

### Position of Foreigners in China Desperate.

London, June 25, 3 a. m.—The position of the international forces in the section of Northern China where ten thousand men are striving to keep a footing and to succor the legations in Peking appears to increase in peril with every fresh despatch. Peking has not been heard from direct for fourteen days. The last despatch was an imploring aid. Admiral Seymour's column of 2,000 was last heard from 12 days ago. At that time it was surrounded midway between Peking and Tien Tsin. Possibly now it has reached Peking.

The 3,000 international at Tien Tsin were hard pressed and fighting for their lives on Thursday, and a relieving force of less than a thousand had been beaten back to Taku Friday. Observers on the spot think that 100,000 men would not be too many to grasp China firmly.

The Admiralty has received the following from the British rear admiral at Taku:

#### Fighting Hard at Tien Tsin.

"Chefoo, June 23.—Only one runner got through from Tien Tsin today. No information could be obtained except that the foreign settlement had been almost entirely destroyed and that our people were fighting hard. News is received as this telegram is despatched that an attempt to relieve Tien Tsin on June 22, was repulsed, with some loss."

The telegram also said: "The allied admirals are working in perfect accord, with the Russian vice-admiral as senior officer."

#### Terrible Conditions.

A press message from Shanghai dated yesterday at 4 p. m., embodies some later information. It says:

"Official Japanese telegrams confirm the reports of a defeat of the allied forces at Tien Tsin. The foreigners there are now placed in a most desperate situation. The Russian Admiral Hillebrandt, yesterday, sent a mixed force of 4,000 from Taku to attempt the relief of Tien Tsin. Nearly half of the force consisted of Japanese. The remainder was made up of contingents representing the other nations."

"The guns of the Chinese around Tien Tsin are superior to anything the defending European force has or likely to have for some time."

"The bombardment of Tien Tsin continued Friday. Bomb shelters were hastily erected by the foreign troops, largely constructed of wetted piece goods. The food supplies are fast running out. Continued shelling is reported to be telling terribly."

"Among those killed of the relief force Friday was the commander of H. M. S. Berfleur. The foreign casualties were 300. 'Japan is making every effort. Her troops are now arriving at Taku in large numbers. The Chinese troops in the province of Chi Li included 80,000 auxiliaries, who have been drilled by Russian and German officers."

Captain Beatty and Lieut. Wright, British, have been severely wounded at Tien Tsin, according to a Shanghai despatch to the Daily Express dated Saturday. The information was brought there by the British cruiser Orlando from Chefoo. The losses of the Russians have been heavy."

The crucial point.

It was reported from Shanghai last evening that the allied forces had blown up the Taku forts and that every available man had been sent to the relief of Tien Tsin. Two thousand three hundred Chinese bodies are alleged to have been cremated at Taku, and upwards of 4,000 Chinese are said to have been killed at Tien Tsin.

Chinese runners who have arrived at Taku report that a foreign force was engaged several days ago, with an overwhelming body of Chinese forty miles west of Tien Tsin. At Shanghai it is assumed that this force was Admiral Seymour's.

#### A Mandarin's Report.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express says:

"I learn from a Mandarin who stealthily left Peking on June 16, and who succeeded at great hazard in getting clear, that the Boxers are muzzled around Peking and that more than half of the northern and western portions of the city, including the foreign settlement, were aflame when the Mandarin left. He could tell me nothing as to the fate of the foreigners, nor much as to the general situation, but he had heard that the Empress Dowager was preparing to go to the province of Shan Si."

A Chefoo despatch to the Daily Mail, dated yesterday, says:

"The attack on the Tien Tsin relief force was made by 30,000 Chinese using machine guns and modern field pieces. The allies were wise in retreating. Forwarding detachments in this manner is suicidal and the defenders, who are few, even though in small force, greatly aids the movement of the Boxers, which is gaining enormous strength through the inactivity of the foreigners to make headway against it."

"Practically the whole of northern China is aflame. Hostilities are being conducted on an extended scale, due to direct orders from Peking. General Yuan Shi Kai, governor of Shan Tung, commands 11,000 foreign drilled troops, organized to a high pitch of excellence and equipped with Mausers. It was in the plans that these troops should go to Taku; but the seizure of the forts was effected before they could get there."

Some of the special despatches from Shanghai describe the great southern province of China as still quiet; but others assert that the news from the north is exciting the southerners to a dangerous height of feeling and that millions may rise any day. Shanghai is quiet, but there are fears of a rising. The action of the consuls in asking for the departure of the six Chinese cruisers was objected to by the senior naval officer, who informed them that he had at his disposal a force sufficient to compel them to leave if they objected to the presence of the fleet. The Chinese cruisers are heavier armed than the vessels of the allies, among whose six vessels is the United States gunboat Cassin.

