

STOLE HIGGINSON JEWELS.

BOSTON CONVICT CONFESSES AND CLEARS TUTOR PARK.

Thief Now in Prison and Accomplice Is Under Arrest Here—Young Syrian Got Into the House With a Skeleton Key—Hid in a Closet for Over Three Hours.

Talpa Warner, a Massachusetts crook, and John Kadra, a young Syrian who is now serving a term in the Massachusetts State Reformatory, have confessed to the robbery of James H. Higginson's house on July 1 last, when \$6,000 worth of jewels were stolen. Their confession exonerates Edward Park, the Higginson family tutor, who was arrested July 5 at Christiansand, Norway, when he stepped off the steamship United States with his mother and sister.

Immediately after Mrs. Higginson discovered that a desk in her dressing room had been forced and her jewels stolen she put the case in the hands of the Tenderloin police. Two detectives who were assigned to the case said nothing about it to Police Headquarters for two days. That is one of the reasons they are fighting mosquitoes on Staten Island.

Then Detective Sergeant McCafferty went to work. Mrs. Higginson had called in the Pinkertons also, and McCafferty and Supt. Dougherty of the Pinkertons joined forces. Monmouth Park had called for Norway with the full confidence of the Higginsons. This is the police explanation of why Park was suspected.

At the Higginson house McCafferty and Dougherty got a group photograph containing the faces of fifteen or more persons. They made the round of pawnshops and finally hit upon a pawnbroker who pointed out to them Park's photograph as that of the man who had pawned jewelry with him. Another pawnbroker quickly indicated the same face in a group picture. From the pawnbrokers the detectives recovered a necklace of eighty-one pearls, a gold cross set with eleven pearls and two cigarette cases studded with diamonds. A request was sent to the police at Christiansand for Dr. Park's arrest. He was taken into custody, protesting his innocence. Then Assistant District Attorney Perkins went over the evidence and decided that there was mighty little on which to hold Park.

The detectives described a man much shorter than Park. Extradition papers had been prepared, but Mr. Perkins called the Christiansand police to let Dr. Park go, and the case was dropped.

Three weeks ago Mrs. Higginson received an anonymous letter. It said that if she would insert a personal in the Herald agreeing to carry on a correspondence with the writer she would learn something to her advantage. The writer was very sorry to inform that Mr. Park had been caused so much trouble, for he was innocent and the writer could prove it.

Mrs. Higginson went straight to Police Headquarters and gave the letter to McCafferty. Using Mrs. Higginson's name, the detectives concocted an alluring personal. Four personals passed before the end of the game. Finally Mrs. Higginson received a letter signed "Ralph Warner." It was mailed at Station D in this city. Station D is in Third avenue near Eighth street.

The detectives were informed by a clerk there that Mr. Warner had asked that his mail be sent to a store in Union Square and that a boy had been carrying his letters from the station. The detectives wrote again to Warner. They saw a boy take the letter from the substation and followed him to a house in Fourteenth street near First avenue. They waited around, a man came out and they nabbed him. It was Warner. That was on last Saturday.

At Police Headquarters they put him on the griddle. He said he hadn't stolen the jewelry, but that he had pawned the loot for John Kadra, a nineteen-year-old Syrian whom he had met in prison. Warner had just finished serving a term of six years for burglary, having been released from the Deer Island Prison in Boston Harbor on Nov. 21, 1904, on parole.

While there, he said, he became acquainted with Kadra and they got chummy. Kadra was being transferred from the Deer Island prison to the Massachusetts State Reformatory when he escaped from his guards, jumped a train going thirty miles an hour, got off without a scratch and came to this city.

When Warner was released he came here and met Kadra once more, and when Kadra burglarized the Higginson house he agreed to dispose of the stuff. Kadra left town on July 15, after the robbery, and went back to Boston. He hadn't been there long when he was arrested with burglars' tools in his possession, was recognized as an escaped convict and sent to the Massachusetts State Reformatory at Concord to serve out his term.

