

CHINESE PRESS

Aug. 11.

NOTES FROM PEKING.

The Cabinet at its meeting of August 9 was to discuss the questions of how to treat the Germans and of how to exercise China's judicial power regarding them.

At the third meeting of the War Committee (full name: The International Affairs Committee during Wartime), Mr. Lu Cheng-hsiang was nominated Chairman and Mr. Liu Tsung-chih Vice-Chairman. Mr. Lu arrived in Peking late on that day. The Committee will meet in the afternoon instead of in the morning in future.

In view of the decision to declare war, the Government has requested the Powers to permit China to reconstruct the Taku Forts at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

The section between Tientsin and Yangliutsing on the Tientsin-Pukou Railway has been entirely destroyed by flood, the distance, something over ten li, being covered by launches which are taking passengers and goods to and fro.

DEATH OF GENERAL TAI KAN.

General Tsiang Tsun-kuei, who was sent to Szechuan on a special mission, has managed to return to Peking. He submitted a report to the Cabinet regarding the situation in Szechuan and the circumstances under which General Tai Kan died. General Tsiang said that Tai Kan, after leaving Chêngtu with a little over 1,000 of his Kueichow troops, was forced by the troops of Liu Tsung-hou to march on incessantly; and if his men stopped a while for rest, Liu's troops opened fire on them mercilessly. As Tai Kan's followers had practically no ammunition left, they were virtually unarmed men. What with ruthless slaughter, hunger and other privations and exhaustion, the number of his adherents at last dwindled to a mere handful of men, weak in appearance but stout in heart and loyal to their chief to the last. Tai Kan, perceiving that his men died and suffered on his account and for his sake alone, decided to commit suicide in order to save the remnant, of a score or two, from a horrible death or ceaseless persecution till their death; and with this end in view, he cut his own throat with his sword and died. Mr. Huang Tahsien, Chief of the Administrative Department in Szechuan, who was also a Kueichow man, was atrociously done to death by one of General Liu's lieutenants. Mr. Huang was bound and shot dead and his body was then dismembered.

General Tuan Chi-jui, the Premier, declared that he would not shield Liu if General Tsiang's story was confirmed by official reports.

FOREIGNERS SPYING AT THE ARSENAL.

About 7 p.m. on August 8, three foreigners, apparently of a certain nationality, approached the bund in front of the Shanghai Arsenal in a small boat. They were in the act of landing when the troops asked what they intended to do. They re-

plied that they wanted to enter the Arsenal for a stroll and look about. They were informed that as the Arsenal was a military establishment, they were not allowed to enter it. The trio then left the place in their boat.

As a precautionary measure against spying by foreigners, Colonel Ma, commanding the 38th Regiment, has issued orders to the commanders of the three battalions under his regiment, allotting them each the duty of guarding certain places in and around the Arsenal against trespass. Besides these troops, a company of Discipline Troops will be stationed outside the south station of the railway, while 10 other soldiers, who can speak the local dialect, will be put on patrol duty and will prevent foreigners from intruding.

THE HUAHUI LOTTERY.

The suffering caused to the people by those rogues who run the Huahui lottery is well known. Although, both the Chinese and foreign authorities have from time to time dealt with these men severely, yet no improvement has been noticeable at all. The reason is very simple: first, those caught and punished were usually the hirelings or agents employed by the lottery runners; and second, when they find the Settlement is becoming too hot for them, they emigrate to Chinese territory; and vice versa. They appear to be remarkably well informed, so a raid upon their headquarters has seldom turned out successful. Several notorious Huahui men, had been running such lotteries near the Great East Gate and in Chapei for some considerable time. When the police carried out a raid the other day, the birds had flown to the Settlements.

Aug. 13.

LATEST CABINET DECISIONS.

At its meeting on Friday morning, the Cabinet decided that the customs tariff on imports from Germany and Austria be fixed at 20 per cent. *ad valorem* and that a consul be appointed to represent China in Switzerland.

