

ASKS US TO MEDIATE.

China Appeals to the United States to Use Its Good Offices.

SHE WANTS TO AVOID WAR.

Telegram Addressed to the President and Signed by the Emperor.

This Government Will Probably Respond Favorably to the Appeal When Its Authenticity Is Established—It Proposes That China Shall Confirm Its Authenticity Through Minister Conger by Having Him Certify in Cipher That the Emperor's Signature Is Genuine, and Thus Establish Beyond Doubt the Authenticity of the Message Transmitted Through Minister Wu.

WASHINGTON, July 22.—The United States Government has received, through Chinese official sources, a telegraphic appeal to use its good offices, or to mediate between China and the Powers, to prevent war and to adjust the present troubles to the satisfaction of all concerned. While the State Department and the Chinese Minister decline to admit anything on the subject it is understood that the appeal is addressed to the President of the United States, and is signed with the name of the Emperor of China. The receipt of the appeal confirms the statement, emanating from Chinese and French sources and printed a few days ago, that China had asked France and the United States to act as mediators. The French Government has already received a communication, signed by Kwang Lu, Emperor of China, to that effect. From the fact that no notice of the receipt of the communication by the French Government has been received by the French Embassy here it is supposed that the appeal was directed separately to each of the two countries. Had a request for concurrent action been made the French Embassy in Washington would almost certainly have been informed.

Although no trustworthy official information is obtainable it appears to be assured, from what is known of the attitude of this Government, that it will respond favorably to the petition when the authenticity of the communication has been established. A less cautious course, based on the assumption that the appeal is genuine, would place the Government in a ridiculous attitude if the communication should prove to be a forgery.

How its authenticity is to be established remains to be seen, but the opportunity is afforded, not only to the good faith of the Chinese authorities in that particular, but to establish practically beyond doubt whether the Conger message is genuine. An effort is now being made to get convincing information from Peking that Mr. Conger wrote the telegram, transmitted by the Tsung-li-Yamen, and the receipt of the appeal will give the State Department the chance to secure additional information as to conditions in the Chinese capital.

The Chinese Government cannot now that the veracity of the Conger dispatch has been so widely questioned, fail to decline any request of the United States to show by a severe test whether the petition signed with the Emperor's name actually emanated from the throne, or rather how much that test may appear to reflect on the honesty of itself. A simple method suggested would be to ask the Chinese authorities to furnish Mr. Conger the original of the message and to have him certify in cipher that the Emperor's signature is genuine, including in his cipher message some piece of information which could not possibly be known to the Chinese officials, such as the date of his marriage or the full name of some of his sisters here to whom date or name would be known. If Mr. Conger is alive and should include some such test word or expression in a despatch, there could be no further suspicion that the Chinese officials possessed his cipher code book or were sending an old message filed before the situation of the foreigners in Peking became desperate.

This method would show that Mr. Conger was alive and that the appeal for peace was genuine. In its adherence to the declaration of principles transmitted by the Secretary of State to the Powers this Government is the nation best fitted and most acceptable to act as a mediator. It maintains that war in the technical sense does not exist between China and the United States, a principle admitted by the other Powers with reference to themselves in their responses to the declaration of the United States. It declines an intention of seeking territorial indemnity, and in so doing places itself in a position of opposition to the partition of China. Besides, it is the only one of the Powers whose naval force at Taku did not participate in the demand for the surrender of the Chinese forts at the mouth of the Pei-Ho and in their bombardment when the demand was refused. In these circumstances, and in view of its courteous treatment of the Chinese Minister here and the declaration of Hlung Chang that the United States were the only nation to be trusted by China, the Chinese Government would naturally turn to this country to help, by the exercise of its friendly offices, out of the present difficulty. For the same reasons this Government would be willing to act as peacemaker.

The selection of France as well as the United States may be explained, if the appeal be accepted as genuine, on the grounds that the inquiry of France in China is less than that of any other greater European Power. Secretary of State was called to the White House this evening and spent some time, the probability in communication with President McKinley at Canton over the telegraph lines and the one-distance telephone.

