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FREELAND, PA., JULY 20, 1900.

New Court House.

The supreme court having decided that Luzerne county has no authority to use one more foot of ground of the Public Square at Wilkesbarre than is occupied by the present court house, the selection of another site is in order. No person who has occasion to transact business in the present court house will claim that the offices are what they should be. The business of the county is increasing every year, and the work done in the court house long ago surpassed the accommodations.

Thousands of important records, affecting the interests of nearly every property owner in Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, lie there without protection from fire. This in itself is sufficient to warrant the expenditure necessary to erect a new structure with fire-proof vaults, for no amount of money can replace those records should they be destroyed.

The two questions upon which people may honestly divide are the amount to be appropriated and the site of the new building. If jobbery is left out in selecting plans and letting contracts the first can easily be solved, and good judgment exercised by the officials in charge ought to settle the second to the satisfaction of every taxpayer.

A new court house is needed and ought to be built.

Over Fifty Thousand.

From the Phila. North American.

Two weeks ago The North American stated that the total casualties in the English army in South Africa were just about fifty thousand. Since the figures were printed they have been corroborated and confirmed by the official statements of the British government that the total of the men incapacitated now amounts to about one-fourth of the whole British force in South Africa, the greatest force which Great Britain has mustered against any one enemy during the present century.

Nor is this all. Even if a peace were patched up tomorrow it would be necessary for Great Britain to keep many thousands of troops in South Africa for years to come, and the drain upon her fighting strength would be constant and considerable. Already thousands of the best homes in England and many in the faraway colonies are in mourning, and well may the question, Is it worth the price? grow larger every day in the life and current literature of the country.

State Senatorship.

The defeat for renomination of State Senator Scott has not been gracefully accepted by his friends, to judge by the rumors floating around the county. Scott seems to be convinced that his failure to obtain a place on the ticket was due to underhand work on the part of the political manipulators of the county, consequently he is not disposed to accept the result as the will of a majority of his party.

There is talk of nominating the senator on an independent ticket in order to defeat Drury, but as very few of the prominent Republicans of the district will endanger their future prospects by aiding a bolting movement it is not likely that the Scott faction will carry their resentment so far.

In 1884 the Prohibition vote broke the record and gave the Empire state to Cleveland, thus electing him. In 1900, the Prohibition vote will, perhaps, get the anti-imperialistic vote of the Republican party, and may again break the record and give New York to the Democrats.

RUSSIANS ROUT BOXERS

Invaders of Amur Defeated at Blagovestchensk.

MASSAORE IS AGAIN REPORTED.

Positive Statement From St. Petersburg That It Occurred on July 6, Viceroy of Nankin, Like Li Hung Chang, Summoned to Peking.

London, July 20.—A dispatch from St. Petersburg, dated July 19, says that the Chinese have been completely routed from their position at Blagovestchensk, and it is now occupied by a strong body of Russian troops.

The government has ordered all provincial governors to stop migrations to Siberia, the railway line being wanted for the use of troops.

General Gerngross, commander of the Manchurian railway guards, and Chief Engineer Yougovitch are surrounded by Chinese at Harbin, where they are isolated as completely as the foreigners in Peking. Harbin is a considerable settlement in the center of Manchuria and is the principal station and starting point of the railway now under construction.

Three detachments of troops are rapidly converging there from the north, east and west, and it is expected that they will surprise the Chinese.

Certain portions of the Amur territory, comprising the first division of the Khabarovsk district, the towns of Blagovestchensk, Khabarovsk, Nikolok, Ussuri, and Vladivostok have been declared in a state of war from July 17.

Rumor is still busy with the fate of the foreigners in Peking. Each day furnishes reports tending alternately to encourage and crush hope. The latest assurances of Li Hung Chang and a Chinese rumor, coming by way of Berlin, reporting their safety are now offset by a dispatch to The Telegraph from its St. Petersburg correspondent, who says he



LI HUNG CHANG.

has learned from a thoroughly trustworthy source that the Russian government is in possession of definite official news confirming the reports of the massacre and stating that none of the foreigners survives. The massacre occurred on July 6, he says, and it is noteworthy that news of it reached St. Petersburg the same day.

Another Viceroy Called to Peking.

Of today's fresh news from China perhaps the most important is a statement that Lin Kun Yi, the proforeigner and apparently trusted viceroy of Nankin, has been, like Li Hung Chang, summoned to Peking by an imperial edict and that he has been instructed to hand his seals to Sung Shou, the Manchou governor of Kiangsi. The report comes from Shanghai and is transmitted by correspondents who can usually be depended upon. One of them, however, does not assert the truth of the report positively.

