

REBELS ARE QUIET.

The Situation at Apia has Greatly Improved.

LARGE MATAAFAN LOSSES

In the Bombardment and Assault on the Vallima Stronghold—A Majority of the Inhabitants are Highly Dissatisfied With the Cessation of Hostilities—Rebels are Delighted With the Delay.

AUCKLAND, May 4.—Advice received here from Apia, Samoa, on April 27, state that the rebel loss by the shelling of the Mataafan stronghold at Vallima by the warships of Great Britain and the United States, was quite heavy. Many of the rebels were wounded. The house in which the late Robert Louis Stevenson lived was riddled with shot.

On April 23 there was a sharp skirmish between rebels and Lieutenant R. A. Gaunt's brigade near the town of Vallima. In this engagement one Mataafan was killed. The lines of the friendlies were attacked in the darkness at two points, but none of them were killed.

On April 23 there was some bush fighting. Lieutenant Gaunt's brigade numbering 800 men, advanced under a hot fire. The enemy lost several men, the bodies of the dead being dragged away. Of the friendlies one was killed and three wounded. The British lieutenants Innes, Hickman, Shulter and Hathcote, under Lieutenant Gaunt, led the loyalists.

The New Zealand government steamer Tutenaka has arrived here with dispatches announcing that the request of the international commissioners that the inhabitants peacefully await the arrival of the commissioners who are now on their way to the islands from San Francisco, has been without result.

Admiral Kautz, U. S. N., and Captain Stuart, of the British cruiser Tauranga, wrote and dispatched through a French priest to Mataafa, ordering him to withdraw his forces outside of a line ten miles long and six miles broad. Mataafa replied defiantly, refusing to withdraw unless the German consul and the captain of the German cruiser Falke agreed.

Admiral Kautz and Captain Stuart thereupon sent an ultimatum to Mataafa threatening to compel the withdrawal of his forces. In support of this ultimatum a plan of action was decided upon. Lieutenant Gaunt's brigade was strengthened, and a heavy gun was landed at Mulluu, and war-rockets were gotten in readiness. Being informed of these preparations, Mataafa made prompt reply, agreeing to withdraw immediately. On April 25, an important meeting of the king and his chiefs was held. They were informed of the action that had been taken by the British and American naval commanders, and gave their general approval.

Lieutenant Gaunt's brigade is now patrolling the prescribed area. King Tanu visited Admiral Kautz and Captain Stuart on board the American and British ships, respectively, and was received with the customary salutes on his arrival and departure.

Hufregal, the manager of the plantation upon which an attack was made on British and American sailors, resulting in the death of Lieutenant Fremont, of the British navy; Lieutenant Lansdale and Ensign John R. Monaghan, of the United States cruiser Philadelphia, and two others, is still detained on board the German cruiser Falke. The gun carriage from the Philadelphia, which was lost at the time of the engagement has been recovered, but the gun it still in the hands of the rebels.

Officials and leading residents of Samoa who have been interviewed, all unite in saying that the charges of inhumanity on the part of the British which were made by a man named Iaroch are untrue.

A majority of the inhabitants are highly dissatisfied with the cessation of hostilities. They say that Mataafa is beaten now and that the trouble would all be ended in a week or ten days were the advantage pushed. The rebels are delighted at the delay, which will give them time to refill cartridge shells and build more forts. It is the general opinion that the islands will be uninhabitable except for Germans and Frenchmen unless Mataafa and the rebel chiefs are severely punished.

It is doubtful if British or American subjects will give much evidence before the international commission, owing to fear that to express themselves candidly would interfere with trade relations. For this reason the evidence before the commission is likely to be one-sided.

The statement by the German minister for foreign affairs, Baron von Buelow, that Mataafa was unanimously elected king of the Samoan Islands, is denied in Samoa.

The rebels admit that the result of the battle at Vallima was the greatest reverse they have ever experienced. They were astonished by the manner in which Gaunt's brigade sustained its position in the face of a continuous fire. They were also astonished at the final shelling of Vallima, by which many of the rebels were badly wounded.

Self-Congratulatory. BERLIN, May 4.—The National Zeitung publishes to-day a dispatch from Apia, Samoa, dated April 22, which says:

"The orders from London and Washington to suspend hostilities have brought back tranquillity and peace. In compliance with the demand of the German consul, Mataafa has gone back a long distance westward into the interior, so that there will be no danger of any collision with his troops. We Germans are naturally satisfied that our patience and impartiality have finally triumphed."

