

TWO CENTS.

SCRANTON, PA., WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 8, 1900.

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IMPORTANT NEWS FROM MR. CONGER

His Last Cipher Despatch Declares the Situation to Be More Precarious.

MINISTERS ARE STILL BESIEGED

To Leave Peking, However, Under Chinese Escort, Would Be to Invite Death—Allied Troops Must Fight Their Way Into the Walled City—Li Hung Chang States That They Will Not Be Allowed to Enter in Order to Escort Their Representatives to Tien Tsin—General Chaffee's Men Participated in the Battle at Pietsang—The Allies Cannot Agree Upon a Commander.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Another cablegram came to the state department late this evening from Minister Conger at Peking, the second that has been received direct from him since June 12. So important were the statements contained in the dispatch that a conference was held by wire between several of the officials here and the president at Canton, lasting for several hours.

received a telegram from China announcing that a long imperial edict was issued on Aug. 7, authorizing the immediate and safe conveyance of all Europeans in Peking to Tien Tsin.

Tai-Nan-Yamen, Aug. 7. Secretary of State: Still besieged. Situation more precarious. Chinese government insisting upon our leaving Peking, which would be certain death.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, confirming the messenger's account, says that two American women were among the victims.

A Shanghai special says that official advices from Tokio announce that armed collisions have occurred between parties of Russians and Japanese outside Taku. This, however, as it comes by way of Shanghai, must await confirmation before being credited.

General Chaffee's Troops in the Engagement at Pietsang. Washington, Aug. 7.—The information which came today that American troops were engaged in the battle at Pietsang, established positively for the first time that notwithstanding the difficulties which General Chaffee had encountered in debarking the troops and supplies, at least a part, and a considerable number of American troops were engaged in the fighting.

The cablegram came in the official cipher of the department. It is undated, like his previous cablegram, but from the internal evidence furnished by his reference to the beheading of two members of the tung-li-yamen and to the insistence of the Chinese government of the removal of the Chinese ministers from Peking, state department officials say it may be assigned a date not earlier than July 30, and perhaps not later than August 2. It is checked by the telegraph company as having been put on the wire at Tai-Nan, a large city about eighty miles south-east of Peking, on August 7.

What the result of the conference was the officials declined to say. That it will stimulate the energies of the government to its utmost endeavor to press forward the advance movement towards Peking is certain, for Mr. Conger's message makes it clear that for the ministers to leave Peking would result in their death.

LI HUNG CHANG'S DICTUM. Ministers Must Come Out of Peking Under Chinese Escort, if at All.

General Chaffee's Troops in the Engagement at Pietsang. This is the dictum of Li Hung Chang. It was transmitted last evening to Mr. William Fritchard Morgan, member of parliament for Merthyr Tydvil, by his agent at Shanghai.

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MR. TOWNE FORMALLY GIVES UP THE HONOR

DECLINES THE SIOUX FALLS POPULIST NOMINATION.

After Due Consideration the Opportunity to Be One of Mr. Bryan's Side Partners is Relinquished in Voluminous Rhetoric—Believes That He Should Have Been Nominated by the Democrats and Silver Republicans.

Duluth, Minn., Aug. 7.—Former Congressman Charles A. Towne, who was nominated for the vice-presidency by the Populist national convention, held at Sioux Falls in May, has sent the following letter to the committee of notification:

Gentlemen: When on the 5th of July, at Kansas City, I was called upon to accept the official nomination of the action of your national convention in nominating me for the office of vice president of the United States, I was, in the first instance, completely unprepared in the presidential situation, that you permit me to take the subject under careful consideration before announcing a decision either accepting or declining the nomination.

In announcing this conclusion, I cannot forbear to express to you, and through you, to the great convention whose commission you hold, as well as to that patriotic body of advanced political thought that your convention represented, my deep sense of the honor conferred upon me, to be the unanimous choice of such a convention for the second highest office in the service of the republic would be a distinction to add emphasis to. Two circumstances, however, add emphasis to this consideration in the present instance:

First and Secondly. First, that the nomination was unolicited by me, and secondly, that as the nominee in the case also of its nominee for the presidency, went out of its own political organization to select a candidate. To my mind this action of the Sioux Falls convention, in nominating for president a representative of the Democratic party and for a vice president a representative of the Silver Republican party, is one of the most remarkable spectacles in recent political history.

Secondly, that the nomination was unolicited by me, and secondly, that as the nominee in the case also of its nominee for the presidency, went out of its own political organization to select a candidate.

WHERE GOEBEL FELL. Lewis States That It Was Ten Feet from Spot Marked by the Prosecution in the Powers Trial.

Georgetown, Ky., Aug. 7.—W. J. Lewis, of Frankfort, was the first witness heard today. He said that Goebel fell at least ten feet from the spot marked by the prosecution.

