

IN THE DARK.

Viceroy at Shanghai, Canton and Other Points

Know Nothing of What Has Transpired at Peking.

Doings of Li Hung Chang Regarded With Increasing Suspicion—Ministers May be Held as Hostages—In

Close Touch With the Enemy.

LONDON, July 26, 4 a. m.—Mr. Conger's letter, the substance of which has been transmitted to the United States secretary of the navy through Captain Thomas, of the U. S. cruiser Brooklyn, has increased the belief in London that there is no hope for the foreign legations in Peking and that the elaborate fabric of the despatches which the Chinese are building to persuade the civilized world that the ministers are still alive, is only intended to enable them to gain time to complete preparations for warfare.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail asserts that a Chinaman who was employed at the British legation as a writer and interpreter, has escaped from Peking to Niu Chwang, and that he declared that at the time he left Peking most of the members of the legations were dead and the conditions of the others was hopeless. He says that Sir Robert Hart, director of Chinese imperial maritime customs, died on July 2.

The correspondent goes on to say: "No other dates are given in the message from Niu Chwang. The leading Chinese newspapers here published yesterday a despatch declaring that it was all over with the members of the legations. The president of a minor board at Peking wrote to a relative in Shanghai, under date of July 9, saying: 'The foreign legations are still un-captured but, owing to the daily fighting, it is reported that only about 300 persons are left alive in the legations, and, if there is any delay in the arrival of the relief force, I fear'

NONE WILL BE LEFT to receive it. 'This letter is regarded in Shanghai as authentic. Strange enough, it says nothing of any assistance to the legations by Prince Ching or Gen Lung Lu.' While these brief sidelights as to the fate of the Europeans leave little ground for hope, Shanghai sends a batch of reports indicative of preparations for hostilities on the part of the Chinese. It is alleged that Yang Tse viceroys have sent deputies to Shanghai to inquire as to the prospect of raising a foreign loan, ostensibly to pursue military operations against the Boxers, whose movement is extending rapidly southward with constantly growing strength, and has reached a point where the province of Shan Tung, Ho Nan and Shan Si meet, leaving behind it a trail of burned missions and murdered Christians.

Simultaneously there is a movement northward of Southern Chinese troops to join the main army gathered to oppose the foreign advance on Peking. The strength of this principal force is now estimated at 300,000 men. It is believed that another two or three weeks must elapse before the Chinese preparations are completed. It is reported that 3,000 Chinese troops and more guns are being sent to reinforce the garrison of the Kiang-Yin forts, commanding the entrance to the Yang Tse Kiang, 90 miles east of Nankin.

Chang Chi Tung, viceroy of Wu Chang, on the Yang Tse Kiang, telegraphs that he is apprehensive that he will not be able to restrain his troops for more than another ten days. He says that he has thrown the breach blocks of the guns commanding Hankow into the river. These SIGNS OF UNREST in the southern provinces are co-

incident with Li Hung Chang's presence in Shanghai. They are supposed to be the beginning of a general declaration against the foreigners. In this connection the Canton correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, writing Tuesday, sends the following important news: "Viceroy Tak Su today published the following mandate: 'An important royal decree was issued on the 23rd day of the 6th moon, It says: 'We have lost Tien Tsin and great precautions are taken in Peking. No peace can be obtained without going through a war. In the time of Chang an agreement was made that no murder can be inflicted upon ministers from abroad. It is a month since the minister of Germany was assassinated by Boxers, and strict orders have been given for the arrest of the murderers. We are trying our utmost to preserve the lives of the other ministers and they are still in Peking. We fear that the viceroys and governors may understand the intention of the decree, relying upon the safety of these ministers as a ground for making peace and taking no heed whatever to prepare for attack and defence. The neglect to fortify the districts under their jurisdiction will BRING ENDLESS CALAMITY. Viceroys and governors are to pay attention to and urge on preparations for coast attack and defence, and they are to take the consequences in case of any territory being lost entirely through their carelessness.' 'Europeans here understand thoroughly the last part of the edict, which means that the viceroys and governors are commanded by the emperor dowager to prepare for a Chinese war against the allied powers. Viceroy Tak Su is bitterly anti-foreign, and he is increasing his army and armaments, military and marine. He has lodged an objection through the prefect of Kwang-Chou to four small gunboats, two French, one American and one British, that are here to safeguard the lives of foreigners, and he asks that they be moved beyond the Bogue forts. 'His plans will be unmasked shortly after the allied powers ascertain definitely the facts concerning the massacre at Peking. Chinese gunboats infest the channel at the back of the Shamen, and 18 Chinese gunboats lie awaiting orders below the imperial government wharf. The Cantonese are daily becoming more hostile and the situation is critical. Business is almost at a standstill, and leprosy and plague claim fresh victims daily. 'Native Christians assert that the NOTORIOUS BLACK FLAG CHIEF LAO,

