

THE WOODSTOCK DISPATCH.

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CHARLES APPELBY,
Editor and Proprietor.

WOODSTOCK, N. B., SEPT. 12, 1900.

COMMON SCHOOLS ACT.

Some important amendments have been made to the Common Schools Act of the New Brunswick, to take effect next year.

One of the Amendments which will have probably the most far reaching effect is found in section 23. Heretofore a man living, for example, in district No 1, Northampton and owning property in districts 3, 4 and 5 in the same parish, paid all his school rates into District No. 1 in which he lived. Under the new act the property of such a man will be rated in the several districts in which it lies. This provision will ameliorate a great deal of injustice that has hitherto been done a number of small and poor districts in this province; a large amount of taxes on land in poor districts having in times past gone to swell the school fund of richer districts.

Some provisions have also been made requiring teachers in city schools to collect all available and useful information concerning the number of children of school age, within their district, their occupation if not attending school, the number of absentees and the causes, with a view, in the absence of a compulsory section to the act, of effecting an increase in the average attendance at our common schools. The gathering of this information may possibly have in view the future enactment of a compulsory attendance section.

A few of the schools in Carleton and Victoria Counties will probably be closed under the provisions of section 121 of the act, which provides that unless a school has an enrollment of more than twelve pupils or unless the average attendance is at least six such school shall be closed. Lest this provision should work an injustice to any district in the province, it is also provided that such a district shall assess itself for the purpose of conveying the resident children to the nearest school. It is to be presumed that the object of this section is to close up the smaller schools that from their very size must be weak ones and strengthen the larger schools which on account of the stimulus of numbers are naturally doing better work.

Many other changes have been made in the school law that from lack of space cannot be enumerated here, but they all seem to have a progressive tendency and to be in line with the improvements that are being made in other parts of our own country and in the United States.

THE CHINESE TROUBLE.

Tien Tsin, Aug. 30, via Shanghai—United States Minister Conger is said to insist that Earl Li Hung Chang shall be allowed to go to Peking for a conference. Orders have been received from Washington that 5,000 American troops shall be divided between Peking, Tien Tsin and Taku for the winter.

Pleasant supplies are arriving and are rapidly forwarded to Peking.

The Germans are taking the initiative for the organization of an allied force for active operations in the Chi Li province, and the various commanders have been requested to co-operate and to designate their quota of troops before the arrival of Count Von Walderssee. The project is as yet unsettled. The diplomatic situation in Peking is becoming complicated and a majority of the commanders, including Gen. Chaffee, are understood to have referred the proposition to their governments. The purpose of the force is not clearly understood, but one object of its formation is believed to be an expedition against Pao Ting Fu, where the Chinese are reported to be massing.

Gen. Chaffee has ordered the recently arrived marines to relieve the marine garrison in the walled city. The latter will go to Peking.

Shanghai, Sept. 7.—Earl Li Hung Chang announces that he cannot go north for 10 days, although despatch boat is ready to take him.

Berlin, Sept. 8.—The Tageblatt tonight says it is certain that Germany, Japan, Great Britain, Austria and Italy will leave their troops at Peking, those of Russia, the United States and probably France withdrawing to Tien Tsin.

St. Petersburg, Sept. 8.—It is believed in well-informed circles here that the adherence of the United States and France to Russia's proposal to withdraw the troops of the powers from Peking may now be relied upon. Japan's acceptance is also expected, and the support of Germany and Great Britain is not yet despaired of. But, if they do not agree to do so, Russia, it is again asserted, will nevertheless firmly maintain her decision to withdraw her troops from Peking.

Shanghai, Friday, Sept. 7.—Ten Ameri-

can missionaries and three American children, two Danish missionaries and one British missionary situated in Shan Tung province were murdered late in July, according to accurate reports received today.

London, Sept. 10, 4.15 a. m.—The deadlock in Peking apparently continues. It begins to look as if no solution would be attained, at any rate before the arrival of Count Von Walderssee at Tien Tsin. Germany seems to have introduced a new complication by endeavoring to organize some kind of off-side movement in the province of Chi-Li.

