The Columbus Journal.

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READY TO DROP CHINA

State Department Losing Faith in Information Furnished by Wu.

CIPHER DISPATCH NOW DOUBTED

British Government Calls Attention to Several Suspicious Circumstances — U. S. Refuses to Make Conger's Safe Return Matter for Diplomatic Barter.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Unless some authentic assurance as to the condition of the Americans in Pekin reaches the state department within a day or two the administration is likely to abandon whatever faith it has manifested thus far in the truthfulness of Chinese information. The Chinese minister is confident that within that time there will be news from Pekin of a character to satisfy the most skeptical as to its accuracy, and he is also confident that this will be good news from the American point of view.

The state department is still receptive, though looking with growing coldness on the numerous edicts and telegrams which are coming from China, all without bringing any news. The contributions of the day were from Consul General Goodnow at Shanghai and Consul Fowler at Che Foo. So much of their messages as was given out for publication related to the welfare of certain missionaries who have been made the subject of inquiry by relatives in this country. The cables mangled these messages and there is reason to doubt the value of the information attempted to be conveyed through them.

Mr. Goodnow also had something to say about the political situation and it is believed that that part of his message was not of an encouraging character. At any rate, it was withheld from the press, probably because the government did not deem it prudent to give it the stamp of apparent approval.

Ever since the receipt at Tien Tsin of the autograph message from Minister Conger, dated Pekin, July 4, state department officials have had grave doubts as to the authenticity of the cipher message attributed to him, dated Pekin, July 18. There have been many little side lights on this message that afford ground for suspicion, and now the British authorities have added their quota to the growing distrust of things Chinese. It seems that Mr. Warren, at present acting as British consul at Shanghai, has been told by Sheng, the famous Chinese director of posts and telegraphs, that Yuan, the governor of Shan Tung, told him (Sheng) that a message had passed through to the United States from Mr. Conger on the 18th of July telling of the condition at the British legation. This cipher dispatch was "faked" by Chinese officials.

It is pointed out at the state department, however, that there are plausable explanations of this curious fact which tend to show the authenticity of the cipher dispatch. Secretary Hay cabled to Mr. Conger that he might have implicit faith in the person who brought the dispatch to him. Mr. Conger, therefore, had a right to trust the man, and possibly he told him in a general way the contents of the dispatch in case the messenger should be obliged to detroy it to insure his own safety. However that may be, the British government has thought Mr. Warren's report worth the attention of our government.

The state department officials do not like the European criticism more or less attributing to our government a lack of whole-heartedness in the effort to get to Pekin. They point to what the American troops and marines have already done, to the loss of life and limbs suffered by them and to the repeated urgings of the American officials at every point looking to a forward movement at Pekin.

UNABLE TO GET A REPLY.

Acknowledges Inability to Communicate With Italian Minister.

HONG KONG, July 28.—In order to test the Chinese assurances regarding the safety of the legations, the Italian consul here yesterday requested the acting viceroy of Canton to communicate with the Italian minister, Marquis Calvago Raggi, and to obtain a reply from him concerning a matter known only to the minister and the consul.

Today the acting viceroy reported that it was impossible for him to accede to the request.

Miss Anthony to Negroes

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 28.—At the negro race conference today a paper from Susan B. Anthony was read by the secretary. She appealed to the conference to petition congress for a sixteenth amendment which shall prohibit the disfranchisement of citizens on account of sex and declares the condition of negro women was not improved by emancipation. The negro women will organize a national society to send out literature instructing negro women how to improve homes.

Rebels Defeat Prince Ching.

BERLIN, July 28.—A dispatch received here today, dated Tien Tsin, Tuesday, July 24, says:

"A messenger who left Pekin Sunday, July 15, brought today to the customs office here news that Prince Ching's soldiers had been fighting Prince Tung's troops and had been defeated. The foreigners were defending themselves in the northern cathedral near the Forbidden City."

New Point Brought Up

WASHINGTON, July 28.—The state department has another novel extradition case on hand growing out of the peculiar international status of Cuba. Louis Darell committed a murder in Cuba and made his escape from the island. He was traced to Portuguese East Africa, and the state department today was notified that the Portuguese authorities had him under arrest and detention at the town of Beira, awaiting the arrival of officers from Cuba to take him into custody. Portugal has no extradition treaty with the United States.

Receive an Encouraging Word.

BOSTON, July 28.—The American board of commissioners for the foreign missions today received a cablegram from Rev. Henry B. Porter, a missionary of the board, dated Che Foo, July 23, containing the words "Pekin alive." Rev. Mr. Porter, who was stationed at Pang Chuang, province of Shang Tung, north China, escaped to Che Foo after the Boxer uprising. The cablegram contained only the two words "Pekin alive," no intimation being given as to the evidence on which the conviction which apparently prevailed at Che Foo was based.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY.