who inflicted reverses on the French in the Tonquin war, now refuses to obey Li Hung Chang's command to go north and fight the Boxers. His soldiers are here and compose the crews of the gunboats in the Shamen. According to the Shanghai correspondent of the Times, Li Hung Chang is residing at the residence of Liu, who was the envoy of the emperor dowager in the secret mission to Japan. He has received the instructions to remain at Shanghai and to endeavor to open negotiations with a view of preventing the European advance. With this accumulation of evidence of an impending big struggle comes also the news of disagreements be-

tween the powers and the foreign commanders, which threaten to hamper united action and to encourage Chinese resistance. A conference of the admirals at Taku, called to settle the question regarding the management of the restored railway, decided in favor of Russian control, only the British and American admirals dissenting. The Tien Tsin correspondent of the Daily Mail insists upon the necessity of a single leader and of a general headquarters, with an intelligence office. He says: 'Much valuable time is wasted by the present system. Little scouting is done and very few guides are employed. The allies have no intelligence regarding the position of numbers of the enemy, the supplies of food and medical stores, as well as the number of surgeons, are insufficient.' The Chinese have burned Lavoang and are preparing to smash the communication between Port Arthur and Niu Chwang. The critical situation has forced the Russians to withdraw a number of troops from Tien Tsin, while 3,000 troops have been sent from Port Arthur. It is reported that an entire army corps is being mobilized in Odessa, by transport to Taku by the volunteer fleet. It is reported from Niu Chwang that the Russians are concentrating forces at a point fifteen miles east of that fort and are awaiting reinforcements before advancing on Mukden. The Boxers have wrecked the bridges of the Shan Hai Kwan section of the railway. The morning papers do not comment upon the reported differences of policy between the United States and Europe, probably preferring, as the Daily Graphic says, to wait for more authentic information on the subject. There appears to be a difficulty, owing to the Russian censorship, to get an accurate idea of the situation in Manchuria. The government despatches block the available wires and little private news comes through. Nevertheless, there are rumors that the situation is more serious than it is officially represented to be and that the Russians have been driven back while trying to save the southern portion of the eastern railway.

DEEPENS THE MYSTERY. WASHINGTON, July 25.—The receipt of Tien Tsin telegrams, allegedly genuine and autographic message from Minister Conger has done nothing to dissipate the doubt as to the situation at Peking. The message, which was forwarded by the naval officers at Tien Tsin, Taku and Chefoo, is indeed supposed to be the darkest and saddest mystery of the century. The official conclusion remains unchanged of course, but it is admitted that a careful scrutiny of the autographic message in comparison with the copy in the hands of the British minister at Peking admits of the belief that the two messages were indited by Mr. Conger at about the same time. The assumption that this reasoning is correct involves the further conclusion that Mr. Conger's cipher message, if genuine, is not a forgery. It is dated July 22, two weeks later than the date of actual writing end of course, if it is dated at all, that was done by Chinese officials. On the other hand, and in support of the state department's position, came today a message from the director of the Russo-Chinese bank in Peking, who took charge after Li Hung Chang's departure. It is noted that Tak's assurance brings the ministers one day further towards ultimate rescue than has any preceding message.

