

COUNCIL OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS MEN'S PROJECT.

Secretaries Straus and Root Address Meeting in Washington.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The National Council of Commerce, with a membership starting with thirty or more organizations...

Committees were appointed by the chairman as follows: Organization—Gustav H. Schwab, New York...

Secretary Straus, in opening the meeting, described the object of the conference as being "the adoption of systems somewhat similar to those that prevail in the governmental service of information on foreign tariffs and foreign commerce."

Secretary Root said the country had reached the point where there can apply to the foreign office branches of government service and commercial organizations...

He urged commercial organizations to stand by government officers along these lines. He referred to the former consular appointment system as providing in many cases for "respectable indigent gentlemen" or "uncomfortable politicians" who had to be shelved for political purposes.

Secretary Straus then announced he would turn the meeting over to the delegates for such action as they deemed proper. Gustav Schwab, of New York, was elected chairman, and Frank B. Wyong, of Cincinnati, was made temporary secretary.

The chairman was authorized to appoint a committee on organizations, consisting of ten members, and a committee on rules, of five members.

President Root received the delegates in his office at noon and spoke encouragingly to them, emphasizing the benefit and importance of having

the commercial bodies of the country connected officially with the government in some manner.

TAKAHIRA APPOINTED.

Succeeds Viscount Aoki as Japanese Ambassador.

Tokio, Dec. 5.—Baron Kogoro Takahira, Minister for Japan to the United States before Viscount Aoki was made ambassador, has been formally appointed ambassador to Washington to succeed Aoki. Baron Takahira is at present



MR. KOGORO TAKAHIRA. Appointed Japanese Ambassador to the United States. (Photograph by Prince, Washington.)

Japanese Ambassador to Italy. He was born in 1854 and has been connected with the Foreign Office since 1876, when he was a translator. From 1879 till 1884 he was Secretary of Legation at Washington. In 1891 he was consul general at New York.

It is improbable that any official announcement of Mr. Takahira's appointment will be made until the return to Japan of Ambassador Aoki. The Foreign Office declines absolutely to confirm the selection of Baron Takahira, but the information sent by The Associated Press on December 4, that he was the choice for the post, was undoubtedly correct.

Rome, Dec. 5.—Baron Takahira said to-day that he had heard nothing officially or privately on the matter of his appointment to Washington.

"The most reassuring fact with regard to the existing relations," he said, "is that the Japanese government has communicated nothing to me, this going to show that the situation is far from assuming any character of gravity, as otherwise, according to our custom, I would have been notified."

"What has happened in the United States is merely an episode in the immigration labor question and is not unlike what has occurred in the case of the Italians. It is an economic competition arising from the fact that lower wages are accepted by the Japanese, as they are by the Italians. What I am sure of is that both Washington and Tokio are animated by a most sincere and earnest desire to maintain the good relations between the two countries, united as they are by so many ties, especially in the commercial field."

"I have noticed that both in America and Europe people not well acquainted with Japan seem to dread our progress, exaggerating the meaning and consequences of our recent victories. Travelling in Northern Italy, I have discovered the same apprehension as exists in America with regard to our commercial and manufacturing power, which is most absurd. When Japan was undeveloped we only exported to the United States, without importing; now the balance of trade is equal, and undoubtedly will stand in favor of America if our country grows more prosperous. The truth, which is admitted by all fair and enlightened people, is that the United States and Japan, for their own interest and for the interest of humanity, are bound to walk hand in hand."

LIMIT ALL EMIGRATION.

Minister Hayashi Announces Plan of Japanese Government.

Tokio, Dec. 5.—A committee from the immigration agencies here has held a conference with Minister Hayashi, who announced that the plan of the Japanese government was to limit all emigration to the United States and Canada. Some members of the committee angrily announced their opposition to this course, but Minister Hayashi remained firm and dismissed the committee without changing his attitude of making any compromise.

Douglas Lenieux, the Canadian Minister of Labor, held a conference to-day with Viscount Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and received verbal assurances of the limitation of Japanese emigration. He was told that he will later be given full details of plans for its control.

Kiki Yiro Ishii, chief of the Japanese Bureau of Commerce, who has returned here from a visit to the United States and Canada, where he was to investigate the immigration problem, said to-night it was against the immigration of day laborers, of whom there were fifteen thousand, that objection was raised. He said their methods of living were objectionable. The Japanese agriculturists generally were successful.

"Japanese engaged in agriculture as land owners or leaseholders," said Baron Ishii, "require a few of the best class of their countrymen as laborers, but the government of Japan has been limiting this class."

