

RECEIVED BY WIRE WAR IS DECLARED!

China Fires on Foreign Ships and the War Is On in Earnest.

BRITISH GUNBOATS DAMAGED AND OFFICERS WOUNDED.

German, Russian and French Soldiers Killed and Injured.

Reports Are Rife of General Massacre in Peking—Magazine at Mandshu Blown Up—Chinese Torpedo Boat Seized—Russia Is Heaviest Loser Thus Far—Admiral Seymour's Column in Retreat—65,000 Troops Massed Against China—American Soldiers Sent From Philippines.

[From Tuesday's Daily.]
London, June 19, via Skagway, June 25.—China has declared war upon the world. Early this morning immediately following midnight the Chinese forts at Taku fired on the ships of the combined powers who retaliated and silenced them after a continuous fire of several hours.

The British gunboat Algerine was badly damaged and two officers were wounded.

The forces of the combined fleets occupied the dismantled forts after firing the magazines.

Japan and Russia are preparing to land large forces. The casualties during the firing on the combined fleet were as follows: British, one killed, four injured; German, three killed, seven injured; Russian, one killed, forty-five injured; French, one killed, one injured.

Several Chinese torpedo boats were captured.

The forts began firing by direct order from the empress of China, who issued an edict by the advice of her war minister, thus declaring open defiance to the powers and proclaiming war against the civilized world.

The heavy losses of the Russians are due to the blowing up of the fort at Mandshu. Two of the forts were blown up, entirely destroying them.

No news has as yet been received direct from Peking, the news having come by way of Hong Kong.

The failure of Admiral Seymour's relief column, which set out across the country from Tientsin to Peking, and which was so harassed by the Boxers as to be forced to turn back and retreat to Tientsin, greatly unbalanced the Chinese and doubtless precipitated the early opening of hostilities.

While nothing can be learned authoritatively, it is generally believed that the members of all the foreign legations in Peking have been massacred.

Four thousand German troops are ordered to be sent immediately to the scene of action. France will send 16,000 men and Russia 5000 immediately. Russia has massed 40,000 men and seven batteries at Kiachta with orders to proceed to Unamatin in China and thence proceed to Urga.

The situation is very critical and it is feared many lives will be lost, particularly among the missionary stations throughout the whole of China as the hatred of the Christians is a religion with the Boxers, who claim that to them is due the internal troubles of China.

At the treaty port of Newchway two villages have been burned and the Christians have fled for their lives.

American troops have been ordered from the Philippines to China and a large fleet of U. S. war vessels have been sent.

It is anticipated that President Mc-

Kinley will call a special session of congress to deal with the Chinese question as if an aggressive and immediate movement of troops should be necessary it may largely effect the policy of the government in the Philippines.

Owing to the conditions at present in the Philippines no more troops can be safely withdrawn, therefore congress will have to give the required authority.

Big Fire at Selkirk.

Selkirk, June 26.—While writing this telegram the Canadian-Yukon Co.'s mill at this point is about burned to the ground. Fortunately the direction of the wind is driving the flames away from other buildings and lumber piles. They had made a large shipment to Dawson, which left here this morning. The mill machinery is a total loss. Everything possible was done by the employes to stop the flames, but with the high south wind and everything being so dry, their efforts were useless.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Isajah and Clarence Wood, while out hunting in Skamania recently, killed a brown bear weighing 500 pounds and caught 60 fine trout. Both are expert sportsmen. The bear is one of the largest ever killed in that part of the country.

A child was recently born to Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Ellison, of Walla Walla, which weighs but one and one-half pounds, though it is now nearly a month old. The child is perfectly formed and is in good health. An ordinary finger ring can be slipped over its hand to the elbow.

R. J. Knapp and W. E. Tibbets, both brakemen, caught a deer near Markham, Chehalis county, some days ago. The deer had just come from the water, where it had been chased by dogs, and was in an exhausted condition. The men brought it to Cosmopolis, where it is being cared for.

Harry L. Stone, a young Spokane boy, has sold a song composed by himself for a sum said to be nearly \$15,000 to a New York publishing house. Young Stone is a natural musician, and several of his relatives have gained fame in the musical profession. This is the third or fourth of his compositions which have been well received.

Court Adjourned.

The sentence which was to have been passed this morning upon M. Stepovitch, recently convicted of the theft of hay, was last evening suspended by Judge Dugas, and court is now adjourned till the 16th of September next.

Judgments were given yesterday in the following civil actions.

The case of McDonald vs. Scarth stands till next motion day. Defendant to answer injunction motion.

In the case of McKenzie & Miles vs. Davison, judgment with costs for defendant was given. In the case of Depain vs. Ronnderbach, action was dismissed with costs. In the case entitled Victor vs. Butler, the action was also dismissed with costs. In the case of Hetherington vs. McPherson, judgment was entered for the amount claimed.

Old Timers Leaving.