WILL GET A MESSAGE IN FIVE DAYS. LONDON, July 25.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express, telegraphing yesterday, says: 'A general rising throughout China now regarded as certain, will certainly involve the missionaries throughout the empire have been ordered to take refuge without delay, either at Shanghai or Hong Kong. Refugees are beginning to arrive from all points in the most pitiable condition. 'As the result of a constant correspondence with the governor of Shan Tung, Li Hung Chang this evening announced that the imperial government has prepared at any moment to give a safe conveyance to the members of the foreign legations from Peking to given that no advance would be made upon the capital and that all matters in dispute between China and the powers would be made the subject of friendly negotiations. 'In the same communication to the consul at Li said that the imperial government had submitted to the powers a statement of its position, declaring that it had suffered greatly by recent events, but desired not only to suppress rebellion but also to remove the causes of the hostility of foreign powers. Therefore he hoped that the allies would regard the foreigners to Tien Tsin would be regarded as an earnest of the desire of the Chinese government for the renewal of friendly relations. 'The consuls replied that no basis for friendly negotiations was possible until proof was at hand that the ministers were still living. Consul Warren declined to discuss the matter at all, but in his reply to the French consul, Li Hung Chang undertook to obtain a satisfactory message from the French minister (M. Pichon) within five days.'

SALISBURY WANTS PROOF. LONDON, July 25.—The British premier and minister of foreign affairs, Lord Salisbury, today notified the United States ambassador here, Joseph Choate, that it was impossible to accept the evidence so far submitted by the Chinese or that transmitted by the United States regarding the safety of the foreign ministers at Peking as conclusive, and that until their safety was thoroughly established the British government would be unable to

discuss any question of mediation or kindred matters. LONDON, July 27, 4.30 a. m.—All the powers appear to have received the official Chinese appeal for mediation, but in the absence of definite news regarding the fate of the ministers and of any reliable indications of the real origin of the appeal, it seems the Lord Salisbury, the premier, considered it was not even necessary to publish the fact that the appeal had been received or to do anything beyond formally acknowledging it, with perhaps an intimation that nothing could be done until news from Peking had arrived. It could be ascertained beyond doubt that the reports of massacre at Peking were unfounded—and there is a disposition here to believe that the ministers may, after all, be held as hostages—Lord Salisbury's policy would probably incline more toward the publication attributed to Washington than the reverse attributed to Berlin. But while there is no cessation of the deluge of rumors, it is beginning to be believed at Shanghai, Canton and other points that the viceroys are as completely in the dark as to affairs in Peking as the Europeans themselves. Meanwhile the doings of Li Hung Chang are regarded with ever

INCREASING SUSPICION. While the situation in the southern provinces daily grows worse. With the report that the allies will begin the advance upon Peking in a fortnight, and in view of Admiral Seymour's visit of inspection to the Yang Tse Kiang, the feeling is that no great time will elapse before matters assume a more definite shape. The Viceroy of Nankin still professes to be able, with the aid of the other Yang Tse viceroys, to keep order; but he declares that if Europe sends warships it will be a sure lead to an anti-foreign outbreak. If it is true that the Japanese have started a campaign from Shan Hai Kwan, that also will precipitate matters, but the report to this effect lacks confirmation. It is reported from Tien Tsin that the Chinese forces are concentrating at the village of Gatsang, ten miles north of Tien Tsin, where, it is said, large quantities of rice are stored. The Russian and Japanese cavalry are keeping in close touch with the enemy. The river is still low, and water transport would be difficult. With reference to the control of the railway, it is understood that Mr. Kinnear, the British engineer, has arranged with the Chinese general for the protection of the line beyond Pel Torg. Therefore Russian control could only apply to the Tien Tsin-Taku and Pel Torg sections. If this arrangement is disturbed it is believed the destruction of the line is inevitable. There is an unconfirmed Chinese report that 60 Protestant and Catholic missionaries

