

CHINA DECLARES WAR

The Chinese Unexpectedly Open Fire on the International Fleet from the Taku Forts.

Reported from Shanghai that the Legations Were Attacked by the Boxers and Occupants Massacred.

Powers Taking Prompt Action—Thousands of Troops Ready to Embark—Four Hundred Chinese Reported Killed in the Bombardment of the Taku Forts—Two of the Forts Blown Up.

LONDON, June 19, 3.30 a. m.—China declared war against the world when the Taku forts opened fire upon the international fleet.

The unofficial narratives, coming by way of Shanghai, vary widely and bear internal evidence of supplementing the main facts with guess work.

An Associated Press despatch from Chee Foo, dated yesterday afternoon, says: "The forts on both sides of the Taku are now occupied. The Chinese

OPENED FIRE UNEXPECTEDLY. The casualties to the mixed forces were as follows:

Killed—British, 1; German, 3; Russian, 16; French, 1; American, 7.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing yesterday, says:

"The forts began firing in obedience to orders from Peking, conveyed in a personal order of the empress dowager, by advice of King Yi (president of the ministry of war)."

"The heavy Russian losses are due to the blowing up of the magazine at Mandshur.

"Four hundred Chinese are reported to have been killed. The Chinese, when retreating, fell into the hands of the Russian land force."

"The Daily News has the following from Chee Foo: "Two of the forts were blown up. The thirty-two warships at Taku aggregated two hundred thousand tons and carried more than 300 guns."

"The failure of Admiral Seymour's column and its retreat to Tien Tsin increases, it is presumed, the peril of the legations in Peking, which is still isolated, although Shanghai forwards Chinese rumors that the legations were attacked by mobs who were

MOWN DOWN BY MACHINE GUNS and also that the members of the legations were massacred.

The situation at Niu Chwang is reported critical. The British consul at Kiu Kiang has ordered all foreigners to leave Kiu Ling and Nau King Chang.

The powers are taking prompt action. Four thousand German troops have been ordered to China; 10,000 French troops are waiting to embark at Saigon, capital of French Cochinchina; and from 3,000 to 5,000 more Russians have been ordered from Port Arthur to Taku.

This reinforcement, says the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, is announced in the St. Petersburg Gazette, the government pointing out that Russia is sending so many troops solely for the sake of

PEACE AND HUMANITY. The Brussels correspondent of the

Standard, in a despatch dated yesterday, says: "Russia has massed 40,000 men, with seven batteries, at Kiachta, with orders to proceed to Maimatchin, a Chinese town contiguous to Kiachta, and thence to advance along the telegraph route to the Mongol town of Urga, two hundred miles south of Kiachta and seven hundred and fifty miles northwest of Peking."

The Shanghai correspondent of the Times, under yesterday's date, gives the following description, said to be taken from official sources, of the action at Taku:

"On the afternoon of June 18, in view of the large bodies of Chinese troops assembling at the forts, of the fact that torpedoes had been laid in the river and that all communications were interrupted, the naval commanders held a council and decided to send an ultimatum, calling for the

DISBANDMENT OF THE TROOPS, and announcing that if this demand was not complied with before 2 a. m. of the following day, the united squadron would destroy the forts."

"Shortly after midnight the forts opened fire. The British, French, German, Russian and Japanese warships replied. Two of the forts were blown up and the rest were carried by assault."

"Two British, one American and five Chinese warships are in Chee Foo harbor."

"The morning papers consider that a state of war practically exists, and that the issue is between western and eastern civilization. The Times says that the latest news is infinitely serious, a situation already sufficiently serious."

BERLIN, June 18.—The German consul at Chee Foo telegraphs that a Japanese torpedo boat from Taku has brought the following: "The Chinese laid torpedoes in the Taku river and collected troops from Shan Hei Kwan. The foreign commanders assembled on the Russian flagship and

ADDRESSED AN ULTIMATUM to the commanders of the Taku forts, summing them to withdraw their troops before 2 o'clock, June 17. At 1 a. m., June 17, the guns of the forts opened fire, to which the Russian, British, French and Japanese warships replied. The bombardment lasted seven hours. Two British ships in the river between the forts are reported to have been sunk."