From the plentiful crop of conflicting rumors, both as regards the actual position of affairs in China and the diplomatic aspect in Europe, it is next to impossible to extract any definite fact. A Washington special talks of a movement among the powers to appoint Sir Robert Hart as the European representative in negotiations with China.

According to the Shanghai correspondent of the Times, Li Hung Chang is awaiting the imperial edict appointing additional negotiators. Belated dispatches to the Times from Peking say that the court fled on the morning of August 14th by the west gate, while the Japanese were shelling the east gate. The intention of the court was not to proceed to Sial-Fu, in the province of Shen Si, but to turn north to Jehol and remain there awaiting events. No high officials accompanied the court except Prince Ching.

In the appointment of the city to the control of the different nations, the Americans in ignorance of what was being done, permitted a rectification of the French quarter, adjoining the American, which transferred from American to French possession Prince Li's palace, the richest in Peking, stocked with treasures worth millions of dollars.

Berlin, Sept. 8.—The number of cablegrams, arriving seriatim, imputing to Germany compromise propositions in answer to the Russo-American proposals, appear baseless. The correspondent of the Associated Press learns authoritatively that Germany, replying to the advice to withdraw her troops from Peking, has sent Russia detailed reasons why this seems inopportune and calculated to prolong instead of shorten the war. The arguments cited in support of this contention were those already given to the Associated Press by a foreign official recently and appear identical with the arguments advanced by several other powers.

The situation in China still continues difficult in a diplomatic sense rather than from a military standpoint.

The question of doubtful credentials in the case of Li Hung Chang and other would-be negotiators continues to play an important role. It is understood that Mr. Mumm Von Schwarzenstein, the German minister to China, reported from Shanghai to the foreign office here that he does not believe Li Hung Chang is properly authorized, judging from repeated information which the minister received there on the subject.

A member of the United States embassy here told the correspondent of the Associated Press that "all the powers, with the exception of Germany, are anxious to make peace with China and that they will practically recognize Li Hung Chang as China's representative.

Washington, Sept. 8.—Orders have been cabled to Gen. Chaffee to prepare his forces for withdrawal from Peking. Further than that the war department has taken steps to have at Taku a sufficient number of United States transports to remove these troops to the Philippines as soon as they reach this port.

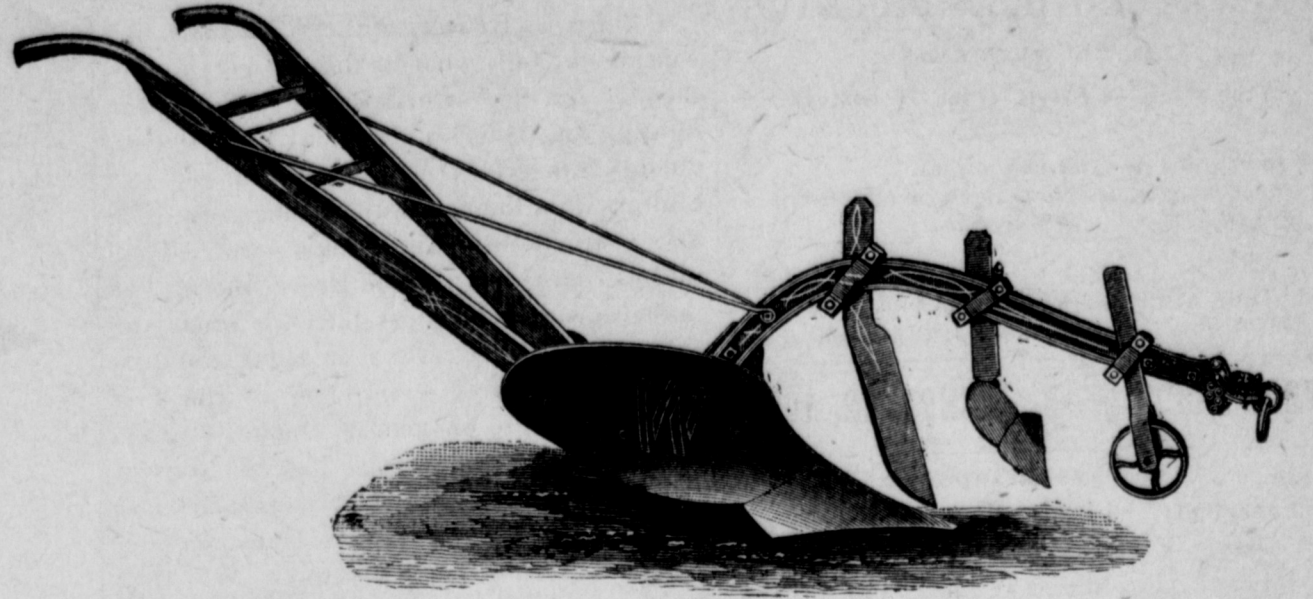
These orders are preparatory, and do not necessarily indicate that the United States government has decided finally upon an immediate withdrawal from China. It is simply placing itself in a position to carry out the pledge conveyed in the reply to the Russian note.