When Mr. Stevenson was nominated, what I had to do was to go before the convention along with him and I had been beaten. The nomination had been made decisively and with absolute fairness.

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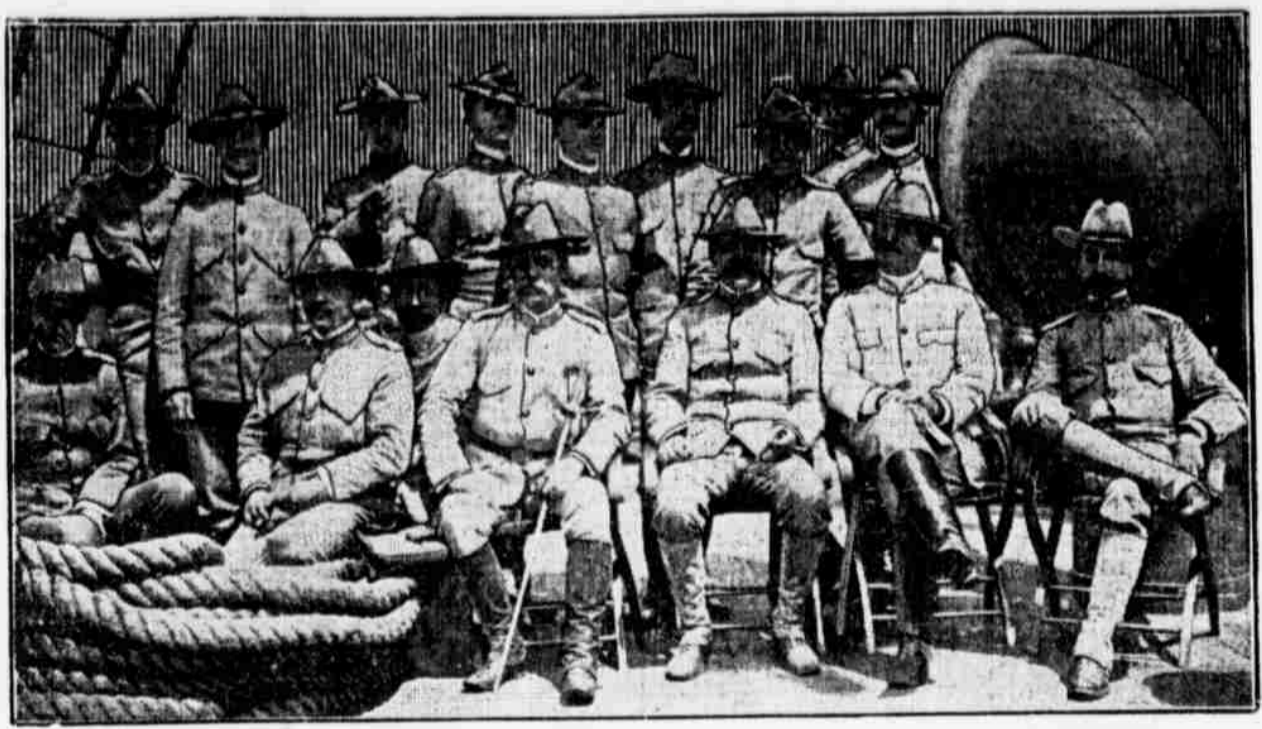
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FIELD, STAFF AND LINE OF THE FIFTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY.

MANY PROSTRATED BY HEAT IN CAMP

DRILLED WITH THE THERMOMETER AT ONE HUNDRED.

No Sign That Rain Will Come Soon to Bring Relief—Drills for Today Will Be Very Rigorous Because of the Third Brigade Inspection on Thursday—Rumor That One Brigade Is to Remain in Camp Is Without Foundation—Notes of the Camp.

Camp Hawkins, Mt. Gretna, Aug. 7.—This was the hottest day which the soldiers boys encamped at Mt. Gretna have as yet experienced, and as a consequence, the Thirteenth boys are pretty thoroughly played out and their regimental hospital is full and a considerable overflow is being accommodated in the nearby tents.

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING

- Weather Indications Today. LOCAL RAIN; COOLER. General-Americans at the Front in the Battle of Pietsang. President Kruger Willing to Surrender. Declaration of Charles A. Towne as a Vice Presidential Candidate. General-Northeastern Pennsylvania News. Financial and Commercial. The Tribune's Educational Content. Local-Evidence in Wilkes-Barre's Councilmanic Bribery Case. Local-L. E. & W. Enjoined from Closing Up a Culvert. Editorial. News and Comment. Local-Two Prisoners Take "French Leave" of the County Jail. Local-West Scranton and Suburban. Round About the County. General-Tuesday at Camp Hawkins (Continued). Editorial Settings.

