

## BOTH SIDES BOXER QUESTION

Organization Numbers Over 11,000,000 Members.

American Minister Conger Writes Some Interesting Chinese Information—German Cruelty.

Eleven millions of men are said to belong to the great Chinese society of Boxers, against which Uncle Sam, in connection with the great European powers, has directed armed force. This estimate was made by a Chinaman a year ago in conversation with an American who was then in China. The society of Boxers, which now stands for lawlessness, robbery and murder, was once respectable. It is a good influence gone wrong. Originally it was organized as a protest and a means of defense against the bandits with which the province of Shantung was infested. It was, in fact, a law and order league.

At that time the life and property of no honest man were safe. The bandits were not wild ruffians, such as those of Italy or the American west, but on the contrary seemed to be men of peace. By day they toiled as shoemakers, carpenters, farmers and what not, but at night they repaired to their strongholds in the mountains and from them made descents upon villages in which any man was reported to possess a store of money worth the having.

It was such attacks as this, repeated over and over again in villages through out the province, that resulted in the organization of the Boxers. But they were not called Boxers then. Their name was Ta Tao Hwei, which means "The Society of the Great Sword." More recent is the name Universal Society of Boxers, but the change signifies little. In fact, change of name among secret societies is frequent. One name is kept until an edict of suppression is issued against it, and then a new name is adopted, and the society goes on as if nothing had happened.

The present outbreak, which has smoldered for months only to start again with redoubled fury, was raised in 1890. The missions had enjoyed peace for some time and regarded the future as full of hope, but on May 10, 1891, two nuns, who were going home from a visit to some sick people, were maltreated by a mob, who charged them with bewitching children. The mission houses were plundered, and this was the signal for the renewal of the disturbances all through China. These became worse and worse, exciting more and more resentment in Europe until, at last, some German priests were murdered and the mission looted at Shantung. This was followed by the seizure by the Germans of the port of Tsin Tau.

The Shantung Chinese connected these two events and swore vengeance on the Germans, and incidentally upon all foreigners and Christians. It was at this time that the Great Sword society began to make itself obnoxious.

They had previously been proscribed by the government for local reasons and temporarily suppressed, but now they became bolder than ever and inaugurated a reign of terror throughout Shantung. Native Christians were robbed, beaten and murdered, and their houses destroyed. Many of them were forced to recant and some of the chapels were looted, but no missionaries were killed.

So bold was the action of the society and so flagrant their outrages that Yu Hsien, the governor of Shantung, was ordered to proceed against them. As has been said, he is in secret league with them and refuses to protect Christians or Confucians who refuse to yield to their tyrannical demands. He is not so far from the coast as to be beyond reach, however, and a combined force of British and American marines may teach him a lesson within the week.

United States Minister Conger, at Peking, reports that it has been apparent for a long time that the Boxers were tolerated, if they were not encouraged, at Peking and, by local mandarins, who can generally read with accuracy the sentiments of their superiors. There is no doubt that the empress dowager and her advisers shared the resentment of the common people against the foreign invaders of their country, and, while the officials have pretended to be doing everything in their power to suppress the outbreaks, they have allowed them to go on until evidently they have got beyond their control.

I realize, says Mr. Conger, that it is very unpopular position, but nevertheless there are two sides to the story of the Boxers in China. You will notice by the dispatches that there are railroad riots in the Shantung province, that

the Belgian and German railway engineers have been assaulted and are afraid of assassination and that work has been suspended on certain portions of the line now under construction. I have alluded to this matter before, and, while no one can justify assassination or approve the cowardly methods which the Boxers have adopted to revenge themselves upon the "foreign devils" that have invaded their country, they can at least plead extraordinary provocation, for the Germans and the Belgians who are constructing railroads in the Shantung province have treated the natives in a most abominable manner and have provoked the riots of which they now complain. That portion of China is one of the most densely populated sections of the earth, and the people have a desperate struggle for existence. Every inch of ground is cultivated; every straw and every sprig of vegetation is utilized in some way for the support of life. The country is divided into little farms, which are cultivated almost with a microscope, one might say, because it is necessary for the subsistence of some family, and the dead are buried in the gravel hills, where nothing can grow.

Through this country and under these conditions railways are being constructed by German and Belgian engineers who show a most brutal indifference to the rights and the property of the people. They run their lines across the farms; they tear down houses, burn villages, destroy crops, seize supplies, impress labor and treat the people in a most cruel and arbitrary manner. If the same things should occur in the United States or in Europe or in any other part of the world, they would be attended by the same results. The Boxers were organized to resist and avenge these outrages, and they use the only means within their power to punish their oppressors. A Chinaman never gets any sympathy either in America or elsewhere, and the consciousness of that fact compels him to carry on his operations with as great secrecy as possible. If the German and Belgian railroad people would treat the poor cooly farmers of the Shantung province in a just and honorable manner and give them fair compensation for the property they have taken or destroyed, there would be no need of sending fleets to the Chinese waters or demanding indemnity at the tsung-li-yamen.