THE MOVEMENT ON PEKIN.

Our Officials Think the Conger Message Should Hasten It. WASHINGTON, July 22.—Considerable feeling is manifested in official circles over the manner in which European governments regard the despatch pertaining to have been sent by Minister Conger and in answer to Secretary Hay's message of July 11. It is not so much the doubts expressed in European capitals as to the authenticity of the Conger message that

provoked the government as the assumption on the part of those nations that the message does not justify an immediate movement on Peking on the theory that yet remains a chance of saving the situation. Much Chinese is expressed over Europe's apparent indifference to the importance of the message. It is the opinion of this Government that whether the telegram signed "Conger" is genuine or not, there are sufficient reasons to make it probable that it came from the American Minister at Peking, and therefore to suppose that the foreigners are not all dead.

It is impossible to give any accurate information about the movements of the Government from Admiral Remy or any other official source concerning the time when the Peking campaign would begin. The SUN reporter has the authority of a very high official for the statement that Admiral Remy said in one despatch that there would not be enough foreign troops on Chinese soil until Aug. 15 to justify a forward movement from Tien-Tsin. The reporter was told also, but not on high authority, that Admiral Remy had fixed the date for the forward movement as July 30. Yesterday higher officials declined to say whether this was or not, and expressed themselves in such a way as to indicate that such news is in circulation. They refused to deny it, but held that it would not be proper to give information on a proposed strategic movement. To-day they are equally reticent, but it is indicated that Aug. 15 is nearer the date at which the advance will begin than July 20. Whether this is merely the official opinion here or the opinion of the official commanders in China is not disclosed, but there is no reason to doubt the information furnished by the press, which reports that the Admiral mentioned Aug. 15 as the date when, in his opinion, the forward movement would be justified. As to the date July 30, it can only be said that one high official practically indicated that it was correct by showing vexation over the report and expressing the hope that the allies were to start for Peking at that time.

This Government has, it is understood, not received any responses from the United States, France, Germany and Japan that it would like the Peking campaign to be expedited. The feeling in official circles is that there should be no further delay. Fully 30,000—perhaps 40,000—foreign soldiers are at Tien-Tsin and Taku, and as the Chinese troops have been cleared out of Tien-Tsin the 20,000 troops of foreign forces to guard that city is not now necessary. Admiral Remy has been asked for information as to how many allies are now ashore, but his answer will hardly be received before Tuesday, owing to the fact that Chefoo is the nearest cable station to Taku. While the Government does not pretend to be able to judge the military situation as well as the foreign commanders on Chinese soil it cannot be understood that it should be so much delay, and thinks the Conger message is justification for an immediate attempt to rescue the foreigners in Peking. It will not, however, urge foreign governments to direct their military and naval commanders in China to move toward Peking at once, but will endeavor to bring to these Governments and their officials at Tien-Tsin, and Taku, a realization of the good results that may come from an early movement.

THE CONGER MESSAGE.

Some Points That Favor Its Authenticity and Others That Do Not. WASHINGTON, July 22.—There has been a suspicion in the minds of a great many people here that the Government authorities have had some good reason, other than the fact that it was in the cipher code of the State Department, for their belief that the message purporting to come from Minister Conger was genuine. It has been suggested that there may have been some such reason as the fact that the message would show it to have been written only by the American representative in Peking. The SUN reporter was told by a former officer of the State Department that every diplomatic representative of the United States receives verbal instructions as to the combination of symbols to be used in preparing cipher messages, and that these are known to the Ambassador or Minister and his trusted subordinates and, of course, to the State Department. The code is capable of several transpositions, and a cipher expert, not knowing these, could only prepare a message in the simplest form, even with the code book before him. The reporter is satisfied, however, that the message was not prepared by the State Department, but that the Conger message came in simple cipher, although one of the arbitrary arrangements might have been followed without consulting the cipher translation of the Department. Had it been written in one of the transposed forms there would have been good reason for accepting it as genuine.

