

THE PEKIN PETITION

China's Appeal to America to Act as a Mediator.

FORWARDED TO PRESIDENT

Will Be Verified Before Any Action Is Taken.

ANOTHER TEST MESSAGE SENT

The Imperial Authorities to Be Required, as an Evidence of Good Faith, to Give Further Assurance of Mr. Conger's Safety Before the Request for Mediation Will Be Considered—Suggested That the American Minister Be Conducted to Taku and Placed on Board One of Admiral Remey's Vessels—Preparations in Progress for the Allies' Advance, Which Will Begin on July 30—The American Naval Commander Goes to Tientsin to Estimate the Strength of International Forces and Chinese Troops.

The appeal from China to the United States Government to act as mediator in the present crisis in the Celestial Empire was the main topic of interest in Department circles today, and it is regarded as certain that the message will be considered favorably if the Chinese officials evince a disposition to act fairly and will at once give some certain assurance as to the safety of Minister Conger, either by conveying him to Taku and placing him on board one of Admiral Remey's vessels or by procuring an indisputable despatch from him, showing him to be alive. These are the terms upon which the United States will consent to become, in conjunction with France, the peacemaker of China.

The State Department has not yet officially acknowledged the receipt of the message, but it is known that such a document, signed by the Emperor of China, was presented at the State Department by Minister Wu, and has been forwarded to the President at Canton, Ohio, and that a copy is now in the office of Secretary Hay. The latter absolutely declined to discuss the matter this morning, and stated that he was not yet prepared to say anything about it. No answer will be given until Mr. McKinley has first gone over the appeal carefully, and has consulted the Cabinet on the propositions contained therein.

It was stated by an official of the State Department today that the appeal is an exact copy of that sent to France, and that it maintains that war does not exist between the United States and China, and further holds that the partition of the Empire should not be the price of indemnity. A state of war with any of the powers is disclaimed, and the entire trouble is placed with rebellious troops and fanatical Boxers.

Deep sorrow is expressed over the deaths of Baron von Ketteler and the Japanese Chancellor, and in the event of peace overtures being made, a solemn promise is given that the perpetrators of the crimes will be routed out and made to suffer as a lesson to the anti-foreign element.

Geniuineness of the Appeal. The first step of this Government will be to establish the genuineness of the communication. Measures in that direction are, it is believed, already on foot. The Government will endeavor to turn its efforts to that end to the accomplishment of a double purpose—not only the verification of the appeal but confirmation of its belief that Minister Conger is alive or was alive on July 18.

The plan which the State Department has devised for this purpose has been entrusted to Minister Wu for fulfillment, although it is doubtful if Mr. Wu knows just what is in the message this Government desires to have him transmit to China, as the use of cipher has naturally again been resorted to.

Secretary Hay will leave Washington today for Cleveland where he has been summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs. Hay's mother, Mrs. Julia Stone, widow of the late Amasa Stone, and he will, of course, take advantage of the opportunity to go to Canton to see the President.

Replies received by the State Department from the United States Ambassadors in Europe concerning the manner in which those Governments regard the alleged Conger despatch are very inconclusive so far as they relate to the request of the Ambassadors, under instructions from the Department, for suggestions as to means for expediting the allied movement on Pekin.

It was learned this morning from the very best authority that not one of the European nations regards the despatch signed "Conger" as genuine, and that so far no desire has been shown by them to comply with the hope of the United States that the forward movement will not be longer delayed. Consul General Goodnow, at Shanghai, whose general judgment is regarded by the Government as excellent,

C. E. Interesting Gathering. At Mountain Lake Park, Md., from July 23 to 29, prominent speakers have been secured, and interesting programs arranged. No endeavor can be made to miss this gathering. Rate via B. & O. R. R. \$2.00 for the round trip.

Plastering Laths, \$3.00; Best Laths at lowest prices at Friendly Corner, 5th and N. Y. 174.

RETREAT FROM TIENTSIN

Chinese Reported to Be Moving Toward the Capital.

Celestials Defeated in an Action With Japanese and Cossacks, and Many Prisoners Taken—Two Foreigners With the British at Wei-Hai-Wei—Fanatics Reported After a Stubborn Fight—Boxers Occupy Charlier—Russians Guards Concentration at Charlier—The Enemy Withdraw From Points in the Amur District—Waller's Victory.