Among the passengers who left on the steamer Tyrrell last night for Nome were fully a score who were among the very first to reach here in the fall of '97, and who have since been attempting to win smiles from the fickle god-

dess of fortune, but in nearly all the cases, the attempts were futile, and with but few exceptions, the old timers who left last night had little left after purchasing their tickets, and they were not of the loafing class of men, either. On the contrary, they are of the class that spent their entire time on the creeks and endured all the hardships and privations incident to their own cooking. And yet, they are now looking for a country in which they hope to make the stake, the anticipation of which prompted them to leave their homes and their families nearly three years ago. No one will envy these men what they get if they strike it rich and realize their most blissful anticipations.

The Weather.

At 8 o'clock this morning the mercury stood at an average of 66 between Dawson and Bennett. By 10 o'clock it had passed the 80 mark and in Dawson at 2 o'clock this afternoon it was 90 in the shade by several thermometers in the city.

Across the River.

With a few exceptions all the dairy cows of Dawson are pastured on the opposite side of the Yukon from the city, and at an early hour every morning those who "pail the cows" may be seen striking out for the opposite bank with a boat load of tin cans. As the river water is somewhat off in color, it is not probable that any of it is transferred to the cans on the return trip, but there is nothing to hinder the addition of Arctic well water on this side.

At present there is fine grazing across the river and stock will now fatten there without being fed on grain.

New Express Company.

Mr. Jackson, general agent for the Alaska Pacific Express Co., is in the city, having reached here yesterday on the Columbian. Since his arrival Mr. Jackson has arranged for the extension of his company's service to this place and hereafter express matter will be handled by the steamers of the C. D. Co., and those of the Klondike Corporation, Ltd. Mr. Miles, of the Klondike Corporation, Ltd., has been secured as agent for the express company at this place.

TYRRELL LEAVES FOR NOME

With Upwards of 200 Enthusiastic Passengers.

Lightning and Nora Sail Up River Today—Columbian Goes Tonight—General River News.

The steamer Tyrrell, the first boat to be dispatched by the Dawson & Whitehorse Navigation Co., sailed for St. Michael last night with a very large passenger list. She left at 9 o'clock and her departure was witnessed by a vast number of people, many of whom gave evidence of their regret that they were not of the number who will seek the golden shores of Alaska this summer for the fascinating yellow ingots. The fortunate venture of this company with its first steamer is considered by its owners as an augury of future prosperity. It is to be hoped that such will be the case as the enterprise is conducted on broad and liberal lines and deserves success. The Lightning, another of the company's boats, sails today for Whitehorse. She will be followed by the John P. Light.

Captain Gardner, who arrived yesterday with the Nora, was the skillful pilot who successfully took that boat through Miles canyon and the rapids. They report a very successful run without any incident of moment, save at the end of the rapids, where they lightly struck a shelving rock. No particular damage was done to the boat and she came down the river without stopping for repairs.

The Flora left Whitehorse yesterday and will arrive in Dawson tomorrow. The Ora is now at Whitehorse.

The Nora sailed today at 2 p. m. with a large number of passengers. These boats still seem to be the popular crafts of the river, and their earnings are said to be phenomenal.

The Canadian is on the way down and was reported at Five Fingers this morning at 8 o'clock. She is billed to leave Dawson on the 28th.

Steamer Clara is at Whitehorse. The Yukoner leaves Whitehorse today. The Sybil has not reached the upper lakes yet.

The Bailey got through Five Fingers and is on the way down to Dawson. She is a C. D. Co. boat, and will operate at this end in the future.

The temperature at up river points is very high today. At eight o'clock this

morning the average registered was 65 degrees, the highest point reached being at Big Salmon, 70 degrees.

Looking Over the Field.

Mr. A. L. Cheney, the pioneer clothier and gents' furnisher of Skagway, he having opened the Boston Store there in the summer of '97, is a late arrival in Dawson on a pleasure and prospecting trip, and a Dawson branch of the Boston store is not a future impossibility.

Irving's Liberality.

Capt. John Irving when in Skagway a few days ago, where he attended a meeting of the Arctic Brotherhood, of which order he is a prominent member, presented the Skagway camp with the sum of \$1000, to be used as a benefit fund for members of the Brotherhood who may happen at any time to be in need of assistance.

Ivey in Dawson.

John W. Ivey, collector of customs for the district of Alaska, accompanied by his wife and Special Inspector Strauber and Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler, were in Dawson yesterday en route to Nome, for which place they left on the Tyrrell last night. Ivey did not advertise his arrival in Dawson, as he is well aware that he is fully as unpopular here as he is in the towns of Alaska, and that is saying a great deal.

Coming Sports.

Those wishing to take part in the grand parade, tug-of-war, and horse races to be held on the Fourth of July, are requested to send their names and entries to Secretary Sorry, in the Webb building, before noon on July 2d.

Carpenters are also requested to send in bids for the erection of a grand stand on or before Friday next, at noon. Specifications can be had of Mr. Te Roller, at the S. Y. T. Co.

Condensed Alaska News.

Sitka is preparing for the tourist travel.

Juneau seems to be still in doubt as to whether to celebrate the Fourth or not.

According to a correspondent the average wages paid in Atlin this season is \$3 per day of ten hours with board included.