Each Ambassador and Minister has instructions as to which form to use for official messages, and from the knowledge that the Conger message was translated in accordance with the understanding between the Department and Mr. Conger, it may be accepted as true that his instructions were generally to use the simple method. Other legations, however, are instructed not to use the simple method as any message, and had the legation purporting to come from the Secretary of State at Peking been included among these, a despatch from Mr. Conger in the simple code arrangement would have subjected it to suspicion as to its genuineness. As to the point that the message may have contained some word suggested for use, perhaps by Mr. Hay in his despatch of July 11, it is officially admitted that there was no such word, and that the legation should adhere to their faith in the authenticity of the Conger telegram, although all are willing to admit that they do not know positively that it came from the Minister.

One of the principal reasons for doubting that the despatch is genuine is that none of the other foreign Ministers has communicated with the Government, and had the legation purporting to come from the Secretary of State generally in the Diplomatic Corps. "Money will do anything," said a man of much diplomatic experience to the SUN reporter, "and I am very much inclined to believe that it could have been used successfully if there were any means available for getting a message out of the legation. With the exception of the United States, every foreign Minister in China has at his disposal a code and to be used for emergencies, and even the American Minister would have been justified in piggy-backing the word of his government to pay a large sum of money to a courier who could get into the best cable graph station. Not one of those Ministers would have hesitated, in any opinion, to pay that sum of money. Within three days Consul Hlung Chang has informed Mr. Warren, the British Consul, that he has transmitted to the Tsung-li-Yamen Mr. Warren's request that it arrange immediately direct communication with Sir Claude Macdonald. A report from Chefoo, which, however, lacks confirmation, says that the Chinese are so disheartened by the fall of Tien-Tsin that they are seeking terms of a peace.

Rumors that the Russians are nearing Peking from the north and that the Imperial army are fleeing or have fled westward are again current. Black Flag Forces Not to Go North. Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. HONG KONG, July 22.—The viceroy of the Black Flags to go north has been countermanded. Samples of "Maree" Sectional Bookcases with non-binding covers. New York, Mich., 253 Broadway. Ad.

Poland Water Depot, 3 Park Pl., N. Y. Carbons received daily, orders promptly filled. Ad.

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CAPTURE CHINESE GUNS.

ALLIES, LED BY MAJOR WALLER, TAKE A FORT WEST OF TIEN-TSIN. Report of Killing of Gen. Nieh, Chinese Commander. Confirmed—Chinese Legation in London Insists That Ministers Are Safe and That All Will Be Heard From Soon—Shanghai Fata Some Faith in the Latest Imperial Edict—Fall of Tien-Tsin Said to Have Disheartened the Chinese Forces.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. From a Staff Correspondent. TIEN-TSIN, July 18, 7 P. M., via Chefoo, July 20 and Shanghai, July 22.—The officers commanding the allied forces here are arranging a form of government for the city. Men who are familiar with the Chinese say that most of the troops who defended the native city were soldiers in the employ of the Salt Commission, local militia and mercenaries. Gen. Fukushima, the Japanese commander, says he recognized among the uniforms worn by the defenders those of the Army of West Defence and the Army of Central Defence.

Major Waller, with twenty Fusiliers, and Capt. Gwynne, with ten marines, have captured a fort west of the north city. They also captured four six-inch rifled guns, two 9-pounders, several small guns and a large quantity of ammunition. The report that Gen. Nieh, the Chinese commander, had been killed is confirmed. He met his death on the morning that the allies for the second time captured the west arsenal.

LONDON STILL SUSPICIOUS. No Confirmation of Reported Safety of Ministers—Chinese Legation's Defence. Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. LONDON, July 23.—Such Chinese news as has arrived here during the past twenty-four hours does not afford any proof of the reliability of the Chinese assertions regarding the safety of the foreigners in Peking. These assurances, like Mr. Conger's despatch, continue to be received with various degrees of scepticism. The personality of Mr. Hay, the American Secretary of State, commands so much respect here that his confidence in the Chinese officials is commented upon in a friendly way, but it is not the case on the Continent, where his credibility is treated with more or less contempt.

