

# THE AFFAIRS OF STATE

President McKinley Discusses Them in a Lengthy Message.

## IMPORTANT MATTERS MENTIONED

The Situation, Present and Future, of Chinese Affairs Given Much Space—Decree of War Tax Advocated—As to Pensions, Cuban Matters, Etc., Etc.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: At the outgoing of the old and the incoming of the new century you begin your session in the city of Washington with evidences on every hand of individual and national prosperity and with proof of the growing strength and increasing power for the good of republican institutions. Your countrymen will join with you in felicitation that America, which is more firmly established than ever before, stands ready for it and the determination to preserve it and more universal than at any former period of our history.

The republic was never so strong, because never so strongly entrenched in the hearts of the people as now. The conditions with few exceptions, except as it left the hands of its authors, the ambitions which have been made to Pekin for the protection of the Americans and other powers, the naval action until some 600 men were assembled in the capital as besiege guards.

Still the peril increased. The legations reported the development of the sedition movement in Pekin and the need of increased provision for defense against it. The preparations were not yet complete, larger expense being required to strengthen the legation guard and keep the railways open, an attempt of the foreign ships to make a landing at Taku was met by a fire from the Chinese forts. The forts were thereupon shelled by the foreign vessels, the American admiral taking no part in the attack on the ground that we were not at war with China and that such an demonstration might consolidate the anti-foreign elements and strengthen the Boxers to oppose the relieving column. Two days later the Taku forts were captured after a sanguinary conflict. Severance of communication with Pekin followed and a combined force of additional guards were advancing to Pekin by the Pei Ho, while the Loang Fang. The isolation of the legations was complete.

On June 19 the legations were cut off. An identical note from the yamen ordered each minister to leave Pekin under a promised escort, within twenty-four hours. To gain time, they repudiated prolongation of the stay, which was afterwards granted, and requesting an interview with the tsung-li-yamen on the following day. No reply being received, on the morning of the 20th the German minister, Baron von Ketteler, set out for the yamen to obtain a response and on the way was murdered.

An attempt to recover the legation guard to recover the body was foiled by the Chinese. Armed forces turned out against the legations. Their quarters were surrounded and attacked. The mission compounds were abandoned, their inmates taking refuge in the British legation, where all the other legations and guard gathered for more effective protection. Four hundred persons were crowded in in narrow compass. Two thousand native converts were assembled in a nearby palace under protection of the foreigners. Lines of defense were strengthened, trenches dug, barricades raised and preparations made to stand a siege, which at once began. From June 20 until the 17th, while Minister Conger, there was scarcely an hour during which there was not firing upon some part of our lines and into some of the legations, varying from a single shot to a general and continuous attack along the whole line. Artillery was placed around the legations and on the overlooking palaces with thousands of 3-inch guns and shell were destroying some buildings and damaging walls. So thickly did the balls rain that, when the ammunition of the besieged ran low, five quarts of Chinese bullets were gathered in an hour in one compound and recast.

Attempts were made to burn the legations by setting neighboring houses on fire, but the flames were successfully fought off, though the Austrian, Belgian, Italian and Dutch legations were then and subsequently burned. To save life and ammunition the besieged sparingly returned the incessant fire of the Chinese soldiers, holding out to repeat the same, in an attempt to secure their lives and to punish. These inflammatory appeals to the ignorance and superstition of the masses, mendacious and absurd in their accusations and deeply hostile in their spirit, could not but work cumulative harm. They claimed that no particular class of foreigners they were imperialists attacking everything foreign. An outbreak in Shan Tung, in which German missionaries were slain, was the too natural result of these malevolent teachings. The posting of sedition placards exhorting the destruction of foreign and of every foreigner caused unrestrained hostile demonstrations toward the stranger gained strength by organization.

The sect, commonly styled the Boxers, developed greatly in the provinces north of the Yangtze and the collection of many individuals including me in the immediate councils of that throne itself, became alarmingly aggressive. No foreigner's life outside of the protected treaty ports was safe. No foreign interest was secure from sporadic attacks. The physical force of fleets and arms have been needed to secure due respect for the treaty rights of foreigners and to obtain satisfaction from the responsible authorities for the sporadic outrages upon the persons and property of foreign soldiers which from time to time occurred at widely separated points in the northern provinces, as in the case of the outbreak in Sze Chuen and Shan Tung.

Posting of anti-foreign placards became a daily occurrence, with the repeated repetition of incendiary power failed to check or punish. These inflammatory appeals to the ignorance and superstition of the masses, mendacious and absurd in their accusations and deeply hostile in their spirit, could not but work cumulative harm. They claimed that no particular class of foreigners they were imperialists attacking everything foreign. An outbreak in Shan Tung, in which German missionaries were slain, was the too natural result of these malevolent teachings. The posting of sedition placards exhorting the destruction of foreign and of every foreigner caused unrestrained hostile demonstrations toward the stranger gained strength by organization.

During the siege the defenders lost sixty-five killed, 135 wounded and seven by disease—the last all children.

On July 14 the besieged had their first communication with the tsung-li-yamen, from whom an armistice was given to the legations, a settlement and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.

The policy of reciprocity so manifestly rests upon the principle of international equality and has been so readily approved by the people of the United States that there ought to be no hesitation in either branch of congress in giving it effect.

This government desires to preserve the most just and amicable commercial relations with all foreign countries, unmoved by the industrial rivalries necessarily developed in the expansion of international trade.

It is believed that the foreign governments generally entertain the same purpose, although in some instances there are clamorous demands upon them for compensation and deterrent punishment of the responsible authors and abettors of the criminal acts whereby we and other nations have suffered grievous injuries.

Taking as a point of departure the imperial edict appointing Li Hung Chang as President of the Councils, to settle a

reconciliation and the edict of September 25 whereby certain high officials were designated for punishment, this government has moved in concert with the other powers toward the opening of negotiations, which Mr. Conger, assisted by Mr. Rockhill, has been authorized to conduct on behalf of the United States.

General bases of negotiation formulated by the government of the French republic have been adopted with certain reservations, made necessary by our own circumstances, but like similar reservations by other powers, open to discussion in the progress of the negotiations.