The importance of the step, if true, lies in the removal of a moderating influence from Nankin and the consequent creation of alarm among the foreigners, who seem to apprehend indefinite dangers.

The withdrawal of Li Hung Chang has aroused extraordinary alarm in Canton and the neighborhood. It seems to be taken for granted that Tak Shu, governor of Canton, will be unable to hold the rabble in order. The wealthy, educated Chinese are quite as much alarmed as the foreigners.

On Tuesday last the Cantonese merchants caused placards to be posted in the streets protesting against Earl Li's departure and invoking the responsible residents to induce him to stay in Canton. They thronged the viceroy's yamen at dawn and begged him on their knees to remain. Thousands of lanterns inscribed, "We humbly and respectfully entreat your excellency to stay," were suspended above the yamen and at the city gates.

Li Hung Chang appeared to be much moved. He declared that he did not dare to disobey the edict summoning him to Peking. He urged his petitioners to use their influence to induce the inferior classes to respect the laws.

Li Believes Ministers Are Safe.

The petitioners then tried to block the streets and to keep the gates of the city shut to prevent his going, but soldiers cleared a passage to the quay.

Before sailing Li Hung Chang told Mr. McWade, the American consul, that the dowager empress had appointed him viceroy of Chili and that he would never return to Canton. He also positively reiterated his belief that the ministers were safe in Peking.

All the Chinese shopkeepers in Canton have removed their English signboards. The wealthy families are leaving the city as rapidly as possible.

Some further official details of the capture of Tien-tsin on July 14 are to the effect that the American casualties were 32 killed and 88 wounded. The native city was completely destroyed by the allies. The lost they secured was worth 1,500,000 taels. The fighting was extremely severe.

north to actively assume the offensive in a doubtful whether the southern viceroys, in view of the increasing opposition of the provincial officials, will be able to maintain their declared policy. Signs are not lacking in the attitude of Viceroy Lin Kun Yi himself that this policy is liable to modification.

It is inevitable that the mandarins as a body should sympathize with Prince Tuan's movement, and they are deterred from immediate activity by fear. On Wednesday Lin Kun Yi, in compliance with the consuls' request, renewed his prohibition of further military activity at the Woussing forts.

Japanese Troops Have Landed.

Under Foreign Secretary Brodrick stated in the house of commons yesterday that 11,000 Japanese troops had been landed or were on the way to China on July 17. Two thousand additional Japanese troops would start for the scene of the present trouble before Sunday.

Mr. Brodrick also stated that vessels which had been hired and some gunboats were ready to pick up any refugees from China. Mr. Warren, the British consul at Shanghai, had been empowered to take any steps that were necessary to bring away refugees.

It is stated that Lieutenant General Sir Francis Grenfell, governor of Malta, will command the British troops in China. He has seen service in the Kafir and Zulu wars and in the Egyptian campaign.

The Telegraph's Canton correspondent, in a dispatch dated July 17, says that in defiance of the viceregal proclamation forbidding the Chinese to ill treat foreigners some soldiers assaulted an American medical missionary, crying, "Kill the foreign devil!"

A number of the soldiers were arrested, and six of them have been beheaded.

THE POWERS TRIAL.

Culton Says Defendant Didn't Want Goebel Shot.

Lexington, Ky., July 20.—Yesterday was a trying day for W. H. Culton, one of the chief witnesses for the prosecution in the trial of Caleb Powers, charged with being accessory before the fact to the Goebel murder. At the morning session the prosecution completed its long direct examination of the witness, and he was given over to the defense for cross examination. He was plainly nervous under the questioning of former Representative W. C. Owens, who is counted one of the most skillful cross examiners in the state.

Culton declared that while he was in jail with Powers at Frankfort Powers begged him not to go on as a witness stand in the hearing of his (Culton's) motion for bail. The witness told Powers he wanted to get bail, as his family needed him.

Powers told him he would see to it that his family was provided for if witness would agree not to go on the stand. The witness said he refused the offer.

Colonel Owens gained a half admission that Powers at a conference had opposed any violent measures against Goebel.

"Sheriff Burton of Breckinridge county said he knew of a way to settle the contest," said the witness, "and held up a large cartridge in one hand, saying 'This is the way.'"

