

CHINA TO ASK QUESTIONS

No Objections, However, to Be Raised to the Demands.

The Imperial Peace Commissioners to Enquire if the Powers Will Not Be Satisfied With Dismantling Instead of Razing the Taku Forts—Information Desired Concerning the Location of the Military Posts and the Size of the Legation Guards—To Urge the Suspension of Punitive Expeditions—Waldereer's Ruthless Policy—A Barletque to Be Given in the Temple of Heaven.

PEKIN, Dec. 31.—The Chinese note accepting the conditions of the Powers says that Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang, on behalf of China, agree to the conditions imposed, and ask for a conference with the Ministers. The official translation of the note was made too late to permit the calling of a meeting yesterday.

It is learned from an official Chinese source that the Chinese do not desire to object to any of the demands, but wish some of them explained. When the Peace Commissioners meet the Ministers they will ask if dismantling the Taku forts, instead of destroying them, will not answer the purpose of the Powers. They will agree not to occupy the forts, and not to repair them for a term of years that will be satisfactory to the Powers.

They will also ask where the Powers propose to locate the military posts between Peking and Taku, for information concerning the proposed strength of the legation guards, and if the latter cannot be stationed together, instead of being scattered about Peking as at present. Furthermore, they will ask if it is not possible, now that China has agreed to the demands, that the military expeditions to the interior of the country be stopped, and whether the Powers will allow the reopening of all the civil yamens in Peking.

It will be seen that these requests for explanations are reasonable. During the preliminary meetings of the Ministers the question of razing the Taku forts was discussed. Some of the Ministers, including Mr. Conger, opposed a demand of this nature, but the others insisted so earnestly upon it that they carried their point. It is possible that the Ministers will now agree upon the dismantling of the forts only, but it is unlikely that they will be able to explain the locations of the proposed military posts, as this is a matter that will be left for future determination.

The size of the legation guards will depend upon how the Government acts when civil authority is restored. If it shows that it is capable of exercising a strong hand the number of the guards will be small. If, however, the Government displays weakness, the guards will be large. Acquiescence in the immediate restoration of the civil government and the reopening of the official yamens is likely.

Regarding the military expeditions little has been said about them, but the fact is, serious differences of opinion have existed between some of the allied generals and allied Ministers from the start regarding the wisdom of such expeditions. The Ministers, almost without exception, are opposed to them, except when they are directed against robbers. This has been the case especially since early in November, when it was practically agreed that the demands recently presented would be acquiesced in.

It is credibly stated that Dr. Mumm von Schwarzenstein, the German Minister, is particularly displeased with Field Marshal Count von Waldereer's policy, which has been to drive the Chinese army out of the country, to kill all possible, and to assess heavy fines on villages whether or not they were Boxer headquarters. There has been more or less killing by the Germans everywhere. A harsh policy was followed, while at no time has the difference between the Ministers and generals been serious enough to say that their relations were strained, the Ministers have not hesitated at times to criticize the conduct of the military to each other and occasionally to outsiders. The Ministers undoubtedly wish to stop the expeditions and will do so if it is possible.

Li Hung Chang is still confined to his house by illness, but he is anxious to attend the coming meeting.

The condition of General Gaselle, the British commander, is serious. He is suffering with pneumonia.

It is feared that the Chinese will be executed by a barletque which British officers are producing in the Temple of Heaven, which is China's holy of holies. While the play is principally barletque, it is characterized by wholesale ridiculing of Chinese royalty. Captain Hamilton impersonates the Empress Dowager, who is made to sing topical songs and dance jig. Here is a sample of Captain Hamilton's lines:

"Think of me in this frosty weather posing as Venus among the heathens; think of me in the 'sitogther' at my time of life."

At the end of the last act, President Fane, of the prize committee, who has been conducting the auction sides of British lot, sells the Dowager Empress at auction, describing her as "a fine old bit of rare China." He bids 50 cents for her, saying he can use her as a lady's maid. He then appeals for bids for the Dowager for the honor of China. Captain Parks, of the Seventh Rajput Regiment, who impersonates Prince Tuan, bids \$5 for the honor of China, whereupon the auctioneer calls: "Going, going, gone—the honor of China—sold for five dollars. Prince Tuan, will you marry her?"

