

THE POSITION OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Will Refuse to Recognize Any Special Rights in China.

Any Port Opened to One Power Must be Opened to All, or None.

If Russia Has Been Granted the Right to Winter Ships at Port Arthur, Great Britain Will Enforce Her Rights to the Same Privileges and Her Ships Will Winter There Whether China Concedes or Does Not Concede the Right.

MANCHESTER (England), Jan. 3.—The Manchester "Guardian" today says:

"The Government has, categorically, stated that Great Britain will refuse to recognize any special rights granted to any Chinese port to any particular Power. Any port opened to one Power must be opened to all or open to none. If Russia has been granted the right to winter ships at Port Arthur, Great Britain will enforce her rights to the same privileges, and her ships will winter there whether China concedes or does not concede the right."

"The 'Guardian' says further: 'If Germany obtains a naval station at Kiaochow, Great Britain insists upon having a lease of ground for a naval station at the same port, and she will support every other Power making the same claim.'

"The contention of the Government is that the most-favored-nation clause in the British and all other treaties with China forbids any special concessions of the nature contemplated by Germany at Kiaochow and prevents nations from acquiring special benefits in which the others have not a share."

"The Government has also declared that the same principle applies to such transactions as railway and mine monopolies. Taking her stand on the treaties, Great Britain refuses to acknowledge such concessions, and insists upon similar railway and mine rights, and will use such force to secure or defend them as may be necessary."

"This declaration does not apply to concessions of territory to which the existing treaties do not refer, but, relating to this contingency, the dispatch of Great Britain to China says that when it occurs greater questions will arise. The Government will then consider the manner in which British interests can best be safeguarded and the form which the compensation to Great Britain for the special advantages of other nations must take."

"It is reported that a similar declaration has been delivered to the Chinese and other Governments by Japan."

STATEMENT BY LI HUNG CHANG. PEKIN, Jan. 1.—According to instructions received from the "Herald" I requested an interview with Li Hung Chang, informing him that the New York "Herald" offered the publicity of its columns for any statement that China desired to make to the Western world in respect to this actual crisis in the East.

The great statesman replied that China was anxious that the Western people should understand thoroughly matters as they were. His excellency's views are given herewith in the following interview, which he approved: "The forcible occupation of Kiaochow by Germany is a direct violation of existing treaties and of international law."

"The pretext made for this act of war was the murder of two missionaries by robbers in the interior of the province of Shan Tung. The Chinese Government offered immediate and full redress for this outrage — punishment of the criminals, dismissal of the local officials and large compensation for all losses."

"Anxious to avoid hostile acts, the Chinese troops were withdrawn from Kiaochow when the Germans landed, and, despite strong public feeling prevailing throughout the country for the defense of Chinese territory against aggression, my Government has not sent reinforcements to Kiaochow."

"Outlaws exist in China as well as in all countries. Neither treaties, law nor religion can entirely suppress crime anywhere in the world, although they condemn and punish the criminals. There are lawless abounds and to such a place in Shan Tung the German missionaries determined to go, knowing that the inhabitants themselves were often victims of these bandits."

"Unfortunately China has not yet recovered from the effects of the late war, and our country requires a period of peace to carry out the work of reform lately begun."

"Of late years, from instruction and observation, the Chinese have come to regard the countries of the Western world as models and even greater in justice than in arms."

"It is just to oppress us while we are struggling to emerge from the restraints of our ancient civilization, while improvement and progress steadily continue? Should China be distressed by having her shores invaded and her territory occupied because of an occurrence which Western countries would deal with by law and not by war — an unexpected incident, deplored by my Government and followed by full redress?"

"Our desire is to preserve our territory intact and to steadily improve it as a field open to all countries equally for the development of commerce."

THE POWERFUL AT HONGKONG. HONGKONG, Jan. 3.—The British warship Powerful has arrived here.

The Powerful is a first-class cruiser of over 1,400 tons displacement and 25,000 indicated horse power, with an estimated speed of 22 knots. She carries a crew of 840 men.

RUSSO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE. ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 3.—The "Novosti" publishes an article strongly urging a Russo-Japanese alliance as the best means of guaranteeing the mutual interests of the country and the maintenance of the political equilibrium.

