

THE CAPTURE OF TIEN TSIN

Graphic Details of the Big Battle Between the International Forces and the Chinese.

ALLIES HAD TO FACE MURDEROUS FIRE

Imperial Troops Poured Bullets and Lyddite Shells Through Loopholes in Walls of City—Terrible Sufferings of Soldiers.

(Associated Press.)

London, July 21.—The unreserved credence given to Minister Conger's message by the officials at Washington continues to occasion surprise in London. The absence of any date and the absence of acknowledgment of the receipt of the telegram from the state department are considered here as fatal drawbacks to the acceptance of the message as a reply to Secretary Hay, or as anything but a spontaneous appeal for help sent off long prior to the alleged date of the message.

This all absorbing topic is fully canvassed in its pro and cons, but all theories admittedly present difficulties which only add to the obscurity of the situation and render harder the untangling of the puzzle.

The announcement of the British cruiser's departure from Woo Sung, as alleged in the report of the Chinese, comes somewhat as a surprise after the honors paid the Chinese viceroy at Hongkong, but confirmation of the news will meet the approval of a large majority, as Li Hung Chang's present attitude is regarded as being characteristically dubious. As Li Hung Chang was booked for Shanghai the departure of the warship from the nearby port of Woo Sung seems to indicate a suspicion on the part of the government that his real objective point may be elsewhere, where he would not be easily reached by representatives of the powers.

The Chinese invasion of Siberia appears to have been checked so promptly that probably it will not be continued.

It is reported from Chee Foo that the international commanders have concluded that it will be useless to try to advance on Pekin before the middle of August.

FIGHT AT TIEN TSIN.

New York, July 21.—The Evening World publishes a detailed story of Tien Tsing fight. It comes from Frederick Palmer and has been copyrighted by the paper. It is as follows:

"Chee Foo, July 19, via Shanghai, July 21.—The attack on the native city of Tien Tsing on July 18th resulted in the narrowest escape from what seemed, up to midnight, would be a terrible disaster to the allies.

"The Russians went swinging to the north end and the other allies south at daybreak. The Russians were to take the forts near the city wall and the other allies the city itself.

"Gen. Tukushina, the Japanese commander, promised that the Japanese engineers, after three hours' shell fire from all guns, would

over the moat before the wall and blowing up the great south gate make a breach for the infantry to enter. Upon this depended everything.

"Gen. Tukushina had not scouted the bridge and in twenty-four hours had not scouted the ground over which the charge on the bridge had to be made. The Chinese destroyed the bridge and flooded the land around it. The allies' shell fire in no wise subdued the Chinese rifle fire from the loopholed wall, which was thirty feet high with a moat 20 feet deep around it.

"An outer wall of mud made it impossible for the infantry and machine guns up the field to reply to the Chinese. They

lost fifty men in ten minutes,

then rushed back from the mud wall which they had reached. Gen. Dorward, the British commander, hastened forward with a fragmentary instead of an integral skirmish line. The American marines and the Welsh Fusiliers together, under command of Waller, were on the extreme left. Then the British marines and French advanced with the Japanese along the road toward the gate on the mud wall.

"Dorward's plan for the Americans to support the Japanese was not made clear to Col. Lusum, of the 9th United States Infantry. Dorward lays the blame for the blunder and sacrifice of life on Lusum, but Dorward's chief of staff was heard to say when Lusum moved, 'Get down the road anywhere quickly.' Col. Lusum hurriedly led his men

Through the Gate

in as open order as possible. They were immediately under fire. The staff then passed over the bridge leading to a field which proved to be a cul de sac.

"Before the two battalions of Americans, numbering 426 men, could extend themselves they were subjected, besides the fire from loopholes in the fort, to a fierce fire from the embrasures in a line of fortified mud houses in their flank. Three thousand rifle were turned on them with an accuracy which has amazed every officer among the allies. The blue shirts of American troops

Made Them Distinct Marks

where the khaki uniforms of other allies could hardly be seen.

