

China's Huge Rabble Army

Numbers a Million on a War Footing, but Has no Unity or Discipline.

Shanghai Arsenal—Well Equipped and Perfectly Furnished—Lord Beresford's Criticisms.

The war news from China has created much interest in the Chinese army, and the reports to the effect that the Boxer mobs cannot be suppressed have caused many readers to wonder how and of what material the Chinese regular army is composed. In this as in many other things the Chinese have not kept up with other nations, and their deficiency was clearly demonstrated during the Sino-Japanese war. But the warning was not sufficiently heeded, and the improvements which have been made in the army since then were not sufficient to bring the military up to the point where it should be for the protection of the country. Although there are two armies, neither of these is known as the Imperial army. This is an army for each province. There is an army for the Army of Eight Banners, known as the Army of Eight Banners, contains nominally three hundred thousand men, who are descendants of the Manchu conquerors and their allies. Of these about eighty thousand are maintained on a war footing, and are divided into three groups, Mongols, Chinese and Manchus, and form an hereditary profession with in which intermarriage is compulsory. Of these hereditary soldiers about four thousand are usually stationed at Peking as an Imperial guard.

The national army is called Ying Ping. This body is known also as the "Green Flags" and the "Five Camps," it being divided into five distinct parts. This army is subdivided into eighteen corps, one for each province, and is under the immediate command of the Governor-General or Viceroy. The nominal strength of this national army is about six hundred thousand, but of this number only about two hundred thousand are available for war. The Tien Tsin army corps is most important, and has about thirty-five thousand men. These have been drilled by foreign officers, and have modern arms and equipment, and do garrison and police duty at Tien Tsin and at Peking.

The "mercenary troops" play an important part in the Chinese military system. They are raised in emergencies. Then there are the Mongolian cavalry and other irregular cavalry, numbering about twenty thousand, which have been described by foreign observers as "of no military value." The total land army is estimated at three hundred thousand men, and on war footing at about one million, but the army, as a whole, according to the same authority, has no unity or cohesion; there is no proper discipline; the drill is mere physical exercise; the weapons are long since obsolete, and there is no transport, commissariat, or medical service. But the various provinces spend much money for army purposes, and maintain great arsenals where war material is made and stored.

The Great Arsenal at Shanghai. The great arsenal at Shanghai seems to be out of place in connection with the antique and slipshod Chinese army. This large place is under the provincial government of the viceroy of Nanking, and is full of modern tools and machinery, stores and material of every description. The arsenal is in every respect a well equipped and perfectly furnished modern institution in good order, and if organized under European control, Lord Beresford thinks, could supply war material for the whole military forces of China. It was organized by Europeans and is now in charge of two Englishmen. To show that the arsenal is capable of producing a report made out less than two years ago shows the following work in progress:

Two 9.2 guns to be mounted on hydro-pneumatic disappearing carriages; two 9.2 guns for garrison batteries; eight 6-inch guns, twelve 4.7 guns, twenty 12-pounders, twenty 6-pounders, and fifty 3-pounders, all "quick-firing."

All the steel for these guns was made in the arsenal from native ore. The machinery at this arsenal is adequate for the manufacture of all calibres up to 12-inch fifty-two pieces.

Director of the plant—a Chinese mandarin—expressed anxiety as to what is going to happen in China in the future, and favored relations in England which would give China the benefit of British protection. Lord Beresford, in his account of an interview with the mandarin, says: "I pointed out to him the large and useless expenditure of money incurred by the manufacture of heavy artillery, which should have nothing to do with the maintenance of the integrity of China under present conditions, whereas if the same money was devoted to equipping a serviceable army it would provide that security for trade and commerce which foreign nations perceived did not at present exist."

Beresford's visit to the Arsenal at Shanghai. The Arsenal at Shanghai is under the provincial government of the viceroy of Chi-Li. It is well supplied with everything in the way of tools and machinery and has spare room enough for a plant to supply the whole Chinese army. The plant is in charge of a British subject, but the actual work is done by a Chinese official, whose salary is 150 taels—about \$100 a month. A similar position in England or America would, according to the report of a European visitor, be worth at least \$10,000 a year.

At this school all the pupils are taught English. Next door to the Naval Academy is another school with accommodations for 30, where young men receive instruction in the Russian language, with a view to becoming Russian interpreters. The money for the maintenance of this school is provided by the Peking government.

Making Useless Material. At the Nanking arsenal there are no European employees, and although the machinery is modern it is used in the manufacture of useless war material. The Chinese authorities at this place showed the English visitors with great pleasure and pride a weapon from which a bullet could be sent through four inches of wood, and said that no other nation possessed similar weapons.

