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## WAR MAY PREVENT OBSERVATIONS

Of the Eclipse of the Sun Tomorrow in Europe, Asia and Part of America.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 20.—The eclipse of the sun tomorrow—total in part of Europe and Asia and a partial eclipse in northwestern America—has been attracting wide-spread attention among astronomers and scientists, but now it is feared that the European war will seriously interfere with, even if it does not entirely prevent the observations which the scientists had planned to make of the phenomenon.

The eclipse will be observable along a line extending from Alsteno, of the west coast of Norway, through Hernosand, on the Swedish coast, Riga on the Baltic, Minsk and Kiev in central Russia, and leaving Europe at Eheidosa on the Crimean coast.

Many scientific expeditions had been planned to observe the eclipse. The most of these expeditions were designed to take their observations from points in Russia, where the duration of totality will be longest. Under existing conditions it will of course be impossible for the scientists of other lands to visit Russia at the present time. At the present time it will be almost equally impossible for the scientists to change the base of their operations to the Scandinavian peninsula, for the reason that weeks of preparations are necessary to set up their instruments and make other necessary preparations. The difficulty of reaching Norway and Sweden at the present time is so great that it is unlikely that any expeditions to those countries will be undertaken. In view of the existing circumstances it is probable that no noteworthy observations will be made of the eclipse, with the possible exception of those that may be made by the Russian astronomers themselves.

Before the outbreak of the war nearly all civilized countries were preparing expeditions for the study of the eclipse, and a number of private expeditions were also being fitted out. As previously stated the most of them had chosen Russia for their goal. Among other German cities, Hamburg was fitting out an expedition, while a second one, subsidized by the Prussian State, was being planned by Professor Miethe of the Charlottenburg Technical School.

In England steamboat parties were being made up to view the eclipse from Alsteno and Riga, and from the fact of the eclipse coming in the holiday season it was expected that great numbers of sightseers would avail themselves of the opportunity, which will not recur in Europe till 1927.

Professor C. G. Abbott, head of the astronomical branch of the Smithsonian Institution, and a recognized authority on solar phenomena, gives the following account of the eclipse and the scientific results sought from such events.

Tomorrow the moon will pass exactly between the earth and the sun, and there will be a total solar eclipse. It will not be observed in America, except as a small partial eclipse at sunrise in the northern states and Canada, but in Persia, Russia and Scandinavia the full effect will be seen.

Although the moon looks about the same size as the sun, it is very much smaller and nearer. The sun is 855,000 miles in diameter and 93,000,000 miles away, while the moon is 2,163 miles in diameter and 239,000 miles away. On account of the moon's small size compared with the sun the shadow cast by the moon is a cone, and the point of this cone just barely reaches the earth.

In tomorrow's eclipse the diameter of the cone at the earth's surface is only about 85 miles, so that the eclipse is visible as total only in a belt about 85 miles wide, stretching

## SENATE WOULD CLIP CUSTOMS COURT WINGS

Passes Bill Taking From It Exclusive Jurisdiction In Many Cases.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.—No longer will the Customs Court be the final arbiter of all customs controversies if a bill slipped through the Senate yesterday afternoon during a lull in the trust debate is approved by the House and signed by the President. Under the terms of this bill the powers of the Customs Court are clipped severely and to such an extent that some Senators expressed the opinion that the Customs Court is destined to follow the Commerce Court out of existence.

According to the bill as passed the Customs Court's decisions will be subject to review by the Supreme Court in cases which involve treaties or constitutionality, and in all cases arising under the new tariff law. The court is left as final arbiter on all cases arising out of the old tariff law and out of the reciprocity law. There are few such.

Appeal to the Supreme Court is allowed in cases where treaties or constitutionality is not involved, by a statement filed by the Attorney-General to the effect that in his opinion the questions coming before the court are of such grave importance that they should be decided finally by the Supreme Court.

It was pointed out in senatorial circles last night, after the first surprise at the action on the bill had passed away, that the Customs Court has been reversing cases the government down opinions which cost the government had won, having recently handed government about \$3,000,000.

