

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

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GERMANY KEEPS MUM

Gives Out No Official Utterances on the Chinese Situation.

GOVERNMENT NOT SURE OF ITS FOOTING

Does Not Know How Far the Powers Will Permit it to Go.

SEEKS ALLIANCE WITH RUSSIA AND GREECE

Result of These Negotiations May Govern Future Act on.

PUBLIC ATTENTION OCCUPIED BY CHINA

All Germany Eager for Reliable Information on the Subject, but the Foreign Office Gives No Sign.

(Copyright, 1897, by the Associated Press.)

BERLIN, Dec. 25.—China has occupied the public opinion in the dominion of everything throughout the week.

The foreign office continues reticent, even the occupation of Port Arthur having failed to elicit any official statements with the exception of a denial of the extravagant utterances of the Cologne Gazette and other usually inspired papers.

The reason for this exceptional taciturnity lies in the fact that Germany itself does not know where it stands or how far the other powers will permit it to go.

Germany, Russia and France are still negotiating, and while there is strong pressure to bring about another joint action of these powers in the far east equally potent influences are working to frustrate such plans.

It depends largely upon the outcome of these negotiations as to what instructions the young duke and duchess will find awaiting him when he arrives at Hong Kong early in February.

In the meanwhile the mission of Prince Henry may be characterized as mainly a display of spread eagles.

A prominent diplomat in an interview with the correspondent here of the Associated Press said: "Russia's occupation of Port Arthur is permanent."

The Sibirian railway which will finally be extended from Vladivostok to Port Arthur, making Russia the undisputed mistress of Manchuria and the whole of north China.

TERRITORY TO SCRAMBLE FOR.

"It is interests in China in no way collide with those of France, whose sphere of action is in south China. Between them is an immense territory which may eventually be disputed by Great Britain, Germany and Japan.

A movement is now on foot between Japan and Germany to arrive at an understanding as to Japan's attitude in this respect. It is believed that this course is the wisest. Russia will not tolerate Japan in Korea, as it would upset all the schemes it has been preparing for the last two years.

Therefore, England is the only ally Japan can look to in the coming events. That is, if it knows how to play its cards and establish a basis of mutual interests, for which it has considerable prospect."

From a missionary the correspondent here of the Associated Press learns that the bay of Kiau Chao is by no means so valuable as is at first believed.

Part of the harbor freezes during three months of the winter. The hinterland is barren and treeless, and the nature of the ground necessitates the erection of costly large fortifications in order to hold the bay and adjoining territory against attacks. If Germany concludes to retain it it will have to spend large sums of money.

CHIEF OF HOHENLOHE.

Prince Hohenlohe is much distressed at the sudden death of his wife on Tuesday last. He spent the previous three days at her bedside without sleep and his octogenarian frame has been greatly weakened thereby.

His physicians are urgently advising him to retire from public life, at any rate temporarily. But the emperor relies upon Prince Hohenlohe's position to remain in office in the present critical time.

The remarks of the prince will be interesting on Sunday. The body was consigned on Friday in the presence of the ministers, military dignitaries, etc., by the prince bishop of Breslau, Dr. Copp, in the conservatory of the chancery's palace. The emperor and empress of Germany sent floral wreaths.

At the recovering of the Reichstag the members of the opposition intend to make much of the fact that according to official figures just obtained, the imperial treasury receipts for the current year show a decrease of 20,000,000 marks.

They will point out that in view of the usual increase and the reorganization of the field artillery the large additional funds needed can only be raised by new taxes, contrary to the promises of the government.

The government will introduce at the re-opening of the Reichstag on January 11 another anti-socialist bill, but no so comprehensive as the one rejected last summer. It will merely apply to private lectures and universities, which will be brought under government supervision.

IMPERIAL FAMILY'S CHRISTMAS.

The imperial family passed Christmas in the new palace in the usual way. The two oldest princes arrived there Tuesday afternoon. The Christmas trees and the distribution of gifts were more lavish than heretofore. This part of the celebration took place in the Shell hall. Most of the gifts were purchased by the empress personally at various Berlin stores. They included hundreds of presents for the servants and court officials.