To this Prince Tuan replies: "Ugh, the Dowager of China is a royal personage. She is sacred."

It is easy to understand that a play such as this will scandalize the Chinese. The Temple of Heaven, by the way, is the only temple in all China where the Christian God is worshipped. Here, once a year, the Emperor of China prostrates himself and worships the God of Heaven.

BUSY PURSUING FILIPINOS

New Year Diversion of Our Troops in the Philippines.

Luzon Now Fairly Quiet. Although the Northern Portion is Still in a State of Revolt—A Hard Task Counting General Hare in Honor.

MANILA, Dec. 31.—The New Year finds administration officials in the Philippines confident of approaching peace. General Luson is, they declare, practically subdued, the roads are open, and the inhabitants prosperous.

The northern part of the island has been the revolutionary center since the elections in the United States, but the troops there, aided by 2,500 re-enforcements, are rapidly quieting that part of the island. Even the Ladrones, who are meeting with no support, are surrendering or confining their operations to isolated districts.

The civil government which has been established in Bangkok is scarcely appreciated, but it is having a moral effect on the neighboring provinces. In the southern provinces the making of hemp is still disturbed, but the conditions there are slowly improving under increased garrisons.

The chief cities of the island of Panay are quiet, though the residents are secretly helping the insurgents in the interior. The severe policy inaugurated by General Hughes of arresting conspiring or suspected influential inhabitants and confiscating their goods has broken the insurgent spirit.

The other islands of the Visayan group show improvement. Civil government is being established and schools are being opened.

The situation in Samar still remains the hardest problem for the Americans to solve, owing to the fierce opposition of the insurgents and the terrorism they have visited among the more peaceable inhabitants. The insupportable mistreatment and deep swampy valleys have greatly retarded military operations of the 2,000-man United General Force.

The recent transfer of the Twenty-ninth Infantry to Mindanao stimulates the situation there, as the chief opposition is confined to a band of 500 rebel prisoners, who have heretofore occupied an impregnable position, whence they have made frequent raids on the town. A report of a decisive engagement in July expected from the energetic Colonel MacArthur.

Mindanao remains unsatisfactory to the Americans. It is undoubtedly furnished a refuge for a large number of insurgents, but it is deemed unwise to disturb them

at present, owing to the scarcity of troops. There is unprecedented activity everywhere among the 477 American posts. Scouting parties and small expeditions are striking rapidly day and night. The insurgents are kept constantly on the move, and they seldom have the opportunity of resting in the same place. The daily bulletins chronicle the burning of hundreds of native huts and shelters, and many hostile villages are burned and their destruction never reported.

The effect of General MacArthur's proclamation is being felt. Prisoners are accumulating in Manila, where every available building is being used as a jail. Other jails are planned for the prisoners captured in the various provinces. The wholesale retention of rebels is the severest blow to the insurgent cause, eliminating a large warlike and preventing re-arming.

Official statements show that the insurgents have caused a number of the Americans to be killed since September. What are urgent needed now are a new tariff, the improvement of Manila harbor and the roads and bridges, the reorganization of the native courts, the enactment of laws establishing the validity of titles, and troops to replace the returning volunteers.

Tenight's official bulletin reports the capture of ten officers and seventy-one men by the Fourth Cavalry and Fourth Infantry near Iloilo.

Flynn's Business College, 5th and K. Danes, Shortland, Typewriting—\$25 a year.

THE CUBAN POSTAL FRAUDS

Tao Senate May Not Be Furnished With Desired Information.

Secretary Root Not Disposed to Comply With Resolution Calling for the Report Submitted to the War Department by Auditor Lavache.

Senator Bacon's resolution adopted by the Senate shortly before Christmas calling upon the Secretary of War for a copy of the report made by Auditor Lavache giving the result of his inspection of the accounts of civil and military officers in Cuba will probably not be complied with by the War Department.

Secretary Root is opposed to sending the report to the Senate, and has so informed the President. He explained yesterday that if it was sent to the Senate it would become public property, and he did not consider it for the best interests of the public service that the report be made public pending the trial of the accused postal officials. Just what course will be followed in replying to the Senate resolution has not been decided.

The resolution has not been passed by the President. He has not yet returned a recommendation. It is understood that the report will be made public in the near future.

