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ORIENTAL IMBROGLIO

CHINESE TRICKED INTO GRANTING RUSSIA'S DEMANDS.

Made to Think That England Meant to Forceful Seize Port Arthur—Hence Formidable For Occupancy Was Given—British Warship Powerful at Hongkong.

London, Jan. 5.—The Washington correspondent of The Daily Chronicle cautions that he learns from the highest diplomatic authority that there is a complete understanding between Russia and France in regard to the east to the extent of their co-operating on sea and land in the event of hostilities. An effort has been made to induce Germany to act in concert with them, but hitherto without success. The movement is directed against England.

The Shanghai correspondent of The Daily Mail says: "The Russians tricked China into consenting to an occupation of Port Arthur by representing that the British fleet was coming to capture it. They also asked the Chinese to prohibit the English from landing. The latter refused, but any Englishman going ashore at Port Arthur is shadowed by the Russians."

A dispatch from Hongkong says the British warship Powerful has arrived there. The Powerful is a first class cruiser of over 14,000 tons displacement and 25,000 indicated horsepower. She is heavily armed and is estimated to have a speed of about 22 knots. She carries a crew of 840 men.

LI HUNG CHANG RECALLED.

The Great Chinese Statesman and Diplomat Again in Power.

Tacoma, Jan. 5.—The steamer Indrapura has arrived from Japan, bringing the latest mail advices regarding the oriental situation. Li Hung Chang has been recalled to power at Peking, the emperor and the inner council desiring his assistance in the diplomatic crisis. Li Hung Chang recently started for his estates on account of ill health. He has now returned to Peking, and the government has taken up for serious consideration his memorial on the military and naval defenses of the empire. This memorial was prepared on Earl Li's return from America and Europe, but remained pigeonholed until now.

Thousands of troops are being recruited in the interior, and it is intended to double the number of battalions in all the Chinese maritime provinces within 30 days. The emperor has received many secret memorials regarding the defense of the empire from high military and civil officials throughout China. All China is awakening. Not

even during the China-Japan war was there such united feeling as is now to be observed among the educated Chinese and masses. Japan is stirred up by news from Peking saying that beyond doubt Russia and France are actively conspiring to procure the dismissal of Sir Robert Hart, the English director of the imperial Chinese customs.

The procedure followed resembles that pursued with reference to McLeavy Brown in Korea. It is believed that the Russian and French influence will prevail, as both powers are bent on securing the dismissal of Sir Robert Hart. There will be at least a reorganization of the offices between powers in proportion to the trade of each country with China.

A number of newspapers in Japan and the Chinese maritime ports express the belief that the partition of China among the powers is inevitable.

SHAW'S TRIAL ENDS.

Brought to a Sudden Close by Reason of Alleged Undue Influence.

Camden, N. J., Jan. 5.—The trial of Eli Shaw on the charge of having murdered his mother and grandmother came to an abrupt end yesterday. The court machinery up to Tuesday night seemed to be moving steadily toward a decision of his fate, when suddenly it jolted and stopped, and the air vibrates with the wildest rumors as to the cause.

At the opening of the session yesterday Judge Garrison announced that the trial would be abandoned and that the case would be tried at the appeal term of court. The only explanation made relative to this unusual action was couched in a few words to the effect that the defendant had asked that a juror be withdrawn, and that after consultation with counsel for the defense and the county prosecutor the court had decided to grant the request. The case was put over the term, and the court adjourned.

Justice Garrison stated that matters of much importance had been placed before him. He regretted to say that from an authentic source it had been learned that a lawyer, in an attempt to assist in clearing the defendant, had taken steps that laid him open to grave charges. Before the trial nearly the entire panel of jurors had been visited. The sentiments of many regarding the Shaw case had been learned. In addition to the nearly all the witnesses had been called on, and in several instances threats had been made.

A DUEL WAS FEARED.

WARRANTS OUT FOR TWO ANGRY VIRGINIA MILITARY MEN.

Colonel John Cussons and General George Handley Beach the Fighting Range in a War of Frenzied Words—Richmond Police Stop the Promised Encounter.

Richmond, Jan. 5.—When Colonel John Cussons published a card in a newspaper on Sunday last in reply to one published a week before by General George Handley and used some very severe expressions in regard to General Handley, those who know the two men once said that it was impossible for the matter to end there, and when it was announced yesterday that General Handley had come to Richmond from his home in Annapolis county, the public was in an expectant attitude.