"What did Powers say to that?"

"He said he did not think that was right."

"To refresh your memory," said Colonel Owens, "did he not say that he had more at stake than any one else and that if such actibus were persisted in he would resign his office and quit?"

"I think he used the expression," said the witness.

Then followed perhaps the most significant portion of Culton's testimony.

"Did you not say at the examination you knew of no conspiracy to kill Goebel?" was asked.

"Yes, sir," said the witness, "and I know of none now."

George G. Fetter, president of the Fetter Printing company at Louisville, differed from other witnesses on an important point. Fetter testified that he was 40 feet behind Goebel when he fell. He said the shot seemed to come from between the stables and the office of the adjutant general.

Fifty Missionaries Safe.

Nashville, July 20.—A cablegram has been received from Shanghai by the mission board of the Southern Presbyterian church announcing the safety of 50 of its 56 missionaries. They are at Shanghai and in Japan. The six still at their stations are Rev. J. L. Stuart and wife, who have been in China for 30 years at Kudin; Rev. George W. Painter and Miss E. B. French at Hangchow; Rev. J. B. Pear and wife at Chinking.

More Marines For China.

Boston, July 20.—One hundred and twenty-five marines will leave the Charleston navy yard Sunday night for New York, bound for duty in China. Of the 125, 75 are from this yard and the remainder from Portsmouth (N. H.) and Newport (R. I.) yards. At New York they will rendezvous at the Brooklyn navy yard, where the remainder of the battalion is ordered to report.

The New Protected Cruisers.

Washington, July 20.—The important features of the new protected cruisers authorized by the last congress were agreed upon at a meeting of the board of naval chiefs. It was determined that the cruisers shall have 22 knots speed, not exceeding 9,500 tons displacement, with a capacity for carrying 1,500 tons of coal and batteries consisting of sixteen 6 inch rapid fire guns.

Boy Who Bathed Too Much.

Binghamton, July 20.—As a result of too much swimming 9-year-old Eddie Connel lies in a comatose condition suffering from paralysis, which beginning with the sciatic nerves, gradually extended to other parts of the body. His legs are totally paralyzed, and the upper parts of his body are partially so. Physicians believe it is doubtful if he ever fully recovers.

Marines Ordered From Norfolk.

Norfolk, July 20.—Orders have been received at the marine barracks of the navy yard to send 54 men to Washington, where they will join a battalion which leaves Sunday for San Francisco, thence to China. This leaves 12 men at the barracks, 80 of whom are raw recruits. The 54 men left on the Washington steamer last night.

Fishing Vessels Ice Bound.

St. John's, N. F., July 20.—The latest reports show that the strait of Belle Isle is still blocked with icebergs. Almost all fishing vessels are ice bound and unable to reach the Labrador fishing grounds.

M'KINLEY GOES HOME.

Our Chinese Policy Settled For the Present.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. ROCKHILL.

Well Versed In Oriental Affairs, He Is Expected to Do Good Service at Tokio—Long Meeting of the Cabinet to Discuss Situation.

Washington, July 20.—After a stay of two days in the city, during which he has had several consultations with his cabinet on the Chinese situation, the president started back for Canton last night, taking the 7:30 express on the Pennsylvania railroad. With him went Secretary Cortelyou, Colonel Webb C. Hayes and Mr. William Barber, the president's nephew. They occupied the private car Grassmere. The president came to the station unattended during a thunderstorm. He was met by several members of his cabinet, including Secretary Root and Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith, both of whom had a brief private consultation with him before the train left. General Corbin also was at the station.

Coincident with the selection of Mr. William Woodville Rockhill as special commissioner to China, it developed that negotiations are under way between the powers for the assembling of an international congress to determine the future of China.

These two events are correlative and are of the utmost importance, viewed from both a national and international standpoint. Mr. Rockhill will be given instructions to make a thorough investigation and a full report upon the Chinese situation, and his views will play an important part in determining the policy of the administration. The international congress to be held to decide upon the course the powers shall pursue with respect to China will be largely influenced by the attitude of the United States.

China occupied the serious consideration of the cabinet. The suggestion of an international congress to discuss the entire Chinese question has been favorably received in official quarters here.

Administration officials said that the report that M. Delesse, the French minister of foreign affairs, had sent a circular to the powers proposing an international agreement for joint action in China and the future attitude of the powers was an error, though they would not deny that representations had been made by France, and further questioning elicited the fact that the proposition for convening an international congress was not considered.

