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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER
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Cable Was Sent After All

The explanation that the famous 662 grains of strychnine cable was never sent and the explanation that it was forged, now give way to a statement from High Sheriff Henry that he did send it, but that it was either garbled in transmission or by the San Francisco police. The matter of garbling can very easily be settled by the production of the original cable, which is at the disposal of Henry in the cable office here at any time, the company being always willing to show such messages on the authority of the sender. In view of Henry's last statement on the subject, with which he supplies a copy of the written report of the chemists on which he now admits having based a cable he has repeatedly denied having sent at all, what becomes of his other reiterated statements about the failure of the chemists to report? The written report of the chemists is dated March 2 and was given to the public at San Francisco as soon as Henry cabled it there, garbled or otherwise. Henry denied it when it was cabled back here, he denied it day after day while expert chemists were laughing at Chemists Duncan and Shorcy for taking a week, as Henry claimed, to find out whether there was strychnine in bicarbonate of soda. As late as March 5 he made the statement, both preposterous and, as is now admitted, untrue, that he knew no more of the chemists' work than when they started, and that the one thing he wanted was an authoritative written report, which he now admits having had three days before! In attempting to avoid conviction of a blunder, the sheriff has confessed to the grossest bad faith and misstatement.

It is safe to assume, as those familiar with cable work are well aware, that the message was not garbled in transmission. The garbling must therefore have been done by the San Francisco police, if there was any. For the credit of the Honolulu police department, accused before the country of ridiculous error, Sheriff Henry should produce his cable as filed and put the onus on San Francisco. The Star will be happy to publish an exact and authenticated copy of the words written by Henry and filed at the cable office, and it will be glad to learn that the local department did not add this most childish of blunders to the others made in connection with the case.

Just Where Manchuria Is At

The status of Manchuria in the present war is certainly an interesting problem for students of international law. Just at present the Japanese newspapers are devoting considerable space to a discussion of the subject. The following taken from the Japan Weekly Gazette is of interest.

"In connection with Japan's right in Manchuria, in which politicians and international jurists in Tokyo have been interested since the opening of hostilities, the Kokumin says in a leading article today that Manchuria is partly leased by Russia and partly included in the neutral zone, its nature being different in international law according to districts. In the other quarters the region between the Yalu and Shaho has already been occupied by the Japanese, but the remainder is either occupied by the Russians still or is not relative to the war. Accordingly it would be a great mistake to deal with Manchuria en bloc in respect of the "right" question.

"On the fall of Port Arthur, which was the center of Russia's leased land, Japan has just obtained the right to administer Liaotung. It is now the time for Japan to consider and enforce steps for Russia's leased land and also for China's territory included in the zone of operations. In view of the fact that Manchuria is included in the zone of war though it belongs to China, it seems to be difficult for experts to apply international law to the administration of that region. There is no clause applicable to Manchuria even in The Hague convention of 1899, which represents the latest regulations relating to land campaigns. Right and obligation of the occupants' army in regulating the enemy's territory are stipulated in detail in the same convention, but there is no clause providing for the case of hostilities in a neutral territory. Therefore, Japan's present steps in Manchuria or measures to be enforced by her in the future will constitute many new precedents in international law, and Japan may afford a good subject before the next international Hague conference, having to do with conditions which were unexpected in the conference of 1899.

As for the application of Japan's right in Manchuria, the Kokumin states that Russia had fortified leased land and been unconditionally enforcing her administrative right there for a long time, and it has now been occupied by Japan with arms. This being the capture of Russia's occupation right, Japan is able to apply in this leased land The Hague stipulations of 1899 regarding military administrative right in the enemy's territory. The final decision on Russia's leased territory is to be given after the restoration of peace and also in negotiations between Japan, Russia and China, so that the Japanese administration of Liaotung is merely a right based on the occupation of war, while the Liaotung lease convention between Russia and China is still effective, for a revision of which a new treaty is necessitated.

"With regard to the unleased districts in Manchuria our contemporary states that The Hague convention of 1899 is free from stipulations to be adopted for hostilities in a neutral country, and further that the Japanese Government, at the commencement of war, promised the Chinese Government not to encroach upon China's territory or appropriate there any Japanese right other than that required for operations. Japan, which is in such a special position, is able, in Manchuria outside Russia's leased land, to take steps necessary for operations only, but is incapable of acting as in the enemy's territory. The Kokumin concludes that its opinion agrees with views of the authorities concerned, thus respecting China's integrity."

