

\$1.50 Per Annum. \$1.50

# Victoria Times.

Twice-a-Week.

VOL. 20.

VICTORIA, B. C., TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1900.

NO. 51.

## MESSAGE FROM A MINISTER

Mr. Conger, United States Representative in the Chinese Capital, Sends a Brief Dispatch.

## FOREIGNERS SAFE ON WEDNESDAY

They Had Taken Refuge in British Legation--Relief Must Be Quick to Prevent a Massacre--Missionaries and Native Converts Killed.

(Associated Press.)  
London, July 20.—To add to the gloom occasioned by the extremely serious import of news showing the daily developing strength of the anti-foreign movement in the south of China, comes this morning, from Shanghai, a report that 60 missionaries and 100 native converts have been massacred at Tai Yuan.

Though the report is not yet corroborated, it tends to confirm the belief that the hope that the central and southern viceroys had never had much foundation. If this massacre has occurred in the province of Shan See, there can be little question that the intense anxiety for the safety of international colonies at the river ports and even at Shanghai is justified, for an attack later by the masses of Chinese gathering in and about the international concession would mean horrors, compared with which the massacre at Pekin would be insignificant.

The rumor is again current in Shanghai that the Empress and Emperor are preparing to retire from the capital to See Ngan Fue.

The authorities at St. Petersburg are satisfied that the measures for the relief of Harbin, which is identical with Charbon, will be successful.

With a view to showing his good faith the Chinese minister at St. Petersburg has begged the Russian foreign secretary to examine all dispatches arriving for the legation before their delivery.

Indian troops are daily arriving at Hongkong, en route to Taku.

A Hongkong dispatch reports a daring act of piracy with the harbor there. A score of pirates landed with revolvers, seized a launch and took it up the Canton river, capturing two junks en route. After looting the craft the pirates abandoned them.

The Chinese legation at London has been notified by Sheng, Chinese administrator of telegraphs at Shanghai, that the government of Shan Tung has received a message from Minister Conger for transmission to Washington.

Minister Conger's message to the state department at Washington is not regarded here as justifying overmuch optimism, but on the contrary is generally accepted as a further Chinese attempt at mystification. Some think that the fact that the message is undated and the similarity of its contents to Sir Robert Hart's message of June 24th suggest it was sent off about the same time, but was intercepted by the Chinese. The sceptical are confirmed in their suspicions by the fact that a message was received to-day by M. Delcasse, the French minister of foreign affairs, through the Chinese minister at Paris, purporting to come from the Emperor and asking France's mediation with the powers. This, it is alleged, was dated July 19th, and made no mention of the foreign legations at Pekin.

Message from Conger.  
Washington, July 20.—The Chinese minister has just received a cipher cable from Minister Conger. It is in the state department cipher, and is transmitted through the Tientsin, Li Kamen and the Shanghai Tootai. It contains 50 words and is signed in English, with the name Conger. The minister has taken it to the state department.

At 2:40 a.m. Minister Wu handed the Conger dispatch to Secretary Hay. No doubt was expressed by the state department officials as to the authenticity of the message. Mr. Conger's message is as follows:  
"In British legation, under continued shot and shell from Chinese troops. Quick relief only can prevent general massacre."

The message is not dated, but it is understood it was sent from Pekin on the 18th.

In the East City.  
Washington, July 20.—The state department has just issued the following bulletin:  
The secretary of state received this morning a dispatch from Consul General at Chee Foo, dated midnight, July 19th, saying: 'Shanghai paper of the 19th said all foreigners were murdered. Fowler wired the governor demanding the truth. The governor replied that his courier left Pekin on the 11th, and all were safe, but Pekin city had been carried by rebels with intent to kill.'

Massacred By Boxers.  
London, July 20.—A dispatch from Shanghai, received here this morning, reports that 80 missionaries and 100 native converts have been massacred by Boxers at Tai Yuan, a fortified and

populous city in the province of Shan See, on the Fuen Ho, an affluent of Hong Ho, 250 miles southwest of Pekin.

Asks for Mediation.  
Paris, July 20.—The Chinese minister at Paris has transmitted to M. Delcasse, the minister for foreign affairs, for communication to President Loubet, a telegram from the Emperor of China, which was dispatched by the governor of Shan Tung on Thursday, July 19th, asking for the mediation of France with the international powers. The telegram makes no allusion to the foreign minister at Pekin.

