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The Chinese Puzzle.

It would be scarcely in accord with facts to say that the world is just now in a very restful condition. Britain has the Boer business on hand, and it seems still to be pretty much of a handful. The United States has the Philippines perplexity, not to speak of the Turkish squeeze and the presidential election, and now the European concert, with the help or hindrance of Japan, is called on to solve the Chinese puzzle.

We pointed out some time ago that the unwieldy Chinese Empire, after centuries of comparatively stagnant life, showed signs of breaking up, and that something drastic was likely to come in, in the shape of "spheres of influence," or actual partition. Now matters have reached an acute stage by the action of the gentlemen who rejoice in the suggestive name of "Boxers." Why they got the name, and what it means exactly, seem also to be something of a puzzle. At any rate, the "Boxers" resemble the Boers—a long way off, it may be, but still in this essential feature, that they are opposed to any light or force from outside. They are satisfied with their own civilization, as it seems to us; and they are prepared to make short work of all "foreign devils," to use their own phrase, which is more forcible than polite.

Something, then, has to be done. The world is now too small to leave China outside "to stew in its own juice." Britain, France and Germany claim to have "interests" in that part of the world, and Russia bulks large in the far east; while Japan is irritated and watchful. The United States also is interested in "the open door," and altogether we find the elements of a complicated situation.

Lord Salisbury is said by some of his critics not to have a Chinese policy, and he would no doubt have been glad to have seen the Boer problem something like settled before this new entanglement arose. Russia is supposed to have a definite policy, but she will probably find great difficulty in carrying it out. Japan has been watchful in Korea and will be still more on the alert in China. He would be a wise man who could tell what is likely to come out of this bewildering maze. China cannot be let alone, and no one can tell what will be the influence of foreign interference. Altogether it is a most bewildering situation, and will attract the attention of the world for some time.

The Boers have held the stage for more than six months, but they are likely now to be thrown into the shade. We can only hope that European statesmen will be able to conquer petty jealousies in such a way as to prevent a general conflagration. In China, as elsewhere, the government must be carried on, and at present there seems to be no government.

The Wheat Outlook.

A short wheat crop is expected in the Western States. The rains, it is claimed, have come too late to remedy the injury done by the drought. Though the same trouble has been experienced in the Canadian Northwest, a reliable Winnipeg correspondent informs us that the injury has not been nearly so great, and hopes are strong that there will be an average crop and good prices.

We will rejoice if the latter prognosis is verified.

The Girl Help Problem.

The United States Industrial Commission will make an earnest inquiry into the servant girl problem. It seems to be almost insoluble. Formerly there seemed to be a plethora of girls desiring to engage in domestic service in Great Britain or willing to go abroad when the inducements were liberal. Now the English papers are complaining that girls no longer care to engage in work of this description, and that very many of those who are in service are inefficient. They are talking of introducing Japanese, Coolie or some kindred description of service as a makeshift.

This has already been done on this continent, along the Pacific Coast—not because the people are enamored of the Japs or Chinese, who thus hire out, but because it is next to impossible to get female servants of any kind. Then only those who are moderately well-to-do can afford help of this kind. A Chinaman or Jap in Vancouver has to be paid from \$20 to \$35 a month and board for his work; and even a Japanese boy commands \$15 a month, and will clear out, as a matter of course, when at any other employment he can get more.

It is not to be expected, therefore, that the average housekeeper here will ever be able, even if it were desirable, to adopt the system of Oriental house service, now prevalent to some extent on the Pacific Coast. Nor is it very easy to decide what should be done to make domestic service sufficiently attractive to command good service at fair remuneration. It has been asserted by some that though a girl, as a rule, is better fed and housed, and can save more money, as a domestic than she can in most factory employments, she almost invariably chooses the last-named class of work. The reasons, we are told, are various; but the principal are that she is more her own mistress when em-

played in a factory or a store, that she has definite hours each day for labor, and is free at least five or six evenings in the week, with all Sunday to herself.

There is a good deal in this explanation, and it may be that before we have domestic service on a thoroughly satisfactory footing we shall have to re-establish it. Would it be made permanently attractive as a vocation if those engaged were given definite hours of labor each day, and left free to spend their time thereafter as they chose? The probability is that such a system would not work smoothly, as in many households the hours of the family head would not permit of it. But it may have to be tried if the difficulty of getting efficient help continues.

The Doubled Tax On Chinese.