## POTATOES MAKE HISTORY PRICES

Local Dealers Fear the European War Will Greatly Increase Their Cost

Potatoes bid fair to lead the van in the high cost of living parade this winter. Local dealers fear that the European war will put potatoes beyond the highest price mark on record this fall and winter. So far no increase in potatoes has developed from this source, but with the crop cut short in many sections of this country and the likelihood that no potatoes will be imported from the present outcrop, the outlook for potatoes is indeed dismal. Germany is one of the greatest potato importers in the world to this country, and it is hardly probable that the harassed empire will send any of her potatoes to this country this fall.

over the countries already named. As a partial eclipse it will be seen over a very wide area, including north-eastern America, Greenland, Europe, half of Asia and half of Africa. Within this region only a part of the sun's disk will be hidden by the moon.

Wherever the solar eclipse is seen as total, the sky will become nearly as dark as full moonlight, and a few of the brighter stars and planets may be seen. Sometimes the moon and sun occupy such positions that, although the moon passes directly between the earth and the sun, the shadow cone does not quite reach the earth. Such solar eclipses are called "annular" and are nowhere total eclipses. In the most favorable case a total eclipse may last seven minutes at a station, but such occasions are very rare. There will be total eclipses visible in the United States in 1918, 1928 and 1925.

## EMPEROR WILLIAM SENDS HIS REPLY

Acknowledges Receiving of the United States Good Offices—No Word From Russia.

Germany has acknowledged receipt of the President's proffer of good offices in mediation or arbitration. All the warring countries except Russia have now replied.

The Secretary of State, consistent with his refusal to discuss the replies from any of the powers, would not go into details as to Germany's acknowledgement, but it is understood, like the others received to be only acknowledgement.

Difficulties of communication with Berlin are taken as the cause for the delay in Emperor William's reply. It is known that the offer has been received at the St. Petersburg foreign office, but because Russian officials say they have been unable to get it to Emperor Nicholas, acknowledgment has been delayed.

The reply of the French premier to the President's offer of mediation is not understood to be final at the State Department, nor as indicating an indisposition on the part of the French government to consider the proposal. It is construed only as a polite acknowledgment of the offer and about what was to be expected at this time.

The administration did not expect that mediation would be considered in the first heat of conflict, and before any great or decisive battles had been fought. The offer was made simply to remind the participants in the war that the United States stands ready to act without discrimination in the effort to bring about peace when the time is ripe.

This view was set forth clearly by the Secretary of State in a recent comment upon the President's mediation offer:

"It may be some time before the nations engage in the European war will be willing to listen to any suggestion of mediation," he said, "but the President, in tendering the good offices of the government at this time, has measured up to the responsibilities of the nation and to the expectations of the American people. The United States stands for peace—for its preservation as long as it can possibly be preserved—and, in case of war, it stands for their restoration of peace at the earliest possible moment. When the anger of the belligerent nations has sufficiently abated, they will find the President waiting to render such assistance as may be within his power in the direction of accommodation and conciliation. He has sent the dove out of the ark in search of dry land. God speed its return with an olive leaf."

While none of the replies received from any of the European governments specifically rejects the tender of good offices made by the United

States, some acknowledgements are accompanied by statements of the replying nations' position in the conflict. Department officials were inclined to regard the answers as non-committal, and believed later, especially if any of the principals in the war showed an inclination to treat for peace.

## CROP PEST COMMISSION INVESTIGATING RUST

Orchards Almost Free From Pest Where Cedars Have Been Removed.

A meeting of the State Crop Pest Commission was held here yesterday, with Dean E. Dwight Sanderson, of the West Virginia College of Agriculture, chairman, and State Entomologist W. E. Rumsey, secretary, and S. H. Fulton, of Sleepy Creek, present. State Commissioner of Agriculture Howard E. Williams, of Charleston, was unable to attend. Local Orchard Inspector Dodd was with the party.

The purpose of the meeting was to investigate in regard to Cedar Rust in Berkeley county, and the party visited a number of local orchard sections. The consensus of opinion is that much good has been accomplished to the fruit industry by the cutting of cedars in the early spring, as where they have been removed even a reasonable distance from the apple orchards, there is almost an entire absence of Cedar Rust infection, which is very noticeable in certain other orchards exposed to cedar groves, known to be infested with rust.

On one large orchard Cedar Rust is to be found in damaging amount, which is directly traceable to cedar trees that are badly infected with Cedar Rust, which are half a mile away from the apple orchards, but the prevailing winds are in the direction of the orchard.