LONDON, July 22.—According to advices from Chefoo, the Chinese Army, which has been roundly whipped by the allies at Tientsin, is now in retreat toward Pekin. The slaughter among the native troops from the fire of the international forces has been terrific and the Celestials are said to be thirsting for vengeance. Thousands of Chinese have been killed in trying to hold the various forts of Tientsin.

It is believed in Chefoo that, if any foreigners are found alive in Pekin, when the Chinese and Boxer troops arrive there, they will surely be tortured to death. The destruction of Tientsin and the killing of so many Chinese in capturing the city has thoroughly aroused the Chinese troops and they are now like a mob. The Government cannot hope to prevent mob rule in Pekin when the demoralized and wounded troops arrive there.

It is the general belief here that it is now too late to help any foreigner in Pekin, for if any were alive at the time of the attack on Tientsin they will surely be massacred by a Chinese mob of civilians and soldiers before or when the retreating troops reach the capital.

The Chinese Reported. A despatch from St. Petersburg says that the "Organ of Trade and Manufacture" reports that a Russian force guarding the Manchuria Railway is concentrating at Ljamljan and the Chinese are withdrawing to Sindhau. On the approach of General Orloff, the Chinese withdrew from the Amur district at Brusseea and Kimarskaja.

Chinese who have been reconnoitering near Tientsin have been defeated by the Japanese and Cossacks. Many prisoners were taken. Eight Japanese were killed and one Cossack was wounded. There have been two encounters between the British and Chinese at Wei-hai-wei. The British asked assistance from the fort and the Chinese were repulsed after a stubborn fight. The British captured 200 rifles.

M. Krutski, the engineer of the Eastern Chinese Railway, telegraphs from Algaichi under date of July 20 reporting the occupation of Charlier by the Chinese. The Russian guards are concentrating at Charlier.

THE BRITISH STEEL TRADE

Steps to Be Taken to Fight Foreign Competitors. LONDON, July 22.—An attempt to strengthen the British steel trade is to be made by a company now organizing with \$1,500,000 capital.

JOSEPH MULLEN EXECUTED.

The Quickest and Most Successful Execution on Record. SING SING, July 22.—Joseph Mullen, the wife murderer, was executed today in the shortest time on record. He was dead in one minute after the current was turned on. One minute later all formalities had been completed with, and he was officially pronounced dead.

CATTLE STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

Thunderstorms Cause Heavy Losses on Virginia Farms. LEESBURG, Va., July 22.—During Thursday night's storm five head of cattle, including a valuable grade Polled Angus bull, belonging to T. F. Mason and George W. Myers, Jr., were killed by lightning on the Chestnut Hill farm, near Point of Rocks.

During Saturday night's storm the lightning struck a large Switzer barn belonging to Hugh R. Holmes, near Hamilton, and it was entirely consumed, together with its contents, including about forty tons of hay. The loss will be heavy, but is partly covered by insurance.

During the same storm the lightning struck a small barn belonging to George W. Smith, near Lovettsville, and it was also destroyed. An 18-wheeled carriage and a rick of straw nearby took fire and were burned. Two horses, a pair of colts, and two calves were in the stable and were burned. The storm lasted for an hour or more and the lightning was incessant.

81 to Harper's Ferry and Return. By special train from B. & O. Station, 8:26 a. m., July 29, account N. Y. C. A. reunion. Returning at 5:30 p. m. An interesting programme has been arranged.

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Sound, road, No. 2 Flooring, only \$2 per 100 sq. ft.; No. 2 Car. 110c. Frank Libby & Co.

WARSHIPS FOR GERMANY.

Revival of the Aspiration for an Increased Navy.

BRISLON, July 22.—The "Cologne Gazette," in an inspired article, today says the German Government will shortly again approach the Reichstag with the extensive demands for an increase of the fleet, and will insist on the immediate construction of warships for foreign service, provision for which was struck out of the previous naval bill.