Some of our Opposition friends are not satisfied with the doubling of the tax on Chinamen coming into Canada, which has been decreed by the present Dominion Government. For fourteen years the tax has been levied. For ten of these years the supporters of Sir Charles Tupper were in power. In all those long years the late Government could not be moved an inch in favor of further restriction. Not an additional dollar of tax would they put on. Moreover, before the late Government consented to the tax that has now been doubled by the Laurier Administration, it permitted many thousands of Chinamen to gain a foothold in British Columbia, and never made any effort to discourage their importation. The reason for this failure to respond to the public sentiment of the Dominion was the fact that Mr. Onderdonk, the millionaire friend of Sir Charles Tupper, who was a contractor for the building of the railway in British Columbia, demanded that he should have Chinamen duty free, so that he could have cheap labor to make his contract more profitable. Then, after the country was flooded with Chinamen, the Government of the day tardily consented to put a tax of \$50 a head on any new-comers. From 1886 onward, however, the late Government steadily resisted the demand for an increase of the tax. The present Administration has investigated the whole matter. It has discovered from reliable returns by the Trade and Commerce Department, that today there are no more Chinamen in Canada than there were in 1886, when the tax of \$50 was levied. This fact, no doubt, influenced the present Administration in its resolution to recommend Parliament to increase the tax on incoming Chinamen to the extent of only 100 per cent over that levied by its predecessors. It will be interesting to note how the increased tax operates on the influx of Chinamen.

In our opinion the result will no doubt be to greatly reduce the number of incomers. If such does not prove to be the case, the Government will be warranted in next year still further increasing the tax. The Chinaman is not a desirable settler. He does not take to our institutions. He does not assimilate with our people. He can never be expected to become a thorough-going British-Canadian. For this reason, we welcome the increasing of the barrier to his incoming by 100 per cent over that imposed by the late Government, and believe that it will be increased if necessity is shown for it, not after long years of waiting, but next year.

The reasons for not interfering with the Japanese at the present time are imperial, which even the extreme opponents of the Jap must appreciate. It is deemed the part of wisdom, in the present grave crisis in the east, that no portion of her Majesty's subjects should take any stand that might endanger the cordial entente that prevails between the Japanese Empire and our motherland. This is the view entertained by British statesmen. It is the stand taken by every fair-minded public man in Canada, as was shown when Sir Wilfrid Laurier laid down the Government's policy on Thursday.

There does not appear to be any reason to fear that the influx of Japanese will be oppressive, for the Japanese Government, with that keen regard for the wishes of her friends and allies, the British people, has just set in force a decree that will very strictly limit the emigration of Japanese to this country. Henceforward, it is proclaimed in Japan, not more than ten persons in a month will be permitted to emigrate to Canada from the 47 prefectures into which Japan is divided. It is believed by some that Japanese emigration has been in the past unduly stimulated, and the Japanese authorities, knowing the objections of our people to an increase in the numbers of Japanese already in the Dominion, takes this effective means of restricting migration to Canada. Thus Japan adds one more strand to the strong cord that binds the British people of the West to the British of the Orient. Doubtless, the complications which threaten Japan have influenced the Japanese Government, in some measure, to show reluctance to the further expatriation of her arms-bearing subjects. In any case, the action of Japan is highly appreciated in Canada.

A Roll of Honor.

[Ottawa Free Press.]

The "truly loyal" Citizen continues to gloat over its alleged list of members whom it asserts did not sing "God Save the Queen" in the House of Commons the other day, and prints certain names as of those who failed. The accuracy of the list has been questioned. But here is a list which the Conservatives cannot show. It is one which reflects real loyalty as opposed to that of the lip order and shows who are the really loyal men of the country. It is a question of Liberal versus Conserva-

tive, and without going outside the walls of the House of Commons, we find that the list of sons and brothers of members and senators now in South Africa in defense of the Empire, stands as follows:

LIBERALS.
Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright, two sons.
Hon. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, two sons.
Hon. Dr. Borden, one son.
Hon. R. R. Dobbell, one son.
Hon. Sir A. Pelletier, one son.
Thomas Mackie, M.P., one son.
Dr. Johnstone, M.P., one son.
Hon. Senator Fliset, one son.
Hon. Senator J. P. B. Casgrain, one brother.
Total—eleven.

CONSERVATIVE.
Lieut.-Col. Hughes.
Hon. N. Clark Wallace, one son.
Total—two.
What about "God Save the Queen" here?

Frightful!

Unprecedented Condition of Affairs in India.

Famine Supplemented by Smallpox and Cholera.

