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An Ominous Outlook. The situation in China as between Great Britain and Russia continues to attract strongly the attention of the world, and English public opinion is profoundly indignant at the evident determination of Russia to push her aggressive schemes in the face of all remonstrance. The flame of indignation roused in England over Russia's action in vetoing railway schemes promoted by English capitalists, backed by the British government, for the opening up of the country to the commerce of the world, is being fed by a report contained in a despatch from Shang-Hai and given on the authority of the China Gazette, to the effect that the Russian government holds Li Hung Chang's promise to St. Petersburg, that China would place the Imperial customs under Russian control whenever the interests of the two countries demanded the change. Li Hung Chang is said to favor Pavloff, the Russian Charge d' Affaires, superseding Sir Robert Hart as Inspector General of the Chinese customs. It is also stated that Russians have obtained control of large blocks of land along the route of the proposed Niu-Chwang railway.

What London Correspondents Say. The London correspondent of the New York Tribune, alluding to the Chinese situation, says: Parliament has closed with debates on England's China policy, which have caused dismay among the Government followers, and with the appointment of a Viceroy for India, which has filled the forward school with delight. By a singular coincidence the same issue of the Times which contained the report of Mr. Balfour's speech, with hair-splitting polemics on spheres of influence and the "open door" principle, recorded M. Pavloff's success in vetoing the Niu-Chwang railway loan, in spite of Lord Salisbury's offer to guarantee China against the consequences of carrying out the contract. There is much disaffection among the Conservatives in Parliament over the failures of British diplomacy in China, and old-fashioned Tory journals, like the Standard, are outspoken in warning the government that clear, vigorous, resolute action is needed in order to avert lasting damage to British prestige and interests and ruin to the Unionist party. The English people are, in fact, weary unto death of empty phrasemaking. They cry aloud for stirring action. What they clearly understand is the fact that whether the principle of the open door applies to the tariffs, spheres of action, railway concessions or what not, Russia in the last six months has been acting with masterful energy in the far east, and by sheer audacity and bullying has displaced British influence. M. Pavloff, in the last instance, has torn up one English railway contract, and Mr. Balfour does not know what will happen in the case of another railway concession which lies within the British sphere of influence. Russia, Germany and France are virtually co-operating against England, and small fry states, like Belgium, are taking part in the diplomatic campaign against her. Meanwhile Lord Salisbury has gone to the continent, Mr. Balfour is pining for golf, and Parliament has broken up for the long vacation.

The London correspondent of the New York Times, Mr. Harold Frederic, who does not fail to turn any exciting situation to account in the interest of his readers, says: It is recognized everywhere now that England and Russia are being drawn more and more swiftly toward an impasse where either one of the two must retreat or a great conflict will ensue. I imagine what gall and wormwood it must be to a proud Englishman to encounter the universal opinion from the press of the four quarters of the globe that he will be the one to turn tail when the ultimate crisis arrives. Literally, no one

can imagine what a saddened disgust weighs down like platinum on British spirits. The idea that Lord Salisbury is not coming back to the Foreign Office at all, which has been mentioned of late in these despatches as timidly shaping itself in a few brains, has now become almost general property among politicians. Mr. Frederic also charges that both the Empress and Li Hung Chang are taking Russian money with both hands, to the knowledge of everybody, and, of course, each underlayer in the worm-eaten mass of Pekin officialdom is absorbing as much of the same alluring metal as it can. This bad method of promoting national interests in China is one, Mr. Frederic intimates, which lies open to Britain as well as to Russia, and he appears to think that moral considerations will not be permitted to prevent its being employed to further British interests in China in competition with those of Russia. Mr. Frederic seems to believe, however, that the rivalries between the two powers will not be permanently settled without an appeal to arms. Few Englishmen, he says, doubt that these coming five years will witness the great struggle on the Indian frontier with the Czar's hordes. The entire military service regards the outcome of such a struggle with serene, almost jocund, confidence, but they chafe bitterly at being forced to wait till Russia's railway expansion in mid-Asia shall provide her with the maximum of facilities for conducting such an invasion. St. Petersburg papers, which are regarded as the mouthpiece of Count Mouravieff, are proclaiming that if the war comes it will not be waged in the Gulf of Pe Chi Li, but in the defiles of the Hindu Koosh. The English could afford to smile at this. If wars were to be fought within the coming twelve months Russia would have an extremely small voice, indeed, in the selection of the fields of combat. Such portions of her fleet that ventured to sea would be destroyed, her ports blockaded and her merchant marine wiped out. Port Arthur and Vladivostok would become British, and if a Russian army corps struggled up to the crowning passes of the great Himalayan range, it would be only to feed the vultures and kites there. Two or three years hence the English feel that they would still be able to do the trick, but it would be a good deal more difficult.