The authorities seemed to be of a similar opinion as the public in regard to the fighting nature of the two men, and last night a Chief of Police, on information received, had a warrant issued by Justice Crutchfield against General Handley, who was stopping at Murphy's hotel, and arrested him on a charge of being about to engage in a duel. Detective Tomlinson served the warrant. Justice Crutchfield released him on bail of \$1,000 for his appearance in the police court tomorrow morning. Detective Tomlinson going on the bond, General Handley at once returned to his hotel.

Colonel Cussons was grand commander of the United Confederate Veterans and later chairman of the history committee. Colonel Stubbs succeeded him as grand commander and was then also made a member of the history committee. When Colonel Stubbs was named a member of the committee, Colonel Cussons resigned as chairman. It then became known for the first time that the two men were connected with the organization under suspicion of having received bribes from a book company. Colonel Cussons gave this as his reason for resigning. He was an important witness in the double investigation, and out of criticism made by General Handley as counsel for Stubbs grew a series of publications which became more and more heated until the present culmination.

WARRANT FOR CUSSONS.

A warrant was issued for Colonel Cussons, but he is at his country seat seven miles away. The action on the part of the police was taken when it was learned that both General Handley and Colonel Cussons were quartered under the same roof at Murphy's hotel. When seen at his room, General Handley declined to be interviewed.

General Handley is well known in Virginia politics, having served a long time in the legislature. He was a gallant soldier during the war. Colonel Cussons is an Englishman who was in a secret of the plot, and was promoted on the field of battle in the Confederate service. He is picturesque and handsome, with hair worn on the Buffalo Bill style. He is a very beautiful man at Glen Allen, near Richmond, where he has lived since the war. He is said to be the best pistol shot in Virginia. He fought a duel years ago with Editor John W. Caldwell, and was wounded in the neck. He is now in the market for a new suit of clothes.

During the war Colonel Cussons fought a duel with a man in the south who had insulted him. The man was believed to have been mortally wounded, and Colonel Cussons thought he died. Twenty years afterward he appeared at Colonel Cussons' country home at Glen Allen and announced himself to the host. He was invited to the table and invited the man to take some refreshments. He accepted and was entertained in handsome style for several days. They have since been warm friends.

DANGEROUS COUNTERFEIT.

Began Silver Certificates For \$100 Worth Defy Detection.

Washington, Jan. 4.—One of the most dangerous counterfeiters ever discovered has made his appearance. John Cramer, a sub-treasurer at Philadelphia brought to the attention of the bureau \$100 counterfeit silver certificates with the head of President Monroe. Their general appearance is excellent, and they are so good that the officials of the treasury department were undecided as to their genuineness, and only after the notes had been soaked in hot water, when the two pieces forming the note broke apart, were they convinced of the fraud.

On examination of treasury cash another of the spurious notes was discovered. The notes brought over by Mr. Cramer had been turned into the sub-treasury by two leading banks and the Philadelphia custom house, which had received them as genuine.

A description of the notes has been sent to agents of the secret service everywhere with instructions to be on the lookout for persons attempting to pass them. Inquiries also have been sent to all the leading cities as to whether any of the notes have appeared other than in Philadelphia and Washington, and the best men in the service will be put on the case. Following is a description of the notes as furnished by the secret service.

The note is of the series of 1891, check letter D, face plate 1, Eilman, register; Morgan, treasurer; portrait, James Monroe. All numbers so far seen begin with 345. The most marked differences between this note and the genuine, however, are found in the seal and the numbering, the counterfeit being a shade lighter than the genuine and the genuine slightly different in formation. Especially is this true of the 3 and 4. In the figure 3 the lower loop does not extend up as far toward the center of the figure as in the genuine, and in the figure 4 the space between the base and the center cross line is narrower than in the genuine. One of the principal points of difference, however, is that the new counterfeit is one-sixteenth of an inch or less shorter than the genuine.

In view of the dangerous character of the counterfeit, Secretary Gage decided to stop issuing and to call in all \$100 silver certificates, of which there is about \$2,000,000 outstanding. These will be exchanged for silver certificates of smaller denominations and the plates destroyed. As soon as new plates can be engraved a new series will be issued.

