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Good News From China

Relief Column Has Reached the Chinese Capital—The Legation Safe.

No Details Yet Received Regarding Condition of Affairs in Peking.

Li Hung Chang is Expected to Aid in Solution of the Difficulty.

London, June 19.—When the Taku forts opened fire on the international fleet, China declared war against the world. The accounts of what took place are still unsatisfactory, the best semi-official information being the dispatch received at Berlin from Chee Foo.

A semi-official dispatch from Chee Foo announced that the Taku forts had been captured after a combined attack by the foreign warships. Three men of the German warship *Itis* were killed and several wounded. The dispatch added that the foreign settlement at Tien Tsin were being fired into by the Chinese.

When the dispatch left nothing had been heard from the German detachment sent to Peking or from the German legation there.

The unofficial narratives, coming by way of Shanghai, vary widely and bear international evidence of supplementing the main facts with guess-work. One dispatch says the Yorktown participated in the bombardment.

Another asserts that American marines formed part of the storming force of two thousand.

An Associated Press dispatch, dated from Chee Foo yesterday afternoon, says:

"The forts of both sides of the Taku are now occupied. The Chinese opened fire unexpectedly. The casualties on the mixed forces were as follows: 8 Russians killed, British 1, German 3, Russian 48, British 3, German 7, Russian 45, French 1. The Chinese torpedo boats were seized."

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing yesterday, says: "Orders from Peking, conveyed in a personal edict of the Empress Dowager, by advice of Kang Li, president of the ministry of war. Several warships were struck by shells from the twelve-inch guns from the forts. The heavy Russian guns are due to the blowing up of a magazine at Manshuer. Four hundred Chinese are reported to have been killed."

The Chinese, when retreating, fell into the hands of the Russian land forces."

The same paper has the following from Chee Foo: "Two of the forts were blown up. Thirty warships at Taku aggregated two thousand thousand tons and carried more than three hundred guns."

The failure of Admiral Seymour's column and its retreat to Tien Tsin increases, it is presumed, the peril of the legations at Peking, which is still isolated, although Shanghai forays Chinese run by mobs, who were mowed down by machine guns, and also that the members of the legations were massacred.

The situation in Niu Chwang is reported critical. The British consul at Kin Kiang has ordered all foreigners to leave Ku Liang and Niu King Chang. The powers are taking prompt action.

Four thousand German troops have been ordered to China, 1,000 French troops are waiting to embark at Saigon, and from 3,000 to 5,000 more Russians have been ordered from Port Arthur to Taku.

This reinforcement, says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, is announced in the St. Petersburg Gazette, the government pointing out that Russia is sending so many troops solely for the sake of peace and humanity.

The Brussels correspondent of the Standard, in a dispatch dated yesterday, says "Russia has massed 40,000 men, with seven batteries, at Kiachta, with orders to proceed to Maimachin, a Chinese town contiguous to Kiachta, and thence to advance along the telegraph route to the Mongol town of Orga, two hundred miles south of Kiachta and seven hundred and fifty miles northwest of Peking."

Account of Fight. London, June 19.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Times, under yesterday's date, gives the following description, said to be taken from official sources, of the action at Taku:

"On the afternoon of June 18th, in view of the large bodies of Chinese troops assembling at the forts, and of the fact that torpedoes had been laid in the river and that all communication was interrupted by the naval commanders held a council and decided to send an ultimatum, calling for the disbandment of the troops and announcing that if this demand were not complied with before 2 a.m. of the following day, the united squadron would destroy the forts."

"Shortly after midnight the forts opened fire; the British, French, German, Russian and Japanese warships replied. Two of the forts were blown up and the rest were carried by assault. Two British, one American and five

Chinese warships are in Ches Foo harbor."

Unrest at Washington. Washington, June 18.—Great apprehension exists at the navy department as to the fate of the United States marine guard of 50 men which was landed at Tien Tsin and dispatched by rail to Peking before the railroad was interrupted. They went forward to Peking under an authorization granted by the Chinese government to the United States minister at Peking, in common with other ministers, to employ a naval guard at the legation. Just before the wires from Peking were cut, word came that Minister Conger had detached 20 of the marines from the legation and placed them as a guard at the Methodist compound. This is an enclosure of some 10 acres, situated a mile from the legation, where many missionaries and their families, as well as a large number of native Christians, are believed to have taken refuge.