"It was heartbreaking," said the English visitor, "to see both officials and workmen taking pleasure and using diligence in the manufacture of costly but absolutely useless war material."

When Lord Charles Beresford visited China two years ago as the representative of the English chambers of commerce, he said: "Great Britain has 64 per cent. of the whole foreign trade of China, and is naturally anxious as to its adequate security, and, being on very friendly terms with the Chinese, it might be possible that the British government would allow an officer to help the Chinese to put their army in order, if the Chinese government applied to the British government for assistance of this description."

He also advised the officers of the Tientsin-Yamen that it might be well to invite other nations having large trading interests in China to lend a few officers and non-commissioned officers to work with the British in the reorganization of the army. Prince Ching said at that time that they had already had German officers to drill some of the troops, and that Captain Lang, a British naval officer, had assisted in organizing their fleet.

The Prince and some other nobles called on Lord Charles Beresford at the location shortly after the interview. In his account of the visit Lord Beresford says: "They informed me that a special edict had been issued on the previous day to Chung Chi Tung, the viceroy of Hunan and Hupai, ordering him to take command of his troops in readiness, in order that they should be put under a British officer for drill and organization as a trial. A thousand of these were to be Chinese, under the immediate command of Chung Chi Tung, and the other thousand were to be Manchus, under the command of the Tartar General Hsiang Hing."

The ineffective Provincial System. The system against which Lord Beresford argued was that of having provincial armies. These, he said, were ineffective, and a vast amount of property had been destroyed and many lives of missionaries had been sacrificed, all owing to the want of efficient military and police. An empire with four hundred millions of people should have an effective army, and even the city of Peking, where the interviews took place, could not exist with its population of 1,900,000, without armed and organized protection.

At Shanghai the Marquis Ito, late minister of Japan, said that the dismemberment of China would occur unless China supplied herself with an adequate military and police force to protect foreigners. This was in October, 1898. He favored the scheme by which the four trading powers—Great Britain, the United States, Japan and Germany—should assist China in the reorganization of her military forces.

At Nanking Lord Beresford again urged the organization of an army under European officers, in an interview with the viceroy, Liu Kwen Yi, who at first demurred, but was finally convinced that it was the only way to guarantee the security of the foreign legations, without which the empire must fall.

The plan suggested at the time is similar to the one which is credited to the Emperor of China in his alleged appeal to the powers which was published recently.

A LETTER FROM KROONSTAD.

Seymour H. O'Dell Expects to Return to Victoria Next Month.

The following letter was received this morning from Corp. O'Dell, the Times correspondent with the first Canadian contingent:

The Rest Camp at Kroonstad, O.F.S., May 21st, 1900.

"I left the regiment on Sunday, 20th inst., for a few days' rest. It was then about 49 miles east and 8 miles north of this town, in the direction of Lindley, and that morning they were off to Helbroon. I have since learnt they have arrived there, and are moving northward. To-day I, in company with Corp. Manson and Trooper Boit, of the 2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles, obtained passes to proceed by rail to rejoin our corps. Railhead, the terminus of the railway, is now about 50 miles from here, and each day is shifted farther north, so that we may cross the Vaal river in four or five days, that is providing the bridge across that river which the enemy blew up has been repaired.

"To Hicks, of A. Co., is here and expects to remain a few days longer. I have experienced considerable difficulty in trying to rejoin our regiment, and it was only through meeting Lt.-Col. Ryerson, who is here in company with some of our nurses, that I was able, through his courtesy and influence, to obtain a pass. They seem somewhat desirous of sending men down to Bloemfontein and further south than up to the front.

"News leaked out to-day that General French was in Johannesburg, so it is only a matter of a very few weeks before the war will be over, in fact it is practically over now.

"Col. Otter passed through here about a week ago with winter clothing for the regiment, and Capt. Macdonnell yesterday also with clothing, but the latter did not put himself out in a very commendable way to get back to the front. It is a regrettable fact that I have had far better treatment and more courtesy shown to me by Imperial officers than ever I experienced at the hands of my own.

"You may expect to hear from me as I proceed, and hoping to meet friends again in Victoria about the first week in August, I will close.

HERBERT HASTINGS O'DELL.

Mining News

Rossland Camp.

