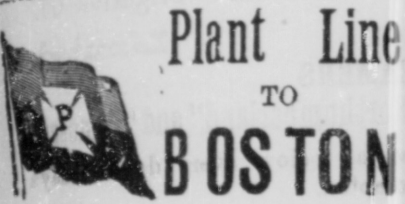


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South Africa and the East.

TWO CHINESE EDICTS.

The Shanghai correspondent of the London Express gives the text of a long edict of Prince Tuan, dated June 29, and addressed to the Chinese ambassadors, which the 'Express' declares is identical with the message from the Emperor Kwang Su, mentioned by the Shanghai correspondent of the 'Daily Mail,' and with the Chinese edict published in Washington. The 'Express' considers that the edict proves that Prince Tuan's party is making no attempt to disguise the fact that the worst that could be anticipated has happened.

The edict contains the following paragraph: "The anger of our people knew no bounds. They could not be restrained. The task of guarding the legations, which before was difficult, was made impossible."

Elsewhere, referring to the desire to protect the legations still unharmed, it says: "If it is impossible for us to continue this protection, let it be represented to the powers that we must be held blameless, for the anger of our people grows with the rising of each sun that sees more and yet more foreigners and soldiers coming to overrun and lay waste our country and slay our people."

The correspondent says the edict is intended to pave the way for a final lifting of the veil over the recent history of Pekin.

THE SECOND EDICT.

An imperial decree dated the third day of the sixth moon (June 29), was received by telegraph by Minister Wu from the taotai of Shanghai, transmitted on July 1 from the treasurer of the Chihli province, who received it by special courier on June 30 from the Board of War who in turn received it from the privy council in Pekin. The decree is as follows:

STORY OF THE TROUBLE.

"The circumstances which led to the commencement of fighting between Chinese and foreigners were of such a complex, confusing and unfortunate character as to be entirely unexpected. Our diplomatic representatives abroad, owing to their distance from the scene of action, have had no means of knowing the true state of things, and accordingly cannot lay the views of the government before the ministers for foreign affairs of the respective powers to which they are accredited. Now we take this opportunity of going fully into the matter for the information of our representatives aforesaid.

THE BOXER UPRISING.

"In the first place, there arose in the provinces of Chihli and Shantung a kind of rebellious subjects, who had been in the habit of practising boxing and fencing in their respective villages, and at the same time clothing their doings with spiritualistic and strange rites. The local authorities failed to take due notice of them at the time. Accordingly the infection spread with astonishing rapidity. Within the space of a month it seemed to make its appearance everywhere, and finally even reached the capital itself. Every one looked upon the movement as supernatural and strange, and many joined in it.

WAR ON CHRISTIANS.

"Then there were lawless and treacherous persons who sounded the cry of 'Down with Christianity.' About the middle of the fifth moon these persons began to create disturbances without warning. Churches were burned and converts were killed. The whole city was in a ferment. A situation was created which could not be brought under control. At first the foreign powers requested that foreign troops be allowed to enter the capital for the protection of the legations.

PROTECTION OF FOREIGNERS.

"The Imperial government, having in view the comparative urgency of the occasion, granted the request as an

extraordinary mark of courtesy beyond the requirements of international intercourse. Over five hundred foreign troops were sent to Pekin.

"This shows clearly how much care China exercises in the maintenance of friendly relations with other countries. The legations at the capital never had much to do with the people, but from the time foreign troops entered the city the guards did not devote themselves exclusively to the protection of their respective legations. They sometimes fired their guns on top of the city walls and sometimes patrolled the streets everywhere. There were repeated reports of persons being hit by stray bullets. Moreover, they strolled along the city without restraint and even attempted to enter the Tung Hua Gate (the eastern gate of the palace grounds). They only desisted when admittance was positively forbidden. On this account both the soldiers and the people were provoked to resentment and voiced their indignation with one accord.

INTERVENTION OF THE POWERS.

"Lawless persons then took advantage of the situation to do mischief and became bolder than ever in burning and killing Christian converts. The powers thereupon attempted to reinforce the foreign troops in Pekin but the reinforcements encountered resistance and defeat at the hands of the insurgents on the way and have not yet been able to proceed. The insurgents of the two provinces of Chihli and Shan tung had by this time effected a complete union and could not be separated. The Imperial Government was by no means reluctant to issue orders for the entire suppression of this insurgent element. But as the trouble was so near at hand there was a great fear that due protection might not be assured to the legations if the anarchists should be driven to extremities, thus bringing on a national calamity. There also was a fear that uprisings might occur in the provinces of Chihli and Shantung at the same time with the result that both foreign missionaries and Chinese converts in the provinces might fall victims to popular fury. It was therefore absolutely necessary to consider the matter from every point of view. As a measure of precaution it was finally decided to request the foreign ministers to retire temporarily to Tien Tsin for safety.

