

THE LAW MAY BE REVOKED.

CONGRESS EXPECTED TO SOFTEN ANTI-CHINESE LEGISLATION.

Members Acknowledge That the Geary Act
Was Too Radical—Enforcement for
Months Not Probable—Grave Fears
of Chinese Complications.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—It is the consensus of opinion here that no effort will be made to enforce the Geary anti-Chinese law during this month or the coming summer because the treasury has no money to deport unregistered Mongolians and because the administration believes that the law is not just and that congress will repeal it next fall.

There are congressmen by the dozen who voted for the bill who will vote for its repeal. Mr. Tarsney of Missouri is one of them. They confess that they did not perceive how far-reaching was the scope of the act for already are heard hints of plans to bring about the passage at the next session of a law excluding other undesirable people and some congressmen are already not causelessly frightened at the know nothing spirit developed.

Of the Missourians here, Senator Cockrell declines to talk about the situation. Mr. Tarsney says openly that he made a mistake in voting for the bill and Mr. Dockery talks skillfully without saying anything.

Congressman Harris of Kansas says openly that the law was a blunder, wrong in spirit and letter and that it ought to be repealed.

NO ENFORCEMENT AT PRESENT.

The Chinese question occupied the entire time of yesterday's cabinet meeting and it is understood that it was decided not to attempt to enforce the law because of lack of money with which to do so. One prominent member of the cabinet made the broad assertion, after the session was over, that the law was nothing short of a political scheme enacted for political effect (he said, in fact, something about "demagogy"), and he intimated that there had been a general hope among his associates that the court would have held it to be unconstitutional.

It is assumed that in the ordinary course of diplomatic usage a copy of the decision of the supreme court, as soon as the majority of the members of the court have determined upon its exact phraseology, will be transmitted to the Chinese minister, to be by him forwarded to his government. This will necessarily involve considerable delay, and con-

warded to his government. This will necessarily involve considerable delay, and congress will probably be again in session before a reply can be made to this communication.

Naval officers and many diplomats believe that as a result of the upholding of the law China will sever all relations with this country and retaliate by ordering out of the empire all Americans. The naval officers also believe that it will be necessary to increase the fleet in Chinese waters at once. At the state department, on the contrary, such action is not credited and officials claim to have received absolutely nothing even hinting at retaliation.

Secretary Carlisle has received many telegrams asking for a suspension of the operations of the law for at least six months, but it is held at the treasury department that the law is explicit on this point, having set May 5 as the last day upon which registration could be made, and consequently it is beyond the power of even the President to extend this limit.

GRAVE TROUBLES MUCH FEARED.

"Will it be war? Well I guess not," was the reply of the War department official to whom the query was addressed. "The probabilities are that no open hostilities will result from the present situation between this country and China, but there is no telling what may happen when you are dealing with a people who are barbarous for the most part and still cherish a vindictive hatred for the despised foreigner. If the Geary act, the constitutionality of which has just been affirmed by the United States supreme court, is enforced in the least degree by the United States government and a party of Chinamen are deported from the land of their adoption to the land of their birth, I should not be surprised to see the fanatical Chinese rise up against all foreigners in that country and kill them without mercy and burn and pillage their property. In such an event I fully believe that a bloody and desperate war would be precipitated."