

The Old World

Review of the Situation in South Africa—France Satisfied Now the Mines are Safe—The Future of the Transvaal—Deep Interest in the 'Boxer' Movement—Speculations Re Prospect of an Eastern War.

New York, June 10.—Mr. Isaac N. Ford's 1 a.m. London cable, covering the late news from South Africa, discusses events in an interesting manner, as follows: Gen. Buller's operations against Laing's Nek are described by a correspondent as brilliant. One version credits the Boer commander with offering to surrender on Thursday upon certain conditions, and states that Gen. Buller declined to treat with him. As Buller himself neglected to report this detail, the information is probably trustworthy.

Nearly all the dispatches yesterday related to events at least a week ago, such as the occupation of Senekal by Gen. Buller and a sacrifice of life by the Middlesex Yeomanry, and details of French's operations against Jhannesburg. A fresher detail was the fact that the arrival of Gen. Baden-Powell is expected at Cape Town, and an interesting bit of statistics was an official return that 33 peers and 27 members of the commons are serving the Queen in South Africa. The war office closed at midnight without reporting the restoration of communications with Gen. Roberts. On Wednesday the wires were cut at Rooodeval station, north of Kroonstad, by Orange River Colony raiders, estimated to be 2,000 strong, with six guns. This force must have run in between Gen. Methuen at Lindley and Gen. Colville at Heilbron, and reached the railway near the Rhenoster River.

DEWEY'S WORK.

This stroke must be set down to the credit of Dewey, who has shown himself to be a daring commander during the campaign. He contrived to capture the yeomanry in spite of Gen. Rundle's advance from Senekal, and Gen. Methuen's forced marches for the relief of the garrison, and immediately disposed of his prisoners and struck across the country for the highway, whence the relief column had come. Strong reinforcements have been sent to Kroonstad, and a speedy restoration of communications is promised. The utility of this counter-stroke to the advantage of the British, and the annoyance which is caused on the British side by the lack of unity in the direction of the scattered divisions. They cannot receive orders from Gen. Roberts, and much confusion must result. The Orange River Colony burghers are making a much better fight than the Transvaal Boers, but they can hardly expect to hold out long against the superior forces which will be massed against them.

FUTURE MOVEMENTS.

The lack of news from Lord Roberts is fully explained today by the admission that the wires have been cut near Rooodeval. Communication will probably be restored without serious delay, but the incident has set military men gossiping about the order of precedence and seniority in the Orange River Colony. Unity of direction is indispensable in operations against Steyn's burghers, who are making a good deal of trouble, and this cannot be had when Lord Roberts is in Pretoria with the wires cut behind him. Lord Methuen, who was left in a corner after opening Lord Roberts' campaign, is now at Lindley, and by virtue of his seniority ought to be in command of all the British forces in the Orange River Colony. Either Kelly-Kenny or Rundle would be a better general for commanding the British forces in the final crushing movement around Bethlehem, and it is not likely that Lord Methuen will be placed over them. Buller's friends assert that the only division commander of the original army corps whose fortunes have been safe is Clerly, and that is because one serves under the other. Both Gatacre and Methuen, they add, were ordered to ride across country to rescue an isolated garrison, and each failed to arrive in time. Gatacre was subject to censure for taking infantry in place of mounted troops, but Methuen certainly covered the ground as rapidly as anyone could have got over it. The fate of the yeomanry captured at Lindley has keenly interested the west end. If these troopers are sent to Lydenburg and kept there as hostages, there will be an opportunity for President Kruger to squeeze more millions out of them than out of the reform leaders imprisoned and bled after the Jamson raid.

PARLIAMENT.

The reassembling of parliament on Thursday will be the signal for the revival of political activity. The ministers have been silent for ten days, and the Unionist press is without cues on the China question and domestic politics. The prolongation of the campaign in the Lydenburg district and anxieties in the far East will predispose the ministers to defer a general election until October, and possibly to a later period.

FRENCH OPINION.

Interest in France in the Transvaal war has subsided very considerably since Lord Roberts began his victorious march, and especially since he announced that the Johannesburg gold mines were uninjured. Fear of damage to the mines in which an immense amount of French money is invested, has been the leading cause of anxiety for the Frenchman, who in no wise shared the advice freely given the Boers by a portion of the French press to destroy the mines as a latter day emulation of the burning of Moscow by the Russians. French shareholders failed to see the heroic side of this act, through which they would be the greatest sufferers, and the news of the safety of the mines brought a sigh of relief. The subsequent occupation of Pretoria by the British received scant attention, and most of the journals are of the opinion that it does not mean an end of the war, but on the contrary it will be succeeded by the now much-talked-of guerilla warfare, which they predict will tire the British out, and cost them more blood and treasure than even yet has been expended.