It is pointed out that the present display of naval force in the Far East opens a prospect of diplomatic activity such as may not be witnessed for centuries to come. The article concludes as follows: "Germany will surely participate with all the power at her command when the time comes for a re-division of China into so-called spheres of interest."

SAFETY OF THE MINISTERS.

An Alleged Official Despatch From Pekin Received at Brussels. BRUSSELS, July 22.—The Cabinet received this morning a special official cablegram from Pekin announcing the safety of the foreign ministers.

LEFT LONDON IN DISGUISE.

Members of the Chinese Legation Said to Have Fled. LONDON, July 22.—Considerable comment has been caused here today by a report that several members of the Chinese Legation have left London in disguise.

CHINESE REPORTS DOUBTED.

Mr. Roberts, of Shanghai, Believes the Diplomats Dead. CHICAGO, July 22.—"Knowing the Chinese as I do, I have little doubt that all the foreigners in Pekin were murdered long ago," said John P. Roberts, of Shanghai, an American civil engineer, who has spent thirty-eight years in China.

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ARRIVAL OF THE CROOK.

Transport Brings Officers and Men of the Eighth Infantry. NEW YORK, July 22.—The United States transport Crook arrived this morning from Havana with the officers and 642 enlisted men of the Eighth United States Infantry, Lieut. Col. P. P. Mills commanding, including six companies, band, and hospital corps.

TROOPS TO PROTECT CHINESE.

Wyoming Militia to Go to Rock Springs Coal Camp. CHEYENNE, Wyo., July 22.—The State authorities have ordered several companies of militia to be ready to proceed to Rock Springs Coal Camp, 200 miles west of Cheyenne, where 500 Chinamen are in danger.

PREPARED FOR MOB ATTACKS.

A Chicago Incident Shows That the Chinese Are Alert. CHICAGO, July 22.—The extent to which Chinese here have prepared against mob attacks was shown last night, when the police made an arrest in the Chinese quarter. More than 100 Chinamen responded almost instantly to a distress call.

MAJOR WALLER'S VICTORY.

Further details of the splendid dash made by a body of American and English troops, led by Major Waller against a large force of Chinese which was holding a fort west of the north city of Tientsin, were received here today, in a despatch from Chefoo.

SHOT BY A HOLD-UP THIEF.

CHICAGO, July 22.—John A. Bazzanti, proprietor of the El Dorado saloon, was shot by a hold-up thief in his saloon at 1 o'clock this morning. Bazzanti had refused to hand over his money on the demand of the robber, and the shooting was done during a rough and tumble fight.

TICKETS FROM PHILADELPHIA TO NEW YORK.

On sale at Pennsylvania Railroad ticket office in Washington. In order to accommodate persons holding thousand mile tickets and other forms of transportation valid to Philadelphia, who may desire to check baggage through, and receive money orders from Philadelphia to New York, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, beginning July 23, will place on sale in Washington, New York to Philadelphia or reverse a with tickets from Philadelphia to New York or west thereof on Pennsylvania Railroad.

MISSING GIRL IN MAN'S ATTIRE.

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind., July 22.—Miss Bertie Brown, a sixteen-year-old girl of this city, who disappeared several weeks ago, has returned home. Before leaving she displayed a great deal of money and seemed to be spending it very freely. It was thought by some that she had been murdered and robbed until Saturday, when she returned to the home of her adopted parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Brown, in male attire and smoking a pipe. She said she had been to Louisville, Ky.

DISASTER ENDS A PICNIC.

Vehicle Filled With People Struck by a Railroad Train. PORT WASHINGTON, Pa., July 22.—A southbound express on the North Penna. Railroad struck an omnibus containing seven picnickers from Germantown at Camp Hill station last evening, smashed the vehicle, slightly injured George Murphy and Bernard McGowan, of the party, and killed the three horses. One of the animals was cut up and strewn along the track for nearly a mile.

DR. O. B. FINNEY DEAD.

The Oldest of Virginia Duellists Passes Away. RICHMOND, Va., July 22.—Dr. Oswell B. Finney, who was perhaps the oldest of Virginia duellists, died today at Onancock, Va.

ENGLISH RAILWAY STRIKE THREATENED.