On Monday McCafferty and Dougherty went to Concord and talked to the Syrian in prison. He weakened and told this story to the detectives:

"It was about 10 o'clock on the morning of July 1 that I went to the Higginson house, placing it out as a likely place for a good job. I opened the front door with a skeleton key, slipped through the hall and up to the second floor without raising a soul. I hid in a clothes closet in the hall just outside Mrs. Higginson's dressing room. "She was in the room then, and it wasn't long before the closet door opened and somebody fumbled for a dress, the hand brushing my collar, but it was dark as pitch and she couldn't see. I stuck in the closet three hours, and three times while I was there Mrs. Higginson or her maid opened the closet door and took things off hooks that were not a foot from my head. I was behind a dressing gown of some kind. "Along about 1 o'clock the house was quiet as a tomb; everybody was at luncheon downstairs. I hurried into the dressing room, broke open a small desk in a corner, found a big bunch of jewelry of all sorts, jammed it into my pockets and then ran out of that house like the devil was after me. Nobody saw me go, though, and the job was done easy."

Kadra, I will serve out his six months term in the reformatory and will be re-arrested for the Higginson robbery. Warner is held here as an accomplice. He will be arraigned this morning in the Essex Market police court.

He is 33 years old and bears a remarkable resemblance to Dr. Park, the chief detective being, the police say, that Park is extremely tall, 6 feet 1 inch, while Warner is only 5 feet 4.

McCafferty and Dougherty believe that Warner has the pawn tickets for the jewelry that has not been found, or knows where it is. They think that most of the stolen property will be recovered.

CAIN FIRST STRIKER, SAYS BAER.

Killed His Brother Because He Was the More Prosperous.

DENVER, Col., Aug. 23.—George F. Baer, head of the Reading coal and railway interests, who is here on his way home from the Pacific Coast, said to-day: "Cain was the first striker, and he killed Abel because Abel was the more prosperous."

Mr. Baer was asked if he had any ideas upon how strikes would be settled in the future. "No, nor has anybody else," returned Mr. Baer. "Strikes began with Genesis. They originated at the beginning of the world." Then he made the remark quoted above.

"Those writers on the subject of strike in the magazines, books and newspapers have had no actual experience, or they would not be so ready to propose theories for the settlement of strikes. They are dreamers."

"Strikes are susceptible to settlement only upon such bases as the circumstances and conditions involved in them dictate. "Men who have no practical knowledge of the subject are idealistic. Their theories are worthless."

Mr. Baer declared that the "open shop" system was the only guarantee for industrial peace and prosperity. Mr. Baer was asked if he was correctly reported during the anthracite coal strike, when he was quoted in an interview as saying when referring to his position in that struggle that he was the man into whose hands God in His infinite wisdom had placed the anthracite coal fields.

Mr. Baer looked serious, and thought deeply some moments before answering. Then he said:

"I of course I was not correctly reported. I never dreamed of saying such a thing. But don't deny that at this time. I never permitted myself to deny it. What was the use? One in my position could not have answered such an absurdity, and when a sensational press was ringing with the words placed in my mouth my denial would have had little weight with the people who accepted it as the truth."

COL. ELLETT FULL OF FIGHT.

Ex-Congressman Landed in Police Station After a Lively Row.

Col. Tazewell Ellett, 45 years old, a former Congressman from Virginia, who lives at the Calumet Club, went to the Arena, at Thirty-first street near Broadway, about 5 o'clock yesterday evening for dinner. An argument took place between Col. Ellett and a waiter, and the Colonel knocked the waiter down. The Colonel, who is a big man, soon found that he had to contend with the entire force of the Arena; and the result was that after smashing everything around him he landed on the sidewalk, still full of fight.

Traffic Squad Cop Flood came along and put the Colonel under arrest and started with his prisoner for the traffic station at Twenty-seventh street near Fifth avenue. In front of the Hotel Breslin, at Twenty-ninth street and Broadway, the Colonel banged Flood on the nose and knocked him down.

A mixup followed, and Flood was getting decidedly the worst of it when Policemen O'Neill, Reardon and Daly came to his rescue. Remembering Commissioner McCauley's order not to use clubs, they handed them to the bystanders and set out to untangle Flood and the Colonel. A patrol wagon was called, and the Colonel was taken to the Tenderloin station house, charged with disorderly conduct. When the police went to get their clubs back it was found that one pedestrian had made off with O'Neill's stick for a souvenir.

