

The Chinese Negotiations

The news from the Chinese Court at Singan, capital of the province of Shensi, is not reassuring. It is evident that the Dowager Empress is not only still in power, but is again listening to the malicious advice of her anti-foreign Ministers. She has once more definitely declined to inflict capital punishment on the officials whose deaths have been demanded, except in two cases; and it is believed by the foreign plenipotentiaries that the negotiations must remain at a standstill until after the Chinese New Year festival, which began on Sunday of this week. It seems plain that procrastination will be the order of the day unless she accedes to the demands of the Powers or an invading army marches seven hundred miles from Peking to Singan, and, pursuing the Court into the wilds of the adjoining province of Kansu, finally captures it. Three difficulties would attend this latter course: (1) the region is a mountainous one; (2) the Chinese have abundant means of defense; (3) in any retreat they would have a six weeks' start of the allies. It would indeed be a pity if force must again supersede diplomacy. As might be expected, the Germans are not altogether disappointed at the present condition of affairs; it not only gives them a chance to reap further military glory, with its accompaniment in the shape of a new province or two, but they also feel that their policy both of maintaining large armed forces in China and engaging them in punitive expeditions has now been vindicated. If Chinese territorial integrity is preserved, it will be largely because of the good offices of our own Government. Whatever be the result, there will remain not only the awful savagery of last summer from the Boxers, but the no less shameful outrages committed by foreign troops since then. Herr Bebel was within his right last week in a speech in the German Parliament when he declared that the war in China was the most shameful which Germany had waged in two centuries. He described the immoral conduct of the foreign soldiers, and declared that it was "almost incredible that such bestiality, even lower than that among the beasts, could survive in Christian Germany." A cheering event of the week was the reaffirmation of the

French Government's refusal to allow the Chinese loot which had arrived at Marseilles to enter the country. Instead, it ordered its immediate return to China. Less cheering was Count von Waldersee's announcement of an extensive expedition designed to clear the province of Chili of Chinese soldiers and "produce a wholesome dread among the Chinese." General Chaffee has been directed from Washington not to join this demonstration, on the ground that it is ill-advised and not calculated to help on the peace negotiations with China.



The Boer War The Boer war has now lasted nearly a year and a half. It has passed through three stages, which may be known after the names of the commanders-in-chief of the British army during those periods—the Buller stage, the Roberts stage, and the Kitchener stage. The first was characterized by disheartening and almost continuous defeat of the British forces. The second stage was opened by the entrance of reinforcements under the most brilliant of British strategists; whereas fighting had been carried on in British colonies, the territories of the two Boer republics were now invaded, their capitals and much of their forces captured. The third stage, despite the generalship of the grim conqueror of the Soudan, has been marked, for the most part, by a return of the Boers to offensive tactics and a consequent reduction of the British again to the defensive. Cape Colony has been invaded at three points, and General De Wet himself led last week's column across the Orange River. The danger is now great enough to elicit the following warning from Sir Alfred Milner:

It has been said that the enemy would never come to Cape Town; but any one who, in the face of the events of the last few months, will say a thing is impossible because it seems improbable is too silly to be argued with. I am aware that I risk being called an alarmist, but it is better to be called an alarmist than to run any risk. There was a time when it was regarded as impossible for the Boers to penetrate the extreme west and south of Cape Colony, but they have reached one and are within a few miles of the other. Therefore it is necessary to take every precaution. Most men prefer to be called alarmists and to safeguard their property. That is better than to

be called fine, plucky fellows and to lose your property.

In addition to the thirty thousand mounted infantry ordered by Lord Roberts to proceed to the Cape, Lord Kitchener has appealed to Australia to send back to South Africa the colonial troops invalided home as soon as possible. Last week, in Parliament, Lord Salisbury, British Prime Minister, protested, however, that there was no real ground for the apprehensions expressed by many, but especially by Lord Kimberley, the Liberal leader in the House of Lords, who had declared that the Conservative Cabinet "was living in a fool's paradise." The Premier referred to the length of the Indian Mutiny and to the American Civil War, "between which and the South African campaign there is a great resemblance." It was four years before "the whole efforts of that very intelligent and efficient community, North America," were able to bring the War of Secession to a final and successful issue. If the Boers were allowed to retain any portion of their independence, remarked Lord Salisbury, it would involve incessant, continuous warfare. Unless the British were masters and conquerors of these territories there was no hope of abiding peace, and any other course, he said, would be an avowal to the world that British frontiers could be invaded owing to the powerlessness of the Empire to resist such aggression.



Servia The death of ex-King Milan calls renewed attention to the unhappy little kingdom called into being after the Russo-Turkish war. Of all the Balkan States, Servia is the one which has manifested the most discouraging conditions. Allied to the Montenegrins by racial ties, the Servians have rarely displayed the sturdy qualities which distinguish the brave mountaineers to the west. It is true the Servians have existed for a quarter of a century or so under a King, but his Royal Highness the Prince of Montenegro is far more of a real monarch than have been the degenerate scions of the House of Obrenovich. Under the nominal sovereignty of Turkey, King Milan's predecessor was a prince only; he was assassinated in 1868. Having

been ignominiously defeated by the Sultan's troops eight years later, the Servians in 1877 gladly espoused the cause of Russia in the war between that Power and Turkey. Hence, through Russian influence, the negotiators of the Treaty of Berlin recognized Servian independence and erected the principality into a kingdom. For a time the kingdom seemed to prosper, and by 1885 Milan felt himself strong enough actually to declare war on his neighbor, the brave Prince Alexander of Bulgaria. But, in the campaign which followed, Milan never exposed himself under fire. Alexander not only behaved like the hero he was, but utterly crushed the Servian army. Milan was also distinguished by open acts of shameless profligacy and immorality. Three years after the Bulgarian war a decree of divorce was pronounced between him and his beautiful Queen, Natalie. Public opinion was almost entirely on her side, and a year later it became so overwhelming as to compel the abdication of Milan in favor of his son Alexander, then a twelve-year-old stripling. At that time Milan was known to be a prodigious spendthrift, his debts amounting to millions of dollars; despite this, the Servian Government granted him a princely allowance, that he might live abroad in a style befitting his rank. He attempted several times to return to Servia, and each time succeeded in producing a state of unrest in the little kingdom.



Carlism in Spain Last week was a momentous one for Spain, evoking as it did violent demonstrations in both the political and religious worlds. The political demonstration was due to the marriage of the Princess of the Asturias, daughter of the Queen Regent, with Prince Charles de Bourbon, son of the Count of Caserta. The Count of Caserta is not only a pretender to the throne of Naples, but is a Carlist by conviction and practice, an abettor of the Spanish pretender, Don Carlos; indeed, if the Spanish Government had fulfilled its strict duty, he would have been arrested at the frontier, on his journey to attend his son's marriage. The Spanish people were incensed at this marriage because, in the event of the death of the little King, his sister would succeed to the throne, and,