

FLIGHT OF KRUGER.

Uncle Paul has given his deluded followers another example of his "slimness." All through the war which he was chiefly instrumental in forcing upon his people, and all its privations and misery and death, the head of the late Transvaal Republic has taken good care to avoid personal suffering and to keep an avenue of escape open. He is now on the coast of Portuguese territory ready to embark for the asylum which his agents have doubtless provided for him in Europe. He is said to have some seven millions and a half of pounds sterling deposited in a bank in France, and doubtless this will prove sufficient for his simple wants during the few years that yet remain of his natural life. The old man knows what is said in Scripture about the heart being where the treasure is, and it is safe to say that one who could accumulate such a sum as that in the course of his life could not be completely happy with the ocean rolling between him and his gold. Under the circumstances it is easy to believe that he has not of late taken much interest in military matters.

It is perhaps just as well for the British cause that the end of Kruger's career should have arrived as it has done. The old man has thoroughly opened the eyes of his followers as to his character and at the same time relieved the Imperial authorities of the necessity of solving a very knotty problem. It would have been no easy matter to satisfactorily dispose of the person of Oom Paul if they had captured him. They would not, of course, have dealt harshly with the old man, but it would have been necessary to banish him from the scene of his mischief, and the performance of that duty might have raised him to the height of a hero and a martyr in the eyes of his simple followers. Kruger, however, has himself cut the knot and probably made the task of permanently pacifying the Transvaal a much easier one. That the end of the war is in sight there can no longer be any doubt.

LIBERALS AND THE TARIFF.

It has long been a matter of considerable doubt what stand the Conservative party proposed to take in regard to the government's dealings with the tariff. Some time ago Sir Charles Tupper asserted our industries would be ruined by the radical changes that were made, but prosperity reigned and business increased and multiplied and doubt descended upon the soul of the prophet. Then he kept silent and played possum for a time. Mr. Foster then investigated the subject and concluded that the great National Policy was still alive and that it was the great magician that was transforming the land from its dormant state into one of the most prosperous portions of the globe. But wasn't it a low down game for the N. P. miracle worker to remain in a state of lethargy for over twenty years and not do a thing for the honor and glory of the authors of his beliefs? For behold, just as soon as the Grits get into power he dons his garments, bends to the task he was expected to take in hand years before, and sets all the wheels of industry in motion. If the contentions of the Conservatives be correct, they have a legitimate cause for complaint.

But just as this matter appears to be settled to the satisfaction of all, Sir Charles once more hops up and declares that we have reduced the tariff in favor of British goods without demanding anything in return; that we have granted certain concessions to the Americans without receiving reciprocal advantages, and that we have been mutilating and maiming the sacred N. P. until the shade of John A. will never recognize it. We glance at the reduction of one-third in duties on British goods, at the entire abolition of the duty on mining machinery, at the drop in the imports on agricultural implements from 35 to 20 per cent., at the removal of the duty on iron and raw materials for the manufacturer, on corn for the fattening of the cattle of the farmer for the British market, on coal oil and binder twine, and this time we are sure the Conservative leader is on the straight road and that he is right in saying the National Policy is dead after all. Just as this conviction has become firmly rooted along comes Mr. Foster and tells us that it is true there has been a reduction in the tariff, but it only amounts to fourteen-hundredths of one per cent., that the alleged reductions are all a humbug and the old N. P. is really at work after all showering his gifts upon the Canadian people. To add to our bewilderment, the Colonist this morning tells us—and who shall have the temerity to ask for further light on the subject?—that Sir Wilfrid Laurier has "for the most part left the tariff as he found it." In the light of all these utterances, is it any wonder that Hugh John Macdonald has been called upon to bring his family nose into the councils of the party? But the Conservatives need more than one feature to guide them; they require a whole head. Hugh John admits he possesses no merit in himself which fits him for leadership; that if he were not his father's son his claims would never have been considered at all. On his own ad-

mission he is merely dragged in, like the school question at the last election and the "Laurier is too English for me" cry during the present campaign, to hide the weakness of the party and enable them to gain power. The electors are fairly certain to intimate that they see no reason why the position of Prime Minister of Canada should be entailed on any particular family.

MESSRS. PRIOR AND EARLE.