The Ultimatum. Berlin, June 18.—The German consul at Chee Foo telegraphs that a Japanese torpedo-boat from Taku brought the following: "The Chinese have laid torpedoes in the Taku river, and collected troops from Shan He Kwei."

The foreign commanders assembled on the Russian flagship and addressed an ultimatum to the commanders of the Taku forts, summoning them to withdraw their troops before 2 o'clock on June 17th. At 1 a.m. the guns of the forts opened fire, to which the Russian, British, French and Japanese warships responded. The bombardment lasted seven hours. Two British ships in the river between the forts were reported to have been sunk.

Later a semi-official dispatch from Chee Foo announced that the Taku forts had been captured, after a combined attack by the foreign warships. Three men on the German ship *Itis* were killed and seven wounded. The dispatch added that the foreign settlements of Tien Tsin were being fired into by the Chinese. When the dispatch left nothing had been heard from the German detachment sent to Peking or from the German legation there.

Taku Forts. Washington, June 18.—In view of the capture of the Taku forts, some interest may be felt in the following statement prepared by Major Simpson, in charge of the military information bureau of the war department:

"Taku is situated at the mouth of the Pei Ho, on the southern bank of the river, about 67 miles from Tien Tsin, which is the center of the defenses and chief arsenal of Northern China, are permanent camps, where there are usually 30,000 troops—infantry, cavalry and artillery—armed with Mauser rifles and Krupp guns. The cavalry also carry Mauser carbines. These troops have been well instructed for ten or twelve years by foreign officers. The armament of the Taku forts consists of very heavy Krupp guns, and the approaches to the forts from the Gulf of Pechili are extremely difficult. The fortifications consist of three or four large ones on the bank and two smaller ones on the left. All the forts are armed with numerous guns of the most varied system and caliber. In the construction of all forts of the second zone, the heavy day sort of the main was used, which during the winter season, becomes cracked and crumbles very easily, and the garrison is continually making repairs. In Taku there are the materials for closing up the mouth of the Pei Ho. All the coast fortifications have mines."

London, June 19.—Judging from the German official dispatches the American ships took part in the bombardment of the Taku forts.

No news has yet been received here of the relief of the legations at Peking, and Europe's attention is centered far less in the overwhelming display of naval force at Taku than in the fate of the diplomatic staffs and six hundred cosmopolitan residents guarded by a handful of international marines within the legation compounds. There has been no news thence since June 14th.

The revolt is spreading in Western China. The representative of Mr. Pritchard Morgan, M.P., at Chen Tu wires that he and his party have been detained there owing to news that the revolution has broken out in Szechuan, which adjoins the province of Yunnan, also in revolt, and officials news comes to-day that the London missionary society's premises at Tsaoehih, central China, northwest of Hankow, have been destroyed by a mob.

The rising seems to be spreading with rapidity and shows unexpected organization among the anti-foreign elements.

The missionaries at Tsaoehih escaped and reached Hankow in safety.

Cable dispatches from Shanghai report that a number of Chinese cruisers are anchored in sight of the foreign settlements, which are only guarded by a small Japanese gunboat. A thousand Chinese troops, with two 40-ton guns, still hold the forts outside the town. The victory of Woo Sung is reported to have assured the consuls that the foreign settlements at Shanghai will not be attacked.

The British admiralty draws attention to the fact that the *Endymion's* report, which is of a later date, does not confirm the Japanese report of Admiral Seymour's return to Tien Tsin.

Are Foreigners Safe? New York, June 19.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

"The Express correspondent says it is felt certain that the real explanation of the failure of Admiral Seymour's expedition was divided counsel among his force, only the American troops honestly co-operating with the British admiral. A former English resident of Peking



THE EMPEROR KWANG SHUI: "ANY YOU GENTLEMEN GOT A MATCH?" (St. Paul Pioneer-Press.)

says, 'If the legations have been taken over, the Emperor Kwang Shui would be the object of the attack. No body would be spared if the embassies were captured. The embassy enclosures would be commanded from the great wall nearby and would be incapable of defence against Chinese mobs. The Chee Foo consul's report is not conclusive, but the situation is most alarming.'

Li Hung Chang. Paris, June 19.—At a cabinet council to-day the minister of foreign affairs announced that the telegraph line between Peking and Tien Tsin was still interrupted.