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THE DANISH WEST INDIES.

Only Bitch in the Negotiations for Their Sale.

There appears to be no hitch in the negotiations for the transfer of the Danish West Indies to the United States except in regard to the status to be accorded the inhabitants of the islands by American rule. The price, it is understood, has been agreed upon, and a number of the other important terms have been arranged to the satisfaction of both parties, but there remains the question of political status.

Denmark is desirous of having a referendum on the subject, but the United States is not prepared to accede to such a demand, preferring to leave the status of the inhabitants undetermined until Congress shall provide a form of government. When this question has been adjusted the treaty will be signed probably at Copenhagen, where Mr. Seward, the American Minister, is conducting the

negotiations with the Danish Foreign Office. The wishes of the inhabitants of the islands in regard to the change have already been expressed, a plebiscite having developed that a majority was favorable to transfer from Danish to American control. The treaty in course of preparation provides for the sale to the United States of all the islands—St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix.

FORGOT THE MARCH OF TIME. Flight of the Owners of the "Nineteenth Century" Magazine.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The proprietors of the "Nineteenth Century Magazine" have apparently forgotten that the march of time was making the present title of their periodical inappropriate, and consequently looking the foresight to rechristen the title "Twentieth Century," which has been snatched up, the magazine will be henceforth entitled the "Nineteenth Century and After."

On the title page will be reproduced a Janus-like head adapted from a Greek coin of Tenedos, by Sir Edward Ross, President of the Royal Academy. The head, which looks to the left, is that of a bearded man. Alongside of it in Roman numerals is the figure XIX. On the other side, looking to the right, is the head of a young woman, with the numeral XX beside it.

The magazine is strongly condemned by both the Dutch and English Loyalists. It is reported that a number of sensational arrests, including that of a former member of the Cape Cabinet and the editor of a leading Afrikaans Bond newspaper are impending. The charge against these men will be sedition.

AN EXPLOSION IN A MINE. Two Men Fatally Injured by the Ignition of Coal Gas.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 31.—A heavy explosion of gas in the Hullenback mine of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company this morning fatally injured two men and caused general alarm throughout the mine. Men in all parts of the mine were affected by the concussion, and thinking that the danger was general, they threw down their tools and fled.

It took some time to discover that there was no further danger, and meanwhile the rumor had spread around town that thirty or forty had been killed, and there was great excitement. The two men injured, Benjamin Trezza and Etioch Kreger, are in a bad way, and may not recover. Kreger is burned internally by inhaling some of the gas. A number of other men were injured, but none disabled. A fire had ignited and set fire to a large body of gas in the red ash vein.

Perfect purity in brewery products is exemplified in Ballantine's India Pale Ale.

VIENNA, Jan. 1.—The death of the century was observed by the celebration of the most solemn masses in all the churches at 6 o'clock last evening. The congregations were enormous. The Archbishop, with the greatest pomp, solemnized mass at the Cathedral of St. Stephen at midnight in celebration of the birth of the twentieth century.

Burgomaster Lueger, the vice burgomaster, councilors, officials, and prominent personages, were present in the vast congregation. The exterior of the cathedral was brilliantly illuminated. The theaters, restaurants, and cafes were thronged as they usually are on the night of St. Sylvester's Day.

Although the Emperor is in Vienna, there was no court fete. His Majesty and the archduchess will entertain the Ministers and other dignitaries at dinner to-day.

The first snow of the season fell last evening.

OBSERVANCES IN EUROPE

The Twentieth Century Welcomed at Various Capitals.

A Rather Quiet Day at Berlin, as 1900 Was Officially Recognized as the Opening Year of the New Cycle—Ceremonies in Vienna Churches.

BERLIN, Jan. 1.—Owing to the bitterly cold weather popular celebration of the year's end was comparatively quiet, although some of the streets, especially Friedrichstrasse, were full of the usual noisy, hat-smashing crowds until long past midnight. Evening services were held in all the churches, and at midnight the chiming rang the old year out and the new year in.

The Emperor and Empress had a quiet family and children's party at Potsdam. There was a magnificent tree filled with gifts. Numerous balls and dinners were given in honor of the day, including dinners by the Mexican Minister and Mr. Greenbaum.

