

Semi-Weekly

V. L. X. XVIII.

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1900.

NO. 80.

THE WHOLE CHINESE EMPIRE IN A FERMENT.

London, June 15, 4.20 a. m.—Observers at Shanghai and Tien Tsin think there is great deal more trouble ahead for the concert of powers than merely reaching Peking with 2,044 men. Serious disturbances are taking place at Yun Nan Fu and Meng Tze as well as at other points at a considerable distance from the capital.

The whole Chinese Empire seems to be in a ferment. The intentions of the Empress Dowager are still equivocal, with a balance of testimony on the side of a determination to compel the appropriation of a part of her country or to lose her dynasty in the attempt.

It is related of her that on Monday, following the murder of the chancellor of the Japanese legation, she was roused to a sense of danger and went personally to the Yung Ting gate of Peking, where she advised the rioters to disperse. But she took no steps to apply force; and the appearance of things is more threatening than before.

While Admiral Seymour, with the international relief column is forcing his way to Peking, several of the powers are arranging largely to relieve their details at Tien Tsin. Germany proposes sending 1,200 men. Great Britain sent 600 from Hong Kong yesterday and 400 will go Monday. Italy has ordered 1,000 men to hold themselves in readiness. Russia, according to a St. Petersburg despatch of Wednesday has decided to bring her force at Tien Tsin up to 6,000. Thus the combined forces at Tien Tsin will probably soon be about 10,000 men.

The explicit statement made yesterday in the House of Commons by the parliamentary secretary of the foreign office, Mr. Broderick, with reference to the identity of opinion among the powers upon the question of the application of force to the method of applying it is accepted by all the morning papers as quite sufficient for the present; and the hope is generally expressed that nothing will happen to diminish the harmony.

An incident, however, has already occurred, involving the British and French at Tien Tsin, which nearly ended in violence. A despatch from Tsin dated yesterday says:

"For some days the French and Russian authorities here have been jealous because of the supposed facilities given to the British authorities by the British and the French of the China railways. Yesterday (Wednesday) some French marines attempted to take charge of an engine required at the front locomotive engine house and a Frenchman refused to obey him. Weir caught the muzzle of the rifle and the bayonet passed over his shoulder. For a moment serious trouble between the British and French was imminent; but the prompt act of the British and the French, backed by the American consul and the railway officials, prevented a collision. The French consul withdrew his opposition and the British remained in charge of the engine."

Cable from Kempff. Washington, June 14.—The following cablegram has been received from Admiral Kempff, Tong Ku, June 13:

Tong Ku, June 13. Secretary Navy, Washington. Twenty-five hundred men are on the road to Peking for the relief of the legations; 100 are Americans; English and Russians in large majority; all nations here represented. The victory at Tien Tsin gave permission to go there; railroad being repaired as force advances. Russians are now sending soldiers from Port Arthur with artillery. (Signed) KEMPF.

Statement of Seymour's Force. Tien Tsin, June 14.—Railroad communication between this place and Admiral Seymour's international force has been cut three miles beyond Yang Tsun. Two bridges have been destroyed. It is rumored here that the Boxers are determined to burn Tien Tsin station tonight.

The international force under Admiral Seymour includes the following: British, 915; German, 290; Russian, 200; French, 128; American, 104; Japanese, 52; Italian, 49; and Austrian, 25. It left Tien Tsin June 10.

Before the Killing Began. Boston, June 14.—The American board of foreign missions received today from the state department at Washington, a letter which was in response to inquiries concerning the safety of the Rev. and Mrs. George H. Ewing, Rev. Horace Dilkin and other American missionaries at Pao-Ting-Fu, China. The department of state replies that on the fourth instant Mr. Pilkins was safe; that the situation in China appears to be very serious. Minister Conger is said to be doing all in his power for the protection of American citizens in that country and the authorities there have promised to protect them. No case of violence to an American missionary has yet been reported to the department.

A telegram from Minister Conger, received on the 11th instant, says that the missionaries at Pao-Ting-Fu are safe at present, and that the Chinese government has sent troops there and promises protection. Letters from Miss Morrill and Miss May Fly the Stars and Stripes.

New York, June 14.—United States Shipping Commissioner Dickey announces that commencing with today Hawaiian ships may fly the American flag after taking out an American register. This is in accordance with an act passed May 11, 1899, facilitating the entry of vessels from Hawaii and Porto Rico in American ports.

Grand Master of Nova Scotia. Halifax, June 14.—At the closing session of the Grand Masonic Lodge of Nova Scotia tonight, Theodore A. Cossun, of Halifax, was elected grand master in place of T. B. Flint, M. P., and U. Murray Lawson, of Yarmouth, was elected deputy grand master.