M. Delcasse informed the minister that President Loubet's reply would be addressed to the French legation at Pekin, where the imperial government can obtain it, but first the government of the Republic would wait until it could be certain that the French minister at Pekin was safe and sound.

Reported Alive on July 9th.  
Paris, July 20.—The foreign office has received information from a Chinese source, on which, however, certain reliance may be placed, that the foreign ministers at Pekin have not been massacred.

According to this information, on July 7th the ministers were attacked and the legations burned, but the foreigners succeeded in crossing the city to Prince Ching's palace, which was then barricaded. The Europeans were holding their own up to the time the news left on July 9th. Since then nothing has been heard from Pekin.

Refugees from China.  
Yokohama, July 19.—The United States battleship Oregon has arrived at Kure, where she will undergo temporary repairs.

The leading papers still urge the dispatch of more troops to China, but there is a growing sentiment against Japan's engaging in extended operations. The decision of the government is not known, but another division from Sendai is on its way to embark at Ujina.

Many refugees from China are arriving in Japan.

New Guns at Shanghai.  
London, July 20.—The Daily Mail publishes a cablegram from its Shanghai correspondent which says that the foreign settlements of that city are full of suspicious characters, and in the native quarters a continually increasing number of armed Chinese are arriving from the north. The troops in the Woo Sung forts are being reinforced daily and a number of new guns have been placed in position.

The foreign consuls have presented a united protest against these offensive preparations. Viceroy Li Hung Yih replied that he had ordered the work of strengthening the forts to cease immediately, but the local commander refused to heed the viceroy's remonstrations.

These forts, completely commanded by Shanghai and the guns already mounted are capable of blowing the foreign settlements to pieces in twelve hours.

Exportation of Arms.  
London, July 20.—In the House of Commons to-day Mr. A. J. Balfour, the first lord of the treasury, said it was impossible in the present state of the law to prohibit the exportation of arms to China, but as the matter was extremely pressing a bill would to-day be introduced to give the government the necessary power. Such a bill was subsequently introduced in the House of Lords.

Killed Chinese Women.  
New York, July 20.—Russia is pouring troops over the northern Chinese border, but her forces are not yet concentrated and are meeting with serious losses at the hands of Chinese Boxers who overrun all Northern China, says a Chee Foo cable to the World.

It is reported that after the allied army recaptured the native city of Tien Tsin last Saturday, their shells set fire to the town. The Chinese, before they fled, killed all their own women, it is reported, to prevent their falling into the hands of foreigners.

Native Chinese report that there are in and about Pekin at least 300,000 Chinese troops, and that the Boxers are armed with the best and most modern weapons.

Instructions for Remedy.  
Washington, July 20.—Secretary Long has sent the following cablegram to Adm. Remey:  
"Conger telegraphs that he is under

fire in British legation in Pekin. Use and urge every means possible for immediate relief. (Signed) Long."

Believed to Be Safe.  
Toronto, July 20.—Rev. Dr. Warden, secretary of the Presbyterian foreign mission, receiving the following cable from Rev. Dr. McLure, dated Shanghai: "Viceroy's launch escort down Han river believed safe."

It is understood the meaning of the cable is that all the Canadian missionaries who were at Chee Foo a few days ago and a party of Canadian missionaries, said to have been plundered at Nanvang, are safe at Shanghai.

Return to Their Posts.  
Shanghai, July 20.—The customs officials will return to Winchow to-night, their safety having been guaranteed by the Tao Tai.

Apprehensions of local danger have been somewhat modified by the arrival of warships, but there are some signs of international disaffection.

Sir C. Dilke's Opinion.  
New York, July 20.—In an interview yesterday Sir Chas. Dilke, regarded as being the principal authority in England on foreign affairs, stated that he regarded the latest news from China as extremely grave, says a cable to the Journal-Advertiser. He added: "I must confess that I am much impressed by the fact that Li Hung Chang should have felt it incumbent upon him to comply with the summons to proceed to Pekin, which reached him from the imperial government there. It is extremely significant and constitutes another proof that there is a responsible imperial government in control at Pekin."

To Protect Shamien.  
London, July 20.—A special dispatch from Hongkong says: French gunboats have landed three hundred Annamese soldiers to protect Shamien, a suburb of Canton.