Over \$8000 worth of machinery was shipped north for the Nome fire department last week. This included two fire engines and 1500 feet of hose.

A. D. Charleson and party returned from Atlin recently and reported the Atlin-Queenselle telegraph extension as being pushed with extraordinary speed. The end of this week will see telegraphic connection with Telegraph creek.

The W. P. & Y. is having a preliminary survey made preparatory to bridging the canyon at the switchback near the summit. When completed it will be a great improvement over the present arrangement of switching trains.

Norman McCauley, the well-known B. C. capitalist, is now building at Whitehorse what promises to be the most commodious and comfortable hotel north of Skagway. The structure will be of logs, two stories high, and will contain in the neighborhood of 100 rooms.

Among the changes in the interior custom service to be made soon will be the transferring of the sub-port of entry from Circle City to Eagle City, and the establishment of the sub-port at Fort Yukon, which was established at the time the Canadians were coming in by way of the Porcupine river.

Douglas Island is making preparations to celebrate the Fourth in grand style. The program of sports and amusements will include three base ball games, a procession, dancing, tug-of-war, rock drilling contest, canoe racing by Indians, and Peterboro canoe racing between Americans and Canadians, besides a lot of minor sports and pastimes.

BRIEF MENTION.

The C. D. Co.'s steamer Victorian is undergoing repairs at the company's yard.

W. H. Ison and family were among the passengers arriving by the Columbian yesterday.

Tom Phillips, who has been so long employed on 52 below on Bonanza, was in town yesterday buying supplies.

Much activity is reported on the benches in the vicinity of Sixtymile. Fred Miller is hydraulicicking and many other are sluicing.

Dr. Carroll and wife, of Vancouver, were seen on the streets yesterday in a buggy. The equipage attracted considerable attention as it is the first time such a vehicle has made its appearance.

E. A. Baker representing Oppenheimer Bros., of Vancouver, is in Dawson. He reports business as flourishing in his line and will ship a large consignment of miscellaneous goods, to different merchants here from Vancouver.

The launch Aquila is in splendid condition, and will probably start down the river tomorrow. Yesterday she made a trial trip up the river to meet the Nora, which boat she ran around and came back ahead of. Her captain and engineer think she is the only boat on the river.

RECEIVED BY WIRE. FROM NOME.

Steamer Alpha Returns With 5
Passengers and \$300,000
in Dust.

NEW AND RICH STRIKE AT TOPKUK,

Which Is 55 Miles From Nome
Toward Golofin Bay.

ICE ALL GONE BY MAY 25.

Five Fortunate Men Return Well Provided With Dust—Great Excitement in Seattle.

Vancouver, June 20, via Skagway, June 26.—The steamer Alpha, the first ship to reach Nome this year, and which sailed from here in April contrary to instructions from the American customs authorities and which landed passengers and freight at Nome in open defiance of the same official orders, returned to this place today, having made a most successful round trip.

The Alpha brought back five passengers four of whom brought gold dust aggregating \$300,000. They are Glen Timsley, \$25,000; Jack Kill, \$145,000; Frank Green, \$60,000, and J. C. Monahan, \$80,000.

Jennie From Nome.

Seattle, June 20, via Skagway, June 26.—The steamer Jennie has arrived from Nome with but three passengers, all the people there being apparently anxious to remain.

Capt. Hanson, of the Jennie, says that when he sighted Nome on May 23d there was no ice in sight, Norton sound having cleared earlier this year than ever before known.

A new and very rich strike is reported to have been made at Topkuk, 55 miles from Nome and towards Golofin, to which place there has been a great stampede, men paying 25 cents per pound for transportation.

The return of the Jennie and the report of the new strike has added to the already great Nome excitement here.

During the past 15 days, 55 steamers have sailed from this place to Nome, carrying a total of over 16,000 people.

Lull in Litigation.

During the past few days there has been a perceptible falling off in the number of wage cases before the police court. Whether this is only the lull before the storm or whether it is an indication that all litigation is over for the season is not known. Certain it is, however, that many claim operations who failed to satisfactorily settle with their men are not now here to be sued, they having floated down the river at unseemly hours before breakfast.

Who Knows Chas. Cook?

Charles Cook, who was in Skagway last winter, and left the latter part of the winter for Dawson has not been heard from since, and his friends fear he has been drowned in the lakes or the river. He was last seen in Bennett, whence he started with a dog team for Dawson, to work for Hutchinson & Johnson, who have just arrived from Klondike, and report having heard or seen nothing of Cook. Not only that, but they made diligent inquiry on the way out as to whether he or his dogs had been seen along the trail, and got no clue as to his or their whereabouts.

The exact time that he left Bennett is not known, but it is believed by those interested that he got away about the time the ice began to break on the lakes and the water run in over the ice. It is thought he had only one or two dogs, and that he had little money, not enough to warrant anyone being so covetous of it as to kill the man for gain.

Cook's home was in Columbia City, near Seattle, where his mother and step-father live. Cook was 19 or 20 years old.—Alaskan.