Some Rules Adopted that Are Likely to Improve the Service.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—Postmaster General Emory Smith has issued an order carrying into effect recommendations made by the rural free delivery superintendents, who have been in session here several days. The order, which applies to all rural free delivery service in the country, follows:

First—It is ordered that, beginning August 1, the drop letter, or 1-cent rate of postage, will not apply within rural free delivery limits. The 2-cent per ounce rate will be enacted within such delivery on all first-class matter except postal cards.

Second—That the introduction of rural free delivery will not increase or otherwise modify the present rate of postage on second-class matter.

Third—That the rural free delivery carriers will not bring to the postoffice mail matter collected by them, which may be delivered on their routes before completing their trips.

Fourth—That stamps on mail matter collected by rural free delivery carriers, including those on matter delivered en route as named in section 3, will be cancelled by them and reported to the postmaster, who will derive the benefit of the cancellation if the office is fourth-class.

Fifth—That until suitable rubber cancelling stamps can be supplied by the department, free delivery carriers will cancel the stamps with the indelible pencils furnished them for use in registered letters.

STILL MATTER OF SURMISE.

As to Date of Probable Advance of Allies on Pekin.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—It is said tonight that the cablegram received by the navy department today from Admiral Remey contained no statement as to when the forward movement of the allied armies on Pekin was to be made. In a measure this was a disappointment to the officials, who dread delay in a united advance for the relief of the legationers. Admiral Remey has just been on a visit to Tien Tsin, where he went to make an examination into the conditions existing there and, presumably, to gather what information he could as to the future intentions of the allies. For this reason it was expected that he would be able to give some indication of the probable time the forward movement on Pekin would begin.

The navigation of the naval authorities, Admiral Remey's dispatch gave no information of the present strength of the foreign troops now ready to begin the campaign, although it is not thought here that they are numerous enough to force their way to the Chinese capital and successfully encounter the opposition which it is feared will be met on the way there.

Race Troubles in New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, July 27.—In the rioting last night one negro was beaten to death, six were so badly wounded that their lives are despaired of and about a score of people, white and black, male and female, have been more or less seriously wounded. Disorderly acts following the disturbances at night were committed throughout the next day and resulted in the swearing in by the mayor of 500 special policemen and the ordering out of 1,500 of the state militia upon orders of Governor Herd, who responded promptly to the appeal of Mayor Capdeville.

Fear for Their Children.

DES MOINES, July 27.—W. H. Bron of Rosehill, Ia., and his family have given up the safety of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Garrett, who are missionaries for the Christian church in China. Both of the young people graduated from Drake university, Des Moines, a year ago. A letter from them, dated June 18, is the last word received. At that time they were starting from Kuling to Shanghai. The Boxers were inciting the people to kill all foreigners, and the missionaries, numbering about sixty Americans, were badly frightened.

Agent Fails to Return.

SYRACUSE, Neb., July 26.—Dr. Turo Hill put an agent on the road for the sale of his scalp invigorator. The agent hired a team from McFarland's livery stable, left it in Johnson county, appropriated all the sales, forgot to pay his bills, and Turo says if he gets hold of him he will need several bottles of his invigorator for his own use. McFarland got back from Johnson county with his team.

Pope Receives American Pilgrims.

ROME, July 27.—The American pilgrims under the direction of Father E. H. Porcil of Brooklyn were received by Pope Leo today. The bishops of Brooklyn and Burlington and students of the North American college were present. The pope appeared to be in excellent health.

Valdemar Brothers to Hang

PHOENIX, A. T., July 27.—This afternoon Acting-Governor Akers issued an answer to the request of the Texas officials for clemency in the case of Valdemar brothers, refusing to grant a commutation of sentence to hang August 10, at Tombstone.

Exportation of Arms Prohibited.

PARIS, July 27.—The Journal Officiel publishes this morning a decree prohibiting the exportation of arms and ammunition from France and the colonies of France to China and adjacent countries.

Commissioner Rockhill's Departure.

PHILADELPHIA, July 27.—Special Commissioner Rockhill will leave Washington Saturday with Mrs. Rockhill for San Francisco, stopping a day or two at Chicago en route. This will enable him to reach San Francisco in time to take the Japanese liner America Maru, which sails for Yokohama and Nagasaki on August 2. If Secretary Hay returns to Washington today, as is expected, Mr. Rockhill will have a final conference with him before leaving for China. He has received the fullest instructions from the president already.