London, June 16.—Replying to a series of questions in the House of Commons, the secretary of state for India, Lord George Hamilton, said the conditions reported by Louis Klopsch and some other reports of a similar character only applied to a limited number of districts where cholera and smallpox had attacked the famine camps, thus forming a combination which for the moment baffles palliation. Expenditure of money, he added, could not mend the state of affairs due to the cholera, causing the people to abandon the camps and disperse in all directions. The famine had already lasted seven months and it was impossible at present to form an approximate estimate of the total number of deaths directly or indirectly due to the scourges. When famine was aggravated by cholera the mortality was very heavy. In other large districts where the famine was equally severe, but was not associated with other scourges, the efforts of the government had been so successful that the death rate was hardly above the normal. The total or reported plague deaths from 1896, when the epidemic began, to last April, was 338,000, or about one per annum to every 3,000 inhabitants. At the present moment the mortality in Bombay was lower than at any period during the last three years, and there seemed no prospect of the imperial grant would be necessary.

FIGHT WITH ASHANTES.
Cape Coast Castle, Gold Coast, June 16.—Capt. Ellis, with the West African frontier troops, while advancing from Fumso to Kwaia, lost one man killed and a corporal and six men wounded.

KRAALS FULL OF SKELETONS.
London, June 16.—Reports just received here from the Whitehouse-Harrison expedition to Abyssinia, which safely returned to Mombasa, on the east coast of Africa, June 10, show that the explorers found the districts around Lakes Rudolf and Stephanie deserted, and that the inhabitants had either died or left the country. It is added that the kraals were discovered to be full of skeletons.

CABLE NOTES.
Throughout the British West Indies there have been unparalleled demonstrations of joy at the British successes in South Africa.

British Guiana mail news reports another river boat accident on June 10, when a boat with 23 persons was precipitated over the falls of Suyuni River and dashed to pieces. All hands were lost.
News by way of Venezuela and Trinidad confirms the report of the signal defeat of the Colombian revolutionists in the State of Santander.
The British war office has cabled the Jamaican government announcing that it is prepared to accept a composite volunteer regiment from Jamaica, Trinidad and Demarara for service in Ashanti. Jamaica will supply 200 men and five additional officers. The West India Regiment has been ordered to Ashantee forthwith.

FATAL FLASH

One Man Killed and Others Injured by Lightning.

New York, June 16.—An unusually severe electric storm passed over Hempstead, L. I., Thursday night. John Walters, his brother Charles and Jacob Stated, were struck by lightning, while endeavoring to find protection from the storm that had overtaken them while working in a large field, near Floral Park. John Walters was instantly killed. His brother and Stated, who is a lad, were seriously injured, but will recover. The two horses attached to the farm wagon were instantly killed. Theodore Hays, the driver, one of the finest on Long Island, was damaged to the extent of \$16,000.

Houghton, Mich., June 16.—John McFarland was struck by lightning during a recent storm. He was carrying an umbrella with a metal handle, and the electric fluid tore the umbrella into shreds, bent the handle and ribs, rendering it useless. When McFarland reached home he found his head covered with blood, but as it was not cut it is thought the blood must have come out through the pores. He felt all right and did not suffer any permanent injury from his experience.

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CONDITIONS: READ CAREFULLY! Every person intending to send photograph of baby, must send us post card at once stating when the photo will reach us. All photos sent in must reach us not later than July 14th. Do not send photos of children over 3 years old; they will not be considered. Photos must be plainly marked with age, sex, name of the child and full name and post office address of the parents. The smallest picture will receive as much consideration as the largest. The prizes will be awarded by a committee of seven disinterested ladies, and distributed by mail to the respective winners, August 4th, 1900. The pictures of all babies competing will be published in beautiful half-tone engravings in Toronto Globe, beginning Saturday, August 4th, 1900. Photos returnable on receipt of postage. As we have no time to answer needless correspondence, please do not ask for further information, simply send post card, stating when picture will be sent.

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A SOUTH STREET BELT LINE REMOVAL SALE!

The Proposals of the Street Railway Company Favorably Received—Other Civic Business.

Meetings of No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 committees of the council and No. 1 committee of the board of education were held last night in the city hall. The members of the first-named decided to recommend the acceptance of the following offer of the street railway company to operate a South street belt line, on the condition that the abandonment of the Rectory street line, from Grey to Dundas, is allowed; the abandonment also of the Hamilton road line from Grey to Rectory, and the provision of a free crossing over the L. and P. S. R. tracks. The proposed belt will go from the corner of Dundas, via Horton and Wellington, east on South to Adelaide, along Nelson to Rectory, and from the corner of Rectory, and Nelson streets, along Rectory to Grey, west on Grey to the Hamilton road, thence to the center via Horton street. Mr. R. K. Cowan, for the South street petitioners, said that the offer was advantageous, in that the lines abandoned were of little use, and more populous districts would be covered. Only Ald. Dreaney and Ald. Winder voted against the plan.