It is reported that this view is favored in Russian official circles, where it is felt that such an alliance would contribute to avert complications in the Far East.

GERMAN DEMANDS GRANTED. PEKIN (delayed in transmission), Jan. 2.—The Chinese authorities spent

three hours at the German Legation today, discussing the recall of the Commandant of Tsaochau, province of Shantung, who is charged with having used threatening language to a German missionary, and finally consented to summon him to Peking for explanation, also promising that he should not return to Tsaochau.

REDUCED WAGES. Lower Rates Go Into Effect in New England States.

PROVIDENCE (R. I.), Jan. 3.—Notices of a reduction of wages were sent today to the cotton mills of the Goddard, Knights & Lippitts Company, and those operated by the smaller corporations in this State, and have been posted, or will be to-morrow. The operators will offer no resistance to the reduction in this State.

SALEM (Mass.), Jan. 3.—In the plant of the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Mills the reduction of 10 per cent. in wages went into effect today. About 1,500 employees are affected.

WORCESTER (Mass.), Jan. 3.—Reductions in wages took place in several Worcester Company factories today, cotton mills predominating.

At the Millbury Cotton Mills a cut of between 7 and 8 per cent. took effect. At the Ficksdale Mills, Sturbridge, a reduction about the same in range as the wage reductions made by the cotton mills in Fall River went into effect.

About 75 men employed in the buttoning department of the E. & A. H. Batchelder Shoe Factory, at North Brookfield, had their wages cut from 1 to 2 cents a case.

CHESTER (N. H.), Jan. 3.—Operatives in the Amoskeag corporation began work today on a 10 per cent. reduction in wages. At the Stark & Armory mills the reduction will not go into effect until next Monday.

BRIDGEFORD (Me.), Jan. 3.—The Pennerell & Laconia Cotton Mills today announced a reduction in wages of about 10 per cent., to take effect January 17th. The two mills employ 3,200 hands.

LEWISTON (Me.), Jan. 3.—The agents of all the cotton mills in Lewiston and vicinity today received orders to make a general reduction in wages on and after January 17th. Notices in accordance with these instructions have been posted.

DOUBLE SUICIDE. Two Lovers End Their Lives Together.

FORT WAYNE (Ind.), Jan. 3.—At Monroeville today the dead bodies of Miss Viola Marquan, aged 23, daughter of a wealthy farmer, and Michael Miller, aged 25, a saloonkeeper, were found lying in a room in the rear of Miller's saloon. Miller lay in the bed at the side of the room. Blood from a bullet wound in his right temple covered the bed clothing. Viola lay in a heap in the middle of the floor, shot to death in the same place. A revolver with two chambers empty lay near her right hand.

Both bodies were in street dress. Two letters, one purporting to be from Viola and the other from young Miller, were found. It was the declaration that they wanted to die together, and be buried together. The coroner says it would have been impossible for either to move after delivering the fatal shot. The letters tend to prove a double suicide, but the revolver by the girl's hand cannot be accounted for except by the theory that she died after her lover.

MINISTER SIFTON. Well Pleased With His Conference With Washington Officials.

OTTAWA (Ont.), Jan. 3.—Minister Clifford Sifton, who has just returned from Washington, states that he is greatly pleased with his conference with members of the United States Government regarding Yukon affairs.

He has succeeded, he says, in making satisfactory arrangements respecting goods entering Canadian territory for the Klondike and other points at Dyea and Skagway. The \$6 which was charged by Canadian customs officers upon goods which were put over the passes will be abolished, and in future all that will be required at Dyea and Skagway will be a certificate upon arrival, and the duty will be paid on reaching Canadian territory. This, he thought, would prove a satisfactory arrangement.

Mr. Sifton will present these matters to the Cabinet at the first meeting.

PRINCE BISMARCK. His Physician Says His Gout Will Soon Pass Over.

LONDON, Jan. 3.—The Berlin correspondent of the "Daily News" says there is unfavorable news from Friedrichshagen, although the recent alarm-rumors were grossly exaggerated. The rigorous way in which the manor house is closed to everybody facilitates the circulation of unfounded rumors.

