

THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

Absorbing Topic in Diplomatic Circles at Washington.

No Further Talk of the United States as a Factor in the Contest.

This Government Will Go No Farther Than to Protect American Interests at Treaty Ports in China Unless the Scramble for Chinese Territory Goes to the Extent of the Extinction of the Empire and Its Absorption by Foreign Nations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—The rapid movement of events in the far East continues to be an absorbing topic in diplomatic circles here, particularly at the Embassies and Legations of the powers which are aligning for an apparent struggle for Chinese territory.

There is no further talk of the United States as a possible factor in the contest, as a Cabinet meeting is accepted as removing this Government from the field of controversy.

At the same time an eminent authority on international affairs said to-day that a situation might develop in which the United States would be called upon to go much farther than to protect American interests at the treaty ports in China. This situation would come, he said, if the scramble for Chinese territory went to the extent of the extinction of China and the complete absorption of the old empire by foreign nations.

Such was the apparent drift of the present movement, he said, and if it became a reality a condition would arise similar to the extermination of Poland. Poland had established a precedent in international affairs, he said, and following that precedent, it was to be expected that the United States would be called upon to go much farther than to protect American interests at the treaty ports in China. This situation would come, he said, if the scramble for Chinese territory went to the extent of the extinction of China and the complete absorption of the old empire by foreign nations.

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Nine of the Chinese bandits who took part in the murder of Chinese priests at Yenchau, which gave Germany the right of seizure of Kiaochow Bay, have been apprehended and much of the plunder recovered.

EFFORTS TO SAVE DURRANT'S LIFE.

His Attorneys Making an Attempt to Gain Time.

Engaged in Perfecting Another Appeal to the State Supreme Court.

Should the Decision be Adverse to the Condemned Man, an Application for a Writ of Error Will be Made Direct to the United States Supreme Court—Judge Wallace Purges Ex-Juror Smyth of Contempt.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The attorneys for W. H. T. Durrant will make another attempt to gain time, and are at present engaged in perfecting another appeal to the Supreme Court of California. Should their efforts to save the convicted murderer from the gallows again fail in this direction, an appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States.

The new appeal that is to be filed in the State Supreme Court is based on the exceptions taken by the attorneys Boardman and Deuprey before Superior Judge Bahrs when Durrant was sentenced the last time. Judge Bahrs last Friday settled the bill of exceptions, and the transcript is now in the hands of the printer. As soon as the document is ready it will be filed in the Supreme Court, and an appeal taken.

The principal objections upon which the appeal will be based are that Judge Bahrs had no jurisdiction in sentencing Durrant to be executed, and that in so doing his honor exceeded his authority and abused his power not legally within his province.

Attorneys Boardman and Dickinson contend that the case originally was in another department of the Superior Court, and no part of it should ever have been heard by Judge Bahrs. Besides this, the transcript is not yet filed against the defendant.

In the new appeal to the Supreme Court, Attorney Boardman will seek to raise a Federal question. It has already been presented in the Federal courts, but he will seek to impress the State jurists with its importance. The German Admiral, in a proclamation to the residents of the districts seized by Germany, advises them to continue their peaceful avocations and warns them that any breaches of the law will be punished.

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OHIO SENATORIAL FIGHT.

LEGISLATORS ARE FLOCKING TO COLUMBUS.

Talk of a Fusion Between Democrats and Anti-Hanna Republicans in Organizing the House.

COLUMBUS (O.), Dec. 29.—There was an influx of legislators to-night, and the session of the hotel lobby indicated that the Senatorial election was the absorbing question. That the anti-Hanna Republicans, led by Charles Kurtz, will test the strength of their forces in the organization of the Legislature was indicated by the unofficial announcement that Representative Mason of Cleveland would oppose Representative Boxwell of Warren County for Speaker.

Mr. Mason, accompanied by Representative Bramley of Cleveland, both of whom are known to be unfriendly to Senator Hanna, opened headquarters at the Great Southern Hotel to-day, and it was generally understood that the anti-Hanna men would conduct their campaign from that place. It is significant that the Democratic State headquarters are located in the same hotel.

Allen O. Myers is the apparent leader of the Democrats in the proposed fusion with the anti-Hanna Republicans. Mr. Myers has given out that the Democratic members of the House will support Mr. Mason for Speaker, and C. H. Gerlach of Columbus, one of Mr. Kurtz's lieutenants, for Clerk of the House in opposition to John R. Malloy. The anti-Hanna Republicans are to turn all the other offices of the House over to the Democrats in consideration of the election of the men chosen by them.