"The Americans charged into the flank fire with rushes. The ground was marshy and lined with ditches. It was Col. Lis-

um's intention to rush the houses from which the flank fire was coming, and thus get a position for flanking the wall. "At 12:30 the line had just reached the shore of the canal, and 30 yards separated them from the houses when the color bearer fell.

Col. Lusum picked up the colors and stood looking around apparently for a ford. The next instant

A Sharpshooter's Bullet

went through the brave colonel's abdomen.

"All day long the allies' line lay under day cover the men could find, running out of ammunition. The July sun was beating down on them and they had to drink salty marsh water.

"Meanwhile the wounded struggled and crawled through the gate in the mud walls. There was no order. They were sent anywhere without men to carry litter. The doctors were hit by sharpshooters while trying to attend the wounded on the 9th.

"At 1 o'clock Gen. Tukushina reported in writing to Dorward that the Japanese were in the city.

"I could see the loopholes blazing bullets and lyddite shells.

No Infantry Could Charge

in face of this fire from 2 o'clock to 5. Though acting conjointly, neither Dorward nor Tukushina knew each other's whereabouts.

"Under cover of the darkness the men of the 9th crept back from their position on the 9th bearing their wounded. They executed this movement with one man killed.

"The casualties were 91 men and 5 officers out of 426. The marines lost 30, including Capt. Davis, who was shot through the heart while talking to Col. Meade.

On the night of July 18th it was decided to withdraw, when news came that the Chinese were evacuating.

"The Russians were

Not So Successful

as was hoped during the day, and the total loss of allies were 700.

"The Japanese losses were severe. The Japanese were most gallant in the fight. But for the Americans stopping the flank fire, the Japanese loss would have been much heavier.

"The French, Japanese, Americans and British entered the city at 2 o'clock on the morning of July 14th. Their entry was unopposed.

"The American flag, at half-mast was hoisted over the southern gate. The walls were strewn with the

Corpses of the Chinese Soldiers

killed by the shell fire which caused their flight. None apparently were hit by bullets, the damage being done by lyddite shells.

"There is a terrible row over the burning of the town. Several foreign officers are reported lost. The tired soldiers remain on the walls. The natives went looting through the Chinese town. The bank and the arsenal were heavy sufferers.

"An advance movement on Pekin is not contemplated soon.

"Col. Lusum was buried at Tonku."

Hand-to-Hand Fighting.

New York, July 21.—"Keep up the firing" were the last words spoken by Col. Lusum, according to a Chee Foo cable to the Herald. The correspondent says the 9th Regiment and other Americans, with the Japanese, advanced to the flank fire, but were forced to lie in the mud all day, unable to help their wounded and compelled to drink canal water. They could not drive the foe or charge or do anything except fire a few rounds. The American hospitals at Tien Tsing are crowded, and surgeons are needed.

Col. Lusum's body was escorted to the burial place by two battalions of the 9th.

The Japanese were the heroes of the battle, fighting with remarkable bravery. They charged through the breach and fought the Chinese hand-to-hand. Fifty guns were captured by the allies.

After Li Hung Chang.

Shanghai, July 21.—The British cruiser Bonaventure left Woo Sung early this morning, it is reported, to seize the An Ping with Li Hung Chang on board.

A triumphal arch erected in Li Hung Chang's honor has been ordered by the council to be removed.

Chinese Have Retired.

London, July 21.—The admiral's morning received the following cablegram from Admiral Seymour:

"Tien Tsing and neighboring territory evacuated by Chinese."

Another Report.

Washington, July 21.—The navy department has received a cable from Admiral Remy, dated Taku, July 20th, in which he says:

"Tien Tsing is quiet at latest report. Russian services on July 13th stated that legations in Pekin were still holding out. Reliability of this information uncertain."

Rebels Killing Each Other.

Washington, July 21.—The Chinese

Minister Wu Ting Fang communicated to the Secretary of State this morning two important telegrams. The first is from the director of posts and telegrams in Shanghai, and says: "Fortunate that Minister Conger's telegraphic reply has come. An Imperial decree of the 22nd, this noon, (corresponding to July 18th) stated that all ministers were safe. Insurgents are fighting and killing each other. Li Hung Chang is proceeding northward to suppress the riot. He will find it difficult to go."