Are Again Reported Alive.

TOKIO, July 24.—A message received here from Shanghai yesterday makes the following assertions: Yuan Shi Kai, governor of Shan Tung, has received a letter from Pekin, dated July 18, declaring that a legation courier was captured by the Chinese guards on July 13 and that thereupon General Tung Lu petitioned the throne to employ the courier as a messenger to communicate with the ministers. This was carried out and a reply was received that the ministers were well and unanimous in favoring the restoration of peace.

GIVES THE LIE TO CHINA

Admiral Remey Declares Throne Was in Sympathy With Boxers.

ARE TOO STRONG FOR CONTROL

Representation of American Officer Accepted by Administration — United States May Change Front Owing to Growing Evidence of Duplicity.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—There were no developments today to warrant the assumption that there will be the slightest improvement in the Chinese situation. Indeed, the general tenor of the news as brought to light was to add to the steadily growing doubt as to the good faith of the Chinese government as manifested in its acts. Admiral Kempff's letter, given publicly by the navy department today, made the direct statement that the imperial authorities were in sympathy with the Boxers, though he added that the government was afterward paralyzed and incapable of controlling the situation. This was the first official declaration to reach our government contradictory of the Chinese representations that the imperial government had steadfastly and from the first opposed the Boxer movement, and our government is bound to accept the word of its own officer until that is overcome by irrefutable evidence. Then the exchanges that are in constant progress between the powers are tending more and more to cast suspicion upon the genuineness of the many communications that have come from Pekin through Chinese governmental sources. If it should be finally fraud upon the world, the fact may call for a change of attitude on the part of the United States government toward China. This would not affect the military policy under way, but merely the technical relations between the two governments, which would probably closely approximate a step of formal war.

The navy department today contributed a brief news item in the shape of a vindication by Admiral Remey of the United States marines from the general charge of looting at Tien Tsin. The admiral had a great deal more than this to report to the navy department, but the officials did not regard the rest of his report as proper for publication just now.

General Miles and General Buffington were again in consultation, though separately, with Secretary Root today and the supposition is that the Chinese campaign was under consideration.

AVENGEDEATH OF COMRADE.

Detachment of Fortieth Infantry Kills Eighty-Nine Filipinos.

MANILA, July 27.—At Oroquieta, in northern Mindanao, two soldiers entered a native store for the purpose of buying food. One of them was killed by a bolo and his head severed from his body. The other escaped and gave the alarm. A company of the Fortieth infantry, stationed at Cagayan, repaired to Oroquieta and killed eighty-nine natives, thirty of them being in a single house.

Subsequently the gunboat Callao, commanded by Lieutenant George B. Bradshaw, shelled Oroquieta, burning the warehouses. One of the crew was killed. A force of the enemy, estimated to number 500, under the leadership of Alvarez, formerly the insurgent president of Yarbranga, is now persistently troubling northern Mindanao.

A marine at the outpost of Isabella de Balsin was boloed by natives and so badly wounded that he died. Isabella is tranquil.

GETS BACK AT BRISTOW.

President Cowan Angry at Statements of Postoffice Official.

MUNCIE, Ind., July 27.—Ross H. Cowan, president of the Neely Printing company, tonight issued a card denouncing the statement of Assistant Postmaster General Bristow and stating that the records show that there was a legitimate sale of the printing office from Neely to him, and furthermore that printing bills for the Cuban government ordered through Neely were not paid twice. Owing to clerical error Rathbone paid one bill of $163, but this was rectified.

Tried to Kidnap Bowlin.

PENDLETON, Ore., July 27.—Parties broke into the house of J. D. Bowlin of Weston, Ore., last night and tried to kidnap him and his wife. Bowlin is the man over whose extradition on Governor Beckham's requisition there were answers of Bowlin and two habeas corpus cases here.

Boxers Not in Korea.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—Mr. Ye, the Korean charge here, took to the state department a dispatch from his government denying positively the published stories that the Boxer movement had extended to Korea, or that any Chinese Boxers had crossed the Korean frontier.

A Chance for Young Doctors.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—General Sternberg says 100 additional medical officers are wanted by the surgeon general for duty in the Philippines and China. He says that only graduates of reputable medical colleges, with some experience and under 40 years of age, will be accepted.

Li Hung Chang's Latest.

LONDON, July 27.—(New York World Cablegram.)—The Express' Shanghai correspondent cables: "Li Hung Chang told the consuls last night they might expect some of the legation people to arrive at Tien Tsin almost immediately, as they are already on their way thither. He had received explicit and positive information that with one exception all the ministers are unharmed. The impression gains ground here that the ministers may still survive, but all others of the foreigners have been murdered.