#### European Underestimation.

The powers are said to have fatally underestimated the numbers, desperation and armament of the Chinese, who for three years have been accumulating rifles at the rate of 20,000 a month.

The question here is what are the powers going to do? Japan is preparing to transport this week 10,000 additional troops. Russia is sending down from Vladivostok all her available forces, estimated at 8,000 to 9,000 men, although recent events have shown that the number of Russians making to meet whatever issue arises. All that the officials will say is that both the army and navy will be on the spot when the

considered the feasibility of sending more troops.

Russia, according to a Chefoo correspondent, had landed a force of 10,000 men at Pei Tai Ho and another at Shan Hai Kwan to intercept the Chinese troops marching from Manchuria. A correspondent at La King Tien on Wei Wei Bay, says that the Russians are sending 30,000 troops all told.

#### Russian News.

The Official Messenger of St. Petersburg published a communication yesterday reviewing the course of events in China and concluding as follows:

"It will thus be seen that the Russian troops are pursuing no object hostile to China. On the contrary, in view of the present exciting events, the presence of the Russian troops in that friendly state can only render an essential service to the Peking government in its struggle with the rebels."

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph in a despatch dated Saturday sends a long statement embodying the views of the Russian foreign office, prepared by permission of the late Count Muraviev, and embodying not only his views but those of his successor, Count Lamsdorf. This statement holds that a state of war does not exist under international law and hence it is possible to assume that the order for active military operations at Taku originated with the provincial authorities and not with the imperial at Peking.

"Like other nations," says the statement, "Russia is pursuing humanitarian aims; and it can be categorically stated that Japan is following the same correct and pacific aims as the other powers. Past experience shows that the Chinese do not persist in fighting. Probably they will soon change their attitude to one of complete submission."

#### Americans Killed and Wounded.

Washington, June 24.—The navy department this afternoon issued the following bulletin: "A telegram from Admiral Kempf, dated Chefoo, June 24, says:

"In ambuscade near Tien Tsin on the 21st four of Walter's command killed and seven wounded. Names will be furnished as soon as received. Force of 2,000 going to relieve Tien Tsin today."

The secretary of the navy has ordered Admiral Remy to go with the Brooklyn to Taku and to tender to Gen. MacArthur conveyance of any army troops which the Brooklyn can carry."

#### The President Informed.

Washington, June 24.—Admiral Kempf's despatch giving the first definite news of the shedding of American blood on Chinese soil came early this morning and was turned over to Secretary Long as soon as he arrived at the department. With Admiral Crowsfield, the secretary carried the despatch to the White House where, on the president's return from church, it was laid before him. The determination thereupon was reached to order Admiral Remy, in command of the Asiatic squadron, from Manila to Taku on board of the armored cruiser Brooklyn.

The secretary of the navy returned to the navy department where the necessary orders were despatched to Admiral Remy. The effect of this transfer is to make Taku the headquarters of the Asiatic squadron. The Brooklyn is expected to sail at once, today if possible, as the orders sent complete going to the admiral on the spot at the earliest moment. The advantage of this, it was officially stated, is not so much in adding the strength of the Brooklyn to the fleet already there as in the fact that the Brooklyn is a more conspicuous communications by way of Manila.

A week's trip.

If the Brooklyn starts today, as expected, it will take her fully a week to reach Taku, as the trip is 2,000 miles and typhoons are raging. The determination to carry some of Gen. MacArthur's troops away from Hong Kong last night, in the situation. The troops are believed to be ready to move but some delay may be caused in getting on board sufficient supplies for a large body of men for a week.

Guessing as to the Second Attack.

Admiral Kempf's report that four Americans were killed and seven wounded in the ambuscade near Tien Tsin on the 21st, the gravest concern among officials, but the chief feature was as to the outcome of the second attack which the admiral reported would begin today. This gave a short of the dimensions of a battle, and its results may be decisive, not only to the immediate force employed, but in the determination of the fate of the foreign settlements at Tien Tsin and also whether the issue is or is not to be war with China.

#### Oregon Has Sailed.

Word reached the navy department today that the battleship Oregon got away from Hong Kong last night on her way to Taku. This is two days ahead of her expected start. She took on 164 sailors and marines brought to Hong Kong by the Zaire. The big ship may now have a chance to repeat her celebrated performance "around the Horn" as she is being crowded for a fast run to the scene of action. The distance is about 1,200 miles and if she makes her record the ship will be at Taku in six days, about the same time that the Brooklyn arrives from Manila. These ships and the Monadnock are the only ones going to China.