The communication of the Chinese Minister in London to the Foreign Office announcing the safety of all the members of the legation except Baron von Ketteler was posted in all the principal Post Offices of the United Kingdom on Sunday in the same manner as important South African news arriving on the Sabbath, but so far there has been nothing said or done to indicate that the Foreign Office regards the information as trustworthy. It is understood, however, that scepticism is fostered among the officials by the fact that they found it impossible to send messages to or receive them from the British Minister at Tien-Tsin.

In an interview yesterday the Secretary of the Chinese Legation, speaking in fluent English, declared in the most impressive and apparently the frankest manner his firm belief in the accuracy of the statement of the Viceroy of Nankin. "Can you tell me," he asked, "what earthly purpose could be served by stating that dead men are alive, and what advantageous influence would such a statement have on our position? As a matter of fact, we are much less biased than some other sources. It seems to have been wholly overlooked that there has been no official confirmation of the report of a message, and in the absence of that we are not inclined to believe that the Americans have taken the most common-sense view. I believe sincerely that our Government is doing its best to overcome the present difficulties, as it is in their interest to do. I think we are greatly misjudged in this country."

The Secretary defended Li Hung Chang. He declared that a story published in England about his perfidy and treachery were absolutely baseless. His present mission, the Secretary added, was purely one of peace. He could not say how people of intelligence could take any other view. In conclusion he said: "There is too much of this groundless suspicion. The Ministers, I repeat, are quite safe. When the wires are repaired there will be free communication between the Chinese and their governments. Mr. Conger's was the first. Others will speedily follow. A message may be received from Sir Claude Macdonald (the British Minister) at any hour."

The Shanghai correspondents continue to send assurances that the Chinese officials are loyal to the Allies. The Shanghai representative of the Daily News says that the Chinese are strongly of the opinion that the true date of Mr. Conger's message is July 10 or earlier, and that they discredit the statement that the legation was standing and the Ministers safe. The rapidity with which Mr. Conger's message is alleged to have travelled from Peking is derided by the correspondents, who quote Seward's assertion that the message was copied a week. They do not take into account the dispersal of the cables at Tien-Tsin and the consequent clearing out of at least part of the route southward.

The Times Shanghai correspondent, dating his despatch July 21, refers to the Imperial edict declaring that the Ministers were safe. "The important fact," he says, "is that the despatch is forthcoming, where hitherto we have had only the statements of messengers, is undeniable. Its authenticity is credited in well-informed quarters. It is alleged that an edict was received to-day calling for the protection of Christians. If it is genuine, it confirms the view that the Empress is anxious to conciliate the Powers."

Another despatch from the same source, dated July 22, says that a responsible native official admitted that since the receipt of the Mikado's reply to the message from the Chinese there negotiations have been undertaken by order of the Empress through Viceroy Liu Kun-yi with more than one Power and the viceroy will communicate regularly with Peking. Within three days Consul Hlung Chang has informed Mr. Warren, the British Consul, that he has transmitted to the Tsung-li-Yamen Mr. Warren's request that it arrange immediately direct communication with Sir Claude Macdonald.

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LI HUNG CHANG HALTS AT SHANGHAI.

Trying to Get More Definite News From Peking Before Proceeding North. Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. SHANGHAI, July 22.—Li Hung Chang landed here yesterday. He got a cool reception. The native officials sent an armed bodyguard of 300 men to meet him. The French Consul objected to the guard passing the French settlement and they were accordingly withdrawn. The Viceroy passed the settlement escorted by twelve French police. These handed over the charge to the police of the cosmopolitan settlement, who took him to his residence. The bodyguard and munitions which Li Hung Chang brought from Canton remained on board the steamer Anping. They will not be admitted to the settlement.