At the station house the Colonel absolutely refused to be searched, and it required some of the reserves to remove his valuables.

LOCOMOTIVE SMASHES AUTO.

Three Young Men Hurt—Are Taken to Commodore Bourne's Farm.

SAVVILLE, L. I., Aug. 23.—Three young men who were visiting to-day at Indian Neck Farm, near the home of Commodore Frederick G. Bourne, narrowly escaped death at the Vanderbilt crossing of the Long Island Railroad at Oakdale this evening. Their automobile, a Pope-Toledo, license 368, New Jersey, was smashed by a train, and portions of it scattered over a distance of 100 feet.

The young men left Indian Neck Farm in the late afternoon and started west along the South Side road. At Vanderbilt's crossing, close to Idle Hour Lodge, they were on the railroad track just ahead of the seaboard passenger and mail train. The locomotive caught the rear end of the machine and whirled it around. The men were thrown out, one landing fifty feet away. All fell in the swampy land on the far side of the track, and this saved them from serious injury. They were, however, cut and bruised.

The automobile swung in front of the engine and was his again and again. Word was telephoned to Commodore Bourne's farm, and Commodore Bourne's son arrived within a few minutes with several men and a farm wagon in which a lot of hay had been hastily thrown. The three young men were lifted into the wagon. Later the Messrs Bourne went to the scene of the accident in an automobile and took charge of the injured men, who were driven to the Bourne farm. It is said the young men are not seriously injured.

GOT MARRIED TO GET A ROOM.

Only One Vacant in Town, So They Got Preacher's Permit to Occupy It.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., Aug. 23.—Twenty of circumstances forced R. J. Bayer of Rochester, N. Y., and pretty Miss Jeanette Peltree of Cleveland, Ohio, to become husband and wife.

They were among scores of worried tourists who last night clamored for hotel accommodations in this city. Not only were rooms not available, but cots in offices and corridors were at a premium.

Finally Bayer and Miss Peltree, who had for some hours been agreeable traveling companions, found a single unoccupied room at the Spaulding.

Under stress of emergency the friendship of a few hours blossomed into a more cordial appreciation, and an hour later they met the emergency with a marriage certificate and were awarded the one remaining room in the city.

NOTHING QUITE EQUALS IT.

The Twentieth Century Limited, the 16-hour train between New York and Chicago by the New York Central line, leaves New York 8:40 A. M., stopping at Elmira, Binghamton, and arriving Chicago 8:20 next morning—a night's ride.

HOTEL ASTOR WAITERS IN PLOT.

MUSCHENHEIM SAYS THEY STOLE AT LEAST \$300 A DAY.

Makes Charges Against Thirty of Them, and Five Are Arrested at Once—Worked With the Checkers, Who Made Prices to Suit—Some Made \$13 a Day.

W. C. Muschenheim of the Hotel Astor went to the West Forty-seventh street station last night and told the police that he had caught thirty of his waiters and checkers in a plot to rob him. As a result of his story a number of the hotel employees were arrested.

"About a month ago," said Mr. Muschenheim, "I became suspicious of wrongdoing because the receipts from the restaurants were far below what they should have been compared with the purchases of food. I employed private detectives, watched various of the employees and became convinced that there was an elaborate conspiracy between waiters and checkers to defraud the hotel."

"To-day we gave the 'third degree' to three of the waiters, and they made a full confession. The one in whose information I place the greatest confidence told me that he had been employed in the hotel since October 5, and that he had been in on the graft ever since that time. The checkers, he said, gave the waiters in the ring checks below the bill of fare prices if they gave any checks at all. Very often no checks were given. "According to the information obtained from this waiter and others, the money of my guests was divided into three parts. The waiter kept 50 per cent., gave 25 per cent. to the head checker and divided the remaining 25 per cent. among the other checkers who were in the conspiracy. One of the waiters said that his share of the graft had amounted to \$10 to \$12 a day for two months."

Mr. Muschenheim said he could not even approximate the amount taken from him by the conspirators. The conspiracy began very nearly a year ago, he said, but he did not think that the stealings were at all large in the early stages.

