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MUST MODIFY DEMANDS.

Agreement Drawn Up by the Ministers at Peking Unsatisfactory.

HARMONIOUS ACTION STILL POSSIBLE

This Government's Negotiations Likely to Be Taken Out of the Hands of Minister Conger—Effect of Secretary Hay's Note—Germany's Action Dependent Upon that of the Other Powers.

Washington (Special).—Modification of the demands formulated by the Ministers in Peking seems to be assured as a result of the representations made to the powers by Secretary Hay. This much has already been accomplished. Great Britain, Russia, France and Japan have made known to the United States their desire to adopt only such demands as China may be able to comply with.

Germany's proposal to make the execution of the 11 officials responsible for the outrages a condition precedent to the conduct of further negotiations seems to have failed for want of support.

Instructions have been cabled to Minister Conger to confer with his colleagues for the purpose of agreeing upon a modification of the demands, especially those relating to punishment and indemnity. It is the expectation of the President and Secretary Hay that similar instructions will be sent by at least four other powers to their representatives in Peking.

There is a feeling in official circles here that after all China may emerge from the dangerous situation she occupies without suffering a loss of her territory, and this optimistic belief is due to the satisfactory result of the presentations made by Mr. Hay to the powers during the last week. Apprehension was excited by the Anglo-German agreement that Great Britain, as a result of the third article of that compact, would heartily support Germany's vengeance policy. Japan's adherence to the agreement made it seem certain that the three powers would pursue an identical course and make a settlement of the Chinese trouble impossible.

Japan's recent conduct at Peking, however, showed that while she was willing to be a party to an alliance to oppose the partition of China, her interests are naturally against the acquisition of Chinese territory by European powers.

It is understood that the powers are now discussing the question of demanding the execution only of Tuan and the degradation of the other Princes and officials. Mr. Conger's attention, besides being specifically called to be the unwise extent of the punishment demanded, has been directed to the excessive character of the demand for indemnity. The Cabinet would like to plan, and the instructions interpret this feeling, that demands in the way of punishment and indemnity shall be modified to such an extent as to make it reasonably certain that they will be granted.

POSTMASTERS NAMED DURING YEAR.

Report of Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow—Recommendations.

Washington (Special).—Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General John L. Bristow, in his annual report, recommends an amendment to the interstate commerce law prohibiting telegraph and express companies, or their employees, from aiding or abetting in the green goods or lottery swindles, or any other schemes carried on partly by mail and partly by common carrier and in violation of the postal laws.

There were 15,142 appointments of postmasters made during the past fiscal year, 14,435 being of the fourth class and 707 being presidential. There were 3,000 postoffices established during the year, and 1912 offices were discontinued, mostly due to rural free delivery extension and public highway improvements.

A vigorous effort has been made to suppress postoffices conducted throughout the country for the sole benefit of some corporation, nursery company, patent medicine firm or other private institution.

There were 47 resignations and 45 deaths of presidential postmasters, and 919 deaths and 8013 resignations of fourth-class postmasters. On June 30 last the number of postoffices was 76,688, as follows: First class, 194; second, 852; third, 3187; fourth, 72,455.

The total number of arrests during the year for offenses against the postal laws was 1526, including 119 postmasters, 29 assistant postmasters and 144 postoffice clerks, carriers and other postal employees. Of the total number arrested 526 were convicted.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

It was reported that General French was pursued by the Boers all the way from Middleburg to Standerton.

The German Clerical party demands of the Imperial government the creation of an Imperial supreme court. The London Times continues to bitterly attack every move made by the United States government in the China matter.

TWENTY-SIX PERSONS PERISH.

Steamer St. Olaf Goes Down With Crew and Passengers—Not One Person Saved.

Quebec (Special).—News reached here that the steamer St. Olaf, which has been coasting between this port and Point of Aux Esquimaux, in the lower St. Lawrence, for the last two years, had become a total wreck off Seven Islands, and that her crew and passengers were lost.

As soon as the news of the wreck reached Seven Islands a searching party went out to attempt to rescue any of the shipwrecked people, but this was impossible, as everyone aboard the vessels seems to have been lost.

Captain Lemaistre, in command of the steamer, and several of his officers and crew, belonged to this city. The first dispatch from Seven Islands brought but meagre news, and it was only late in the afternoon that A. Frazer & Co., owners of the steamer, were informed of the extent of the disaster.

The St. Olaf was an iron steamer of 305 tons, and was built on the Clyde at Port Glasgow in 1882. She was valued at about \$40,000 and insured for about \$20,000.

Before coming to this port she ran between Pictou and Magdalen Islands, and was chartered by Frazer & Co., to replace the steamship Otter, wrecked on her last trip to Quebec two years ago. The St. Olaf left here on Sunday morning last on her last trip to Esquimaux Point, carrying Government mails, passengers and a large cargo.