Enthusiasm Has Accumulated. St. John's, Nfld., June 14.—Queen Victoria's birthday was officially celebrated here today under the special arrangement proposed by the celebration from May 21. It was the occasion for an enthusiastic outburst of loyalty. The British warship chartered for a royal salute at noon; at this evening there were fireworks, illuminations and parades.

A New Brunswick Case. Ottawa, June 14.—Lt.-Col. McLean and Dr. Pugsley are engaged in taking evidence here in the case of Lewis and Smellie vs. Snowball. Miss Moratt, official stenographer of the supreme court of New Brunswick, is the reporter.

Dinner in Berlin. Berlin, June 14.—Ambassador White and Mrs. White gave a large dinner this evening in honor of President Daniel C. Gilman of Johns Hopkins University.

ALL GOES WELL WITH THE BRITISH ARMS.

Buller and Roberts are in Easy and Commanding Situations—The Canadians Again Perform Very Brilliant Work In a Difficult Place.

London, June 15, 3.30 a. m.—That Commandant Gen. Louis Botha should have been able to stand for two days against Lord Roberts and then retreat without losing any guns or having any of his men captured is taken to mean that he has a force which the British must still reckon as formidable when acting defensively.

The pacification of the wide spaces from the railways, is looked upon as a business requiring months rather than weeks.

A Boer Bulletin. Meanwhile everything goes well for the British arms.

A Boer bulletin issued June 12 at Makhodospoort said: "Both wings of the Federal force touched the advancing enemy at 11 a. m. yesterday east of Pretoria. Fighting continued until dark. The enemy, though in overwhelming numbers, were checked along a line of 36 miles, and the burghers succeeded in driving back their right wing five miles. Two burghers were killed and ten wounded."

Another Makhodospoort announcement is that the first regiment of General Buller's force to attack Almonds Nek was "annihilated," but as the British were in overwhelming force, the burghers were compelled to abandon the Nek.

Kruger Keeping His Gold. A despatch from Lorenzo Marques dated yesterday, says: "President Kruger is holding on to his gold and issuing paper notes from a press in his executive car. The Boer government's coin stock is exhausted; and the officials are now paying out plain gold discs unstampeded. Some who have declined to accept notes have taken their salaries in gold pieces."

The Boer government is still paying out much gold in that way. Two steamers arrived at Lorenzo Marques yesterday bringing supplies to Portuguese merchants, but destined for the Boers.

One hundred Americans, Frenchmen, Germans and Hollanders have arrived there by various steamers on route for the Transvaal. Mr. Crowe, the British consul general, has large stocks of clothing for the British prisoners; but he will not forward these until he gets assurance that the Boers will not take them for their own use.

Buller Must Wait. General Buller will be unable to advance further until he gets supplies. He will probably wait until the famine has been cleared. Nearly every farm house his troops passed flew a white flag.

But things have taken a more favorable turn this season, and the indications are that the mill will be built in a short time.

Mr. Alexander Little, of York Mills, has begun work on a new woolen mill on the site of the one which was destroyed by fire a few years ago. York Mills promises to be a busy place this summer.

Mr. John McCumrury, of Lake George, has contracted to supply a Boston firm with about 100,000 feet of scantling and boards from his mill. The lumber is being shipped from this station. Coun. T. Robinson has the contract of hauling it from the mill.

Dinner in Berlin. Berlin, June 14.—Ambassador White and Mrs. White gave a large dinner this evening in honor of President Daniel C. Gilman of Johns Hopkins University.

Police on Guard With Loaded Rifles. Halifax, June 14.—There is no change in the strike situation on Belle Island. Yesterday the local magistrates read the riot act. The police are guarding the property with loaded rifles.

The steamer Ganton, which was there to load hematite for Philadelphia, was compelled to leave and to seek shelter here, the strikers having threatened to cut her adrift from the pier if she remained.

Anglican factions. Halifax, June 14.—There was a lively discussion in the Church of England synod today between the high and low church, caused by a motion of Rev. F. H. Almon on the adopting of the cumulative system of voting. In his remarks Mr. Almon claimed that under the present system the low church clergy were boycotted by their high church brethren and deprived of any representation in the provincial synod. A number of prominent laymen took part in the discussion and they stated that unless a better disposition was shown by the high church clergy against the low they would lend their aid to the latter to defeat all the clerical nominees. The motion, however, was defeated.

Work Has Been Begun on a New Woolen Mill at York Mills—Business Seems to be Booming in the Milling Line—Big Order From Boston for Lumber.

