

BRITISH WARSHIP MAY RECAPTURE THE MALACCA.

A Crisis Will Then be Created and the Outcome May be of the Most Serious Character.

Is the Czar Determined to Embroil Himself With Britain to Escape Humiliation at the Hands of the Japs?

Gen. Kuroki Gives Detailed Account of the Repulse of the Russians at the Fight of Motien Pass.

A London cable says: It is impossible to deny the gravity of the situation created by Russia's high-handed action in the Red Sea. Her amazing audacity in seizing a British liner and attempting to send her back through the Suez Canal as a prize to a Russian Black Sea port has astonished Europe. It is fully expected in London that news will come within a few hours of the recapture of the Malacca by a British warship. Such an incident will necessarily create a serious crisis, and grave fears are entertained on all sides as to the outcome. The chief ground of apprehension is the idea which is becoming widely prevalent, that Russia, taking counsel of desperation, is wittingly determined to embroil herself with other powers in order to escape complete humiliation at the hands of Japan. The belief is gaining ground also that there was considerable truth in a recent article in the Quarterly Review, which described the Czar as a weak, amiable character, who, when driven into a corner, becomes unscrupulous, desperate and insanely reckless, and who is capable of monstrous folly.

These impressions have thoroughly alarmed the bourses as well as diplomatic circles during the past two days, with the result that greater apprehension prevails than at any moment since the war began. The understanding between the powers is fortunately of the friendliest and most intimate description. Not one of them, least of all Russia's ally, France, has the slightest desire to see complications arise. It is therefore probable that if Russia pursues her mad course to incite hostile action by Great Britain or Germany against herself, France will repudiate all obligation to aid her in such an unnecessary war. Russia has yet to find no justly open violation of the treaty of London. A fully-armed Russian cruiser is now passing through the Dardanelles.

What will be Great Britain's action in regard to this has not yet transpired. At a special cabinet meeting was held yesterday, at which the British policy was decided upon, and doubtless full instructions have been sent to the admiral of the Mediterranean fleet. The question of the status of the so-called Russian cruisers which have been stopping mail steamers in the Red Sea is somewhat different. English, and so far as heard from, continental opinion, agrees that vessels flying the Russian commercial flag a few days ago, cannot assume the authority of warships at will. This ruling, if upheld, reduced their action in the Red Sea to absolute piracy. Russia must accept one horn or the other of the dilemma. Either these vessels violated the treaty obligations in passing through the Dardanelles or they are not men-of-war.

A GRAVE PROBLEM.

London Press Are Firmly Outspoken on the Question.

A London cable says: The editorials printed here this morning admit to the fullest degree the grave character of the problem raised by the seizure of the British vessels and the violation of the Treaty of London. They discuss the situation without bluster, but are firmly outspoken. The Standard says the case is not one for fastidious treatment. It adds: "We cannot, even for the sake of peace, sit down under a series of provocative measures. Patience has its breaking-point, and Russian diplomacy has displayed no indisposition to get near to it."

The Daily Telegraph says that the most difficult and most dangerous issues of international law have been raised with every circumstance of ostentatious provocation. The nation must be counselled to repose full confidence in the Marquis of Lansdowne's action. The Morning Post declares that Russia is damaging British subjects in defiance of international law. The British Government has, without delay, to vindicate the flag. Earl Percy's statement in Parliament was needlessly dilatory. Lord Palmerston would not have required half an hour to make up his mind what to do in such a case.

The Chronicle says that the whole subject is very serious and may easily lead to complications. If the Porte has acquiesced in Russian vessels passing the Straits it has given assistance to one of the belligerents in the present war. The Japanese treaty imposes on Great Britain the duty of making an effort to prevent other powers from joining her ally. It is desirable that the British policy be declared in clear though courteous terms.

WHAT RUSSIA AIMS AT.

Will Also Attempt to Bring Out Her Warships.

London cable: According to the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, negotiations in reference to the Dardanelles were carried on between Russia and the Porte, and such pressure was brought to bear on the Sultan that his contingent authorization of the passage of the Russian ships was secured. The only point remaining to be cleared up was whether Great Britain would risk a rupture with Russia in order to compel respect for a treaty which was deemed obsolete, humiliating and harmful.

To obtain assurance on this aspect of the question it was resolved to despatch steamers of the volunteer fleet, and, if no protest were raised, advantage would be taken of the precedent to justify the passage of warships, because in war time there is no essential difference between the two classes of vessels, the volunteer fleet forming part of the Imperial navy. Consequently, if the Dardanelles was open to one class they could not be reasonably closed to another. That argument will be advanced when the time comes for the battleships to start. The correspondent avers that Russia is preparing for the possibility of opposition by Great Britain. He says that preparations are being made in Central Asia, and on the Baltic Coast for a struggle with England. Command of the sea is now so essential to the success of the campaign that apprehension of a conflict with England no longer possesses the deterrent effect it did six months ago. It is a fact worth noting for it is unquestionable, that the action of the volunteer fleet in seizing a commercial ship has the absolute approval of Grand Dukes Alexis and Alexander Mikhelevitch, by whose special orders it was taken, and who overruled the objection that steamers which were officially declared by Turkey to be commercial cannot be authorized to act as warships.

