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SIOUX INDIANS.

Conference Held With the Secretary of the Interior.

JOHN GRASS PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN FOR THE HOSTILES.

Secretary Noble Gives Them Some Kindly Advice, and Assures Them That the Government Will Live Up to Its Agreement, Providing the Indians Consent to Lead Peaceful Lives.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The conference between Secretary Noble and the Sioux Indian delegation began this morning at the Interior Department. The Secretary of War and Mrs. Proctor and Miss Proctor were present, as were also the wife of Secretary Noble and Miss Halstead.

The conference was opened by Secretary Noble, who said: "You were represented here just after the agreement with General Crook was made. You made certain requests and complaints at that time, and you received certain promises from me. There has been trouble since then, and you have come again to say what you think proper as to the cause of the trouble and to make any further complaints you see fit.

"The Secretary is here to tell you that he has kept his word, but if there is anything more he can do through friendship for the Sioux he is ready to do it. He is your friend, and the Great Father has told him to be your friend. He wants you to talk to him as friend, and he will meet you in the same spirit."

The Secretary then asked if the Indians had made any arrangements about speakers. He could not hear them all, but would listen to a few, and he desired them to speak briefly. He added that if there was no objection made he would hear from John Grass, Hollow Horn, Bear, American Horse, Two Strikes, Hump and Young-Man-Afraid-of-His-Horses.

In response, Louis Rencoltre said that this arrangement was not satisfactory, as it was desired that each agency should be represented.

The Secretary replied that he would hear John Grass and American Horse, and then take counsel with them as to who should follow.

John Grass then came forward. Rev. C. S. Cook, the Episcopal minister at Pine Ridge, acted as interpreter.

Grass at once began to speak of the recent trouble among the Indians, the origin of which he did not know. They had come for the purpose of conferring with the Secretary in regard to the matter. "The Indians," he said, "did not desire to be driven back to their wild life, but wished to consult with the President, so as to determine upon the future. The Indians thought it desirable that the agents should be civilians rather than military. In the past Indian agents had opportunities to steal, but now it was difficult for them to adopt such practices. The agents of late years have been good men."

In speaking of his own reservation (Standing Rock) he said that the threatened trouble had been put down by the Indian police. They believed in the Indian police, and he made a request for an increase of fifty men.

Grass then shook hands with the Secretary and took a seat.

American Horse was the next speaker. He displayed considerable natural ability and made a graceful preface to his remarks, referring in complimentary terms to the Secretary and the ladies present.

"The Government," he said, "had made mistakes in their attempts to civilize the Indians."

He proceeded to enumerate their mistakes. Instead of the positions at the agencies being filled in by Indians, white men crowded them out and took their places. What his people wanted was a chance to rise and fill positions of trust and consequence where within their reach.

He then spoke of religious matters, and said that there were three religious bodies on their reservation, who were trying to teach them to live better lives, and especially about religious marriages. The Indians did not want to be compelled to marry certain persons. The Secretary inquired who had sought to compel them to marry. American Horse replied that he referred more particularly to persons who eloped. When the couple were brought back, the agent compelled them to be married.

Young-Man-Afraid-of-His-Horses related his services in the interest of harmony during the late trouble. He brought his people into camp, and had turned in their arms.

"How many?" queried the Secretary.

The orator was non-plused. He knew the total was small and did not care to say. He hoped the Government would not only educate the children, but give them something to do when they finished at school.

Two-Strikes had made peace with General Miles, and was now going to do what he could to maintain it.

Hump said about 300 of his people have been killed, and there should be some consideration shown the survivors. He wanted the rations increased and continued.

Hollow Horn, Bear and Medicine Bull talked briefly and Secretary Noble spoke to the Indians. He said: "The Indian must not be discouraged. He would be supported as long as he endeavored to do well. There were two sides to the question of what is due the Indian and what is due from the Indian. Up to 1884 the Sioux had been given $42,000,000 by the Government. The Government acknowledges its treaties and agreements with the Sioux. Since 1884, when this money was paid, there had been much more money paid according to the treaty."

The Secretary then quoted statistics as to the issues to the Indians. Indian schools had been kept up at all agencies, and industrial schools, such as they want had also been re-established at Pierre and another school would be put up at Flandreau. Farmers had been kept at the different agencies to show the Sioux how to farm the land. It was a mere accident that $100,000 should have been cut off from the Sioux appropriation immediately after the agreement with General Crook. It would have been the same if there had been no agreement. These things should now convince the Sioux that the Government had been trying to do what was right for the Indians.