Dr. Schweninger has expressed the opinion that Bismarck's gout is taking its normal course, and will soon pass over. It must not be forgotten, however, that his medical advisers are doing their utmost to prevent any unfavorable report from reaching Bismarck, who takes a very pessimistic view of his condition.

Author of the "Good Friday" Letter. WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—It is reported to the Navy Department that Captain Barker of the Oregon has unearthed the identity of the person who wrote the celebrated "Good Friday" letter, which appeared in the religious press, and charged the Captain with trying to Romanize all of the ship's crew. The man is said to be Ernest R. Barker of Castle Rock, Wash., a deserter from the Oregon. It is asserted that he wrote the letter to arouse the sympathy of his relatives and make a pretext for his desertion.

Weyler Defies the Government. LONDON, Jan. 3.—A special dispatch from Madrid says: "General Weyler has defied the Government to take proceedings against him. As he is a Senator, a special vote is necessary to deprive him of immunity from prosecution, and the Cabinet is embarrassed, as the army appears to side with Weyler in his attacks on the Government."

Ex-Comptroller Eckels. CHICAGO, Jan. 3.—James H. Eckels, ex-Comptroller of the Currency, began his duties today as President of the Commercial National Bank of Chicago.

Takes Charge of His New Office. WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—Charles G. Dawes of Illinois today took charge of his office as Comptroller of the Currency, and N. B. Scott of West Virginia assumed his duties as Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.

Dr. E. H. Woolsey of Oakland Was a Very Close Call.

Was Nearly Dead From Asphyxiation When Discovered by a Friend.

A Member of the Salvation Army at Redlands Pleads Guilty of a Score of Thefts and Insists that the Court Administer Punishment for Each One Committed as Per Schedule Presented.

OAKLAND, Jan. 3.—Dr. E. H. Woolsey had a narrow escape from death by asphyxiation in his residence at 1096 Jackson street last night. He turned off the gas in his bedroom, but there was a defect in the valve, and the gas continued to flow.

Shortly afterward the odor of the gas was detected by Dr. H. L. Rykogel, who lives in Dr. Woolsey's house, and he made an investigation. The fumes were readily traced to the room where Dr. Woolsey was slumbering, and in a moment Dr. Rykogel was at work rescuing his friend.

The time had been short between Dr. Woolsey's retiring and the discovery. He was soon out of danger, though very sick from the effects of the gas.

A SELF-CONFESED THIEF. A Member of the Salvation Army at Redlands.

SAN BERNARDINO, Jan. 3.—A. H. Revis, a member of the Salvation Army in Redlands, who was arrested for wholesale theft, appeared before the Superior Court today with a Bible in one hand and a tabulated statement of his thefts committed since 1888 in the other hand. He pleaded guilty to the crime charged in the information, and also insisted that punishment be administered for each theft committed as per schedule, which appeared by the score. In that way only, he said, he could atone to a just God. The defendant presented so novel a case without any attorney to advise him that the court refused to pass sentence without further consideration, and continued the time for sentence two days.

WINNECKE'S COMET. Rediscovered by C. D. Perrine of the Lick Observatory.

SAN JOSE, Jan. 3.—The following message was received by telephone tonight from Lick Observatory: "Winnecke's periodical comet was rediscovered at the Lick Observatory by C. D. Perrine on January 2, 1898, at 2 hours, 5 minutes and 42 seconds past Greenwich mean time. The comet's position was right ascension, 15 hours, 19 minutes, 26.1-100 seconds, past south declination, 3 degrees, 58 minutes, 34.3-0 seconds. This position is 2 minutes of time east, and about 9 minutes of an arc south of its predicted place. It is a very faint object, even with the large telescope, and while it will, in all probability, grow considerably brighter, yet its position is such that it will not be close enough to the earth to be visible in small telescopes."

This comet was first discovered in 1819 by Pons, but was not again seen until it was discovered as a new comet by Winnecke, whose name it now bears. It has been observed on several subsequent returns, among them the last in 1882. It will make its closest approach to the sun on March 20, 1898, at a distance of 82,000,000 miles.

DUE TO HEART TROUBLE. Sudden Death of a Bookkeeper at San Jose.

