

“VEILED WAR”

Description of the Situation in China.

Pekin's Walls Guarded by 100,000 Chinese Soldiers—The International Force Makes Slow Progress.

London, June 16.—This is the situation in China as it appears to the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express, telegraphing last evening: “It is really a state of veiled war. The members of the foreign legations in Peking are virtually prisoners, and the Chinese troops are only restrained from attacking them by the fear of the legation guards. Meanwhile the ministers altogether are unable to communicate with the officers commanding the relief column, which is making an enforced and isolated halt between Tien-Tsin and Peking. The walls of the capital are guarded by 100,000 imperial troops. The gates are heavily defended by modern guns. Gen. Tung, acting under orders from the emperor dowager, says that no more foreign troops shall enter the sacred city. On Monday the ministers sent a demand to the Tsung-Li-Yamen that the gates be opened, declaring that otherwise the foreign troops would enter forcibly. To this no reply was given. A second message went unanswered, or has not been answered since the latest news left Peking. Sir Claude MacDonald's latest message says that the legations are capable of maintaining an effective defense unless attacked by force.” Russia, this correspondent asserts, is withholding assurances to the contrary sides with China. Some foreign troops are already reported to be in the environs of Peking, and the attitude of the Chinese troops is increasingly menacing.

SEETHING MOBS.

“The streets of Peking,” continues the correspondent, “are reported to be seething with anti-foreign mobs, clamoring for the destruction of the legations and the death of the foreign ministers. Even were the Tsung-Li-Yamen disposed to restrain the violence of the reactionaries it is considered highly improbable that they will be able to hold them in check. For the foreign ministers the crisis will arise when the relief column comes in sight of Peking. It is still felt here that the foreign force is wholly inadequate to battle with the hordes of Chinese troops massed outside the gates, which now include the imperial troops from Shan-Hai-Kwan.”

A disquieting element in the situation is the fact that, although the Russo-Chinese telegraph line from Peking, via Khabarovsk (Eastern Siberia), is working again, the transmission of English messages is rigidly refused.

From Tien-Tsin it is reported that the foreign forces in the harbor will attack the Taku forts, and if necessary bombard them.

The international column appears to be still at Lang-Fang, engaged in slowly repairing the railway, which, according to a dispatch from Tien-Tsin to the Daily Mail, dated June 14, cannot be effected for weeks. The force is short of provisions, and as it is without fixed transport, it must stick to the railway.

The report that the mixed forces will seize the Taku forts is taken to mean that the foreign commanders expect no aid from the Chinese Government in repressing the disorder, and are determined to make Taku secure as a base from which to operate.

GRAVE AS EVER.

London, June 15.—The news from China is confused, but the general trend indicates that the gravity of the situation has in no way diminished. Shanghai provides the usual crop of alarmist rumors as to the conditions at Peking, and the preparations to oppose the international forces, but there is a disposition in London to regard the safety of the legations and the equipment there as not seriously threatened at the present moment.

Still, the slightest sign of check to the international forces would put an entirely different face on the matter, and would probably lead to an outbreak of the rabble.

Besides the news of the burning of the French and British missions at Yunnan Fu is regarded as extremely grave, as it points to the extension of the rebellion to remote portions of the empire. The latest accounts say Gens. Tung and Ma are reported to be concentrating forces at Feng Tai, while

THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE.

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Gen. Nieh, who killed a number of Boxers, has been degraded. The Pall Mall Gazette continues to support the view that the initiative in the present crisis can best come from Washington, saying, as the disruption of China has been stayed in the past by the intervention of the United States, a similar intervention will have the same effect now and so save the mercantile world considerable losses.

SOME MISSIONARIES SAFE.

New York, June 16.—The following was received today from Tien Tsin: Tsinhua safely arrived here. Shang Tung is ordered to Chin Kiang. Peking is in a very dangerous state. Chinese army is quite uncertain. [The first sentence of the above dispatch disposes of the rumor circulated a day or two ago that Miss Terry had been murdered. She was at Tsinhua, and all the Methodist missionaries there have, it appears, arrived safely in Tien Tsin. Chin Kiang is on the Yangtse River, about 200 miles above Shanghai. The Shan Tung missionaries will go there if they can.]

THE MOB RULES.