Conflagration at Nome.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 27.—A special to the Times says:

"Cape Nome was treated to a great conflagration early in this month. Miles and miles of tundra were burned over and many native homes destroyed.

"The fire began close to the eastern suburbs of Nome and swept the country from the outer edge of the sand beach to the foot of the hills and far below Cape Nome, so that the surface looks like a vast prairie that has been burned over."

MAKES THE STATE ASSESSMENT.

State Board of Equalization Completes Its Annual Tax Levy.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 27.—The state board of equalization has completed its labors and announced the valuation and levy for state taxes for the fiscal year 1900. The total valuation is $171,747,592.75, as compared with $169,105,965.10 in 1899. The total levy is $1,208,984.94, as compared with $1,286,792.58 in 1899. The decreased levy is made possible by the wiping out of the sinking fund, the levy for which last year amounted to $96,045.11. The general fund levy this year is $858,737.96, and in 1899 was $845,529.54; school fund, 1900, $178,499.39, 1899, $174,114.02; university fund, 1900, $171,747.59, 1899, $169,105.91.

The total valuation, it will be noticed, is approximately $2,600,000 greater this year than last. The increase comes largely under the personal property class. The average valuation of both improved and unimproved land is slightly decreased, the figures being as follows: Average value improved land per acre, 1899, $3.56; 1900, $3.46; average value unimproved land per acre, 1899, $1.32; 1900, $1.21.

The following table gives the valuation, levy percentage and total levy by counties:

Counties.	Assessed valuation.	Levy.	Total assess't.
Adams	$ 2,76,592.96	7½	$ 19,255.72
Antelope	1,552,770.56	7½	11,063.49
Blaine	189,486.72	6½	1,292.51
Banner	298,540.00	6½	1,940.51
Boone	1,713,202.20	7	11,992.42
Box Butte	841,800.20	6¾	5,682.15
Boyd	461,294.00	6½	2,998.41
Brown	650,451.47	6¾	4,390.55
Buffalo	2,782,882.77	7½	20,926.50
Burt	2,545,800.31	6½	16,546.10
Butler	2,251,062.10	7½	16,891.58
Cass	4,433,158.05	7½	32,547.04
Cedar	2,497,344.00	7	16,821.40
Chase	628,428.20	6½	4,159.85
Cherry	1,800,181.32	6½	11,759.68
Cheyenne	1,391,586.14	6½	9,045.39
Clay	2,412,102.90	7	16,884.71
Colfax	1,966,414.30	6¾	13,272.29
Cuming	2,234,585.77	6¾	15,083.46
Custer	2,342,282.90	6½	15,224.84
Dakota	1,589,202.15	6¾	10,727.11
Dawes	1,059,447.91	6¾	7,151.28
Dawson	1,768,329.92	7	11,748.58
Deuel	656,162.69	7	4,592.13
Dixon	1,665,396.01	7	11,656.45
Dodge	3,136,678.81	7½	22,348.82
Douglas	21,745,972.64	7½	163,094.79
Dundy	644,922.35	6½	4,192.00
Fillmore	2,267,198.37	7	15,870.99
Franklin	1,189,452.00	7	8,326.16
Frontier	1,174,369.20	6½	7,633.41
Furnas	1,840,050.65	6¾	12,420.34
Gage	5,212,783.77	7½	37,652.59
Garfield	297,282.80	6½	1,933.35
Gosper	641,228.20	6½	4,168.02
Grant	395,320.26	6½	2,569.58
Greeley	950,178.90	7	6,651.25
Hall	2,677,345.77	7	18,740.41
Hamilton	1,865,541.00	7½	13,424.47
Harlan	1,301,855.66	6¾	8,788.21
Hayes	488,984.00	6½	3,178.39
Hitchcock	699,787.29	6½	5,780.12
Holt	2,384,861.95	6¾	16,386.61
Hooker	124,080.50	6½	806.52
Howard	1,520,188.60	7	9,311.31
Jefferson	2,513,518.82	7	17,594.63
Johnson	2,059,992.56	7	14,699.25
Kearney	1,320,207.12	7	9,311.46
Keith	765,292.60	6½	5,170.06
Keya Paha	411,020.00	6½	2,671.70
Kimball	622,413.50	6½	4,052.21
Knox	1,891,591.20	7	12,610.51
Lancaster	9,270,858.47	7½	69,531.44
Lincoln	2,094,774.84	6½	13,631.02
Logan	229,592.00	6½	1,492.25
Loup	160,959.00	6½	1,046.24
Madison	2,351,846.53	7½	16,225.89
McPherson	121,092.00	6½	787.10
Merrick	1,834,149.31	7	12,839.05
Nance	1,267,500.00	7	8,872.92
Nemaha	2,797,370.36	7½	20,983.43
Nuckolls	2,257,372.00	7	15,802.00
Otoe	4,540,020.30	7½	33,270.26
Pawnee	2,507,176.01	7½	17,820.89
Perkins	623,686.00	6½	4,054.94
Phelps	1,307,178.32	6¾	8,821.05
Pierce	1,518,946.20	7	10,632.62
Platte	2,397,836.77	7½	17,982.27
Polk	1,262,682.30	7½	9,154.52
Red Willow	1,219,246.999	6½	7,925.12
Richardson	3,227,623.87	7½	24,125.34
Rock	576,427.50	6½	3,747.41
Saline	2,468,274.20	7½	17,594.54
Sarpy	2,250,235.77	6¾	15,189.10
Saunders	3,443,745.25	7	24,096.22
Scotts Bluff	451,994.00	6½	2,937.96
Seward	2,594,576.92	6¾	17,513.40
Sheridan	1,328,280.25	6½	8,634.47
Sherman	880,978.91	6¾	5,940.54
Sioux	418,902.75	6½	2,720.91
Stanton	1,484,245.16	6¾	10,018.67
Thayer	2,258,624.79	7	15,810.45
Thomas	150,928.97	6½	981.04
Thurston	549,985.47	6½	3,574.90
Valley	975,479.80	7	6,828.36
Washington	2,269,846.34	6¾	15,986.47
Wayne	1,865,502.00	6¾	12,592.14
Webster	1,986,288.66	6¾	13,842.12
Wheeler	298,227.00	6½	1,938.52
York	2,319,541.14	7	16,236.79
Totals	$171,747,592.75		$1,208,984.94