As was anticipated, it is to be the old candidates, the old party and the old policy in Victoria. This was decided on at the convention last night, after Mr. McPhillips had seized the first opportunity that has presented itself since prorogation to indulge in withering denunciation of his opponents. The Liberals of the constituency have no hesitation in admitting Col. Prior and Mr. Earle to be the strongest men that could have been selected to meet the candidates they shall shortly select to defend the course of the Laurier administration. The coming election will be the first one in which they have had an opportunity of meeting the Conservatives on anything like even terms, and for that reason they rejoice at the chance of engaging in a real, unhandicapped race for supremacy. At all elections for many years the Conservative forces have fought behind strongly fortified positions. In 1896 all their works were carried by the Liberals and are now levelled to the ground, with the possible exception of gerrymandered Ontario, in which province, thanks to Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Hon. W. C. Macdonald and the other Tory partisans in the Senate, the government may still be short by eight seats of the number of supporters they should have under a fair division of the constituencies. At this election our friend Col. Prior, who is so fond of British fair play, will be forced for the first time to fight his antagonist fairly, instead of standing up to a man with one hand tied behind his back. There will be no Tory canal contractors, nor Curran bridge builders, nor Langevin block boodlers, nor Lewis dock contractors to contribute towards bribery funds. The two parties will meet on perfectly even terms, and for that reason the Liberals are preparing for the fray with the confidence borne of knowledge of the justice of their cause and a realization of the fact that the contest this year was more than half won when the Tory forces were routed so decisively in 1896. Because of all these facts the Liberals will rejoice at an opportunity of once more entering the lists against Col. Prior and Mr. Earle.

MINING BOOM ABOUT DUE.

Reports from all parts of British Columbia indicate that we are entering upon a period of great activity in mining development. The attention of the world has not yet been concentrated to any extent on mining properties on Vancouver Island and the coast of this province, but there is a feeling in the air that our day is at hand. There is probably no country in the world with such a diversity of wealth concealed in the recesses of the earth as is to be found on every hand within a few days' journey of Victoria. If Wreck Bay had been in some remote part of the globe which is locked fast in the hands of King Frost for six months in the year there would be beyond peradventure been one of those rushes to which have been accustomed in the West for that beach. But work is going on quietly and regularly there and every steamer brings in a consignment of the yellow dust that all the world is eagerly in quest of. Manifestly it is in need of no proof that gold exists on Vancouver Island, but it seems that it requires to be reminded of the fact occasionally.

A prominent mining man in the interior says he proposes to mine, ship and treat ore worth from \$5 a ton up. If he proves to the world that this can be done in the interior of the province the day when he commences operations will be one of the most important in the history of British Columbia. He says: "We must make copper at a cost of five cents per pound, and to do so we will have to overcome the long and expensive haul to New York and the rake-off connected with the handling of copper. Our next step is to build our own refinery, and I intend to start at this work and keep it going until British Columbia is put in shape to compete with the world." The importance of this statement is known to all who have knowledge of the conditions in British Columbia. There are said to be quantities of ore almost beyond human computation which would never be more than waste under the conditions which at present prevail, but which with the advent of cheaper methods of treatment will add vastly to the stores of wealth of the world. There never was any doubt that the day of these low grade ores would come—it has been drawing nearer by slow degrees—but few had any idea that it was so close at hand.

Then there are our deposits of iron ore, which are also beginning to attract the attention of the world. Iron enters so largely into almost all the works of man these days that it may fairly be said to be the king of metals. The product of the world is increasing by millions of tons yearly, and still the manufacturers shout for more. They are said to be running short of this great necessity of the industrial world in some parts of Europe and to be looking more and more to America for their supplies, with each passing year. The day must soon come when it will be economically possible to

treat ore on this coast, and that will mean the opening up of another of the wealth-producing factors of the Island of Vancouver. Verily our future is full of promise and our star in the ascendant.

CONSUMERS' RIGHTS.