THE MURDER OF VON KETTLER.

"It was while the discussion of this proposition was in progress that the German minister, Baron Von Kettler, was assassinated by a riotous mob one morning while on his way to the Tsungli Yamen. On the previous day the German minister had written a letter appointing a time for calling at the Tsungli Yamen. But the Yamen, fearing he might be molested on the way, did not consent to the appointment as suggested by the minister. Since this occurrence the anarchists assumed a more bold and threatening attitude, and consequently it was not deemed wise to carry out the project of sending the diplomatic corps to Tien Tsin under an escort. However, orders were issued to the troops detailed for the protection of the legations, to keep stricter watch and take greater precautions against any emergency.

FALL OF THE TAKU FORTS.

"To our surprise, on the twentieth day of the fifth moon (June 16) foreign (naval) officers at Taku called upon Lo Jung Kwang, the general commanding, and demanded his surrender of the forts, notifying him that failing to receive compliance they would at two o'clock the next day take steps to seize the forts by force. Lo Jung Kwang being bound by the duties of his office to hold the forts, how could he yield to the demand? On the day named they actually fired upon the forts, which responded and kept up a fighting all day, and then surrendered.

CHINA'S POSITION.

"Thus the conflict of forces began, but certainly the initiative did not come from our side. Even supposing that China were not conscious of her true condition, how could she take such a step as to engage in war with all the powers simultaneously, and how could she, relying upon the support of an anarchistic populace, go into war with the powers? Our position in this matter ought to be clearly understood by all the powers. The above is a statement of the wrongs we have suffered, and how China was driven to the unfortunate position from which she could not escape.

"Our several ministers will make known accurately and in detail the contents of this decree and the policy of China to the ministers of foreign affairs in their respective countries, and assure them that military authorities are still strictly enjoined to afford protection to the legations as hitherto

to the utmost of their power. As for the anarchists, they will be severely dealt with as circumstances permit. "The several ministers will continue in the discharge of the duties of their offices as hitherto without hesitation or doubt. This telegraphic decree to be transmitted for their information. Respect this."

The Foreign Office has received a despatch from Taku, stating that the admirals have decided that eighty thousand troops will be necessary for an advance on Pekin. Of this number twenty thousand will be required to garrison Taku and Tientsin and maintain the line of communications.

The American hospital ship Maine has sailed from Southampton for China.

The Berlin Cologne Gazette says: Germany will send to China with the marine brigade, eight infantry battalions of 800 men each, four batteries of artillery and a strong force of engineers and pioneers, thus forming a complete army division.

Senor Silvela, the Spanish Premier, says that no Spanish war vessel will go to China, Spain having no interests to defend in the extreme Orient.

THE LAST REVERSE.

A Pretoria despatch states that details are now at hand regarding the disaster to the Lincolnshire Regiment on Wednesday. It appears that five companies were ordered on Tuesday to proceed and hold the pass through Magalesburg, in the neighborhood of Daspoort Fort. They arrived in the afternoon at the pass, where three companies, with two guns, took up a position and camped for the night, leaving two companies on a plain south of the pass. The eastern hill was rugged, rocky and inaccessible, but further east apparently approachable from the main ridge. At daybreak yesterday the Boers appeared on the eastern kopje and opened a heavy fire. Confusion ensued. The colonel ordered the men to take up a position on a kopje west of the gap. From this point a

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hot fire was kept up during the entire day. Two guns under the escort of the Scots Greys, placed in advance of the main body, were captured after a stout resistance. Nearly every man was killed or wounded. A Maxim gun was brought into action early in the day. The fire was too hot, and the men were forced to retire. A sergeant, aided by seven volunteers, saved the gun. There was a continuous fire all along the line, the Lincolnshire Regiment men vigorously replying. About three o'clock in the afternoon the Boers appeared to the left of the position occupied by the British. An officer and fifteen men attempted to charge them, and fourteen men were killed or wounded as the result. Three companies were practically surrounded, but they kept up a steady fire unwaveringly, until towards nightfall, when their ammunition gave out.

The latest arrivals from the scene states that at the time of his escape the men were taking a good position under cover and with fixed bayonets were awaiting the approach of the Boers. It is understood upon good authority that the Boers have employed armed natives. Two of the natives leaped from cover when a small party from the Lincolnshire regiment stepped up and demanded their surrender. A soldier stepped forward and shot both of the natives dead. One officer, who succeeded in making his escape, had an encounter with an armed native. It is feared that the losses of the British were numerous. About thirty of the British soldiers straggled back to camp. According to all accounts a great force is being assembled to prevent further progress of the Boers.

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P. GIFFKINS, Gen. Manager, Kentville N. S., May 26th, 1900.

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