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Corea's Electric Railway.

Corea has now an electric line of railway of five miles in length, and it is said that the Government of the country has just closed a contract with a San Francisco firm to build an imperial highway of fifteen miles with an extension of the electric railway at one side of it, at a cost of \$1,000,000. It is not, however, to be inferred that this indicates the acceptance of modern ideas and the development of industrial enterprise in Corea. The work is being undertaken, we are told, because the astrologers declare that the spirit of the young queen who was murdered several years ago could not rest peacefully in its present cemetery. This cemetery is five miles from the king's palace in Seoul, the Corean capital, and in order to reach it speedily on the frequent pilgrimages required, a trolley line was put in operation, but was afterwards wrecked by a mob. The king has concluded to move the cemetery fifteen miles farther inland to a place which the astrologers declare propitious, and the five miles of trolley line having been rebuilt, it is to be extended to the new cemetery. The Corean tombs are said to be very elaborate and many of the monuments of colossal size, so that the removal of the cemetery is altogether a very costly undertaking for the little kingdom.

Light on the Situation.

A good deal of light has been let in upon the situation at Pekin. Advices from Sir Claude MacDonald, the British Minister, and from other sources, show that up to July 24 the legations were holding out with supplies of food, consisting principally of rice and horse flesh, sufficient for a limited time (Sir Claude MacDonald names 10 days), that in the defence of the legations some sixty had been killed and seventy wounded, while the remainder were in good health, and the wounded for the most part doing well. It appears also that about July 17 an armistice was arranged and the attacks of the Chinese upon the legations practically ceased, at least for a time. But Sir Claude MacDonald, writing on the 24th, says: "We are surrounded by Imperial troops who are firing on us continually." The British minister urged that no time should be lost in sending relief, if a terrible massacre was to be averted. The London Times, on Thursday last, published from its Pekin correspondent, Dr. George Ernest Morrison, a despatch which, both because of its contents and because of the confidence which in England is felt in the judgment of the writer, is considered highly important. According to Dr. Morrison, the Chinese Imperial authorities have been guilty of the basest duplicity in their dealings with foreign powers. He makes mention of the despatch sent by the Chinese Government to Queen Victoria, attributing all deeds of violence to bandits and requesting Her Majesty's assistance to extricate the Chinese Government from its difficulties. This despatch, Dr. Morrison says, was sent to the Chinese Foreign Office on July 3, yet only one day earlier an Imperial edict had been issued, calling on the Boxers to render loyal and patriotic service in exterminating the Christians and compelling them to renounce their faith, while other decrees speak approvingly of the deeds of the Boxers in burning out and slaying converts and extol their leaders as princes and ministers. The Times' correspondent further says that the force besieging the legations consisted of Imperial Chinese troops under generals whose "gallantry" has been applauded in Imperial decrees. It was only after news of the victory of the allied troops at Tien Tsin reached Pekin that a less hostile spirit began to be manifested toward the legations and the Imperial decrees began to take on a different tone. It would seem evident that the result of the fighting at Tien Tsin caused consternation in the Imperial palace at Pekin, and that during the past few weeks there has been some attempt on the part of the Imperial authorities to preserve the legations from destruction, and a real desire to conciliate the foreign powers. But it seems equally evident that this change of attitude has been brought about simply by fear of the results of encouraging an anti-foreign movement.

Death of Prince Alfred of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Another member of the Royal family of England has been removed by death. Prince Alfred, Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, died at Rosenau Castle on Monday, July 30. It is said that the Duke was suffering from a cancerous growth at the root of the tongue, which would have caused death after prolonged suffering, but his sudden taking away appears to have been due in part, at least, to other causes, the cause of death being given as paralysis of the heart. Prince Alfred Ernest Albert, who in 1893 succeeded to the Dukedom of the German Principality of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, was the second son of Queen Victoria and was born on August 6, 1844. After a suitable education, Prince Alfred entered the naval service as cadet in August 1858, and rose in due course to the position of Vice-Admiral in 1882. In 1862 he was offered, but declined, the throne of Greece. In 1866 he was granted by Parliament £15,000, with an additional £10,000 upon his marriage, and was created Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Kent and Earl of Ulster. An attempt upon the Prince's life was made in 1868 at Clontarf, New South Wales, by an Irishman named O'Farrell, who slightly wounded the Prince by a pistol shot, and afterwards suffered death for his crime. In January, 1874 the Prince was married to Marie Alexandrovna, the only daughter of Alexander II of Russia. The issue of the marriage were four daughters and one son, Prince Alfred, who died last year. The succession to the Dukedom of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, after having been declined by Prince Arthur, son of the Duke of Connaught, was accepted by Charles Edward, the young Duke of Albany, son of Prince Leopold. The young Duke still lacks five years of his majority, and the regency will be held by Prince Ernest Van-Hohenlohe-Langerburg, son-in-law of the late Duke.

