

ENGLAND'S IRON HAND IS SHOWN

Situation in the Orient Becomes Exceedingly Grave.

Backed by the Power of Great Britain China Shows a Disposition to Resist Germany.

BRITISH FLEET READY TO ACT

LONDON, Dec. 31.—A dispatch from Hongkong to the Times says there is the greatest activity in the naval yards there, while profound secrecy is maintained.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—According to a special dispatch from Shanghai, a sudden stiffening has taken place in the attitude of the Tsung Li Yamen toward Germany.

A special dispatch from Paris says that M. Roume, head of the Asiatic department of the French Colonial office, starts on a secret mission to China Sunday in connection with the crisis in the Far East.

The St. Petersburg Herald announces that some Russian vessels have left Port Arthur and gone into the harbor of Tallen-wan, with China's consent.

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—The German first-class cruiser Kals-in-Augusta arrived yesterday at Kiaochow Bay.

The Norddeutsche Allgemeine announced in big type last night that Emperor William arrived unexpectedly from Potsdam and had conferred with Prince Hohenlohe, the Chancellor, the inference being that the meeting was of special importance.

Whatever talkative persons may write or say about Germany, new naval departments, this much is certain—that when the muse of history turns the pages headed 1897 she will pensively linger over the place where, in shining characters 'tis written of, the landing of the Germans on the sand of the Yellow Sea.

PARIS, Dec. 31.—The official newspapers still insist that the reports of French occupation of Hainan Island by Admiral de la Bedolliere are absolutely unfounded.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND AGREE TO COMPROMISE ON KOREAN FINANCES.

This Will at Least Remove One of the Causes Leading Up to the Present Difficult Situation.

PEKING, Dec. 31.—Advices just received from Seoul, the capital of Korea, say a compromise has been effected by an agreement according to which J. McLeavy Brown, the British customs agent, and M. Alexieff, the Russian agent, to make room for whom Mr.

Brown was removed, will work the Korean customs together. The British warships which were present at Chemulpo and Seoul are there in order to give moral support to Mr. Brown.

Although desirous of obtaining a British loan, the Chinese Government refuses to agree to foreign control of the internal revenue, either immediate or in case of default.

Further German missionary trouble is reported from the Shantung province. It will probably delay and complicate the negotiations.

SEEKING TO CONTROL THE TRADE OF CHINA TO EUROPE'S ADVANTAGE.

That Is Perhaps the Whole Purpose of the Present Warlike Demonstration in the Far East.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—A Washington special to the Herald says: "Civilized nations have equal rights in opening the trade of China to the world, and those powers that attempt to accomplish it by war and conquest will do no more than to strengthen the Chinese wall."

NEWS OF THE DAY.

- Weather forecast for San Francisco: Fair on Saturday, January 1, 1898; northwesterly, changing to easterly, winds. Maximum temperature for the past 24 hours: San Francisco.....62 degrees, Portland.....50 degrees, Los Angeles.....70 degrees, San Diego.....70 degrees.

may be achieved by peaceful methods. American business men will leave nothing undone to advance their interests in the empire.

Mr. Covert transmits a statement from the report of the French commission which recently returned from China, where it made a two years' investigation of trade conditions of the empire, and the report is important as showing just what nations of Europe are contending for the Chinese market.

"The last commission," Mr. Covert states, "found that the Germans had become formidable rivals of the English in China; that they and the Russians had established cotton factories, tanneries and feather-cleaning shops, and that the Russians had established tea factories and were growing coffee. The commission states that the country is rich in copper, iron, lead, silver-bearing ores, tin, zinc, native silver and immense deposits of coal.

"It has a population of 1,500,000 inhabitants, is the central market of about 70,000,000 people, the seat of a number of industries conducted by Europeans, and will soon be united to Peking by a railroad now in course of construction by the Belgians.

JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS TAKE AN UGLY TONE UPON AGGRESSION.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—A high

OAKLAND'S CREW MAY BE SAFE

Started in Lifeboats From the Wrecked Vessel.

Shipping Men of the Opinion That All Hands Were Rescued.

Evidence That They Took Their Time in Preparing for the Departure.

PILOT HOLDS OUT HOPE.

Believes the Missing Men Were Picked Up by the Schooner Laura May.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

PORTLAND, Dec. 31.—Maritime men express themselves as feeling no uneasiness as to the safety of the crew of the bark Oakland. When this vessel was picked up three miles off Cape Flattery on Wednesday afternoon she was entirely deserted and full of water, with heavy seas running.

A. Whitney was the master of the Oakland and her second mate was McPherson, formerly on the British ship Selkirkshire. One of her sailors was named Gasman. These are all the names obtainable. The old crew quit when the Oakland arrived here and Captain Whitney shipped a new crew under "coast articles" which he had on board and which he is not required to file with customs authorities.

"I knew she could not live through another trip," said Dan Godfrey, the colored pugilist, now in this city, who shipped as cook on the Oakland on her trip up. "She was in a terrible

1897— BLEW OUT THE OLD, BLEW IN THE NEW —1898

Noise! More noise! Still more noise! All kinds of noise. Tinhorn noise. Noise of bells. Noise of rattles. Any old kind of noise, just so it was noise. San Francisco noise. Noise!

stamping ground of the sound-producers, and from away up toward the City Hall down to Montgomery street, sweeping out Kearny over the hill to the Latin quarter, there was a roar which came from the conglomeration of sound heard nowhere else in the world than in San Francisco.

Humanity has divers and various ways of showing its enjoyment. Sometimes men get drunk and think they are happy. Sometimes they make a noise. Last night was the night for noise. The intoxication came from the volume of sound and not from the alcoholic stimulation.

Early the crowd was only noisy; later it became boisterous. There grew a desire to do more than make a noise. The inevitable horseplay followed, and then it was time for the ladies to go home. Man is a peculiar animal. There are times when he seems to forget all that is due to others, and even to forget



PASSING THE CLAU SPRECKELS BUILDING AT MIDNIGHT.