

JAPAN A FIREBRAND

The Sailing of the Yokohama Fleet for Chinese Waters Causes Great Apprehensions.

The Firm, Confident Tone of British Ministerial Utterances Greatly Pleases the Public.

London, Jan. 22.—While events are moving with somewhat dramatic rapidity in the Far East, and the complications may in any day develop a situation of the known facts and the position of affairs are analysed, there is not much reason to suppose that a solution of the crisis will be found in a resort to war.

There is reason to believe that diplomatic circles do not fear that it will be necessary to appeal to arms, unless the situation—Japan breaks from her usual attitude.

So far as the European powers are concerned, the diplomats throughout are satisfied that the Chinese question will not break the peace of the world, and they have always feared that Japan will prove a firebrand. Japan is excited, and does not know exactly what she wants, or what threatens her, but has a general suspicion that unless she asserts herself she will be deprived of a portion of the plunder.

Unless she can be restrained from impetuous action, the departure of her fleet from Yokohama will be the striking event, and may prove to be a decided confagration.

Leaving out the possibility of war, the diplomatic game is most interesting. The Marquis of Salisbury is slow in playing his trump, but unless he is wrong, he has a decided advantage.

For the British premier has forced Russia to show her hand. She no longer counts as a disastrous competitor in the whole of Manchuria and the Liaoning peninsula as being her exclusive property.

By insisting that Tai-Lien-Wan, the northeast of Port Arthur, be made a treaty port, the Marquis of Salisbury has courted the possibility of designs on that territory for the latter is of little strategic value though Tai-Lien-Wan.

France, of course, resents the proposal to open Nan-Ning, which would clash with her exclusive interests in Tonquin, while both Russia and France are deeply concerned in Great Britain's claim to extend the Burmese railroad into the Chinese province of Yun-Nan.

France has secured privileges in Yun-Nan which British railroads are diverting to the north the commerce of such a rich province, while a railroad from Bangkok to Shanghai—which would be the natural outlet of Great Britain's demands—would be a disastrous competitor of the great trans-Atlantic line, from Samarang to Port Arthur, which Russia is so laboriously constructing.

There seems to be an understanding between Germany and Great Britain, at least at the present time, as to the same time, has so skillfully played her cards, alternately caressing St. Petersburg and London, that the relations between both capitals are better than for a long time past.

Lord Salisbury's Popular Support.

There has been quick and general endorsement from all parts of the country of the firm attitude of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, at Swansea, on Monday last, setting forth the British government's determination, "even at the cost of war," that the doors of Chinese commerce should not be shut to Great Britain.

The wave of patriotism that is now sweeping over the land finds echo in every public assemblage where any allusion to Great Britain's attitude is enthusiastically applauded, while patriotic songs at the public ball set the audience wild with warlike fervor.

In the meanwhile, the party leaders are out-doing each other in following the lead of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. From the tone which has characterized the oratory of the past few days, one would imagine Great Britain was about to take up arms against the world.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, followed the Chancellor of the Exchequer with a virtual announcement that Great Britain was resolved to act in the Far East independently of the consent of the powers. Mr. Herbert Henry Asquith, former home secretary, as spokesman of the opposition, made it plain that the Liberal cordially endorsed the government's position.

The newspapers of London and the provinces are practically unanimous in approving the policy of the government, and their editorial comments on the points of the reported opposition of Russia to the proposed British loan to China, that the attitude of Great Britain in no way depends upon whether the offer of the loan is or is not accepted in any case Great Britain will stand on her treaty rights, and take great care to preserve to our commerce all the advantages which we can justly claim.

The Times adds: "We will not have it denied to us, either by the establishment of customs stations, or regulations favorable to foreign nations hostile to ourselves. This right we mean to vindicate."

The Chinese Loan Negotiations.

The following version of the recent financial moves of China receives general credence in city circles. Until last Friday, the negotiations with the London and Berlin banks for the proposed loan of £10,000,000 proceeded favorably, under the moral support of the British and German governments.

is her affair, not Great Britain's. It will be time to talk of war when any attempt shall be made to compel China to close any door now open to British trade.