"The telegraph line and railroad between Tien Tsin and Taku were destroyed. Communication by water is also threatened."

Later a semi-official despatch from Chee Foo announced that the Taku

FORTS HAD BEEN CAPTURED after a combined attack by the foreign warships. Three men on the German warship Itis were killed and seven were wounded.

The despatch added that the foreign settlements at Tien Tsin were being fired into by the Chinese.

When the despatch left nothing had been heard from the German detachment sent to Peking or from the German legation there.

BERLIN, June 18.—The German foreign office has received no telegraphic communication from Peking for several

days, either by way of Russia or any other route. This applies also to all the powers. Today Germany had telegraphic communication with Chee Foo and Shanghai, but was unable to get connections with Tien Tsin and Taku. The reports regarding the

BURNING OF LEGATIONS and the murder of the German minister, Baron Von Ketteler, have not been confirmed, although the foreign office has tried every possible way of getting something definite.

"Nevertheless," said the foreign office official who vouchsafed this information, "our sources of news are so few that it is quite possible the reports are true."

"The same official made the following statement with reference to the relations of the powers:

"No precise agreement has yet been reached between the powers interested in China regarding their joint action, there, its scope, the proportional strength of the forces, or the part to be assigned to each."

A VERY SERIOUS VIEW of the situation, apprehension for the safety of the foreign officers being combined with anxiety respecting the international entente.

The transport ship which arrived Saturday at Tien Tsin with 1,500 soldiers for the relief of the Kiao Chiao garrison proceeded yesterday for Taku with these troops.

PARIS, June 18.—A despatch from Toulon announces that orders have been received there to put in readiness two armed cruisers and to prepare a large quantity of rations with transport for a thousand men.

DETACHMENTS of marines at Manila have been ordered to prepare for China as soon as possible.

NEW YORK, June 18.—The Commercial Cable Co. has issued the following notice: "We are advised that the Chinese government announces that telegrams for Tien Tsin and Taku, with the English address in plain language, will be forwarded from Chee Foo by mail at the sender's risk. There is a daily steamship service between Chee Foo and Tien Tsin."

WASHINGTON, June 18.—Owing to the eccentric action of the telegraph wires and cables, which interferes with the navy department's communication with the navy department, Admiral Kempf, his superior officer, Admiral Remey, at Manila, the navy department may give Admiral Kempf an independent command in the interests of quick despatch of business.

There had been no friction whatever between the two admirals and the commander in chief of the station, Admiral Remey, has lent due support to Admiral Kempf during the crisis. The Yorktown was sent from Shanghai to Chee Foo by Admiral Remey without express instruction from the department. It is supposed at the navy department that Admiral Remey has pursued a similar course with respect to the gunboat Concord, the sister ship of the Yorktown, which, according to press despatches from Manila, sailed yesterday from that place.

UNDER SEALED ORDERS, presumably for China. It was said at the department that no instruction to that effect had gone forward from here, so it is supposed that Admiral Remey is again acting voluntarily to strengthen the hands of Admiral Kempf.

Great apprehension exists at the navy department as to the fate of the United States marine guard of 50 men which was landed at Tien Tsin and despatched by rail to Peking before the railroad was interrupted.

They went forward to Peking under an authorization granted by the Chinese government to the United States minister at Peking in common with other ministers to employ a naval guard at the legation. Just before the wires from Peking were cut word came that Minister Conger had detached twenty of these marines from his legation and placed them at a guard at the Methodist compound. This is an enclosure of some ten acres, situated nearly a mile distant from the legation, where many missionaries and their families, as well as a large number of native Christians, are believed to have taken refuge.

The instructions sent to Admiral Kempf relative to his participation in the seizure of the Taku forts

were broad, consisting of a direction to protect all American interests, and that to end to act concurrently with the representatives of the other powers.

It is explained that in the opinion of the authorities this order conferred upon Admiral Kempf ample power to seize forts, to fight, or to do anything in fact, on the sole condition that, in his judgment, his acts should tend to

the protection of the American interests. It was learned at the British embassy this afternoon that there were two British admirals in the Peiho river, Admiral Seymour and Admiral Bruce. Therefore Taussig's reference to the arrival of the British admiral at Tien Tsin does not mean necessarily that Seymour has returned with his foreign column.