All apparently went well on the way down, and the steamer left immediately on her return trip to this port. The last news heard of the St. Olaf was that she had left Shelldrake, and shortly after this the signal station dispatches reported rough weather, with gales of wind and snow, and it is supposed that during one of these gales the St. Olaf ran ashore on one of the rocks at the entrance of the Seven Islands, as the dispatch states that she was wrecked on Boule Island.

Captain Lemaistre was well and favorably known as a careful and skillful coast navigator and had been a resident of this city for some years.

News has been received here that the St. Olaf is lying on the rock, and at low tide two feet of her hull can be seen out of water. The residents of Seven Islands are searching the shores for bodies. The place where the steamer was wrecked is about seven miles off Seven Islands and about 300 miles from this port.

FIELD OF LABOR.

F. of L. has 640 organizers. China has 156 Chinese papers. St. Louis has, it is said, 70,000 unions.

New York State has 1653 labor unions. New York brickmakers are erecting a co-operative hall.

Chinese coal miners work twelve hours for 6 to 10 cents. An universal label is to be submitted to the F. of L. convention.

St. Louis grocery clerks want early closing and no Sunday work. Gov. Dockery, of Missouri, will urge the law to tax franchisees.

Out in New Mexico a woman is a trainmaster on the Southern Pacific. Shetland has had the largest herring catch on record, valued at over \$1,500,000.

The Puycall, Wash., hop market is firm, and prices range from 12 to 14 1-4 cents.

The Allied Printing Trades Council now represents 2500 men in St. Louis. Typographical Union No. 8 has 850 members.

HIS SKULL A WATCH CHARM.

Surgeons Removed Shattered Bone and Patient Made Use of It.

Bowling Green, Ky. (Special).—Geo. Clark of Pemberville has a watch chain made out of pieces of his own skull. The chain is made of portions of bone fastened together by links of gold. A piece as large as a dollar, on which is the date of the accident in which this chain cuts an important figure, hangs as a pendant. Clark while in an oil derrick was struck on the head by a crown pulley and his skull was crushed. He was taken to his home, where he lay unconscious for two weeks. The surgeons said he could not live. As a last resort they removed the entire upper portion of his skull. To their amazement he recovered, and is now living with an artificial top to his head.

Turkey Stubborn.

Constantinople (By cable).—United States Charge d'Affaires Griscom called upon Tewfik Pasha, Minister for Foreign Affairs, to urge a settlement of the difficulty in relation to the granting of an exequatur to Dr. Thomas H. Norton, who some time ago was appointed by President McKinley to establish a consulate at Harpoot. The Porte, however, is firm in its refusal to grant the request for an exequatur.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Some of the Recommendations He Is Likely to Make.

FOR INTERCHANGEABLE CURRENCY.

Suggestions for Further Protecting the Gold Standard—The Philippines, the Canal and the Army—The President Will Describe the Situation in China, Laying Special Stress Upon Necessity of Preserving "Open Door."

Washington (Special).—It is understood the President will insert in his message a general recommendation for such an amendment of the currency law of last March as will place the gold standard beyond successful assault.

It is claimed that this can be done by making all forms of money interchangeable, as was suggested to Congress last winter. This would require that silver dollars as well as greenbacks and treasury notes shall be interchangeable with gold at the option of the holder.

This financial recommendation is the most interesting bit of news that has leaked out about the President's message, because it was not expected.

On the subject of the government of our dependencies, the most important part in the message will deal with the Philippine Islands. The President, it is said, will take the view that the time has come to terminate the control of the Philippines under the war power, and that the President be authorized by Congress to provide for a civil government, using the army for the purpose of maintaining order until the scheme of home rule shall have been completed. This will probably be done under the Spooner bill, which is now pending in the Senate.

Much space in the message will be devoted to the subject of an isthmian canal, and this will be based upon the report of the Canal Commission. The President will also recommend the ratification of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, and his references to the construction of the canal will mean the Nicaragua route.

The President, it is said, will suggest that steps be taken at once for bringing the army up to about 100,000 men. His message will recite the fact that the situation in China is satisfactory; that a constitution is being framed for self-government by the Cubans and will probably be laid before the Fifty-seventh Congress.

The President, it is added, will describe the situation in China and call attention to the fact that our policy remains as outlined in the note of July 3, laying special stress upon the necessity of preserving the integrity of China and the "open door."

STORMS SWEEP COUNTRY.

Vessels Wrecked and Many Towns Flooded—Lives Reported Lost.

Violent wind and rain storms and floods in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Western New York have caused considerable damage to property, and, it is feared, a number of lives have been lost.

Considerable anxiety was caused in Cincinnati and Wheeling by reports of a terrible disaster on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad near Hinton, W. Va. It was rumored that a passenger train had plunged into the river. The Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad officials denied that there was any truth in the report.

In Guyandotte Valley, W. Va., thousands of logs sweeping down the river carried away the base works of two new railroad bridges in course of erection south of Barboursville.

The battered hull of the schooner Advance went ashore on Wallis Sands, N. H. Nothing is known of the fate of the crew of five men who were on board.