Leasing the School Land.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 27.—Land Commissioner Wolfe is preparing to begin another auction of school lands, of which there are now about 77,000 unleased acres. The available land is located in thirty-three counties.

It is expected that the revenue from the leases will amount to 8 per cent of the appraised value except where the lands were bid off at a bonus last year and not taken.

Considerable latitude is allowed to the commissioner of public lands and buildings, however, and if his best endeavor fails to dispose of the lands on a basis of 6 per cent it is within his power to offer it to the person who is willing to pay that percentage on the highest offered valuation. This gives persons who wish to use the school land an opportunity to get the lease at the rate it is really worth to the lessee.

Bold Robbers Are Caught.

BROKEN BOW, Neb., July 27.—A bold robbery occurred in Ansley. The safe in B. J. Tierney's drug store was broken into by two men and they secured $350 in gold, silver and bills. The robbers took a southeasterly direction and made their escape about 2 o'clock in the morning.

Sheriff Armstrong was telephoned and was on the scene immediately. He followed them to Saratoga and captured both.

They Like Rural Delivery.

MILFORD, Neb., July 27.—The two rural delivery mail routes already established near here are so satisfactory that a petition is out for another route reaching those south and east of town. If established, this route will obviate the necessity of the postoffice now at Camden.

Soldier's Body Reaches Home.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., July 27.—The remains of George W. Moslyn arrived in this city from Manila, via San Francisco, and were taken directly to the residence of his mother in the western portion of the city. Mayor Tom E. Parmele requested that all flags be hung at half mast and that all county and city offices and all places of business be closed during the funeral. Deceased was only 18 years of age and was a soldier in Company C, Thirty-ninth regiment of Nebraska volunteers, U. S. A., and died on shipboard.

A Shortage of $12,000.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., July 27.—It develops that C. E. Cotton, late cashier of the First National bank of Syracuse, is charged with making false entries to the amount of $12,000, beginning on June 9, 1896, and at various dates since then.

It is reported that his shortage will amount to more than that and that the full amount will be brought out at the trial before Judge Munger. He will waive the hearing before Commissioner L. F. Jackson next month.

HAS TO THE MINISTERS

Latest Message From Conger Throws no Light on the Situation.

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS MYSTIFIED

Reason for Receiving Two Communications Are Afoot of Same Date—Tak Reiterates Safety of Foreigners—China's Appeals for Mediation.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—The receipt at Tien Tsin of an undoubtedly genuine and autographic message from Minister Conger has done nothing to dissipate the doubt as to the situation at Pekin. The message, which was forwarded by the naval officers at Tien sin, Taku and Chee Foo, has indeed served only to deepen the mystery. The message comes from Captain Charles M. Thomas, commander of the Brooklyn, and is as follows:

"CHEE FOO, July 24.—Navigation Bureau, Washington: Written message, signed Conger, dated July 4, received Tien Tsin, 21st, says: 'Been besieged two weeks British legation. Grave danger general massacre by Chinese soldiers, who are shelling legation daily. Relief soon if at all. City without government except by Chinese army. Determined massacre all foreigners Pekin. Entry relief forces into city probably be hotly contested.'

