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EDITORIAL

WARSAW AND KAMRANH BAY.

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POLAND may be far from Indo-China and Kamranh Bay, but if they were close and contiguous neighbors they could not be the scenes of happenings more identically in accord.

The despatches from Poland are unanimous in describing the shooting by the police and military at the May Day parade as “unprovoked and willful.” Superficially considered, the act looks like a blunder of subalterns. There is turmoil enough in the Czar’s dominions; why exasperate the people of Poland and add to the Czar’s troubles? It was no subalterns’ blunder. They obeyed orders from above. Whether the policy pursued by the rulers of Russia be wise or unwise, the palpable police outrage committed in Poland on May Day was in pursuit of that policy, a foreign policy, whose counterpart is being pursued in Kamranh Bay. That policy is to embroil Europe in the war that now is taxing the forces of Russia.

In Kamranh Bay, the Russian squadron is doing all it can to produce such an irritation in Japan against France as to get the two nations at war. It is unquestionable that the Russian squadron is provisioning and otherwise recruiting its strength in French Indo-China. The external forms of international propriety are preserved, but the conduct which Rojestvensky’s squadron is forcing upon France is calculated at any time to snap the bonds of international comity, and furnish Russia with French battleships as allies in the China sea against Togo. The fact would instantaneously be felt in Europe. An explosion there could not fail. The Polish outrage is intended to promote the explosion, if the train is set on fire from Kamranh Bay, or to start the fire in Europe itself and quicken its outbreak in the Far East.

It is known that a secret compact exists between the Czar and German Emperor that the latter will attend to Poland in case of an outbreak there. The

interference of Germany, under whatever plausible pretext, can not choose but start a European conflagration. This interference is to be promoted. The occasion for it has been slow in ripening. The May Day police outrage was intended to stimulate matters.

Russia's silent partners, France and Germany, have been slow. Neither is over-anxious to fall to, as may be judged from the "peace rumors" that have been periodically started from Paris and Berlin, and of which the anxious wish was ever father to the thought. Both countries would gladly see peace restored between Russia and Japan, and thereby be freed from the imminent danger of being forced to carry out their part of the contract; neither is blind to the disastrous possibilities of the European conflict which their open participation in the Russian domestic and foreign troubles would lead to. While Rojestvensky is quickening all he can the pace of France in Kamranh Bay, the Russian subalterns in Poland are inciting riot with the view of quickening the pace of the German Emperor.

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