#### No Gunboats.

Admiral Crowsfield pronounces untrue the report that the gunboats Marsetta, Princeton and several others which were ordered to Taku. There is felt to be no need for them and moreover with the new order under orders to sail Admiral Remy will have a force which is considered abundantly able to meet every possible requirement.

The Monadnock has a large complement of men which can be used as a landing party and it is this rather than her armament which makes her so available at this time.

#### Extensive Preparations.

The war branch of the government is preparing for any eventuality that may arise out of the Chinese situation. As stated by one of the highest officers of the army the scale of preparation is of a magnitude which would both interest and surprise the public. But, he added, the information would be of even greater interest and service to any foreign force which the United States may be called upon to face within the next few weeks or months and for that reason there is no purpose in making the complete preparations making to meet whatever issue arises. All that the officials will say is that both the army and navy will be on the spot when the

give a good account of themselves.

Adjutant General Corbin was at his desk during the morning and after going to the White House. The president was about to start for church, so that there was time for only a brief consultation. Gen. Corbin with his long beard had received an expected hour from Gen. MacArthur as to the Philippine or Chinese situation. As to the preparations for China, Gen. Corbin refused to say anything except that the report of a brigade being ordered there was purely speculative.

While the Berlin reports as to the safety of Baron Von Ketteler and the legations at Peking appear to dispose of one of the most alarming stories of the crisis, Minister Conger at Peking is still cut off from communication here and there is no direct and official assurance of the safety of the ministers and legations nor is there a word of the relief force, including the American, which sought to break through to Peking.

Secretary Long returned from an outing at Hingham, Mass., on Saturday and resumed charge of affairs, relieving Assistant Secretary Hackett. The secretary looks greatly refreshed. About the first news he received on his return was the fighting and bloodshed of the American forces near Tien Tsin.

Later in the day the order contemplating further action against the Monadnock to Taku was countermanded. Admiral Remy reported that the vessel had been stripped of her officers, presumably of duties on the coast, and that the ship and other reasons it was not deemed advisable to send her. Chief among these reasons is the fact that the typhoon now raging in the eastern seas would make a voyage of such a vessel as the Monadnock, with her low freeboard, very uncertain. She would be liable to be wrecked the greater part of the distance and this would delay the arrival in Chinese waters of any other ship which would be sent with her. Secretary Long said he expected that Admiral Remy with the flag ship Brooklyn would get away from Manila promptly for China, probably tonight.

No further word came from Admiral Kempf during the evening.

The Chinese officials, according to advice received, are anxious to have the ship Brooklyn to land the foreign troops on their territory. Minister Wu's advice shows this to be the case and the Chinese are anxious to have the ship on the people. Today the minister received a despatch from the viceroys of Hu Nan and Hunan to this effect: "The Chinese representatives in this European countries directing them to request the governments interested not to send troops to the coast of China, while the government is making every effort to suppress the operations of the Boxers, because of the suspicious and excitement of the natives. The cablegrams said the authorities fear the consequences of the introduction of these large bodies of foreign soldiers into the country. It may be stopped. Minister Wu laid the matter before the secretary of state and it will receive the attention of the government."

Minister Wu characterizes as ridiculous the report that the Empress Dowager had decreed the extermination of the foreigners in China. It is not true, he said. "I will bet my life on it. She is too sensible a woman to do such a mad and foolish thing as that."

Just now there appears to be a lack of information among the foreign embassies and legations in Washington as to affairs in China. Their reports are based on their own view without news of a definite character from Peking and the officials here are almost entirely dependent on the Chinese press and what they may learn respecting affairs in the east.

The sixth cavalry, which will sail from San Francisco shortly will not go directly to Hong Kong, but will be taken to Nagasaki where orders will be sent based on the developments in the Chinese situation.

Washington on the Reprise.

Washington, June 23.—Despatches received today from Admiral Kempf announced that fighting was in progress near Tien Tsin. Beyond the information that the American ships and the Japanese fleet, with 4,000 Russians, had been engaged with the Chinese army and that a second attack with a force of 2,000 was about to be made on the foreign settlements. The officials waited anxiously throughout the day to learn the result of this second message, but up to a late hour no further word came. It was believed that the admiral or any other source.

American Reinforcements.

The news was sufficient, however, to accentuate the need of reinforcements and the energies of the war and navy departments were exerted in preparing to forward reinforcements as fast as possible. The despatch of troops from Manila is mainly impeded by the severe storm now raging in the Indian sea. Heavy orders were given to move for sea three naval colliers, Hannibal, Alexander and Saturn, now at Norfolk, for the purpose of taking supplies of the Chinese army and the Japanese fleet. It is believed that the colliers will be accompanied by some of the powerful ships now in Atlantic waters, but the naval officials state that while Admiral Remy's force at Manila had been much depleted there was no present purpose to send more ships. The case they are needed, however, the Atlanta is ready at New York and the Bancroft at Boston, both of them being light draft vessels, well suited for Chinese waters, while the New York, Texas, Massachusetts, Indiana, Kearsage and Kentucky give a reserve of strong vessels which can be drawn upon if the developments seem to warrant such a course.