So much depends on the Imperial naval force in the present crisis, that the fear of British protests, which swayed the Government in January, is wholly dismissed at present, and every step which may appear necessary will be taken, entirely without regard to such consequences as may flow from Great Britain's disapproval. Germany's attitude is satisfactory and guaranteed, but no doubt is entertained that Great Britain must recede from certain positions which she has hitherto taken up or suffer the consequences. For this reason the present relations between the two countries may be mildly described as unstable.

The Russian force engaged consisted of two divisions from the Third and Sixth Divisions of Sharpshooters and the Ninth Division of Infantry. The enemy was also repulsed in attacks on the Sinkai and Saokao Passes and on Hsi-Amatang and Chukiapaste.

BEING CLOSELY PRESSED.

Japs Are Gradually Nearing Port Arthur.

Liao Yang cable: A Cossack report of an examination of the Japanese camp shows that the Japanese troops are suffering from dysentery, which is now at its worst stage. The Chinese accuse the Japanese of organizing bandits, and they report that the bandits have attacked natives in the employ of Russians.

A native from the village of Hung-Polo-Yu, forty miles to the eastward, describes the Japanese there as being very orderly and as having the goodwill of the people, though they are not paying them the exorbitant prices for produce which are paid by the Russians. The best information received here indicates that the siege of Port Arthur is now being more closely pressed, and there are most extravagant rumors of losses on both sides.

No foreign correspondent has yet witnessed even the simplest military operation, but yesterday the correspondents were notified that they may go to Tatchekiao.

On account of the Japanese preparations, the military possibilities during the rainy season have become the subject of mathematical interest.

HAD 400 WOUNDED.

Another Fight Twenty-five Miles South of Liao Yang.

Tokio cable: The losses of the Russians in the action in the Motien Pass were heavy. The Japanese buried about 200 dead Russians, found 400 unaccounted for, and took 12 unaccounted prisoners. The prisoners say their losses amounted to over a thousand. The bravest of the enemy were the 9th, 54th and 55th Regiments, which recently arrived from Europe. They lay concealed in the grass and did their shooting.

A report from Shanhaiwan states that the Japanese attacked the Russians 25 miles south of Liao Yang. The fighting continued three hours. The Russians carried away 400 wounded.

The Russians have deserted New-Chwang. The Yinkow authorities are preparing their houses to receive the Japanese.

Pekin reports that Gen. Kouropatkin is still at Tachekiao. His viceralltain is due to St. Petersburg conference.

Fourteen European attaches left Tokyo to-night for the front. They received an enthusiastic send-off.

TO DRAW OFF TOGO.

Object of the Raid of the Russian Squadron.

St. Petersburg cable: It is probably the purpose of Admiral Bezobrazoff, with the Vladivostok fleet, to raid the coast towns of Japan, capture merchantmen, make a naval demonstration off Yokohama, and generally create a panic among the population in order to compel Rear Admiral Kamimura to reinforce Admiral Kamimura and thus weaken the fleet at Port Arthur.

The idea that Admiral Bezobrazoff would seriously attack large ports of Japan is, however, rejected, owing to the danger from submarine boats, mines, and shore batteries.

A report is current that the Vladivostok squadron is homeward bound, under orders to effect a juncture with the first division of Rear Admiral Jolefsky's Baltic squadron, which is ready to go out on a trial trip in the Baltic.

Both the War Office and the Admiralty are without important war news today.

BRITAIN'S PROTEST.

A Very Serious Situation Involved, It Says.

St. Petersburg cable: Sir Charles Hardinge, the British Ambassador to Russia, this afternoon, in behalf of his Government, presented a strong protest to Russia against the seizure in the Red Sea and detention of the Peninsular and Oriental steamer Malacca, which was carrying three hundred tons of British Government stores for the naval establishment at Hong Kong, each case of which was marked with the Broad Arrow, which is the Government stamp.

The Ambassador also presented a general protest against the action of the Russian volunteer fleet steamer in the Red Sea.

MAY BE RELEASED.

The Prompt Action of Britain Causes Satisfaction.

A London cable of late date says: The announcement that Great Britain has protested against the seizure of the Malacca has caused the greatest satisfaction throughout the country. Indeed, it may be said that any less prompt or less decided measure on the part of the Government would have met with an outburst of popular indignation and anger. It is confidently hoped, and in some quarters it is unhesitatingly taken for granted that the demand for the release of the steamer will be complied with without delay. In any case, the idea that the Government would allow Russia to keep possession of the liner and take her under the Russian flag, past Gibraltar and through the Straits of Dover to the Baltic, is unthinkable to the British people. Any such action would be treated as a betrayal of the Government's responsibility, and would inevitably produce such an outburst of wrath as would sweep the Government out of office.

