA MARRIAGE LAW.

Either Ecclesiastical or Civil Ceremonies May Be Had.

HAVANA, Aug. 6.—A new marriage law, revoking the decree issued in May last year by General Brooke, will go into effect next Monday. The Brooke law prohibited ecclesiastical marriages, recognizing only the civil ceremony.

From Monday next, therefore, parties wishing to marry may go through the ecclesiastical or civil ceremony or both at their own option.

HANNA MAY SPEAK.

Western States Said to Be Anxious to Hear Him.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—Chairman Hanna may join the army of campaigners to be heard in the West for McKinley and Roosevelt.

Secretary Heath of the national committee declared today that there had been many demands from the Western states to hear Chairman Hanna speak.

TWO MILLION POUNDS MEAT.

Enormous Purchase by the Government From the Chicago Packers.

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—The Chicago packers today were asked by the government to furnish 2,000,000 pounds of meats within thirty days for the American soldiers in the Orient. This is said to be the largest requisition ever issued by the government of the United States.

DE WET IN A TRAP.

General Kitchener Has the Boers Penned In.

LONDON, Aug. 6.—A special dispatch from Pretoria, dated August 5, says General Lord Kitchener has narrowed the circle around Generals De Wet and Steyn by driving up the enemy from one of the flank positions which he held.

CYCLONE IN BRITISH ISLES.

Considerable Loss of Life and Destruction of Shipping.

LONDON, Aug. 7, 2 a. m.—A cyclone has prevailed throughout the United Kingdom since early last evening. Loss of life on land and sea and the destruction of shipping and other property are reported.

DEATH OF MILLIONAIRE.

TOLEDO, O., Aug. 6.—Dennis Coghlan, the wealthiest man in Toledo and in Northwestern Ohio, died tonight, aged 80 years. His fortune amounted to \$15,000,000.

MANY DEATHS FROM HEAT.

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—Nine persons died and a score were prostrated as the result of the heat here today. The maximum temperature was 93 degrees.

PLAGUE AT HAMBURG.

HAMBURG, Aug. 6.—A case of the bubonic plague has been discovered on a vessel in the harbor here.

TRANSPORT SHERMAN ARRIVES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—The transport Sherman arrived from Manila tonight.

METAL MARKET.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—Silver, 60%; lead, brokers, 4; exchange, 4 1/2.

DEATH TO ALL CROWNED HEADS

Italian Ambassador Claims This Was Planned at Paterson.

ATTEMPT TO KILL NEW KING

Armed Man Detected Lying in Wait for Italy's New Monarch—Bressi Is Violent and Was Put in a Straight-Jacket.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Baron Fava, the Italian ambassador, has communicated to the state department information showing that he believes a band of anarchists in Paterson, N. J., conspired to assassinate all the crowned heads of Europe.

According to the governor of New Jersey every effort is being made by the state police authorities to assist the detectives employed by the Italian officials to ascertain if such a band exists and its membership.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—A dispatch to the Herald from Rome says:

At the railway station here, while the king and queen were en route from Bergamo to Monza, a well-dressed individual was discovered hiding with a revolver concealed on his person. He was arrested after a struggle, and after being manacled was sent out to Milan to be examined by Bressi's judges. Compromising letters are said to have been found upon him.

Former Queen Margherita and her mother are both prostrated and have returned to Stresa, the latter's residence.

MILAN, Aug. 6.—Bressi, the assassin of King Humbert, has abandoned the attitude of calm which he had assumed since the murder was committed, and has been giving way to fits of passion. This has necessitated placing him in a straight-jacket for ten hours.

DEMOCRATIC WALKOVER.

Republicans and Populists Suffer a Loss of Fifty Per Cent in the Alabama Election.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Aug. 6.—A general election for state and county officers and for members of the general assembly was held in Alabama today and a large majority was returned for the Democratic ticket, headed by William J. Samford, of Leo County, who will be inaugurated governor on December 1. The Republicans, Populists and Prohibitionists, besides the Democrats, had tickets in the field, but the returns so far indicate a victory for the Democrats by an overwhelming majority.

The Democrats have also gained several members in the general assembly. The Populists and Republicans will together possibly have twelve of the 123 members of the legislature, a loss of 53 per cent.

It is estimated by the Democratic committee that the majority will be more than 50,000.

The election was regarded as a test on the mooted question of holding a constitutional convention, which is favored by the Democrats, and the increased majorities are taken to indicate that the people are favorable to the holding of a convention which will eliminate the negro from politics.

The legislature which meets in December will elect Senator Morgan to succeed himself.

TRANSPORTS FOR ANIMALS.

Thyra and Lennox Will Take 1978 From Portland.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6.—The quartermaster's department has made out the following schedule for the mailing of ships carrying animals for the Chinese and Philippine service together with number of animals each ship will carry. The total number of animals is 5405. Kinuck, 600, August 25, from Seattle; Arab 600, August 30, from Seattle; Thyra 600, September 1, from Portland; Port Albert, 500, September 1, from Seattle; Westminster 250, September 1, from San Francisco; Wilhelmina 700, September 5, from Seattle; Oopack 350, September 15, from Seattle; Con-mough 275, October 1, from San Francisco; Leelanaw 255, October 1, from San Francisco; Lennox 470, October 1, from Portland.

PASSENGER TRAIN WRECKED.

Three Passengers and the Engineer Killed.

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Aug. 6.—The Monon passenger train leaving here at 12:40 this morning collided with an engine running light at South Haub, Henry Whitall, the engineer was severely scalded, and Jas. Hudlow, the engineer of the passenger train was instantly killed. Three passengers were killed, their names being unknown.

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