

CHINA'S GREAT CONSPIRACY.

A Plot by the Empress Dowager, Prince Tuan and Li Hung Chang to Drive the Foreigners Out of China.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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Shanghai, Sept. 7, 1900.—The evidence of a great conspiracy to drive all foreigners out of the country is steadily accumulating. This conspiracy seems to have been organized by the Chinese government and most of the high officials are implicated in it. It is a conspiracy to drive all foreigners out of the country and to drive the Chinese-Japanese war, which had not been precipitated by the Boxer uprising might have resulted in the massacre of every foreigner and the destruction of every piece of foreign property in the empire. Such is the belief of many of the oldest residents of China, foreigners who are acquainted with foreign methods—business men as well as missionaries. They think that the powers are being deceived by the Chinese diplomats and laugh at the idea of the Boxers being the cause of the trouble.

A WAR NOT A REBELLION.

Said an American who has been connected with Chinese matters in a diplomatic and business way for more than twenty-five years to me the other night:

"There are two things about the situation which you must bear in mind. The first is that this crusade is not anti-missionary, but anti-foreign, and the second that it is a war and not a rebellion, as our government would have us believe. The Chinese so recognize it. The Boxers were organized by the empress dowager as a part of the force with which she hoped to sweep all foreigners into the sea. They were paid out of the imperial exchequer, they were armed from the imperial arsenals and Prince Tuan and Kang Yi were, in an imperial edict, appointed the leaders of what some would have called this rebel band."

"Documents have been found in the viceregal yamen at Tien Tsin which incriminate the imperial government beyond all hope of escape. Among these are lists of Boxers, receipts of awards paid to Boxers for foreign heads, receipts for arms, ammunition and stores supplied by the government to Boxer leaders, and also the imperial edicts of June 21 and August 2 ordering the extermination of all foreigners in China."

WERE THE JAPANESE IN IT?

The extent of the conspiracy has not yet been disclosed. The leading viceroys, including Li Hung Chang, were probably in it. There is evidence that Japan may have been a secret party to it, and that she was ready to act in concert with China at the proper time. She was incensed at the treatment she received from the continental powers at the close of the Chinese-Japanese war, and especially at their support of Russia. Since then her relations with the Russians have become more and more strained. She has been insulted and restricted in Korea, and just before the Boxer rebellion a Russo-Japanese war was everywhere predicted. The rebellion precipitated matters and Japan shrewdly changed her attitude.

Among the straws which show how the wind has been blowing between Japan and China was the appeal of the Chinese emperor on the 1st of July last to the mikado, asking him to join forces against the foreigners. In his appeal Kuang Hui states his belief that the powers wish to swallow up Japan as well as China, and that the Chinese and Japanese, the two great nations of the east, should join to fight the west. To this the Japanese emperor replied diplomatically and kindly, saying that he will use his best efforts to help China conserve her empire if she will suppress the insurrection and rescue the foreign ministers.

HOW THE CONSPIRACY ORIGINATED.

The beginning of this conspiracy, so it is believed, was shortly after the close of the Japanese war. The empress dowager, Prince Tuan, Kang Yi, Li Hung Chang, et cetera, saw that something must be done at once or they would be ousted from power. All over China the thinking classes were discussing the result of the war and possible reforms. A reform party sprang up, about thirty newspapers were established, and tracts proposing the westernizing of China were distributed in many quarters. Some of the reformers got to Peking and several even to the emperor himself. The head of these were Kang Yu Wei, the man who is now in hiding outside of China with a reward of 100,000 taels (\$75,000) upon his head. Kang Yu Wei had persuaded the emperor to adopt the new civilization. His majesty had planned to

Why It Failed and How the Boxers Precipitated the War—Were the Japanese in It?—The Usurpation of the Dowager—Minister Conger's Lost Opportunity—China's War Preparations and How One American—Queer Superstitions of the Empress—Viceroy Chang Chi Tung and His Monkey—How His American Agricultural College Failed—His New Chariot and Why It Is Not Used.