HAVE BEEN MASSACRED in Ki Yuan Fu and the vicinity. The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail, describing the massacre at Mukden, says: 'The bishop had sent 300 converts to defend the cathedral and a body of Chinese troops had been sent to defend the converts, but the soldiers were leagued with the Boxers. While the Christians were holding a service, believing themselves safe under the protection of the troops, the signal was given and the Boxers surrounded and set fire to the church, putting the escaping worshippers to the sword. The bishop was captured and taken to the viceroys' yamen, where he was diabolically tortured and decapitated. His head now hangs in front of the yamen. There is little fresh news regarding the

SITUATION IN MANCHURIA. The Russians inflicted another serious defeat upon the Chinese at Fort Echo on July 22. From Kobe comes a report that eight battalions of Russians have been compelled to leave Vladivostok and Tien Tsin on account of the Manchuria trouble. Telegrams have arrived at St. Petersburg, by a circuitous route, dated Peking, June 15 and June 18, describing the origin of the trouble. They come from the director of the Russo-Chinese bank in Peking. He says in part: 'The German legation on June 13 arrested an anti-Christian brigand. This was the signal for an anti-Christian uprising, and at six in the evening the anti-Christians set fire to the American church and burned it to the ground. The Europeans then barricaded the legations and the rioters sacked and burned the houses in the European quarters. It further appears from these advices that by June 13 the legations were besieged and the Chinese government had attempted to involve the aid of M. DeGiers (the Russian minister) and Mr. Conger to prevent the advance of Russian troops to Peking. SMUGGLERS CAUGHT WITH ARMS LONDON, July 27.—The Canton correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, in a despatch dated Wednesday, says: 'There are daily arrests of 'Boxers' and smugglers caught loaded with arms and ammunition. Executions continually follow, but the rowdy element remains practically undismayed. In the country districts the people are more threatening and bolder than in the city. Their inflammatory placards are freely posted.'

MINISTERS SAFE JULY SIXTEENTH. TOKIO, Tuesday 24.—A message received here from Shanghai yesterday stated the following assertions: 'Yuan Shi Kai (governor of Shan Tung) has received a letter from Peking, dated July 18, declaring that a legation courier was captured by the Chinese guards on July 16, and that the American consul, T. L. Moffatt, petitioned the throne to employ the courier as a messenger to communicate with the ministers. 'This was carried out, and a reply was received that all the ministers

were well, and were unanimous in favoring the restriction of peace. 'An official of the Tsung Li Yamen afterwards visited the legation and interviewed a minister; and it was subsequently decided to petition the Emperor to supply the legations with food and to send them to Tien Tsin. 'Yung Lu is said to have great difficulty in intervening between the foreign soldiers, guarding the south Goka bridge and the Tongo troops on the north side. Fighting has now ceased, however.'

REPORT FROM ADMIRAL KEMPF. WASHINGTON, July 25.—The navy department has just made public the following additional chapter in Admiral Kempff's report: U. S. Flagship Newark, Taku, China, June 20, 1900. Sir—Referring to my recent actions in declining to take part in the seizure of the Taku forts and in afterward making common cause with the foreign forces in the protection of foreign life and property, I would respectfully state that the Chinese government is now paralyzed, and the secret edicts show that it is in sympathy with the Boxers. The fact that under the existing circumstances the troops at the forts were given much extra drill, torpedoes were provided and all rife rattling of the sabre. This culminated in the bombardment of the forts by other national navies and the presence of the 17th int., which has been described. In the bombardment the Monocacy was used as a target and without receiving previous warning. It is now necessary for common defence and preservation of foreign people and the honor of our country, to refuse to join in taking possession of the imperial Chinese railway station, and to refuse to join in taking possession of the Taku forts, for I thought it against the policy and wishes of our government to be entangled with other foreign powers in such a step, and also to endanger the lives of people in the interior in advance of absolute necessity, for up to early morning of June 17th the Chinese government had not committed so far any act of open hostility toward the foreign armed forces. In opening fire without warning an act of war was committed, when many shots were fired at the place where the Monocacy was moored, about 3,000 yards from the forts. Those firing must have known of her presence there, as she had been moored in that position for a number of days. Under these circumstances I regarded the situation as one for the protection of our national honor and the preservation of our people and have acted accordingly. Very respectfully, LOUIS KEMPF, Rear Admiral U. S. N., second in command U. S. N. force, Asiatic station.