London, July 20.—Lord Salisbury presided at a meeting of the cabinet yesterday, and it is expected that it will be followed by a statement in parliament, throwing light upon the situation.

The Chinese assertions that the members of the foreign legations in the case have been so often repeated that they are again beginning to raise hopes in some quarters.

According to the Daily Telegraph's St. Petersburg correspondent, the Russian government is already in possession of definite news that the foreigners in Pekin were "killed."

The Japanese correspondents charge the Russian soldiers with barbarity towards the Chinese. They declare that the Pei Ho is full of corpses of women and children, and that the Russians loaded 300 bodies on a junk and burned them.

It is rumored that Yu Lu, the missing viceroy of the province of Chih-Li, has committed suicide.

Various conflicting stories are published of the manner of Gen. Nieh's death. It is said that when the allies entered the native city of Tien Tsin they found the Chinese.

Dead Piled Breast High,  
and it was feared this would result in an outbreak of pestilence. Sixteen of the captured guns are quite modern weapons.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Times expresses doubt that the southern viceroys will be able to withstand the pressure of the provincial officials to join the anti-foreign movement. He thinks that already there are signs of wavering on the part of the viceroy of Nankin, Liu Kun Li, and says: "Li's authority is now insufficient to guarantee the maintenance of law and order north of the river, since the consuls at the Yang-tse ports are arranging for the departure of women and children. It is inevitable that the mandarins as a body sympathize with Prince Tuan's movements."

Other St. Petersburg dispatches show that the situation in Manchuria is becoming serious. Gen. Gribski, after relieving Blagovetchensk, the capital of the Amur government, received further reinforcements and bombarded the Chinese village of Sakhalin, which was

Set on Fire.  
The Chinese, however, continued to receive reinforcements, and maintained such an obstinate resistance as to convince Gen. Gribski of the necessity of occupying Aigun, where 7,000 Chinese Russian troops were in possession. The Chinese massed their troops in large bodies at various points and made a stout resistance, but they were finally overcome. The town of Aigun was partly destroyed, and the Russians occupied all the important defensive positions on the right bank of the river, driving the Chinese out of it. The Russians captured 17 guns and killed 2,000 Chinese. The Russian troops who were dispatched to the relief of the railway officials are now advancing successfully in all directions.

Yokohama dispatches announce that another division of Japanese troops are embarking for China, accompanied by a siege train for the reduction of Pekin.

The Daily Mail correspondent at Shanghai asserts that Emperor Kwang Hsi telegraphed to the Mikado an expression of regret for the murder of the Japanese chancellor of legation, and pointed out that the community of interest between China and Japan in the East against the ambitions of the West should lead the Japanese Emperor to made common cause with China and to assist in the restoration of peace. The Mikado, according to this correspondent, replied that the action of the insurgents was in complete violation of international law and that the murder of Baron von Ketteler was

A Grievous Offense.  
The Mikado added that the Chinese government should suppress the disorders and rescue the ministers, thus disarming the hostility of Europe. He concluded thus: "Japan is cordially friendly and is only sending troops to rescue the foreigners in Pekin and restore order."

The Shanghai correspondent of the Times says he learns on good authority that Li Hung Chang has undertaken to proceed north in order to negotiate upon three conditions: First, that a conciliatory attitude be adopted forthwith; second, that the Boxers be suppressed; and third, that he himself is not to be held responsible even if he fails to obtain satisfactory terms. The correspondent adds: "I have been informed by native officials that the viceroys of Nankin and Yamen believe a majority of the foreigners escaped destruction on July 9, and that although a portion of General Nieh's troops joined the Boxers at Tien Tsin, a large number followed General Nieh to Pekin, where they have been successful in assisting Prince Ching and Yung Lu to protect the legations."

This official regards the appointment of Li Hung Chang as an indication that the Empress Dowager realizes the futility of Prince Tuan's promise to drive the foreigners into the sea, and she was attempting to take them and hold the members of the legations as hostages.

The Daily Express has received this following from Tien Tsin, dated July 18th:  
"The casualties of the allied forces in the three days' fighting before the native city of Tien Tsin exceeded 1,000. It is now certain that there were several Russian and Frenchmen fighting on the Chinese side. The Chinese killed their own women wholesale to prevent them falling into the hands of the Russians. Yesterday the whole native city was in flames, and the stench of the burning of thousands of corpses was unspeakably horrible."

