

CHINA THANKS FOR BOXER REFUND

Uncle Sam's Square Deal in Easing Indemnity Burden Acknowledged Specially—Embassy Headed by Remarkable Man.

(United Press Lensed Wire.) Washington, Dec. 4.—The gratitude of the Chinese government to the United States for the remission of \$14,000,000 of the Boxer indemnity fund was expressed personally to President Roosevelt yesterday by Ambassador Tong Shao-yi, the imperial envoy sent to Washington by the late emperor. Accompanied by the official members of his suite, including Prince Tsai Fu, his excellency called on the president and in a few words expressed the thanks of his nation for the kindness shown.

President Roosevelt responded briefly, voicing his appreciation of the courtesy of the Chinese government. Tong Shao-yi's visit to America is regarded in both business and political circles, as one of the most important events in recent relations between the two great Pacific nations. Many of the foreigners in China believe it will result in some kind of an alliance, by which China and America will be pledged to a strong oriental policy in regard to Chinese territory. A less significant forecast made is that the visit will cement friendly relations, bring the two people to a mutual understanding, and inaugurate a new era for American trade in China.

No better adapted official could have been chosen for the American mission than the present envoy. Mr. Tong was educated in America, having passed through Harvard with high honors. He was one of the first government students sent abroad, and has been instrumental in having a large number of others follow. Thirteen members of his family have been educated in America, and all of them are ardent friends of the republic and its people.

For several years following his return to China, after graduating in the American university, Mr. Tong faced the prejudices of the old Chinese clique that cling to the past and despise everything modern. During this time he had little opportunity for advancement. But when Li Hung Chang, and later Yuan Shih-kai, on behalf of their government, began adopting modern methods of administration and organized the foreign-trained army, such men as young Tong were in demand. He then rose rapidly in office and rank. Two years ago he was senior vice-president of the board of communications, and a director general in several railway, telegraph and other institutions. He was then recognized as the chief lieutenant of Yuan Shih-kai, the great reform leader, and seemed to be accepted as the coming premier for the government.

Reactionary officials, largely of the Manchu faction, organized against him. Despite this opposition he was made governor of Fengtien province, one of the three districts of the Manchurian district, and acted as the principal mediator for China's negotiations with Japan in regard to all Manchurian questions. His name has been put forward for the office of viceroy of Manchuria, and many friends believe this will be the next step. He is yet one of the strongest of the reform leaders, being ranked next to Yuan Shih-kai, and will undoubtedly be the premier of China at an early day. Before being sent to America on the present mission, he was given the rank of a president of an administrative board, which is close to the highest that can be held, outside of the imperial clan.

Chinese-American Alliance. Shall America and China enter into an alliance? The question will excite comment in some quarters, but is regarded by the more serious statesmen as well as the public, as a possibility that would mean little now, when China is weak, but it would be the means of stimulating the old empire to even quicker reform, and when China was

thoroughly modernized, would bring together two of the most impregnable powers known to the world. They would control the Pacific ocean, in peace and war. Russian advances through Siberia, British expansion from India or Australasia, and French development in Annam, would then become subject to American-Chinese limitations. The commerce of China's 400,000,000, Japan's 60,000,000, Indo-China's 20,000,000, the Philippines' 5,000,000 and Malay's 1,000,000 would be controlled by the two dominant Pacific powers. This bright possibility, from the American viewpoint, and corresponding gloom from the European, has engendered much concern in regard to such an alliance.

China Seeks No Alliances. But no alliance is expected. American aloofness from political combinations is recognized. China is today regarded as the ward of all the prominent powers. Before she could negotiate an alliance, it is possible that the nations participating in the treaties following the Boxer uprising, would feel their right to a voice on the question. It is more certain that they would object to China allying herself with America. Japan especially would oppose such a combination, as she hopes to bring the orientals under her own aegis in time.

China is said not to be so anxious for international alliances as some would believe. Her people merely ask for protection from territorial encroachment, and foreign political oppression. America's open policy, so emphatically declared in recent years, is regarded by the Chinese as sufficient. If this policy is maintained, in spirit as well as letter, leading Chinese believe they have ample protection, until their country has become a modern power that is able to care for its own affairs in any struggle.