With regard to the situation in Szechuan, Mr. Liang Chih-chao, Minister of Finance, whose protégé General Tai Kan was, advocated the punishment of Liu Tsung-hou; but Premier Tuan Chi-jui was of opinion that until a report from General Wu Kuang-hsin, Investigator in Szechuan, was received, no action should be taken by the Government. Mr. Liang thereupon became very indignant and protested vigorously against a policy of such mistaken leniency as the Government appeared to be showing to the law-breakers. Mr. Tsao Ju-ling and Mr. Chang Kuokan, Ministers of Communications and of Agriculture and Commerce respectively, intervened, and finally it was decided to bestow compensation and posthumous honours upon Tai Kan whose death, owing to the treachery of Liu Tsung-hou, was now confirmed although not officially admitted by the Premier.

The late General Tai Kan was a member of the Chinputang and a disciple of the late General Tsai

As, who in turn once studied political law under Mr. Liang Chih-chao.

WAR AGAINST GERMANY.

In connexion with the above question, the Cabinet decided to adopt the following measures:—

- (1) To keep German residents under surveillance.
- (2) To dismantle the armoury of German men-of-war and to commandeer their merchant ships.
- (3) To stop the business of the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank.
- (4) To assume jurisdiction over German defendants.

The above points may be published on Tuesday next (August 14).

The Government, finding the plan of sending all Germans back to their own country not quite feasible, has decided to permit only civilian Germans to return home. The Germans employed at the various Government offices are to be relieved of their duties and transported home, via Java, under the protection of the Dutch Minister, and it is understood that both Japan and the United States have agreed to grant them safe-conduct when passing their respective territorial waters on their homeward journey.

There are about 150 Germans employed in the Maritime Customs service, and Mr. Aglen, the Inspector-General, is said to have not yet consented to the wholesale discharge of Germans as proposed by the Government. The Ministry of War has telegraphed, instructing the Nanking authorities to prepare a place for the accommodation of interned Germans.

The Shanghai authorities have also received instructions from Peking, to act in accordance with international law and to follow the same procedure as adopted by Japan in regard to the treatment of the Germans and the control or disposal of their business and property after war is declared. Germans in China will enjoy full freedom in choosing their place of residence; and, except that their movements thereafter will always receive special attentive protection from Chinese officials, they will not be subjected to any other inconvenience at all.

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

The local Chinese officials have received a telegram from the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce forwarding a copy of a telegraphic report from Mr. Alfred Sze, Chinese Minister in London, on the good prospect now open of developing China's international trade. Mr. Sze states that a scarcity of all kinds of foodstuffs is keenly felt there and, as far as he understands, the coming autumn crops in America will mostly be below the average. Mr. Sze suggests that if we could increase our acreage for producing foodstuffs, especially wheat, barley, etc., and turn out more flour for export abroad, we would certainly reap tremendous profits.

Other produce, such as cotton, is so much in demand also as has never been known before. Besides, cowhides, animal skins and wool

are all meeting a ready market. In short, all kinds of provisions and clothing will be wanted in Europe as long as the war continues. Merchants, industrialists and agriculturists in China would do well to take advantage of this rare opportunity to develop as much as possible their respective fields of activity, so as to meet the demands of the world market and establish a position for Chinese products in international commerce. The officials are exhorted to bring these advantageous points home to the merchants and others concerned.

A SUSPECTED FOREIGNER

On Saturday the Bureau of Foreign Affairs was requested by the Taoyin of Shanghai to take into custody a foreigner who was found trespassing and looking about in a suspicious manner within the area over which martial law had been proclaimed, and to hand him over to his own Consulate to be dealt with.

The man, when questioned by the interpreter, appeared to be quite drunk or simulated drunkenness. No sense could be made out of what he said. By order of Mr. Sah, an officer escorted the man to the Consulate of the nationality of which he seemed to be a subject. The Consulate accepted him.