At a secret session of the imperial council on Tuesday a New Year's address to the emperor was adopted for the first time in many years. The address deals largely with national politics, and is couched in patriotic terms.

Voluntary collections for naval purposes are taking place among the pupils of many of the public schools.

Infuenza in a severe form has been spreading alarmingly in Berlin. There have been thousands of cases and the death rate is rapidly increasing.

Negotiations are proceeding in Berlin between Germany and Austria with a view to holding an international conference at Brussels on the subject of the abolition of sugar export bounties. France has intimated its willingness to join in the deliberations.

WANTS A TARIFF WARP.

The organ of the agrarians, the Deutsche Bauernzeitung, recently attacked Baron Thielmann's demand for a tariff war.

The Vossische Zeitung, however, many years ago the present moment is not a demand, pointing out

QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS

Joyous Day is Celebrated at Osborne by Merry Party.

PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN OF ROYALTY

Traditional Fox's Bed and Woodcock Pie Occupy Sideboard.

MANY MORE HOUSE PARTIES THAN USUAL

Former Americans Among the Leaders in Entertainments.

WEATHER THE COLDEST OF THE SEASON

Fog Gives Way to Brightness, Making the Day a Reasonable One for Christmas Festivities.

(Copyright, 1897, by the Associated Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Queen Victoria had a merry party at Osborne.

There was a grand Christmas tree loaded with presents for the royal children, the members of the household and servants, apart from the United States government which was a special feature of the occasion.

The party includes the Hattenbergs, Countess, Lordes and Albany. A royal banquet of beef, out of a Devon ox, fed on the royal farm at Windsor and roasted at Windsor by cooks sent by a London caterer, was forwarded to Osborne on Friday.

The bear's head and woodcock pie, which traditionally occupy the queen's sideboard at Christmas. This year's bear's head is a genuine European, from the Congo preserves in the Thuringian forest. Christmas day was the coldest of the season, the mercury showing 10 to 20 degrees of frost.

The prince and princess of Wales, early in the week, purchased presents as customary from the royal tradesmen who displayed the wares in an apartment of Marlborough house which the royalties selected. The prince and princess of Wales, Prince and Princess of Wales, the duke and duchess of York, Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark and the duke and duchess of Fife all assembled at Sandringham for Christmas, where the usual festivities took place.

BALL FOR THE TENANTS.

The earl and countess of Craven (formerly Mrs. Corneil Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bradly-Martin) are entertaining a house party at Crave Abbey. They gave their tenants a ball on Christmas eve. Lord and Lady Berkeley and Lady Berkeley (formerly Mrs. Louis Hammerley of New York, and later wife of the eighth duke of Marlborough, who died in 1892) are also entertaining at Deerpine.

Of the United States embassy, the ambassador, Colonel John Hay, and Mrs. John Hay, also remained in town. Henry White, secretary of the embassy, and Mrs. White spent the first part of the week at Blenheim, where the marquis of Salisbury has been entertaining a large shooting party. There Mr. and Mrs. White went to Blenheim, where they participated in Christmas rejoicings which included two balls and the presentation of two playlets, in which the duke and duchess of Marlborough and Lady Randolph Churchill had parts. James R. Carter, second secretary of the embassy, and Mrs. Carter, have gone to Blenheim, and Lieutenant Colwell, the naval attaché of the embassy, and Mrs. Colwell are in Paris.

Lord Alfred Rocheston made his usual drive of 6,000 pheasants to the omnibus drivers and conductors, every human getting a brace of birds.

EMPLOYER JACKSON'S PLANS.

As soon as Jackson, the explorer, completed the work connected with his Fram expedition he will start for the north pole. He informed a representative of the Associated Press that his original plans were in conflict with those of Lieutenant Peary, except that he intended to take to the east coast of the island instead of the west, mapping out undiscovered land on route. But since he heard the Peary lectures, Jackson has changed his plans, considering that the American has prior claim.

Jackson now proposes to proceed via Davis straits and Baffin's bay up the west coast to Ellesmere and Grinneland and thence across to the furthest point reached by Aldrich in 1876, whence he will push north, making in the direction of any land visible from the coast. The date of his departure is unsettled. Jackson will have only one companion out of his crew.