Earl Li has received an urgent summons from the Grand Council to go north, but he has decided to await further information from the cosmopolitan settlement, who took him to his residence. The bodyguard and munitions which Li Hung Chang brought from Canton remained on board the steamer Anping. They will not be admitted to the settlement.

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RUSSIAN CALL TO ARMS.

STATE OF WAR DECLARED IN MILITARY DISTRICT OF SIBERIA. Turkestan and Semiretchenak Also Included—Reservists Summoned to the Colors—Report That Chinese Did Capture Biagovostchenak and Were Expelled After Hard Fight.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. ST. PETERSBURG, July 22.—An imperial ukase, dated to-day, orders the Minister of War to proclaim a state of war in the military districts of Siberia, Turkestan and Semiretchenak, and to summon all the reservists in those districts to join the colors.

LONDON, July 23.—A despatch to the Daily Mail from St. Petersburg says that despite the official denial it is certain that the town of Biagovostchenak, capital of the Amur district, Siberia, was captured and held by the Chinese, until July 20, when Col. Gribyak drove the enemy out after eight hours' fighting. He captured eight guns and 200 prisoners, but sustained fearful losses himself. 700 Russians have been killed in storming the town.

Reported Engagement With Chinese Who Are Trying to Get Into the Country. Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. YOKOHAMA, July 21.—A despatch from Seoul, Corea, says that the Government is becoming uneasy. Disaffected Chinese in large numbers are crossing the Yalu River, and the Government has ordered troops there to prevent their entry into the country. An engagement has already occurred.

It is stated that some of the foreign envoys advise the Government to appeal to Japan for aid, but the Russian Minister objects to this being done.

RUSH TO ENLIST. Mechanics Out of Work in Chicago Eager to Get in the Army and Navy. CHICAGO, July 22.—The United States recruiting office, representing both the military and naval branches of the Government, are being besieged with applications from day to day. The statement was made yesterday by the officer in charge of the military branch of the recruiting office that Chicago probably would lead the larger cities of the country in the number of men who have presented themselves for service in China during the present month.

It is expected that the force stationed at Fort Sherman will be recruited to its full strength by the close of the present week, and, as a matter of fact, the navy and is simply beset with applicants. The United States officers are anxious to get the best of the labor troubles in Chicago. Mechanics of all sorts are presenting themselves for service, and never in the history of the recruiting branch of either the army or navy have the officers had opportunity to select from so choice a batch of applicants.

Col. Alexander, in charge of the army warehouse, is still busy engaged in arranging for the shipment of supplies to the front. He is in addition receiving by him from the leading packing firms of Chicago, night and day, orders for the shipment of the goods demanded upon them during the present crisis.

CHINANAN STABS A TORMENTOR. An Incident Not Wholly Unrelated to the Upheaval in the City of the Great East. PATRICKSON, N. J., July 22.—Six Steps a Chinaman, 16 years old, was riding this evening on a Hamburg car, when he was standing near the rear platform, a young man, who was standing near the front, treated him with a box and the Chinaman retaliated sharply that the "Boxer" was "like a tiger." Hughes spoke disrespectfully and drew a knife and took it into the Chinaman's chest. The Chinaman, who was a native of the East, and several passengers chased and captured the assailant and took him to the police station. The Chinaman was taken to the hospital and is recovering from his wounds. The police are looking for the assailant and have offered a reward of \$100 for his capture.

LUCIUS E. CHITTENDEN DEAD. He Was Register of the Treasury During President Lincoln's First Term. BURLINGTON, Vt., July 22.—The Hon. Lucius E. Chittenden, ex-Register of the Treasury of the United States, lawyer and author, died at his summer home in this city, after an illness of several weeks, at the age of 80 years. Mr. Chittenden was born in Burlington, Vt., in 1817. He was a member of the Vermont State Senate and the Vermont State Bar. He was also a member of the Vermont State Bar. He was also a member of the Vermont State Bar.