Aug. 14.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

The Haiyung and the Haichow, two cruisers attached to the 1st Squadron of the Chinese Navy, arrived at Woosung at 6.30 p.m. on August 11. They anchored opposite the Fort at Nanshitang. Their commanders took a launch for the shore and entrained for Shanghai the same evening.

Another notice has been issued by the correspondence office for the M. P.'s, informing them that Speakers Wu Chin-lien and C. T. Wang have telegraphed again, urging members to go to Canton immediately, a copy of their message being enclosed. The members are requested to get into communication with those who have returned home and, in case any telegrams should be sent, to entrust such messages to the office which will see to their transmission.

THE YARN GUILD'S REPLY.

In view of the extraordinary boom in prices of cotton and yarn and the rapid depletion of local stocks, the Society for the Protection of National Goods recently took upon itself the task of remedying the situation by addressing two letters to the Cotton Trade Guild and the Cotton Yarn Guild and a petition to the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, in all of which the Society attributed the present regrettable state of affairs chiefly to the propensity to speculation amongst the Chinese merchants and dealers, as already reported.

Now, the Cotton Yarn Guild has replied, roundly rebuking the Society for making allegations that are

not true, for the Guild does not admit the existence of speculation in the trade it represents. The gist of the Guild's letter in reply to the Society's intervention is as follows:—

"Your letter is noted. In buying and selling cotton yarn, our trade has never indulged in speculation. Upon what ground your Society should consider our trade to be blameable for the panic-stricken state of the cotton weaving establishments, we are not aware. But your allegations furnish certainly sensational reading. Your Society, in attributing the increase in the market price of yarn to speculation in our trade, only proves your lamentable ignorance of the most simple law of supply and demand, which no power, however great, can combat. For your enlightenment, we would explain that the enhanced price of yarn to-day has been due to two principal causes:— (a) The high quotations on cotton ruling in the market, and (b) the reduced quantity of yarn imported from abroad. With regard to the high level of prices in cotton, three causes may be mentioned:—

"(1) Native cotton—new crop is not yet available while old crop is already all sold out.

"(2) The effect of the price of American cotton soaring.

"(3) The scarcity of Indian cotton, the import of which has considerably decreased.

"Thus, in short, the supply has been too low to meet the demand. You may convince yourselves of the truth of our statement by referring to local mills and the Import Department of the Custom House. The former, or any of them, would tell you that the capital outlay for the production of yarn has been very high indeed while the latter would show you the small quantity of yarn imported this year. Our trade is beset with difficulties, so we cannot be too careful in the conduct of our business. Now, as your Society's avowed object is to protect national trade and industry, we would suggest that you should first study and master all common conditions obtaining in the commercial world before making such a sweeping allegation again, or you would fail to attain anything. Then, you should tackle the question from the root, that is, you should try to make our country once and for all independent of foreign help, as she certainly is now in her cotton trade. Extend cotton producing areas and develop cotton spinning industry. If you would devote your whole energy as indicated, instead of pursuing such profitless, wordy campaigns, our country might get some real benefit from your activity."

The cotton dealers at Nantao and in the Settlement have decided to hold a united meeting at 3 p.m. next Wednesday, to discuss the position of their trade and how to improve and maintain it. It is said that dealers representing Tungchow, Tsungming, Haichow, Tait'sang, Ningpo and Shaohsing have been invited to attend the meeting also.

POLITICAL UNREST.

In view of the political unrest in this country, several provinces have proclaimed martial law. General Li Shun, the newly appointed Tuchun of Kiangsu, proposed to form a defensive union between seven provinces, when he was Tuchun of Kiangsi, as a counter-move against the reported union of certain other provinces. This plan will be carried out as soon as General Li Shun has taken up his new office at Nanking. As the special districts of Sungkiang and Shanghai, under General Lu Yung-hsiang, are included in the area embraced by this union, General Lu's opinion is invited; and he will probably have to proceed to Nanking where a conference to discuss this plan will be held.