Osler And The Canal Board

In the light of the statements made by Dr. Osler about the comparative uselessness of men above sixty, statements which in their imperfectly reported form have created an immense amount of discussion, and in their correctly stated form, a profound impression in the thinking world, President Roosevelt's appointments to his new Board of Canal Commissioners appear in a new relation. Dr. Osler says: "As it can be maintained that all the great advances have come from men under forty, so the history of the world shows that a very large proportion of the evils may be traced to the sexagenarians—nearly all the great mistakes politically and socially, all of the worst poems, most of the bad pictures, a majority of the bad novels, and not a few of the bad sermons and speeches."

Now President Roosevelt in calling for the resignation of the old Board of Panama Canal Commissioners, and replacing them with a new, has annihilated a Board that was composed of comparatively young men and has replaced them with a Board of comparatively old men. Nearly every one of his new appointees is sixty or over. It is not certain but that every one of his new appointees is sixty or over. Now concurrently with this fact, another fact has come to light, and that is, that the old Board was very strongly impressed with the advantage of building a sea level canal; while the new Board, judging from the public utterances and the public writings of its members, is

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very strongly impregnated with the idea of a high level canal with locks. In the North American Review article by General Hains, one of the new commissioners, he urges that in the past most of the engineers who have studied the subject favor a high level canal, and on this he bases his argument against a sea-level canal. Now it is evident to the lay as well as to the professional mind that the sea level canal has manifest and continuing advantages over a high level canal. It has the advantage in cost of operation, cost of maintenance, and more than anything else, in the cost of enlarging, should it ever need to be enlarged, as it is as certain as anything can be in this world that it will need to be, with the development of commerce and ship-building. Of course, it is possible that the added cost and added time required to construct a sea level canal may outweigh these advantages. But in the light of the facts which Dr. Osler has pointed out, facts which are not new, but which he has put in a new way, isn't it possible that the President, himself a comparatively young man, may have set in operation the agencies for another of those great, colossal mistakes with which sexagenarians will be charged in the future, by replacing a Board of comparatively young men, with a Board of comparatively old men? At any rate this will be an interesting point to watch, except that the great difficulty will be that there won't be so very many of us left to pass judgment on the matter when the time comes that a judicial judgment on this matter can be passed.

THE POLICE AND BLOODSHED.

On January 5, the Star, in an editorial occasioned by the disturbance of the whole town the night before, by the "general alarm of the police for a so-called riot drill" said among other things: "The drill itself is as obsolete and archaic as the means of signalling for it. The idea of arming police with rifles and bayonets, is one that survives only in a few places and there mostly for show purposes. In cities where the police have actual experience with rioters, the policeman's club has been found far and away the most effective weapon to quell a riot. It is more effective and safer for both the police and the people who may be unavoidably in the vicinity, and yet are not rioters. The duties, drill and service of police, does not adapt the rifle or the bayonet to their use."

The unfortunate incident at Waiapahu, Saturday, when a Chinese laborer was killed by a bullet fired by a policeman, as now seems the case, enforces with human blood the principle that was sought to be set forth in that editorial, namely, that the policeman's club is the most effective weapon with which to quell a riot. The shooting of the poor Chinaman, was as unnecessary as it is regrettable. If there was not so much "riot-drill," and opera bouffe military tactics in the police drill and police administration as there is, and a little more common sense instruction

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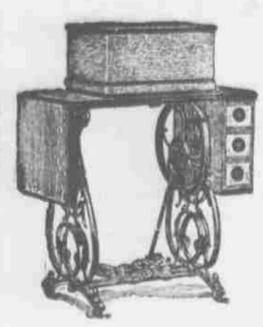
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In the use of the club and the handling of rioters the efficiency of the police would be greatly increased, and the death rate from their unnecessary shooting would be decreased.

The action of the House Saturday in unanimously adopting Coelho's resolution to inquire into the curious state of affairs regarding the pay of Captain Paul Smith for services as policeman on duty at Iwilei, shows that the House is mystified, to say the least, just as the rest of the community is. The High Sheriff told the Senate committee that he was being paid \$70 a month by the police department. Smith himself testified that in addition he was getting \$30 from Dr. Cooper. Now the Auditor has no record of payments to Smith, and he would like to know how he has been paid out of public funds and the fact not shown on any of the vouchers that come to his office. Another curious thing in connection with the matter is that some time ago, before the matter became one of such notoriety, it was generally understood that Paul Smith was getting \$125 a month. Representative Coelho has done a public service in bringing this matter before the House for investigation.

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