In considering the matter of placing duties on certain commodities the production of which is said to require encouragement in British Columbia, it may be well to remember that the government of the Dominion is bound to consider the interests of the consumer as well as those of the producer. The present government has always kept in view the necessity of passing such measures as are for the greatest good of the greatest number. Keeping this purpose in mind, it is not improbable that some sections or classes of the community may feel that it would have been better for them if certain things that have been done had been left undone, or if other things that have not been done had been done. The coal oil refiners complain because of the reduction of the duty on oil and the agricultural implement manufacturers think the duty on such articles of necessity to the farmer should have been left at 35 per cent., but the consumers, who probably outnumber the producers by a thousand to one, take an altogether different view of the matter. Some of the manufacturers of Canada object most strenuously to the British preference of the Laurier government, because they know from practical experience—as do the merchants of Victoria, notwithstanding the statements of Sir Charles Tupper and Col. Prior and Mr. McPhillips and the Colonist—that there has been no reduction in the tariff—they know perfectly well that this preference has given the merchants and the consumers substantial relief. All the manufacturers in Canada at the present time are doing very well indeed, but it is said there are a few of them who would like the opportunity to squeeze the consumers a little tighter. So they say they are in favor of Sir Charles Tupper's scheme of preferential trade, which means they will vote for the Conservatives in the hope that they will be returned to power and will abolish entirely the preference which has been so much appreciated in Great Britain because it was the first evidence that has come from any of the colonies that they were not given over entirely to selfishness and were not as desirous as all the rest of a hostile world to hasten the day of the downfall of the Mother Land, as the greatest commercial nation that has ever existed in the history of mankind. The leader of the opposition says he believes in preference for preference, and as he knows, because all the world knows it, that there is not the remotest possibility of Great Britain imposing a tax on the food of her operatives, his statement simply means that he and Hugh John and Col. Prior and Mr. Earle will vote for the abolition of the preference and for a return to the discredited old N. P. Mr. Chamberlain has stated in such plain terms that no one can possibly misunderstand his meaning that the only conditions upon which he would even consider a mutual preference would be on the basis of absolute free trade within the Empire. Are the few manufacturers who have announced themselves as in favor of Sir Charles Tupper's scheme prepared to compete with British goods on absolutely equal terms, that is, with the remaining two-thirds of the duty knocked off? Certainly not. They know they are on perfectly safe ground. What they want is to have the third that was taken away by the Laurier government restored again, and they know it will be done if they succeed in having the Conservatives returned to power. These are points for the merchants and consumers of Victoria, who are now aware of the benefits which they are deriving from the reduction in the duties on British goods, to ponder over.

The world has seldom read a more terrible tale than is being told by the newspaper correspondents in Galveston. First reports of such visitations are generally exaggerated, but in this case the work of destruction and the harvest of death were so great that it seems to have been beyond the power of the most extravagant correspondent of the yellowest of the yellow journals to add anything to the horror of the calamity. For the protection of the living and to prevent pestilence from playing a part in the tragedy it has been found necessary to put the dead out of sight in the most expeditious manner, and the survivors are now compelled to witness the placing of the remains of their relatives and friends under the waters which were the cause of their sorrow, to watch them being devoured by flames, or to assist in throwing them into trenches, like unto the sepulture of departed warriors after the day of battle. The Americans are a generous people, and there is no likelihood of the survivors suffering hardship for any length of time. The whole continent practically will be eager to render assistance, and with the remarkable energy for which our cousins are noted, in a few months they will have a new Galveston reared, and the ruins of the old one forever buried out of sight.

The fur dealers in the United States are endeavoring to work up the annual agitation against the pelagic sealers. It is said the herds are rapidly diminishing on the islands. If that be the case, how would it do to stop slaughtering the animals for a year or two? That would be genuine evidence of good faith on the part of the agitators.

Late News From Peking

Advices Received at Shanghai Report the Greatest Harmony Among Officers of Allies.

March of International Troops Through the Palace in Chinese Capital.

City Has Been Looted and Valuable Goods Are Sold by Auction Daily.

(Associated Press.) Washington, Sept. 10.—The developments of the day in the Chinese situation still point to a speedy withdrawal of the United States troops from China. Gen. Chaffee has added the weight of his opinion to that already entertained by many officials here.

No confirmation is at hand here of the report that Great Britain and Germany have joined in an agreement to remain together in Peking, regardless of the attitude of the other powers. Should this be true, the fact, doubtless, would hasten the rearward movement of the American troops, for there is a firm determination to avoid becoming involved in any clash between the powers, such as might reasonably be expected to follow the execution of this reported British-German programme.

The part of the problem relative to the withdrawal that remains unsolved is the best means of securing guarantees for the attainment of the few objects set out in Secretary Hay's note of July 3rd, which have not yet been secured. Possibly guarantees must be obtained from two sides, from the Chinese government, as to the security of American troops, and the creation of a claim commission, which shall provide for the payment of indemnity for the losses suffered by American citizens and for the expenditure on account of the Peking relief expedition. Then it is entirely possible that it may be regarded as necessary if any of the allies refuse to leave Peking and persist in a war of conquest, that the interests of the United States in the matter of trade of the "open door" and of all rights now guaranteed to the United States in China by treaty, be made a matter of special agreement between the United States and the powers.

It does not follow that because the United States troops are to be withdrawn this autumn from China that United States interests will be left completely at the mercy of the other powers. On the contrary, such disposition will be made of these troops that they, with others, if necessary, can be returned to China in short order. To this end the entire army of Gen. Chaffee will be quartered in some of the pleasantest and most salubrious portions of the Philippines. If they can be transported again in China, they can be transported inside of a week, thoroughly refreshed and fitted for action.