The Advance to Pekin.

An army of the allied forces in China is believed to be making its way toward Pekin with the purpose of effecting the relief of the legations. The despatches concerning the expedition give but a confused and uncertain idea of what is being done. According to a Tien Tsin despatch to the London Daily Express, the British and American forces began their advance from Tien Tsin on Monday, August 2, while the Japanese and Russians had started three days earlier. The same correspondent gives the number of troops employed in the expedition as follows: Japanese, 20,000; Russians, 10,000; British, 9,000; and the other foreign troops about 7,000; in all 46,000. A despatch to the London Times of July 31, which speaks of the movement toward Pekin being delayed, because of the American commander's unwillingness to advance without reinforcements and because of the Japanese reconnaissance on the previous day, casts some doubt upon the correctness of the statements published by the Express. It is probably true, however, that a force of Japanese, perhaps supported by a Russian force, made an advance movement early last week and encountered the Chinese in considerable force and strongly entrenched about ten miles from Tien Tsin. There seems good reason to believe that a general movement has since taken place and that the allied forces are pushing forward toward the Chinese capital, though it has been considered necessary to establish a censorship over despatches, and the world is not being informed as to what is really taking place. Naturally much anxiety

must be felt in reference to the result of this movement on the part of the allies. According to despatches received in London and Paris from Shanghai, the Chinese Imperial Government has issued an edict permitting the foreign ministers in Pekin to communicate directly with their respective Governments and providing for their removal from Pekin under military protection, whenever they wish to go. There seems to be no reason to doubt that the Imperial authorities in Pekin desire now to protect the legations and thus to avert the vengeance of the foreign powers. But the Emperor or the Empress Dowager, whichever now represents the Imperial authority in China, can of course effect nothing apart from the military, and it is a very serious question whether the preponderance of the military forces at Pekin would obey the behest of the ruler in protecting the legations in the face of a hostile force marching upon the Chinese capital. Under all the circumstances the issue of the expedition to Pekin will be watched for with great anxiety.

The Anarchists Active.

Events indicate that the murderous spirit is at the present time unusually active among the anarchists. The assassination of King Humbert of Italy on July 29 was followed on August 2nd by a bold attempt upon the life of the Shah of Persia in Paris. A man dressed as a carpenter mounted the steps of the coach in which were the Shah and his Grand Vizier and pointed a revolver at the breast of the Persian monarch, but before he could fire the assassin's hand was caught by the Grand Vizier and he was quickly disarmed and taken into custody. The Shah is said to have acted with great coolness and courage. The would-be assassin at first refused to give any account of himself, but afterwards confessed to being Francois Salmon, a Frenchman, who has been twice imprisoned for preaching anarchy. The man Bresci, who murdered King Humbert of Italy is said to have gone from the United States not long ago. It is also reported that the plot to assassinate King Humbert was planned in Paterson, New Jersey, by Bresci and other Italian anarchists with whom he was associated. The Italian ambassador at Washington has communicated unofficially on the subject with the United States Government, and it is understood that steps are being taken to discover what truth there may be in the reports.

South Africa.

The end of the Boer war is not yet, though it is doubtless steadily approaching. The stubborn spirit of the Boers causes them to fight on long after any hope of any advantage from continuing the unequal struggle must have departed. The result of the round up in the Bethlehem district—so far as can be gathered from the despatches—is the surrender of some 4,000 Boers with their arms, horses and equipments. General Olivier, however, with 1,500 men and a good equipment of artillery, has managed to break through the British cordon. Lord Roberts reports, in a despatch of Saturday's date, that Olivier has escaped to the hills in the vicinity of Bethlehem, and has informed Gen. Bruce Hamilton that he does not consider himself bound by General Prinsloo's offer to surrender, and intends to continue the war. He is being followed by Lt. Colonel Rundle. A despatch of the same date from Pretoria—though apparently not from Lord Roberts—states that the Boer commander, Christian De Wett, is completely surrounded near Reitzburg and it is impossible for him to escape. It is also reported that the Boers purpose to make a stand at Machadodorp, but they are said to be short of food and ammunition, and Gen. Ian Hamilton's rapid movements prevent Gen. Botha receiving reinforcements. There is no late news from Roustonburg, where Gen. Baden-Powell was reported besieged by the Boer Commander Delaney. Gen. Kitchener was sent to Baden-Powell's relief, and it is probably Lord's Roberts' purpose to keep Delaney's force from joining Gen. Botha's in the east. The present situation as a whole would seem to justify the expectation that a collapse of the Boer resistance might be expected in the very near future.