Talking over his plans he said: "I hope to push my ship considerably beyond Coburg island at the entrance to Jones sound, and at the furthest navigable point I shall establish a base and thence push north with sledges, dogs and ponies, and with one companion. I expect to be absent two years."

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

In well informed circles the general impression prevails that the scare in the newspapers and among the public in regard to the far east is at least premature. The members of the government are reticent, they are evidently sincere in disclaiming the least alarm. The impression gathered in ministerial quarters is that Great Britain is carefully watching events, hiding its time, and that it certainly will not fail to act promptly and vigorously at the proper moment.

It is intimated in quarters usually well informed on such matters that Germany has, or wishes to have, an understanding on the subject with Great Britain. This view is strongly supported by Prince Henry's visit to Queen Victoria at Osborne, by his subsequent trip to London and by the autograph letter which the prince is said to have taken to her majesty from Emperor William, which confirming is for honoring. The emperor's letter to the queen is regarded as being a distinctly conciliatory step upon the part of Germany.

But there is no doubt Great Britain is quietly preparing for all eventualities. Should it become clear that Germany and Russia have really commenced a game of grab Great Britain will be prepared to assert its claims for a division of the spoils.

The Chinese embassy view prevails that there is some understanding between Great Britain and Germany.

The public scare seems to have arisen from the idea that the proceedings took Great Britain by surprise. This is impossible, for since its intervention in the Chinese-Japanese war it has been known that Germany was not being awaiting a favorable opportunity to obtain a foothold in China, and at various times it has been reported that Lappa, Quomo and Amoy had been secured, while a year ago German ships surveyed Kiau Chou bay, all of which was known at the British foreign office. The reception of the German squadron at Portsmouth, the facilities which

LONDON IS BEFOGGED

Atmosphere So Thick as to Impede All Kinds of Business.

UNTOLD DAMAGE TO CHRISTMAS TRADE

Heavy, Foot-Laden Air Keeps People Indoors Three Long Days.

FOREIGN OUTLOOK IS ALSO VERY DARK

Gloomy Christmas for the Nation that Claims to Rule the World.

LONDON EDITORS IN THE DUMPS

Find it Difficult to Display a Mark Tapley Spirit While England's Foes are So Numerous and Malignant.

(Copyright, 1897, by the Associated Press.)

LONDON, Dec. 25.—(New York World Telegram and Special Telegram.)—Fog has been the dominating feature of London's Christmas. A dense, stifling fog has pervaded the atmosphere the last three days, impeding business, blocking railway communications, utterly disorganizing postal deliveries and inflicting untold loss on the shopkeepers by keeping a large proportion of the buying public indoors.

At 2 p. m. today the sky became visible for the first time in three days and it is impossible to see in the streets and houses without artificial light. The mere destruction dealt to Christmas goods by the prevalence of this heavy, foot-laden air is a fearful serious item.

Fog dominates with equal completeness the usual anticipations and retrospection by which the English journals celebrated this festive South Africa. A British force larger than Wellington's commanded at Waterloo retreating before a horde of the undisciplined hillmen in India, with plans for partitioning China being calmly discussed by Europe without even consulting Great Britain, with industrial troubles of tremendous magnitude distressing Britain's rivals in capturing its trade and with its army, by far the most costly in Europe in proportion to its size, reduced by unwise confessions to the lowest point of efficiency, it is difficult for London's editorial writers to lift up their hearts and editorially this Christmas, jubilee year ending amid trouble and darkness. The outlook is felt to be more confusing and portentous of difficulty than it twenty years.

MURDER DOES NOT PAY.

Paris police statistics just published effectually prove that murder does not pay from a financial point of view. They enumerate twenty-one murders, by which the assassins averaged \$16, and all the criminals were hanged.

The statistics also cite cases of over 100 more serious "tamous murders" connected with the crime of the assassin. The biggest haul was \$6, although in many cases large sums were overlooked.