The Murder of Missionaries. Shanghai, Sept. 8.—Mr. John Goodnow, the United States consul-general here, learns that the number of British and American missionaries probably murdered during the uprising in China has been 93, while 170 others, stationed in Chi Li and Chan Si provinces, are unaccounted for, and there is reason for the belief that the three deaths have been admitted. Of those whose deaths have been admitted, eight men, eight women and six children, and 34 British, nine men, 15 women and 10 children. There is strong proof that 37 more were killed at Yai Yuen. All the missionaries that place tell substantially the same story. Ten men, 13 women and seven children are known to have been there. The list of missing numbers: Americans, 20 men, 21 women and 20 children; British, 41 men, 49 women and 19 children.

It is impossible to get the numbers of the Catholics killed, but there were many French priests and sisters, and many French priests and sisters, and it is said the anti-foreign leaders intend to exterminate them. Minor officers are sending memorials to the Dowager Empress, thanking her for ridding the country of the foreigners. In the interior, the people believe the Empress has won great victories and driven out the foreigners. It is asserted that they will continue to think so unless the foreigners who were compelled to flee are able to return and conspicuous punishments are inflicted in retaliation for those who were killed. Li Hung Chang yesterday promised Mr. Goodnow that he would telegraph to the local officials of Chi Li to furnish escorts to treaty ports for all the missionaries who were still there.

Li Hung Chang requested Mr. Goodnow to cable to the department of state at Washington that he was greatly pleased with the appointment of his "old friend Foster" as a peace commissioner. Mr. Woodville Rockhill, the special commissioner of the United States government, and the complexity of the Chinese government from the outset. He warned M. Delcasse, who, acting rapidly, took the initiative and proposed to the powers with special interests in China the organization of a naval demonstration in the Gulf of Pechili, believing that the assembling of a powerful international fleet would make the Chinese government renounce all complicity with the Boxers. Unfortunately the powers declined M. Delcasse's proposal, which was made about the end of last March.

Expedition to Pao Ting Fu. Taku, Sept. 6, via Shanghai, Sept. 10.—The expedition to Pao Ting Fu will leave on Friday. It is made up as follows: British, two regiments of cavalry, a battery of horse artillery and 800 infantry; Italian, 1,000; Japanese, 300; Russians, 300, and Americans, 500.

Tien Tsin, Sept. 8, via Shanghai, Sept. 11.—A body of 4,000 allied troops, including 200 men of the 15th Infantry, under Major Robertson, marched to-day London, Sept. 11.—A special dispatch

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from Rome says the Italian cabinet has decided to initiate immediately peace negotiations with China. Italy will formulate demands for an indemnity, and if they are accepted Italian intervention will be considered terminated and no proposal tending to further warfare in China will be considered.

France Will Withdraw.

London, Sept. 11.—France has formally adhered to the Russian proposal to withdraw from Peking to Tien Tsin. Diplomatic circles in London are inclined to believe that this step will lead to similar action on the part of the United States and Japan, and that, while Germany may hold out till field Marshal Count von Waldersee arrives in China, she will ultimately acquiesce, leaving Great Britain little choice but to follow suit.

Ordered to the Capital.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Minister Wu has received a cable dispatch from Earl Li Hung Chang, giving an Imperial edict, signed by the Emperor, directing the Earl to proceed immediately to Peking and there co-operate with Prince Ching towards peace negotiations and a settlement of all war difficulties. The edict is dated August 27th.

March Through the Palace.

Shanghai, Sept. 11.—The Taku steamers, which have arrived here, brings reports of the latest events in Peking. These advices are to the effect that the greatest harmony prevails among the officers of the allies, who treat each other with extreme courtesy and that the soldiers are living as though members of one army.

Late arrivals say that if any clash occurs during the occupation of Peking it will be brought on by the diplomats in Europe and not by the soldiers in the field.

The march through the palace was a historical event. Every army was represented. The Russians led and the troops of other nationalities followed in the order previously reported by cable.

A Russian band and the Sikhs' bagpipes played national airs while the troops filed through the grounds and buildings. There were many eunuchs attached to the palace remaining and they stood by looking as though they were attending a funeral. They were evidently deeply humiliated.

After the procession, which began to move at 8 o'clock in the morning, and was an hour and half in passing through the grounds, a party of civilians, including the legation ladies and some prominent missionaries, were admitted. Tea was served to them and the palace was inspected. The most remarkable feature of the buildings are said to be the gilded exterior staircases carved from single stone with dragons, lions and other ornaments. The Empress's bed is trimmed with solid gold.