The Rossland Miner in its weekly mining review says:

The principal item of the week is the discovery of ore in the footwall in the main ledge of the Columbia-Kootenay nearly 1,000 feet below the outcrop on the apex of the vein. This practically establishes the worth of the expensive boring into the bowels of the mountain. The camp should soon add to its list of regular shippers four new mines which will be the Josie, No. 1, Nickel Plate and Columbia-Kootenay in the order named. For both the first-named yet remains the completion of the tunnel, which is the only thing which will allow to complete its hoist. This will probably place the No. 1 a little behind the Josie. Whether it is the intention of the Le Roi No. 2 to keep its shipments separate from each of its properties is not so far advanced. It is probably that such distinction will not be made, as there are no less than seven fractions making up the total of its property. The capacity of these mines are such that 300 tons a day should be able to be obtained from these two properties, shortly after the inception of the regular output. This will total 2,000 on a week.

The Nickel Plate should be the next shipper. Here the hoist and headworks are not quite ready, though but little work has been done. The ore body which is to be 750 tons capacity, has been started upon, and the railway will run in the necessary spur during the coming month. Therefore, shipments may be expected, unless something unforeseen supervenes, early in August.

The fourth mine, the Columbia-Kootenay, is not so far advanced. This statement does not apply to the amount of necessary development work which is extremely well advanced, many thousands of cubic yards of ore being proved, as in the other conditions which pertain to economical shipping. The capacity of this mine is at present of only 20 drill capacity, and a large plant is wanted for the estimated work. The construction of a line to the mine presents greater difficulties than occur at either the Le Roi No. 2 or at the Nickel Plate, and will have to be a length of not far short of a mile to a mile and a half. More powerful hoisting machinery is also required in order to allow of the development work at the lower levels, keeping up with the progress of stowing in any large quantity above.

These things will consume time in placing in proper trim and though the capacity of the mine will probably prove to be larger than the Nickel Plate, yet it is probable that not more than 100 to 200 tons a day will be able to be shipped at the inception. This will, however, give a total of at least 4,000 tons from these newer shipping properties and will, without taking the resumption of the shipments from the War Eagle and Centre Star, and the possible addition of the Evening Star and Jumbo into account, double the present output of the camp before the end of the year.

Appended is a statement of the shipments for the past week and year to date:

	Week.	Year.
	Tons.	Tons.
Le Roi	4,347	48,079
War Eagle	10,903	109,003
Centre Star	7,017.5	70,175
Iron Mask	1,434.5	14,345
I. X. L.	29	276
Monte Christo	27	273
Iron Colt	50	500
Giant	42	420
Total	4,370	88,072

Le Roi.—Timbering in the shaft itself is still in progress and will not be finished until the 30th level is reached. At the end of the next week or possibly the beginning of the next, consequently the sinking of the shaft to the 900 level is not as yet resumed. The great stops in the mine are being made to yield up their stored contents of ore, which is being shipped at the rate of 600 tons a day to the Northport smelter. The development work is proceeding as usual in extensions and connections over the various levels, especially on the 500, 300 and 700 levels.

Centre Star.—Below the work of clearing out the dump below the fourth level, filled with the debris of rock broken down in the timbering of the inclined shaft, is still in progress. With its conclusion the sinking of the shaft will be resumed and headings started from the station at the level from the shaft itself, which follows down the ledge. The raise on the side line near the Iron Mask is still in hand and ore being staked out, while the square setting of the "old" stope is in progress. Drifting is going on in the first level east and also westward. In the first level, owing to the slope of the property west of the big shaft, a raise is also in progress between the third and second levels west.

Columbia-Kootenay.—The vertical shaft is being sunk through the station at the 400-level; holes being bored in the side, as sinking is proceeding for subsequent breaking out. A fine body of ore has been cut through at this point, which may be near the footwall of the ledge, as another shaft, which is being sunk across on the 300 level in the shaft, the shaft dipping slightly north. This, as in the Nickel Plate, tends to show that the country is better mineralized than depth. It may be said that the find of ore is directed to the west, as seen as shown up in the fifth, fourth, third and second levels, and also on those intermediate to them. Some prospecting work is going on with excellent results in No. 5 tunnel, and the north crosscut in the "Tip Top" vein is being prosecuted in No. 1.

War Eagle.—The internal drift at the seventh level of the mine is being prosecuted and fair progress is being made. Stopping is in progress on the fifth and seventh levels the ore being broken down and stored in the stopes, and their selves. On the sixth level the north vein is still being drifted on to the east and the south vein on the same level is

being similarly extended to the west. On the fifth level the north vein is being opened up to the west. The raise between the fourth and fifth levels was completed last week. The machinery on the steam hoist is in fine working order and is giving no trouble whatsoever. Nickel Plate.—The crosscuts below are proceeding at the 600-foot level north and south to the ore bodies there known to exist. The drift on the vein near the shaft to the south has disclosed some very fine ore.

