

neighboring possessions in the Indian archipelago, countries whose population certainly amounts to 300,000,000. The annual trade of these countries with Great Britain amounted in 1897 to only \$350,000,000, while the annual trade of Great Britain with the United States, having a population less than one-fourth that of India, amounted to over \$700,000,000—some twice as much. Considering the whole trade of Great Britain we find that the annual value of the imports from the colonies to Great Britain was during 1896 and 1897 less than \$450,000,000, and in the same years the annual value of the exports was \$440,000,000, while the annual value of the exports from Great Britain to foreign countries during the same years was about \$990,000,000, and of imports considerably over \$1,500,000,000. A fair estimate of the population of the world would be 1,400,000,000, and of the British empire 400,000,000, and using this estimate we find that the annual value of the trade—imports and exports—between Great Britain and her colonies is \$2.22 per capita for the persons engaged in it, while the value of the trade between Great Britain and foreign countries is \$2.49 per capita. When we consider that Great Britain expends many millions of pounds annually on her foreign possessions and many more millions on the army and navy with which she defends and keeps them in check, we can see in Great Britain's case at least that trade does not follow the flag and that imperialism does not pay.

France has been engaged for the past 50 years in forming an empire, the trade of which with the mother country is so small that the colonial expenditure alone amounts to more than its whole value.

Germany, too, has such a slight trade with her colonies that her colonial expenditure also exceeds the total value of the imports and exports involved in it.

Italy spends annually for the defense and development of her one colony, Eritrea, more than ten times as much as the whole value of the imports and exports of that colony—notwithstanding the fact that its trade is largely a matter of handling and transshipment.

It seems to me axiomatic that the best goods at the lowest prices will always be bought, no matter where they come from nor who sells them. If this be true, then trade does not follow the flag; it follows the line of least resistance like everything else in nature.

It is perhaps true that if we were, for example, to put a heavy tariff on the imports of the Philippines from the rest of the world, and allow our own goods to go in free, we should increase our commerce with the Philippines. But such a policy is now followed by Portugal alone of all the European countries; while if we levied such a discriminating tariff other countries with colonies would in all probability follow suit. This would counterbalance a hundredfold any possible increase of our trade with the Philippines.

Great Britain herself, involved more than any other country in imperialism, does not defend her course on the ground that it is necessary for her trade, but on the ground that it is her duty to carry her civilization to less civilized peoples. Great Britain's trade, then, is not due to her colonies. And since she has no special natural advantages over other nations for commerce, it must be due to some institutions or laws differing from those of other countries.

Now, Great Britain has largely abolished restrictions on trade, the two principal of which are tariffs and harassing navigation laws. Certainly no one can deny that tariffs and laws which deny ships not built in the country the protection of its laws, are restrictions on trade. As restrictions on trade they necessarily hinder the development of trade.

Great Britain formerly had high protective tariffs. Feeling that her trade was hindered by these tariffs, in 1846 she abolished the principal duties provided by them, retaining only a few, such as those on tobacco and spirits. Notwithstanding the dire predictions of British protectionists, Great Britain's trade grew enormously. The very reverse of this process has taken place in the United States. Up to the time of the civil war our tariffs were comparatively light and our carrying trade was only second to Great Britain's and was growing rap-

idly. Then came the civil war, which destroyed our commerce by destroying and rendering inactive our ships, which did not dare to put to sea when it was alive with confederate cruisers. The war over—under successive administrations—heavy tariffs were levied; and since then our merchant marine has been insignificant.

Great Britain once had a set of the most stringent navigation laws ever enforced; but these, to the great advantage of her trade, were repealed in 1852. In America by comparatively recent enactments it is rendered practically impossible for a ship not built in the United States to fly the American flag. These laws were passed in order to increase the ship building industry. What is the result? Competition with Europe having been taken away, the prices of ships were increased while their quality was lowered. This caused American merchants to give up their business, European merchants taking their places. The result has been to destroy those interests it was purposed to foster, and to assist the tariff laws to ruin our commerce.

If we would increase our trade, let us abolish restrictions on trade, instead of securing unprofitable colonies at an enormous expense.

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NEWS

Rumors of a serious nature and of an alarmist hue have followed in quick succession from China during the past week, each succeeding one painting the situation in darker colors. These reports, which were carried from Peking to Tientsin and Shanghai by native runners, doubtless reflect the excited and panicky views of their bearers, and should not be accepted without reserve. Two of these reports, however, may be considered authentic—the usurpation of the supreme power by Prince Tuan, the leader of the Boxer element, the assassination of the German minister and the extreme peril of the ministers and foreign colony in Peking.

Prince Tuan, who is the father of the heir-apparent, has long been the leader of the anti-foreign element in China, and as the commander in chief

of the imperial army connived at and fostered the "Boxer" movement. The latest advices would indicate that he assumed control of the government and undertook the issuing of imperial edicts shortly after the capture of the Taku forts by the European allies. These edicts, which have been sent out by runners to the various provinces, order the enrollment of Boxers and the complete expulsion and extermination of the "foreign devils." Whether this usurpation of the supreme power was connived at by the dowager empress and what the fate of the deposed emperor, Kwang Su, may be, cannot now be ascertained, but the fact remains that Tuan is in complete control of the situation in Peking and northern China.