Washington, June 15.—The cabinet meeting today lasted until the afternoon. Much of the time was devoted to the discussion of the Chinese situation, which is regarded as critical. No effort will be spared, should the occasion arise, to protect the lives and property of American citizens.

The United States consul at Tien Tsin, Mr. Ragsdale, says that the mobs are in control of the native city of Tien Tsin, and that anything with them seems to be able to do anything with them. He adds that the foreigners in Tien Tsin are still safe. The surprising feature of this telegram is the announcement that the Boxers are operating freely under the very guns of the men-of-war, for it is understood that several Russian gunboats are lying off Tien Tsin, which is also the depot of the relief column. Fortunately the Nashville and Monocacy are just coming off Taku, and one or both of these vessels will soon be able to command the situation at Tien Tsin.

PRESBYTERIANS

Doings of the General Assembly at Halifax.

Financial Statements and College Reports Presented.

Halifax, N. S., June 15.—Yesterday afternoon was college afternoon at the Presbyterian general assembly, the greater part of the time being devoted to the reception of reports from various institutions of learning under the supervision of the church. The general tone of the reports was that of prosperity. The report of Queen's College was reported by Principal Grant, giving a resume of the year's work. The report of Morin College, Quebec, was next called for, but no report was forthcoming. Dr. Warden intimated that he had received a communication from the secretary of the board of governors stating that they did not contemplate giving any printed report this year. Mr. Tait, of Quebec, reported that on account of the small number of students and scarcity of funds the governors had discontinued the work and are now considering what is to be done with funds invested. It is probable that these will be devoted to higher education in the city of Quebec.

Dr. Herridge, of Ottawa, reported for the commission appointed last assembly to confer with the governors of Morin College. The conference was held in November last, at which commission it suggested that part of the endowment should be used for higher education in Quebec and part for endowment of a chair in some one of the colleges already existing in the church. He could give no information as to whether the recommendation was likely to be carried out. It was moved by Dr. Warden, and seconded by Dr. Sedgewick, that the commission be continued in office and report at next assembly. Dr. McRae, principal of Morin College, insisted that this would serve no purpose, because there would be no response on the part of the governors. No money will be given to other colleges of the church. Mr. McRae said the college had been a failure from the first. Its history told of misconception, misunderstanding, inefficiency and indifference upon the part of the assembly. Its closing is in no sense a calamity to the church. The governors think the assembly has no right to interfere and that all money invested should be used to further educational work in Quebec.

Dr. Grant held that there was nothing to be done but pass a motion. The governors had always reported to the assembly, and the assembly had the right to know what was to be done with the funds if the college be closed. This was the mind of the assembly, and a motion for continuance of the committee was adopted. Rev. Scott, M.A., of Montreal, editor of the Presbyterian Record, and Mr. J. R. McLeod, of Quebec, were appointed to represent the assembly on the board of governors of Morin College. The report of the Presbyterian College, Montreal, was submitted by Principal McVicar. The local statements showed a balance on the right side of \$472. George S. Morris, contributed an endowment of \$2,500 to the library fund. Mr. George S. Morris, of Montreal, has founded a traveling fellowship of \$500 per year with a view of raising the standard of theological education. Fellowship is to be awarded next year, and the holder is to prosecute his studies in Europe or the United States, under the supervision of the faculty, to which body he is to make report.

Principal Caven presented the report of Knox College, Toronto. No students were admitted to first year of preparatory course. After next session this course will go out of existence in pursuance of the wish expressed by the assembly in 1898. Dr. Caven contradicted the report that the missionary zeal of students was decreasing. Of graduates of the past three years, 81 per cent had gone to the Northwest. The board is anxious to appoint a professor of apologetics, and asked leave to do so when the funds permit. Upon motion of Dr. Caven the report was adopted.

Rev. C. B. Pitblado reported for the college at Winnipeg. During the year Dr. Paterson, of Dundee, Scotland, had entered upon his work with goodwill. He and Prof. Kilpatrick, lately appointed, have instilled new life into the institution, and already the influence is being felt. Dr. Pitblado dwelt upon the importance of the work in the west, and of the relation in which the college stood to that work. Dr. Robertson, in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report, urged upon the assembly the need of the help of the west in this matter. They had promised to support the work, and must not fail to fulfill their promise. The men of the west must be trained for work in that country.

