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CHINA DEFIES THE WORLD

Her Forces At Taku Open Fire on the Combined Fleets of Other Powers.

ACT MEANS BLOODY WAR

Battleships In Turn Bombard and Capture the Forts--Two British Ships Reported Sunk In the Action.

The German consul at Che Foo telegraphs Berlin that a Japanese boat from Taku has brought the following:

"The Chinese laid torpedoes in the Taku river and collected troops from Shan Hei Kwan. The foreign commanders assembled on the Russian flagship and addressed an ultimatum to the commanders of the Taku forces, commanding them to withdraw their troops before June 17.

"At 1 a. m., June 17, the guns of the fort opened fire to which the Russian, British, French and Japanese warships replied. The bombardment lasted seven hours. Two British ships in the river between the forts are reported to have been sunk."

"The telegraph line and railroad between Tien Tsin and Taku were destroyed. Communication by water is also threatened."

WAR PRACTICALLY DECLARED.

A London special says: China declared war against the world when the Taku forts opened upon the international fleet. The accounts of what took place are still unsatisfactory, the best semi-official information being the dispatch received at Berlin from Che Foo.

The unofficial narratives, coming by way of Shanghai, vary widely and bear internal evidence of supplementing the main facts with guess work. One dispatch says that the Yorktown participated in the bombardment. Another asserts that American marines formed half of the storming force of two thousand.

An Associated Press dispatch from Che Foo dated Monday afternoon says:

"The forts on both sides of Taku are now occupied. The Chinese opened fire unexpectedly. The casualties to the mixed force were as follows:

"British, 1; German, 3; Russian, 1; French, 1. Wounded--British, 4; German, 7; Russian, 45; French, 1. Chinese torpedo boats were seized."

The Shanghai correspondents of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Monday says:

"The forts began firing in observance to orders from Peking, conveyed in a personal edict of the empress dowager, by advice of Kang Xi, president of the ministry of war. Several warships were struck by shells from the 12-inch guns of the forts."

"The heavy Russian losses were due to the blowing up of the magazine at Mandchou.

"Four hundred Chinese are reported to have been killed. The Chinese when retreating fell into the hands of the Russian land forces."

The Daily News has the following from Che Foo:

"Two of the forts were blown up. The thirty-two warships at Kau aggregated 200,000 tons and carried more than 300 guns."

POWERS TAKE ACTION.

The failure of Admiral Seymour's column and its retreat to Tien Tsin in June, it is presumed, the peril of the legations in Peking, which is still isolated, although Shanghai forwards Chinese rumors that the legations were attacked by mobs who were mowed down by machine guns, and also that the members of the legations were taken.

The situation at Niu Chwang is reported critical. The British consul at Niu Chwang has ordered all foreigners to leave Niu Chwang and Nau King Chang. The powers are taking prompt action. Four thousand German troops have

CENSUS COUNT COMPLETED.

Result, However, Will Not Be Known For a Fortnight.

Director Merriam, of the census bureau at Washington, said Monday that the work of the census enumerators would not be known for two weeks. Enumerators are strictly forbidden to give out information of any kind in regard to their work.

The count of the population in the large cities is practically completed, and about 15,000 enumeration districts have been reported as finished. The number of cards received from enumerators up to date is about 89,000.

WHEELER GETS COMMISSION.

Alabamian Is Assigned to Department of the Lakes By the President.

General Joe Wheeler has received his commission as brigadier general in the army of the United States from President McKinley.

By direction of the president General Wheeler was assigned to the command of the department of the lakes, with headquarters at Chicago. He relieves Brigadier General James F. Wade, who has held that command temporarily in conjunction with his regular Dakota command.

COAL OPERATORS MEET.

Committees Appointed to Treat With Miners' Organization.

A meeting of the coal operators of the district was held in Birmingham, Ala., Monday to effect a temporary organization, which in turn will appoint committees to treat with the miners, who meet in state convention in a few days to fix the wage scale for the year beginning July 1, 1900.

CAPE COLONY CABINET.

J. Gordon-Spragg Is Premier and Gresham Colonial Secretary.

The new cabinet for Capetown, South Africa, has been officially announced as follows:

Sir Joseph Gordon Spragg is premier and treasurer. J. J. Graham is colonial secretary. Mr. Joseph Inniss is commissioner. Mr. Smartt department of public works and forestry. Peter Faure agriculture and forestry.

Three furnaces of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company at Bessemer, Ala., are banked as the result of a strike among employees, who demand an increase in wages. The strike affects about 600 men, mostly negroes, who earn from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per day.

Lumber Plant Destroyed.

The plant of the Tiffin (Ohio) Lumber Company was burned Friday morning. Loss \$80,000.

Gives An Unsatisfactory Answer to Associated Press Representative.

Admiral Dewey was seen in Washington Friday by an Associated Press representative and asked whether or not he would define his position relative to the vice presidential nomination. He replied that it was an inasmuch as he had not been offered the nomination, it would perhaps be presumption in him to say that he would or would not accept.

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