

Chinese Soldiers Mutiny.

The soldiery of the northern Provinces of China, more directly under the control of the new President and former Premier, Yuan Shi Kai, are clamoring for their pay, and at various points have started pillaging and burning. The first outbreak, at Peking on the 1st, was soon brought under some control, but on the following day worse disorders of a similar character broke out at Tientsin, and in some smaller places. Foreigners have taken refuge with their respective legations which are protected by the foreign troops. The foreign troops, especially the British, have made demonstrations against groups of Chinese mutineers who have threatened the railways. These demonstrations have not been displeasing to the Peking government, as they have aided in controlling lawlessness, but formal intervention by the Powers is not held to be necessary. Martial law prevails in Peking and many executions have taken place. According to a dispatch of the 3rd, Yuan Shi Kai had summoned Republican troops from Nanking to aid in putting down the mutineers. The delegates who had been sent to Peking to inform Yuan Shi Kai officially of his election to the Presidency, and to conduct him to Nanking, have appointed four of their number to return to Nanking, to explain the views of the foreign Powers, and impress upon the Nanking Republicans the necessity of supporting Yuan Shi Kai, and the desirability of the Nanking government coming to Peking to establish a strong coalition. The foreign legations consider it judicious to support Yuan Shi Kai as the quickest and surest means of overcoming the general spirit of anarchy. Gen. Li Huen Heng, the newly elected Vice President of the Republic, is also anxious to assist in restoring Yuan Shi Kai's authority. In his opinion, the mutiny should not be permitted to upset the general scheme of reconstruction. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, the acting President, who is still at Nanking, is ready temporarily to assume the whole responsibility of administration. The delegates suggest a combination of the best northern and southern troops, and the establishment of a great police force with headquarters at Peking. [See current volume, page 205.]

The American Consul General at Hongkong, Mr. George E. Anderson, has made the following report to Washington, according to the Daily Consular and Trade Reports of February 28:

It is one of the most remarkable features of the revolution in China that it has been accomplished with a comparatively small disturbance of the finances of the Far East.

Two principal causes have contributed to this stability. The first, perhaps, is the fact that the revolution has long been anticipated by commercial

interests in this part of China and conditions 'discounted in advance. It has also been a cardinal principle with the revolutionists from the beginning of the movement that all national contracts of China shall be observed in the most scrupulous manner, that foreign interests shall be protected at every hazard, and that, so far as may be possible, all legitimate business interests shall be guarded in every way. It has been the announced plan of the revolutionists to restore order in the country even before proceeding to the formation of a permanent government.

The business world also has agreed in the idea that whichever way political affairs in China went the future promised improved conditions under which trade could be carried on. Most of the members of the provisional government at Canton, formed after the abdication of the viceroy, were members of the Sze Yap and the Hongkong Chinese chambers of commerce, the two leading Chinese business organizations of Hongkong. The Chinese business community, on which, after all, the entire structure of foreign commerce in China rests, has thoroughly understood the nature of the movement, what it has been intended to accomplish, and what it would mean eventually in a business way. While the revolution itself has, of course, produced a strain, the general undertone of the situation in commercial circles has been one of confidence and optimism.

NEWS NOTES

—By a vote of 74 to 18 the lower house of the Maryland legislature defeated a woman suffrage bill on the 29th.

—The National Educational Association will hold its next convention at Chicago in July, from the 8th to the 12th. [See vol. xiv, p. 678.]

—A bill granting American citizenship to the people of Porto Rico passed the lower house of Congress on the 4th. The bill now goes to the Senate. [See vol. xlii, p. 37.]

—A bill providing for a state monopoly of life insurance has been approved by the Italian Chamber of Deputies by a vote of 268 to 79. The object of the move is to provide for old age pensions.

—The third Conference of the Western Economic Society was held at Chicago on the 1st and 2d of March, to consider the subject of "the Regulation of Industrial Combinations." [See vol. xiv, p. 1169.]

—The Socialist candidate for Mayor of Muscatine, Iowa, was defeated in the municipal election on the 4th by Conrad Koehler, the candidate of the combined opposition. He received 1,615 votes to 2,339 for Koehler. [See vol. xiv, p. 442.]

—The monastery of the Trappist monks at Gethsemane, twelve miles from Bardstown, Ky., was burned to the ground on the night of the 1st. The seventy-five brothers of the order, who are bound to extreme poverty and everlasting silence, are homeless.

—The financial chairman of the legislative committee of the Political Equality League of Illinois (Mrs. Harriett T. Treadwell, 6220 Jefferson avenue,