NO. 2 COMMITTEE.
At the meeting of the board of works it was decided to recommend that the sewer from Colborne street, half-way to Waterloo street, be relaid, graded lower and two man-holes put in. Mr. George Burdick was given the contract to paint the Wellington, York and Dundas street bridges for \$35, \$60 and \$120, respectively; and the contract for the Blackfriars and Oxford street bridges was awarded to Henry Burdick & Sons, the figures being \$33 and \$132. The Eastern Board of works will be notified that the committee objects to the use of the fair buildings for storage purposes.

A feet roof and other improvements in the court house will be recommended.

A defect on Mount Pleasant avenue caused by grading the street will be remedied by the Carling Company.

No increase will be recommended by Engineer Thompson, of the steam roller. He required an increase from \$2 to \$2 25 a day.

All cement walks petitioned for will be advertised.

Accounts amounting to \$3,088 and a paycheck of \$807 were passed.

NO. 3 COMMITTEE.

The members of this committee decided to ask the council that Mr. Slater be awarded the contract for the firemen's clothing provided he can put on the uniform, or, otherwise, that it be given to Mr. Ferguson.

The recommendation that the fruit market be upon the west side of the butter and egg market, was reaffirmed. Electric light will be recommended for the corner of Nelson street, and Dreaney avenue.

Tenders for coal will be called for.

Inspector Bell has collected, so far, \$321.

CONTRACTS.

At the meeting of No. 1 committee of the board of education, the annual contract for printing for the school board was awarded to Southam & Co., and that for paper supplies to John Mills.

More Militia Orders.

The following militia orders have been issued by the department at Ottawa:

22nd Regiment, Oxford Rifles—Capt. W. Anderson is transferred to the reserve of officers. To be captain—Lieut. A. T. K. Evans, vice C. F. Errett, transferred.

25th (Middlesex) Light Infantry—Lieut. B. H. Keating resigns his commission. To be lieutenant, Second Lieut. A. W. Bixel, vice B. H. Keating; to be second lieutenant, provisionally, F. W. Orr, gentleman, vice G. R. B. Sippl, retired; to be second lieutenant, provisionally, J. Colerick, gentleman, vice J. E. Kerrigan, promoted; A. A. Magee, gentleman, to complete establishment; to be second lieutenant (supernumerary), A. R. Routledge, gentleman.

27th (Lambton) Regiment, St. Clair Borderers—Capt. R. Mackenzie is granted the brevet rank of major. To be captain, Lieut. R. I. Towars, vice R. Mackenzie, appointed adjutant; to be second lieutenant, provisionally, P. Tremmheere, gentleman; W. J. Sav-

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Crescent Wringers.....	1 90
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age, gentleman, to complete establishment; G. A. Karnahan, gentleman, vice R. J. Towers.
23th (Perth) Regiment—Capt. D. J. Gibson resigns his commission and is permitted to retain the rank of captain on retirement. To be captain, Lieut. A. H. Monteith, vice D. J. Gibson; to be second lieutenant, provisionally, A. Dunbar, gentleman, vice W. Todd, retired; Provisional Second Lieut. C. P. E. Magee resigns; Surgeon-Major W. T. Parke resigns his commission, and is permitted to retain rank of surgeon-major on retirement.

29th (Waterloo) Regiment—To be second lieutenant, provisionally, O. J. Eryd, gentleman, vice D. A. Dickson, retired. Lieut. G. R. Wood resigns his commission. To be lieutenant, Second Lieut. C. E. Livingstone, vice G. R. Wood.
23rd (Huron) Regiment—Provisional Second Lieut. C. Chisholm having failed to qualify, his name is removed

from the list of officers of the active militia. To be second lieutenant, provisionally, H. C. Dunlop, gentleman, vice C. Chisholm, retired. Provisional Second Lieut. T. C. Bruce having left limits, his name is removed from the list of the active militia. To be second lieutenant, provisionally, Color-Serjt. W. E. Miller, vice J. F. Spooner, retired; J. J. Fisher, gentleman, vice T. C. Bruce, retired; to be lieutenant, W. W. McVicar, gentleman, to complete establishment.

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