"THOMAS."

The official conclusion remains unchanged, of course, but it is admitted that a careful scrutiny of the autograph message in comparison with the famous cipher message from Minister Conger admits of the belief that the two messages were written by Mr. Conger at about the same time. The situation at the British legation is represented to be the same in each case, and as Mr. Conger declares that relief must come quickly, if at all, there is ground for the supposition that conditions could not long have remained unchanged in such a crisis. The assumption that this reasoning is correct involves the further conclusion that Mr. Conger's cipher message, if genuine, was redated as of the 18th of July, two weeks later than the date of actual writing and, of course, if redated at all, that was done by Chinese officials.

On the other hand, and in support of the state department position, came today a message from another of the great Chinese viceroys, Tak, at Canton, he who took charge after Li Hung Chang's departure. This also affirmed solemnly the safety of the legationers and coming from so many different sources and from such important Chinese officials, these dispatches do claim attention. A pessimistic view of them, however, attributes to them all a common origin, namely, some one high Chinese personage at Pekin. It is noted that Tak's assurance brings the ministers one day further towards ultimate rescue than has any preceding message, the fact that it allows only three days to cover the transmission over the great distance between Pekin and Canton has attracted attention here and appears to demand explanation if the message is to be accepted as of genuine origin.

"It was not known to the state department until the publication of the fact in the news dispatches that the French government also had been addressed by the Chinese government in the effort to secure mediation. It now appears that still other powers were addressed in a similar strain. It is known that Great Britain and Germany and probably Russia have received such message. The language is not the same, but the animating idea is.

WARRING AGAINST WOMEN.

Charge Made Against British Methods in South Africa.

BERLIN, July 26.—The German press compains of what one paper calls "the growing brutalization of the South African war." Prof. von Rohland, in the Deutsche Juristenzeitung deplores the "wounds which England's procedure against the Boers has made in the world's sense of humanitarian war as expressed at The Hague conference.

A number of papers assert that England is warring now even against the wives of the Boers.

Dispose of First Rumor.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—The message from Minister Conger, which came over the wires from Captain Thomas this morning, was the first communication of unquestionable authenticity which has been received from the American minister at Pekin since his urgent appeal for help of July 12. It establishes clearly the fact that the American minister and probably the other legationers were alive on July 4, though in sore straits. Therefore, it completely and finally disposes of the first stories that were published from Shanghai of the massacre of June 27.

Floorman Dies at Nome.

RAPID CITY, S. D., July 26.—A letter from Cape Nome states that Robert Floorman died there of pneumonia and his body has been buried at Seattle, temporarily. Floorman is probably the best known mining man in the west. He came to Deadwood in 1876, promoted half a dozen big mining companies, the largest being the sale of the Florence mine in the Galena district, to St. Paul parties. He spent thousands of dollars in building up this city.

Cattle Plague in South Dakota.

YANKTON, S. D., July 26.—A peculiar and deadly disease has recently broken out in the cattle herds near Pukwana. During the last two weeks J. R. Sanborn of the Carpenter ranch has lost twenty-eight head and other herds have suffered to a less extent. The animal will be suddenly attacked and usually does not live to exceed ten minutes. Drs. Henry Shipley of Sheldon, Ia., one of the state veterinarians, and S. M. Smith, a veterinarian of Mitchell, have visited the affected district and made examinations to determine the nature of the disease.

Bloody Battles in Progress.

COLON, Colombia, July 26.—A terrific engagement still continues between the government troops and the insurgents around Panama, but the former are still holding their ground. Many have been killed and wounded and a four-hour armistice was agreed upon to attend to the wounded and bury the dead.

The steamer Bernard Hall arrived at Colon from Savanilla at 3 o'clock this afternoon with reinforcements for the government, numbering 1,000. They were brought by General Campos Serrano, governor of the department.

WILLING TO ACT FOR PEACE.

President Ready to Act for China if Stated Conditions Are Met.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The following letter from the president of the United States to the emperor of China was made public by the State department yesterday. It is in answer to a cablegram received by Minister Wu on July 20, 1900, from the tactai of Shanghai, dated July 19, 1900. It was at once communicated to the president at Canton, O., and the following is his reply:

"The president of the United States to the emperor of China, Greeting: I have received your majesty's message of the 19th of July, and am glad to know that your majesty recognizes the fact that the government of the United States desire of China nothing but what is just and equitable. The purpose for which we landed troops in China was the rescue of our legation from grave danger and the protection of the lives and property of Americans who were sojourning in China in the enjoyment of rights allowed them by treaty and international law. The same purposes are publicly declared by all the powers which have landed military forces in your majesty's empire.