Harvey Station, June 14.—There has been much talk for over a year of having a new flour mill erected at York Mills, and last summer Mr. James Lester, the well-known miller of that place, made considerable preparation for having one built, but did not go on with it as he did not think he had sufficient encouragement from the farmers to go into so large a project. But things have taken a more favorable turn this season, and the indications are that the mill will be built in a short time.

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THE COMMISSION TO HAVE A FREE HAND.

Ottawa, June 14.—The first business of the house today was the motion of Mr. Monk for a committee to investigate the charges he has made in connection with the emergency food supplied to the Canadian soldiers in South Africa by the militia department. Mr. Monk formally put his motion, the terms of which were given in this correspondence yesterday. He said that the food was not sterilized nor was it hermetically sealed, and said that payment was made before goods were delivered.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the motion of Mr. Monk was not one of privilege. However, he was willing to waive any objections in that regard. On the other hand it would be seen that the motion was put down for Friday, and therefore the government did not expect it would come up today. This being the case he would move that the debate be adjourned and made the first order tomorrow.

This was agreed to. Sir Wilfrid Laurier introduced a bill to restrict Chinese immigration. The premier gave a history of the whole question, dealing with Japanese immigration as well. He said that British Columbia had grievances from both classes, and it was the intention of the government to issue a royal commission to investigate Japanese and Chinese immigration and lay the whole matter before the imperial authorities, so that the matter could be properly dealt with. The question was an imperial one. He was prepared to deal with the Chinese question, but he recognized that the agitation in British Columbia included Japanese as well. He was not prepared now to put the Japanese on the same footing as the Chinese, there being no question of Great Britain in war probably involving Great Britain in war in the east. The government had been asked to put legislation similar to the Natal act in force, but that would include the Japanese, and he would not deal with the Japanese now. In respect to the Chinese bill, he would raise the poll tax from \$50 per head to \$100 per head.

The premier in stating that the government had decided to increase the poll tax, as suggested by the opposition, the amount which was asked for several years ago by the legislature of British Columbia, he said that in 1898, when the legislature asked that the tax be increased to \$500. To double it at once would be a considerable advance and steady in the right direction. The result would be investigated and the government would get information on the whole question.

In respect to the Japanese, he was satisfied that British Columbia would not wish to jeopardize the interests of Great Britain in the Orient at the present time. Indeed he was satisfied that the people of British Columbia would be prepared not to put any obstacles in the way of the Chinese and Japanese immigration. He would be prepared to view the matter as he did, "for the sake of the mother country and for the sake of unity of the Empire."

Lieut.-Prior did not agree with Premier Laurier, but on the contrary said there would be general regret in the province if the Natal act was not adopted. "Clarke Wallace on the other hand agreed with the premier that the present was not the time to do anything that would interfere with imperial interests in the west."

In reply to Col. Prior, Dr. Borden said that the department on February 3, sent to the inland department two parcels of emergency food for analysis. One was from food shipped to South Africa and the other from food used at Kingston in March or April, 1899. He did not want at the present time to give the results of the analysis except that they bear out the statements made in the letter of Dr. Neilson, which he (Dr. Borden) read in the house. The food was to be delivered in Halifax on January 29. On motion to go into supply, R. L. Borden, of Halifax, brought up the scope of the commission appointed to inquire into corruption at elections. He made a legal argument along the lines suggested by Sir Charles Tupper the other day, and moved in amendment that the terms of the commission should be changed in the direction pointed out by the leader of the opposition.

Mr. Prior, in reply, said that in his opinion the opposition had a desire to have a full investigation into the alleged fraud, and he claimed the government and its supporters are equally sincere in their desire to have the investigation thorough. It was in the interest of both parties to discover to what extent these practices had prevailed. The government had not only no desire, but no interest in not having a full investigation. The government believed that the works of the commission were broad enough to give full scope to the inquiry and could not see why it should be amended in any way. He pointed out that the words of the commission covered not only the ballot boxes and their contents, but also all persons who may be implicated in any fraud. There was absolutely no restriction as to persons, as Mr. Borden had intimated. He could not agree that any benefit would accrue from granting the ordinary protection granted in the courts, that any evidence given by a witness which would incriminate him should not be used against him in any subsequent criminal proceedings. Such a course would militate against the very object which Mr. Borden desired. As to the payment of witnesses Mr. Blair said that he did not think it necessary to amend the terms of the resolution for a commission which he thought had already been given. The government intended to make an appropriation which would be at the disposal of the commission to cover all such expenses. The whole object of the government was to make investigation full and ample. In regard to whether a voter was to be allowed to vote by legal means Mr. Blair said that he did not think it necessary to amend the terms of the resolution for a commission which he thought had already been given. 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