A conference of Democratic members of the Legislature and party leaders is to be held here Friday to discuss the proposed fusion with the anti-Hanna Republicans. Within the last few days strong opposition has arisen from certain Democrats to the proposed fusion, and it is now certain that all the Democratic members cannot be whipped into line. Several Democratic members who arrived in the city to-night stated emphatically they would not vote for any one except a Democrat for United States Senator. These members will serve their first term, and say that if they voted for a Republican to defeat Senator Hanna they would not be returned.

There was a conference of Republican leaders at Major Dick's rooms this afternoon and to-night, but it was stated they were merely talking over the situation. Major Dick stated that Senator Hanna's re-election was assured.

While Mr. Kurtz denies himself to all public interviews, he at times asserts to his confidential friends that Senator Hanna will be defeated.

When a man wants a cigar he never wants it very bad.

PRIVATE BANKS.

Financial Condition of Those Throughout This State.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The Bank Commissioners filed the following report to-day, showing the financial condition of the private banks throughout the State at the close of business on November 30th:

Resources—Bank premises, \$73,250,000; real estate taken for debt, \$544,694 83; miscellaneous bonds and stocks, \$183,749 39; loans on real estate, \$633,113 47; loans on stocks, bonds and warrants, \$25,000 08; loans on other securities, \$58,871 60; loans on personal securities and overdrafts, \$869,787 69; money on hand, \$208,406 80; due from banks and bankers, \$299,723 80; other assets, \$223,242 50; total resources, \$2,929,319 77.

Liabilities—Capital paid in coin, \$1,064,035 14; reserve fund, \$207,629 78; due depositors, \$1,433,880 47; due banks and bankers, \$42,776 95; State, city or county money, \$28,671 63; other liabilities, \$22,935 80; total liabilities, \$2,929,319 77.

MANY CLAIM THE PROPERTY.

Legal Tangle Over Ownership of the Confidence Mine.

FRESNO, Dec. 29.—The death of Ed. Lloyd, the supposed owner of the Confidence mine, has resulted in a peculiar legal tangle.

The Fresno Flume and Irrigation Company claims the property under a mortgage deed and a quit claim deed from Lloyd, and has placed a man in charge of the mine. The Public Administrator, claiming for absent heirs, disputes the deeds, and had a man in charge. George Green, a creditor of Lloyd, was granted to-day special letters of administration. Finally James Smith of San Jose a brother-in-law of the deceased, appeared upon the scene this afternoon, and will claim the property in the name of his wife. Lloyd recently refused \$10,000 for the mine.

Imports at San Francisco. Statement for the First Eleven Months of the Year.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—Imports of merchandise at this port during the first eleven months of the year were \$97,478,599, against \$94,073,960 for the same time last year, and included \$8,568,000 from Japan, \$6,458,590 from China, \$2,244,703 from Great Britain, \$9,704,800 from the Hawaiian Islands, \$2,635,500 from Central America, \$1,600,000 from British Columbia, and \$1,687,000 from the East Indies.

During the year ended June 30th last the imports of tea into the United States amounted to 113,347,175 pounds, valued at \$14,835,862. Of this amount, 10,882,278 pounds, valued at \$1,573,289, arrived at San Francisco. The amount of coffee imported during the year was 57,645,670 pounds, valued at \$81,544,384.

THE DRAW CLOSED TOO SOON.

Accident to a River Steamer Passing Through a Bridge.

PORTLAND (Or.), Dec. 29.—While the river steamer Bailey Gatzert was passing through the draw of the railroad bridge to-day the draw closed and struck the whole upper deck of the steamer. E. D. Kutzner and his wife, of Astoria, were badly scratched, and several other passengers were slightly injured by the flying timbers. The engineer of the draw bridge, thinking the steamer was clear of the draw, let it swing back too soon. The steamer's deck looks as though a cyclone had struck it.

ACCUSED OF IMMORALITY.

Charges Against an Ex-Pastor of a Stockton Church.

STOCKTON, Dec. 29.—The congregation of the Christian Church of this city is considering charges which have been made against Rev. Mr. Briggs, ex-pastor of the church. He is accused of having improper relations with several women, and four detectives have been on his trail for several weeks. Two of them were women and two others men. The pastor denies that there is any truth in the charges, and declares that the Board of Elders, which found against him, was unjustly.

Five Years at Folsom.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 29.—Alejandro Adame, the distinguished looking Mexican who entered the home of Colonel W. P. Crane while the innates were absent and stole a lot of rare bric-a-brac and Mrs. Alice Rollins Crane's outfit, which she was going to wear to Klondike, was sentenced to five years in Folsom Penitentiary this morning, after having pleaded guilty to burglary before Judge Smith.