SAN JOSE, Jan. 3.—C. A. Gillette died suddenly at 5 o'clock this morning, and under such circumstances as to cause the coroner to investigate. An autopsy showed he was due to organic disease of the heart.

Gillette has been employed as a bookkeeper by a commercial publication in San Francisco. His family, consisting of a wife and five children, reside here. He had been drinking a good deal, and came here yesterday under the influence of liquor. He was bloody, and had marks on his head and face, which he said he received at a fight with a printer in San Francisco. He went to bed, and about 5 o'clock this morning was found in an unconscious condition. He died before a hastily called physician could arrive.

An inquest will be held, but doubtless the autopsy clears all doubt.

SWALLOWED STRYCHNINE. A Ranch Hand From Los Gatos Commits Suicide.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 3.—Fred F. Nest, a ranch hand from Los Gatos, swallowed strychnine this morning at the Baldwin House, 16 Ellis street, where he had lodged since December 22.

McKenzie, the clerk of the house, heard Nest moaning and unlocked the door. He died very soon afterward. Nest left a slip of paper, with a message on both sides. On one surface was inscribed: "I ask forgiveness of all whom I have wronged. (Signed) F. Nest."

And on the reverse: "You can get a description of men in yesterday's 'Examiner' by Shirley Dare. This is more than I can bear."

Nest left a bank book, which showed that he had about \$100 in his credit in a Los Gatos savings bank.

WOULD SEIZE THE PLANT. Startling Recommendation of the Mayor of Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3.—Mayor M. P. Snyder's annual message, which was sent to the City Council this morning, contains a startling recommendation. The contract with the City Water Company, which has been of thirty years' duration, expires in July. The Mayor recommends that the city now take forcible possession of the company's plant and proceed to operate it, thus compelling a legal battle between the city and the water company to settle the differences between the two corporations and to determine the amount to be paid for the plant. Mayor Snyder was elected on a pledge to work in be-

half of municipal ownership of the water works plant.

NEARLY FROZEN TO DEATH.

Two Stowaways on the Coast Steamship Umattila.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 3.—Andrew Jacobson and Harry Christensen, two sailors from Seattle, had a thrilling experience on the steamer Umattila, which arrived from the north today. The men belong to the crew of the schooner Vesta, which was wrecked on Vancouver Island, ten miles south of Carmel light, on the morning of December 12th last, and after being rescued made their way to Seattle, where they remained in a hospital for some days.

Being unable to obtain employment after having been discharged from the hospital, they resolved to try their luck in this city. On the morning of December 30th they boarded the Umattila, and stowed themselves behind a pile of rope in the forehold. Being afraid of discovery, they sought a better hiding place, and finally crept into one of the cold-storage compartments just as the vessel left Port Townsend. As usual, however, these compartments were sealed up by the customs officers, and the stowaways were almost frozen to death before they were discovered and liberated, which was not until yesterday afternoon. Each went too exhausted to move, but medical treatment and food soon restored them.

Sugar Factory for Ogden.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3.—E. H. Dyer & Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, the well-known builders of best sugar factories, today closed a contract with David Eccles and Joseph Clark of Ogden, Utah, for the construction of a best sugar factory at Ogden. The terms of the contract provide that the factory, which will have a daily capacity of 700 tons, shall be completed in time to handle the beet crop of 1898. When completed the plant will represent an expenditure of \$700,000. Messrs. Eccles and Clark have carefully inspected the sugar factory at Los Alamos, and left for Ogden to-night.

Contract for Carrying Alaska Mail.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 3.—The Pacific Steam Whaling Company has been awarded the contract of carrying the United States mails from Dyea to Unalaska. The steamer Excelsior will be put on the route, and will run at regular intervals during the spring and summer. The whaling company also intends increasing its steamers from cities between here, Copper River and Skagway, and into Dyea, possibly getting its full share of the Klondike travel.

Reform School Boys at Large.

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 3.—Yesterday a crowd of six Whittier Reform School boys who had been permitted to attend the tournament of roses at Pasadena escaped from their guard at the Arcade depot in this city. One of them, John Hanley, was recaptured last night, but the remaining five, George Thompson, Perry Reed, Ed. Peralta, Arthur Jackson, Hugh Robbins, John Wood and James Dorey, are still at large.