Included in the detachment of one hundred marines with the international expedition sent to the relief of the foreign residents at Peking are the following well known officers of the marine corps: Major L. W. T. Wells and Lieuts. R. F. Wynne, C. G. Reid, A. E. Harding, H. Leonard and N. L. Jolly.

WASHINGTON, June 18.—In view of the international character of the attack upon and capture of the Taku forts, some interest may be felt in the following:

Taku is situated at the mouth of the Pei-Ho, southern bank of the river, about 67 miles from Tien Tsin, with which it is connected by a railroad. It is noted for the three engagements that have taken place there between the British and the Chinese. Part of the Tien Tsin army corps has military organization and arms, and is stationed at the Taku forts. Between Taku and Tien Tsin the centres of the defences and chief arsenal of Northern China, and permanent camps, where there are usually 30,000 troops, infantry, cavalry and artillery, armed with Mauser rifles and Krupp guns. The cavalry also carry Mauser carbines. These troops have been well instructed for ten or twelve years by foreign officers. The armament of the Taku forts consist of very heavy Krupp guns, and the approaches to the forts from the Gulf of Pechili are extremely difficult.

The fortifications consist of three forts, a large one on the right bank and two smaller ones on the left. All the forts are armed with numerous guns of the most varied systems and calibre. In the construction of all parts of the second zone the muddy clay soil of the coast was used, which, during heavy season, becomes cracked and crumbles very easily, and the garrison is continually making repairs. In Taku are the materials for closing up the mouth of the Pei-Ho. All the coast fortifications have mines.

FROM ONE OF "OURS." Edward Craig Writes of the Fighting in the Vicinity of Thaba N'chu.

Fighting Strength of the Canadian Battalion Only About Three Hundred—Many Close Calls—Chatham Man Wounded.

The following is a copy of a letter received from Edward Craig of the first Canadian contingent by his brother in this city:

May 2, 1900. Camp about 6 miles northwest of Thaba N'chu.

Dear Will—Well to date. I've been yesterday and today before heavy Boer artillery fire on our right flank while advancing on kopje occupied by enemy. The horse artillery unable to put gun out of action, as they were outranged. Many close calls. Lay night before last with bayonets fixed. Boers returned to higher position on summit of kopje. British field 1.5 gun came round kopje May 1st. Put Boer gun out of use in 5 shots. Boers driven back with heavy loss. About nine casualties in regiment.

Joe Letchon of Chatham wounded in leg. A man of D company torn to pieces with shell. Very telling British victory. A large number of our men missing and searching party now out. Weak and sick men will be returned to Bloemfontein. Battalion fighting strength now about 300. Will write more detail later.

OTTAWA. A Successful Picnic Near Napanee on Saturday.

The Emergency Rations Committee to Organize Today—Imports and Exports for May.

OTTAWA, June 17.—Sir Charles Tupper, Senator Ferguson and Geo. V. McInerney, M. P., were the speakers at a picnic in Lennox county, near Napanee, yesterday. It was a very successful meeting.

The emergency rations committee meets tomorrow for organization. It is understood that Mr. Costigan will be chairman.

The imports for May totalled \$15,202,222, an increase of \$2,200,000. The duty collected shows an increase of \$300,000. The exports for the month were valued at \$10,459,829, an increase of \$1,226,000.

SYDNEY. SYDNEY, C. B., June 15.—Yesterday afternoon a seaman of the American fishing schooner Tethis, Capt. Hines, named Hobbs, a native of Argyle, N. S., was put ashore here a half hour before the vessel sailed with \$150, alleged to be due him. Hobbs got a warrant for the captain's arrest, but could not get a tug to pursue the schooner, which had weighed anchor and spread her wings.

Yesterday Commodore Hennique, of the French cruiser Inlay, accompanied by Flag Lieut. Guron and twelve staff officers, paid a visit to the Dominion Iron and Steel Works, by invitation of Manager Moxham and inspected the works.

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BOSTON LETTER

Whole Country Amazed at Grit Election Frauds in Ontario.