London, Sept. 10.—The announcement that the Chinese ministers at the capitals of the powers have received satisfactory credentials authorizing them to open peace negotiations, taken in conjunction with the indications contained in despatches from the Far East that China is developing a better disposition to arrange peace terms, is welcomed here, for the desire to expedite the settlement of the trouble is increased by despatches received from Hamburg today announcing that Germany will send two additional detachments of 5,000 and 6,000 men respectively to China early in October. These troops, it is reported, have already been ordered to prepare for their journey.

Shanghai despatches dated Sept. 8 insist that the great display of force there must be due to political causes. They contend that the attitude of the Chinese is peaceable and does not call for the taking of extraordinary measures. Today comes the news that the Japanese represented at Shanghai has informed his colleagues that Japan is sending troops to participate in the occupation of Shanghai, pending their arrival six hundred Japanese sailors will be landed.

A despatch from Peking says that after the allied troops traversed the palace on August 28, the foreign ministers and generals returned and visited the audience halls, where they found six mandarins, including an official of

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the Tsung Li Yamen. The royal departments and the rooms set apart for the women were not entered. Magnificent marble stair cases, costly bronzes and valuable vases were encountered everywhere. The emperor's throne, situated in a small building, is surrounded by pedestals on which are caskets, containing written wishes to be opened after his death.

Washington, Sept. 10.—The Chinese minister here has received an imperial edict conferring on Li Hung Chang extraordinary power for the complete settlement of the Chinese trouble. It gives him authority to make any terms according to his own discretion without referring them to the Emperor. This is unusual authority and is said at the Chinese legation to meet all the objections heretofore raised as to his power to negotiate for peace. The edict is dated two weeks ago but has just been forwarded from Li Hung Chang.

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BORN.

LITTLE.—On Wednesday, 5th Sept., to the wife of George Little, a daughter.

DIED.

SPRAGUE.—At Liverpool, N. S., on the 23rd August, J. D. Sprague, aged 56 years.

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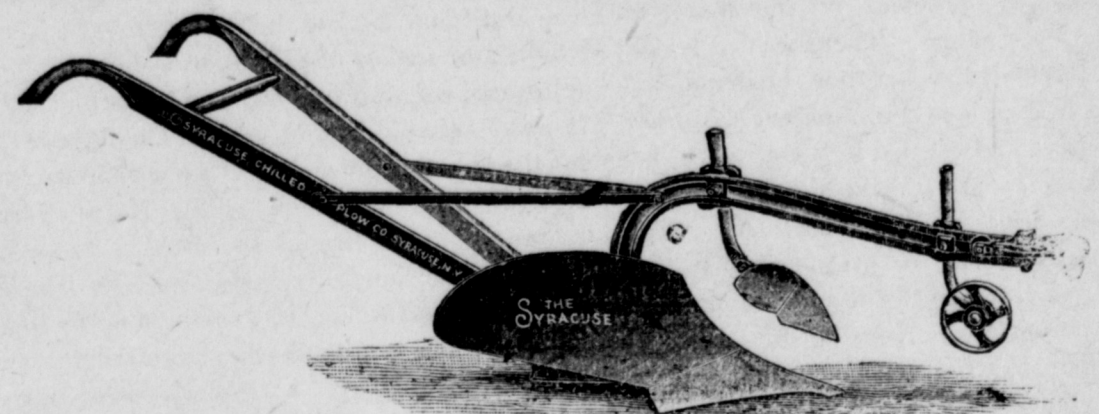
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