AFRICA AFTER PEACE.

On account of China, German interest in South African news has flagged this week. The semi-official Post has however, published a remarkable article: "Is the annexation of the re-

publics to be considered a fact?" which the far-sighted never doubted, and then proceeds to consider the development of Africa after peace. It recognizes danger for Germany, in the British watchword, "From Cape to Cairo," but points out that both the German and French colonial policy break in continuity in the British possessions, and that moderation on all sides will bring about a sensible modus vivendi. It adds that a certain number of Boers will be welcomed in German colonies if they drop all pretensions to separate political existence. The task of civilizing and opening up the dark continent for trade may well be divided between the three leading European nations without causing strife.

"THE MILLIONAIRES."

There is scarcely an old family in England without a relative or connection among the members of the battalion of yeomanry captured by the Boers near Lindley. One section of the force, the Duke of Cambridge's troop, was known as "The Millionaires." One of their tents had an aggregate of £30,000 a year. They supplied their own horses and kit. Yet, judging from the reports, they did drudging, and underwent hardships with as good grace as any unencumbered "Tommy." While on the way to the Cape on a transport, and officer, seeing one of these millionaires swabbing the decks in gale said, "You seem to have good sea legs, my man." The man replied: "I have kept a yacht for the last ten years, sir."

PEOPLE.

Lady Churchill Gordon, who died recently, was one of the first society women to start a bonnet store. She did a thriving business in London, eventually selling her good-will for a round sum.

Lord Hunter, the elder brother of Lady Gordon, one of the handsomest men of the day, endeavors to improve his financial condition by writing sporting novels.

The Earl of Radnor, who died last week, was a notoriously shy man. He was devoted to his wife, who is a sister of Sir Henry Chaplin, president of the local government board, and brilliant in society as a musician and conversationalist. She organized the first amateur orchestra composed of people of position.

VISCOUNT FOLKESTONE, the late Earl of Radnor's eldest son, who is at the front in South Africa dangerously ill with enteric fever, succeeds to the title.

THE EASTERN WAR CLOUD.

London, June 11.—The Chinese situation, which at the beginning of the week was merely a small cloud on the international horizon, now overshadows every other topic. England, according to most authorities, says those who control her foreign policy, is face to face with a crisis in far eastern affairs which, though it may not result in an immediate partition of China, must determine the part that England shall play when the partition eventually occurs. That such an emergency should have arisen at a moment when England is least able to utilize it, when almost all her land forces are 6,000 miles from home and when there is a paramount necessity for keeping an extra strong fleet in European waters, is deplored by all shades of statesmen and politicians. Lord Salisbury stands almost alone amid his own party in believing that the results of the Boxer outbreak will be neither serious nor permanent. The attitude he adopts towards the unanimous agitation for more strenuous action is voiced by an intemperate Chinese, who says:

SALISBURY NOT ALARMED.

"Lord Salisbury believes we should be thankful for small mercies. The co-operation of the diplomat and naval authorities on the spot seems perfect and unusually harmonious, so long as that satisfactory state of affairs continues he will be eminently satisfied, and will take no other steps unless one or several of the powers ask Great Britain's assent to a scheme which appears feasible, or unless Russian aggression becomes much more pronounced than it is today. When these contingencies occur or representatives of the various nations at Peking fall to agree, then will Lord Salisbury assume the initiative. At present he is agreeably surprised at the smooth progress of the negotiations at the seat of disturbance and implicitly trusts in Sir Claude MacDonald, the British minister to China.

PROSPECTS OF WAR.

In the meanwhile the members of every embassy in London, and every club, to say nothing of the stock market, are discussing eagerly the prospects of war between two of the powers arising from the Peking troubles. It is the old cry of "wolf," and this time many well-informed people are greatly inclined to believe the "wolf" will materialize in the shape of Russia, with Japan as her opponent. Admiral Fremantle's reported statement that war between these countries is inevitable creates no surprise, though such plain speaking is severely disapproved officially. A government official said:

SILVER AS CHINESE CURRENCY.

A curious feature is the opinion held by many financiers that if the present disturbance portends opening up China, it also portends an inestimable increase in the circulation of silver with the accompanying tendency to put that metal on a parity with gold. A well-known American financier in London points out the fact that copper is now the general medium of exchange in China. With the ingress of Europeans these cumbersome tokens would naturally be done away with and silver introduced in the most populous country in the world. On this basis there has been a strong undertone in the silver

market with interesting discussions on the political and economical changes incident upon the possibilities of the increased uses of silver.

IMPORTATION OF DEAD MEAT.

