

# THE QUESTION OF INDEMNITY IN CHINA

THE firm attitude of the powers in China respecting the imposition and collection of a war indemnity has given rise to a great deal of discussion among the nations of the world.

Involved in the question is the principle of monetary reparation for the loss of human life.

The rules governing the collection of this indemnity were submitted to the ministers and approved by them at a meeting which was held about the middle of March, and a plan was agreed to for putting them into effect, so it may be accepted as settled that an indemnity will be forced from China, whatever may be her sentiments in the case. On the publication of these rules, however, what may be termed an almost universal protest has been made against the enforcement of a penalty, especially of the magnitude mentioned, as wrong in principle and excessive in amount.

But an examination of historical writings goes to show that China's not an isolated instance of the compounding for the loss of human life by means of filthy lucre, and that, if the original draft of the measure be confirmed and accepted, the sum demanded will not be much more than what she paid to Japan after the war of 1894-5.

In fact, she invoked the protection of virtually the same powers that are now banded together for her humiliation and was served far worse than if she had treated with Japan alone. She was given back Port Arthur and the Liau-Tung peninsula by the treaty of Shimonoseki, and the indemnity demanded by Japan was paid down to the last million of taels.

But what was the result?

Russia demanded the retroceded territory in return for her "good offices," Germany took another section because Russia had received so much, Great Britain accepted another for the same reason, and close behind her came France, with resultant complications, from which, if the great powers extricate themselves without war and bloodshed, it will be through some unprecedented miracle of diplomacy.

However, an appeal to precedents will show that other nations, and some of them ranking China in the scale of civilization, have been compelled to reimburse their conquerors to a greater extent than she is now called upon to do.

Incredible as it might seem to be as a principle, the precedent has long been established of a money compensation for the loss of life, especially for the killing of foreigners in a country where their rights were supposed to be safeguarded. Indeed, the United States has followed this precedent not once only, but several times, particularly in the matter of indemnifying China for the murder of her own subjects in this country. A notable instance was the killing of Italians at New Orleans by incensed citizens not many years ago. The question of their just deserts did not enter into the calculation, but justice was demanded as a matter of international comity. In that case money was tendered by Secretary of State Blaine and was finally accepted by the Italian government. In essence, however, it may be held that human life is inestimable and cannot be compounded for on the basis of a pecuniary value; but, in fact, it has been propounded and accepted as perhaps the only means of reaching a nation or body of people offending in this respect and assumed as a makeshift for the purpose of tiding over emergencies which might otherwise result disastrously.

Viewed as a matter of international equity, the United States has contributed something toward this method of compensatory adjustment, and one of



TOO MANY FINGERS IN THE PIE.

the famous instances was that of the Chesapeake and Leopard, of our own and the British navy, respectively, during the last war we had with Great Britain. The Leopard had fired into the Chesapeake without justifiable provocation, and the determined attitude of Pres-

ident Madison caused the British authorities to disavow the action, deprive the admiral of his position and grant an indemnity to the wives and families of the American sailors killed and wounded on that occasion.

In 1815 seven American prisoners were

killed and about 60 wounded for inciting a riot while confined in Dartmoor prison. Upon the demand of the United States for explanation and a suitable reparation the British government granted an indemnity for the families both of killed and wounded.

sent down by our government, which was received with every honor by President Lopez, who made an abject apology and paid over \$10,000 for the use of the sufferers.

Perhaps the treatment of the Barbary deys by the United States was the

most exemplary episode of our governmental history. In common with other civilized and Christian powers, we had been paying tribute to the pirate deys of Algiers and Tunis for years for the supposed protection of our commerce in

the Mediterranean, until the total amount reached nearly a million dollars.

When opportunity offered, a small fleet was sent to demand a cessation of barbarities and the release of American sailors. We set the other powers a good example and paved the way for Great Britain's decisive action by which the laying of tribute and the imprisoning of Christians by the Turks and Algerians were ended forever.

It does not often happen that a conquered nation is paid for getting whipped, but something similar to this occurred when the United States conquered Mexico, for, though we took from her territory aggregating more than half a million square miles, subsequently found to contain the richest deposits of minerals on this continent, yet we paid her \$15,000,000 for the privilege of retaining what we had won by gallant feats of arms. And another instance of more recent occurrence was the payment of \$20,000,000 on account of the Philippines.