Residence Destroyed by Fire.

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 3.—The large residence on the northeast corner of Fifth and Beech streets, owned by Louis Weiland and occupied by Mrs. John Fish, was partially destroyed by fire this morning. The house was elegantly furnished throughout, but the estimated loss of \$2,000 on the furniture was only partially covered. The loss. The building was insured for \$2,000. The fire was caused through a defective coal oil stove, which had been left alight all night, finally exploding.

Killed by Her Brother.

SAN JOSE, Jan. 3.—Rebecca Smith, the 5-year-old daughter of George F. Smith, was fatally shot to-night by her 10-year-old brother. The children were playing in the garret of their home, near this city, and the boy found an old revolver. Thinking it was empty, he pointed it at his little sister, and pulled the trigger. A bullet penetrated the child's eye, and she died in five minutes.

Milpitas Justice Goes to Klondike.

SAN JOSE, Jan. 3.—The office of Justice of the Peace of Milpitas Township was declared vacant today. N. Trubbenchek, who was elected to that position, is now hunting gold in the Klondike, and has been absent from the State longer than the law allows. The Board of Supervisors appointed Alfred W. Jones to fill the vacancy.

Santa Clara County Pioneers.

SAN JOSE, Jan. 3.—The Santa Clara County Pioneers' organization is taking a decided interest in the Golden Jubilee to be held in San Francisco. Today the Pioneers appointed a committee to confer with the Board of Trade in reference to plans to enlist the co-operation of the citizens of San Jose in making Santa Clara County's part of the celebration a noteworthy success.

Death of a Bank President.

PASADENA, Jan. 3.—David B. Dewez, Vice-President of the Bankers' National Bank of Chicago, died here today. Mr. Dewez arrived here from Chicago on Christmas Day, and was immediately confined to his bed with inflammation of the lining of the heart, which caused his death. He was 57 years old.

Schoedde's Sentence Postponed.

SANTA CRUZ, Jan. 3.—M. Schoedde, who was recently convicted of mayhem, appeared in the Superior Court this morning to receive his sentence, but owing to the illness of his attorney the matter was postponed until Thursday next.

San Francisco's Coal Trust.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 3.—The hearing was commenced today before Judge Morrow, in the United States Circuit Court, on the order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not issue against the Coal Dealers' Association and the other members of the combine. Both sessions were occupied with the preliminaries to the great legal contest between the United States and the coal trust.

Evans Held Without Bonds.

NEVADA CITY, Jan. 3.—Thomas Evans, who a week ago had a desperate fight with Robert Holland, a fellow employe at the Spanish mine, and killed him by stabbing him in the eye with the point of a miner's candlestick, had his preliminary examination this afternoon, and was held without bonds on a charge of murder.

Rain at San Diego.

SAN DIEGO, Jan. 3.—Rain began falling at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and has continued at intervals until a late hour to-night. It is badly needed in the country.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK.

COSTLY BLAZE AT STOCKTON.

Warehouses of the Farmers' Union and Milling Company Burned.

Estimated that at Least Ten Thousand Tons of Wheat Were Destroyed.

The Loss Placed at Over Five Hundred Thousand Dollars, a Larger Portion of Which Falls Upon the Farmers of the Valley, Who Had Stored Their Grain Awaiting an Advance in Prices.

STOCKTON, Jan. 4.—At 12:10 this (Tuesday) morning fire was discovered in warehouse No. 5 of the Farmers' Union and Milling Company, and before the department could respond the flames were beyond possible control, despite the fact that the warehouse district has much better protection than it had a year ago. Warehouses 5 and 6 were quickly on fire, and as they both had corrugated iron roofs the firemen were not able to put a drop of water on the flames until the roofs dropped, and then the structures were gone.

As soon as it was seen that neither warehouse could be saved, the attention of the department was turned to saving the warehouse of the Navigation and Improvement Company, which was separated from No. 6 only by a fire-wall, and the Eureka or Crown Mills warehouse, which had only the same protection from No. 5. Streams were withdrawn from the central portion of the doomed structures, and set to work on the ends with some effect, and by continuous fighting against the iron sides and roofs of the burning buildings, which helped to shut them off, the firemen were successful.