Ohio Senate's Choice.

THIRTY ARE KILLED.

FRIGHTFUL CATASTROPHE AT A POLITICAL MEETING IN CANADA.

The Floor of the City Hall, Which Was Densely Packed, Gave Way, Buried Hundreds in the Ruins—Thirty Dead Bodies Taken From the Debris.

London, Ont., Jan. 4.—One of the most stubbornly contested municipal elections ever known in this city culminated last night in a tragedy that has put the city in mourning. At the close of the polls the crowd, as is usual, gathered in the city hall, where it has been the custom for years past for the successful candidates to address the electors. The meeting had been conducted in the usual manner and was about to be closed, when the floor in the northeast corner of the hall gave way, and the people situated in that section were precipitated to the floor below.

An alarm of fire was sounded, and the brigade soon reported and began the work of standing the debris and taking from the ruins the bodies of the dead and injured. Thirty bodies have been removed from the wrecked building and identified. How many were injured will never be known, as those who suffered but slightly at once started for their homes or were taken care of by their friends. Those who were more seriously injured were carried to neighboring drug stores, whence they were taken to the hospital or to their homes after their injuries had been attended to. The dead were taken to the committee rooms of Alderman Fennell and the defeated candidate for mayor, across the street. The building was crowded to the very doors, probably 2,000 people being jammed in its narrow space.

There was full in the proceedings, the audience called for several of the newly elected aldermen at once and there was some delay in securing a speaker to address them. Alderman Carrothers joined the mayor in an effort to secure quiet. In response to numerous calls R. M. Toth was pushed forward to the platform on which the speakers stood. He was rescued if there was an ominous cracking, and the raised platform on which the mayor and newly elected aldermen were seated seemed to pitch forward to the floor.

Reaping a Harvest of Timbers.

There was a sagging of timbers, and the next moment 150 people were hurled 20 feet to the floor below. A beam running 20 feet along the center of the hall had given way, and the crowded mass standing above that section of the floor was thrown in a heap to the bottom. A large safe stood in one corner of the hall and a huge steam coil weighing a ton, and they came crashing down on the heads of the victims.

Following the crash there was a wild rush for the doors. At the south door, where the majority of the crowd had entered, there was a terrible panic. People were thrown down by the oncoming rush, shrieking and fighting for the door and safety. Only one-half of the rear door, a space of probably three feet, was open, and in the mad rush no one thought to open the door completely, and 500 people struggled through the narrow space, the stronger bearing down the weaker. Within a moment the door had fallen in there were not more than three persons in the hall on that portion of the floor which had not fallen.

A glance at the wreck after the catastrophe disclosed the fact that a whole section of the floor had dropped, the joists being as neatly cut off as though the work had been done with a saw. The building is an old one, having been erected in the early fifties, and of late years additional stories have been placed on the old walls.

In the Grand Opera House, which adjoins the wrecked building, the first act of "The Girl From Paris" had just been concluded, when word was whispered through the theater of the calamity. A panic was imminent, but was averted by the prompt action of the manager, and the people quietly left the building.

The injured include the newly elected mayor, several aldermen, the water commissioner and several newspaper men.

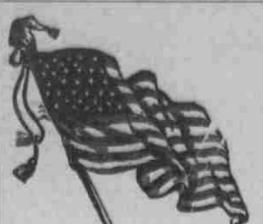
THREATENED STRIKE.

Pennsylvania Coal Miners Dissatisfied Over a Shutdown.

Dubois, Pa., Jan. 4.—The Rochester mine at this place was yesterday closed indefinitely, the result of which has been to increase the dissatisfaction which has been brewing over the miners in this section. The miners claim that the shutdown is due to the operators' desire to get rid of a number of miners who have been active in organizing since the recent strike.

The company, however, claims that the closing of the mine is because of a misunderstanding with the land owners over the question of royalties, the mines being operated on the percentage plan. The dissatisfaction apparent here is also noticeable at Reynoldsville, where the mines are operated by the same company. At the latter place trouble is brewing over the collection of the check weighman's funds.

The miners at both points are well organized, and there is a strong possibility that a midwinter strike will be inaugurated before long. Over 600 men are affected by the shutdown at Rochester, of which but a small number will be able to get work at other holdings.



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