The very latest example of a nation's recognition of its liability for the acts of its citizens was announced on the 8th of the present month, when our secretary of state sent the Mexican embassy a draft for \$2,000 as full indemnity to the heirs of one Florentino Suarez, a Mexican citizen who was lynched in Texas in 1895. It was expressly stated, however, that this reparation was made "out of humane considerations and without reference to the question of liability."

Passing from our own country to foreign lands, several notable instances of vast indemnities being exacted by the conquering from the conquered peoples are brought to mind. In 1666, for example, after Prussia had defeated Austria in the "seven weeks' war," the moderate sum of \$15,000,000 covered the bill presented for payment, although another sum about equal to this was taken from the states in arms with Austria against Prussia.

Less than five years after occurred the memorable invasion of France by Prussia, when her territory was overrun in such short order and terms were dictated from Versailles. The world was aghast at the enormous proportions of the indemnity then demanded, for, besides the cessation to Prussia of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, France was condemned to pay the sum of five milliards of francs, or about a billion dollars. By the terms of the payment it was to be extended over a period of four years, but the French peasants dipped into their savings, and through their aid the debt was wiped out in less than half that time.

A case of similar sort, though with a different ending, was that between Russia and Turkey when, after their last war, the latter was slated for an indemnity of 300,000,000 rubles, besides the cession to Russia of her territory. The territory was an available asset and was transferred, but a large portion of the money indemnity was never paid. This reminds one of the more recent claim of the United States against the Sultan for a cash indemnity on account of the Armenian massacres a few years ago, which is now no nearer payment than ever apparently, and probably as near as it ever will be despite muttered threats and futile haval demonstrations in which Uncle Sam has indulged.

Reverting again to our own affairs, we may mention the celebrated Alabama claims, which at one time promised to raise a flurry between the United States and Great Britain. By pressing home his claim with energy Uncle Sam obtained, first, recognition; second, the appointment of a joint high commission, and, third, the Geneva tribunal, which in 1872 rendered judgment in his favor. It was found and declared that Great Britain had failed in her duties as a neutral, and the United States was awarded the sum of \$15,000,000 in gold, which sum was promptly paid at Washington in 1873, though not without some growling on the part of John Bull.

The tables were turned when by the

"fisheries award" that same year the United States was adjudged indebted to Great Britain in the sum of \$12,024,000, and then it was a case of the shoe on the other foot. Then there was the Virginius affair, also in 1873, when the Spaniards took an American steamer on crew. That was in October. She was given up in December, and in the spring of 1875 Spain paid \$6,000 toward the relief of the families of those who were so foully executed. It was a small sum to pay for such an atrocious act, and Spain thought at the time she got very cheap. But the real reckoning came 25 years later, after the sinking of the Maine. Both acts, however, were paid for them by exaction from the Spaniards.

China has hardly recovered from the shock administered to her by the victors in the war of 1904, when after being terribly punished and her territory overrun she was compelled to pay an indemnity of 200,000,000 taels, 20,000,000 of which was for the retrocession of the Liau-Tung peninsula, which Russia afterward acquired for nothing and still holds. Both Russia and England desired to finance China's debt at the time, but in the end it was poor John Chinaman who paid the bills. In fact, some of the bills contracted at that time are now falling due, owing to China's shortsighted policy in appropriating some of her territory among the powers six years ago.

As may be gathered from the preceding citations, China's position in respect to the exaction of indemnity is not peculiar; but, on the contrary, she has very respectable company. In the present instance the proposed indemnity is estimated at rather more than she paid to Japan after the war in which she was so soundly thrashed. The sum generally stated is about \$300,000,000, the former indemnity amounted to 200,000,000 taels, roughly reckoned at \$100,000,000. This amount will be divided among the respective claimants, eight in number, according to the losses they have incurred. Germany, of course, will come first, and the United States—in order to be consistent—will set an example of tolerance—possibly come last and be put off with the least.

ROGER P. BARNES.

MUTTON MADE RHODES WEALTHY.

One of the least known or perhaps least understood of all millionaires is Mr. Cecil Rhodes. And yet he is far from being an inaccessible or unapproachable man. He is always ready to help when possible, and what is known to very few, he has the keenest sense of humor. Mr. Rhodes has his likes and dislikes, not only as regards men and women, but also as regards food, and he declares that it was simply on account of cold mutton that he became a millionaire. "Ah, Mr. Rhodes," once said a very poetical and romantic young lady to him, "it was some noble and elevating episode or event which first spurred you on to become a millionaire, I expect."