"1. I am to infer from your majesty's letter that the malefactors who have disturbed the peace of China, who have murdered the minister of Germany and a member of the Japanese legation, and who now hold besieged in Pekin those foreign diplomatists who still survive, have not only not received any favor or encouragement from your majesty, but are actually in rebellion against the imperial authority. If this be the case, I most solemnly urge upon your majesty's government to give public assurance whether the foreign ministers are alive, and, if so, in what condition.

"2. To put the diplomatic representatives of the powers in immediate and free communication with their respective governments and to remove all danger to their lives and liberty.

"3. To place the imperial authorities of China in communication with the relief expedition, that co-operation may be secured between them for the liberation of the legationers, the protection of foreigners and the restoration of order.

If these objects are accomplished it is the belief of this government that no obstacles will be found to exist on the part of the powers to an amicable settlement of all the questions arising out of the recent troubles and the friendly good offices of this government will, with the assent of the other powers, be cheerfully placed at your majesty's disposition for that purpose. WILLIAM M'KINLEY.

July 23, 1900. By the President.

JOHN HAY, Secretary of State.

ESCORT FOR THE MINISTERS.

Chinese Government is to Send Them All to Tien Tsin.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—The Chinese minister received a dispatch this morning from Sheng, the director of railroads and telegraphs at Shanghai, stating that the foreign ministers are to be sent from Pekin to Tien Sien under escort; also that the imperial government has not only been protecting them, but has supplied them with food.

MINISTER PINCHON ALIVE.

Li Hung Chang Hears This and Makes It Public.

PARIS, July 25.—M. Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs, has received a telegram from the French consul at Shanghai, dated July 23, which says:

"Li Hung Chang just assured me that M. Pichon (French minister to China) is living and he has agreed to transmit to him a message from me requesting a reply within five days."

China Soldiers Get Domestic Rates.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—The postoffice department will issue an order extending the privilege of domestic rates of postage to all United States soldiers serving in China. This privilege is accorded to our soldiers in the Philippines and Cuba and imposes on the mails sent by the soldiers to the United States or sent to them from points within the United States, only the ordinary domestic rates charged on mails circulating within this country.

More Money for the War.

LONDON, July 25.—The supplementary estimates, necessitated by the prolongation of the war in South Africa, amount to £11,500,000, making a total of £34,500,000 voted for this purpose, and bringing the total army estimates up to £76,309,163.

Curtis Declines the Place.

WASHINGTON, July 25.—Ex-Representative George M. Curtis of Iowa has declined the office of first assistant postmaster general. Postmaster General Smith said after the close of office hours today that the office had not been offered to anyone else.

Waterspout in Kansas.

SOLOMON, Kan., July 25.—A waterspout flooded the town at an early hour this morning, over six inches of water falling. Cellars and lower floors were flooded and railroad culverts were washed out.

Peace Reigns in Venezuela.

CARACAS, July 25.—President Castro has officially proclaimed the re-establishment of peace throughout the republic of Venezuela. All political prisoners have been set free.

Turns a Deaf Ear to Appeal.

BERLIN, July 25.—Count Von Buelow, minister of foreign affairs, made reply to the appeal of the emperor of China for German mediation between the powers and the Chinese government. In substance Count Von Buelow said he would not submit the telegram of the Pekin government to the emperor so long as the fate of the legations and other foreigners in Pekin were not ascertained and as long as the Chinese government had not atoned for the murder of the German minister at Pekin, Baron von Ketteler.

French Consul Sends News.

PARIS, July 25.—Four dispatches from the French consul at Tien Tien, dated severally July 13, 14, 17 and 18, and forwarded from Che Foo July 18 to 20, have been received by the minister of foreign affairs, M. Delcasse. The dispatch dated July 13 says a courier from Pekin relates that since June 20 the foreign ministers have been besieged in the British legations and that the marines were making a vigorous defense. The supply of ammunition was low and the peril of those in the legation was great.

WEATHER WET AND COOL.

And the Crop Outlook is of a Satisfactory Character.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA, Lincoln, July 26.—The past week has been cool and wet, with less than the normal amount of sunshine. The daily mean temperature has averaged about 6 degrees below the normal.

The rainfall equalled or exceeded the normal in nearly all parts of the state, and ranged from one to three inches in a good portion of the state.