"In the last month," he said, "I have undoubtedly lost at least \$300 a day on an average. The money has been taken from every one of the dining rooms, for one kitchen supplies all. I am certain that one of the cashiers was involved in the conspiracy."

Capt. Gallagher put Detectives Quinn, Fitzpatrick, Walford and Curry on the case. Early in the evening they arrested these five: John Campbell, 118 West Thirty-first street, chief checker; Clarence Sheldon, 347 West Fifty-eighth street, checker; Thomas Greenwald, 14 Amsterdam avenue, checker, Sheridan B. Lewis, 229 East Fortieth street, checker, and Michael Spohr, 134 West Fifteenth street, waiter. They were locked up on a charge of conspiracy to defraud.

Mr. Muschenheim leases the house at 208 West Forty-fifth street, which adjoins the hotel. Many of the waiters, who get \$25 a month and board, also have rooms there at a nominal price. While the detectives were searching for those of the suspected waiters who do not live there Mr. Muschenheim had in this building his private detective force keeping watch over a dozen other waiters supposed to have been in on the graft. Those who were not arrested immediately, for the reason that the detectives hoped to secure further evidence from them. The three men who confessed were assured of immunity from prosecution.

Mr. Muschenheim does not think any of the guests of the hotel have profited from the conspiracy, unless such guests happened to be personal friends of the waiters or checkers. It was a very easy matter for the waiters to provide themselves with dummy checks showing the full amount of the bill, collect the full amount and turn over the check on the hotel blanks to the cashier.

Only one guest, Mr. Muschenheim said, noticed the crookedness, or at least only one called the attention of the management to it. He was eating dinner there last night, ran up a bill of 90 cents and when he paid it noticed that the waiter neither brought a check nor took the money to the cashier's desk. He reported the matter at the desk in the main office, but was unable to identify the waiter positively.

FATHER CURRAN AT OYSTER BAY.

Friend of John Mitchell and the Mine Workers Visits the President.

WILKESBARRE, Pa., Aug. 23.—Father J. J. Curran of the Holy Saviour Church of this city went to visit President Roosevelt at Oyster Bay to-day. When the President was in this city to address the temperance workers at the mine workers' convention he insisted that Father Curran should visit him soon, as he desired to have a long talk with him. Father Curran was not aware when he left that there was any special significance to the visit.

Father Curran is the priest who was so close to President Mitchell of the mine workers during the strike of 1902 and who has since then frequently addressed the mine workers at mass meetings and urged them to join the unions. He is particularly well informed about their condition throughout the district.

OYSTER BAY, Aug. 23.—Father J. J. Curran called on the President at 8 o'clock to-day. Father Curran said his visit was purely social and had no further significance.

Other visitors at Sagamore Hill to-day were T. H. P. Farr, Archer Hermon, Major-Gen. George W. Davis, ex-Governor of the Canal Zone, and Wm. Barlow, Jr., chairman of the executive committee of the State Republican committee of New York, and Francis E. Leupp of the Indian Centennial.

CENTIPED BITES O'GORMAN.

Bronx Coroner Has a Badly Swollen Face, Which Worries Him.

Coroner William J. O'Gorman, Jr., of the Bronx is recovering from the bite of a centipede, which he got last Monday night at his summer home at City Island. The Coroner sat up late reading, and fell into a doze. He was suddenly awakened by something crawling across his face and he felt a sting on his right cheek.

A centipede had landed on his face. He knocked it off with his hand and his face began to swell. He sent for Dr. Thomas H. Curtin, his physician, who found that there was danger of blood poisoning and the wound was cauterized. The Coroner is now nursing a badly swollen face.

22-26 TO ATLANTIC CITY AND RETURN. The special excursion, August 27, via Pennsylvania Railroad, special train leaves New York 6:40 A. M., stopping at Philadelphia, Camden, and returning, leaving Atlantic City 7:30 P. M.—Ad.

WIFE SUES JEWETT ON NOTE.

Has Been Out of City Since December—Was a Swift & Co. Agent.