An Official Statement. WASHINGTON, May 4.—An official statement is made at the German embassy that strict instructions were given to the German consul at Apia, Samoa, to join with his colleagues, American and British, in a proclamation for the suspension of hostilities until the arrival of the Samoan commission. Under these circumstances, the officials are at a loss to account for the press reports coming via Auckland that the Germans refuse to join in the proclamation, and are inclined to attribute it to anti-German influences. The proclamation was addressed to the natives, and as the American, British

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and German representatives were to issue the proclamation, all parties in interest, natives and foreign, should be reached by the proclamation. The reports from Auckland that the natives are meaning the outskirts of Apia are not understood, as the instructions given to the German consul are such that it is a point of honor with him to see that the natives refrain from aggressive movements pending the arrival of the commissioners.

At the British embassy no advice has been received concerning the reported refusal of the Germans to join in the proclamation. Mr. Tower, the British chargé, saw Secretary May today, and this was understood to have been among the matters discussed. The interest which London is beginning to take in the Samoan question is indicated by the arrival here of Mr. John George Leigh, of the London Times, who stopped here to meet officials before proceeding to Samoa. It is said he will be the first representative of the British press there.

It is Plain Enough. WASHINGTON, May 4.—The following cablegram has just been received at the navy department from Admiral Kautz:

"Auckland, May 4, via Apia, April 27. Secretary Navy, Washington: All quiet at Apia. Mataafa and his chief... agreed to keep outside lines prescribed by British senior officers present... peace until commission... there will not be more fighting."

"KAUTZ." The cablegram was mutilated in transmission over the cables, and in the process of solving the cipher. Its meaning is plain to the navy officials as confirming the press reports that a truce has been agreed upon in Samoa, and there will be no more hostilities pending the reaching of a conclusion by the commissioners now on the way to the islands, and due there in about two weeks.

EXTRA SESSION

Of Congress—Growing Belief That it Will be Called.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—There is a growing belief among prominent members of congress that the President will call Congress to meet in extraordinary session this fall, probably early in October. The questions which will come before the next Congress for settlement, including as they do everything growing out of our possessions acquired as a result of the war with Spain and the general legislation, including that relating to currency reform, the Nicaragua canal, merchant marine, etc., are of such great importance that the President is inclined to regard it as advisable that Congress should meet earlier than the regular session in December in order to get the work under way.

The retirement of Speaker Reed will naturally entail considerable delay in the appointment of committees in the house, as it is customary to allow a new speaker weeks to make up his committees and this furnishes an additional reason why Congress should be convened before December. To several senators and members of Congress who are going abroad this summer the President has particularly inquired as to the length of their stay and has hinted that it was advisable that they should be back in the fall, as the necessity for an extra session might arise.

With others it is said he has discussed the subject and moreover it was upon the President's direct suggestion that the caucus committee appointed by the house Republicans to formulate a currency reform measure met when it did. There had been talk of postponing the meeting until fall, but the President suggested that it would be well to formulate a plan as early as possible, and this statement was made to the members when they met at Atlantic City, as having come direct from the President together with the further statement that the President might call Congress in extraordinary session in the fall for the purpose among other things of passing a currency reform measure.

Representative Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, and Representative Curtis, of Kansas, both of whom are members of the caucus committee, saw the President to-day. When the former left the white house he said he had no direct information upon the subject of an extra session, but that he had all along regarded an extra session was more than probable. At the white house no confirmation can be obtained of the statement that the President, at present contemplates calling Congress together in the fall.

It is said that to visitors he may have made some observations regarding the possibility of such a course and that these may have been given too much weight by his ears.

The members of the Republican caucus committee who have returned from Atlantic City, are scattering for their homes. General Henderson, the chairman, will remain here to confer with Senator Aldrich, chairman of the senate finance committee, on his return from Europe shortly, and will arrange with him after going over the details of the currency reform plan recommended by his committee for a joint meeting of the two committees later. This joint session will probably not be held until fall.

Dewey Gives a Lesson. VANCOUVER, B. C., May 4.—Recent Hong Kong advices say Admiral Dewey gave a French cruiser a lesson in naval courtesy recently. When the cruiser Jean Bart arrived at Manila she gave a rear admiral's salute. Admiral Dewey ordered the salute to be returned exactly as given. He then sent an officer to the Jean Bart to call attention to his admiral's pennant, which they had apparently not noticed.