An anti-sugar bounty league was formed on Wednesday under the presidency of Lord Stanmore with the object of abolishing or neutralizing duties. Prominent firms in England connected with sugar refining and the chief proprietary and mercantile interests connected with the industry have joined the league. One speaker emphatically stated that unless something was done speedily the West India will raise the stars and stripes.

King Humbert recently received in audience Mr. Remsen Whitehouse of New York and accepted a book of Prince Amado, the deceased brother of his majesty.

CONTINENTAL CONFLAGRATION.

There is general apprehension that the long threatened European conflagration cannot be much further delayed. Not the most acute and experienced observer James Watson to predict what a day may bring forth. This Indian trouble seems to have been the harbinger of a general European war.

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THE BEE BULLETIN.

Weather Forecast for Nebraska—Fair, Slightly Cooler, Variable Winds.

Germany Mums on Chinese Question.

Victoria Has a Merry Christmas. London Reveals in Another Fog. Omaha Bridge Monopoly Heavily.

Aftermath of the Chicago Fire.

Christmas Day at Nebraska's Capital. Fatal Attraction at a Dance. Jimmy Michael Again Shows His Speed.

Last Week in Omaha's Social Whirl.

Christmas Dole in Omaha.

Coswell Blows Local Matters. Problems for Iowa's Legislature.

Spring Review of the Week.

In the World of Whirling Wheels.

Plan to Improve School Board.

"Simon Dale."

11. In the Domain of Woman.

12. Editorial and Comment.

13. Nebraska Thanksgiving in 1854. The Achievements of 1897.

14. In the World of Amusements. Commercial and Financial News.

15. "Andy Cameron, Diver."

Temperature at Omaha:

Hour. Deg. Hour. Deg.

5 a. m. 20 1 p. m. 32

6 a. m. 28 2 p. m. 32

7 a. m. 32 3 p. m. 32

8 a. m. 28 4 p. m. 30

9 a. m. 27 5 p. m. 28

10 a. m. 25 6 p. m. 26

11 a. m. 23 7 p. m. 26

12 m. 22 7 p. m. 26

ing that she could never act again after the awful shock she has endured.

TREE LOADED WITH GOLD SUGGETS

Returned Klondike Miner Makes a Novel Display.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—James I. Clements, at the Lafayette hotel last night, displayed one of the costliest, if not the costliest, Christmas trees which will be seen in the world.

It would make Santa Claus himself stand and blink in wonder. On this richly laden tree were 750 \$20 gold pieces and nuggets and presents worth \$5,000, which brought the total up to \$50,000. Last year the man who fired up the Christmas tree dined on Christmas day in the Klondike off a piece of caribou meat, with the top of a tin lead bucket for a plate and his fingers serving the purpose of knife and fork.

The tree occupies a room in the Hotel Lafayette and those fortunate enough to be allowed to feast their eyes upon this prodigious display of wealth were granted permission by their owner to lift \$20 gold pieces through their fingers, to life double handfuls of gold nuggets and guess how much they were worth, and every visitor carried away a little souvenir, whether "The Klondike King" or "The Klondike Queen" before or not. Mr. Clements arrived in New York about two weeks ago with his wife and two children. Yesterday he purchased a tree five feet high and had it taken to his rooms in the Lafayette. Then he carried in his presents. When they were displayed on the tree by his wife he went to the express office and got three sacks of caribou skin containing his supplies worth \$30,000. From there he went to a safety deposit company where he had stored several days before \$15,000 in \$20 gold pieces. With much trouble the nuggets were strung on strong silk cord and hung about the tree. On the table at the base of the tree the gold pieces were dumped. A central office detective was detailed to watch the tree.

MRS. LUETGER'S BROTHER INSANE.

Effort Made to Prove It is a Family Taint.

CHICAGO, Dec. 25.—The attorneys for Adolph L. Luetger have received a report from the superintendent of the insane asylum at Pueblo, Colo., on the mental condition of Herman Bicknese, the brother of Louise Luetger, who disappeared twenty years ago and was recently discovered locked up in the Colorado asylum. The doctor will endeavor to put this document in evidence and if the court refuses to admit it the superintendent of the asylum himself will be brought here to testify.

According to