The second telegram is from Li Kuyi, viceroy of Nankin, dated the 21st of July, and was read by Minister Wu at 10 o'clock this morning. It is as follows:

"According to an edict of 22nd of this month (July 18th) with the exception of the German minister who was killed by anarchists, with regard to which rigorous measures are being taken to investigate and punish the guilty parties, all the other ministers, for whose protection efforts are being made for their protection, are fortunately unharmed."

Li Kuyi, the viceroy of Nankin, is one of the great officers of China, and stands next in rank among the diplomats to Li Hung Chang.

Under Imperial Protection.

Paris, July 21.—Yu Kenk, the Chinese minister here, today handed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Delcasse, an Imperial edict, dated July 18th, giving the assurances that all the foreign ministers in Pekin, except Baron von Ketteler, the German minister, were then safe and sound, under the protection of the Imperial court.

Vancouver's Proposal.

Toronto, July 21.—A Canadian branch of the Red Cross Society, which has been asked by Vancouver branch to take part in Red Cross work in the Chinese war, will hold a meeting in a few days to consider Vancouver's invitation.

London, July 21.—Secretary Hay's request to the powers to make an immediate forward movement upon Pekin is not likely to meet with any success in England.

Lord Salisbury is as eager as the American secretary of state to adopt such a step, but he is practically convinced that it will be impossible until September on account of climatic conditions and the allies' lack of equipment.

Beyond a courteous reply that England is willing to co-operate in any movement that the commanders on the spot may deem advisable, nothing is likely to come of the latest American effort to reach Pekin in the immediate future, as it would be military suicide.

The government's attitude may be described as a philosophic determination to grin and bear it, hoping for the best, yet fearing the worst, until troops and climatic conditions enable the troops to enter Pekin and ascertain without a shadow of doubt the extent and cause of China's present disintegration. "Until that is accomplished every opinion worth repeating is suspended, not only regarding the future of China, but also as to the future and severity of the retribution to be exacted."

Meanwhile British journals, which are bound to express opinion of some sort, and a majority of British people who are unable to restrain their feelings in the face of this Far Eastern horror, declare that in so great an emergency no risk is to be exacted.

Minister Conger's telegram has introduced into the situation, already replete with uncertainties and perplexities, a still further element of doubt. "The greatest sufferer in this respect is Dr. John Colt, the viceroy of the city, who, a few hours after the dispatch giving the news of the receipt of a message from Minister Conger was published, the government issued a notice that the dean's projected memorial service on Monday for the victims of the Tien Tsing massacre was unnecessary, as the situation had been improved."

Simultaneously letters appeared in the papers from relatives of those at Pekin, saying the dean had exhibited indecent haste, while the aristocratic Morning Post denounced the cathedral dignitaries in terms almost as strong as it did the Boxers themselves, thereupon the Chinese people, who had declared that it was too late to cancel the service, but owing to pressure from high quarters to-day he had consented to postpone it.

According to the Statist Russia is likely to bear the brunt of the financial burden of the Chinese crisis, on account of the probability that the government would be obliged to incur a large outlay to protect Siberia, while if the government should try to hold Manchuria the outlay would be still greater.

The Statist says, however, "this would benefit other European powers, as the probability is that much Russian gold will have to be sent to London, Paris and Berlin, partly to meet the interest of the Russian debt held abroad and mostly to pay all the obligations Russia has already entered into or is about to enter into. In that way, the Russian gold will be relieved to a greater extent than is now calculated, for if Russia lets go of, say twenty or thirty millions sterling, it will be an annual debt to the funds in the markets of Europe."

Anarchy or War?

Paris, July 21.—Is it anarchy or war? If this question was answered to the entire satisfaction of the powers, there might be some light on the future situation in China; but with the absolute lack of trustworthy information, all are acting in the dark. No one is willing to hazard a guess as to what the outcome is to be.

"Western civilization," said an official of the foreign office to a representative of the Associated Press, "is apparently face to face with the problem. This time the powers have to deal not merely with the defenders of the Manchu dynasty, but to all appearances with an uprising of the Chinese people, who imagine that the European powers for the last two years have been aiming not to overthrow the dynasty, but to take China. This seems to have given rise to an unprecedented spirit of patriotism."