A dispatch received here from Shanghai says Li Hung Chang has been summoned to Peking from Canton.

Hongkong, June 19.—It is understood that Li Hung Chang leaves Canton for the north on June 20th. Canton is quiet and the viceroys of the provinces bordering on the Yang Tse Kiang are believed to be strongly opposed to the revolutionary movement.

Three Forts Destroyed. London, June 19.—An agency dispatch from Shanghai, dated June 19th, says the latest news from Peking is that the Dowager Empress is greatly concerned at the capture of Taku forts and wholesale degradations of Chinese army officers, including Generals Sung Ching and Fung Fu Siang, the governor of Peking and other high officials who promised in the Sung Liamen to accomplish the expulsion of the foreigners, have taken place.

Three of Taku's forts, it is added, were destroyed and most of the garrisons killed or wounded by a charge of the sailors of the allied fleets.

More Warships. Paris, June 19.—The French consul at Shanghai telegraphs that the danger of complications in the Yang Tse Kiang valley and the province of Tanchuan (Oschuan) appears to be diminishing.

The minister of marine, M. De Lamoignon, announces that the French armored cruiser *Guichen* will leave France for Taku June 23rd, and that the armored cruiser *Admiral Charner* and the second-class cruiser *Friant* will sail on June 24th. He added that two transports conveying two battalions of infantry and two batteries of artillery, will leave at the same time.

Rumored Burning of Tien Tsin. Shanghai, June 19.—The consulates have received no communication from the legations at Peking since June 11th, and great anxiety prevails as to their safety. There are many rumors but nothing of an authentic nature. The stories purporting to describe the situation at Peking on June 17th merely reiterate previous accounts. The victory of Nankin has taken vigorous measures to prevent a rising in his district.

Sensational native rumors are current that Tien Tsin has been burned by the Chinese soldiers, and that Tulu, the viceroy of Chilo, has fled from his province in order to escape degradation.

Speech by Lord Salisbury. London, June 19.—Lord Salisbury was

the principal speaker at the bi-centenary meeting this afternoon of the Society of the Propagation of the Gospel, which took place in this city. The Premier apologized for his presence, because he said missionaries were not popular at the foreign office. Referring to China, he remarked that though the persons slaughtered had been Christians, it must not be imagined that they had been murdered simply because the Chinese disliked their religion. It was because the idea prevailed there and elsewhere that missionary work was merely an instrument by which a secular government achieved its objects. While this was unjust, caution ought to mark their actions as over-zealousness led to martyrdom and caused the death of soldiers and sailors sent to avenge the outrages.

No News from Macdonald. London, June 18.—The dispatch of the Associated Press from Admiral Kempff, dated Washington, containing the American admiral's report of the engagement at Taku, was the first news Lord Salisbury received of the capture of the Taku forts. The British government had been aware that an engagement was proceeding, but it had been ignorant of the result and the greatest success was credited. The officials of the foreign office say no word has been received from the British minister at Peking, Sir Claude Macdonald, since June 12th, and the government was ignorant as to whether the legations at the Chinese capital had been captured or not. The admiral's report was relied upon to overcome all difficulties, Admiral Seymour, the British commander, not being hampered by orders, and any requests which he might make would be promptly met.

London, June 20.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express says: "The Russian relieving forces arrived outside of Peking this morning and immediately began to attack the city on both sides, employing artillery."

"The force apparently arrived in time, for the Chinese assert that the attack upon the legations had been successfully renewed. On the night of June 16th the Chinese troops under Generals Tung Fuh Siang and Tung Ching attacked the legations and set on fire five European buildings."

"Nothing definite is known as to the result, except that the Chinese were disappointed, although other reports, utterly discredited by foreigners here, are that the Chinese, infuriated by the destruction of Taku, have since massacred all the foreigners in Peking."

A modified edition of rumors received at Berlin is that the French as well as the German minister has been killed. The English at Shanghai think the Chinese had foreign aid in organizing the defenses at Taku, because of the precision with which their attack was delivered. The wires connecting with the harbor and the Taku forts were cut by the warships the night before the bombardment.

It is now reported at Shanghai that it was on board the Russian cruiser *Korietz*, and not the *Mandschur*, that the explosion occurred, killing and wounding more than fifty. It is reported that no

fewer than 700 Chinese were killed in the forts.