Deputy Sheriff Porges has received an attachment for \$20,000 against Abner A. Jewett, a New York agent of Swift & Co. It is in favor of his wife, Mrs. Lora B. Jewett of 48 West Thirty-seventh street. It was granted on the ground that he has been a resident of this city but has been absent from the State six months and left no one to accept legal papers. The claim is on a note dated March 1, 1904.

Mr. Jewett resided at 48 West Thirty-seventh street, but left there in December, going to Bermuda, where he remained until April. Afterward he was at Atlantic City, and was heard from at Portland, Me., last week. The attachment was served on a local trust company.

Mrs. Jewett said to-day: "Mr. Jewett obtained \$20,000 from me some time ago which he did not repay. He has left the city, and the only way I can get the money due me is through attaching his property. We are not living together."

One story told to account for Jewett's absence from the city was that he was wanted by the Government as a witness in the beef trust investigation.

TREASURE TROVE OF COPPERS.

Pennies of the Time of George II. Found by Workmen in a New Street.

Some Italians who are digging an excavation at Seventieth street and the East River for a new street, which will be known as Exterior street, struck yesterday the foundation of an old house about fifteen feet below the surface.

While digging around the excavation they found an old iron pot which contained about 1,500 copper pennies of the reign of George II.

The news immediately went through the district that gold had been found, and before long the neighborhood of the excavation was like a beehive, with Italians and Bohemians swarming over the hillside in a vain search for gold.

English pennies were a drug on the market last night and were being given away in nearby saloons as souvenirs.

FERRY PASSENGER'S DIVE.

Leap From the Albany Started Women, but It Was on Program.

While the ferryboat Albany was on her way to the old ferry at West New York, N. J., on Tuesday evening an athletic looking young man removed as much of his clothes as he dared and jumped overboard. Women screamed and some men who didn't understand what was going on wanted the pilot to stop the boat.

The man's head popped above the water in the wake of the Albany and he boldly struck out for the Jersey shore. He swam for a mile and was received at the dock adjoining the ferry slip by a number of young men whom he had left when he went on the boat. The swimmer was Frederick Koenig of Guttenburg, who is a member of the Atlantic Club of Hoboken. It is said his performance was the result of a wager.

R. C. FLOWER BOBS UP.

Mining Promoter in Chihuahua—Looks Well and Prosperous.

CHIHUAHUA, Mexico, Aug. 23.—Dr. R. C. Flower, the fugitive mining promoter of New York, who disappeared more than a year ago, came to Chihuahua from the south a few days ago. He was met here by Grant G. Gilette, the Kansas cattle plunger, who has made a big fortune in Mexican mines. The two men had a long conference. Dr. Flower then left for the south. It is reported that he is living at Parral, Mexico. He is looking well and prosperous.

RESCUER REFUSES KISSES.

Cashen of New Rochelle Brings Helpless Woman to Beach and Waves Off Admirers.

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., Aug. 23.—Former Postmaster John F. Cashen of New Rochelle saved Mrs. Elmore Murthey from drowning in Echo Bay this afternoon, while a thousand picnickers from Westchester county and New York city looked on and cheered. After he came ashore he was surrounded by women, a number of whom attempted to kiss him. To this he took exception, saying, "I'm a married man."

Mrs. Murthey is the wife of a harness manufacturer. She went to Hudson Park this afternoon for a swim, and she dove from the rocks, came up and began to show signs of distress. Cashen plunged into the Sound and swam to her. When he reached her she was helpless. He brought her to the beach, where she was revived.

CORPS OF NAVAL ENGINEERS.

Talk of Radical Changes Follows the Bennington Disaster.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—There is a strong possibility that the President will soon take action on the question which has been before the Navy Department for a long time as to the advisability of the reestablishment of the Corps of Engineers in the navy. It is contended that the accident on the Bennington has shown the necessity for the return to the old plan, when the duties of engineer officers were apart from those of the line officers of the vessels of the navy. Secretary Bonaparte, acting under instructions from the President, will prepare a report on the matter within a few days. He will send it to Oyster Bay.

FIRE IN W. R. PARSONS'S HOUSE.

Family Out of the City—Hubbish in the Cellar Ablaze.