In conclusion, the Secretary advised the Indians to think over the many things the Government had done for them; to look at the promises made by General Crook, and have confidence in what he said.

The Secretary said he wanted the Indians to make up their minds to do the best they could to educate, or to have educated, their children, and never to let their young men dream that they could ever get anything by force from the Government of the United States.

QUARANTINE STATIONS.

The Plans for the Station Nearly Completed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The plans for a quarantine station and hospital building at San Diego will be completed within two weeks, according to information received to-day from the Supervising Architect's office. This will be followed by awarding the contract.

The War Department refusing to grant a quarantine reservation at Port Townsend, Wash., the Marine Hospital Bureau has decided to appoint a new board to locate a site in the vicinity of Port Townsend. The site may be selected near Point Angeles, but the limited appropriation will place at the disposal of the board and bureau only a few thousand dollars to be expended for a location. The improvement will cost about $50,000.

General Hamilton said to-day that a board would be appointed next week, and its work completed within a month.

SEATTLE'S LAW OFFICERS.

Serious Accusations Against the Mayor and Police.

SEATTLE (Wash.), Feb. 7.—The City Council met to-night and in the House of Delegates the killing of a man in a prize fight last night in a variety theater was made a test for a merciless scoring of the police. The Mayor was accused of being in league with the gamblers and the Chief subservient to him. It was said that a prominent police official had received a present of a solid silver service from the "White Chapel" class as a bid for immunity.

The House passed an ordinance reducing the force from 83 to 70, and abolishing the detective force entirely.

A resolution was also passed directing the Police Commissioners to inquire into the particulars of the fatal fight, and the existence of gambling houses.

GOOD BEGINNING.

China New Year's Ushered in With Two Fatal Stabbing Affrays.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7.—Chinese New Year's commenced at 12 o'clock to-night, and was ushered in by two stabbing affrays, which will probably prove fatal to two men. Sam Bing was stabbed by Ah Kit, who owed him some money. They took dinner together with other Chinese, when Kit called Bing out and stabbed him between the ribs.

A few minutes later Sam Kin was found in a pool of blood in the doorway. He was badly cut in four places. He had been seeing the old year out with friends and the feast broke up in a drunken row, in which Kin was cut. Considerable more trouble is feared, as the New Year festivities are in full blast and the high-binders are under the influence of liquor.

AN EXTRA SESSION.

RUMOR CURRENT THAT CONGRESS WILL BE RECONVENED.

Reciprocity Treaties Will Probably be the Subject Dealt With.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—The *Sun* has the following editorial this morning: We are not speaking from mere possibilities when we inform the public that a proclamation from the President may be expected, probably before the 20th of this month, calling an extra session of the Senate to meet in Washington on the 4th of March, or immediately afterward. It may also be presumed that the business to be brought before this called session will be of more than ordinary importance.

HOW THE RUMOR IS RECEIVED.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The report that the President will call an extra session of the Senate is variously received here.

Senator Chandler saw the President today, and nothing was said about it.

Senator Frye of the Foreign Affairs Committee says he has not heard of it.

Still there was considerable talk among the Senators yesterday about the rumor, and it was more in the nature of feeling the pulse of the Senate in regard to it.

A very erroneous opinion exists that the recent proclamation about Brazil was a treaty or an agreement. It is not. It is simply a proclamation under the McKinley bill, that Brazil has consented to allow our agricultural products to enter free of duty, and the President thus informs the nation.

A Senator said to your correspondent to-day: "This proclamation and others to follow do not need any legislation or action by the Senate. But I will say that the reciprocity treaties, which are now being considered by our Government and South American countries, will require action by the Senate. These will be treaties. If these negotiations have proceeded so far as to be ready for the Senate, then, no doubt, an extra session will be called to indorse them; but the Senate now has nothing to do with the proclamation just issued."

This carries out a hint given by a prominent American Minister to a foreign court, that the McKinley bill does not give the power for a treaty, but that Congress would give it when Mr. Blaine had the treaties ready.

Secretary Blaine has been in the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee room all morning in consultation with members of that committee and the Republican leaders in general. The subject of discussion was whether reciprocity would be proceeded with by Presidential proclamation or treaties. If by the former no extra session of the Senate will be necessary, but if by the latter an extra session would have to be had. It is the belief of Republican Senators that Secretary Blaine will carry to the President the views he secured in the conference, and the proposition for an extra session to consider treaties will be determined by the President next week. Meanwhile all announcements that an extra session is certain are necessarily speculation.