The viceroys of the central and southern provinces, which extend from Hoang-ho or Yellow river on the north to the British and French frontiers on the extreme south, have, however, refused to recognize Tuan's usurpation and are actively preparing to resist his authority, at the same time endeavoring to maintain friendly relations with the foreign consuls in their provinces.

At the time of closing our account last week of the mysterious situation in China word had just come of the relief of Admiral Seymour, of the British navy, with his force of allied naval troops. This report was accompanied with information to the effect that Seymour had not succeeded in reaching Peking, the object of his expedition, but that he had rescued the foreign ministers and had them with him. It is now known, however, that Admiral Seymour did not succeed in rescuing the ministers, nor did he get to Peking, although he himself was relieved. In his own report to the British admiralty on the 27th he tells of engagements on the 13th and 14th, in both of which the Boxers were repulsed, and of the destruction of the railway on the 16th, which prevented his farther advance. On withdrawing to Yangtsun, on the Peiho river, he found it necessary to abandon the Peking expedition altogether and to follow the river down to Tientsin. During the return march he encountered opposition at nearly every village and did not succeed in reaching the vicinity of Tientsin until the 24th, where he captured the armory, with all its supplies, and then sent in to Tientsin for a relieving force, which

arrived on the 26th. He burned the armory before quitting it. Admiral Seymour's losses during his expedition were 62 killed and 206 wounded, the British loss being heaviest—27 killed and 75 wounded. His force consisted of British, Russians, Germans, French, Italians, Austrians, Japanese and Americans. The American loss was four killed and 25 wounded.

Of the position of the foreign colony and ministers besieged in Peking nothing authentic can be added to the report received by the navy department from Admiral Kcmpff on the 2d. This report was brought to Tientsin by a native runner who left Peking on the 24th and is as follows:

"Runner from Peking reports legations are besieged, provisions nearly exhausted, situation desperate. German minister going to tsung-li-yamen murdered by Chinese soldiers. American, Dutch and Italian legations burned. Twenty thousand Chinese soldiers inside, and 30,000 outside Peking."

This dispatch has been corroborated by a similar one from Shanghai a few days later, which says that all the foreigners have taken refuge in the British legation and are defending themselves against the repeated attacks of an infuriated mob of Chinese soldiery and Boxers. As the last runner left Peking ten days ago, at which time both provisions and ammunition were running low, and as the European allies have abandoned, for the present, any plan of relief, the horrible rumors, as to their fate, which fill the newspapers as we go to press, may well be true.

Fighting still continues at Tientsin, and with the Chinese investing forces receiving constant reinforcements the situation grows more serious daily. On the 4th came a report that once more the railroad between Tientsin and Taku had been cut and communication completely cut off, and accompanying this the report that Admiral Seymour had been wounded.

Reinforcements of the allies continue to arrive at Taku, the Russian and Japanese being represented with the largest quotas, although the other countries are making preparations to largely increase their forces. Germany, which is especially wrought up since the confirmation of the murder

of Baron Von Ketteler, is preparing to take vigorous measures and is forming a volunteer corps for Chinese service, and four battleships have been ordered to Chinese waters.

This country, which on the 3d formally notified the foreign powers that "the United States does not recognize a state of war to exist in China and that it has not sent troops to make war upon China, but to look out for Americans and their interests and to assist the legal government in establishing and maintaining order,"

has nevertheless ordered two more regiments in the Philippines to prepare for service in China, in addition to the one already sent.

Another appeal has come to the powers from Chinese viceroys in southern China (the first one is mentioned at page 185), asking them not to send troops to China, or at least not to the southern provinces, lest the native population there, which is now quiet, be stirred by fears of a foreign invasion. In answer, the American government has instructed American consuls in China to confer with the viceroys and obtain protection for American interests, agreeing not to send troops so long as the local authorities comply with the requirements of the consuls and keep the peace. It is understood that the other powers have given similar instructions. Accordingly the consuls at Shanghai of the various nations have entered into an agreement with the viceroys of Nankin and Hankow, in which the viceroys agree to protect the properties of the missionaries and foreign merchants in the valley of the Yangtse-Kiang and in the ports of Foochoo and Hankow, upon condition that sailors on board foreign warships shall not go ashore; that foreign warships shall not be sent to the Yangtse-Kiang without the consent of the viceroys, nor anchor near the Woosung forts or those in the valley under any pretext whatever, nor in the neighborhood of the Shanghai arsenal, and that missionaries and foreign travelers shall not go to places unprotected by Chinese troops. The agreement has not yet been signed by the consuls, who await specific authority from their respective governments.

To turn from affairs in China to the war in South Africa, it does not appear that Lord Roberts's enveloping movement in the Orange Free