A soiled servant girl ran out of William Barclay Parsons's house at 25 East Fifth street about 11 o'clock last night yelling "Fire!" A policeman calmed her and turned in an alarm.

The firemen found a blaze in the cellar in a pile of papers and rubbish and doused it.

Mr. Parsons and his family are out of the city.

Insist upon having Burnett's Vanilla.—Ad.

Latest Marine Intelligence.

St. Simon Dumet, Porto Plata, Aug. 13.

JAPAN MUST YIELD MORE.

Russian Envoys Take That Position After Hearing New Offer.

QUIT NOW TILL SATURDAY.

Meanwhile Tokio and St. Petersburg Will Decide Fate of the Conference.

Russians Still Balk at Indemnity in Any Form, and Japanese Envoys Are Disappointed—Plan of Purchase of Sakhalin and Application of Price of Chinese Eastern Railway to Satisfying Japan's Demands Does Not Appeal to Witte and Rosen—President Roosevelt's Efforts Still Give Hope That the Portsmouth Conference Will Not Fail.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Aug. 23.—The hope of peace held out last night in the knowledge that the Japanese envoys would make concessions waned perceptibly to-day, for the Russians have assumed an uncompromising attitude, have in fact virtually refused to accept the proposals of their adversaries. In the disposition of the plenipotentiaries to go slowly and conservatively, however, lies the chance of a favorable outcome.

The situation is exceedingly uncertain, and for that reason, if for no other, is more intensely interesting than it has been at any time since the Portsmouth conference was begun.

When the envoys met to-day, after a recess since last Friday, they realized that the crucial moment had come. The Russians went to the conference room prepared to agree to a final adjournment if the Japanese did not bring forward a reasonable plan for a solution of the deadlock at which the conference had arrived.

Their position was strengthened by the advice which they received last night from their Government to stand fast to their refusal to pay a cent of tribute or cede an inch of territory. It was no surprise to them when Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira proposed a settlement that was in the nature of a modification of the Japanese terms, now no longer the "irreducible minimum" supposed to be represented in the list of conditions precedent to peace presented by the Mikado's representatives on the second day of the conference.

But the Russians were not impressed with a sense of the magnanimity of Japan's offer. They were frank in expressing their belief that it would not be acceptable to St. Petersburg, and after some discussion the envoys agreed to take a recess until next Saturday in order to give both sides the opportunity of thinking things over and of communicating with their respective governments.

THE JAPANESE PROPOSAL.

In effect, according to the Russian view, the compromise proposal of Japan is a combination of old points of difference in a new dress. It involves a division of the island of Sakhalin between Russia and Japan and a financial arrangement concerning the Eastern Chinese Railway, built by the Russian Government, in exchange for the payment to Japan of an amount of money approximating the cost of the war, less the amount realized by Japan through the pecuniary scheme affecting the railway.

In other words, Japan proposed that the Russians buy back part of Sakhalin, with the understanding that a fair appraisal of the value of the railway or the sum obtained through its sale should be deducted from the total of the money spent by the Japanese Government in prosecuting the existing war against Russia.

RUSSIANS STILL SAY NO INDEMNITY.

Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen, as anxious as they are for peace, were not pleased over the suggestion for a settlement put forward by Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira. In the course of the discussion that followed the presentation of Japan's plan to break the deadlock the probable amount that Russia would be required to pay was mentioned tentatively, and it was considerably in excess of \$500,000,000.

But the proposal that Russia should pay such a vast sum to her victorious enemy is not the reason for the opposition which is shown by the Czar's envoys to the scheme of adjustment. They take the ground that under whatever guise the payment of money to Japan is sought it is nevertheless an indemnity, and an indemnity Russia will not pay, if the present position of that Government is honestly held and adhered to.

To the Russian mind, as the case was explained this evening by a prominent member of the Czar's mission, remuneration for the costs of the war and the repurchase of Sakhalin are synonymous with indemnity, a word that has come to be regarded by the Russians as a reflection upon their national and personal honor and pride.

It will be seen, therefore, that the Russian plenipotentiaries are not attempting to deceive themselves as to the real meaning of Japan's new compromise scheme, and refuse to be placed in the position of merely

seeking some verbal subterfuge to make peace with their enemy upon terms dictated by Japan.

