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WHAT VALUE WOULD IT BE to a person to gain the whole world and lose his sight?

WU TING FANG IS GREATLY PLEASED.

America's Friendliness Appreciated by China.

IS NOT A LAND-GRABBER.

United States Influenced by the Lofty Spirit of Equity.

Refusal to Countenance the Partition of the Empire Is Another Bond of Union Between the Countries—Italy Has No Commerce With the Orient, No Colonists and No Substantial Basis for a Claim to the "Open Door"—Many Treaty Ports Left, Despite the Rapidity of the Great Powers.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The Chinese minister, Mr. Wu Ting Fang, expresses himself as highly gratified at the definite determination of the United States to keep hands off China and to resist the intimations of other powers that the time is ripe for this country to take for itself a part of the coast line of China, as made known by an authorized statement given out yesterday.

"I am sure the Chinese government and people will not fail to observe this strong evidence of good will," said Mr. Wu Ting Fang today. "It is not only another bond between the two countries but it has a special significance just now. While the old world powers seem moved by rapacity, the United States takes that lofty position of equity, justice and humanity which has characterized her dealings with other international questions of late, and instead of joining in encroachments on China assumes an attitude of strict neutrality."

The minister had a long conference yesterday with Secretary Hay as to the situation in China. While he will not discuss the conference, he undoubtedly learned in an official way what was made known to the public later in the day and communicated the information to Peking. It is expected that the position of the United States in refusing to seize any territory will have an important influence on affairs in China, strengthening the hands of those in authority.

Italy's Baseless Demand.

Speaking of Italy's action in seeking an "open door" on the Chinese coast by the acquisition of San Mun bay, Mr. Wu says Italy has practically no trade with China. He says he has never seen more than two or three Italians in China. There are no Italian commercial houses that he recalls and no Italian colonies. Under such circumstances the minister is inclined to believe Italy would not have acted until some of the other powers had been sounded. What China will do as to accepting or rejecting the Italian claims, Mr. Wu has not been advised officially. He says, however, that the reports that the tsung li yamen has returned the Italian requests should not be construed to mean that any summary course has been adopted. All this information indicates that the return of the request was in no offensive spirit, but was merely to explain the difficulties of complying with such a request.

Many Treaty Ports Left.

Mr. Wu points out that China continues to have a great stretch of coast, with a number of large ports, including Canton and some twenty-five treaty ports, through which the commerce of the world can flow uninterrupted. The Russian port at Port Arthur and that of the British at Weihaiwei are more particularly naval and military ports. Kiaochoo, the German port, is better adapted for commerce, as well as naval uses, although Mr. Wu says his understanding is that the "open door" policy is to be maintained by the Germans at Kiaochoo, so that all countries would share alike in its advantages. In any event, he says, the free entry of goods would relate only to Kiaochoo, and its hinterland, and that when these goods passed into China, the Chinese customs would be levied.

An Exchange of Views.

The recent visit of Admiral Lord Charles Beresford afforded an opportunity for exchange of views between him and Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, and Mr. Wu, all of whom are intimately familiar with the large question of encroaching China. Lord Beresford had conferred with officials of the tsung li yamen and with the viceroys and leaders. The result of all this study of the Chinese question was summed up in the belief, openly announced, that Great Britain, Germany, the United States and Japan have the bulk of commerce and interest in China and should unite to protect their interests by insuring to China a stable government, free from constant harassment.

Mr. Wu does not commit himself on the wisdom of Lord Beresford's plan of advising the Chinese problem, but he is inclined to believe that his lordship's mission, which thus far is unofficial and in behalf of the chambers of commerce of England, after his return to England will have official results.

PRESIDENT TO SEEK REST.

With Mrs. McKinley He Will Take a Short Trip South.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The president today definitely decided to take a short trip South for rest, his destination being Thomaston, Ga., where he will be the guest of Senator Hanna.

ITALIAN WARSHIPS ON THE WAY TO THREATEN CHINA.

ROME, March 7.—The Italian government is fully determined to obtain an apology from China for the tsung li yamen's refusal of the demand of Signor Martino, Italian minister at Peking, of a concession at San Mun bay, province of Chekiang, to be used as a naval base and coaling station. A squadron of five cruisers, with 100 guns and 1,500 men, will soon arrive at San Mun bay.

WAR CLOUDS BLOW AWAY.

GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES.