"Among the incidents of the fighting on July 13th was the precipitate flight of five hundred French troops. They had been ordered to hold an important front; but on being charged by the Chinese with bayonets, the entire detachment bolted, panic-stricken."

"The Russians killed all the Chinese wounded, in revenge for the Pekin massacre."

well and the proper Chinese authorities are devising measures for their rescue and protection."

As was anticipated, the Japanese government has given its cheerful assent to the application of the United States government for permission to land armed troops and military supplies at Nagasaki in transit to Taku. The Japanese authorities have assured the United States government that they will facilitate the movements as much as possible.

The quartermaster's department of the army has provided three large transports of the Philippine service for use on the line between Nagasaki and Taku and it is expected in this way to expedite the movement of troops to China.

SOUTH AFRICAN REBELS.  
Leaders Will Be Tried by Special Court.

Capetown, July 20.—The speech from the throne read to-day at the opening of the Cape parliament by Sir Alfred Milner, governor of the colony, referred to the noble manner in which all the self-governing colonies had responded to Great Britain's call for aid, saying that indications were not wanting that the end of the war was approaching.

Those concerned in the rebellion would have to answer for their misconduct. Parliament would be asked to approve a bill providing for a special court with special powers to try the rebels who have already been put in jail and others who appear to have taken a leading part in the rebellion. A commission would be created to deal with the rank and file of the rebels, with the power of sentencing for a period of five years and to disfranchise and deprivation of other civil rights.

Sir Alfred Milner said that he trusted the deliberations of the parliament would be characterized by wisdom and moderation, so that when the troubles should be passed all would be prepared for the great developments that were assuredly awaiting united South Africa under the sway of the Queen's sceptre.

Mr. W. P. Schreiner, former Premier of Cape Colony, and Mr. Solomon, formerly Attorney-General, occupied seats in the opposition benches. Mr. Merriman, Treasurer, Mr. Sauer, Commissioner of Public Works, and Dr. Water, minister without portfolio in the recent cabinet, occupied seats on the front opposition benches.

Dr. Jameson was sworn in as a member of parliament amid profound silence. Mr. Merriman gave notice that he would move that the actions of the military in the districts where resistance had terminated were contrary to the inherent rights of British subjects, and that martial law should be repealed.

From Mount Azuma, Which Broke Into Eruption on Tuesday.  
(Associated Press.)  
Yokohama, July 20.—Mount Azuma, near Binda Isan, which was the scene of a volcano disaster in 1888, broke into eruption on Tuesday, July 17th. Two hundred persons were killed or injured. Several villages were engulfed by the streams of lava from Mount Azuma, and great damage was done in adjacent districts.

SMALLPOX AT NOME.  
Rosecrans's Officers Say the Reports Have Been Exaggerated.

(Associated Press.)  
Port Townsend, July 21.—The transport Rosecrans has arrived from Nome. Her officers reported to the quarantine officials here that the smallpox scare at Nome had been exaggerated. The total number of cases would not exceed 18.

WANT TAX REDUCED.  
(Associated Press.)  
Montreal, July 20.—Local Chinese have decided to petition Minister Wu, at Washington, to use his good offices with Lord Minto to have the tax of \$50 placed on Chinese laundries by the city council of Montreal reduced. A large number of the Celestials have been confined in prison for non-payment of this tax, which they regard as unfair and unjust.

KEEP COOL.  
(Associated Press.)  
London, July 20.—Queen Victoria and her suite arrived at Osborne to-day. As a special protection against the weather Her Majesty's saloon carriage was filled with blocks of ice.

STRIKE OVER.  
(Associated Press.)  
Rotterdam, July 20.—The strike of dock laborers, which had been in progress here for some time, is practically ended, and work has been general resumed.

CANADIAN BRIEFS.  
(Associated Press.)  
Toronto, July 20.—John H. Lee, a well known stock broker, is dead of heart failure, as a result of shock sustained by being crushed by an elevator in the Trust and Guarantee building a few days ago.

Charles McGuinn, the young moulder who was so terribly burned on Wednesday by falling into a vat of boiling lead water, is dead.

Quebec, July 20.—Efforts are being made here for a milk trust.

