

CHINA SITUATION.

Arrangement for the Withdrawal of Foreign Troops.

Asserted that France Intends to Station a Permanent Force at Hankow.

PEKING, March 3.—The American preparations for departure are going actively forward. All supplies, except enough for two companies, have been packed and marked for Manila.

The British plans contemplate a summer along the Pui Ho and a gradual withdrawal of forces to India, leaving behind, by next winter, half a battalion of Welsh Fusiliers as a legation guard in Pekin, together with an Indian regiment to guard the railway.

The Germans show few signs of intention to depart, but they are endeavoring to sell 5,000 American and Australian horses, as well as a quantity of camels.

It is reported that the French intend to withdraw most of their forces, leaving one infantry brigade, a regiment of cavalry and some artillery to protect the French legation and to guard the lines of communication.

A part of this force, it is understood, will be employed to guard the Franco-Belgian railway from Pekin to Pao Ting Fu.

In French military circles it is freely asserted that the French intend to send a force to be stationed permanently at Hankow and to guard the other end of the Lu Han railway, 120 kilometers of which has been completed.

More definite information on this point is awaited with anxiety by the British, who regard such an intention with serious misgivings, because calculated to bring about complications with the Yang Tse viceroys, if for no other reason.

Particularly noticeable just now are the sharp lines drawn between the various nationalities at prominent social functions. Gen. Gaselle, the British commander, gave an elaborate dinner, at which only British, German and American representatives were present.

Mr. De Ciers, the Russian minister, gave a banquet at which only Russians, Frenchmen and Austrians were guests, while the Japanese minister entertained at dinner last evening all Americans and Japanese.

The ministers of the powers now most active in China, however, are not most chary of a week, but no business of great importance is transacted. At present they are going over local claims.

Many of these are being thrown out because of their known excessiveness. The subject of legation defenses is also being considered, although this will be left for final consideration until the U. S. government has reached the decision as to the legation barracks question, which the legation is anxious to have settled immediately, in order that the building may be constructed before the rainy season sets in.

LONDON, March 4.—"The Japanese have decided to withdraw their troops during March," says the Pekin correspondent of the Morning Post, writing Saturday, "and to replace them by two thousand fresh troops. The Pekin and Tientsin will be posted here."

"As a result of the conspicuous divergence in the attitude of the powers, the Chinese imagine discord is beginning."

Li Hung Chang has sent two mandarins to inspect the route between Peking and the province of Shen Si, and to prepare for the return of the court."

LONDON, March 4.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Standard says it is reported there that Prince Chuang has been strangled.

According to the same authority, Gen. Yuan Shih Kai's bodyguard, with transport, will leave Wednesday for the province of Ho Nan to escort the emperor to Peking.

LONDON, March 4.—According to the Pien Tsai correspondent of the Standard, writing Friday, Count Von Walderssee has issued renewed orders to the allied forces to hold themselves in readiness for a possible expedition March 7.

LONDON, March 4.—A meeting of the harbor commissioners today a report was presented by Engineer

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Sixteen men of the Victorian Rifles have captured thirty-three Boers and two horses at Sins River.

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Gen. De Wet marched five miles a day faster than the swiftest British column. Although the Boers are now demoralized, it is believed they will quickly recover if they are allowed a few days' rest.

PROVINCIAL ALLOWANCES.

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Advertisement for Blacksmiths' Supplies, featuring an image of a hammer and text: "Blacksmiths' Supplies. Driving Hammers, Rounding Hammers, Pincers, Hoof Parers, Horse Shoes, Horse Shoe Nails, Rasps, Bar Iron, W. H. THORNE & CO. LTD., ST. JOHN, N. B."

Advertisement for Robert J. Cox, a harness manufacturer, with text: "ROBERT J. COX, HARNESS MANUFACTURER. Silver, Nickel, Brass and Rubber Mountings, Sleigh Robes, Bells, Whips, Collars, Harness Oil, Etc. Prices Right. Repairing Done Promptly. Satisfaction Guaranteed. 11 SYDNEY ST., Near Golden Ball Cor."