Arrested for Smuggling Herring from New Brunswick. Some of the Wool Men Also.

Said to be in the Job. Deaths of Recent Provincialists—Graduated With Full Honors—St. John Mac Nisling—General News—The Lumber and Fish Markets.

(From Our Own Correspondent.) BOSTON, June 16.—The republican leaders from all sections are heading for Philadelphia, where on Tuesday next the national convention of the party will begin its sessions under the guidance of its master, the Hon. M. A. Hanna. Everything is out and dried except the nomination of a candidate for vice-president. Mr. McKinley will be nominated without opposition, and the platform will be put through just as the party leaders dictate. A Massachusetts man, Hon. John D. Long, secretary of the navy in the cabinet, is a candidate for vice-president, but it looks as if a Western man would be named, possibly Senator Allison of Iowa or Congressman Dooliver of the same state.

The colleges are holding their annual commencement exercises just now, preparatory to closing for the summer vacation. Quite a number of provincialists will graduate this year, and some have already distinguished themselves. At the Newton Theological Seminary this week, Charles Ervin Lewis of Yarmouth and Charles H. McNulty of Fredericton, graduated with full honors. The former is a Brown University man and the latter was sent out by Acadia. Harvard commencement will be held the last week in June.

John Genus of Malden, formerly of Woodstock, left home May 31, without informing his family, and as he did not show up for several weeks they became alarmed, and his daughter, Miss Maud, consulted a trance medium. The spirits informed her that her father was a suicide, but happily Gentle turned up in the flesh soon after, safe and sound.

Another missing provincialist is Luke Donnelly, aged 38, a painter, formerly of St. John, who disappeared from Boston, Me., June 1. His wife and children are anxious to find him, and have invoked the aid of the Boston police. Donnelly has been traced to Boston, and at last accounts had not returned to his home in Portland.

The corruption in Ontario and Prince Edward Island resented to-by the liberal party in elections has attracted considerable attention in the United States. Several leading papers have commented on the ballot frauds in Canada, most of them predicting that the present government at Ottawa will suffer on account of the recent developments. The Providence, R. I. Journal, the foremost paper in that state, says editorially:

"The United States is so often held up as an example of political wretchedness that it is entertaining to note the progress of the investigations into ballot frauds in Canada. The corruption there which is under investigation, was most bare-faced. Frauds such as are seldom or never charged in this country were perpetrated. One is amazed at them. If possible let an American imagine the bribery of every election officer in a district which was close and doubtful. In the United States the ballot which is counted by fraud is practically never known of in such precincts. The frauds are committed in localities where the vote is all or largely one-sided. Our political officials are brazen, and daring to the last extremity of personal outrage, but they are afraid to apply themselves to changing the color of a plurality. In several Canadian districts the conspirators completely overturned pluralities. The debauchery of an electorate has probably never been more complete. Everybody who could be expected to object to the tricks was bought to silence. It was because of that fact that the investigation has been so tardy and tedious. The efforts to discover the circumstances of the crimes have been fought at every step. But the truth is gradually coming to light. A royal commission has been appointed to go over the whole matter carefully. On this intention to reveal the possible rottenness of their political system the Canadians are to be congratulated. Their disgrace demands all the attention which they can give it."

J. Murray Kay of Brookline, formerly of St. John, has offered prizes this year for the best effort in a prize-speaking contest in the Brookline high school. The prizes are similar to those given by Mr. Kay in other years.

Stephen O'Meara, a prominent Boston journalist, a native of Charlotte-town, has been selected by the city

government as Fourth of July orator this year. A number of former residents of P. E. I. have formed an organization known as the P. E. I. Social and Benevolent association. James C. McMahon is president; Miss Margaret J. Campbell, vice-president; Charles W. Connors, treasurer; John E. Martin, recording secretary; Francis Murphy, financial secretary; Michael Walsh, W. W. Doyle and Michael P. Quinn, trustees.