The steamer West Branch went down near her dock at Hammondsport, N. Y. The steamer M. Sicken and the schooners Spademe and Malvina went ashore on Marblehead Beach, Lake Erie.

The wind blew 60 miles an hour over Lake Erie. The heavy sleet that was driven by the gale did great damage to wires throughout Northern Ohio. At Cambridge, O., several buildings were blown down, and at Batavia a young woman was drowned.

A tornado swept through a part of Georgia. Considerable damage was done in the village of Siloam.

Snowstorms in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire delayed railroad travel.

ratai "Side swipe."

Savannah, Ga. (Special).—The northern fast mail train on the Plant System collided with a freight at a siding at Green Pond, S. C. It was what is called in railway circles a "side-swipe." The freight was partially in the siding when the mail train struck it. Engineer T. N. Jones of the mail train, was killed, and his fireman, Thomas Lester, was seriously injured. A number of the freight cars were wrecked.

The 400 striking miners at the Maltby colliery of the Lehigh Valley Company returned to work.

THE WEEK'S TRADE NEWS.

Reviews by Dun & Co. and Bradstreet's Show Marked Steadiness in the List of Quotations.

New York (Special).—R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade" says: "With reasonable promptness business is recovering both activity and tone, and fortunately without the sharp rise in general prices which was seen in the Spring and which was followed by a sudden and serious reaction to a more natural range. Manufactured goods are rising in response to a better demand from distributing sources. The ordinary measures of business reflect increasing operations at all points, but the textile markets are at the point of least response to the improved undertone of trade.

"Recital of conditions in the iron and steel market has become a monotonous repetition. Each week there is the same record of activity, so generally distributed that everything from the raw material to the finished product enjoys a share. There is also the same freedom from speculative accumulation in anticipation of fancy prices that has been for weeks the most encouraging feature. Railroad companies compete for rolling stock. Export orders in some lines are filled with difficulty, owing to the unusual domestic demand for all forms of iron and steel products; but in no quarter is there any unreasonable inflation of prices such as was seen during the meteoric ascent last year.

"Two factors militate strongly against the activity and strength in wool and woolsens. Mild weather has been the chief adverse influence, reducing sales far below a normal volume in this vicinity, while liquidation of embarrassed concerns threatens to throw a considerable quantity on the market at forced sales.

"Failures for the week were 238 in the United States, against 191 last year, and twenty-nine in Canada, against twenty-two last year.

"Bradstreet" says: "Unsettled weather conditions have operated to curtail retail and jobbing distribution this week, and imparted a quieter tone to several lines indirectly associated therewith.

"In marine shipping circles a distinct improvement is reported since the first week of November. While the volume of business in pig iron is still large, it does not apparently come up to that of last week or the week previous. No disappointment, is, however, felt at this, more particularly as quotations have again been marked up. Reports of preparations to resume come from many places for some time idle, and a sample instance is the report that every furnace in the Chicago field will be at work next week. Reports from Pittsburgh are that demand for steel billets is still backward, not so much because of the price demanded, \$19.50, but because of its being fixed by the pool at that rate. Foundry pig is, however, active and tending higher. What the market for cruder forms lacks in the way of activity, however, is made up for by the immense demand for finished products, which is reported in excess of all records for this period.

"Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week aggregate 3,827,296 bushels against 4,062,020 last week; 3,688,677 in the corresponding week of 1899; 5,324,766 in 1898; 5,465,163 in 1897, and 3,759,696 in 1896. From July 1 to date this season wheat exports are 75,391,387 bushels against 85,468,542 last season and 89,124,083 in 1898-99.

"Corn exports for the week aggregate 5,235,568 against 3,976,914 last week, 4,149,523 in this week a year ago; 3,993,846 in 1898; 2,869,705 in 1897, and 2,920,802 in 1896. From July 1 to date this season corn exports are 69,880,561 bushels against 82,170,489 last season and 60,822,762 in 1898-99.

Baby Has \$7,000,000.

Newport, R. I. (Special).—John Nicholas Brown, 9 months old, is believed to be the richest baby in the world. His fortune is estimated at \$7,000,000, and is likely to be augmented before he becomes old enough to know of his wealth. When the wills of John Nicholas Brown, Sr., and Howard Brown, father and uncle of the infant millionaire, were made public last June it was thought that the baby would hold the record. Confirmation is given in a partial inventory of the estate of the father, which has just been filed here by Mrs. Natalia Bayard Brown, mother and guardian of John Nicholas the younger.

Gen. Lee Receives Orders.

Washington (Special).—Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, who recently was relieved from duty as Commander of the Division of Havana and Santa Clara and ordered to take command of the Department of Missouri, relieving General Merriam, was at the War Department receiving final instructions. He will proceed to the headquarters of the department at Omaha within a few days to assume his new duties. General Merriam will retain his position as Commander of the Department of Colorado, with headquarters at Denver.

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