KANG YUH WEI,

for whose head the old empress offers \$75,000. His latest photo.

Introduce all sorts of modern methods into China, including a thorough reorganization of the empire, when the empress dowager, fearing the result, caused his deposition and imprisonment in the palace, and again took the government into her own hands. She organized a reign of terror not only in Peking, but all parts of China, and since then the official who has said anything in favor of foreigners or foreign methods has had to work hard to keep not only his official but his physical head on his shoulders.

THE USURPATION OF THE DOWAGER.

The usurpation of the dowager caused great excitement in China. It was unfavorably commented upon, and protests came in from many cities. She stopped, however, for the old empress threatened all sorts of punishments. One of the objects of her rage, for instance, was Kin Yuan Shan, the head of the telegraphers here at Shanghai. When the news came of the imprisonment of the emperor, Kin sent a petition signed by himself and a thousand other Chinese, to the dowager, asking that the emperor be allowed to resume the reins of government, and stating that this only would satisfy the people. When this memorial was presented to the empress dowager she is said to have fairly hopped up and down in her rage. Her officials were terrified and they trembled lest her anger should be wreaked upon them.

"Who has dared to send such a telegram," she asked.

"Kin Yuan Shan and over a thousand others," was the reply.

"Very well," answered the old empress. "We'll show them how we deal with traitors who cross our path."

At this time Sheng, the director of all the telegraphs of the empire, was in Peking. He at once wired Kin that he had better leave and Kin fled to Macao, where he is now under Portuguese protection. The protest was followed by others from all parts of the empire and the United States, and these, added to the objections of the powers, kept her from putting another boy on the throne.

MINISTER CONGER'S LOST OPPORTUNITY.

It is not known that the United States was practically offered the support of the Chinese empire just before the usurpation of the dowager, but I am told that this is the fact. The emperor realized his danger. He feared for his life, but he was very anxious to do the right thing and would have fought for his rights could he have had any hope of support. Timothy Richards, the secretary of the Society of Christian Knowledge of China, was in Peking at the time. He was associated with Kang Yuh Wei and Liang Cho,

and at their instance wrote Mr. Box Ironsides, the English minister, asking him to give shelter and protection to the two reformers and intimating that the emperor would be with them at the time they came. He labeled the letter important, and sent it by a messenger. An answer did not come until the next day, when the minister replied that he did not know Kang Yuh Wei and Liang Cho, and that he could not receive them. His ignorance in this case was probably diplomatic, and certainly to the loss of England; for had the English minister admitted the emperor into the legation, he would have made England the coming great power in China. The reform party was then strong and the empress dowager would not have dared to have

AGUINALDO'S EMISSARY

Now in This Country on Some Secret Mission, Possibly for Campaign Purpose.



Here is the first photograph for publication of Sixto Lopez, the famous Filipino diplomat, who has just come to this country for a purpose he has not yet divulged. Lopez is said by many to be the personal emissary of Aguinaldo. Washington is watching him closely, and the story of the purpose of his visit may flash over the wires at any moment. Indeed, the question of his arrest is discussed in government circles. Although no assertion is made that he has done anything to merit incarceration.

made was upon the emperor in the English version. Failing to elicit the support of the English minister, Mr. Richards next sent a message to Minister Conger, but he happened to be away at his summer home in the hills, and it is claimed that the letter never got beyond the gatekeeper, who may have been one of the dowager's spies. It must be remembered that at this time the emperor was the de facto ruler of China, and that as such the United States would have gained a predominant influence by supporting him.

THE EMPRESS DOWAGER WAS PREPARED FOR WAR.