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Third in the World—Mr. Putnam Reports Valuable Acquisitions.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The Librarian of Congress, in his annual report, shows that the library has 1,452,848 books and pamphlets and 900,000 other articles, giving it third place in size among the libraries of the world. There was a gain of over 54,000 books and pamphlets in the year, the most notable acquisition being the celebrated Yudin library of work on Russia and Siberia, which collection of over eighty thousand volumes not counted in the above total, and though nominally a purchase, is practically a gift, as the owner sold it for little more than one-third of the expense of gathering it.

There is no other collection on the subject of such size in America, and, perhaps, none so valuable in Europe, outside of Russia. A collection of 9,000 works, including a collection of the Japanese language, selected by Professor Asakawa, of Yale. Sped in Japan, and devoted to developing the collection of foreign documents. The expense of the library, exclusive of \$205,000 for printing and binding, aggregated \$750,000.

SEVERE ARMY TESTS.

PRESIDENT'S NEW ORDER.

Long Practice Marches Required—May Cause Many Retirements.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The War Department to-day published a general order, issued by the President, greatly extending his original order relative to riding tests of officers of the army. The President now requires every field officer to make daily practice marches of not less than thirty miles for three days in succession each year. All officers are also required to accompany their commands on the monthly practice marches.

The advanced stand taken by the President in regard to physical tests of the condition of officers, in the face of strong pressure from commercial bodies throughout the country in favor of the retention in service of engineer and other staff officers who, though perfectly competent to discharge their ordinary duties, would probably be unable to respond to the demands of active campaign service, has filled with apprehension a number of the senior officers of the grades between captain and colonel, inclusive. Because the President in his daily published to-day orders in severity the retention in service of engineer and other staff officers who, though perfectly competent to discharge their ordinary duties, would probably be unable to respond to the demands of active campaign service, has filled with apprehension a number of the senior officers of the grades between captain and colonel, inclusive.

Annual reports should also be required, under such conditions as will insure accuracy and thoroughness, upon every junior officer of the army, setting forth whether physically qualified for active operations. Except when excused by higher authority, all officers should accompany their commands on the monthly practice marches, and reports should be required, naming in every case any who are unable or fail to do so, or fall out on the march.

THE WHITE HOUSE, Washington, December 2, 1917. To the Secretary of War: I desire to draw your attention to all officers concerned that heretofore suitable physical test to determine their fitness for active operations...

PROMOTION FOR FITNESS.

Admiral Brownson Recommends Improvements in Naval Service.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Promotion in the navy based entirely on fitness, instead of on mere seniority, as at present, is demanded by Rear Admiral Willard H. Brownson, chief of the bureau of navigation, in his annual report. He says that admirals should be selected from captains who are essentially sea officers. Ability in other directions should not be considered. The grade of vice-admiral should be revived. In fact, Admiral Brownson recommends that at least five vice-admirals should be provided for the navy in the year 1918.

CALLS LIEUTENANT'S ACT A BLUFF.

Alleged Attempt at Suicide Titled Only "A Scratch on the Wrist."

The report that Lieutenant Allan Lefort, of the coast artillery, who has been under court martial at Governor's Island for alleged forgery, had cut his wrist while under guard yesterday at Fort Jay, it was said, was a bluff. The report was made by the officers on the island or even considered by the officers of the court martial. The "scratch on the wrist," as it was called on the part of Lieutenant Lefort, who, it was suggested, could have made a complete job of it if he had so desired.

At the first sign of blood the lieutenant called the guard who paces up and down in front of his room, and had medical aid summoned. The slight wound in Lieutenant's wrist appeared at the court martial, but this was denied yesterday. It was explained that the failure of the guard on duty to inform the relief guard to have the lieutenant in readiness for the court martial caused the delay.

DOCK CONTRACT CANCELLED.

New Proposals To Be Asked for Work at Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The controversy between the government and the contractor for such work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard as has finally been settled by the cancellation of the contract. New proposals will be invited by the bureau of yards and docks for completing the work to be done on the original plans and specifications. The new proposals are to be opened on January 15. The work covered by the original contract price was \$757,800.

SOME ARMY NOMINATIONS HELD UP.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The Senate Committee on Military Affairs met to-day and recommended confirmation of the nominations of a large number of army officers which were sent in on Tuesday. Certain of the nominations were held up because the names were temporarily eliminated by the committee from the list of promotions made by the president. They will be taken up as soon as nominations are made. The eliminated nominations include Brigadier General J. B. Aleshire, head of the quartermaster's department, and Brigadier General

TIFFANY & Co.