Starting Points and General Direction of Disputed Boundaries Determined—England Concedes a Commercial Outlet on the Nile.

PARIS, March 7.—The following semi-official note was issued this evening:

"A satisfactory settlement between France and Great Britain of the questions arising out of the Fashoda incident may be expected within a fortnight. The delimitation of the respective territories has so far advanced that the starting points and general direction of the frontier have already been arranged, and Great Britain has admitted that France is entitled to a commercial outlet on the Nile."

Cambon Voices Peaceful Sentiments.

LONDON, March 7.—M. Paul Cambon, French ambassador to Great Britain, was the principal guest this evening at the banquet of the London chamber of commerce. In reply to a toast the French ambassador said that peace and war no longer rests with governments, but with the people. He noted with great pleasure the determination of the promoters of commerce in Great Britain and France to augment the cordiality of relations between the two nations and foster that "real spirit of conciliation by which all differences can be readily settled." These utterances of M. Cambon are particularly notable, as reflecting the improvement in the relations between London and Paris.

NO CHANGE CONTEMPLATED

Union Pacific Will Absorb Oregon Short Line, But the Officers Will Remain the Same.

OMAHA, March 7.—W. D. Cornish, New York, president of the Oregon Short Line, who is now in the West attending the land sales of the Union Pacific road and inspecting the condition of his own road, says that all that will be done for the present has been done in the steps looking to the absorption of the Oregon Short Line by the Union Pacific company. Three quarters of the stock of the former road has been exchanged for the stock of the Union Pacific, and this completes the transfer of the property as fully as is now contemplated.

"The Union Pacific," said Mr. Cornish, "owns a majority of the stock of the Oregon Short Line, and the latter road owns a majority of the stock in the Oregon Railroad & Navigation Company, and under these conditions the three lines can work together nicely without any closer agreement. There is no probability at present of the moving of the Short Line headquarters back to Omaha. There are good reasons why these offices should be kept separated—the Union Pacific in this city, the Short Line in Salt Lake City, and the Navigation Company at Portland."

PRELIMINARY CANAL WORK.

President McKinley Calls Cabinet's Attention to Certain Features.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The president today called the attention of the cabinet to the provision of the river and harbor act relative to the construction of an isthmian canal. The purpose was to decide upon the measures to be adopted to carry out the decision of congress to make a thorough examination of the various routes, Nicaragua and Panama, and report the result to the next congress. It was realized that the task set was well nigh impossible of compliance on account of the enormous amount of work involved in a thorough examination of every route as was shown by the fact that the Walker commission, under the admiral's energetic direction, was not able to present more than a mere outline of the survey made last summer of the Nicaraguan route.

No decision was reached today as to the details, but it is believed that the president will have recourse to the plan of appointing one or two additional members to the Walker commission and extending the functions of that body to cover the whole field, in Colombia as well as in Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

CENSUS OFFICIALS TO COVER.

Superintendent Merriam Organizes His Forces for Enumeration.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Ex-Gov. Merriam, recently appointed superintendent of the twelfth census, called on the president today in company with Senator Nelson, of Minnesota. Mr. Merriam said he had asked Mr. Wines, of Illinois, who had been appointed as superintendent, to come to Washington for a conference and that the work of organizing the force would proceed as rapidly as possible.

Says She Was Jay Gould's Wife.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 7.—The trial of Mrs. Margaret F. O'Neil, charged with attempting to blackmail Mrs. Jay Gould, began today. Mrs. O'Neil claimed she was married to the late Jay Gould.

Carter Named for Mayor of Chicago.

FILIPINOS KEEP AMERICANS BUSY.

Continued Skirmishes Near the Waterworks.

WASHINGTON MAN KILLED

Frank A. Lovejoy Struck by a Stray Bullet—Rebels Still Aggressive Near San Pedro Macati.

MANILA, March 7.—12:10 p. m.—A detachment of Gen. Hale's and Gen. Wheaton's brigades was engaged for two hours this morning clearing the country in front of their lines on both sides of the river, the enemy concentrating with the apparent purpose of cutting off the garrison at the water works. The rebels bolted at the first sign of the advance, but they separated into small bodies whenever cover offered opportunity and kept up a running fire. By a series of rapid advances, followed by flank movements, the enemy was completely routed as far out as Guadalupe on the right and almost to Mariqui on the left. The casualties reported are Capt. O'Brien, of Company F, First Wyoming volunteers, and two men slightly wounded. The rebel loss was heavy. No rebels were visible at noon.

