

# THE CHINESE PUZZLE

## Limitations of the Manchurian Treaty Cause of Objection.

### RUSSIA PLACED IN ABSOLUTE CONTROL

Foreign Envoys Again Consider the Question of Indemnity—Earl Li Hung Chang Has Recovered His Health.

Peking, March 16.—China has strenuously objected to the limitations of the Manchurian convention respecting the importation of arms, the reorganization of the army and the practical control by Russia over Chinese officials.

At today's meeting of the foreign ministers the question of indemnities was further considered. Li Hung Chang is reported as again in good health. Field Marshal Count von Waldersee left here this morning for Tien Tsin. General Gaselee has left for Wei Hai Wei, and will go thence to Shanghai.

### The Russian Agreement.

Washington, March 16.—Our government has not yet been able to obtain anything like an official statement of the contents of the alleged agreement between Russia and China respecting the protectorate over Manchuria. The opposition to the Russian move has not crystallized up to this moment, but it is felt that there is every prospect of a consummation of the agreement, unless the other powers, which now hang undecided, speedily come to a determination to oppose it. In view of this impending crisis, the officials here would regard as of secondary importance the negotiations at Peking respecting the indemnities and punishments were it not for the belief that there is great danger by undue insistence by the ministers at Peking upon the collection of impossible indemnities and the continuance of punitive measures. The United States government will be obliged in deference to public sentiment here to maintain an attitude of exact neutrality and withhold any assistance that might otherwise be reasonably requested, in the greater purpose of checking the consummation of an agreement which is almost certain to result in the partition of China. So, as already stated, Special Commissioner Rockhill is acting under the instructions of the department, doing his best to keep the demands of the ministers within the bounds of the ability of the Chinese government to meet, thereby following the consistent policy of the department, laid down as far back as last summer.

### TOWN WIPED OUT.

Cloverport, Ky., Burned and 1000 Persons Rendered Homeless.

CLOVERPORT, Ky., March 16.—The bursting of a natural gas pipe at midnight started a fire that destroyed property worth \$500,000. The greater part of this little town was completely wiped out, and over 1000 persons, about one-half the population, are homeless, and were in great distress until a special relief train from Louisville reached here. The heaviest loser is the American Tobacco Company, which lost two large stemmeries and 1,000,000 pounds of tobacco. The company's loss has not been estimated. Bucket brigades were formed and men and women alike fought the flames valiantly, but to no purpose. Exhausted women and children huddled in little groups, wherever shelter could be found, from the biting cold of the night and early morning. Neighboring towns were asked for assistance in fighting the fire, but before it could be rendered, the high wind had swept the flames through the place, making the devastation complete.

As soon as the management of the Louisville, Henderson & St. Louis railroad learned that hundreds of people were homeless, they ordered available coaches between Louisville and Henderson hurried to Cloverport, and there the unfortunates will, for the time being, make their homes. The management also sent 5,000 loaves of bread and other food. Not a store was left in the town where a mouthful of food could be obtained. Adjutant General Murray telegraphed that 500 tents had been shipped from Frankfort and the authorities at Louisville wired that a trainload of relief supplies quickly gathered would leave at noon.

### IN INTERESTS OF BOTH.

Platt Says His Amendment is Not a One-Sided Affair.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Senator Platt, of Connecticut, author of the much discussed Platt amendment relating to Cuba, had a brief talk with the president today regarding Cuba, and later saw Secretary Root. Mr. Platt, when asked concerning the published criticism from Havana concerning the amendment bearing his name, declined to enter into any discussion as to a particular criticism made by a certain distinguished Cuban leader, but on the general subject said:

"The Cubans will see in the end that the amendments are as much in their interests as they are in the interests of the United States. There may be at the start a little offended dignity growing out of misapprehension of purposes and aims, but I have no doubt that the Cubans will ultimately see the sincerity of purpose which has actuated us in framing the amendment, alike in their interest and in the interest of this country."