In Washington the night was festive and the streets were thronged. In every Catholic church midnight mass was celebrated in accordance with the custom of the Middle Ages.

In many of the Protestant churches similar meetings were held.

President McKinley, his brother Abner, and Secretary Connelley kept watch at the Executive Mansion.

A Message to Queen Victoria. Lord Fitzmaurice, the British Ambassador, surrounded by the secretaries and attaches of the Embassy and their families and the domestic servants, watched the exit of the old century and the entrance of the new. On the stroke of twelve, a legislative message to the Queen was dispatched.

A number of the diplomatic representatives of the Governments of Continental Europe met at the German Embassy and lined by the old century passed away and the new came. Congratulatory messages were sent at midnight to various crowned heads in the Old World.

A watch meeting was held by the representatives of Mexico and of the Governments of Central and South America. These meetings were held all along the line, from the places where the rich and mighty meet to where the poor and lowly congregated.

A vast crowd attended the midnight service at the Central Union Mission. A memorial service was held at Luther Place Memorial Church, the uniting churches

Norfolk & Washington Steamboat Co. Delightful trips daily at 4.30 p. m. from New York to Old Point Comfort, Newport News, Norfolk and the South. For schedule see page 8.

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BIRTH OF THE CENTURY

The World Bids Farewell to the Old and Welcomes the New.

Advent of the Cycle of 1901 Marked by Noisy Demonstrations in the Streets and Impressive Midnight Services in the Churches—The President Watches for the White House Clock to Record the Beginning of Another Year—Message of Congratulation Sent to Queen Victoria From the British Embassy—Greetings Despatched to Other Rulers by Their Representatives.

The world at midnight passed the moment which marked the close of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. The earth whirled over the line between the then and now, without a tremor, so used it to coursing through the centuries. A hundred years is such a little tick of time to it. For ages the world has been saying to man, "A century to you is a second to me."

Dwellers on this little globe that spins through space, in whose tiny eyes each revolution of the sun marks an interval of time, showed considerable agitation. The stroke of twelve called forth in every man, in a greater or less degree, an emotion. Some were sorry; some were glad. Some thought of the days that are gone; some of the days to come. In the hearts of some hope was forever buried; in the hearts of others, it was born again. In some it was strengthened and refreshed. With some persons it was a season of solemn prayer and religious meditation; with others a period of gaiety and conviviality. But man, ever since he was, has looked at things in different lights and from different points of view. This habit will be strong in him when the earth rolls from the twentieth and into the twenty-first century.

The century that is dead is thronged with thoughts and deeds that are good and bad. The new century, according to the disposition of him who views it, gives promise to the world of wondrous blessing or fearful trouble.

All agree, though, that the creative faculty of man which in the century now dying has carried the world along from the dirt and steel to the friction-match, the lit to the arc light, the scythe to the reaper, the fall to the thrasher, the lever to the cylinder press, the courier to the telegraph, the spinning wheel to the power loom, and the stage coach to the locomotive will not halt at the crossing of the centuries, but will move on to the creation of new marvels, perhaps at an accelerated pace.

There was one thought which came perhaps oftener than any other to men who thought at all. It was that a century seems short as we look back, and long as we look ahead—just as a road over which one has traveled and is to travel. As one looks the farther back, the centuries seem to crowd upon each other and events that happened decades apart seem almost one. The centuries rush together as railroad ties do as one leaves them behind. Distance diminishes the intervals. Already, men seem to see that the American epochs along the pathway of the nineteenth century, and which in the last century we regarded as immensely distant, appear to approach each other. It will not be long before the war of 1812, the war with Mexico, and the civil war will appear as of yesterday, today, tomorrow.

The twentieth century did not break first upon America. It dawned in the Far East. The people of the islands and the seas along the 180th meridian of west longitude gave it welcome to the world. It was 1901 in Continental Asia nine hours and in western Europe five hours before midnight reached Washington. The century is traveling west and will reach the west side of the 180th meridian at noon today. Then January 1, 1901, on its journey round the world.

A Noisy Welcome. Midnight in Washington was a noisy and roarious moment. The President and his family were in the White House. The streets were thronged. In every Catholic church midnight mass was celebrated in accordance with the custom of the Middle Ages.

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THE DAWN OF THE NEW CENTURY.