The work of cutting and destroying infected cedars was stopped with the advance of spring, but will be resumed again next winter.

## PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS AGREE

To Purchase Ocean-Going Vessels and Solve the Trans-Oceanic Trouble. Quickly.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.—The purchase of ocean-going vessels by the United States, as the best method of solving the trans-oceanic transportation trouble, has been agreed to by the president and congressmen at a conference today. The bill will be immediately drawn to meet the situation. It is understood that \$25,000,000 will be provided to purchase the ships.

## NO CREDIT GIVEN WEST VIRGINIA

State of Virginia Had \$24,500,000 Invested In Twenty or More of Them.

RICHMOND, Va., August 19.—That the State of Virginia had \$24,500,000 invested in some twenty or more railroads at the time the state was divided and that West Virginia had received no credit for any part of this in fixing its part of the state debt was the testimony of C. W. Hillman, before Special Master Littlefield.

Hillman is the chief accountant who with nine assistants and the legal help of Robert L. Gregory, has spent several weeks going over the records in Richmond, auditing the books and verifying the claims of West Virginia.

His testimony, based entirely on public records, and verified as to every statement by reference to volume and page, shows that the old state of Virginia made loans to some railroads and bought stock in others to encourage development; that the state was financially interested in one of these two ways in about twenty railroads and that a portion of state debt was incurred in order to assist these roads.

They were all in what is now Virginia although the part that is now West Virginia helped to pay for them and received credit for no part of the investment when the Supreme Court fixed its share of the debt.

The testimony today shows that the auditing of the books not only substantiates the claim of West Virginia that it should have credit for \$20,800,000 of railroad stocks and loans, but it actually increased the amount originally claimed by about \$3,700,000.

It is believed the testimony of accountant Hillman will be completed tomorrow. This places in the record of evidence that is relied upon to cut down West Virginia's part of the debt from more than \$7,000,000 to less than \$2,000,000.

It is understood that Virginia will demand that the value of the stocks, bonds and other holdings of Virginia be ascertained as of June 20, 1862, the date when West Virginia was admitted to the union, instead of January 1, 1861, the date fixed by the Supreme Court for the assumption by West Virginia of part of the indebtedness.

As the Civil War has smashed all values by 1862, it would be disastrous to West Virginia if the court should agree to start the debt at one time and the credits at another and counsel for West Virginia do not believe the court will do so.

As anticipated counsel for Virginia today made a motion that the special master fix June 20, 1862, when West Virginia was admitted to the union of the states as the time for valuing the assets of Virginia.

This motion was stoutly resisted by West Virginia. John H. Holt, and C. E. Hogg, addressed the master. Mr. Holt made an especially strong speech showing that the Supreme Court had fixed January 1, 1861 as the date of which the debt should be ascertained and contending that it would not be fair in any case where a partnership was dissolved to fix the liabilities as one date and the assets as of another. He held that as Jan. 1, 1861, had been fixed as the date for ascertaining the debt it should also be fixed as the date for ascertaining the assets. If June 20, 1862 is selected as the date for valuing the assets it will add several million dollars to West Virginia's liability.

At the conclusion of the arguments Special Master Littlefield ruled that he would hear evidence as to the value of Virginia's assets both as of January 1, 1861, and of June 20, 1862. He said he would determine later whether he would recommend that either date be adopted or whether he would make an alternative report. The presentation of testimony was then concluded.

## How To Pronounce Them

(The accented syllable is printed in black.)

Alsace	Al-sass	Mulhausen	Mul-how-sen
Blamont	Bla-mon	Meurthe-et-Moselle	Mert-ay-Mo-selle
Chalons	Shah-lon	Meuse	Mers
Eesemael (Flemish)	Ex-mahl	Moncel	Mon-sel
Haberville	Hab-lan-veel	Morhange	Mor-anzh
Huy	Hoi	Monovillers	Mo-nin-vee-ay
La Fere	La Fair	Montmedy	Mon-meed-ee
Landen	Lahn-den	Namur	Nah-moor
Liege	Lee-ayth	Nesbaye	Nez-bay
Lille	Leel	Rogervillers	Rozher-vee-ay
Longuyon	Long-yon	St. Trond	San Tron
Longwy	Lon-woe	Thionville	Ty-on-veel
Marville	Mah-veel	Tirlemont	Tongres
		Tongre	Teerl-mon