Big Four.—Ten men are now employed on this property. Drifting along the No. 1 vein continues. When this has been driven for a distance of 100 feet it is anticipated by the management that stoping will be commenced. No. 1 tunnel is now in 85 feet. Crosscutting on the No. 2 vein continues. The rock here is very hard, and is heavily mineralized, and work is slow. The prospects of the Big Four never looked better.

New St. Elmo.—Henry Krumb, manager of the St. Elmo, received a telegram from the company on the 21st, directing that the compressor be repaired and work resumed. It is anticipated that the compressor is repaired before resuming work. In accordance with these instructions Mr. Krumb on Friday closed down the property. It will take some little time to put the compressor in order, as extensive repairs are necessary.

I. X. L.—A carload of ore was sent to the Northport smelter from the I. X. L. during the past week. The ore was from the stope above the second level. Some of the ore is very rich, and Mr. Roy H. Clark, manager, showed one piece of the ore that weighed about two pounds, in which there was \$100 worth of gold. Some of the ore taken out runs over \$3,000 to the ton.

Leiter.—The American Corporation resumed work on the Leiter during the week. The company is negotiating for the purchase of a couple of properties which adjoin the Leiter, and intends to mine on a large scale.

Josie.—The contract work on the Josie, between the 300 and 500 levels, is in a satisfactory progress. The latter level is being extended both ways along the ledge. On the western extension the seam ran into last week which gave an assay of eight ounces in gold, is looking well.

Annie.—The joint shaft on the North Le Roi is being sunk down to the 100-foot level, and a hoist is now to be installed which will permit of the sinking being continued down to the 300 level. The ore body is maintaining its values.

Novelty.—Operations on the Novelty have been resumed under the direction of J. W. Campbell. The work at present is confined to surface prospecting. Further on the work of exploring the property at depth will be commenced.

Velvet.—Work continues on the 300-foot level, where the ledge is being drifted on. The intention is soon to resume the sinking of the shaft from the 300 to the 400-foot level.

Nelson Mines. In a recent issue the Tribune described fully the starting up of the Venus mill on Morning mountain, thus adding another to the list of the shipping mines and giving another proof of the richness of that hill. Morning mountain is destined to become famous as a gold producer, and it is wonderful that it is only comparatively recently that its richness is being proved.

The star mine of Morning mountain so far, is, of course, the Athabasca, which has been producing about 1,000 tons regularly for nearly two years. The character of the ore is such that the mill has to be run slowly, but the monthly clean-up has averaged about \$10,000. Last month the returns took a jump, \$18,500 being recovered in bullion and concentrates, while this month a \$25,000 clean-up is expected. To these values must be added the tailings which carry quite an appreciable quantity of gold. These have been saved, and it is understood, a cyanide plant is about to be erected for their treatment. At a general meeting held in London last month a reorganization of the company was decided upon in order to raise funds to increase the plant, but if the monthly clean-up on last month's basis, it looks as if that move would be unnecessary. The Athabasca has been making some money right along, and the profits being made now are very large.

The Exchequer, also on Morning mountain, near the Athabasca tramway, is another promising property, and free milling like the Morning mountain mines. This property which was held for some years owing to dissension among the shareholders, started up some two years ago, and has been worked continuously until recently. Connections were made with the Hall Mines tramway, and latterly the property has been self-supporting and will be a dividend payer. The shaft is being sunk down to the 1,000-foot level when the eighth level will be established. Thus there remains some 60 feet to do, and this will be accomplished, it is thought, by the second week in August. On the seventh level the lateral drive has run east 90 feet, and a crosscut has been started north from this point to hit the veins. The crosscut to the south vein from this point will be begun directly after the holidays. On the sixth level the drift is still proceeding west on the south vein and a drift east on the north vein. A stope above this level is being broken down and the ore stored in place. A nice powerful engine has been installed on this level for sinking and it is expected it will do serviceable work from this point downwards for 400 to 500 feet. On the fifth level the drift has been discontinued but the slope is being broken down. This practically means that development work will in future be confined to the sixth and seventh levels.

Centre Star.—Sinking is expected to be resumed in the shaft directly after the holidays, when the change will be made in the hoist, and the new two-ton skips brought into operation. With this change development will be started on the fourth level directly east and west from the station on the fourth level, the shaft being sunk upon the ledge. On the third level drifting is continuing to the east. To the west a raise is being made to the second level beyond the ledge which was completed a few weeks since. In this latter an intermediate level has been started at a point 70 feet below the second level. On the main

level the work on the big stope is nearly completed and the timbering is almost finished. The main drift west is being enlarged to a double track capacity in order to afford greater facility for the handling of the ore at the station. At the east end of this level the raise is being continued to the surface near the Iron Mask side line. On the first level the drift west has run into a fine body of ore of good grade. The mine will close down for the next three days to permit the change being made from the old hoist to the new.