PROBABLE TREATIES WITH CANADA.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—A member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations told the California Associated Press representative to-day that if an extra session of the Senate was called, it would be for the purpose of ratifying the reciprocity treaty with Canada or a treaty with the province regarding the Behring Sea or the North Atlantic fisheries. It seems probable that the State Department is now engaged in negotiations of some kind or other with Canada, and that there will be an extra session of the Senate.

In speaking of the prospects of an extra session, Representative Morrow said it would not surprise him if there would soon be five or six treaties which would have to be ratified.

"I am of the opinion," said he, "that our diplomatic negotiations this summer will be regarded among the splendid achievements of this Administration. If we can advance our commercial interests abroad by treaty stipulation, pass the shipping bill, the Nicaragua Canal bill and the trans-Pacific cable bill, the Administration will be one of the most popular this country has ever seen, and will be well nigh invincible before the people at our next Presidential election."

Left Creditors Behind.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7.—S. E. Lazard, who represented himself as an agent for an Eastern Accident Insurance Company, has left town, leaving behind a number of creditors. He obtained $450 from his landlady, giving her in return a check on the Commercial National Bank. When the check was presented for payment it was found that Lazard had no money there. It is thought he has gone to Portland, Oregon.

COMMERCIAL CONGRESS.

A Large Number of Delegates Meet at Galveston.

THE NEW TREATY WITH BRAZIL INDORSED.

Congress Petitioned to Improve the Harbor at Galveston—Resolutions Adopted Favoring the Free Coinage of Silver of American Product, and Also the Opening of Indian Reservations to the Public.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

GALVESTON, Feb. 7.—The Western Commercial Congress met in this city this morning, 500 delegates being present. Mayor Clements of Wichita, Kan., was unanimously elected temporary Chairman, and Burlingame of Denver temporary Secretary. Committees were then appointed and a recess taken to 2:30 this afternoon.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions provides that the Congress shall be styled the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress, and that its sole purpose shall be the consideration of economic questions.

The report urges upon Congress to provide by adequate appropriations for the completion of the deep water harbor at Galveston as speedily as possible; favors the free and unlimited coinage of silver; the reclamation of arid lands by the national Government, through systems of water storage reservoirs; the immediate opening of the Indian reservations in Oklahoma and elsewhere; enthusiastically approves the reciprocity treaty with Brazil, and hopes the movement will be extended until it embraces the whole of South and Central America and Mexico; and favors the granting of national charters to corporations running American vessels in foreign trade.

The basis of representation for future sessions of this Congress will be thirty delegates at large from each State and Territory, to be appointed by the Governor thereof, one delegate from each county, appointed by County Commissioners; one from each city, and one additional for each ten thousand or fraction over of population, to be appointed by the Mayors; ten delegates from each Board of Trade or other commercial organizations, and two delegates for each railroad company operating west of the Mississippi River.

The coinage paragraph was amended by adding the words, "the products of mines of the United States."

A committee was appointed to formulate and present to the next convention statistics relating the commerce of the West and South, and the convention adjourned to meet in Denver on May 19th.

SNOW-SLIDES IN COLORADO.

OURAY, Feb. 7.—The road between here and Ironton is completely blockaded by snow-slides for a distance of 1,500 feet. At another point called Little River Slide the road is blockaded for 1,500 feet. Several small slides occurred at and near the Mickey Breen mine.

WEATHER REPORT.

A Terrible Storm is Raging in South Dakota.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—The storm area forming yesterday in the southwest developed into a considerable storm and moved from North Texas to the Ohio Valley. Rain accompanies the storm east of the Mississippi River and south of the line joining Boston and Chicago. The storm area in the northwest has increased and moved over Wyoming, but without rain or snow. These areas will likely move over the lake regions and New England, bringing rain and snow in considerable quantities in northeastern sections of the country.

TERRIBLE STORM IN SOUTH DAKOTA.

RAPID CITY, Feb. 7.—A tremendous storm prevails in this section of the State. From fifteen to eighteen inches of snow has fallen, and great drifts block the streets. Trains on the Elkhorn Valley road are abandoned, and ranchmen in the city dare not venture out to their homes. Seven hundred Ogallala Indians, with an escort of troops and Cheyenne scouts, on their way to Fort Keogh and Tongue River, Montana, were compelled to go into camp last night forty miles from this city, travel being out of the question while the blizzard lasts.

STORM IN NEW YORK.

ALBANY (N. Y.), Feb. 7.—The effect of to-day's snow-storm upon the electrical systems in this city was the most disasterous ever known. Snow began falling this afternoon, and before ten o'clock tonight hundreds of wires were broken down, and over fifteen large telephone and telegraph poles snapped and fell. The average snow fall was only about five inches.