As almost all the suspected revolutionaries arrested in Chékiang have confessed to having been sent from Shanghai to create disturbances in that province, Commander Chang of a detachment of the Peking Disciplinary Force, resident in this port, has received orders to keep a vigilant watch over a number of lodging houses near the wharves at Nantao. There are scores of such houses south of the 16th Ward, and as most of the steamship companies, running their steamers between Shanghai and various ports in Chékiang, have their wharves built in that neighbourhood, it seems very likely that revolutionaries with an eye on Chékiang may choose these houses as convenient places of abode. Record books must be kept by the lodging-house keepers, to register the names and other particulars of their guests and must at all times be open to officers sent by Commander Chang.

Passengers by railways are being searched at the stations, and with special care at the out station of the Shanghai-Hangchow Railway. Not only large-sized trunks and packages attract the attention of the military officers, but even such small things as a match-box, are closely examined before their owners are released either to leave the station or to catch their train. Those who come to see friends off are not allowed to proceed beyond the gate leading to the platform. Those who may inadvertently reach the platform are not to be let out unless they can produce a special permit!

MOVEMENT OF TROOPS.

The 1st Battalion of the 15th Regiment, 8th Brigade, 4th Division, was transferred from Sungkiang to Lunghua when the 39th Infantry Regiment, stationed at Lunghua, was ordered to Nanking to join the punitive army against the Manchu restoration movement, while the 2nd Battalion of the 40th Regiment was transferred from Chékiang to fill the vacancy left by the 1st Battalion. Now, the monarchical movement has been crushed and the 39th Infantry Regiment has returned to Lunghua from Nanking, the 1st Battalion of the 39th Regiment has received orders to return to Sungkiang so that the 2nd Battalion of the 40th Regiment may return to Chékiang.

THE NEW TUCHUN FOR HUNAN.

General Fu Liang-tso, ex-Vice-Minister of War and newly appointed Tuchun of Hunan, has received several telegrams from Hunan tendering him congratulations and assuring him a cordial reception upon his arrival in Hunan. Amongst the officials in Hunan, Mr. Yuan Chia-pu, Financial Commissioner, and General Chao Heng-tih, Commander-in-Chief of the 1st Division of the troops in that province, have been the foremost and warmest in telegraphing General Fu Liang-tso an expression of welcome. General Tan Yen-kai, the present Tuchun and civil governor in Hunan, has on the one hand promised to give a cordial reception to General Fu, but on the other firmly tendered his resignation as civil governor.

Prior to the appointment of General Fu Liang-tso to Hunan, General Tan sent Mr. Fan Chih-huan, Chief of the Administrative Department in Hunan, to Peking to confer with Premier Tuan Chi-jui regarding the situation in his province. But before Mr. Fan arrived at the Capital, General Fu's appointment to the Hunan Tuchunship was announced. Upon learning this after arrival at Peking, Mr. Fan called on and had an interview with General Fu. The latter assured Mr. Fan that his going to Hunan was designed to remove the misunderstanding between the Central Government and that province, while he was to render all assistance he could to General Tan Yen-kai, who had, therefore, no need at all to retire from office. Mr. Fan told General Fu that General Tan, who would have gone into mourning upon the death of his parent, only consented to remain in office because he held the position of Tuchun concurrently with his civil governorship, which fact gave him an excuse to continue in service as long as military duties demanded his doing so, according to ancient teachings. If he now remained in office solely as civil governor, he would violate this principle; and it was thus obvious that he tendered his resignation in all sincerity.

Regarding financial matters in Hunan, Mr. Fan informed General Fu that they were in a deplorable state. The monthly revenue totalled between \$370,000 and \$380,000 while the expenditure aggregated over \$530,000, thus showing a monthly deficit of over \$150,000. When the same man was Tuchun and civil governor, he could devise methods somehow to meet all urgent requirements by deferring payments of a less urgent character. If he became civil governor only, then it would be his duty alone as civil governor to raise funds, while the troops would not easily appreciate his difficulty whenever he was short of funds, in satisfying their demands.