LONDON, July 22.—It is said that a general strike on the Great Eastern Railway is imminent. The strike will involve 8,000 employees.

810 TO CHANTANQUA, N. Y., VIA PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

Tickets on sale for 7:45 a. m. train from Washington July 27, good for return, when properly validated, within thirty days. Last low rate schedule in this popular route.

Lowered Rates Now on Lumber and Softwood, and Clear Doors only \$1.25, at 6th and N. Y. ave.

EVIDENCE OF DUPLICITY

The Alleged Conger Message Contradicted by Prince Tuan.

Leader of the Revolt in Pekin Wires That the Foreigners Were Safe on July 18, and That No Attack Was Being Made on the Legations—The American Minister's Despatch Stated That He Was Under a Cannon Fire of Shot and Shell From Chinese Troops on That Date. General Relief Now that the Supposed Reply Was an Old Appeal.

The following bulletin was posted at the State Department this morning: "The State Department today received a despatch from Mr. Goodnow, the Consul General at Shanghai, dated today, saying that Prince Tuan wires that an officer of the Tsung-li Yamen saw all the ministers on the 18th, that none were injured, and that no attack was at that time being made."

"He does not say to whom the despatch of Prince Tuan was addressed; and it is to a certain extent at variance with the despatch of Mr. Conger of that date, describing the legations as being under fire at that time."

Those who have held that the alleged Conger despatch was an old message held up by the Chinese authorities, and forwarded in response to the query of Secretary Hay, are now certain that they were right.

"There remain but two arguments," said a State Department official, in speaking of the message received today. "Either the Conger despatch was an old one which had been dated by the Tsung-li Yamen, or Prince Tuan is a prince of fabricators. The alleged Conger message distinctly states, under date of July 18, that the British Legation building was 'under continual shot and shell,' and that 'only immediate aid could prevent massacre.' Thereupon Prince Tuan blandly wires that the ministers in Pekin were all safe on July 18, and that no attack was at that time being made. There is something fishy about the whole transaction which makes one positive that the Conger despatch was an old one."

Prince Tuan is the leader of the anti-foreign party in China and is supposed to be the commander of the revolting troops and Boxers who have been attacking the legations. His only apparent object in sending such a message, taking it for granted that he is the leader of the revolt, would be to deceive the powers as to the situation in Pekin and thus induce them to delay the advance of their troops on the capital. The fact that Mr. Goodnow states without qualification that the despatch came from Prince Tuan is the only thing that induces the officials here to give it any consideration whatever. Mr. Goodnow's good judgment in the present troubles having been demonstrated on several occasions.

INDIAN SHECHS HIS SQUAW.

Murder on Horseback in the Streets of Kamloops, B. C. KAMLOOPS, B. C., July 22.—Shortly after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon two Indian women were seen riding up Fourth Avenue at a full gallop, closely pursued by an Indian on horseback spurring his horse on at a terrific speed. The Indian was armed with a Winchester rifle.

When near the northeast corner of the exhibition grounds he reloaded the woman, raised his rifle, took deliberate aim at one of them and fired. The bullet entered the woman's head near the mouth and she instantly dropped from her horse to the street. The murderer stopped long enough to fire another shot into the woman's body and made off toward the reserve, which is just across the river.

An alarm was at once given and within a few minutes several Indians were in pursuit. Within half an hour they returned with the murderer, who proved to be George St. Paul. The victim of his deadly work was his young wife. Jealousy was the cause of the crime. St. Paul was lodged in jail.

RUNAWAY MARINE RETURNED.

Left the Barracks Because He Had Been Ordered to China. BALTIMORE, July 22.—Frederick Daniels, twenty-three years old, has been returned by Captain Cadwallader, of the Western district, to the marine barracks at Washington, D. C., from which he admits having deserted on Friday night. He said he was procured to desert because his company had been ordered to China, and he did not wish to go to that country.

Daniels told the police that after leaving the barracks he took a trolley car and rode outside of Washington, where he boarded a passenger train. Before reaching Baltimore Daniels fell off a bumper on which he had been riding. He was bruised about the face and body and upon being assigned to the city by a farmer went to the Maryland University Hospital, where his injuries were dressed. The physicians told the police of his presence in the hospital. Daniels says he is from White Mill, Pa., and has been in the Marine Corps since last March.