The wet weather of the past week has retarded, haying, thrashing and stacking, but has been very favorable for the growth of corn. In the eastern and northern counties the rain of the 15th came in season to prevent serious damage to the corn crop. However, the crop on the early-planted corn was shortened somewhat in most southern counties by the dry weather, although the late-planted was uninjured. In most central and southwestern counties the early-planted corn was seriously damaged and in some counties practically ruined, while the late-planted suffered some damage. The rain placed the ground in fine condition for working, and fall plowing has commenced in eastern counties.

Wins Suit Against Hail Association.

LYONS, Neb., July 26.—A suit brought by the Grain Growers' Mutual Hail association against W. J. Kelley, one of the policy holders of this place, was on trial before Judge Clements, and the case was decided in favor of the defendant, Kelley. This is the first of a dozen or more suits on file by the Grain Growers' Mutual Hail association against policy holders residing in this county to force payment of assessment levied by the original Grain Growers' Mutual Hail association of Omaha, which has been withheld by the policy holders here on the ground that the assessment was excessive and illegal and the signature of the policy holder thereto was obtained by fraud.

Bids Opened in Washington.

WASHINGTON, July 26.—Bids were opened at the Indian office for the brick dormitory, laundry, water and sewer system, heating and addition to the school building at the Omaha and Winnebago Indian school agency, Nebraska. The bidders were as follows: John B. Herman, Norfolk, Neb., $36,732; Charles C. Maryot, Pender, Neb., for brick dormitory alone, $23,795; John S. Kitterman, Ida Grove, Ia., $38,000; Patrick Handley, Anadarko, O. T., $30,750; Charles P. Titts, Sioux City, for sewer and water system, $200, for heating, $1,825; J. B. Rahm, Omaha, water and sewer system only, $2,396.

Cattleman in Missing.

HOLDREGE, Neb., July 26.—Nels Anderson, a wealthy stockman, living near Holdrege, started for Chicago with several carloads of stock two weeks ago and nothing has been heard from him since he left Galesburg on his way home. His folks have telegraphed to various points, but no trace of him can be found, and they fear foul play. He still has 1,000 head of cattle feeding in his yards and has the finest ranch in the county.

Hope to Kill Off Saloons.

LONG PINE, Neb., July 26.—Long Pine was a "dry" town for two years. Now it promises to be "wet" with a vengeance. A short time ago a license was granted to T. S. Cook, after a hard fight. The town cannot support two saloons, but another man is asking for a license and a number of the anti-saloon license people have signed his petition. It is supposed to be a shrewd scheme to kill off the first man.

Soldier Dies on the Way.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., July 25.—George Mostin, who enlisted in Company C, Thirty-ninth regiment, and went to the Spanish-American war, was taken sick while on his way home from Manila and died on shipboard. Word was received in this city that the body had been forwarded from San Francisco.

Arrange for Rural Delivery.

FREMONT, Neb., July 26.—The rural free mail delivery from Fremont will be established August 1, instructions from the department to that effect having been received. Two routes will be operated, on to a point five miles north and three west of the city, thence east, then south to the Military road, thence east to the city.

Carload of Cattle Stolen.

FULLERTON, Neb., July 25.—F. B. Wages and W. W. Fitzgerald of this county have been arrested on the charge of stealing a carload of cattle from a pasture belonging to Walter Sovereign and attempting to ship them by rail from St. Paul. The men will be placed in jail at St. Paul to await trial.

Case of Small-Pox Reported.

DES MOINES, Ia., July 25.—The state board of health was notified of one case of smallpox in Glidden township, Carroll county. It is reported to be of a mild nature and carefully guarded. This is the first case of the kind reported to the Iowa board for several weeks.

Mrs. Andrews Reaches Lincoln.

LINCOLN, July 26.—Mrs. E. Benjamin Andrews, wife of Chancellor Andrews, has arrived here. Chancellor Andrews is now in Chicago, but is expected here next week. He will be formally inaugurated September 22.

Captain Brown Resigns.

LINCOLN, Neb., July 26.—Adjutant General Barry has accepted the resignation of Allen F. Brown, captain of company F, Second Nebraska, commonly called the Lincoln Light infantry. An order was issued calling upon the company to hold an election on July 30, to fill the vacancy. It is said that First Lieutenant Bolshaw is the most likely candidate for the position. Captain Brown is out of the state on leave of absence, and is not expected to return.

Swindlers Work Fremont.

FREMONT, Neb., July 26.—A couple of traveling photographers, giving their names as Duffy and Burch, swindled the people of this vicinity out of about $200. The pair rented a small building. They had a camera and a few curtains and shades and advertised extensively as the Chicago Photograph company, making prices for p