Suicide at Sonoma.

SONOMA, Dec. 29.—A mysterious stranger giving the name of Sydney M. Johnson shot himself through the temple this morning. The coroner has been notified and will take possession of the body.

CONFLAGRATION IN HAYLI.

Eight Hundred Houses at Port An Prince Destroyed.

PORT AU PRINCE (Hayti), Dec. 29.—At 11 o'clock last night a fire, which assumed considerable proportions on account of the lack of water to supply the pumps, broke out and destroyed 800 houses, including a number of warehouses, a hotel, the Church of St. Joseph and its parsonage. About 3,000 people were rendered homeless.

RECIPROCITY NEGOTIATIONS.

Progressing Steadily Between This Country and Great Britain.

Canada Wants to be Included in Colonies Receiving Its Advantages.

Lumber Interests, However, Are Opposed to Such a Treaty With Our Northern Neighbors—Chairman Tunis of the Executive Committee of the National Lumbermen's Association Expresses His Views on the Subject.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador, has about recovered from a long and painful attack of rheumatism, which kept him in bed for a part of the last three months. The fact that he was able to call at the State Department yesterday led to reports that coincident with the Lord Salisbury's declaration of the proposition to stop pelagic sealing, Sir Julian had renewed reciprocity negotiations. His call, however, has no significance, as Sir Julian did not know of Lord Salisbury's answer at the time he visited the State Department.

As to the reciprocity negotiations, they have progressed steadily through Mr. Adam, First Secretary of the Embassy, and Sir Julian will now be able to give the matter personal attention. The main desire of the British West Indian colonies is to secure the 20 per cent. reciprocity reduction on sugar. What will be offered in exchange has not yet been determined.

At the outset the purpose of the negotiations was confined to the British West Indies, but the present indications that Sir Julian will include Canada among the colonies receiving the advantages of reciprocity. How far this can be done, in view of the failure of the Behring Sea negotiations, is not clear, but it is probable that the British Government will prefer to have the negotiations embrace all the colonies, including Canada, instead of repeating the action, when the last reciprocity treaties were framed, of confining them to the West Indian possessions.

In this connection it may be stated that Mr. Kasson, the special Plenipotentiary Commissioner of the United States charged with the conduct of the negotiations of reciprocity arrangements and treaties under the Tariff Act, has not undertaken to consider the subject of reciprocity with Canada. This abstention on the part of Mr. Kasson is attributed to the fact that the subject of reciprocity is a dispute over the seals, described in the Tariff Act, has become so involved with the seal question and other issues as to become practically inseparable from them, and so the entire subject of Canadian relation appears to remain in the control of ex-Secretary Foster.

It had been expected that the recovery of Sir Julian would permit active steps on the British-American treaty of arbitration. There is no present prospect, however, that anything will be done on that subject, and up to this time negotiations have been opened between the Ambassador and the State Department. Both Governments have signified a favorable attitude toward reopening negotiations, but the British Government will take no step whatever until a definite assurance is at hand that such treaty as may be proposed will be cooperative by the ratification of the Senate.

It is said that the answer of Lord Salisbury on the Behring Sea question, which has been reported by cable, adds no new phase to the case, as this declaration was foreshadowed with certainty by the answer of Sir Julian, the Canadian Premier, declining to stop pelagic sealing. The action of Lord Salisbury merely adds the Imperial and official sanction to this declaration of the Canadian authorities. As the Russo-Japanese-American treaty made several provisions for the stoppage of pelagic sealing was conditioned on the occurrence of Great Britain in a similar measure to stop pelagic sealing, it is presumed that the effect of Great Britain's action will be to nullify this treaty.

The lumber and other interests which might be affected by reciprocity treaties are watching closely through their representatives, all that concerns their special interests. The principal representative of the lumber interests is Theophilus Tunis, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Lumbermen's Association. He has had several interviews with Mr. Kasson, who is in charge of reciprocity negotiations for the State Department, and has received a letter from him announcing the success of efforts to prevent Argentine striking a blow at pine.

Mr. Tunis has also been informed that a cable from our Minister in Rio de Janeiro announces that the Brazilian Government will remove the discriminating exactness against our ship owners, which should result in the resumption of our flour trade with that port. He is of the opinion that the discriminating clause of the Dingley bill caused these decisions of Brazil and Argentina.

The lumbermen are now chiefly apprehensive that the product may have to bear the brunt of Canadian reciprocity negotiations, and Mr. Tunis to-day authorized the following interview on this point of the reciprocity problem.

