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VOL. 22.

Tien Tsin Situation

Arrangements For Simultaneous Withdrawal of Troops From Disputed Territory.

The Affair Will Not Disturb Relations Between Britain and Russia.

London, March 21.—In the House of Lords today Lord Lansdowne, discussing the Tien Tsin trouble, said that on March 20th the alleged removal of the Russian boundary pillar occurred, and the government instructed the British minister at Peking, Sir Ernest Satow, that Great Britain was ready to refer the facts to Field Marshal von Waldsee, on the understanding that if either side was found to have committed an irregularity it should apologize to the other.

The government added that the conclusion of the siding should be completed under whatever conditions the field marshal thought fit to impose. He (Lord Lansdowne) was glad to say he had heard this morning from the British ambassador at St. Petersburg that the Russian foreign minister, Count Lamsdorf, had proposed that they should agree to reserve all questions of title and proprietary rights for the two governments, and that in the meanwhile orders be forthwith sent for the withdrawal of the troops on both sides from the disputed spots. Great Britain had entirely concurred, and thought withdrawals should be carried out to Field Marshal Waldsee's satisfaction.

Lord Lansdowne added that Count Lamsdorf had expressed a very moderate and reasonable desire to avoid any cause for friction between the two governments, and since the receipt of Count Lamsdorf's proposal the government had ordered the military authorities to effect the simultaneous withdrawal of the troops to the satisfaction of Field Marshal von Waldsee, so that there might be no room for a new misunderstanding in regard to matter of detail. His lordship's comment was that the result of the negotiations showed that what was only a very small matter of strictly local importance would not be allowed to disturb the relations between the two countries.

Lord Cranborne, foreign under secretary, in the House of Commons, assured Sir Ellis Ashmead-Bartlett that the government considered the statements of the Russian foreign minister, Count Lamsdorf, of February 6th and February 17th, as applicable to an agreement in regard to Manchuria, Northern Russia and China.

Withdraw To-day.

Peking, March 22 (2 a.m.)—Count von Waldsee, Gen. Barrow and Gen. Wogack have been in consultation, and Gen. Wogack has agreed to withdraw the Russian troops from the disputed ground at Tien Tsin, provided the British also withdraw. He insisted also upon a guarantee that work on the railway siding should not proceed until the matter has been diplomatically adjusted. This proposal and stipulations were satisfactory to Gen. Barrow and were accepted by him.

Consequently the British and Russian troops will be withdrawn at 5 o'clock this (Friday) morning, thereby averting a trouble that was threatening.

Orders have been issued, however, that British officers shall "sleep out" at night or go to dinner at the British address to the adjutant. The matters will return to the ships.

Admiral Seymour objects to any of the Australian naval brigade who volunteered for service on the railway remaining. The military authorities say he does not understand the situation, but his interference is unneeded for, and that the Australian marines are just the men needed.

The Russians have ordered a regiment to proceed from Port Arthur to Tien Tsin.

The arrangements made by Gen. Bell, the French commander, are regarded as completely satisfactory, and all danger of collision between the British and the French is considered obviated.

Fighting Robbers.

Berlin, March 21.—The officer commanding the German troops in Peking cables to the war office here that owing to the complaints of the inhabitants, a band of robbers has been dispersed by Capt. Paris with a squadron of cavalry at a village five kilometers from Pao Ting Fu. Seven of the robbers were killed and wounded, and the others were imprisoned and handed over to the Chinese court for trial.

Major von Muhlman started for Pao Ting Fu with three companies of infantry, a squadron of cavalry and a battery of mountain artillery for a place to the eastward of Tiao Makuan. He is proceeding against a large band of robbers.

London, March 22.—A pessimistic view taken by the foreign office of the immediate future in the Tien Tsin incident, and entertains grave fears that the relations between Japan and Russia may shortly reach the danger point.

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