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The Daily Record

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AMERICA AND JAPAN.

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, July 5.

There are times when the most peace-loving among rulers and statesmen are confronted by a series of circumstances apparently brought into being by malignant energy and threatening to develop into the hurricane of war willy-nilly. In moments such as these the honeyed speech and suave platitudes of humanitarians fall on deaf ears; the dogs of war strain fiercely at the leash, and no man can tell when and whence may come the knife to set them free for the carnage. A synthesis of events—each in itself innocuous, but deadly poison in blend—quietly but persistently taking definite form and meaning, is even now causing the thunder clouds of war to hover ominously on the Pacific horizon,—no bigger than a man's hand is that sinister cloud-bank today, but its very presence connotes a highly charged atmosphere. While the Mikado's representatives are uttering unexceptionable sentiments of peace and goodwill at Tokyo, and while at Washington President Taft and his war-abhorring Cabinet have no policy other than a pacific one, the forces over which neither Government has control are beginning to operate. The last echo of Togo's devastating guns had barely died away at Tsushima before men whose experience lends weight to their speech were prophesying freely of an American-Japanese conflict. The reasons they adduced have been ably set forth a score of times, and there is no occasion for a repetition here. Summed up in a nutshell the case is one of opposing interests, chiefly commercial. Now in this era commercial rivalry is one of the bitterest and most potential causes of international friction. Self-aggrandisement and empty ambitions for glory are obsolete and discarded. Nations today will not fight for visions, but for markets. Trade is the life-blood of our twentieth century universe, and a nation will take up arms for its trade where fifty years it battled for its "honour." That is the backbone of contention between the United States and Japan, and it overshadows all the minor issues such as yellow immigration, the increase of the latter country's naval and military armaments, and so forth.

The recrudescence of the friction prophesied by far-seeing publicists is to be found in the recall of Mr. Takashira, Japanese Ambassador at Washington. His recall is bluntly attributed to his inability to patch-up the immigration trouble; and, in spite of his diplomatic assurances that he is simply going home for a vacation, there is little probability of his return. The reason that Japan wants to see this troublesome little business decided is because she recognises the growing irritation of American business interests at her stealthy absorption of the Manchurian market, irritation that may find a vent through any convenient crevice. The amount of pressure which the business element is able to bring to bear at Washington may be gauged from today's announcement of the pending despatch of the Pacific Fleet to the Philippines. This move indicates Uncle Sam's determination to take his fists out of his pockets and have them ready if any punching is to be done. His eagle eye is fixed intently on the golden possibilities of the Chinese market which he not unjustly regards as peculiarly his own. Japan, on her part, believes possession to be nine points of the law. She, too, is not blind to the lucrative nature of the Chinese pasture, and she lost no time in putting up signs to warn intruders off the grass. But Japan's mistake lies in the fact of her having bullied the sleepy old Colossus a little bit too much. America has played the game better

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by gentle treatment, and has infinitely more favour in the Celestial Empire than any other foreign Power. Not one Chinaman in a hundred likes the Japanese, but nine in ten have a solid friendship for the United States. Thus the stake is the open door in China,—open, that is, to Americans, and to any others slick enough to slide in at the same time. Japan wants the open door too, but open only to the Japanese. Uncle Sam has his shoe inside, however, and his shoulder is quite ready to follow it if the self-appointed Japanese door-keeper turns rusty. Meanwhile the Fleet is going to Manila, and there is much heart-searching at Tokyo.—W. B.

THE UNREST IN PERSIA.

Teheran, July 14, morning.

Reuter reports that in the course of the fighting which began yesterday and continued all night, the Nationalists, in their attacks on the positions of the Shah's Cossacks, succeeded in occupying a garden close to the house in which Colonel Liakoff, the Commander of the Cossacks, lives. Here they were exposed to a concentrated fire of Colonel Liakoff's infantry and Artillery.

Teheran, July 14.

Reuter reports further that Sipahdar and Sardar as-Sad have sent a message to the British and Russian diplomatic representatives at Gulhak that, in spite of the fact that the Russian flag is flying over Colonel Liakoff's house, the Nationalists are obliged to fire on the house because Cossacks are posted in it.

