

in tourists' expenses and in gifts from foreigners to their friends at home, are drawn away from the country without any return. They deplete our national stock of wealth. The same is true of the item for civilizing Filipinos. So it makes no difference whether those items are correctly estimated or not. Whatever they may be in amount they are a drain. So far as this country is affected by them, it would be as well off if the wealth they represent had been used to kindle a bonfire.

NEWS

The advance of the allied forces in China upon Peking, described in last week's report as having begun on the 4th and proceeded to a victory of the allies after a desperate battle at Peitsang on the 5th, was continued on the 6th, when another battle was fought. This was at Yangtsun, an important walled town on the Pei Ho river, 20 miles above Tientsin. In the Yangtsun fight the Chinese were completely routed. They retreated in confusion towards Peking after losing more than 2,000 men and some of their artillery. The loss of the allies aggregated 700, inclusive of numerous prostrations from the excessive heat, the American loss being ten killed and 62 wounded. Part of the American loss was due to an error on the part of the Russian and the English artillery, which mistook the Americans, who at nightfall had captured and occupied a portion of the Chinese trenches, for a body of Chinese troops. After resting a day at Yangtsun the allies continued their advance, passing Ho Si Wu, 18 miles above Yangtsun, on the 9th, and reaching Ma-tow, 12 miles further up the river, on the 11th, having meanwhile met with no serious resistance.

The safety of the foreign ministers in Peking, assured by our last report down to the 3d, is now assured to as late a date as the 6th, when a message was received from the English minister, Macdonald. Since the 3d, on which date the Chinese authorities agreed to permit the ministers to send cipher dispatches to their home governments, nearly all the envoys have availed themselves of the permission. Of these dispatches, which differ only in detail, we print the one from Mr. Conger. It is without date, but was

received in Washington on the 10th, and is as follows:

The tsung-li-yamen states to the diplomatic body that the various foreign governments have repeatedly asked through the respective Chinese ministers that we immediately depart from Peking under suitable escort. The yamen asks us to fix a date for our departure and to make the necessary arrangements to do so. Our reply is that we will seek instructions from our governments, and that in the absence of such instructions we cannot quit our posts. I must inform you that in order to insure our safe departure foreign troops only can safely escort us, and they must be in sufficient force to safely guard 800 foreigners, including 200 women and children, as well as 3,000 native Christians who cannot be abandoned to certain massacre. We cannot accept a Chinese escort under any circumstances. All my colleagues are dispatching the foregoing to their respective governments.

This telegram was sent probably not later than the 4th, when Mr. Conger succeeded also in sending a message to Gen. Chaffee and the allied relief forces, which reached them at Tsaitun on the 8th. It was as follows:

Peking, Aug. 4.—We will hold on until your arrival. Hope it will be soon. Send such information as you can.

Mr. Conger's two messages were followed closely by the message of Sir Claude Macdonald, mentioned above, which was dated at Peking on the 6th and reached London on the 14th. Macdonald said:

Our situation here is desperate. In ten days our food supply will be at an end. Unless we are relieved a general massacre is probable. The Chinese offer to escort us to Tientsin, but, remembering Cawapore, we refuse the offer. There are over 200 European women and children in this legation.

Although this message is the last trustworthy news from Peking, it is reported that our consul at Chefoo has received word from Mr. Conger dated the 8th, to the effect that the situation was then growing more critical, but that he would hold out until the arrival of the relief forces.

What purports to be an imperial edict, dated at Peking on the 8th, asking for a cessation of hostilities and announcing the appointment of Li Hung Chang as envoy plenipotentiary to conduct negotiations with the powers, was presented by Mr. Wu to the United States state department on the 12th. It was replied to immediately by the state department, which, while acknowledging with satisfaction this

appointment of Li Hung Chang, announced that the United States would enter into no negotiations so long as the foreign ministers were in their present perilous condition, nor until the Chinese government had permitted an adequate body of the relief forces to enter Peking and escort the ministers safely to Tientsin, this movement to be arranged to the satisfaction of the generals of the relief expedition. After that, and on the 15th, the American consul at Shanghai, Mr. Goodnow, forwarded to Washington a proposal from Li Hung Chang for the delivery of the foreign ministers outside of Peking, upon a plan which Li Hung Chang was confident would secure their safety. Mr. Goodnow advised against accepting the proposal, and the American government rejected it, reiterating its announcement of the 12th. Nothing further has been heard either from the Chinese authorities or from Li Hung Chang, although it is rumored as we write (16th), that negotiations between the Chinese and the commanders of the allied forces are under way.

The concentration of public interest upon the situation in China makes meager news from the British war in South Africa. Some desultory fighting, connected with the chasing of Boer detachments by the British, is reported; but no important news has come since the capture of Harrismith by the British, noted last week, except that Lord Roberts's fears of last week for the British at Elands river are not confirmed. The garrison was on the 10th still holding out.

Mail advices of the 20th of June from Cape Town, received this week, tell of the congress of the Afrikaner National Union, held soon after the Afrikaner people's congress, reported on page 280. The Afrikaner National Union is the new official title of the Afrikaner Bond and Farmers' association, commonly known as the "Bond" or "Bund." It is a powerful political body of 20 years' standing—the strongest political body in Cape Colony. The congress was held in the middle of June at the little village of Paare, about 40 miles from Cape Town, and it proved to be in everything the most unanimous meeting of the Bond since the organization of that body. This was ascribed to the war, which the delegates explained had knit the people together. About