The warehouses were well filled with grain, for both the Union and its clients have been among those who were waiting for the price of wheat to advance. The lowest estimate on the amount of wheat destroyed is 10,000 tons, and many put it higher. There was beside considerable barley and rye. Much of the grain was the property of the Union, but by far the larger portion was held on storage for the farmers of the valley.

The loss is placed at more than \$500,000, though the territory covered by the fire was not large. Six of the warehouses will be heavy, though both buildings and the grain were insured for a reasonably large share of their value.

The fire started in the machinery of a grader and cleaner, which was located in the western end of No. 5, and which was kept running night and day. Some part of the machinery is supposed to have caused the blaze, though when it was first discovered by Night Watchman Kenyon it was almost beyond control.

The warehouses were built partly on a pile foundation along the bank of the channel.

While the firemen were fighting the flames two other alarms were turned in from other portions of the city, but fortunately they amounted to nothing.

The steamer Ellen, with the barge Crickey, was lying alongside No. 6 taking on cargo, and was towed out of danger by rowboats.

The fire continues to burn in the great stacks of wheat piled in many places as high as the warehouses themselves, and they will continue to smolder for days. There has been some slight damage in parts of the other two warehouses by smoke.

TRAIN ROBBER ROUP. May Escape Trial on the Charge at Stockton.

STOCKTON, Jan. 3.—Sheriff Cunningham returned from Napa last Saturday night with Roup, the third train robber, who participated in the Moreno Station affair, and for which Williams and Schlegel are now serving life sentences in Folsom and San Quentin.

Cunningham identified the man as the fellow wanted, but found that the evidence against him was not so strong as was supposed. The Napa authorities have a clear case of burglary against Roup, who is more commonly known as "Brook, the Plumber," and three or four prior convictions will be placed against him. Roup, it is understood, is anxious to plead guilty to escape the train-wrecking charge, a conviction of which might probably mean hanging, as he shot and dangerously wounded a tramp who was riding on the blind baggage car.

At the time of the trial of Williams, some of the jurymen were in favor of the capital punishment for train wrecking, but his youth saved his neck.

IN FAVOR OF THE CITY. Oakland Wins a Preliminary Victory Against the Railroad.

OAKLAND, Jan. 3.—The City of Oakland scored a preliminary victory today in its suit against the Central Pacific Railroad Company to establish its right to tax the Seventh-street local, the improvements at Long wharf and the side tracks inside the municipality.

Judge Ellsworth, ruling on the demurrer and motion to strike out filed by the company, decided for the city. He overruled the demurrer, denied the motion to strike out, and gave the defendant ten days in which to answer. The ruling only dealt with one fea-

The Nonpareil GREAT Special Sale of Millinery WEDNESDAY MORNING At 9 o'clock. Unusually interesting values in Ladies' Fine Trimmed Hats at the following reduced prices: \$2 45, \$3 75, \$4 50. Also, Hats for Children, Felt Shapes and Trimmings, Birds, Feathers, Quills, Wings, etc. Further information in to-night's "Bee." WASSERMAN, DAVIS & CO. THE BIG STORE K STREET, BET. SIXTH AND SEVENTH.

SMOKE THE COCKNEY A. COOLOT, Sacramento, Distributing Agent. I carry a complete line of Hydrometers, Lactometers and Saccharometers. For liquor, alcohol, milk, sugar, vinegar, salt, etc., etc. Also, compasses and gold scales, at cheapest prices.

SPECIAL DISCOUNT SALE IN OPERA GLASSES AND LORNETTES FOR FOUR DAYS ONLY Until January 1st. All pearl with pearl tubes. Gravure make, white or Oriental. Formerly \$10, now \$7.50. Lemaire with handle, pearl and gilt. Formerly \$18.50, now \$16, and many others. CHINN, Optician, Opposite Postoffice, OPEN EVENINGS.

What is More Attractive? LEE STANLEY. Generally it is good to commit the beginnings of all great actions to Argus with his 100 eyes, and the ends to Briarous with his 100 hands, first to watch and then to speed.