China has been getting ready for trouble ever since the close of the Japanese war. Several years ago I had an interview on the situation in China, with Yang Yu, who is, I believe, now Chinese minister to Germany, but who preceded Wu Ting Fang as minister to the United States. It was just after the war and he warned me that the Chinese army would be reorganized in modern methods. He said that the country would have new ships, new forts and its military strength would be so increased that it could defend itself against any nation or all nations. He took a pencil and sketched up the possibilities of the Chinese army of the future. He said China could put twice as many men in the field as any other nation, referred to the wonderful wealth of the country and its mineral resources, saying that it could make its own guns and munitions of war. He told me that the iron mines near Hankow would be developed and new arsenals built.

This prophecy has been borne out by the facts. The arsenals at Tien Tsin, Canton and Nanking have been busy for the past four years and the King-nan arsenal, here at Shanghai, is still turning out guns of all descriptions and smokeless powder as well. The empress dowager has been importing

Mauers and arming the troops and some of the biggest American gun factories. He then applied to the Germans who told him that they could give him what he wanted in sixty days, and that at 11 taels each. They got the order, but the guns sent were a lot of old weapons hardly worth their freight.

At the arsenal at Shanghai the Chinese are making guns almost as large as any made in the Washington navy yard. Some of them are thirty-five feet long with projectiles weighing a thousand pounds. Armstrong rapid-firing guns are made and also modern rifles. Projectiles of all kinds, from revolver cartridges up to great shells of steel as high as your waist, are turned out in great quantities, and the different kinds of shot and shrapnel number about 200. The work is all done by Chinese under one or two foreign superintendents.

Many of the weapons with which the Chinese are armed come from Hankow. The great Viceroy Chang Chi Tung has an arsenal there upon which he is spending half a million taels a year. The guns turned out are a sort of Mauser, and the steel comes from the steel works at Han Yang, just above Hankow. There are large iron mines in the vicinity and coal mines, to which a railroad has been built.

I was at the city of Hang Chow not long ago and had a chance to see the troops there undergoing their drill. They did well, showing the effect of their field training since the war with Japan. Chang Chi Tung's troops have been drilled by Germans and this is so, I am told, with most of the armies of the viceroys. In the military and naval schools Germans, Belgians and Russians are employed.

Modern guns have been introduced as rapidly as possible. 150,000 Mauers have been recently bought. The arsenals have also been turning out a number of quick-firing mountain guns, and some native-made rifles of one-inch caliber.

GUN MAKING AT HANKOW.

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will be no rain in China until all the foreigners have been exterminated.

CHANG CHI TUNG AND HIS MONKEY.

It seems impossible that the sharp old empress dowager could hold such superstitions. She is a Chinese woman, however, and the Chinese are saturated with all kinds of crazy ideas as to spirits and the spirit world. One of the chief causes of the trouble is, I am told, the hatred which the people have for foreigners because they propose to put railroads through the sacred ancestral grave yards, and thereby spoil the luck of the Chinese and anger the spirits of their ancestors.

The Chinese believe every one has a spirit which controls him. Take for instance Chang Chi Tung. He is one of the greatest scholars of China, a man who rules, I venture, half as many people as President McKinley, and who spends millions a year. He is a scholar and an author, having written a book on the modern movement for China.

Now, Chang Chi Tung believes in the transmigration of souls, and he is said to imagine that his soul came from a monkey. According to tradition, when Chang Chi Tung was born there was a monkey in his brother's house. This mysteriously disappeared the same day that his birth took place, and, according to the Chinese theory, his soul passed into the new-born child. Whether Chang really believes this or not I cannot say, but his friends tell me that when he is accused of foolishness or of acting imprudently he replies:

"How can I help it, that is the way I was born? It must be the monkey in me."

HOW THE EMPRESS TERRIFIED CHANG.

Speaking of Chang Chi Tung, he is a living evidence of the terror inspired by the empress dowager's anti-reform ideas. Prior to this he had held the roughest opinions of a modern civilization for China. He has put up an enormous steel plant at Han Yang, and has been making steel rails for a railroad to be proposed to build from Hankow to Peking. He has opened iron and coal mines, and has gone into all sorts of modern enterprises.