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THE CHINESE QUESTION

A German View of the Situation in that Empire.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—In view of the renewed attention to Chinese affairs, due to the Anglo-Russian entente, a report just issued by the German government and received at the embassy here, concerning the development of the German possessions in China is of special interest. According to the report the naval administration of Kiao Chou was due chiefly to economical considerations. It being held that aside from the importance of the place as a naval station its future would be found in its development as a commercial colony and as a strong base of the German trade in East Asia for the opening of a vast hinterland. From this leading thought were deduced, as to the administration, the following principles: To make the government as independent as possible from the home government, to encourage in every possible way self-government and to impose upon all official organs the greatest reserve in measures regarding trade and industry to facilitate these by granting exemption from customs duties and going away with all unnecessary restrictions.

The German territory leased from China comprises 50 square kilometers with 60,000 to 80,000 Chinese inhabitants. The report adds that of the greatest importance, but at the same time of the greatest difficulty, were the conditions of the Chinese landed property. Before the German lease there existed in Kiao Chau as well as everywhere in China theoretically, federal right of the emperor to the whole soil; practically, however, the ownership of the holder of cultivated land was recognized if he paid a ground rent. There were no registers of landed property, but only tax lists. In order to bring about a just solution of the land questions a proclamation was issued on the very day of the Germans taking possession of Kiao Chou forbidding the sales of landed property which were replaced through voluntary contracts with the Chinese to the effect that the inhabitants of the various villages received the double amount of the annual Chinese ground tax as a kind of premium in consideration of which they bought themselves to sell their land to nobody but the German government. In case the land should be bought by the government, the local price before the German lease was to be paid. In the meanwhile the owners continue to hold and till their ground. It was extremely difficult task to conclude these agreements, but the German government has now secured the option to the greater part of the territory necessary for the erection of streets, squares, quays, public buildings and fortifications.

On September 2, 1898, Kiao Chou was declared a free port and opened to the trade of all nations. The free port district includes the whole German territory. A Chinese customs office was established in the German territory near the landing place of the ships. At the head of it is a German in the service of the Chinese maritime customs administration. The establishment of this custom office is of particular advantage to the trade, as it saves time and expense of another examination of imported goods on the crossing of the hinterland frontier. The customs and duties are regulated according to the tariff for the Chinese treaty ports. Particular attention will be paid to the minerals of the province and it is expected that coal will become the most important export article from Kiao Chou. All inhabitants of the territory without difference of nationality are equal before the law with the exception of the Chinese who are dealt with in civil law cases according to the local Chinese law, while in criminal cases they are subject chiefly to the German code, the punishments of the Chinese criminal code being considered too severe.

There are three different German missionary societies working in the Kiao Chou district while the American presbyterian mission maintains a few stations in the Shantung province. The representatives of the German missions look also after the spiritual welfare of the Germans living there besides teaching the German language to Chinese. The results in this latter direction are said to be very satisfactory. A port for the merchant vessels and men of war, a dock yard for the execution of ship repairs as well as a modern town with a distinct business part, are being rapidly constructed.

That Big Steel Combine. CLEVELAND, O., May 4.—An executive officer of one of the big steel consolidations makes this statement to the Iron Trade Review: There is no truth in the story of a consolidation of the Carnegie Steel Company, National Steel Company, American Steel Hoop Company and American Tin Plate Company. No deal has been made for a consolidation of any of the companies named and while it is true that there has been some talk of a consolidation of several of the steel companies, nothing definite has come of it. No announcement of plans, either official or unofficial can be made. It is unlikely in any event, that the Carnegie Steel Company will be actually consolidated with any other steel company. However, close trade relations between the Carnegie Steel Company and the National Steel Company, American Tin Plate Company and American Steel Hoop Company may result from negotiations underway within the past week.

It would not be surprising says the Review, if some deal were made concerning the Carnegie Steel Company, in the above connection is made within the week.

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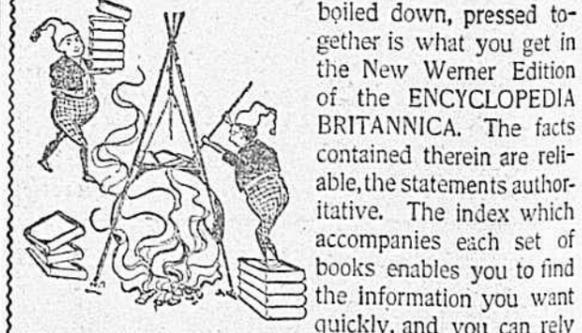
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