EASTERN TEMPERATURE.

CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—The temperature this morning at 8 o'clock was as follows: Chicago, 34°; Cincinnati, 38°; St. Louis, 38° above zero.

MEMOIRS OF JEFF DAVIS.

General Miles Comes in for His Share of Abuse.

CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—In the memoirs of Jefferson Davis, recently published by his widow, many pages are devoted to a description of the "Tortures of Fortress Monroe," of which district General Miles, now at the head of the Division of the Missouri, was in command at the time Davis was imprisoned there.

Mrs. Davis charges General Miles with cruelty to the President of the Confederacy. He is charged with shackling Davis by brutal force, keeping him in a vermin-infested cell, withholding his clothes and linen, and making souvenirs out of his possessions, even of his hair when he had it cut.

General Miles was interviewed to-day in regard to the matter. He said he did not mind the attack. "Of course," he added, "Mrs. Davis feels bitter toward me, as she probably does toward many more Northern soldiers. While caring nothing at all for anything she may say or write, I would call your attention to the fact that Jefferson Davis managed to survive the cruel treatment, and lived twenty years after, finally dying of old age. That would hardly have been the case, I think, if he had been subjected to such horrible abuses. There is not a particle of truth in the statements made by his wife. The fact is, Jeff. Davis never was in better trim than when he was liberated."

INDIGENT HEBREWS.

Baron Hirsch Sets Aside a Large Sum for their Benefit.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—Banker Jesse Seligman has received from Baron Hirsch a cablegram notifying him that the trustees of the Baron Hirsch fund in this country may draw on him for $2,500,000, to be applied to the relief of the immigrant Jews who have came here and are destitute. The income from this sum is to be devoted to ameliorating the condition of poor Jews by giving them homes in fertile districts, where they can make their own living. If the trustees find it necessary to draw on the principal fund, they are authorized to do so, and Baron Hirsch has promised to make the difference good.

During the past year the Baron gave an average of $10,000 a month for the relief of indigent Hebrews in this country,

Nebraska Legislature.

LINCOLN (Neb.), Feb. 7.—Owing to reports that the Legislature is likely to pass very radical laws governing rates of interest and extending the stay of executions on mortgages, the Senate has passed a resolution, introduced by Senator Swithler, declaring it the sense of that body that such laws ought not to be enacted at this session. This is considered an important triumph of the conservative element.

A Town Swept Away by Fire.

PEORIA (Ill.), Feb 7.—The town of Ellisville, in Fulton County, was swept from the face of the earth by a fire to-night. Only three houses were left standing in the place. The town is small, and there was no means to fight the fire. Ellisville was the oldest town in Fulton County, and was surrounded with historical reminisences.

Insurance Companies Consolidate.

CHICAGO, Feb. 7.—The *Journal* this evening says that it is reported in insurance circles that two great British insurance companies—the Liverpool and London and Globe and the Scottish Union—have consolidated. The agents of the companies here have no direct advices.

An Investigation to be Made.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 7.—The Coroner has determined to make a searching investigation into the cause of the death of John B. Ells, the consumptive patient who died after being treated with what purported to be Koch's lymph.

Still Balloting.

PIERRE (S. D.), Feb. 7.—One ballot was taken for Senator to-day. Moody received 22, Tripp 26, Campbell 41, Melville 28, Mellette 5, Clark 6 and the remainder scattering.

Fatal Boiler Explosion.

SAVANNAH (Ga.), Feb. 7.—News was received here to-night of the explosion of a boiler in a saw-mill near Reedsville, killing six men, four colored and two whites.

PUBLIC LANDS.

BILL TO PREVENT ALIENS ACQUIRING POSSESSION.

Naturalized Citizens Only to be Recognized as Proper Claimants.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7.—General Vandever will on Monday introduce a bill entitled, "an Act to prohibit unnaturalized persons from making final proof, or obtaining title to any of the public lands under any existing land laws."

The bill provides that no person who is not a native born, or naturalized citizen of the United States, shall be permitted to file upon, or make final proof, or in any manner obtain title, under any existing laws, to any public lands in any State or Territory.

His attention was directed especially to the matter a few days ago by receiving a letter from Judge D. H. Budlong, of Visalia, who stated that during the last year three-fourths of the proofs submitted in the Land Office at Visalia were by Italians and Portuguese and other aliens, who have only declared their intention to become citizens and acquire title under the pre-emption and other laws without becoming citizens. The only case requiring full citizenship is in the final homestead proof.