There had been a disposition to believe on the part of those who have watched the situation closely that the Japanese would offer concessions if they saw that the Russians were determined to refuse to grant any more of Japan's demands. The action of Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira to-day confirmed this forecast, and also the opinion that Japan was quite as anxious for peace as Russia was.

WITTE'S STAND.

Mr. Witte has frankly avowed that Russia regarded an ending of the war as necessary to her well being, and he has expressed his personal wish that a treaty should result from the current exchanges, but he has at the same time insisted that there would be no hope of an adjustment as long as Japan persisted in her claim to remuneration for the money she had spent in prosecuting the Far Eastern conflict.

It has come to be well understood among those who have obtained some insight into Mr. Witte's character through personal contact with him that he possesses a sterling honesty that cannot be shaken. He has remained consistent to all that he has said with reference to the position of Russia, and the belief has become a conviction in most quarters in Portsmouth that he will not swerve from the attitude which he has assumed in regard to the questions of indemnity and cession of territory.

Taking for granted this estimate of the rugged emissary of the Czar, it is apparent that Japan must make more substantial concessions in order to win from the Russian envoys a consent to the conclusion of the treaty of peace.

Whether Japan will do this is problematical, but there is enough of hope in the change proposed by Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira in the conditions originally presented by them, virtually in the form of demands, to suggest that the Tokio Government is now willing to meet Russia half way in the efforts of both to adjust their differences.

ROOSEVELT'S INFLUENCE.

To what extent President Roosevelt's influence was responsible for bringing about what may be termed a more conciliatory attitude on the part of Japan has not been disclosed, but the evidence at hand indicates that while a moral effect may have been produced by the knowledge that he was working to save the Portsmouth conference from dissolution, the proposal made by the Japanese to-day was not directly due to the President's endeavors.

In the face of the alliance maintained by the Japanese the understanding is that Mr. Roosevelt confined his work for peace to the Russian envoys. If he made any representations to Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira or the Government at Tokio nothing has yet appeared to indicate it.

His efforts to prevent the conference from ending fruitfully were seemingly directed personally to Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen, who, of course, transmitted the President's suggestion to St. Petersburg. How it was received there may be gathered from the instructions telegraphed to the Russian envoys at Portsmouth by the Czar's direction to decline to recede from their refusal to grant the indemnity and territorial cession demands of the Japanese.

It is fair to explain that the President did not submit any specific proposal to the Czar's plenipotentiaries. Mr. Witte is authority for this statement, which confirms the view that however anxious the President may be to see the negotiations bear fruit, he has been alive to the proprieties that a neutral chief of state must observe in dealing with a subject that does not actually concern any nation other than Russia and Japan. The President's proposal was a tender of good offices, and in subsequent communications he has backed up his original offer to do his utmost to bring the belligerent governments together.

He has by no means given up hope of accomplishing the end which he has in mind, for to-day he was in constant communication by telegraph with Assistant Secretary H. H. D. Petree of the State Department, his representative here, who is the medium of transmission between Mr. Roosevelt and the Russian envoys. There have been statements that the President sent no message to Mr. Witte by Baron Rosen, who went to Oyster Bay last Friday on the President's invitation. These, however, are erroneous. Baron Rosen was sent expressly to receive a communication intended for Mr. Witte, and he did receive it and duly delivered it to his fellow plenipotentiary.

JAPANESE DISAPPOINTED.

The Japanese representatives here are greatly disappointed over the attitude which the Russians assumed when the compromise proposal of Japan was presented at the conference to-day. Mr. Takahira said in private conversation to-night that the outlook was pessimistic, as Russia would not abandon her opposition to the payment of indemnity and Japan would not make peace unless she received remuneration for her war expenses.

There were two brief sessions of the peace envoys to-day. The stated reason for these meetings was to compare and sign the protocols of the sessions held heretofore, and when the plenipotentiaries assembled their secretaries had the necessary papers drawn ready for signatures.

The comparison of four of the seven protocols, each of which was in duplicate, one in the French and the other in the English language, was completed and the documents signed, while the remaining three were held over for subsequent consideration.