### After Title to Wonderful Cave.

Chehalls, Wash., March 16.—The man who made the reputed discovery of a cave somewhere in the vicinity of Mount Rainier has a firm of local attorneys looking up the matter of securing him a title to the land. It has been established that he bought horses in Winock, and was registered at one of the hotels there at the time he said last summer. Further than that no one knows as to the truthfulness of his story.

### IN SOUTHERN LUZON.

Provincial Government Established in Tayabas.

LUCENA, Tayabas province, Southern Luzon, March 14.—The United States army transport, with the American Philippine commission and their party on board, arrived off Lucena last evening. This morning the commissioners' party, consisting of 50 persons, crossed the shallow bar in the ship's boats and were driven one mile to this town. The commission then proceeded with the first organization of a provincial government in Southern Luzon.

The Province of Tayabas has long been noted for the pacific conditions existing there, in contrast to the neighboring provinces, which still pursue a rebellious course. Colonel Gardner, late of the Thirtieth volunteer infantry, was today appointed civil governor of this province. Colonel Gardner favors the maintenance of friendly relations with the natives, and is opposed to pillage, seizures, destruction of property and imprisonments, except under necessity. Colonel Gardner, when in command of the Thirtieth infantry, was in control of this district, and as a result of his policy, a population of active insurgents has been transformed into friendly natives, whose patriotism to the United States was considered to be more firmly established than that of the natives of any other province in Luzon.

The first organization of the federal party outside of Manila was effected in Tayabas province, and all the natives joined. The arrival of the commission with Colonel Gardner, whose regiment was recently given a public farewell here, returning as civil governor, was enthusiastically celebrated.

The people of Sorogan, a seaport on the extreme southern end of Luzon, have petitioned for a provincial government. The commission will stop here later.

### A REAR-END COLLISION.

Freight and Stock Trains Crashed With Fatal Results.

CHICAGO, March 14.—Two men were killed and eight others injured in a rear-end collision early today between a train freight and a stock train, on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, at Arlington Heights, a suburb of this city.

The caboose of the stock train contained 14 stockmen, and most of them were asleep when the train stopped at Arlington Heights to take on two cars of stock. Suddenly the time freight train caboose crashed into the stock train caboose and plowed through into the next car ahead. Instantly the wreck took fire. The crash aroused the village, and the volunteer fire department responded to the rescue and extinguished the flames and assisted in taking out the dead and injured. The caboose and three cars were burned, and a number of head of stock killed. The doors to the other cars containing stock were in the meantime opened and the frightened animals allowed to run at large. A relief was started from Chicago as soon as the wreck was reported.

### GREATEST STAMPEDE SINCE 1898.

Effect of Throwing Open Crown Mining Claims in Alaska.

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 14.—A special dispatch from Dawson, dated March 1, says the stampede consequent upon the throwing open of the government claims February 25 was the greatest since the palmy days of 1898. The order made available hundreds of lapsed claims, unsold ones, fractions, etc. Under the new regulations the first man to arrive and make application for the ground gets it, until fraud has been shown. He may really be the tenth man who staked the claim by actual time, but he must swear that he saw no other stakes on the ground when he staked. Some of the unfortunate fellows who went out misread the official notice and staked claims that were reserved by notice in the proclamation. Their four days' vigil in a temperature 40 degrees below zero was a frightful experience for many of the stampedees.

### TO CONTROL FISH INDUSTRY.

Gigantic Cannery's Trust Being Formed to Operate in Alaska.

SEATTLE, March 14.—From Juneau comes the report that there is a gigantic trust being formed which will control every fish cannery and the fish industry of the entire Alaska territory.

The report is to the effect that Mr. Onfro, once president of the Pacific American Fisheries Company, a corporation which practically controls the fish industry of the Northwest coast, is now in New York City making arrangements for the incorporation of the company, which will hold in its grasp the immense fish industry of Alaska. The fish industry ranks next to mining in Alaska. Seven canneries were in operation last year. The output was 11,029,968 pounds, the market value of which was \$11,000,000. In addition to the above, which was canned, 13,000 barrels were salted, the market value of which was \$130,000.