"No, madam, it was not," quietly said Mr. Rhodes. "I owe my millions simply and solely to mutton—cold mutton!"

When I was a young man, I was quite poor, I can assure you. Now, I always had a delicate appetite and an inclination for the good things of life. But, alas, I had not the wherewithal to satisfy my delicate inclinations. Once, when having lunch with my brother, I had what I have always hated, and that is cold mutton. 'Tis, I said, cold mutton again! Twice this week I have had it! I mean to be a millionaire if only for one thing, and that is to avoid mutton! Now, madam, you will see that it was no noble sentiment that encouraged me to make my millions. I was simply cold mutton."

KING EDWARD'S REPERTIRE.

Not many months ago King Edward and the queen were entertaining a very unusual charming manner a large number of guests at Sandringham. Among them was a certain millionaire whose manners were far from agreeable to his royal host. One evening after dinner a "man of millions minus manners" was talking very shortly and very shortly about his recently purchased estates and all that he intended doing to his "palace."

"Your royal highness must really pay me a visit," he drawled in a somewhat familiar way. "I assure you that my wine is excellent." The prince looked very steadily at his wealthy guest and answered politely: "Thank you, Mr. —, for your invitation. I am afraid not. You say that your shooting is grand and your permission, excellent. Well, with your permission, I might some day send one of my keepers down for the wine. It would be quite a holiday for them, I am sure, and I know they would both appreciate your good things!"

THE QUEEN'S MEMORIAL.

The provisional committee appointed by command of King Edward VII to consider the project of a national memorial to Queen Victoria has arrived at a decision in regard to its main object. The intention is that a memorial of a personal and monumental character shall be erected to the precise form has been submitted to King Edward by Lord Esher.

There have been 257 popes, who have reigned on an average for seven and a half years each.

orator accomplishes the work cheaper and better than the old way. In view of the law in Ohio governing the production of this article of food every citizen must have a label of the maker, identifying as to the purity of the contents. The quick firing artillery with which the whole Swiss army is to be equipped forthwith consists of nickel steel guns 7.4 centimeters caliber, firing 15 shots a minute, with a range of 5,000 yards.

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## THE MACABEBE SCOUTS.

IN THE dispatches received in this country from Manila describing the recent capture of Aguinaldo by Brigadier General Frederick Funston, the words "Macabebe scouts" figured prominently. These scouts are native Philippine soldiers friendly to the United States, and it was through their agency that Funston was enabled to penetrate unhindered to Palanan and to lay his hands upon Aguinaldo without the loss of a man.

The Macabebe scouts are now a part of the volunteer service of the United States army. It was through the efforts of Major Matthew A. Batson, while he was first lieutenant of the Fourth cavalry, that this end was brought about, and the Macabebes have reached a point in training and equipment which make them an addition of inestimable value to Uncle Sam's fighting corps. The capture of Aguinaldo was a comparatively insignificant affair in the light of their other deeds of daring and feats of hardihood, and the Macabebes scouts have made a record that will ever redound to their glory.

The idea of organizing a band of natives to co-operate with the American forces originated with Major Batson, while he was under the standard of the late General Lawton. Major Batson was a personal friend of the general, and he sought his commander's sanction of the scheme to provide reinforcements. General Lawton, having received most of his military training in fighting Indians, immediately recognized the importance of training, scouting and dispatch bearing that could be performed by a company raised in accordance with Major Batson's suggestion, and his consent to give the plan a trial was obtained.

Just how Major Batson carried his scheme into effect is best told in his own words. He was badly wounded in

the battle of Aringay by one of Aguinaldo's sharpshooters, and he returned to this country for a short time while convalescing. It was then that he related to me in full the story of the Macabebe scouts.

"General Lawton's acquiescence to my proposition was tempered by one proviso," said Major Batson. "This substance was that I should not at first take more than 100 men. 'When you prove to me,' said the general, 'that your undertaking is going to be a success, then you may add to your troop such recruits as you may require.'"

"The manner in which I obtained my men was very simple," added Major Batson. "Early one morning, accompanied by two attendants, I entered the town of Macabebe, situated north of Manila bay, on the Rio Grande, about eight miles below Calumpit. In this settlement I knew there were upward of 2,000 native warriors who had fought under General Blanco, the former commander in chief of the Spanish army in the Philippines. I had learned that the Macabebes were deadly enemies of the Tagalogs, the latter comprising the greater portion of Aguinaldo's army. The Tagalogs had always been opposed to Spanish dominion in the archipelago, and made much trouble for Blanco, while the Macabebes rather liked the Spaniards. This state of affairs estranged the two tribes, and they have been hostile to each other for many years."