Suggestions for Christmas Gifts

The Holiday stock in every department is now unusually complete. In addition to the conventional styles of jewelry, silverware and watches, the department of unmounted stones offers unlimited opportunities for individual taste in selections for mounting and in the choice of pearls for necklaces. There is also a varied collection of tourmaline, amethyst, topaz, kunzite, coral and jade beads and richly carved objects of rock crystal, lapis-lazuli and nephrite. The Fancy Goods stock comprises many styles of gold and silver mesh bags, plain and mounted with precious stones; rich fans of Point d'Angleterre, d'Alencon, Burano and Venetian laces, antique fans of Louis XV and XVI periods, rare Vernis Martin, Houghton and Maurice Leloir painted fans; toilet articles in silver, shell and ivory; jeweled parasols, umbrellas and canes; leather goods, including every requisite for traveling, motoring and shopping. For the cabinet are rich pieces of bric-a-brac, miniatures by Patout, Paillet, Soyer, Mollica; enameled cigarette and vanity boxes set with precious stones; plaques and jewel caskets; reproductions in silver of rare antique vases and cups; plain and gilded French silverware of the Empire style; game boxes, smokers' articles, desk fittings, opera glasses, lorgnons; a great variety of Dutch silver, unique hors d'oeuvre and bon bon dishes of silver and glass, English automobile baskets with all fittings. The Bronze Department presents a great variety of statuettes from France, Germany and Austria, by Gérôme, Bareaux, Barrias, Moreau and others; also an extensive line of busts of Washington, Lincoln, Beethoven, Mozart, Wagner; animals by Barye, Bonheur, Peyrol, Proctor, Remington; hall clocks in various woods to correspond with house decorations; clock sets of bronze and marble, regulators with gilt and glass cases, automobile, ship's bells and traveling clocks; Tiffany bronze lamps, for oil or electricity, with Favrite and leaded glass shades. In the Pottery and Glass Department are the finest products of the noted English Potteries: Minton, Copeland, Doulton, Crown Derby; also unique and artistic effects in Moorcroft Luster pottery, Lancastrian and Ruskin wares, remarkable Doulton crystalline glazes, authentic Royal Copenhagen signed pieces, rare National Sevres vases; Tiffany Favrite glass and other American products from the Grueby, Robineau, Rookwood and Trenton potteries; also English glass vases, bowls and table sets in cut and rock crystal effects.

Fifth Avenue and Thirty-Seventh Street

EVANS'S FLAGSHIP OFF ALSO TURKEY FOR TARS.

Rear Admiral to Meet Connecticut at Hampton Roads. The Connecticut, from which Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans is to fly his flag, started for Hampton Roads through the new Ambrose channel yesterday under command of Captain Osterhaus. Rear Admiral Evans will not board her until she reaches Hampton Roads the way there the flagship will experiment with coal briquettes as fuel.

ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

WEST POINT IMPROVEMENTS.—The Olmsted Brothers, landscape architects, are ready to go ahead with the execution of the plans for landscape improvements at the Military Academy, the authorities at West Point are exceedingly anxious to carry out the approved project and when the plan is drawn up and approved by the superintendent two years ago and will cost about \$100,000. It is desired to carry out this plan as soon as possible, and the first appropriation of \$100,000 is intended for developing that part of the plan which immediately surrounds the academy grounds and to furnish a basis of cost for the completion of the entire plan to be expended under small annual appropriations for several years.

POSTAGE AND PENALTY LETTERS.—The Controller of the Treasury is engaged in ascertaining whether it is legal to allow army engineers to purchase postage stamps which may be used in adding them in their transient dealings with people who are remote from the cities and who sell current supplies, such as fuel and provisions, for use on the army drogues. Some of these purchases are at places which are inaccessible to the big markets of supply, and it is found that the transactions with the country dealers and farmers and remote river men are impeded by the refusal of these persons to conform to all the requirements, such as vouchers, in advance of payment. The transactions must be on a cash basis for the most part, and much trouble has incidentally been occasioned by the use of penalty envelopes. The small dealers want the government business, but they do not want to pay postage, and seem to know nothing about using the penalty envelope. There has been much trouble over the whole of the country, and it has been the subject of more correspondence than would commonly be supposed to attend such a situation.

ARRIVED.

Dec. 4.—The Brooklyn, the Manhattan and the Ajax, at League Island; the Vermont, at Tompkinsville; the Wasp, at Peekskill; the Eagle, at San Diego.

Dec. 4.—The Rhode Island and the Virginia, from New York Navy Yard for Hampton Roads; the Kansas, from League Island for Hampton Roads; the Illinois, from Boston for Newport; the McKee, from Newport for New York; the Wasp, from New York for Hampton Roads; the Virginia, from New York for Hampton Roads; the McKee, from Newport for New York; the Wasp, from New York for Hampton Roads.

APPRENTICES FOR THE ILLINOIS.