In the Visalia district all springs and running waters are being taken up systematically by aliens, and the other land is only fit for grazing, and, having no water, is forced to be left for the benefit of cattle and sheep owned by the aliens who have possession of the water supply.

The letter was referred to Land Commissioner Groff, who said to a California Associated Press representative to-day that during the last four months he had been informed that in all the Pacific Coast land districts aliens have been taking up lands much more rapidly than before, and in his judgment public lands were now scarcely large enough for real American citizens, and would soon be exhausted. He thought home-seeking citizens should be protected and the law so changed that aliens would not be placed on an equal footing practically with citizens. He has answered the Budlong letter in which he takes this position.

General Vandever said to-night that late arrivals of Italians in Southern California and all along the Coast, to some extent, was as obnoxious as the Chinese, and he would do all in his power to protect the citizens from this species of importation.

The other California members have also received letters on the same subject, urging action.

Payson, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Lands, said to-day that the chances for the bill passing at this session were not of the best, owing to the great rush on the homestretch, but he was quite positive the committee would report it favorably without loss of time, when, if it was diligently watched, it would be forced through the House.

Fatal Accident at San Diego.

SAN DIEGO, Feb. 7.—Mark Hanna, an employe of the cable road, was fatally injured late this evening by being struck by a grip-handle, his skull being fractured and his face mashed. The accident was caused by the slipping of the cable, and in attempting to recover it he met with the mishap.

Water Bouquets.

This method of making a floral arrangement for the table was recently brought under my notice by a lady who had been in the habit of doing so for many years. It was quite new to me, and the lady in question was greatly surprised to hear that I had never seen a water bouquet. To convince me of the prettiness of a water bouquet, a small one was made, and the arrangement was charming and novel. The lady told me that some flowers are especially beautiful when thus immersed, as in some cases the water forms innumerable glistening crystal globules all over the flowers. The yellow Marguerite and Hoya carnosa were mentioned as being particularly pretty in a water bouquet, and doubtless there are others as well. Perhaps some reader may have tried experiments in this way, and be in a position to tell us what are the best flowers? It would also be interesting to know how long the flowers last under such conditions. If immersion tends toward the endurance of the flowers, the method then becomes useful as well as novel.—*Garden (England.)*

Upon one occasion a falcon was observed to cut a snipe right in two, with such strength and speed did it cut down its prey. Sparrowhawks and merlins have not infrequently been known to crash through thick plate-glass windows when in pursuit of prey or at caged birds.

IRELAND'S CAUSE.

Outward Peace Among the Irish Members.

BELIEF THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED.

The Precise Terms on Which the Quarrels Have Been Settled to be Made Known on Thursday—The Liberals Will Not be Content Unless Parnell Retires Permanently.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—A *Tribune* London special says: For the moment there is outward peace among the Irish members. On Thursday we are to learn the precise terms on which their quarrels have been settled. Of course, it is said that Gladstone has satisfied the advocates of home rule by giving them the substance of Parnell's four points. At any rate, Parnell made the concessions the price of his disappearance, and if he retires from the leadership it naturally follows that he has obtained what he wanted, or something approaching it.

There is some suspicion that Parnell is doing it to make believe that he is professing to be satisfied, in order to cover his retreat. It is well known that, however tender Gladstone's feelings toward him, he can never hope to be trusted by other leading men on the other side of the house.

Be this as it may, the statement that Parnell has been satisfied by Gladstonian assurances is causing no small anxiety respecting the details to be revealed next Thursday, lest Gladstone may have surrendered too much in order to carry out his big home rule scheme.

If a settlement has been made that satisfies Parnell, unless the latter suddenly abandoned five-sixths of his demands, it is greatly feared that one of the first results will be to cause a serious disintegration in Gladstone's own camp. Some of the McCarthyites are by no means pleased at the prospect of Parnell continuing to be de facto leader, whoever may be de jure chief, and many Nonconformist Liberals will not be content with mere pretense of Parnell's retirement, which is reported to be contemplated under this new settlement.

It is reported this morning that seventy of Gladstone's supporters were wavering in their allegiance because Parnell's retirement is not likely to be more than a subterfuge.

CANADIAN POLITICS.

Professor Smith Explains the Situation in Canada.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6—Professor Goodwin Smith of Toronto, in a letter to the *Times*, explains the political situation in Canada. He says:

"The immediate issue is that of trade with the United States, but beneath this lies the broader issue between the continental and anti-continental policy.

"The Liberals of Canada, whether they look for an immediate entrance of Canada in the American Union or not, are now men of this continent and regard the inhabitants of the rest of it as partners and desire to cultivate the closest relations with them.

