

CHINESE PREPARING FOR A GREAT WAR

Hurrying Troops to Resist Foreigners—Mystery of Pekin—Charges of Chinese Duplicity.

London, July 26. A. M.—Conger's telegram, the substance of which has been transmitted to the United States secretary of the navy through Capt. Brooks, has increased the belief in London that there is no hope for the foreign legations in Pekin, and that the elaborate fabric of the dispatches which the Chinese are building to persuade the world that the Chinese are still alive is only intended to enable them to gain time to complete preparations for warfare.

FOREIGNERS ALL DEAD.
The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail asserts that a Chinaman who was employed at the British legation and who had been in the city at the time of the attack on the legations, has been seen by the members of the legations and the condition of the others was hopeless. He says that Sir Robert Hart, director of Chinese maritime customs, died on July 22.

The correspondent goes on to say: "No other dates are given in the message from Niu Chwang."

The Chinese newspaper here published yesterday a dispatch declaring that it was all over with the members of the legations.

"The president of a minor board at Pekin wrote to the relative in Shanghai on the 24th of July, saying: 'The foreign legations are still unharmed, but owing to the daily fighting it is rumored that only the British, American and German legations are still in the city. There is no delay in the arrival of the relief force. I fear that none will be left to receive it.'

This letter is regarded in Shanghai as authoritative. It is said that it was nothing of any assistance to the legations by Prince Ching or Gen. Lung Li."

GREAT WAR AHEAD.
While these brief side lights as to the fate of the Europeans leave little ground for hope, Shanghai sends a batch of reports indicative of preparations for hostilities on the part of the Chinese. It is alleged that the Yangtze river is being scoured by the Chinese to find out the position of the foreign legations. The Chinese are also reported to be making a large force of men to move against the legations. The Chinese are also reported to be making a large force of men to move against the legations.

Simultaneously there is a movement northward of southern Chinese troops to join the main army gathered to oppose the foreign advance on Pekin. The strength of this principal force is now estimated at 30,000 men. It is believed that about three weeks must elapse before the Chinese preparations are completed. It is rumored that 30,000 Chinese troops and more are being sent to reinforce the garrison of the Yangtze river. The Chinese are also reported to be making a large force of men to move against the legations.

SIGNS ARE BAD.
Chan Chi Tung, viceroy of Wu Chang, on the Yangtze-Kiang, telegraphs that he is apprehensive that he will not be able to restrain his troops for more than another ten days. He says that he has thrown the brackles of the gun commanding Sankow into the river.

These signs of unrest in the southern provinces are coincident with Li Hung Chang's presence at Shanghai. They are supposed to be the beginning of a general declaration against foreigners. In this connection, the Canton correspondent of the Telegraph, writing Tuesday, sends the following important news:

MEANS WAR.
Viceroy Tak Su today published the following mandate: "An important imperial decree was issued on the 23rd of the sixth month, it says. We have lost Tsin Tsin and great preparations are taken in Pekin. No peace can be obtained without going through a war. In the time of Chung an agreement was made that no murder can be inflicted on ministers from abroad. It is a month since the minister of Germany was assassinated by Boxers and strict orders have been given for the arrest of these ministers. We are trying our utmost to preserve the lives of the other ministers and to prevent any attack on them. We fear that the viceroy and governors may misunderstand the intention of the decree, relying on the fact that these ministers are a ground for making peace and taking to heed whatever is said by the viceroy and governors. The neglect to fortify the districts under their jurisdiction will bring on us calamity. Viceroy and governors are to pay attention to and to be on guard against any attack and defense and they are to take the consequences in case of any territory being lost entirely through their delay and mismanagement."

SITUATION CRITICAL NOW.
"Europeans here understand thoroughly the last part of the edict, which is commanded by the emperor. They are commanded by the emperor to defend the allied powers. Viceroy Tak Su is bitterly anti-foreign and he is increasing his army and armaments, military and naval. He has made an objection through the prefect of Kwan Chou to four steam gunboats, two French, one American and one British, who are here to safeguard the lives of foreigners, and he asks that they be moved toward the Bogue forts."

"His plans will have remained short-lived after the allied powers ascertain details at Pekin."

Chinese gunboats enter the channel at the back of the Shumen and others below the imperial government. The Cantonese are daily becoming more hostile and the situation is critical. Business is almost at a standstill and looting and plague claim fresh victims daily.