The Daily Mail Shanghai correspondent says he is officially informed that Japan is mobilizing 25,000 men for immediate transportation. The whole fleet of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been chartered.

The British cruiser *Undaunted* arrived at Shanghai yesterday, cleared for action and took up a position commanding the Chinese forts. There are three Chinese cruisers in the harbor.

At Yum Nan Du, where the rising has been gathering force for days past, 680 Christians have been attacked at the French mission settlement, many being put to death. The French consul and three missionaries are still in prison. Disorderly elements have secured the upper hand at Wu Hu and Czechuan, where the native Christians have been massacred.

A thousand Boxers have gathered on the outskirts of Tien Tsin.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily News, telegraphing yesterday, says: "The Chinese officials here assert they have news from Peking, up to June 17th. The situation was then very serious. Beyond that they have received nothing but they deny that dispatches have been withheld. Admiral Seymour's column is now in the middle of a plain, with no food and no good water, and surrounded by hostile forces."

A dispatch from Shanghai announces that the United States transport *Thomas*, with troops from Manila, was diverted at Nagasaki, and has arrived at Taku with 1,200 men.

Another Shanghai correspondent, telegraphing yesterday, says: "The British flag is reported to have been flying yesterday over the south gate of Peking. This is presumed to indicate the arrival of Admiral Seymour. The summoning of Li Hung Chang to Peking is regarded as a complete change of front on the part of the Manchus, who have abandoned the hope of opposing the powers."

The Hongkong correspondent of the Times says: "The Boxer movement is spreading on the West river."

Dispatch of Russian Troops. Washington, June 19.—A message received from Admiral Remy, represents all the news that had come to the government from the East since yesterday.

One of the most important developments, however, namely, that the notice of the Russian government of its intention to dispatch 6,000 troops to China, was accompanied by an understanding that their troops were to be used for the assistance of Europeans and Americans, and with no purpose of territorial aggression on the part of Russia.

This assurance was received with the greatest satisfaction. It is understood that Japan, in view of Russia's frank declaration, will consent to assume the same obligation toward the other nations, in which case the greatest obstacle to effective action, whether concurrent or joint, by the powers in China, may be considered removed.

Yesterday the department was informed that, while the wire system beyond Chee Foo and leading up to Taku and Tien Tsin had been cut, it had been arranged that a daily steamboat should take messages for these points at Chee Foo and carry them to their destination up the river. Though this arrangement involves a day's delay, it was acceptable, and the authorities were disappointed at receiving to-day the following notice from the cable office: "Cable office reports that the Chinese administration has cancelled arrangements for postal service from Chee Foo to Tien Tsin and Taku. The Great Northern route through Siberia will do its utmost to get telegrams through to Tien Tsin, but messages can be accepted only at sender's risk."

An ugly feature about this notice is the disclosure of an apparent purpose on the part of the Chinese government to interfere with free communication between the foreign naval commanders at Tien Tsin and Chee Foo and their respective government, an article which may have some bearing on the decision which must be reached very shortly as to the status of the relations between China and other nations of the world.

French Reinforcements. Paris, June 19.—The French government will have 4,200 troops at Taku when the reinforcements just ordered to arrive there. Two thousand will reach Taku before July 3rd. The dispatch of a cruiser division, which was decided upon to-day, will give France a strong naval force.

London, June 20.—The news from Shanghai to-day is regarded in official circles as distinctly cheering.

After the grim reports current early this morning, the dispatch of the Associated Press announcing the arrival of the relief expedition commanded by Admiral Seymour at Peking and the safety of the legations, which later was confirmed by a dispatch from Shanghai, announcing that Seymour's force had arrived at the Chinese capital on the 17th, presages, it is hoped, a general brightening of the situation.

No details have yet been received of the casualties or of the condition of affairs at Peking, but well-informed people express the opinion that the summoning of Li Hung Chang to the capital, foreshadows the early submission of the Dowager Empress to the dictator of the powers.

Relief Force at Peking. London, June 20.—Shanghai reports originating from Chinese sources and credited by the local foreign officials, state that the legations at Peking were safe on Sunday 17th. Admiral Seymour, with a relieving column, is reported to have reached Peking.

French Consul a Prisoner. Paris, June 20.—Up to noon to-day the foreign office had received no dispatch from China and was quite in the dark respecting the state of affairs at Yan-

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