The press is unanimous in declaring that if the release of the steamer is not conceded in response to the protest, stronger measures must be taken. There is considerable restraint in the comments of the most reputable papers, with an expression of a desire not to aggravate the situation. Great Britain of all nations, can the least afford to deny a belligerent's right of search, but the circumstances attending the seizure of the Malacca are regarded as being so irregular and unwarrantable as to

exclude any middle course in dealing with the case.

PRINCE OF WALES TO TAKE UP RACING.

Retired U. S. Colonel Shoots a Lady's Maid and Then Commits Suicide in Paris.

The Tariff Commission on the Iron and Steel Trades Gives Reasons for Decline of Trade.

While Efforts are Being Made to Settle Chicago Strike Price of Meat Goes Up.

London, July 25.—The Daily Express announces that the Prince of Wales, who hitherto has not followed in the footsteps of King Edward, in taking a leading interest in the turf, has definitely decided to take up racing, but that he will breed all his own horses. The paper says that a start has already been made with three bred mares.

A Parisian Tragedy.

Paris, July 25.—Col. George Wilson, a retired American army officer, yesterday fired several shots from a revolver at Mlle. Charlotte Murmann, 21 years old. Col. Wilson subsequently shot himself through the head and expired while being taken to a hospital. It is stated Mlle. Murmann's wounds are slight.

Col. Wilson was 64 years old. He had lived in a private hotel in the Rue des Clez for the last two years, and it was there that he met Mlle. Murmann. The woman, who is a lady's maid, was walking in the Quartier Mont Parnasse with her mistress, when she noticed that she was being followed by Wilson, and he, without giving any warning, drew his revolver and fired.

Tariff Commission.

London, July 25.—The report of Jos. Chamberlain's tariff commission on the iron and steel trades arrives at the conclusion that the decline of the British iron and steel industry is due to the fact that the manufacturers of America and Germany have secured control of the home markets by means of high tariffs and an organized system regulating their exports.

The commission expresses the opinion that the situation can only be remedied by a system of tariffs arranged as follows:

- (A) A general tariff consisting of a low scale of duties for foreign countries, admitting British wares on fair terms.
- (B) A protective tariff, lower than the general tariff, for the colonies, giving absolute preference to British manufacturers and framed to secure freer trade within the British Empire.

St. Petersburg, July 25.—The Russian Government fails to give any reason for the seizure, and only serve to inflame the British feeling. The officials of the company are strong in their denial that the Malacca was carrying contraband of war and claim that the explosives on board were British Government stores consigned to the naval commander at Hong Kong.

In official circles, where the gravity of the situation is already fully realized, apprehension is felt at the increasing excitement in the country. There is no likelihood, however, of any precipitate action. It is officially pointed out that the very latest information must be obtained before the Government decides on its course, especially in view of the fact that it being the greatest naval power in the world, Great Britain cannot afford to create a precedent for international usage, which might hereafter react unfavorably against herself. In the meantime, and until there is direct and explicit evidence of a contravention of neutrality by the Malacca and the assumption by the Russian Government of full responsibility for the action of the Commanders of the Smolensk and St. Petersburg squadrons, it is explained that only ask for explanations from the Russian foreign office, regarding the nature of the charges against the seized vessel. Subsequent action necessarily will depend on Russia's reply thereto.

The talk of policing the Red Sea by British warships meets with no support in official quarters, where, it is pointed out that the commander of a warship would have to satisfy himself that a merchant ship desiring convoy was not contravening the neutrality regulations. If the commander was satisfied in this respect then there would be no necessity for protecting the ship. If he did not receive satisfactory assurances he would have no right to convoy the vessel.

The editorials continue to be heated and it is openly suggested that Russia's action was premeditated.

The Westminster Gazette says: Circumstances can be conceived in which Russia might suppose it was absolutely necessary to yield the issue so as to avoid defeat at the hands of the Yellow fleet.

HONORED LORD CURZON.

He Receives the Freedom of the City of London.

London, July 25.—The freedom of the city of London in a gold casket was presented to Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India, at the Guildhall today, with all the customary ceremonial. Lord Curzon was the subject of a memorable demonstration. In the course of a speech Lord Curzon referred to Tibet. He said the Tibetans' insults could not any longer be borne. He was sent to India for the purpose, among other things, of guarding the British frontier, and he hoped that as a result of the expedition to Tibet that country would cease, and that harmonious relations between India and Tibet would gradually be built up. In the course of his remarks Lord Curzon clearly intimated his intention to return to India.

RUSSIANS ACTIVE.

Japanese Meet With Surprise, Are Shelled Out of Camp.

Tatechikiao cable: The Associated Press correspondent has received dispatches from southern portions of the country, which is now scarcely recognizable. Since the few days' rain the whole land has become lost in luxuriant stagnation. The goal in crop has grown with such extraordinary rapidity that everywhere it is higher than the tallest man, and in the skirmishes the scouts have been able to find cover.

BRITAIN WILL WAIT.

Will Make Enquiries Before Taking Action.

London cable: The further details received from Port Said to-day describing the situation on board the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer Malacca, seized in the Red Sea by the Russian volunteer fleet steamer

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