"Native Christians assert that the Chinese Black Flag, Chief Lan, who is the leader of the Chinese in the Yangtze river, has ordered to obey Li Hung Chang's command to go back and fight the Boxers. His soldiers are being sent to the crews of the gunboats in the Shumen."

LI HUNG CHANG SCHEMING.
According to the Shanghai correspondent of the Times, Li Hung Chang is residing at the residence of Liu, who is the secretary of the emperor. He has received secret instructions to refuse negotiations with the viceroy of the European advance."

With his accumulation of evidence of impending big struggle comes also the news of disagreements between the powers and the foreign commanders, which threaten to hamper united action and to encourage Chinese resistance.

A conference of the admirals of the navy, called to settle the question regarding the management of the restored railway, decided in favor of the Russian control, only the British and American admirals dissenting.

ALLIES NOT AGREED.
The Tien Tsin correspondent of the Daily Mail insists upon the necessity of a single leader and of a general headquarters, with an intelligence office. He says: "Much valuable time is wasted by the present system. Little scouting is done and very few guides are employed. The allies have no intelligence regarding the position or numbers of the enemy. The supplies of food and medical stores, as well as the number of surgeons, are insufficient."

The morning papers do not comment upon the reported differences of policy between the United States and Europe, probably preferring, as the Daily Graphic says, to wait for more authentic information on the subject.

There appears to be a difficulty, owing to the Russian desire to get an accurate idea of the situation in Manchuria. The government dispatches block the available wires, and little private news comes through. Nevertheless, there are rumors that the situation is more serious than it is officially represented to be, and that the Russians have been driven back while trying to save the southern portion of the eastern railway.

RUSIANS WITHDRAW.
The Chinese have burned Lavoigne to prevent Russian concentration there and to prevent Russian communication between Port Arthur and Niu Chwang. The critical situation has forced the Russians to withdraw a number of troops from Tien Tsin, while the remainder have been sent to Port Arthur. It is reported that an entire army corps is being mobilized at Odessa for transport to Taku by the volunteer fleet.

It is reported from Niu Chwang that the Russians are concentrating forces at a point fifteen miles east of that fort, and raising reinforcements before advancing on Moukden, Manchuria. The Boxers have wrecked the bridges of the Shanghai Kwan and Kin Chao section of the railway.

Admiral Seymour and Gen. Sir Alfred Gaselee are consulting at Wei Hai Wei.

TO BOMBARD CHINESE TOWNS.
London, July 25.—The Express has the following from St. Petersburg: "Admiral Skredynoff, commanding the Russian squadron in Chinese waters, has received precise instructions to bombard the Chinese coast towns immediately on receipt of confirmation of the report of the massacre at Pekin."

MYSTERY DEEPENS.
Washington, July 25.—The receipt at Tien Tsin of apparently a genuine message in autograph from Minister Conger has done nothing to dissipate the doubt as to the situation at Pekin. The message, which was first forwarded by the naval officer at Tsin, Taku and Che Foo, has served only to deepen the darkest and saddest mystery of the century. The conclusion remains unchanged, of course, but it is admitted that a careful study of the autograph message, in comparison with the famous cipher message from Minister Conger, admits of the belief that the two messages were indicated by Mr. Conger at about the same time.

The situation at the British legation is represented to be the same in each case, and as Mr. Conger declares that relief must come quickly, if at all, there is ground for the suspicion that the cipher is over. The conclusion that this reasoning is correct involves the further conclusion that Mr. Conger's cipher message, if genuine, was redacted and of course, if redacted at all, that was done by Chinese officials.

THE HOPEFUL SIDE.
On the other hand, and in support of the state department's position, came today a message from another of the great Chinese viceroys, Tak, at Canton, who took charge after Li Hung Chang's departure. It was a cablegram from Consul McWade at Canton saying that Viceroy Tak gives assurance that all the foreign envoys at Pekin were alive and well on July 21st.

This, it will be seen, also affirmed solemnly the safety of the legations and, coming from so many different sources, it is known that the viceroys and Chinese officials these dispatches claim attention.

FEARS FOR RUSSIANS.
St. Petersburg, July 25.—In the opinion of Russian official staff, the Russian position on the railway between Chabin and Tien Tsin must be in a critical position, since no definite news of the situation there has been received. All that is known is that the wives and children of the workmen have fled to Chabin.

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