General Tuan Chi-jui, the Premier, has sent a reply to General Tan Yen-kai, hoping that he will remain in office; but this is thought to be an official act of courtesy. When General Tan sends in his resignation a second time, the Premier will certainly accept it after expressing regret at Tan's persistency and

so on. Some sections of the troops in Hunan are still antagonistic to the new Tuchun, General Fu, and efforts are being made to remove their opposition, after which General Fu may proceed to his post as Tuchun, and perhaps concurrently as civil governor also.

From other sources, it is reported that a decision has been come to amongst the military element in Hunan to resist the entry of General Fu Liang-tso into Hunan by force, and with this end in view, detachments of native troops have been despatched and posted at strategic points to prevent the entry of northern troops. In the event of General Tan refusing to remain in power, a certain officer has been mentioned as his successor in prospect. The Hunan Provincial Assembly is said to have nominated four members, namely, Hsiao Yieh-kun, Yuan Hai-peng, Lo Liang-kan and Yang Tao-hsing to represent Hunan to proceed on a special mission to Canton and then to Kuangsi and Yunnan, doubtless with the object of uniting with these provinces in resisting the authority of Peking. Each member is said to have been paid \$400 as travelling fees.

YUNNAN DECLARING INDEPENDENCE.

A telegram from Yunnan reports that General Tang Chi-yao published a proclamation on the 14th instant to the following effect:—

I. This province does not recognize the validity of the order dissolving Parliament.

II. The resignation of office, by President Li Yuan-hung, without the consent and acceptance of Parliament, can only be regarded as ineffective. Moreover, as Li was coerced on all sides and placed in a position in which he could not act freely, therefore, his circular telegrams offering to resign his Presidency cannot be easily and lightly believed, while Feng Kuo-chang's succession to the Presidency has in consequence been groundless and should be regarded as invalid.

III. Those who declared independence, from Nyi Tsze-chung and downward, should be punished.

IV. The Tuan Chi-jui Cabinet, having not been formed in accordance with the Provisional Constitution, should be regarded as invalid.

General Tang himself has assumed the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Chin-Kuo-Chün or the Nation Pacification Army. Lo Pei-king has been appointed Commander-in-Chief of the 1st and 2nd Corps of the Chin-Kuo-Chün, Yu En-yang Commander of the 3rd Corps and Huang Yu-cheng Commander of the 4th Corps.

REVOLUTIONARY AGENTS ARRESTED.

Liang Chin-fu, an ex-officer in the army, was arrested on August 14 upon information received by the Brigadier-General of the 20th Brigade stationed at Woosung. He was described by the informant as a revolutionary agent entrusted with the task of gaining the support of the 20th Brigade. After a preliminary hearing before the Brigade Commander, the man was sent to Shanghai and handed to the Military Commissioner's yamen at 9 a.m. on the

next day for trial by the Military Tribunal.

Another arrest was made the same day by the troops belonging to the 38th Regiment stationed at the Arsenal. The man was said to be also a revolutionist trying to win over the sympathy of the troops near the Arsenal. After having been questioned by Colonel Ma the Regimental Commander, he also was sent to the Military Court in the Military Commissioner's yamên to be dealt with.

On the same afternoon, two young men, Yang I-teh, 21, and Tang Kai-shan, 20, both of Anhui, were followed to a house No. 1282 in an alleyway off the Arsenal Road and there arrested, upon information received by Colonel Ma. To a casual observer there was nothing in the house but a bed and some bedding. But a search led to the discovery of three revolvers and 11 bombs secreted in various parts of the house. As the informant had reported there were 12 bombs, another and more exhaustive search was made afterwards without, however, finding the missing bomb. A test with two or three of these bombs made on the river by the troops showed that they were of great explosive power. It is said that the two men had undertaken the risky task of leading an attack upon the Arsenal with the object of taking it by surprise. More men have been seen coming to this house which is being watched, but so far no other arrest has been made there.
