

PASSAGE OF THE DARDANELLES.

Malacca Incident Only a Factor
In the Much Greater
Problem.

THE ENGLISH PRESS BELUCOSE

Government Resolved That No More
Volunteer Fleet Ships Shall Pass
The Bosphorus.

London, July 22.—The morning papers generally express satisfaction that the Malacca incident has been settled in accordance with the demands of Great Britain, though there is an inclination to await the settlement of the broader question of the passage through the Dardanelles of the volunteer fleet steamers before believing that all danger has been averted. This feeling is heightened by Premier Balfour's announcement on the adjournment of the house of commons that he still had no official news to communicate, either in connection with the Malacca incident or with the volunteer fleet steamers in general.

Some papers are even inclined to doubt the authenticity of the news that the Malacca incident has been settled, but the Daily Telegraph semi-officially explains the apparent contradiction existing between Mr. Balfour's statements and the telegrams from St. Petersburg. "Two dispatches left the foreign office on July 21," says the Daily Telegraph. "One has elicited a favorable reply, but the other has not yet been answered. The promise that no similar incident shall occur again is very vague and elastic. It may mean that no British vessel shall in the future be seized, the papers of which are regular and the cargo carried by which belongs to his British majesty's government. That is not much of a concession, seeing that our fleet has instructions to prevent another such outrage."

The paper fears that the Russian government has not yet agreed to desist changing the volunteer fleet steamers into cruisers after the passage of the Dardanelles, and says: "We welcome the action regarding the Malacca as proof that the Russian government has no idea of gratuitously picking a quarrel with us. This is good as far as it goes."

The Daily Telegraph goes on to say that its alarmist editorial of July 22 was written with full knowledge that the Russian government would act as it has done and the object in so writing was to point out that the Malacca incident was only a factor of the great problem which has not been settled. The paper confirms the statement that Czar Nicholas was urged by the French government to settle the case of the Malacca and this settlement is attributed to the French action, adding: "It is rumored in diplomatic circles that Germany wishes to co-operate with Great Britain in the settlement of the main feature of the dispute."

It urgently points out to the government that popular opinion in Great Britain would not admit such partnership, and adds an interesting detail to the heat of the controversy of the last few days by positively stating that if the Malacca had approached the Dardanelles, "she would have been summoned to surrender by our gunboat awaiting there, and if she had not complied she would have been fired upon."

The Standard adopts a somewhat similar tone, and while expressing relief that the "specified incident of the Malacca ceases to be dangerous," says: "There still remains a divergence of views as the immediate outcome of which there will be an indefinite prospect of trouble until the Russian admiral conforms to the principles recognized by other states."

The Daily News says it believes that the government is resolved that no more Russian warships, however carefully disguised, shall pass the Bosphorus, the outlet of which a portion of the Mediterranean fleet will carefully guard. Confirmation of the foregoing statement is lacking.

The Times says: "Although there is good reason to hope that we have advanced a stage toward a satisfactory solution of the grave situation brought about by the seizure of the Malacca, we cannot consent to any arrangement which would cut the ground from under our feet. It is the status of St. Petersburg that we contest and we take our stand not upon some impalpable point of international law, but on the plain text of the treaties and conventions which govern the passage of the Dardanelles."

The Times draws attention to serious complications of a similar kind which are liable to occur in the Pacific, instancing the Pacific Mail Steamship company's apprehensions on this point. The marine insurance article of the Times says that greater anxiety existed in London yesterday over cargoes for the China and Japan seas than over those by way of the Red sea, especially with regard to the American steamship Shawmut. "It is most important," the article says, "that the Americans and ourselves should strongly object to any attempt to treat provisions destined for ordinary civilian consumption as contraband of war."

Took Mail of Jap Firm.

Berlin, July 22.—The German consul at Aden, Arabia, reporting the details of the seizure of the mails of the North German Lloyd steamer Prinz Heinrich in the Red sea July 15 by the Russian volunteer fleet vessel Smolensk, says that when the detailed mail sacks were turned over to the British steamer Persia the Russian commander stated in a letter to the Persia's captain that two packages which had been retained were directed to the management of a German ammunition factory to a Japanese address at Nagasaki.

A. O. U. W. New Plan Downed.

Portland, Or., July 22.—After a stormy debate, lasting for more than three days, the Grand Lodge of Oregon A. O. U. W. has settled the much-mooted question of changing the assessment rate by voting down the so-called "new plan" advocated by the supreme lodge and adopted by many of the states of the Union.

The "new plan" provided for a sinking fund, and a slight increase in the rate at which members above 55 years are assessed.

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I'd like to see the Zunis an' the Kunls an' the Japs,
The Moujiks an' the Moslems an' the Romanys an' Lapps;
I don't much care about the names they have, but I must say
It'll be right smart instructive jest to see 'em anyway.
What's the use to cross the ocean and fer weeks or months
to hike
When the world in twenty minutes can be saw along the Pike?

—“A Ballad of the Pike,” by Wallace Irwin. Copyrighted by Collier's Weekly. Published by permission.

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