"It was my opinion that the Macabebes would be only too glad to give me a chance to fight against the Tagalogs. I was right. My comrades and

I on reaching the central part of the Macabebe town were conducted to the hut of the alcalde, or chief native official.

"I stated my errand. He grunted a favorable response after several moments' meditation and summoned his bravos to an open square opposite the council hall. I was told to take my choice. An even hundred warriors were soon picked out, and I departed with them. The alcalde shouted after me that whenever I needed more men he would readily let me have them."

"The insurgents about this time had been divided into two bodies, and I found that one division had crossed the Rio Grande. A strict watch along the river would keep them separated. I was informed by my scouts, and I ordered the Macabebes to patrol the stream constantly. This was done by means of large canoes—bancas, the natives term them, which are hollowed logs, long and heavy, with a wicker worked sunshade over the amidships section. We had a fleet of 50 of them. The craft were loaded with all our food, blankets, ammunition and guns. We policed more than a hundred miles of the river, cutting off all communication between the rebelling divisions and doing them harm in a hundred other ways."

"Inasmuch as the Macabebes were unfamiliar with my language and I was equally ignorant of their language, I was forced to secure an interpreter. Federico F. Landez, a former member of General Blanco's staff, acted in this capacity and simplified matters a great deal. Lieutenants Boutelle, Quinlan, Hall and Faulkner were also attached to my command, and they rendered efficient service. Lieutenant Boutelle was killed while bravely leading a charge in a skirmish at Sanlago. The enemy was in trenches at the time, and, although his own Macabebes were in a

ditch, Lieutenant Boutelle stood in a roadway issuing orders in plain view of the insurgents. He was shot through the heart.

"Lieutenant Quinlan had a narrow escape at Aringay, where I was wounded. A Mauser bullet struck a plug of tobacco in his shirt pocket. It knocked him down, but did not enter his body."

"Speaking of the battle of Aringay, Major Batson said: 'This was the battle that drove Aguinaldo into the mountains for the last time. About two weeks before the engagement I received orders to run him down. Day after day we followed in his tracks. General MacArthur's men had left the coast to the northwest of us and were pushing steadily across the island to intercept the fugitive. They must have become confused in connecting with some of the trails, for the rebel leader got away from them. He fled to Aringay. We followed him there.'

"The insurgents were in trenches when we moved to attack them. It was morning. I was mounted upon one of the Luzon horses, a short, wiry animal, when a Mauser hit me. The missile pierced my right foot and passed under my steed's stomach. After finishing the stationing of my men I had the wound dressed by the company surgeon. Aguinaldo was signally defeated, his whole command was dispersed and about 100 of his supporters were captured. The travel trained chieftain and 25 or 30 rebels of lesser note succeeded in escaping."

"The Macabebes," concluded Major Batson, "are better scouts than the North American Indians, whom they resemble closely in facial outlines. They have the same high cheek bone and sharp eye and are similar to them in their mode of living."

FREDERICK ROCKWOOD.

### TIDBITS OF INFORMATION.

The publication of The City Record of New York this year costs \$150,000. The appropriation for corporation advertising in the borough of Brooklyn is \$100,000, Brooklyn not being included in the operations of The Record, the revenue from which is \$5,000 from sales.

A curious lantern fly discovered by naturalists in the Malay archipelago,

possesses the power of jumping several feet without opening its wings. It has a projection on its head which, when bent back and suddenly released, throws the insect into the air. This fly was seen to jump from the ground to the roof of a hut.

One of the most remarkable instances of a long absent homing pigeon even-

tually returning to its loft recently came to light at Winton, England, when a bird that had been liberated three years previously, to the very day, made its reappearance. Its identity was established by the racing ring.

As a result of a wager M. Canella, a Frenchman representing a German automobile manufacturing firm, will undertake to construct a machine of 70

horsepower and weighing but 1,200 kilograms (about 2,647 pounds). M. Charon, the champion chauffeur of France, who is "the party of the second part," will be 2,000 francs poorer if M. Canella succeeds.

Plants need a good deal more water as the days grow longer and warmer than they do in midwinter.

Professor Hodge of Clarke university estimates that toads are worth \$19.15

each for their work as destroyers of cutworms. He thinks the propagation of toads would solve the gypsy moth problem.

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