

and remains faithful to its original and oft-repeated political programme, it will quietly await the further course of events.

It was understood, consequently, that Russia was pledged to withdraw from Manchuria when the Chinese government had been restored to power and become capable of maintaining order there. But Japan was not satisfied. At any rate it was reported last April (vol. iv, p. 25) that she had demanded of China either that Russia be ejected from Manchuria or that the temporary occupation of that province be made international. And as matter of fact, Russia has remained in Manchuria notwithstanding the reestablishment of the central Chinese government. After last spring the subject attracted no public attention until the 7th of the present month, when it was reported from Washington that protests had been made to China by Great Britain, the United States and Japan, against signing a treaty then understood to be in process of negotiation with Russia. That report was followed on the 12th by a dispatch from London reciting the terms of the treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan.

This treaty had been concluded in January last between Lord Lansdowne for Great Britain and Baron Hayashi for Japan, and forwarded January 30 to the British minister in Japan. It provides that the contracting powers—

actuated solely by a desire to maintain the status quo and general policy in the extreme East, and being moreover especially interested in maintaining the independence and territorial integrity of China and Korea, and in securing equal opportunities in those countries for the commerce and industry of all nations—

agree in Article I. to recognize the independence of China and Korea, but, with reference to their especial interests in both countries, to—

recognize that it will be admissible for either of them to take such measures as may be indispensable in order to safeguard those interests if those be threatened either by the aggressive action of any other power, or by disturbances arising in China or Korea, necessitating the intervention of either of the contracting parties for the protection of the lives and property of its subjects.

The treaty then proceeds to define the agreement for that purpose:

Art. II. If either Great Britain or Japan, in defense of their respective

interests, as above described, should become involved in a war with another power, the other contracting party will maintain strict neutrality and use its efforts to prevent other powers from joining in the hostilities against its ally.

Art. III. If, in the above event, any other power or powers should join in hostilities against the ally, the other contracting party will come to its assistance and will conduct war in common and make peace in mutual agreement with it.

Art. IV. The contracting parties agree that neither of them will, without consulting the other, enter into separate arrangements with another power to the prejudice of the interests above described.

Art. V. Whenever in the opinion of either Great Britain or Japan the above mentioned interests are jeopardized the two governments will communicate with one another fully and frankly.

This treaty goes into effect immediately, remains in force five years, is binding for one year after either party renounces it, and if it expires during war shall nevertheless be regarded as binding until peace is concluded.

The publication of this treaty with Japan comes upon the heels of an official admission in the British parliament that Great Britain had decided to cease fortifying Wei-Hai-Wei and to evacuate the place. Rumors of this intention had been published on the 6th, but the official admission was not made until the 10th, the day but one before the publication of the treaty with Japan. The secretary for war, Mr. Broderick, then stated that the evacuation had been decided upon. But in the house of lords, a little later, Lord Onslow, under secretary for the colonial office, explained that the place would still be held as a colony. It now appears that the administration of Wei-Hai-Wei was transferred on January 1, from the war office to the colonial office. Much popular indignation upon the disclosure of this action was reported from London, and there is a suspicion that it was to allay that feeling that the treaty with Japan was hurriedly given out.

Parliament has suppressed the scandals in connection with the purchase of military supplies for use in South Africa (p. 695), a feeling having prevailed that this subject must be subordinated to the supreme purpose of completely conquering the

Boers. At the same time the ministry has decided to facilitate negotiations for peace along the lines of Lord Lansdowne's suggestion (p. 695) in his letter to the Dutch government. Accordingly, Mr. Balfour announced in the Commons on the 6th that copies of the correspondence with the Dutch government had been mailed to Lord Milner, governor of the "Transvaal" and "Orange River" colonies, and high commissioner of South Africa, with instructions to cause Lord Kitchener to communicate the contents to the Boer leaders in the field. Mr. Balfour's statement was supplemented by Mr. Chamberlain with the information that if the Boer leaders propose negotiations for peace to Lord Kitchener, the proposals will be forwarded to London for the consideration of the ministry.

In the field the British have suffered another keen disappointment. Lord Kitchener made elaborate plans to capture DeWet by surrounding his force, estimated at 2,000 men, and closing him in. The advance began on the 4th, participated in by all the British troops in the northeastern part of the Orange Free State, and superintended by Lord Kitchener in person; but on the 7th the great closing-in movement came to nothing, so far as the main object was concerned. Realizing that he had been enclosed, DeWet ordered his men to disperse, to meet again at a rendezvous outside the British lines; and at 1 o'clock in the morning of the 7th, under cover of the darkness, he broke through and escaped toward the south. Three of his immediate party are reported to have been killed. Lord Kitchener reports DeWet's total loss in killed, wounded and prisoners in this movement at 283 and his own at 10. In an engagement near Beaufort West, in Cape Colony, the Boers were victorious. They captured 60 donkey wagons, transporting provisions under a convoy of 160 British troops. The loss, according to British reports, was 13 killed and 48 wounded among the British, and 24 killed and 47 wounded among the Boers. In another engagement, February 3, the British lost 10 killed and 17 wounded; while in still another, February 7, the Boers lost 3 killed and 36 wounded. These incomplete reports of casualties are supplemented by Lord Kitchener's usual weekly reports of Boer losses—69 killed, 17 wounded, 57 surrendered and 574 taken prisoners—but with no statement of British losses for the same period.