It was suggested that Mr. Rockhill's dispatch to Asia at this time may be for the purpose of participating in an international conference to be held in the far east. Such a conference will be entirely distinct from any congress that may be called. The congress will probably meet in Berlin.

Mr. Rockhill's Fitness.

Mr. Rockhill's mission is to make an investigation of and report upon the entire Chinese situation and to make such representation to the Chinese officials as may be necessary. He will, to all intents and purposes, be the minister plenipotentiary of the United States, as he will be accredited in a diplomatic capacity and will discuss matters with the several viceroys who are at present in power.

He is expected to visit the principal Chinese ports, and in fact, to utilize every proper channel to obtain the information the president desires.

Mr. Rockhill's experience in China and long diplomatic career especially fit him to perform the duty for which the president selected him. He was secretary of the American legation in Peking when Mr. John Russell Young was minister and while serving as chief clerk of the state department, third assistant secretary of state and first assistant secretary of state he devoted particular attention to Chinese affairs. He was appointed Minister to Greece, Serbia and Roumania in 1897 and resigned that position last year to accept an appointment as director of the bureau of American republics.

The president has appointed Brigadier General A. R. Chaffee, U. S. V., who is to command the American military forces in China, a major general of volunteers in order that his rank should be commensurate with his command. This action was received with great satisfaction at the war department and in official circles generally, where General Chaffee is held in the highest esteem. He is considered by his brother officers as one of the most capable and thoroughly equipped soldiers in the service. Although General Miles recommended that Major General Bates, now in the Philippines, be assigned to the command of the troops in China, he is well pleased with the promotion of General Chaffee. His recommendation was made on the ground that the services called for required an officer of the rank of a major general, and he named General Bates for the reason mainly that General Chaffee held only the rank of a brigadier general.

Provisions For Eastern Force.

Chicago, July 20.—Chicago has sent the first shipment of supplies destined for the use of foreign armies during the impending hostilities in the orient. The goods sent from the stock yards were billed to Port Arthur, China, and Tokyo and Nagasaki, Japan. The shipments consisted of five carloads of barreled beef and pork sent to Port Arthur for the use of the Russian army, and five carloads of canned roasts, soups and corned beef, sent to Tokyo and Nagasaki for the use of the Japanese army.

Cardinal Satoli's Elevation.

Washington, July 20.—It is learned from an official source that Cardinal Francis Satoli, the first papal delegate to this country, 1893-97, has been appointed prefect of the propaganda by Pope Leo XIII. This news reached here yesterday direct from Rome, where Mr. Satoli has resided since leaving Washington three years ago.

First Mayor of San Francisco Dead.

Chicago, July 20.—Major John J. Caperton of Louisville and one of the wealthiest and most prominent men of Kentucky, is dead here from heart failure. Major Caperton got his start in life in California and was the first mayor of San Francisco.

New Submarine Cable.

Hullfax, July 20.—The shore end of the new submarine cable between Canso and Scotch Island, N. Y., was laid yesterday by the steamer Silvertown, and the cable proceeded to sea to make a junction with the Coney Island cable buoyed at sea.

FATE OF ANDREE.

Swedes Believed to Have Found Remains of Expedition.

Chicago, July 20.—A special from Fort William, Ont., to The Times-Herald says: "The Indians hunting on the east coast of Hudson Bay have brought word to the Hudson Bay company's post on the west coast of James bay that they found this spring a vast quantity of wreckage, the bodies of two men and a man in the last stage of the death struggle. The Indians reported that they could not understand the language he spoke, but that it was not English. He died while they were there, and they returned to the trading post without bringing any evidence of the strange occurrence.

"It is believed by the officials of the Hudson Bay company that the Indians witnessed the ending of Andree's attempt to reach the north pole by balloon. They had never seen a balloon, but from their description and the other features the officials are firmly convinced that it was the remains of Andree's airship. A party guided by the same Indians has been sent out to bring evidence to establish the identity of the party."

BASEBALL SCORES.

Results of Yesterday's Games in the Different Leagues.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

At New York: N. Y. 2, B. R. 1. N. Y. 2, B. R. 1. N. Y. 2, B. R. 1.

At Philadelphia: Phil. 0, P. 1. Phil. 0, P. 1. Phil. 0, P. 1.

At St. Louis: S. L. 0, B. M. 1. S. L. 0, B. M. 1. S. L. 0, B. M. 1.

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