The Maritime Provincial club held a dance and reunion Wednesday night. The annual picnic of the club will be held July 4. Elmer W. Morang of South Lubec, Me., was indicted by the U. S. grand jury here Thursday on a charge of smuggling herring from New Brunswick to that state. Morang claims that he delivered the herring to Hyron E. Lurchin of Pembroke, who got into trouble through the seizure of the schooner Good Templar for smuggling. The United States officials claim that they have unearthed a wholesale smuggling scheme, and that these men know something of the wool which was brought to this state from New Brunswick some time ago. It is likely that several other men will be brought before the court on charges of smuggling.

The following deaths of former provincialists are announced: In this city, June 14, James E. Anderson, aged 38 years, formerly of St. John; in Cambridge, June 10, David H. Fowler, aged 36 years, formerly of St. John; in Kanatake, Ill., recently, Judge C. K. Starr, aged 50 years, native of Cornwallis, N. S.; in Boston, Mrs. Mrs. Mary H. Butler, widow of Patrick Butler, formerly of Charlottetown; in Allston, Brighton district, Elizabeth Weatherbee, aged 86 years, native of P. E. I.; in this city, June 13, Ronald C. B. Hyde, Halifax. McDonald and the late Daniel McDonald, of P. E. I.; in South Boston, June 9, Angus McDonald, father of Mrs. Alexander McLean, formerly of Antigonish, N. S., aged 80.

Among recent visitors from the maritime provinces were the following: George McAvity, O. W. Randall, J. McDiarmid, St. John; J. B. Toombs, Moncton; W. M. Horton, B. Davis, Yarmouth; R. P. Fraser, New Glasgow; R. S. Cottrell, Sydney; C. B. A. T. Hyde, Halifax.

The spruce lumber market continues dull and practically featureless. Yard men repeat the same old story, viz. lack of orders by reason of a dearth of building operations. While the quotations of the mill men's associations are still held up to the public gaze, there is no doubt but that considerable shading is being done in order to make sales. There are a number of mills outside the combine, and these are selling spruce for the best prices obtainable, regardless of the posted list of rates. The curbing of production by eastern mills is expected to help steady the market. Hemlock is in much better demand than spruce, with offerings small at \$17 to 17.50 for Canadian boards. The cedar shingle arrangement of the N. B. and Maine manufacturers was evidently a success, for mill men are selling at their own prices. The market here is easy, with extra cedar quoted at \$3 to 3.10; clear, \$2.60 to 2.75; second clear, \$2 to 2.10; clear white, \$1.75 to 2, and extra, No. 1, \$1.50. Chaparral is very dull at \$28 to 29 for extra spruce and \$28 to 27 for clear. Laths are steady at \$3 to 3.15 for 1.5-8 in., and \$3 for 1.2-8 in.

The mackerel situation continues to monopolize the interest in the fish trade here. New salt mackerel are arriving freely, about 1,400 barrels having been received to date, while the total catch of salt and fresh this season is in the vicinity of 25,000 barrels. The last sales out of vessel for salt shore mackerel were at \$10.75 to 11 a barrel. Large fresh mackerel are worth 10 cents and medium 6 cents. The codfish market is still quiet, with the supply moderate. Large dry bank fish are held at \$5.50; medium, \$5; large pickled bank, 45 to 52 1/2 c; and large shore and Georges, \$5.50 to 6 c; pickled herring continue quiet at \$6 to 6.50 for large N. S. split, and \$6 to 5.50 for medium. Canned lobsters are very scarce and prices are firmer. For 2 1/2 lbs. \$2.50 to 3.00 is asked, and for 1 1/2 lbs. \$1.50 to 2.00. Live lobsters are selling at 13c, and boiled 15c.

MILITIA ORDERS. OTTAWA, June 14.—Militia orders: 8th Princess Louise New Brunswick Hussars—Lieut. E. K. Parks having left the limits, his name is removed from the list of officers of the active militia. 6th regiment "Carleton Light Infantry"—To be 2nd lieutenant provisionally, G. F. Dayton, gentleman, vice J. Cyr, retired.

INDIAN FAMINE. LONDON, June 13.—The following despatch has been received from the viceroy of India, Lord Curzon and Kedleston: "The week's famine reports show a state of general expectancy, pending the advance of the monsoon, which has not yet appeared. Heavy rain has fallen in Burma."

Heavy rain has fallen in Burma, Bengal and the Deltaic and central districts of Behar.

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