The Boxer Indemnity. Tong Shao-yi's other possible mission is receiving greater attention than any prospective alliance. China's friendship has been a source of unusual pride to the American act, which this special emissary has come to recognize. That country, striving to meet heavy reform requirements, finds the great Boxer indemnity one of the heaviest burdens it must bear. China feels that this indemnity was made very heavy, far heavier than the actual expense incurred in military and naval operations and in recouping private interests lost. America, in remitting more than half the total, is taken to admit this point. America's indemnity assessment was not heavy, but its remission is hoped to be headed as an example for the other nations who have big sums charged against China.

How Silver's Fall Hurt China. By the 1901 treaties which China signed with 11 nations, terminating the Boxer troubles, she agreed to pay an indemnity of 450,000,000 taels. At that time the tael was worth 74 cents gold. Because of the fluctuation in the value of silver bullion. This one condition increases the burden about \$60,000,000. Reduced to gold dollars, the claims filed by and allowed to the several countries were as follows: Russia \$27,000,000, Germany \$9,000,000, France \$5,000,000, Austria, Spain and Holland \$39,559,221, Britain \$24,000,000, America \$23,447,719, Japan \$22,500,000, Italy \$1,000,000 and Belgium \$6,000,000. At the time the American congress remitted all of the remission. China had paid the country \$11,555,492, which makes the amount remitted about \$13,000,000. This within itself is a considerable sum, which the Chinese government appreciates, but if it can be established as a precedent for other nations, the remission will have greater value in this light. Russia and Germany's claims were very heavy, and are far less than half paid. If the American spirit were communicated to these two nations, resulting in proportionate remissions, China's debt would be so heavily reduced as to enable the government to take up many important reforms now awaiting funds.

Such Embassies Rare. The sending of a special emissary of such high rank as Tong Shao-yi

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to a foreign country, has been rare with China. Commissioners for the study of constitutional government and general administrative methods were sent abroad two and three years ago. These contained some high officials, but none ranked the present emissary to America. A prince closely related to the emperor, was sent to Japan last year to return the visit of the Japanese crown prince. Aside from these missions, the Chinese have not been wont to give much attention to foreign powers, except when representatives of the latter came to China.

Special Tribute to Taft. When President-elect Taft was in Shanghai last fall, enroute to the Philippines, the entertainment given him and the official welcome, exceeded any reception accorded a foreigner in modern times. The Chinese made special effort to show their friendliness for the American official, and proved that they sought closer relations with their big neighbor. Instead of writing the national thanks for remitting the Boxer indemnity, as might have been expected, China immediately resolved upon sending one of its highest and most distinguished officials to this country to thank our government in person, and as some persons believe, further to identify national interests.

An order was recently issued to send 100 more government students annually to America than have been sent in the past, as an additional recognition of the generous remission. Tong Shao-yi is one of the most advanced Chinese in business methods and breadth of thought. He is so thoroughly occidental in abruptness and aggressiveness that it is remarked that he has nothing of the oriental in manner. His range of studies has been broad, and he seeks to impress the necessity of a like comprehension upon his people.

SAYS NEVER ROASTED CUTTER SERVICE MEN (United Press Lensed Wire.) Valdez, Alaska, Dec. 4.—Miss Mabel Benedict, who was severely injured in the Seattle papers as quoted in some of the Seattle papers, was stationed at Umanaska last summer, and who was supposed to appear here on the grand jury to tell her story, is now in Jersey City and will not come to Valdez for this term of court. In a letter written to the district attorney she says the story of her utterances as published in Seattle was incorrect. She claims to have spoken of the revenue cutter men only in praise. She will appear before the grand jury at the term of court next summer.

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Uncle Sam Prepares for the Worst, Treaties or No Treaties.

(United Press Lensed Wire.) Washington, Dec. 4.—Despite the entente cordiale between the officials of the state department and the members of the diplomatic corps it is learned that the government has quietly transported submarine mines to all the harbors of importance on the Pacific coast. It was also learned that several cargoes of mines have been sent to the Philippines, Guam and Hawaii and that orders for their immediate placing have been issued.

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Notaries Commissioned. (Salem Bureau of the Journal.) Salem, Or., Dec. 4.—Commissions as notaries have been issued to W. H. Cooper, Sweet Home; H. J. Longley, Hermiston, and William C. Lake, Harbort.