THE LOST INCOME TAX PLEAK. Bryan to Supply the Difference When He Accepts the Nomination. INDIANAPOLIS, July 22.—The omission of the income tax resolution from the Kansas City platform, which has led to a statement from N. E. Moros of this city, who is the Indiana member of the Platform Committee, is to be cured by Mr. Bryan himself when he responds to the notification of his nomination in this city on Aug. 8, and it is said that he will make it plain that he favors such a tax. Letters are said to have passed between him and Chairman Martin of the Democratic State Central Committee on the subject of the omission and he was urged by the chairman to refer to the subject and give his views when he responds to the notification of his nomination.

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FIGHTING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Two Hundred Rebels Killed and 120 Captured in the Recent Engagements. Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN. MANILA, July 22.—Señor Pedro Paterno, formerly a member of Aguinaldo's Cabinet, announced that, beginning next Sunday, there will be a grand fiesta lasting two days in celebration of the anniversary extended to the Philippines. There will be games and banquets. Ten thousand dollars have been subscribed for the purpose. Gen. MacArthur approves of the plan. He says that a month has elapsed since the amnesty proclamation was issued and in the time few of the rebels have availed themselves of its provisions, but nevertheless the moral effect of the proclamation has been very great. He believes that the Filipinos are beginning better to appreciate the American policy and understand the new opportunities that will be opened to them.

Engaging during the past week has been active. Two hundred insurgents who were entrenched near Tual held the position for an hour against an attack by the Twenty-eighth Infantry, Col. Birkhimer, who cleverly outflanked them and killed seventy without sustaining any casualties themselves.

Reports received here show the greatest military activity throughout the island. Two hundred rebels have been killed and 120 captured, including eleven officers, since the last report. One hundred rifles have been captured. The commander at Romblon has released seventy-two men and eight officers who took the oath of allegiance to the United States.

Capt. Roberts of the Thirty-fifth Infantry, who was captured by the Filipinos some months ago, has arrived in Manila, having been released on parole.

ROCKEFELLER AUTOMOBILE BUCKS. Gets Beyond the Control of the Millionaire in a Trip to Greenwhich, Conn. GREENWICH, Conn., July 22.—For several months William Rockefeller has been journeying to and from his Tarrytown home in his automobile and making trips occasionally to his farm in Greenwhich and visiting his son, William Rockefeller, Jr., who resides near his deer park. He has been accompanied by one of his employees on all occasions and to no harm has resulted from the present week, and, as a matter of fact, the automobile has become a source of amusement to the people of the town. It was the first long trip in which the millionaire had attempted to "spindle his own car." He handled the lever remarkably well and nothing occurred to mar the pleasure of the trip until the farm here was reached.

In attempting to come to a standstill it is thought that he reversed the machine for it shot backward fifty feet and into a stone wall. The women were frightened and refrained from jumping and so escaped injury. Mr. Rockefeller was unhurt and after a visit at the farm returned to Tarrytown. Yesterday a truck came here from Tarrytown and took the automobile back. It is estimated that \$200 damage was done.

FIREBUG LOOSE IN PATERSON. Seven Buildings Set Afire Within a Short Time Last Night. PATRICKSON, N. J., July 22.—A firebug turned this town upside down to-night. He started seven fires in rapid succession, causing great confusion in the Fire Department. The apparatus went out and they seemed to be driving in every direction while the streets were filled with excited people. The first fire was in the cellar of Henry Heuser's saloon. The firemen were still working there when another fire was started in a cellar at Rip Van Winkle avenue and North Tenth street, which is only three blocks away. Within half an hour a third fire started in the cellar of Rip Van Winkle avenue and North Tenth street. The firemen were still working there when another fire was started in a cellar at Rip Van Winkle avenue and North Tenth street, which is only three blocks away. Within half an hour a third fire started in the cellar of Rip Van Winkle avenue and North Tenth street. 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