The Chronicle says that the situation is quite clear, but quite critical. Certainly no British minister ever proposed a policy more calculated to deserve the support of disinterested nations, and the country has shown itself to be behind Lord Salisbury, without distinction of classes, in the paper's side. "We are not inclined to think that there is a danger of a breach of the peace. Still, when two such big-wigs as England and Russia, enter into a direct diplomatic conflict, there is always some danger."

The West India Sugar Grant.

A great deal of exception is being taken to the proposition of the secretary of state for the colonies, Mr. Chamberlain, to grant aid to the West Indies, which is, after all, only another name for a bounty. It is evident that should the European governments insist on retaining their bounties, Mr. Chamberlain has proposed to make the bounty to the West Indies permanent.

The preponderance of opinion seems to favor countervailing duties, similar to those of the United States in the event of the failure of the Brussels conference, but the Statist advocates the application of the principle recently established by Canada, that she is not bound by British treaties of commerce, and suggests that the sugar-producing colonies should be absolved from the obligations of the imperial commercial treaties and allowed to retaliate upon bounty-giving countries.

The Sudan Expedition.

As usual, there is every explanation of the sudden rush of British troops to Egypt except the right one. What really seems to have happened is that Colonel Parsons, while en route to take over Kassala from the Italians, found King Menelik of Abyssinia in the greatest state of wrath at the surrender of the town (which his majesty regarded as part of his domain) to the Egyptians, and he has mobilized an army with the intention of asserting his authority. If the king should be acting, as is suspected, in concert with the Mahdi, the danger of the situation is greatly enhanced, especially if there is any truth in the stories which are looking out just now of the existence of a disaffection among Gen. Sir Herbert Kitchener's Sudanese who are real fighters, and in the reported lack of backbone shown by the Egyptians during the last operations.

Biography of the Prince of Wales.

The desire of the English people to know all the details of the official and private life of the royal family has been given the world by the publication in London this week of the first complete biography of the Prince of Wales. Singularly enough, no complete record of the remarkably active and diversified career of the heir to the throne has been given to the world before. Attempts in this direction have been discouraged by the prince himself, and the present book furnishes internal evidence that it was not compiled under royal sanction.

Two quotations from its references to the royal life, however, give the key-note to its spirit. Concerning the prince, the writer says: "He is familiar with a great variety of subjects, and possesses a wonderful faculty for almost instantaneously grasping the essential features, and the really essential points of any matter under discussion."

An estimation of the Duke of Clarence in connection with his career at Trinity College, Cambridge, illustrates how qualities which would commonly pass current as weakness, assume the shape of virtues, viewed through friendly spectacles. "He had not," it is said of the duke, "nor was it desirable that he should have, the specialized intellect which wins university prizes and scholarships, but he displayed in a marked degree that peculiarly royal quality of recognizing intellect in others."

The authority of the new book is concealed from the public, but the Associated Press learns that it is the work of a journalist, well known in London, Mary Belloc (Mrs. Lowndes, formerly Mrs. Stead's paper). It will be issued in the United States next month by Appleton. Its pictorial embellishments are particularly rich.

TORONTO'S BIG SCHEDULE.

Commission to Inquire Into Feasibility of a James Bay Railway.

Toronto, Jan. 24.—The board of trade has appointed George Goodwin, W. R. Brock, Lyman M. Jarvis, Robt. Davies and J. Herbert Mason a commission to inquire into the advantages of the construction and control by the city of Toronto of the proposed railway from Toronto to James Bay, and what trade is likely to be derived from the country thus opened up. The board also recommends the appropriation of \$5,000 for securing such evidence.

MR. GLADSTONE'S HEALTH.

A SIGNIFICANT MOVE.

Supporters of Hon. G. B. Martin Commence Work in His Interest.

Kamloops, B. C., Jan. 24.—John O'Brien, proprietor of the Pioneer, saloon, and John T. Robinson, business manager of the Standard, led yesterday morning for Nicola to open Hon. G. B. Martin's campaign. It is thought this means that the government will make an early appeal to the country.

A BIG SNOW STORM.

Traffic Demoralized in Montreal Owing to the Heavy Snow Fall.