"We fear that North China will not alone be involved in the anti-foreign outbreak, but that the Yangtze Kiang valley will before long be caught in the vortex. There have been indications recently which inspire us with this apprehension. The movement of drilled forces is one of them."

A significant fact in the present situation is that during the Chino-Japanese war, when the Japanese were inflicting serious defeat upon the Chinese, the viceroys of the central and southern provinces, in which were a great number of drilled troops, were instructed by Li Hung Chang not to send the soldiers north, but at the present moment these troops are under orders to march towards Pekin.

The French government still entertains hopes of the safety of the legations in Pekin in view of today's advice. It also declines to believe that any discord will break out among the powers, especially between Russia and Japan. Russia has her hands full with affairs in Manchuria, where it is pointed out she has been taken as much by surprise as have been the other powers. The invasion of Russian territory by the Chinese assumed the Russian government, which little suspected that the Chinese were in such strength, so well armed and the territory contiguous with Russia.

"That no present outbreak will occur in the accord of the powers is the general opinion in diplomatic spheres."

Troubles in Manchuria.

Berlin, July 21.—The Chinese situation takes on a radically different shape from the news which has reached here from Russia. What Europe hitherto knew about the troubles in Manchuria was what the Russian government chose to let pass. Now, however, reports, some of them official, but a majority private, have reached here from St. Petersburg, which tally in the main point. The situation in Chinese Manchuria and along the 1,500 kilometres of borderland, on the Siberian side, which the Amur river forms a frontier, is much more dangerous for Russia than has hitherto been suspected.

The Associated Press correspondent has obtained at the Russian embassy here an impartial though cautious confirmation of the above statement.

A military contributor to the Tagblatt says official Russian news showed that Chinese minor troops, aided by irregulars, in all numbering about 120,000, are in open war against Russia, not only demanding the withdrawal of the Russians from Chinese territory, but after the Russian refusal to withdraw, the Chinese assumed the offensive and drove the Russians from railroads and construction, and are undertaking hostile operations against Harbin, Blagovestchensk and other towns, shelling the last named place. What makes the Chinese hostilities extremely dangerous, however, is the fact that the Chinese, by a series of recently constructed forts and by a carefully planned control of the navigation of the Amur river for a distance of 20 versts, thus preventing Russia from transporting troops on the only route open, at least until these fortifications shall have been taken by the Russians.

Though the Russian censorship is a hindrance, several telegrams reached here to-day from St. Petersburg that Blagovestchensk was taken by the Chinese, who seized a large amount of money in the Russo-Chinese bank there.

All reports agree that the Russian government now considers that Russia is actually at war with China; that the shilly-shally policy hitherto maintained will now be dropped; that Russia is now hurriedly preparing for a serious campaign in North China, separate from the other powers; and that Russia will not be able or willing under these altered circumstances to bear an adequate share in the Tien Tsing-Pekin campaign.

The Russian forces available along the border and throughout Northern China are stated to comprise 26 battalions of the line, 27 battalions of reserves, 17 Cossack regiments and 17 field batteries—altogether 78,000 men.

Reported Safe.

Brussels, July 21.—The charge d'affaires at the Chinese legation here this morning received a telegram from Tien Tsing made this morning by a detachment of American troops assisted by some English Fusiliers, says a Chee Foo special to the Journal and Advertiser, dated July 20th.

The object was to capture a battery of large calibre cannon which had been doing great damage. The Anglo-American troops charged a large fort across an open space and were exposed to a hot, but poorly directed fire from the enemy. They dashed into the fort, and after engaging the Chinese in a sharp hand-to-hand fight, put them to flight and remained masters of the fort. Eight large

The Conger Message.

Washington, July 21.—After 24 hours' deliberation and after giving due consideration to the incredulous criticisms of European authorities as to the Conger message, the state department remains unchanged in its first conclusion that the message is authentic and Mr. Conger was alive on July 18th.