Newport, R. I., Dec. 5.—The battleship Illinois, which arrived here from Boston to-day, sailed late this afternoon for Hampton Roads to join the other vessels of the Atlantic fleet. She took on board a draft of apprentice seamen from the naval training station here.

STATE HOSPITAL INQUIRY BEGUN.

Witnesses Before Grand Jury in Alleged Abuse of Insane Charges.

With eighteen witnesses called before it the grand jury yesterday began to investigate the charges respecting the abuse of insane patients at the Manhattan State Hospital for the Insane. The witnesses examined included doctors at the institution, patients and attendants.

The grand jury spent two hours in examining witnesses in the afternoon. The investigation will be taken up again on Monday. Dr. John C. McCarthy, who wrote about the alleged abuses, was before the grand jury for an hour.

MALARIA IS MOSQUITO FEVER NOW.

Mexico City, Dec. 5.—Delegates to the third international sanitary congress have directed that the disease known as malaria hereafter be called mosquito fever, so that the public may know its real cause and work with the sanitary authorities for its extinction, as mosquitoes are responsible for its transmission and it could not exist but for them.

MR. BEVERIDGE REINTRODUCES BILLS.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Senator Beveridge to-day reintroduced his child labor bill, which prohibits carrying over interstate lines the products of mines and factories in which children under fourteen are employed. He also reintroduced his measure providing for the payment of the cost of meat inspection by the government.

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CURRENCY LAWMAKERS.

Mr. Fowler Names Sub-Committee to Draft Bill.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Representative C. N. Fowler, chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, to-day named the sub-committee to draw up a currency bill for introduction in the House.

The Republican members were chosen in the order of their seniority, and are Representatives Fowler, who is an ex-officio member; Prince, of Illinois, and Calderhead, of Kansas. The Democratic members were chosen without regard to seniority, and are Representatives Lewis, of Georgia, and Gilchrist, of Texas. The sub-committee will begin the discussion of the bill immediately.

Much surprise was expressed by members of the House that Representative Burton, whose knowledge of financial questions earned him a place on the Banking and Currency Committee, should not have been asked to act with the sub-committee. It is understood to have been Speaker Cannon's idea in appointing Mr. Burton that he was to be of all possible assistance to the framers of the currency bill. Mr. Fowler's choice of the two senior Republican members, however, has met with little criticism, as both are known to be familiar with banking problems.

The interesting question as to who would be the successor of General Charles H. Grosvenor on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee was tentatively settled to-day by the announcement from an authoritative source that Representative Samuel S. Greene, of Massachusetts, would have the chairmanship. Mr. Greene has been the third member of the committee, but as neither "his seniors, General Grosvenor or Edward Minor, of Wisconsin, was returned to Congress, he is considered the natural choice. Mr. Greene will retire from the District of Columbia Committee.

MR. FRYE RE-ELECTED.

Both Houses of Congress Adjourn Until Monday.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The Senate was in session to-day for an hour and a half, adjourning at 1:30 o'clock until Monday.

Senator William F. Frye, of Maine, was elected president pro tem of the Senate, Senator Daniel of Virginia, receiving a complimentary vote for that honor from his Democratic colleagues. The resolutions of Senators Clay and Culberson calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for information concerning the recent bond issues by the government were allowed to go over until next Monday, when they will probably be the basis of some debate. Most of the session was taken up by the introduction of bills.

The House was in session only ten minutes, and transacted no business beyond agreeing to make response to the greetings of the new State of Oklahoma. The House also adjourned until Monday.

DUEL TALK IN HAVANA.

Ramon Fonst Declines Exhibition Invitation, but Offers to Fight Frenchman.

Havana, Dec. 5.—Havana is agitated over the outcome of the attempt to bring about a meeting between Alphonse Kirchoffer, the French fencing master who asserts that he is the professional champion of the world, and Ramon Fonst, of Havana, the amateur champion. Professor Kirchoffer came here recently from Paris for the purpose of giving exhibitions of his skill, intending to visit the United States and Mexico later. He sent a request to Fonst to take part in a public exhibition with him, which the amateur declined, but at the same time offered to fight him a duel.

The Frenchman in reply to this published a contemptuous letter, offering to pay the Cuban's fare to Mexico, where he said he would fight him to the death. Fonst was enraged, and sent his seconds, General Mendietta and Colonel Orestes Ferrara, to Kirchoffer, who refused to recognize them, and departed for Mexico. General Mendietta and Colonel Ferrara published a statement to-day to the effect that Kirchoffer had insulted them, whereupon in the presence of many persons they had denounced him as a coward, which he had ignored, but had later he complained to the police that he had been threatened by an anarchist, an allusion to the charges made against Ferrara, which induced his resignation as secretary of the Cuban delegation to The Hague.

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