Judge Taschereau, of the Supreme court, is acting Governor-General of Canada while Lord Minto is absent in the West.

Hon. Wm. Mulock is acting administrator of the new department of labor created under the Conciliation bill of the past session.

well and the proper Chinese authorities are devising measures for their rescue and protection."

As was anticipated, the Japanese government has given its cheerful assent to the application of the United States government for permission to land armed troops and military supplies at Nagasaki in transit to Taku. The Japanese authorities have assured the United States government that they will facilitate the movements as much as possible.

The quartermaster's department of the army has provided three large transports of the Philippine service for use on the line between Nagasaki and Taku and it is expected in this way to expedite the movement of troops to China.

SOUTH AFRICAN REBELS.  
Leaders Will Be Tried by Special Court.

Capetown, July 20.—The speech from the throne read to-day at the opening of the Cape parliament by Sir Alfred Milner, governor of the colony, referred to the noble manner in which all the self-governing colonies had responded to Great Britain's call for aid, saying that indications were not wanting that the end of the war was approaching.

Those concerned in the rebellion would have to answer for their misconduct. Parliament would be asked to approve a bill providing for a special court with special powers to try the rebels who have already been put in jail and others who appear to have taken a leading part in the rebellion. A commission would be created to deal with the rank and file of the rebels, with the power of sentencing for a period of five years and to disfranchise and deprivation of other civil rights.

Sir Alfred Milner said that he trusted the deliberations of the parliament would be characterized by wisdom and moderation, so that when the troubles should be passed all would be prepared for the great developments that were assuredly awaiting united South Africa under the sway of the Queen's sceptre.

Mr. W. P. Schreiner, former Premier of Cape Colony, and Mr. Solomon, formerly Attorney-General, occupied seats in the opposition benches. Mr. Merriman, Treasurer, Mr. Sauer, Commissioner of Public Works, and Dr. Water, minister without portfolio in the recent cabinet, occupied seats on the front opposition benches.

Dr. Jameson was sworn in as a member of parliament amid profound silence. Mr. Merriman gave notice that he would move that the actions of the military in the districts where resistance had terminated were contrary to the inherent rights of British subjects, and that martial law should be repealed.

From Mount Azuma, Which Broke Into Eruption on Tuesday.  
(Associated Press.)  
Yokohama, July 20.—Mount Azuma, near Binda Isan, which was the scene of a volcano disaster in 1888, broke into eruption on Tuesday, July 17th. Two hundred persons were killed or injured. Several villages were engulfed by the streams of lava from Mount Azuma, and great damage was done in adjacent districts.

SMALLPOX AT NOME.  
Rosecrans's Officers Say the Reports Have Been Exaggerated.

(Associated Press.)  
Port Townsend, July 21.—The transport Rosecrans has arrived from Nome. Her officers reported to the quarantine officials here that the smallpox scare at Nome had been exaggerated. The total number of cases would not exceed 18.

WANT TAX REDUCED.  
(Associated Press.)  
Montreal, July 20.—Local Chinese have decided to petition Minister Wu, at Washington, to use his good offices with Lord Minto to have the tax of \$50 placed on Chinese laundries by the city council of Montreal reduced. A large number of the Celestials have been confined in prison for non-payment of this tax, which they regard as unfair and unjust.

KEEP COOL.  
(Associated Press.)  
London, July 20.—Queen Victoria and her suite arrived at Osborne to-day. As a special protection against the weather Her Majesty's saloon carriage was filled with blocks of ice.

STRIKE OVER.  
(Associated Press.)  
Rotterdam, July 20.—The strike of dock laborers, which had been in progress here for some time, is practically ended, and work has been general resumed.

CANADIAN BRIEFS.  
(Associated Press.)  
Toronto, July 20.—John H. Lee, a well known stock broker, is dead of heart failure, as a result of shock sustained by being crushed by an elevator in the Trust and Guarantee building a few days ago.

Charles McGuinn, the young moulder who was so terribly burned on Wednesday by falling into a vat of boiling lead water, is dead.

Quebec, July 20.—Efforts are being made here for a milk trust.

Judge Taschereau, of the Supreme court, is acting Governor-General of Canada while Lord Minto is absent in the West.

Hon. Wm. Mulock is acting administrator of the new department of labor created under the Conciliation bill of the past session.