

Examine if Armed Action Interrupts Harvest — American General Starts for Tsao Chwang to Investigate the Entire Situation.

Tsao Chwang, Friday, May 25 (By A. P.).—Gun fire heard near here today is taken to indicate that government troops are engaging the bandits in the hills, or the bandits are fighting among themselves as a result of a disagreement at their conference which was scheduled for today. It was learned today from different sources that the brigands have taken their captives from Paotzuku mountain and have moved them two miles farther back into the hills.

The sudden retirement appears to indicate that the troops, acting under orders from Tsao Kun, inspector general of Shantung, are following the plan advocated by the Tuchun of the province to "dig the bandits out."

Peking Troops Advance.

Shanghai, May 24 (By A. P.).—Panic seized the bandits of Paotzuku today as Chinese government troops launched a determined advance against the outlaws in an effort to break up their communications and force an issue in the international problem revolving about the kidnapping of foreigners from the Shanghai-Peking express May 6.

The Peking's government's plan to release the captives by force apparently is to be put into operation at once.

The cordon of troops about the Paotzuku stronghold today was tightened in all directions. Messengers traveling to and from the outlaw hill retreat have been stopped. Troops are engaged in breaking up all the bandits' lines of communications in an effort to isolate them.

Bandit Chiefs Discouraged.

Chiefs of the brigands are said to be greatly discouraged at the refusal of the diplomatic corps at Peking to deal with them and are reported

peake and Potomac Telephone Company to obtain a test of the amplifying apparatus at a time that was free from interfering traffic sounds.

LEASING OF CONVICTS ABOLISHED IN FLORIDA

Both Houses of the Legislature Pass Bill to Take Effect January 1.

Tallahassee, Fla., May 24.—Florida's second convict reform came today when the legislature effected final passage of a measure to abolish the county convict lease system next January 1. With this measure went a second and more emphatic prohibition against administering corporal punishment to prisoners.

The lower house adopted without discussion a conference report on the subject, while in the senate, fourteen votes were cast against the manner in which it was drawn. These fourteen members were for the most part those who vigorously fought the passage of an outright corporal punishment ban.

The measure as passed deals broadly with the supervision of convicts and requires that convict wardens give bond of \$2,500 while guards must be bonded for \$1,000. They are made subject to suit for damage for any abuse of authority.

No leasing of convicts shall be permitted after January 1, next, and all existing contracts become null and void. One county, however, may turn its prisoners over to another county for work on the public roads or they may be turned over to the State road department for similar work.

THREE DAUGHTERS DIE TRYING TO SAVE MOTHER

Aged Woman Perishes in Burning Home Together With Her Would-Be Rescuers.

**late Division
\$7,500 Month
and \$15,000**

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