"The Conservatives are anti-Continental. They desire to keep Canada in all things divided from her continental tendencies and attached to Great Britain, where the social center of their party lies practically; they seek to make Canada the engine of the conservative aristocracy of Great Britain for averting the triumph of the democracy of the new world and keeping a part of the American continent under aristocratic institutions or the influence of a continental party. Sir John Macdonald is the chief. His whole policy has been directed against closer relations with the United States. The Canadian Pacific Railway was his destined instrument, though the course of events by which his national railway seems to have been converted into half an American road seems to have proved hopeless the fight against nature. For the commercial question by itself he may be said to care comparatively little.

"Among the people, whatever may be their political bearing toward the United States, the desire for free trade with their own continent grows apace. If the people are let alone there can be no doubt the verdict will be in favor of reciprocity and against a protectionist government. But the people will not be let alone.

"The country has been governed for twenty-five years largely by corruption, carried on by means of Federal grants to local public works, concessions to contractors and bribery of all kinds. These engines will be plied on the people, whose political tone has been sadly lowered by long subjection to their influence.

"The Government's majority in the late Parliament was over fifty on a division in a House of 215 members, so that the Liberals have considerable leeway to make up. On the other hand, many Government seats were won at the last election by small majorities, which, if the people were to vote freely according to their convictions on the commercial question, would, no doubt, be reversed."

THE FRENCH CAPITAL.

An Increase to be Made on the Tariff on American Pork.

PARIS, Feb. 7.—One of the members of the Deputies to-day said he was satisfied that the Chamber would adopt a tax of twelve francs per hundred kilos on American pork, instead of the ten francs tariff urged by United States Minister Reed.

Ex-Minister of Commerce Herrison said that a twelve francs' duty means exclusion, and that the Deputies are protection mad.

Jules Ferry, in an interview, said the protection spirit in the United States has advanced the cause of protection in France. The temper of the Chamber and Senate is more in favor of protection now than in 1880, when the existing tariff was adopted.

M. Berger, Director of the late exposition, said to-day that favorable action by France on America's invitation to the Chicago exposition is certain. The only difficulty is the apathy of the merchants and others. The McKinley tariff, according to Berger, somewhat chilled the ardor of those who would be exhibitors, but he thinks the feeling is changing.

The brother of the late Robert Ray Hamilton, now in this city, has obtained evidence of a man establishing the identity of the body found in Montana. He was personally acquainted with Robert Ray Hamilton, and states that there is no doubt that the body was that of that unfortunate gentleman.

Three Bandits Killed.

HAVANA, Feb. 9.—The police recently received information that several bandits had taken passage on a Spanish steamer, with the intention of making their escape to Aspinwall, and officers went to where the steamer was lying. The bandits opened fire, and a fierce battle ensued. The passengers on the steamer were thrown into a great panic, and the wildest excitement prevailed. The police finally gained possession of the steamer. Three of the bandits, including the famous Montelongo, were killed, and two policemen were wounded.

Terrible Disaster Averted.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 6.—What might have proved a terrible disaster occurred today, but fortunately, the only damage done was the sinking of a steamer. The British steamer Knutsford collided in the River Mersey with the steamer Drumhendeye, injuring the latter vessel so that she soon sank. What added to the circumstances of the collision was the fact that the Drumhendeye had a cargo of dynamite.

Imperial Decree Annulled.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—According to dispatches received here from Peking, the Imperial decree granting audience to foreign Ministers has been nullified by the derogatory ceremonies prescribed in connection with such audience.

Mrs. Mackay's Purchase.

LONDON, Feb. 7.—Mrs. Mackay has purchased the much-admired statue of Hamlet, by Routellio, for $6,000, and will place it at the foot of the new marble staircase in the main hall of her house.

Large Armor Contract.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—The Secretary of the Navy is about to enter into a four-million-dollar contract with Carnegie, Phipps & Co., of Pittsburg, for the supply of six thousand tons of armor. The firm has completed an extensive plant for this class of work, and is ready to begin manufacturing at once.

Frightful Accident in New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.—John Dohmann, employed on the elevated road, was killed at Sixty-first street this afternoon by a train. His body was horribly mangled, and so jammed up in the machinery that the engine had to be raised from the track.

The Cherokee Strip.

CALDWELL (Kas.), Feb. 6.—Several families started for the strip to-day, and more will follow each day until all the "boomers" have located themselves.

It Failed to Cure.

