

ments between China and Japan in relation to Manchuria, with a view of determining whether there is anything in the agreements adversely affecting American interests or in conflict with the principle of equal opportunities to which the powers are pledged, a study not yet concluded and in respect to which no decision has been reached.

"While this investigation was proceeding Mr. Crane, the minister to China, came to the department and while there was informed by one of the clerks that such an investigation was being made.

"Without consultation with the acting secretary or any other responsible officer of the department, and without the knowledge or authority of any one connected with the department, Mr. Crane gave out a newspaper story to the effect that this government was preparing to protest against some features of the agreements, and that the promulgation of the protest also awaited the return of an official who was to formulate it.

The story appeared in a western paper, and at the same time or a day later in the Japanese press and subsequently was generally published.

"Such were the representations made to me October 1 by the responsible officers of the department of state, accompanied by their statement that they had sufficient reasons to believe them to be true. Whereupon I sent Mr. Crane to San Francisco the following telegram, dated October 3, 1909:

"You have been charged with the responsibility for the canards recently appearing in the Japanese and American press to the effect that the United States is preparing to protest against the Chinese-Japanese agreement. The evidence that you are responsible for this is of such a character as warrants me in directing you to come to Washington at once and meet it."

"At a conference with Mr. Crane Sunday evening he admitted having an indiscreet talk with a reporter which resulted in the publications referred to, and, assuming responsibility, stated that if the indiscretion was grave enough to shake my confidence in his usefulness he would willingly resign. I reluctantly reached the conclusion that the good of the service demands that I should inform Mr. Crane his resignation will be accepted, and I have done so."

Evidently President Taft washed his hands of the whole affair. He refused to make any public statement but the newspaper men who accompanied him announced that Secretary Knox was in full charge of the state department. Later Secretary Knox notified Mr. Crane that his resignation had been accepted. Crane made a tart reply intimating that he expected to hear from the president rather than from his secretary. An Associated Press dispatch follows:

One of the possible indirect results of the whole incident was discussed with much interest in some diplomatic quarters today, and that is the unmistakable notice that Japan has incidentally received, even in the words of Mr. Knox's statement of yesterday, that this government looks with disapproval upon her gains in Manchuria through the two new treaties with China which have been so much discussed in connection with the Crane affair.

According to this view, Mr. Crane intentionally or unintentionally has been made the pawn in the gambit of expediency. A man who has studied international politics for many years but who would not be quoted by name, described it in this way:

"It was very necessary that Japan should be advised of the intention

of this government to protect to the utmost the interests of American trade in Manchuria, yet in such a way as to avoid placing the state department in a position from which it would be awkward to retreat in the event of the odds being found too great.

"In the ordinary course, the great powers interested in maintaining the 'open door' in Manchuria could have been approached by Secretary Knox with the purpose of gaining their support in a joint representation to Japan and China; that the two treaties recently negotiated between those countries conferring upon Japan a practical monopoly of the exploitation of railroads and mineral resources of Manchuria were obnoxious to these powers.

"Possibly the state department had so far progressed in taking soundings as to lead it to doubt whether the support of a majority of the great powers could be obtained. Secretary Knox's statement issued yesterday shows that the negotiations are still in progress but certainly does not indicate that success has been attained.

"The recent disclosures, the truth of which as Mr. Crane in his statement points out, the department of state fails to deny, may have served this purpose very well, and the fact that the department felt called upon to punish Mr. Crane for those disclosures might well serve as notice to the Japanese government of its serious objections to the new treaties."

The following dispatch carried by the Associated Press tells the rest of the Crane story:

Washington, Oct. 14.—All doubt as to what action the president would take with respect to the resignation of Charles R. Crane, minister designate to China, was dispelled by the receipt this morning of a dispatch from President Taft addressed to his secretary, Mr. Carpenter, directing him to convey to Mr. Crane announcement of the fact that the resignation had been accepted.

The telegram was dated Prescott, Ariz., October 13, and reads as follows: "Convey to Mr. Crane the following communication:

"I concur in the letter under date of October 12 which the secretary of state has addressed to you, and I greatly regret that the circumstances found to exist by him makes it necessary for me to accept your resignation. 'TAFT.'"

Following the receipt of the president's message through Secretary Carpenter, Mr. Crane issued the following statement:

"I am greatly relieved by the president's decision. There has been no minute since I learned the attitude of the department of state when I have not contemplated the possibility of a continuance of my official relations with the deepest repugnance. Nevertheless, I have felt that my obligation to the president was to permit him to decide the issue. I have appreciated fully what would be involved in a decision by him that I should continue. I have realized also the impossibility of his securing complete information at this time. He has chosen to base his decision upon the circumstances found by the secretary of state.

"I think I should state at this time that until I arrived here last Sunday I had never seen the newspaper article which is made the excuse for my recall, nor had I heard that such an article had been published, and at my interview with the secretary of state it was not shown to me. I accepted the description of its character and consequences then given to me and assumed full responsibility for my connection with it, purely incidental as that connection was."

A HOLLOW VICTORY

"I understand that you called on the plaintiff, Mr. Barnes. Is that so?" questioned Lawyer Fuller, now chief justice.

"Yes," answered the witness. "What did he say?" next demanded Fuller.

The attorney for the defense jumped to his feet and objected that the conversation could not be admitted in evidence. A half hour's argument followed and the judges retired to their private room to consider the point.

An hour later the judges filed into the court room and announced that Mr. Fuller might put his question.

"Well, what did the plaintiff say, Mr. Barnes?"

"He weren't at home, sir," came the answer without a tremor.—Success Magazine.

Venezuela received its name from the early Spanish residents who saw a resemblance to Venice in the sites of the inland cities. Since Humboldt first saw them, the llanos, or bleak plains, have largely changed their character.—Ex.



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