### Ed Bartlett and the Sheriff.

Saturday evening, W. M. Heron, of the A. C. Co., decided that in the matter of the collection of doubtful accounts, when the river is open and steamers' whistles are constantly sounding in a way to lure people down stream, it is well not to take too many chances. Acting on this decision he procured a capias warrant, and an order for the arrest of E. Bartlett, and Sheriff Eilbeck repaired, armed with these documents, to the wharf where the Cudahy was waiting in readiness to sail. He served his warrant, and Mr. Bartlett, remembering the small balance, handed over \$367.90 to balance his account with the A. C. Co.

About this time some one from the meat emporium of Burns & McDougall went down to see the steamer start, and the sight of Mr. Bartlett on the deck of the Cudahy put him in mind of the unequal figures on the ledger pages of his office. Away he rushed to procure the efficient capias, but by the time the order for arrest had been signed and an officer sent to the wharf, the Cudahy was fading into the blue distance of the beyond, and the account remains unbalanced.

"For emergencies like this," said the overworked sheriff, as he mopped the dew of violent exercise from his brow, "this department stands in much need of a swift launch. If we had had one here this summer several times the cost of it might easily have been saved." The sheriff is not the only one who believes in the need of such a vessel; many business men would be glad to second a motion that the government buy one.

### Still in Our Midst.

Notwithstanding the fact that a large number of people have left Dawson for other points within the past few weeks, the man who is a reproach to everything finite and infinite is still with us. Reference is made to the male biped that thinks it smart not to have his hair cut while in this country, hoping thereby to be an object of curiosity when it returns to the home it should never have left. There may be sights which are more repulsive than the man who wears long hair, but they are not running loose among respectable people.

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## PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES.

Men Who Are Willing to Sacrifice Personal Interests

And Offer Themselves on the Political Altar to Benefit a Dear People and Suffering Country.

Although the campaign machinery has not yet been set in motion, it is generally understood that an election will be called in the very near future for the purpose of choosing two additional members to the board of the Yukon council. One of these new members, possibly both, will be chosen from among the resident British subjects of Dawson.

Present indications are that the office will not be required to stalk abroad in quest of the man as was the case when Cincinnatus was called away from his plow where he left his oxen to stand in the furrow for 12 years, while he went to manage the affairs of Rome. On the other hand, it looks in this case as though the man is seeking the office. If there is a British subject in town who is not "in the hands of his friends" his name has not yet been reported.

The Moses who considers himself called to stand on the bridge of the local ship of state and direct her course to the borders of Prosperity is to be seen on every corner in the city. He is willing to sacrifice his personal interests and heed the cries of the suffering people: "Save us from the slough of despair into which our ship of state has been piloted and half scuttled by a piratical crew."

The only pity is that there are not 15 or 20 seats to fill on the board instead of only two, for every seat could be filled with "just the man for the position," and still leave an ample number on the outside to drop suggestive remarks about dishonesty on the part of the board.

The last few days have served to conclusively prove that Dawson is very long on just such ability as is needed in the council, as many candidates are in full bloom and others are coming to the surface like weeds in a neglected garden.

Here are, a few, all of them well-known and respected loyal sons of Britain, who are willing to offer themselves a sacrifice on the altar of political preferment, each man thinking that he has been called as the Cincinnatus of the Yukon to guide Israel out of the wilderness of graft and other prevalent abominations:

Tnos. McMullen would make a good councilman for the reason that no offensive measure would pass him unprotected.

John E. McAlpine would do his best to protect the mining interests of the district.

C. M. Woodworth would also favor just mining laws; in fact, he would favor an entire revision of the statutes.

Alex. McDonald would thoroughly fill a seat in the council as he weighs upwards of 250 pounds.

Colonel Donald McGregor would not do anything hastily; besides, he would make an excellent chairman.

Joseph Clark would make a most active member unless chloroformed by order of the chair.

E. M. Sullivan would add great weight to the body.

Attorney Auguste Noel would save his country by moving amendments.

Barney Sugrue would be entitled to the position of "speaker of the house," which position would probably come to him unsolicited.

Capt. Starnes at first might possibly forget himself and think he was conducting a coroner's inquest, but he would gradually become accustomed to the funereal air of the council room.

Dr. Catto would make a bright and shining mover of resolutions and should be given a seat near the secretary's desk.

Joseph Binet's candidacy is young but growing. He will carry the entire strength of the Madden house.

Attorney Clark is needed on the board which, in turn, needs a legal adviser.

J. B. Pattullo's legal knowledge would also be something of an innovation in the body.

"Doc" Richardson, if chosen on the board, might be a regular attendant at all meetings.

Dr. Wills would not betray any confidence reposed in him if elected.

In the above list only one candidate here and there is mentioned. A full list published would look like the "hotel arrivals" in a Chicago paper. Candidates whose names do not appear above can secure mention by calling and submitting their pedigrees for inspection. Examination private.

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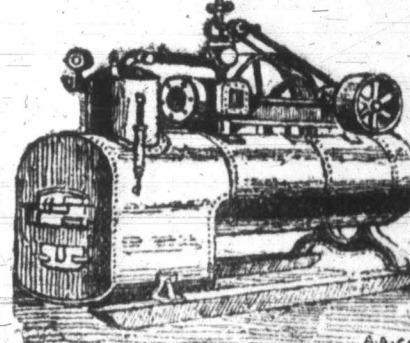
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