Corroborative evidence came to the department this morning through Minister Wu, from two widely removed sources, the one from Sheng at Shanghai, and the other from the viceroy of Nanking. They make it clear that an edict certainly has been issued relative to the condition of the foreign ministers and contain other matters of information of greatest value and interest, if they be true.

It may, however, be mentioned, and that consideration was duly discussed by Secretaries Hay, Root and Long, that the two dispatches passed through the same channel; at Shanghai Sheng receives everything in Washington Mr. Wu is the medium. The point of this is that this additional evidence is deprived of a good deal of corroborative evidence.

Not Credited.

Shanghai, July 20.—According to Sheng, the administrator of telegraphs, most of the telegrams received previous to the one from Minister Conger to the state department, Washington, took a week in transmission from Pekin. The edict of Minister Conger's message is therefore regarded in the best circles here as further proof of Chinese duplicity.

Stabbed By a Chinaman.

New York, July 23.—In a Paterson, N. J., street car yesterday, a man charged a young Chinaman with being a Boxer. The latter replied: "Boxers allow all rights," whereupon the man threatened him. The Chinaman drew a knife and stabbed his tormentor in the side. Then he fled, and it took four policemen to subdue him and convince him he was not going to be killed. The passenger was not dangerously hurt.

A laundry was wrecked at Seyville, L. I., and members of the Third battery, while passing through Riverhead, had a row with the laundrymen there. The soldiers forced the Chinamen to retreat to the rear of their laundry and carried

away their slippers as souvenirs of the fight.

(Associated Press.)

London, July 23.—Though there are some indications that hardened pessimism is beginning to melt under the warm showers of Chinese assurance, so that it is now admitted that perhaps not all the foreign ministers at Pekin have been killed, incredulity, however, remains the dominant note of European comment.

No one seems able to reconcile the assurances of the Imperial edict with Minister Conger's statement in his alleged message to Secretary Hay that he was in hourly expectation of death by massacre, though both documents purport to have been sent off from Pekin on the same date.

It is confidentially anticipated, however, that this story will soon be solved as all the governments, following the lead of the United States secretary of state, Col. Hay, have taken steps to test the sincerity of Chinese officialdom by insisting upon free communication with the ministers.

Not Believed.

Washington, July 23.—The state department was the centre of interest to-day. About 10 o'clock the Chinese minister arrived and was with Secretary Hay for some time. On the departure of the minister the department gave out the Imperial edict of the Chinese government, the substance of which had been previously made known.

The state department received a deluge of dispatches from all quarters of the globe referring to the Conger messages. These show the attitude of foreign governments. Without exception the official view taken by all foreign offices is that the dispatch is not genuine and does not afford a basis for action. This incredulity is also shared by United States Consul-General Goodnow, at Shanghai, who has communicated to the state department his disbelief in the authenticity of the message.

The text of several messages is not made public as they are inconclusive and do not add anything in the way of definite news to the situation at Pekin. The entire tenor being one of doubt and suspicion.

The official doubts are based on various theories. One of them is that the deception was practised by the Tsung Li Yamen itself. Still another is that it emanated from a higher Chinese official, a man holding a position like that of Sheng or Prince Tuan, the latter at last accounts being connected with the Tsung Li Yamen.

Notwithstanding this flood of doubt from foreign officials and quarters, the state department holds to the view that there is every probability of genuineness in the message, although always a possibility that a fraud may have been perpetrated.

Concerning the proposition of mediation made to the United States by China, the state department was not prepared to-day to make any statement.

There is reason to believe that the government is again using every effort to secure communication with Minister Conger.

Prince Tuan's Message.

Washington, July 23.—The state department has made public the following: "The state department has received a dispatch from Mr. Goodnow, consul-general at Shanghai, dated to-day, saying that Prince Tuan wires that an officer of the Tsung Li Yamen saw all the ministers on the 18th, that none were injured, and that no attack was at that time being made. He does not say to whom the dispatch of Prince Tuan was addressed, and it is to a certain extent at variance with the dispatch of Mr. Conger of that date, describing the legation as being under fire at that time."

Falling Back on Pekin.

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