Washington Sugar Beet Contracts.

Spokane, March 14.—The Washington state sugar factory, owner of the beet sugar establishment at Fairfield, Wash., has made contracts for 3,000 acres of beets, and expects to contract for 1,000 acres to be grown this season. The company contracts to pay \$4 per ton for beets showing 12 per cent sugar, and 25 cents for each additional per cent. On the basis of last year, this would aggregate \$5 25 per ton.

### Builders' Trial of Illinois.

Newport News, Va., March 14.—On her builders' trial trip today, the battleship Illinois more than measured up to expectations. The ship was not taken out to deep sea, but was given a run down the coast, the main object being to test her boilers. Steaming out of the Virginia capes, the battleship proceeded about 25 miles down the coast. On her return under a moderate forced draught, the ship's indicator showed her speed for two hours' run to average 16.2 knots an hour, with 107 revolutions.

# DISASTEROUS FIRE

## Three Lives Lost in a Boston Newspaper Building.

### THE PROOFREADERS WERE SUFFOCATED

The Upper Floors of the Advertiser Office Burned Out—Most of the Employees Escaped to an Adjoining Roof

BOSTON, March 18.—Three lives sacrificed, nearly a dozen men more or less injured, and many thousands of dollars of damage were the results of a fire in the Daily Advertiser and Record's seven-story, gray front building in Newspaper Row tonight.

How the fire started is not known, but it was first seen in the pressroom. It spread to the elevator well, and darted to the top so rapidly that before the occupants of the two upper floors were aware that the building was on fire their rooms were filled with flames and smoke.

In the editorial rooms on the sixth floor there were but five men. All had to run for their lives. On the upper floor, occupied by the composing room, were 18 compositors and proofreaders, whose situation was most critical. Panic stricken, they rushed for the windows leading to the fire escapes, and all but three of them succeeded in gaining the roof of an adjoining building. Long ladders were raised as quickly as the network of electric wires over the street would permit, but before a ladder could be placed in position the men had dropped through a skylight in the adjoining roof and reached places of safety. Except in the pressroom in the basement there was practically no fire in the building below the fifth story. No one was in the pressroom at the time the fire started except the fireman, who had not been seen up to a late hour. It took three hours of work to drown out the fire.

The three victims were suffocated before they had time to reach the fire escapes.

Late tonight the loss was estimated at \$150,000, with little insurance.

### DEWET IS INSANE.

Statement Made by Prisoners Lately Released.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 18.—Prisoners who have lately been released by General Dewet say they think he is a madman. They aver that the terrible fatigues he has undergone, his anxiety and the intensity of his feelings have unbalanced his mind. Apart from this view of Dewet's mental state, some of his peculiarities are that he rarely sleeps within the bounds of his camp. He seeks rest outside with a few trusted followers. Thus the orders of his subordinate commanders are frequently unable to find him to receive orders. His secrecy is extreme. He absolutely imparts his plans to no one. Dewet repudiates the peace negotiations which are going on. He declares openly to the men that no terms except independence will satisfy him. A recent utterance attributed to him is that, after the British, he hated the Transvaalers. The whereabouts of Dewet during the last two or three days is unknown, nor is it known whether President Steyn is with him.

### AFTER HIGH DAWSON OFFICIAL.

Governor Will Charge Him With Criminal Libel.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 18.—Governor Ogilvie, at a meeting of the Yukon council, March 5, announced that he had been informed that at a recent banquet an official in a high position had declared that the governor and D. Matheson, a contractor, had worked together in carrying out a gigantic swindle. The governor said that he would collect evidence and charge the official with criminal libel.