The report of the finance committee,

eastern section, was presented by Mr. J. Mackintosh, of Halifax. The death of the agent, Dr. Morrison, had thrown more responsibility upon the commission, and they had exercised the greatest care in the management of the funds. A plan is under consideration which will place the fund in sure and safe condition, and really make the entire fund an insurance for each of the small funds.

Dr. Warden presented the report of the finance committee of the western section. Despite the drawing upon the people during the year, contributions in the west were the largest in the history of the church. The last special appeal was on behalf of the India famine fund, and as a result \$60,000 was contributed. This shows the ability of the people to give when there is a will. Last year the expenses of administration in the west were less than 3 1/2 per cent. No business in the country of such magnitude is administered so cheaply. In the United States the cost of administering departmental stores is 22 to 23 per cent; in our own country the usual cost of administration of large trusts is not less than 10 1/2 per cent.

The assembly's committee on enrollment reported that the return had been received from 55 presbyteries, nominating 905 and 295 elders as commissioners to assembly.

ON A SOLID BASIS

Report of Executive Committee, Canadian Woodmen of the World—Doings of Macabees.

Niagara Falls, Ont., June 16.—A meeting of the executive council of the Canadian Order of the Woodmen of the World, was held here Wednesday evening. The following were present: C. C. Hodgins, Lucan; W. C. Fitzgerald, London; Clarke Moses, Caledonia; J. B. Hoover, Clinton; Dr. Harrison, Toronto; D. Cinnamon, Oshawa; T. H. Lusscombe, H. Saunders, London; R. H. Blackmore, St. Thomas; Q. H. Taylor, Brantford. This was a regular meeting. The report of the head clerk of the work of the order since Jan. 1 is most encouraging. There has been a large increase in the membership and receipts of assessments. The death rate is very low, showing the order to be doing very safe business. The business transacted at this meeting was principally that of guiding the organization work and extending the field. The members of the executive were jubilant over the standing of the order throughout the country and the solid basis it is working on. The receipts in the different funds for the last five months amount to \$29,344.06, and the disbursements \$21,796.20, leaving a balance of \$7,547.86, which with \$15,600 invested, is a total of \$23,147.86, and with \$5,300 of May assessments in process of collection is a grand total of \$28,447.86. This is a showing any society the age of the Woodmen should feel proud of. The members of the executive during their visit here took in all the sights at the Falls.

GRAND TENT OF MACABEES.

Grand Rapids, Mich., June 16.—Major Boynton, of Port Huron, won victory Thursday in the annual election of the Macabees. What promised to be the hardest fight he ever had on his hands petered out at the finish, and he was re-elected great commander for Michigan, with little opposition. The vote stood, Boynton 1,520, Hall 561, and Carlton 10. For lieutenant-commander, Fred Cutler, of Ionia, had a majority of 89 over all. Thomas Watson had but 124 votes against him for great recorder-keeper; Robert J. Whaley, of Flint, was re-elected finance-keeper, and Dr. James A. Fraser, of Roscommon, great medical examiner. J. D. Long, of Detroit, and E. J. Williams, of Detroit, were elected upon the executive board.

GREAT HIVE, L. O. T. M.

The Great Hive, L. O. T. M., spent most of the forenoon in financial matters. The salary of the great commander was fixed at \$1,500, a raise of \$200. The salary of the great recorder-keeper was fixed at \$1,500, a raise of \$200. The salary of the great financial-keeper was fixed at \$1,000, a raise of \$200. The following allowance for rent were made: Great recorder-keeper, \$300; great commander, \$100; great medical examiner, \$200. Heretofore the amounts of the bonds have been fixed by the executive committee, but this time the convention varied from them. The great recorder-keeper's bond is \$15,000, and the great financial-keeper's bond \$75,000. It was decided that they should be bonded in an indemnity company. The election of officers for the L. O. T. M. was very quiet and uneventful. The officers, Great Lady Commander Frances E. Burns, of St. Louis, being elected by acclamation, and Great Recorder-keeper Emma E. Bower, of Ann Arbor, and residence 337 Queen's avenue, London, Ontario, were elected. Mrs. Rachel Bailey won out for lieutenant-commander; Rose E. Colgrove, for recorder-keeper, and Dr. Emma D. Cook, medical examiner.

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