"It is evident the Administration is bent on a commercial treaty with Canada, under Section 4 of the Dingley bill. The lumbermen are now unwilling to be understood as opposing any policy of the Government looking to the extension of our export trade, and will cheerfully go as far in the consummation of that policy as will any other interest, but are unalterably opposed to sharing with coal and fish the burden of a policy which the great masses of our people are utterly indifferent to, but which is urged on the Administration by a few Americans interested in the seal fisheries and a few Americans who are owners of Canadian forests.

"As a matter of principle, policy and business, the average American student of every day affairs can see no more

COMPERS REPLIES TO GAGE'S LETTER.

Why the Federation Opposes the Secretary's Financial Plan.

An Increase in Value of Money Decreases Value of Products of Labor.

Would Enrich the Creditor at the Expense of the Debtor—Says the Secretary's Bill Involves a Proposition to Retire a Currency Upon Which No Interest is Paid and the Issuance in Its Stead of Bonds Upon Which Interest Will be Required to be Paid.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Samuel Compers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has replied in an open letter to Secretary Gage's recent letter taking exception to the resolutions passed by the Federation with reference to the Gage financial bill. Mr. Compers says in part:

"You ask what evils have resulted from our adherence to the gold standard. I answer that the evils are those that have grown and ever must grow from a dishonest measure of values, a measure of values that interferes with the just distribution of wealth; that deprives some men of a part of their earnings, that restricts their, and confers it upon others who have earned it not. Any measure of values that thus forces an unjust distribution of the products of labor; that deprives the producer of the fruits of his toil, and cuts down wages and profits, thereby destroys the incentive to enterprise, leads to industrial stagnation, enlarged idleness, distress and public suffering.

"The products of labor are divided into three general shares. One goes as interest and rents to the money lender and landlord, the capitalists who do not produce, but own the capital, who seek to avoid the risks of production. A second share goes as profits to employers, and a third goes as wages to wage earners.

"The interest charges and rents are to a great degree fixed and profits and wages are subject to great fluctuations. This being so, it is evident that any measure that reduces the total money value of the products of labor must increase the share of the money lender and creditor, though nominally fixed, and decrease the share to be divided among employers and employes and wage earners. It is equally clear that any measure that increases the money value of the products of labor must decrease the value of the products of labor, and therefore enrich the creditor at the expense of the debtor.

"Changes in the value of money have largely influenced the movement of prices during the last half century, and were great in the interest of speculators during one long period. During the quarter century following the gold discoveries in California, there was much progress in the line of invention, much introducing of labor-saving machinery, much cheapening in the cost of production, and, therefore, the value of money steadily falling prices. But what happened? The outpourings of gold cheapened gold to a greater degree than commodities were cheapened, and the result was that prices were in general 30 per cent. higher at the end of this period than at the beginning of it. What happened? We, along with many other nations, closed our mints to silver.

"And now, just one word as to the second resolution to which you take exception. This resolution declares, and you admit, that our foreign currency bill is to cause the retirement of our national greenback currency and all Government paper money and the substitution of bank notes. This you hold to be desirable. Why? Would it not give the banks the power to regulate our foreign exchange, the power to check gold exports by contraction and by screwing down accommodation to merchants, so as to force them to throw their products on the market at prices at which our foreign creditors would rather take such products than our gold? Would it not thus relieve the treasury of the burden providing for gold redemptions, and make the banks supreme? This we hold to be undesirable. It would make the banks guardian over our volume of money, and so of our measure of values; it would enable the banks working in the interest of speculators to cause movements in prices with great certainty, enable them to depress prices by contracting the currency, and raise prices by expanding the same; it would make the banks the masters and the many the slaves, and would enrich the few and impoverish the multitude.

"In the statement you recently made before the House Committee on Banking and Currency in support of your bill you say and repeat this truism, 'That the less the Government owes, the less it will have to pay.' Yet your plan involves the proposition of the retirement of our national paper currency and the greenbacks, upon which we pay no interest at all, and the issuance of bonds in its stead in the sum of \$200,000,000, which we shall owe and upon which we shall be required to pay interest. The inconsistency of your statement and your plan seems glaring.

"We oppose your currency bill because, as has been well said, 'It is a bill to provide for the abdication of the sovereign powers of the Government to the banks for strengthening the hands of the speculative cliques, enriching the few and impoverishing the many.'

WALKED OFF THE TRAIN.

MEMPHIS (Tenn.), Dec. 29.—S. P. Lick, a prominent business man, attached a berth in the sleeper attached to the Kansas City and Birmingham train, which left here last night, and asked to be awakened at Kansas City, but the conductor found the berth empty. Subsequently his remains were found on a track. It is thought Lick walked off the train while asleep.

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