Another charge was made at the same council meeting. The entire council was charged with blackmail by Mrs. McConnell, who conducts a hotel at Dawson. She says that the council and Mr. Matheson conspired together to ruin her business, out of a desire for personal gain. Gold Commissioner Senkler has filed a libel suit against Mrs. McConnell. The charges have stirred up a great excitement in the city.

### Decision on Eight-Hour Law.

Tacoma, Wash., March 18.—In the superior court today Judge W. H. Snell decided the state law making eight hours a day's work for all men employed in public works applied only to men employed by the day, and not to men working by the month or year.

### A Dangerous Complaint.

If you tell a woman she is good, she may thank you. Tell her she is pretty, and she will love you.—Chicago Times-Herald.

### Troops Sail for Manila.

San Francisco, March 18.—The transport Indiana sailed for Manila today. She has on board the Twenty-eighth infantry, Major Yeatman commanding, and company D, Tenth infantry, Lieutenant C. N. Jones commanding. The squadron of the Fifth cavalry arrived today from Fort Myer, Va. They will sail for Manila on the Meade tomorrow. The squadron is made up of troops J, K, L and M, in command of Colonel W. A. Rafferty.

### WILL REMOVE OBSTACLES.

Colombia Wants Us to Control the Canal Route.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Senator Martinez Silvea, minister of foreign affairs for the republic of Colombia, and at present accredited as Colombian minister to Washington, had another conference with Secretary Hay tonight in connection with the informal discussion concerning the Panama canal route lying within Colombia. It cannot be said that any formal negotiations are under way, or even are open, but the presence of Silvea here at this time gives assurance that if there is any disposition on the part of the American authorities to take up the canal question with the Colombian government, the latter is now disposed to remove any obstacles on her part in the way of adoption of that route. It is recognized that there are three parties to any negotiations which would be undertaken—namely, the United States government, the Colombian government and the French company. The purpose is to see if there is any means of reconciling the interests and of disposing of all three parties. Dr. Silvea said today that the French projectors had a concession which had been renewed for six years, but if the American government desired the Panama route, he said, there can be an arrangement effected to meet the requirements set forth in the recent report of the Walker commission.

### SAMPSON-SCHLEY CONTROVERSY

Recurrence Likely Over Design of Medals for Santiago Heroes.

NEW YORK, March 15.—A special from Washington says: Naval circles are deeply interested in the designs to be placed by the navy upon the bronze medals to be awarded to officers who distinguished themselves during the war and subsequently. Officers and men who participated in the battle of Manila bay received a medal, on one side of which was the profile in bas-relief of Admiral Dewey. Some of the friends of Rear Admiral Sampson urge that the medal to be given to officers who participated in the Santiago battle should have the profile of that officer. In order to prevent any controversy on the subject, Secretary Long has referred the matter to the board of awards, of which Assistant Secretary Hackett is chairman. None of the members of this board participated in the West Indian operations, with the exception of Rear Admiral Watson, who has taken no part in the Schley-Sampson controversy.

In addition to awarding medals to the officers and men who served with distinction in the Santiago campaign, Secretary Long, in accordance with the authority granted him, will confer medals upon officers and men who participated in the Samoan, Chinese and Philippines campaigns.

### IS GERMANY LIABLE?

She May Be Obligated to Pay for Damages in Samoa.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Germany's responsibility for the troubles that occurred in Samoa three years ago, and resulted in the killing of American and British officers and men and the partition of the Samoan islands will be determined by King Oscar of Norway and Sweden.

According to a special to the Herald from Washington, Great Britain and Germany have completed their briefs of the property claims filed by the subjects of each, which grew out of the military operations of the English and American forces. The state department at Washington has practically completed its brief. The document will not be made public until submitted to the royal arbitrator, but it is understood that while it does not directly mention the part Germany played in the Samoan troubles, there are pointed references to the activity of certain foreign agents. These references are to be reinforced by an attorney, who will be sent to Stockholm as the American representative. If the American contention should be established, Germany would have to pay damages to both Great Britain and the United States for losses sustained in Samoa.