Returns just issued by the board of agriculture show that the ever-increasing importation of dead meat to the United Kingdom has reached the daily average of 2,300 tons, while wheat, butter, eggs, rabbits and game have all enormously increased in the extent of their imports. The foreign products being farmed almost invariably cheaper than the farmers are confronted with the prospect of eventually having no home market.

THE FEELING IN PARIS.

A Paris correspondent says: The grave situation in China monopolizes the attention of the political world, and has thrown a shadow over questions of minor interest, even including the Transvaal. Paris and its politicians admit the seriousness of the condition of affairs around Peking, and apprehensions are expressed lest it lead to international complications. The great element of change in the situation is generally felt to be the double duel for supremacy between Russia and England and Russia and Japan. The sympathies of Frenchmen are naturally with their ally, Russia. It is not thought that England is likely at the present moment, when her hands are fully occupied with South Africa, to take any step to produce an Anglo-Russian collision; but she is firmly believed here to be behind Japan, and her support may encourage the latter to adopt such a policy as will eventuate in hostilities with Russia, for which, apparently, the Japanese are itching.

LOOKING TO THE UNITED STATES.

The action of the United States is acknowledged to be the most important factor in the situation. Her friendly relations with both Russia and England favor the impression that she will endeavor to steer an independent course; but will, at the same time, if compelled by the force of events, reluctantly join Japan and England. At the present moment no attempt is made to conceal these feelings which prevail.

IN BERLIN.

The situation in China is regarded in Berlin as of the utmost importance. Though the foreign office has been rather uncommunicative towards all foreign correspondents, enough reliable information has leaked out to show that the whole government, with the emperor and minister of foreign affairs, Count von Buelow, leading consider the suppression of the anti-foreign movement in China as pre-requisite for a possible rejuvenation of China, and certainly for the establishment of healthy commercial conditions there. Germany is, therefore, in favor of harmonious joint action by all the powers interested in China, without permitting any single power to reap selfish advantages from the situation, nor the group of powers doing which prevails.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE POWERS.

His majesty's instructions are that while Germany will in no way put herself unduly forward, and is willing to loyally co-operate with the rest of the powers, she will under no circumstances permit the present conditions to go on, even if thereby suspicion should be aroused that Germany is seeking separate aims. The Cologne Gazette points out inspiringly that the main care now is to re-establish orderly conditions in China. Nobody seems to care whether the Chinese government itself comes to grief, or how the relations between the powers are thereby altered. It seems relatively unimportant whether the conservative or reform party in China be in power.

GENERAL ROBERTS

How He Gains the Affections of Those Fighting Under Him.

Windsor, June 11.—In a recent letter to his parents, John Northwood, one of the Windsor boys in South Africa, makes the following reference to Lord Roberts:

"Now you see what good old 'Bobs' has done. He is a prince of generals to fight under, you should have seen the way he cornered Old Whiskers Cronje's 'Dear Old Bobs.' He is a real, is a very small man (in stature), and looks like a boy when he gets on his pony. He wears no decorations whatever on the field, but on his right arm he wears, instead, a simple band of sorrow, a piece of crape. When we see this man, who lost his only beloved son such a short time ago, and such a son, and with what prospects, when we see that he has just put aside his own sorrow, has brushed his own tears away, and has once again offered his life for his country's service, we cannot but admire and love him.

"After the surrender of Cronje, when our regiment was drawn up in the lanes so lately occupied by the Boers, 'Bobs' made us a little speech. In his own quiet and simple way he commended us for our conduct throughout the engagement, and thanked us in the name of the country, and when he was through every one of us felt proud of himself. Then and there 'Bobs' took us all prisoners, and we would all follow that little, quiet, unassuming man through all the Boers in South Africa."

ASSAULTED THE MINISTER.

Windsor, June 11.—Rev. D. H. Hind, a Sandwith, refused to marry a Detroit couple, the other evening, but receiving something for performing the ceremony, and the would-be groom assaulted him. The couple had the marriage license, and came to the rectory late at night. The man said he had no money, and Mr. Hind replied that he was not in the habit of performing a marriage ceremony for nothing, and the man commenced to abuse him.

STREET PREACHER SHOT AND KILLED.

Indianapolis, June 9.—Thomas Jefferson Johnson, known as "Cyclone" Johnson, a street preacher, was shot and instantly killed last night at Carmel, 16 miles north of here, after he had killed Deputy Sheriff Carey, who was trying to arrest him for assault and battery. Johnson had been attacking different persons in his street talks, and those attacks had brought him into several fights. Last night he renewed his attacks. Carey tried to arrest him, was shot dead, and an unknown person in the excited crowd shot Johnson. The latter was born in Jackson county, Kentucky, was said to be converted at Covington, five years ago, and had been preaching since.

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