BRYAN AND STEVENSON AT INDIANAPOLIS

Ready to Be Formally Nominated. Are Greeted with Ovations Along the Line.

Indianapolis, Aug. 7.—William J. Bryan, of Nebraska, and Adlai E. Stevenson, of Illinois, reached this city at 7:20 o'clock this evening. They came on a special train of twelve coaches, all filled with enthusiastic Democrats.

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KRUGER HAS HAD ENOUGH

Boer President is Now Willing and Anxious to Surrender.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS

Asks Only for a Satisfactory Promise as to His Destination—Apparently Dreads Exile to St. Helena—Town of Harrismith Surrendered—British Enabled to Re-establish Railroad Communication with Natal, Fight at Elands River.

Pretoria, Monday, Aug. 6.—It is said positively that President Kruger is willing and anxious to surrender, provided a satisfactory promise is given as to his ultimate destination.

London, Aug. 7.—Lord Roberts reports to the war office, under date of Pretoria, Aug. 6, as follows: "Harrismith surrendered on August 4. The neighboring country seems to be quiet. Kitchener is with the force south of the Vaal river. He was joined yesterday by a strong detachment of Brabant's Horse and the Canadian regiment.

The Boers attacked the garrison at Elands river on the morning of August 4. Information was sent to Carlingford, who was on his way to Elands river. Ian Hamilton, who reached Rustenburg yesterday, reported hearing heavy firing in the direction of Elands river. Today the firing seems more distant, which looks as if the Elands river garrison had been relieved and was retiring toward Zeerust."

Cape Town, Aug. 7.—Railway communication with Natal has been re-established by General Macdonald's capture of Harrismith. Heavy fighting at Elands river was begun on Sunday and continued on Monday. No details are obtainable, but it is believed that General Carlingford and General Ian Hamilton relieved the garrison at Rustenburg, which is retiring to Zeerust.

SOUTH AFRICAN SETTLEMENT.

Annexation of Free State and Transvaal, Mr. Chamberlain Says. London, Aug. 7.—The secretary of state for the colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, in reply to a question in the house of commons today, said he had made himself acquainted with the views of British and Australian opinion in regard to the main points of the South African settlement. He added that they were completely in accord with her majesty's government as to the necessity for the annexation of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal to the British empire and the establishment of a government, supported by a military force, with the ultimate extension of representative self-government.

HOT WAVE N. PHILADELPHIA.

Thirty Prostrations During Yesterday—Two Were Fatal. Philadelphia, Aug. 7.—After a day of sweltering heat and excessive humidity, a severe electrical storm tonight caused a fall of 25 degrees in the temperature. The relief was not of long duration, however, for with the passing of the storm the mercury immediately began to climb. There were about thirty prostrations from heat during the day and two were fatal. Michael McGurk, aged sixty years, was overcome last night and died at a hospital today. At 8 o'clock this morning the temperature was 80 degrees, and the official thermometer on top of the post-office building reached its highest point at 4 o'clock this afternoon, when it registered 91 degrees, and the relative humidity was 61 and tonight 73 per cent.

POLITICS IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Senator Elkins States That a Stubborn Fight Is On. New York, Aug. 7.—Governor George W. Atkinson, of West Virginia, called at Republican national headquarters today, and had a talk with Chairman Hanna and Senator Scott. Governor Atkinson will speak at a labor picnic near Albany Thursday. Senator S. B. Elkins, of West Virginia, and A. B. White, Republican candidate for governor in the state, and W. O. Dawson, secretary of state, and chairman of the republican state committee, were also callers at headquarters. They conferred with Senator Scott about speakers and with Chairman Hanna on the situation in West Virginia. Senator Elkins says there will be a stubbornly fought battle in his state.

Disastrous Fire at Spencer.

Elmira, Aug. 7.—A fire started in the saw-mill of S. Alfred Seelye at Spencer, Tioga county, tonight and before it was placed under control his saw mill, grist mill, lumber dry house, dwelling house, lumber yard, the drug store, milk station, Lehigh valley railroad depot and the village electric light plant were destroyed. Loss, \$150,000.

Export of Arms to China Prohibited.

London, Aug. 7.—An agreement with the recently passed bill, the Gazette tonight proclaimed the prohibition of the export of arms or ammunition to China from today.

Rivaguero's Cabinet Resigns.

Lima, Peru, Aug. 7.—The cabinet of Dr. Rivaguero tendered its resignation this afternoon at 8 o'clock.

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, Aug. 7.—Forecast for Wednesday and Thursday: Eastern Pennsylvania, local rains and cooler Wednesday; Thursday, fair; light to fresh westerly winds.