After the inspection the palace gates were again closed and no one was permitted to enter the grounds. The troops arriving here are forwarded to Peking as fast as they land. The ministers remain in Peking. The city has been entirely looted except the palace and auction sales of loot, in which valuable silks, furs and bronzes are the principal articles, are held daily. The chief bidders at these sales are army officers.

The newspaper correspondents had a controversy with the officers, who at first proposed that no correspondent should be admitted to the palace with the procession, but the press representatives were finally allowed to accompany the troops.

The Chinese forts at Tien Tsin near Taku are still undisturbed. The British commandant of Peking in that vicinity, The British commander says he will remain passive unless he is attacked, when he must fight in order to preserve his self-respect.

The Russians are expected to attack soon, but they lack sufficient artillery for their purpose. A Russian scouting party was blown up by a mine near the fort and several of its members killed. The commanders of the Chinese forts at Chee Foo are greatly disturbed by reports that the Germans purpose taking the forts and they are threatening to defend them to the end. The heavily manned Krupp, defending the settlement, will be destroyed if a fight occurs.

The United States battleship Oregon arrived at Foo Sung to-day. She steamed at good speed throughout the trip.

M. Pichon's Warning.

Paris, Sept. 11.—M. Delcasse, French minister of foreign affairs, has in preparation a yellow book, the correspondent of the Associated Press learns from authoritative source, which will reveal certain interesting facts now known only at the foreign offices of the powers. It will be seen that M. Pichon, French minister to China, forewarns the "Boxer" government from the outset. He warned M. Delcasse, who, acting rapidly, took the initiative and proposed to the powers with special interests in China the organization of a naval demonstration in the Gulf of Pechili, believing that the assembling of a powerful international fleet would make the Chinese government renounce all complicity with the Boxers. Unfortunately the powers declined M. Delcasse's proposal, which was made about the end of last March.

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against the cities of Sheng Hai and Tien Li, where the presence of Boxers threatens the Tien Tsin region.

The advance was made in two columns for the purpose of flanking the Boxers. General Dordard personally commanded the expedition. The Japanese siege guns were taken with the expedition, which included a large force of cavalry. One regiment of German cavalry and one British battery have arrived.

Why Germany Will Not Withdraw.

Berlin, Sept. 12.—At the German foreign office Gen. Chaffee's dispatch to Washington declaring the necessity of the troops remaining in Peking have been noted with satisfaction.

Speaking with reference to the statements that attribute to Germany ambitions on the Yang Tse Kiang, a foreign office official said: "Such statements are absurd as Germany has landed only five hundred men, whereas Great Britain and France has each landed thousands. Germany's action there is wholly precautionary for the protection of the lives and property of Germans."

Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, after his arrival at Shanghai, will remain there as some of the German papers have stated, but will proceed immediately to the province of Chi Li.

As an additional reason why Germany cannot withdraw from Peking it is pointed out that 3,000 native Christians have been rescued from Peking cathedral, and if now abandoned they would inevitably be massacred.

The correspondent of the Associated Press learned that Germany will not send additional troops to China unless the situation there should change materially. Heavy losses would be expected from home. The present losses apparently justify the belief that increases in China are not needed and are officially explained to be purely precautionary.

Private dispatches received here say that the international forces attacked the Chinese fortifications at Peking, north of Taku, and that the losses were considerable.

The German transport Rhein, with Lt. Gen. Von Lassel on board, has arrived at Shanghai.

Rear-Admiral Bendeman, commanding the German squadron in Chinese waters, left Shanghai yesterday on board the cruiser Fuesel Bismarck.

Earl Li's Trip to Peking.

Washington, Sept. 12.—The Chinese minister called at the state department and received a favorable response to his application of yesterday for exemption from interference by this government of Li Hung Chang's journey from Shanghai to Peking.

There Was One Death From Plague in San Francisco Last July.

Doctors Refused to Issue Certificate That Disease Existed in the City.

(Special to the Times.)

Ottawa, Sept. 11.—The department of agriculture has received a report from the High Commissioner of Egypt, England, which covers a report made by the British consul at San Francisco, dated July 20th last.

The consul reports that Dr. Fagan, secretary of the provincial board of health of British Columbia, has visited San Francisco and that he had reported to the consul that newspaper men, business men and even doctors had been keeping quiet the existence of bubonic plague in that city. He was at an autopsy on a Chinaman which showed that he died from the disease, but the doctors refused to issue a certificate of the existence of the disease and the cause of death.

It is rather peculiar to see the round about way in which this report has reached the department.

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