WANT POSITIVE PROOF. LONDON, July 25.—Last Saturday the Chinese minister, Sir Chi Chen Lo Feng Lu, handed the foreign office a long telegram purporting to come from Emperor Kwang Su, soliciting Great Britain's good offices to bring about peace in terms similar to the appeals addressed to President McKinley and President Loubet. Thus far the government has not replied, as it is felt that in the present anomalous circumstances the precise origin of the telegram is doubtful. LONDON, July 27.—The Hong Kong correspondent of the Daily Express wires as follows, under yesterday's date: 'An Italian priest has just arrived from Hen Sien Fu, in southern Fu An, where the Italian bishop and three priests have been massacred, after revolting torture. This took place on July 4. Six hundred converts were massacred after the women had been subjected to hideous brutalities. Six other priests fled to the hills, where they were probably killed. The priest who escaped had a perilous journey to Hong Kong. He hid in a coffin on board a river boat for seventeen days.' BERLIN, July 26.—The German foreign office, which has received no ad-

ditional news from China today, points out that the conditions for mediation demanded by President McKinley, published in Berlin this morning, place the United States in substantially the same position as Germany and France. Nevertheless the German press continues to assert that the Washington government is trying to part company with the powers. The Vorwaerts contrasts President McKinley's answer to the Chinese note with Count Von Buelow's, praising President McKinley's as a masterpiece and saying: 'The American president plays upon China's sympathy without in the least degree committing himself. While he states certain conditions clearly and energetically, he avoids every threat and all rife rattling of the sabre.' Count Von Buelow, before going to Bremer Haven, had an interview with the Russian ambassador and subsequently with the American. On the following day, Tuesday, he conferred with the ambassadors of Austria, Hungary, France, Italy and Great Britain. It is understood that the Chinese situation was discussed.'

AFTER CHAMBERLAIN. Liberals Again Aired Their Old Charges, and Asked that the Colonial Secretary's Salary be Reduced. LONDON, July 25.—Discussion of the colonial office vote led to a spirited debate in the house of commons today, in the course of which liberals again, aired most of the old charges against the colonial secretary, Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, and indulged in criticisms of the war in South Africa. Finally Sir Wilfrid Lawson moved a resolution of Mr. Chamberlain's salary as a mark of censure of his policy. Mr. Chamberlain, in replying, welcomed the issue raised by the motion, which, he declared, meant that the war was wrong and that, consequently, annexation of the South African republics was wrong and their independence should be restored to them. In his opinion, however, the war was just and righteous and should not be judged by its consequence in loss of life. Mr. Chamberlain charged the radicals with condoning rebellion. The policy of the government, however, was not vindictive and instead of subjecting the rebels to the death penalty or imprisonment, it only proposed to disarm them politically for ten years. As regards the future, there would be an indefinite military occupation. At the earliest moment a civil administration would be established. The government desired to give the states at the earliest possible moment a system of self-government similar to that enjoyed by the other British colonies. The opposition did not spare Mr. Chamberlain. Liberal members sharply interrupted him with misquoting the whole history of South Africa the past seven years had furnished substantial ground for him to be suspected in all his actions. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the liberal leader in the house of commons, declared that Mr. Chamberlain had prostituted the occasion to the purpose of making an electioneering speech. A. J. Balfour, government leader in the house, moved closure, which was carried, 169 ayes to 106 noes. The motion on reduction of Mr. Chamberlain's salary was then lost, 288 noes to 53 ayes and the colonial office vote was agreed to. The parliament building in Wellington, New Zealand, is the largest wooden structure in the world.

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