KANSAS CITY (Mo.), Feb. 6.—J. B. Ells, the consumptive patient at the city hospital treated with Koch's lymph, died his morning.

GERMAN AFFAIRS.

DISQUIET REMOVED OVER REPORTS FROM ITALY.

Rapid Abatement in the Fervor Concerning Colonial Extensions.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

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BERLIN, Feb. 7.—Official assurances from Rome that Marquis Dirudini will personally guide Italy's foreign policy, assuming Signor Crispi's engagements, including the strengthened armaments, have removed disquiet here. Emperor William had a communication from King Humbert at the earliest period of Crispi's desire to retire, intimating his determination to agree to no ministry that would imperil the Dreibund.

Chancellor Caprivi, during his recent visit to Milan, arranged for the completion of the Italian armament with the newest weapons, smokeless powder, etc., involving an outlay of the money derived from the new Italian loan. On Caprivi's return here, diplomatic documents forming the appendix of the treaty of alliance were got, Signor Crispi formally pledging Italy to army reforms, in which the German Government was to assist in the manufacture of weapons, the production of munitions and the furnishing of skilled instructions. The question troubling the Emperor's confidantes was how far Crispi's successor would accept the engagements made.

Dr. Miguel assisted in the solution of the crisis by getting a group of German financial houses to promise to facilitate the new Italian loan, when it should be found necessary for the Government to obtain funds. Until the Italian Cabinet shall have been completed, and its character seen, the position will remain rather insecure.

The Emperor has not yet settled the successorship to Waldersee. The latter aimed to succeed Von Moltke in virtual control of all the German armies. The Emperor means to succeed Von Moltke himself, and that his chief of general staff must be of a strictly subordinate spirit. Further changes in the ministry are imminent.

The debates on colonial matters in the Reichstag disclosed the fact that there has been a rapid abatement in fervor, numbers favoring German colonial extension. No prominent man of any party has avowed adherence to the projects for further territorial acquisition. Much doubt is expressed as to the value of the territory recently annexed by Germany.

Although the Government has definitely abandoned the monopoly of the production of Koch's lymph, measures are being prepared for a rigid control of its sale and a supervision of its manufacture. Chemists will not be allowed to sell it unless analysts have confirmed its purity. Under an order from the Ministry, all clinics must report the results of the Koch treatment. So far as received the majority of the reports are in favor of the treatment. Some, however, report disastrous results.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

Probable Suicide of a Wealthy Los Angeles Lady.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7.—Mrs. Susan Hawkins, widow of General Eli Hawkins, and a wealthy resident of this city, is mysteriously missing, and is supposed to have committed suicide. She is about forty-five years old, and has been suffering with spinal disease. A few days ago she told friends she was going to Santa Monica, but instead went to Redondo and engaged a room in the hotel there. This morning it was found she had left her room throught a window in her night clothes. She was traced by her footprints through the soft earth and sand down to the beach, and it is thought in a fit of desperation, owing to her chronic ailment, she plunged into the ocean and was drowned. Search at once began for the body, but a heavy fog prevailed, and at this writing she had not been found. She has wealthy relatives in San Francisco. It is said she made an attempt on on her life about a week ago and it was kept quiet.

Arizona Press Association.

PHŒNIX (Ariz.), Feb. 7.—The Arizona Press Association was organized to-night. Twenty-three out of twenty-eight journals were represented. S. C. Hughes, of the *Star*, was elected President; George W. Brower, of the *Enterprise*, First Vice-President; John H. Marion, of the *Courier*, Second Vice-President; S. C. Boggs, of the *Prospector*, Third Vice President; W. S. Vail, of the *Citizen*, Secretary, and John W. Derrington, of the *Sentinel*, Treasurer.

A prize worth winning has been offered by the East Indian Government. The prize is $25,000 for a practical machine for decorticating ramie.

BAFFLED BANDITS.

Messenger Haswell's Story of the Alila Affair.

THE ROBBERS WERE FIRST TO OPEN FIRE.

One of the Participants Seen on the Train Previous to the Attack—None of the Passengers in Possession of a Weapon—Fireman Radcliff Dies From His Injuries.

Special to the RECORD-UNION.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7.—Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express messenger, Charles C. Haswell, who succeeded in keeping the bandits out of the express car at Delano, arrived in the city this morning. He detailed the following account of his experience at a point one mile south of Alila:

"I was first notified of the fact that something was wrong by a sudden stopping of the the train and the firing of several pistol shots in quick succession. I stepped to the door of my car just in time to see four men get down from off the engine and tender. This was enough for me. I did not wait to see any more, but promptly closed the door to my car, put out the lights and prepared for battle.