During the Samoan troubles, Great Britain acted in concert with the United States and was disposed to hold Germany responsible. Whether, after the change in the relations, she is willing to reassess the views then entertained, is a question that will be determined only when her brief is submitted.

### THE THIRTIETH RETURNS.

Transport Hancock Brings Home a Regiment of Volunteers.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15.—The transport Hancock has arrived from Manila with the Thirtieth United States volunteer infantry. There were in all 875 people on board, of which number 25 are army officers and 738 non-commissioned officers and men of the Thirtieth volunteers. The regiment is composed of men from Michigan, Illinois and Indiana, the Michigan men predominating. The Hancock also brought 72 prisoners and discharged soldiers, who were deported on a military order.

Among the prisoners on the Hancock were two under life sentence—James Dugan, Eleventh cavalry, who killed a comrade during a quarrel, and Ellwood Morgan, a negro, Forty-ninth infantry, who assaulted a Filipino woman. Brigadier General Campbell was among the cabin passengers.

### Northwest Postoffice.

Washington, March 15.—A postoffice has been established at Agate, Jackson county, Or., on the route from Tolo to Eagle Point. Jefferson F. Grigaby has been appointed postmaster.

An office has also been established at Grant, Mason county, Wash., with John H. Bille as postmaster.

### Blizzard in Wisconsin.

Milwaukee, March 15.—Reports from points in Eastern Wisconsin indicate that the worst blizzard of the season is prevailing. Glenwood reports all trains from six to eight hours late. New Richmond reports a foot of snow. Marinette sends a similar report. A Cumberland special reports that the blizzard in Northeastern Wisconsin is the worst in years. Grand Rapids reports all the roads blocked. Menominee reports six inches of snow and the worst storm of the season.



pute, and very few regard its feeding value as they should. With improved machinery for preparing it for feeding there should be more thought given to utilizing fodder, which can be made a good substitute for hay.—National Stockman.

### Holding Back Peach Buds.

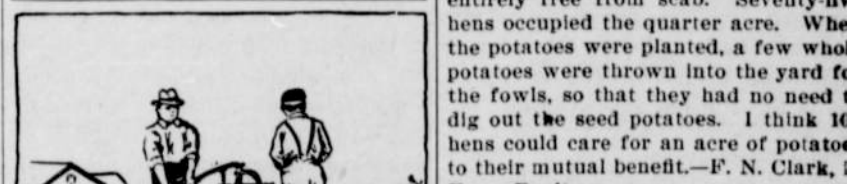
The old theory of mulching in winter with snow and ice to delay blooming in spring has been thoroughly exploded, says Farm and Field. Inside of lumber camps built in winter of certain kinds of logs sprouts of considerable length are stimulated into growth by the warmth of the camp fire, while the outer sides of the logs are still frozen. Florists force lilacs into growth in winter by drawing branches of dormant lilacs into forcing houses through the wall. All parts of the twigs that receive warmth begin growth, while the rest of the plant is frozen. Twigs of early flowering plants like the peach may be forced into bloom in winter by cutting them and putting them in a vase of water in a warm, sunny room. These facts corroborated by other investigations indicate that the starting of dormant buds into growth is due to the warmth they receive and is practically independent of root action. The twigs contain sufficient stored-up food material to promote considerable growth before the roots and developing leaves are called into use.

### Poultry and Potatoes.

Last spring, as an experiment, I planted my poultry yard, containing one-fourth of an acre, to potatoes. I have just dug fifty bushels of fine potatoes but plant and dig the potatoes; the hens did the rest—kept off the bugs, kept the ground free from weeds, fertilized the crop and kept the ground in fine condition, so that I didn't need to cultivate. The yield is double that on land adjoining, and the potatoes are entirely free from scab. Seventy-five hens occupied the quarter acre. When the potatoes were planted, a few whole potatoes were thrown into the yard for the fowls, so that they had no need to dig out the seed potatoes. I think 100 hens could care for an acre of potatoes for their mutual benefit.—F. N. Clark, in Farm Poultry.