The correspondent of the New York Evening Post says: The situation in China has gone from bad to worse this week by leaps and bounds. Contemptuously rejecting England's offered support against foreign aggression, the Chinese government has definitely thrown in its lot with Russia, and has demonstrated the alliance by cancelling the contract with the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank for the railway to Niu Chwang. This contract the British government is publicly pledged to uphold, but an anxious fear dominates all minds that Lord Salisbury will again give way. Lord Salisbury is not a weak man. A weak man would not venture to persist in a policy condemned by the country and many of his own party. An old rumor had been revived to explain the meekness of his diplomacy. It is said that the Queen has laid upon him her command that at all costs peace must be maintained for the remainder of her reign. She will not sign, she says, a declaration of war against a European power. I give you the rumor for what it is worth. One hears it whispered where one would not expect to find it. If there be a grain of truth in it, Lord Salisbury's position is a difficult one.

The United States in the Philippines. On the twelfth of August, when the protocol defining the terms of a treaty of peace between the United States and Spain, was signed, it was not known in Washington whether or not the City of Manila had been surrendered to the Americans. It now appears that on that day Manila was still in the possession of the Spaniards, but on the next day, the 13th inst., it succumbed to a joint attack of the American naval and land forces, assisted by the Philippine insurgents, and therefore, several days before the proclamation of President McKinley putting an end to hostilities could reach the Philippines, the city of Manila, as well as the bay and harbor, was in the possession of the Americans.

The taking of the city was accomplished with small loss on the American side. The Spaniards, discouraged by the failure of their government to send them assistance, and recognizing the hopelessness of their position, appear not to have made any very determined resistance. The possession of Manila will place the United States in a more favorable position to demand concessions in the Philippines, if the nation considers it desirable to acquire territory in that part of the globe. It is hardly probable that the United States will surrender its hold upon Manila. But the occupation of that city will imply sovereignty over the island of Luzon, with its four or five millions of people, and a controlling influence over, if not possession of, the whole Philippine group. There will, doubtless, be many influential voices in the United States raised in strenuous opposition to the assumption by that country of the responsibilities involved in the acquisition of territory in the Eastern Hemisphere. But, judging from the tone of leading Republican journals, the McKinley government is not unwilling to assume such responsibility on behalf of the nation, and it seems probable that the aroused martial spirit of the people and their pride of conquest will lead them to sanction, and perhaps to demand as one of the conditions of peace, the acquisition by the United States of a controlling influence in the Philippines. Whether or not this would be good policy for the United States, it would doubtless be agreeable to Great Britain to have established in the East at the present juncture a strong power whose commercial interests in China, and whose ideals as to government, harmonize so closely with her own.

Reconstruction. It will be easily understood that Cuba, Porto Rico and the other West India islands which are now about coming under the control of the United States, a pressing necessity exists for the reconstruction of affairs, so as to provide for some method of orderly government and the protection of the lives and property of the people. To this matter, it is understood, the Washington government is giving its earnest attention. For a time the administration of affairs will necessarily be under military direction. More or less trouble with the Cuban insurgents is expected, and it is not improbable there may be a good deal of it. There is a rumor of the intention of the Cuban army to capture Santiago if the American garrison should be weakened. An American correspondent, writing from Santiago, says of the Cubans: "Their attitude is one of sullen hostility towards America. The better class in Cuba favor the annexation of the island to the United States, and a majority of the masses are ready and anxious to work and accept the shelter and protection afforded by an American protectorate, but they are influenced by a certain class of rabid orators and breeders of sedition and rebellion against anything smacking of law and order. This inflammatory class demands and urges the recognition of Cuba for the Cubans, and spurs all offers or suggestions tending to prosperity under an American protectorate, and excites popular discontent. This is exactly the class that pushes itself most into evidence, and whose views and opinions are most overheard and published. Their advice to the Cubans is to repudiate all offers of peace or a cessation of hostilities and to look upon the armistice as an agreement between the United States and Spain on their own account, and not binding upon the free and independent state of Cuba, whose liberating army not only repudiates pacification, but still ignores the armistice to the point of continuing to wage the war and shooting every Spaniard in the field." These hysterical people, this correspondent adds, demands suppression with an iron hand, and it is of interest to note that this opinion coincides pretty well with that of the Spanish government. The United States Commanding General of the department of Santiago has been instructed from Washington that the United States is responsible for peace and must maintain order in the territory surrendered, and must protect all persons and property within said jurisdiction. Interference from any quarter will not be tolerated. The Cuban insurgents should be treated justly and liberally, but they, with all others, must recognize the military occupation and authority of the United States and the cessation of hostilities proclaimed by this government. You should see the insurgent leaders and so advise them.