Nickel Plate.—A crosscut is proceeding north and south of the 600-foot level on the Nickel Plate, to locate the Ore-or-No-Go vein to the north, and the southern zone of ore which is known to exist, having been located in the levels closer to the surface.

Le Roi No. 2.—Under this head will in future be recorded the work upon the Josie, Annie, Annie Fraction, Rockingham, Thelma, Poorman and No. 1. The work at present is confined to the Josie, No. 1, Annie and Poorman, which last is being worked from the Josie. The usual development is going on in all over the mine. The winze on the Josie between the 500 and 550 levels is making good progress under the contractors in whose hands the sinking has been placed. In the 500 foot level the seam of good ore ran into is still looking well, and high assays are being obtained from it. On the No. 1 the assembly of the hoist engine and the erection of the galloos frame is still in progress. A winze is being sunk upon the 300 foot level.

Columbia-Kootenay.—The vertical shaft has reached the station on the 40 level and it is now being cut out. The ore exposed at this point is still looking well. A winze is being sunk in No. 5 tunnel, which is to connect with No. 1 and will be in continuation of the raises which extend upwards from No. 5 to Nos. 4 and 3. The winze on No. 5 is started at a point a little west of its first raise so as to avoid a dyke. The ore body has been located on the tunnel by means of a short crosscut and it is within this adit that the winze has been started with the intention of following the ore body which is of very good grade down.

Le Roi.—Timbering in the main shaft of the Le Roi is now very nearly completed. The sinking of the shaft to the 900 level will be started soon after the holidays. Development is proceeding as usual on the 300 foot, 500 foot and 700 foot levels, and the stopes are being worked on the old lines, an output of 4,000 tons per week is now about the average of the mine. In addition to the reserves in the stopes it has been discovered that the old stopes on the upper levels have not been completely blocked out and the miners are now at work upon these in addition to the ore bodies below. On the Black Bear the preparations for the change of location of the boilers is in progress but the fires will not be drawn in the old boiler house for some days yet.

American Corporation.—The American Corporation, Limited, is operating the Leiter, on Sophie mountain, and on Tuesday last broke into the vein. As ore shoot three feet in width was encountered in the lead, which carries pyrrhotite and pyrites of iron. The intention is to drift along the vein.

Evening Star.—Work on the winze continues. Mr. George B. McAnlay and Dr. Russell, of Spokane, leading stockholders, visited the workings of the Evening Star during the week and expressed themselves as well pleased with the development of the property.

Big Four.—Work is going on in both tunnels as usual. No. 2 tunnel is now all in ore, and its character is improving with each foot of advance made. California.—The shaft has reached a depth of 195 feet and the tunnel which is being driven to tap the ledge is in for a distance of 580 feet.

AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?

A Cambridge don, who should have known better, has waded through 10 standard love-stories, and tabulated the various ways in which lovers behave in popping the question. In 100 cases where the proposal was accepted, no less than sixty-seven gentlemen kissed the lady and began "all of a sudden." Eighty-one declared they could not live without her, while seventy-two held the girl's hand, and thirty-six took her in their arms.

Twenty-six lovers sat down to put the question, four fidgeted about with their handkerchiefs—which three afterwards required to wipe away the tears of joy; three stood on one foot, and the same number "reclined on the grass." Only four thought it necessary to go down on both knees, but twice as many knelt on one. In thirty-two cases kissing took place. Only four kissed the girl on the cheek, but ten saluted the fair one's curls. Three kissed her eyes, two her hands, one the top of her head, one her nose (by mistake) and one her shawl.

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UMBRELLAS NOTES.

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The closing examinations at the public school were held on Thursday afternoon. The rooms were decked with beautiful flowers and ferns, and a large number of visitors were present.

At the school meeting on Saturday Trustees Abrams was re-elected, and Ald. W. Willard was elected in place of Mr. Walker, resigned.

The Methodist League gave one of their pleasant entertainments on Tuesday evening. Gildon Hicks, of Victoria, gave some selections with the pianola and also some vocal help.

Some have arrived at the house of Messrs. Horn, Pullen and Water, and a little girl has come to Mr. Stanley, Eggle's house.

A Chinaman died at the hospital on Sunday from the effect of burns, received in No. 8 shaft.

Principal Bennett and family will spend their holidays on Hornby Island.

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