### Good Spraying Apparatus.

The barrel pump is considered by the Vermont station the most generally useful spraying apparatus yet devised and representing the least possible outlay. Such a pump is suited to spraying all other crops and fruit trees, as well as potatoes. For work in the potato field there are two chief ways of using the



SPRAYING A POTATO FIELD.

barrel pump. The simplest consists in carrying the barrel through the field in a wagon, while one or two persons walk and direct the spray nozzles.

A more elaborate and expeditious method is shown in the figure. Here the same barrel pump is mounted on a two-wheeled cart. The wheels are set six feet apart so as to straddle two rows, while the horse walks between them. From two to four rows are sprayed at once by this apparatus, and five to ten acres a day are covered by two men and one horse. In order to protect the vines a guard rail is placed in front of each wheel.

### Spare the Quail.

During the first three months of its life the quail feeds almost entirely on insects, and it is estimated that each bird will eat its weight in insects every day until nearly full grown, and even longer than that if the fall grasshoppers are plenty. When there are no more insects to be found they begin on the gleanings of grain and weed seeds, the latter being the ration most of the winter. Farmers should not only forbid the shooting of quail upon their lands, but should further protect them in winter by providing little heaps of brush or evergreen boughs, where they can find shelter and food during deep snows. A quart of wheat screenings, the seeds from the barn floor, or other food that the farmer could give them without cost, would save many, and another season they would pay for it in hunting bugs.

### Celery Culture in Brief.

A well-known gardener, at a recent agricultural meeting, in speaking of celery culture, said: "I grow White Plume, Golden Self-blanching and Golden Heart varieties, and in rows five feet apart, banking only enough to keep it upright in position. Celery desired for late use I put in three rows together, cover it well, and place loose boards over it. What I want to get at during the winter I put in a trench four feet wide and eighteen inches deep. I set a row of two by four studs four feet high along each side of the trench and set rafters over it, cover the sides and top with boards, and then throw the earth up over all, and put on straw or coarse manure, when severe cold weather comes, to keep it from freezing. You must keep all dirt from the heart of your celery else it will speck and spoil."

### Milk Vessels.

Milk vessels should, as far as possible, be made without seams, and all soldered joints be made as smooth as possible.

### Poultry Notes.

Don't let your drinking fountains freeze up. Keep plenty of fresh water where your fowls can get it. Shut up your hen houses on these cold nights. Now is the time to buy your cockerels for spring. Feed plenty of meat scraps if you want to get lots of eggs. It is a good plan to whitewash your hen house early in the spring. Keep the lice off your fowls and they will keep healthy. Don't let the roup get the start of you. Whenever your fowls begin to sneeze you should give them some olive oil and kerosene oil, or burn pine tar in your houses. Roup is often caused by the birds taking cold. When your fowls have frosted combs you should take one pint sweet oil, one pint crude oil and one pint camellia and rub this on night and morning for two or three mornings and they will be well.

### Worms in Horses.

Give two ounces of turpentine in one-half pint of raw linseed oil at a dose three times a day before feeding for two days, then give one quart of raw linseed oil at a dose as a physic. Feed four quarts of oats at a feed three times a day and fifteen pounds of good hay in twenty-four hours. Put on a muzzle to keep him from eating his bedding.

### The Broadening Corn Belt.

Probably the production of corn has been increased in North America by the development of early maturing varieties during the past twenty-five years more than it has increased in all the rest of the world from all other influences. The corn belt has broadened hundreds of miles by this means, and the end is not yet.

### Packing Butter for Family Use.

In packing butter for family use work into rolls, lay in large stone jar, cover with brine strong enough to float an egg, put a level teaspoonful of saltpeper and a pound of white sugar to each two gallons of brine; then put a weight on butter to keep it under brine.