Among other new things proposed by him was an agricultural experimental college to teach his people our methods of farming. He sent to Cornell for American professors, and made three-year contracts with them at high salaries to come and act as charge of this school. When they arrived they were given a house and told to go to work.

In the meantime the old dowager issued her edict and Chang Chi Tung began to drive his horses. He refused to give the professors farms on which to work, putting them off on one plea or another from month to month until the time of their contract had almost expired. At last the young men would stay no longer. Their salaries were being paid, but they would not consent to remain without they were given a chance to earn them, so they have thrown up the job and have gone out to the United States.

Chang Chi Tung had ordered all kinds of agricultural machinery in connection with this school. The latest moving machines, plows, harrows and cultivators were shipped out to him. They arrived in good order, but are rusting away unused. He had ordered a modern carriage in order that he might ride about in state and astonish the Chinese in a region where our carriages are unknown and where the only conveyances are rude carts and sedan chairs. The carriages came, and Chang Chi Tung has plenty of horses, but he does not use the carriage. If he did he would be looked upon as a modern innovator and a friend of the foreigners, so he sticks to the sedan chair and the cart.

KILLED FOR A CIGARETTE.

I close this with a few lines I have just received from a missionary at Kiao-chou. In speaking of the Boxers he says:

"It is a mistake to consider this an anti-Christian movement. It is unquestionably an anti-foreign crusade. Non-Christians, employed by merchants and railways, and clerks in the imperial post and telegraph offices, have suffered as much as the converts. In Chihli province even the possession of a watch, a foreign lamp or a cigarette has cost many their lives. The settlement of the trouble should be on broad lines. The empress dowager has undoubtedly secretly encouraged the movement, although lately her rival, Prince Tuan, has stolen her thunder."

A LOST CITY.

An entire town has recently been discovered in the dominions of the czar, of the existence of which no one seems to have had any idea. Deep in the forests of the Ural lies a flourishing city, the inhabitants of which speak a curious language of their own, and seem to form a sort of ideal commonwealth, in which taxes and taxgatherers, among other troublesome things, are unheard of. There are people living among us who, in these days of heavy taxation, would be happy if such a state of things prevailed in this country.

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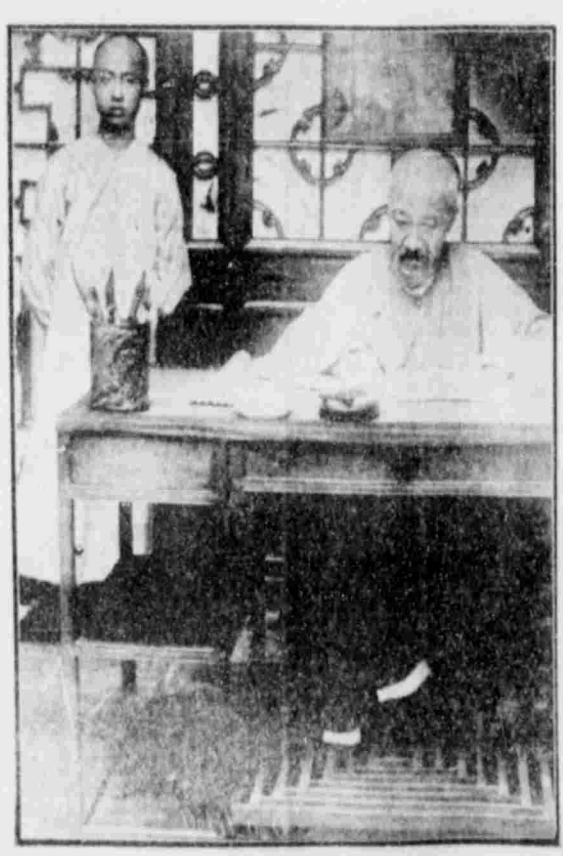
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CHANG CHI TUNG,

the viceroy of Hankow. He believes his soul came from a monkey. He claims to be friendly to foreigners.