"The robbers came to the rear of the express car, and I heard the brakeman ask for a link. Some one shouted from the outside to me:

"'Open that door, and be quick about it.

"At this I presented my face against the upper glass in the door of the car to locate the robbers more accurately. As soon as I did so, one of them fired, and shot me in the face, one buckshot striking me over the left eye, producing a painful, but not serious wound.

"I saw the man who shot me, and I fired at him. I am confident I struck him, for I saw him throw up his hands and heard him exclaim 'I'm hit.' He then went towards the engine. This man, I think, was the leader of the gang. All told, I fired three shots at him. I ran to the forward end and fired with a shotgun and revolver, but I do not believe that the last two shots took effect.

"The robbers fired twice at me while I was at the forward door of the car, once with a shotgun and once with a pistol. I heard another one of my assailants at the hind door say, 'My God, I'm shot!' As bullets were then flying through the air at a very rapid rate, I laid down as a matter of self-protection.

"One of the passengers told me this morning that he saw one man, who had formerly been sitting behind him in the passenger coach, fire five times into my car.

"I am confident I did not fire the shot which wounded the fireman. I knew him well, and he was at no time in range of my guns.

"After the fight, which lasted about ten minutes, we pulled into Delano. The baggage car, mail car or passengers were not touched. It is quite evident that they were after what I had in the express car."

Haswell has been a faithful and trusted employe of Wells-Fargo for twenty-one years.

The remarkable fact in connection with the whole affair is that not one passenger on the train had a revolver with him, and the consequence was that the engineer, fireman and express messenger were left to fight the whole battle out alone.

DEATH OF FIREMAN RADCLIFF.

DELANO (Cal.), Feb. 7.—George Radcliff, the fireman who was shot in the robbery of the passenger train last evening near Alila, died this afternoon from the effects of the wounds.

No very reliable information has yet been received of the parties in pursuit of the robbers, though various rumors are afloat. One report states that the parties have been traced in a northwesterly direction toward Hanford, and the officers are in close pursuit.

Sheriff Borgwardt and seven men passed through to Alila on a special last night, and from that point took to the westward. Every possible means is being exhausted to capture the robbers.

OFFICERS IN PURSUIT.

HURON (Cal.), Feb. 7.—A special train arrived here this morning from Tulare with Sheriff E. W. Kay and two deputies in pursuit of the men who robbed the train. At Alila last night Sheriff Kay and deputies started west for Sunflower Valley, the supposed direction the robbers are pursuing, and Deputy E. D. Vogelsang and a Tulare deputy went south by Tulare Lake and towards the hills. Nothing has been heard up to this evening from them.

Baseball at Fresno.

FRESNO, Feb. 7.—The All-Californias played the Fresnos a ten-inning game here to-day. The home team defeated them by a score of 4 to 4. Farrell and Hardie constituted the battery of the visitors, and Stapleton and Stanley held the same position for the Fresnos. Following is the score by innings:

All-Californias	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0—4
Fresnos	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1—5

To-morrow Van Haltren and Ebright will form the battery for the All-Californias, and Darby and Ward for the Fresnos.

Fatal Glove Fight.

SEATTLE, Feb. 7.—Last night John Shaffer, a local boxer, engaged in a seven-round contest with William Doyle at the variety theater. In the seventh round Doyle knocked Shaffer out by a right-hander on the jaw. Shaffer never regained consciousness, and died a few hours later. Doyle has thus far eluded capture. The proprietor of the theater has been arrested.

Chico Residence Burned.

CHICO, Feb. 7.—A residence belonging to Mrs. H. H. Morehead was burned this afternoon. It was occupied by I. Tubbs for some time. It was thought that a large conflagration would result, as the wind was blowing a gale and the fire was well under headway before the department arrived. The cause was a defective flue. The loss is estimated at $26,000. No insurance.

Fruit Trees for Shasta County.

ANDERSON, Feb. 7.—Over 100,000 fruit trees have arrived here the last ten days, and more are to come. The season is most favorable for planting trees. The ground is in excellent condition, and all that is required will be the spring rains.

Another Victim of Confidence Men.

MARYSVILLE, Feb. 7.—Confidence men swindled Charles Newkom on Thursday out of $1,500, and also beat a confiding woman of Yuba City out of $145. Little hopes of catching them are entertained. There were three in the gang.

Held to Answer.

NAPA, Feb. 7.—J. W. Scott was arraigned to-day and held to answer before the Superior Court on a charge of assault to commit murder for having shot John Vaughn on January 24th.