The Shah's troops are endeavouring to enter the town from the North.

Teheran, July 14.

The St. Petersburg Telegraph Agency reports that the Shah is fortifying himself in Saltanabad. Prince Naib es Saltaneh and Prince Izz ed Dauleh have taken refuge at the Russian Embassy. Saad-ed Dauleh is staying at Gulhak. Simahdar and Sardar as-Sad have informed the official of the Russian Embassy who was sent to Teheran to procure the safety of Russian subjects, that the abortive mediation of the British and Russian Ministers has induced them to appear in Teheran in order to obtain compliance with their demands; but that they will be prepared in any case to receive further instructions from the Embassies. Both leaders assured the official that no danger threatens the subjects of Russia or other foreigners, or the Russian officers of the Cossack brigade and their families, and that they, the two leaders, would take upon themselves the responsibility of any incidents that might happen.

Teheran is generally quiet. Now and then shots are heard, or the explosion of a bomb. The streets are placarded with notices declaring the peaceable objects of the revolutionaries, who have no intention of taking aggressive steps against the Cossacks fortified in their barracks, unless compelled to do so by the Cossacks.

Cologne, July 14.

A telegram published by the *Kölnische Zeitung*, dated 4 o'clock p.m., runs: "The Cossacks and volunteers who are fighting for the Shah have occupied more blocks of streets and are gaining ground towards the West and South, chiefly by their artillery. The Telegraph Office of the Indo-European Cable Company, around which fighting is going on,

has barricaded its windows with cases full of sand. Two of the Company's lines have been cut. The Nationalists are plundering the houses of the best known of the Shah's adherents, but fraternising with the rest of the inhabitants.

The same journal publishes another telegram from Teheran dated 6.45 p.m. as follows: "A party of 200 Solacharis, coming from Saltanabad, have made their way into the town and are attacking the Parliament building. The Shah's volunteers are beginning to plunder the houses of the Armenians, and the houses of several foreigners have also been cleared of their contents. The foreign flags are no longer respected. At long intervals Creusot shells come from the northern side of the town, aimed at the Parliament building. The Nationalists are planning a decisive attack; tonight they will make an attempt to blow up the Cossack barracks and Colonel Liakoff's house. Reports say that 2,000 Bakhtiari have arrived before the South gate of the town.

Teheran, July 15.

Reuter reports that there was no cessation of the fighting during the evening. The Persian Cossacks kept up an incessant artillery fire. Some of their shells struck the houses of Europeans in a street near the British Embassy, probably because some other houses in that street were occupied by Nationalists who fired from the roofs. The Shah's troops bombarded the Parliament building from outside the town. The British and Russian Ministers have again urged the Shah to come to an understanding with the Nationalists, but the Shah has refused.

It is reported that, towards sunset a Secretary of the Russian Embassy went to the Parliament building and, in the name of Colonel Liakoff and his Persian Cossacks, made overtures to Sipahdar and Sar as-Sad in which guarantees were demanded in case of their surrendering. The revolutionary leaders are said to have replied that, as soon as the Cossacks laid down their arms, they would be free to go home or to remain neutral in their barracks. The Cossacks would be permitted to take service under the Constitutional Government. Safety would be guaranteed to all.

Teheran, July 15.

Reuter reports: The Cossacks have not fired a shot during the last two hours, and it is rumoured that Colonel Liakoff has given orders that firing is to cease. The rifle fire between the Shah's troops and the Bakhtiari, and the artillery fire of the Nationalists, have all but ceased. The Shah's troops attacked the north-east gate of the town yesterday evening, but were driven back by the Nationalists with great loss.

THE BRITISH NAVY.

London, July 14.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, speaking at a dinner of the Chambers of Commerce today, emphatically asserted the necessity of providing more shipbuilding facilities as soon as possible, since Germany was now able to turn out yearly ten large battleships with full armament against England's seven.

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AND BOLIVIA.

Buenos Ayres, July 14.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has received a telegram from the Argentine Minister in La Paz that he will not leave La Paz, as the Bolivian Government has promised to give satisfaction. This news has been received here with great favour.