Montreal, Jan. 24.—One of the biggest snow storms ever witnessed in Montreal for years commenced yesterday and continued all day, and this morning the streets are almost impassable owing to the heavy snowfall. The storm demoralized the street car traffic and incoming railway trains were late.

NIAGARA IN A RAGE.

The Mighty Cataract Battles With Rival Elements.

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Washington, Jan. 24.—The United States battleship Maine has been ordered to Havana. It is said at the navy department that no disturbing news has been received from there, but the movement is rather in the line of a resumption of the intercourse of our naval vessels in Cuban waters that prevailed prior to their withdrawal on account of the outbreak of hostility between Cuba and Havana. Jan. 24.—Captain-General Blanco left the palace this morning at six o'clock for the railroad station at Villa Nueva, and embarked on an express train for Batabano. General Blanco is expected to spend the night on the steamer to Cienfuegos, province of Santa Clara, and from that port will go to Manzanillo, province of Santiago de Cuba. During his absence General Parrado will exercise the functions of that officer.

POORMAN IS SOLD

British America Corporation Buys the Rosiland Mine—Talk With Gov. Mackintosh.

Confirms the News of the Sale of Control of West Le Roi & Josie Company.

(From the Spokane Spokesman-Review.)

The control of the Poorman mine at Rosiland passed into the hands of the British America Corporation yesterday. Sir-Governor Mackintosh, who has been in the city for several days, consummated the deal himself and he is authority for the statement that the control is now in the hands of the big syndicate which he represents as managing director. The price could not be ascertained, but is said to be at the rate of 12 1/2 cents per share. The capital stock of the Poorman company is 500,000 shares of a par value of \$1. The property has been developed so closely in connection with the Josie mine and the workings of the two are so interwoven that the purchase is really one property, and since they are to be operated under one management their development will be economically accelerated.

The sale of the controlling interest in the West Le Roi & Josie Company took place as announced in the Spokesman-Review a few days since. The price was, as stated, about 30 cents per share. The officers of the company have not been willing to admit that the deal was consummated, but Governor Mackintosh says that his corporation not only holds the controlling interest, but owns all the stock except a mere fraction.

Governor Mackintosh has occupied an editorial chair more than once during his career and therefore when the Spokesman-Review asked him for some information as to the plans of his corporation yesterday he was not evasive in his replies but frankly told all that he could see fit to make public.

"There is little that I can say that has not already been said," said he. "The press has kept close track of our operations. What do you want me to talk about?"

"Spokane people are most interested in your operations in Rosiland. Will you tell us what properties you now control in that camp?"

Rosiland Holdings.

"You have bought the Surprise, the You Know, Number One, Josie, Nickel Plate, Great Western and Golden Charlie. These purchases have all been mentioned in print and I need not go into details regarding them. We have offered a price for the Columbia & Kootenay group, but that deal is pending. We have an option on the Legal Tender and

ROSSLAND RIOTS.

Gallop, Jan. 24.—There were more bread riots here yesterday evening. A mob broke the street lamps and burned the governor's residence and the local club house. Thirty-nine arrests were made.

HOLLOWNESS OF STAGE LEAF.

London, Jan. 22.—In the "Life Story of Mary Anderson" in the February number of Young Women, the American actress states: "Life and the incessant reiteration of the same old story and the peace of the simple, quiet life she is now leading. Mrs. D. Navarro is quoted as saying: "Never again will there be a thought of stage life. Life is something grander than stage excitement and admiration as, for instance, that box up-stairs."

Mr. Russell opened for the first time and singing, especially oratorio, of which I hope to do a great deal. Stage life has no charm, however, said she.

FIRE AT ROSSLAND.

Rosiland, Jan. 22.—At three o'clock this morning flames and smoke were seen issuing from the store of M. J. O'Hara, merchant tailor and general furrier, on the north-west corner of Columbia avenue and Lincoln street. The stock sustained damage to the extent of \$750. The stock of goods carried is valued at \$15,000, and the store is owned by A. Smith and \$5,000. Robert Scott, and the nominal damage that it sustained is fully covered by insurance.

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