#### Strength of the Americans.

The American naval force in China at present consists of the Nevada, 400 men; Monocacy, 275; Nashville, 275, all at Taku; the Yorktown, 300 men, at Chefoo. The Oregon, which under orders to go from Hong Kong, will probably start next Monday, but cannot reach the scene of action short of six or seven days. The Tis, a supply ship, also is on the way. This will give Admiral Kempf a fleet of six ships, including the Oregon, when they are assembled a week hence.

#### Fears for American Missionaries.

Nyack, N. Y., June 23.—Rev. A. B. Simpson, president of Christian and Missionary Alliance, and his associates are anxious for a number of their missionaries who are in Peking and Tien Tsin. Dr. Simpson some time ago cabled to the missionaries there to flee to the coast, but he has been unable to hear from them. Among the Christian Alliance missionaries in that part of China are Mr. and Mrs. J. Woodberry, Miss H. Rutherford, Miss Lettewasser, Miss A. Gowan, Tien Tsin;

Miss D. W. Down, Miss Amy Brown and Mr. and Mrs. Larsen, Peking. The alliance also had thirty missionaries further south.

#### Assuring News from Peking.

Berlin, June 23.—The Chinese legation at Berlin received another telegram last (Saturday) night stating that all the legations in Peking were safe and that the foreign ministers at that place were all well.

#### Cable from Kempf.

Washington, June 23.—The following cablegram from Admiral Kempf was received late this afternoon at the navy department:

"Chefoo, June 22, 1900."

"Secretary navy, Washington:

"Proclamation issued 20th. The admirals and senior naval officers of the allied powers in China desire, in the name of their governments, to let it be known to all the viceroys and the authorities of the coast and river provinces and cities of China that they intend to use armed force only against the Boxers and those people who oppose them in the march to Peking for the rescue of their fellow-countrymen."

(Signed) "Kempf."

#### German Praise for German Fighting.

Berlin, June 23.—The report of the commander of the German squadron at Taku has at length arrived. It says:

"The commander of the Itis was the soul of the engagement. He fought conspicuously and brilliantly. The machinery, boilers, hull and 18 centimeters guns of the Itis were not damaged, but the 37 guns and upper works were severely damaged. The conduct of the crew was splendid."

#### Another Cable Interruption.

New York, June 23.—The Commercial Cable Company to-day issued the following: "We are advised by the Great Northern Telegraph Company that the Siberian line is interrupted between China and Manila cannot go via the Northern. Messages for Japan are accepted at the sender's risk."

#### Movements from Hong Kong.

Hong Kong, June 23.—The British transport Hailong, with twelve passengers and a thousand tons of stores and ammunition, leaves here immediately for Taku.

The British cruiser Pique and the torpedo boat destroyer Hart sail for Shanghai Wednesday. The British gunboat, Redpole has sailed suddenly for Canton.

#### Americans and Russians Beaten Back.

London, June 24.—Further details have been received of the repulse of Thursday's attempt to relieve Tien Tsin from Chefoo. It is said hordes of Chinese with well posted artillery blocked the advance of the allied forces. The guns of the allies could make no impression and it was found impossible to shift the enemy's position. Nothing could be accomplished except to fall back, and this was done in good order. It was ascertained that the foreigners in Tien Tsin were making a gallant defence. The French consular building had been vigorously attacked with fire and in all probability had been reduced to ashes. The force retired an armed train attempted to reconnoitre, but was repulsed. More troops are arriving at Taku, and another attempt at relief, with a force of greater strength, was to have been made last (Saturday) night.

#### Chinese Warships.

Washington, June 23.—During the afternoon of yesterday, the French ambassador, Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador, and the German minister, Count von Ketteler, visited the state department. These frequent visits to Secretary Hay of the United States are indicative of the Chinese situation, fairly illustrate the feverish anxiety with which every development in the situation is being watched. It is not only the day that the warships which have arrived at Shanghai are three Chinese Armstrong-built vessels. Not much apprehension is felt on Germany's part as to the result of the German attack on the Chinese fleet. The British ambassador, Lord Pauncefote, the British ambassador, and the German minister, Count von Ketteler, visited the state department. These frequent visits to Secretary Hay of the United States are indicative of the Chinese situation, fairly illustrate the feverish anxiety with which every development in the situation is being watched. 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