HURT WHILE FIGHTING FIRE AT THE BOSTON YARD.

BOSTON, Mass., July 22.—Lieut. J. P. Y. Gridley, of the United States Marine Corps, son of the late Captain Gridley, who commanded the Olympian, and opened fire at the battle of Manila, Bay, is at the Marine Hospital, Chelsea, suffering from quite severe injuries received at the fire at the Charlestown Navy Yard last Thursday night.

With a detail of men he entered the burning shed to see what he could save, and he preserved until driven back by the smoke and heat. In getting out he fell over a steam boiler and was struck in the abdomen. Then he was struck in the head by a falling beam. A line of hose which was being moved, and received another blow.

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THE LATEST CHINESE EDICT.

Foreigners to Be Protected and Perpetrators of Outrages Punished.

Wa Ting-fang, the Chinese Minister, called at the State Department this morning and handed to Secretary Hay a copy of the imperial edict, the substance of which was cabled to the department yesterday by Consul Fowler, at Chefoo. The edict was issued on the first day of the sixth moon (July 17), transmitted by the Viceroy Liu Kun-yih on July 20, and received by Minister Wu on July 21. The text follows: "The present conflict between China and the foreign powers had its origin in the long standing antagonism between the people and Christian missions. The subsequent fall of the Taku forts precipitated the meeting of force with force. The Imperial Government, having due regard to the importance of international intercourse, still refused to go so far as to interrupt the existing relations."

"We have already repeatedly issued decrees providing for the protection of the foreign legations and also commanded the provincial authorities to protect missionaries. Inasmuch as there is still no cessation in the employment of force, foreign merchants and subjects residing in China who form a numerous body in the country, should be protected without distinction."

"We hereby command all the Tartar Generals and Governors General and Governors of Provinces to look after the foreign merchants and missionaries living in the open ports, prefectures, departments, and districts under their respective jurisdiction, and to afford them due protection in accordance with treaty stipulations without fail. Last month we heard, with profound astonishment and regret, of the killing of the Chancellor of the Japanese Legation, Mr. Akira, and the same fate befell the German Minister shortly afterward. The violent removal of the German Minister, whose residence at the capital was necessary to the transaction of business between the two countries affected us very deeply."

"It is the duty of the authorities concerned to cause stringent orders for the speedy arrest and punishment of the murderers to be carried out. Since the commencement of the attack on Tientsin there are foreign subjects and missionaries who, on account of local disturbances, suffer death or loss of property through no fault of their own. We hereby command the Governor of Pekin and the Viceroy of Chi-li to cause investigations to be made by their respective subordinates of all such claims except those arising directly from the said attack, with a view to their ultimate settlement."

"Moreover local outbreaks and rebellious subjects have of late given themselves up to burning, killing and plundering to the great disgust of our loyal subjects. This is an utter defiance of law. We hereby command the said Governors-General, Governors and subordinates of our forces to investigate the situation and to take such measures for the punishment of the offenders and restoration of order as the necessities of the case demand. We hereby command this, our general edict, to be made known for the information of all it may concern. Respect this."

Mr. Wu declined to make any comment on the edict saying merely that it spoke for itself.

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There are large numbers of foreigners in Rock Springs and several Chinamen have been roughly handled during the past few days. Orders have been issued for the troops to go to Rock Springs today, when martial law will be proclaimed and every protection possible given to Chinamen.

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MENACED BY THE BOERS

Large Army of Burglers Approaching Honing Spruit.

Communication With Pretoria Again Cut Off—Federalists Capture British Train and One Hundred Highlanders—Railway and Telegraph Service Both Interrupted—General Broadwood Reports a Sharp Engagement at Palmfontein—He Appeals for Supplies to Pursue the Enemy—Steyn and De Wet Believed to Be With the Commando.

LONDON, July 22.—The Boers are becoming more and more active both in the Free State and the territory surrounding Pretoria.

General Kelly-Kenny reports from Bloemfontein, the former capital of the Orange Free State, that a supply train, with one hundred Highlanders on board, has been captured by a large force of Boers who are moving on Honing Spruit.