Private Lovejoy Killed.

8:45 p. m.—This afternoon Gen. Hale's brigade continued the work of driving out the rebels from the country between the reservoir and the water works, a distance of about three miles. The country is now clear on the left of the river, but the enemy is still in front of Gen. Wheaton's line.

Near San Pedro Macati they have been attempting to make the positions of the Sixth artillery on the hills untenable, their sharpshooters keeping up a constant fire all day.

Private Frank A. Lovejoy, Company C, First Washington volunteers, was killed by a stray bullet.

The following were wounded: Maj. Bell, Seventh United States cavalry; Private Young, Fourth Infantry; Private Curran, Company H, Twentieth Infantry, and Private Parks, Company I, First Wyoming volunteers.

This morning the enemy in front of Gen. Overseigne's division, displayed a flag of truce, but retired when Lieut. Koehler, with two men advanced to meet it. This afternoon they again showed a white flag and again two officers and an interpreter advanced. When the Americans were within 200 yards of the rebels, the latter dragged rifles from behind their backs and opened fire upon them, but fortunately without effect. Hawthorne's battery fired two shells, killing several of the enemy.

Protection of Foreigners.

In accordance with instructions to the land and naval forces, a general order was issued today instructing the troops to give particular attention to the daily duty of furnishing full protection to the lives and property of all German, Austrian, Dutch, Italian and Portuguese residents, and with the cooperation of the resident German consul, to give aid and assistance wherever necessary.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon the temperature was eighty-four degrees Fahrenheit, and the heat is intense, especially on the lines, where twenty-five men were temporarily prostrated during the day.

Rebels Are Persistent.

The rebels are busily preparing their defense at various points and are most aggressive near San Pedro Macati, where their sharpshooters maintain a persistent annoyance. Scott's battery on the hill top is the center of fire from both sides of the river.

Gen. Hale withdrew his outposts from the left bank of the stream, and is now occupying the original position.

Further trouble is probable in the vicinity of the water works when the rebels rally, but it would be almost an impossibility for them to interfere with the water supply owing to the strength of our position.

DISCUSSION OF NEW BUILDINGS.

The Subject Under Consideration at the Cabinet Meeting.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The subject of the erection of the six-two public buildings authorized at the last congress was discussed by the cabinet today and the conclusion was reached that a considerable number should be erected under the Tarsney act, which authorizes the secretary of the treasury to invite a limited number of well-known architects to submit plans and specifications for public buildings and to accept in his discretion such as are satisfactory.

LARGER THAN THE MAINE.

NEW NAVAL VESSELS WILL BE IDEAL BATTLESHIPS.

Each Will Carry Four 12-inch Guns, Sixteen 6-inch Rapid Firing and Twenty 4-Pounders—Cannot Be Built Until Armor Is Provided.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The plans for the three big battleships authorized by the naval appropriation bill just passed, are being worked out. The general features of the ships have been defined, subject to the approval of the secretary of the navy. The battleships will be a thousand tons larger than the Maine and Missouri class, of a total displacement of 13,500 tons, making them by far the largest ships in the American navy and about equal in dimensions to the best type of battleships now being constructed abroad under the new practice.

Though larger than the Maine the ships will be laid on almost the same lines, being only a little greater in every dimension. They will carry each four 12-inch guns in turrets. The caliber is an inch less than the guns carried by the Oregon, but by improved design they will be almost equal in penetrative power. The 12-inch guns of the Oregon type, although they did very effective work at Santiago and Manila, have been abandoned. But instead of eight 12-inch guns the new ships will have no less than sixteen guns of 6-inch caliber, all rapid firing, and twenty 4-pounders. This battery represents the ideal proportion between guns as taught by the experience of our own fleet during the Spanish war, and of the Chinese and Japanese vessels during their late war.

The speed of the ships will be eighteen knots, an advance of two knots over the Oregon class, but just equal to that of the new Maine.

For protection against the enemy's shot the battleships will have but one belt of armor seven feet six inches broad, running clear around the water line, three feet six inches above and four feet below. It was originally planned to have this armor six inches thick, but the designers have now reduced the thickness to twelve inches. This change was made in order to strengthen the casemates, which will be made seven and a half inches thick, instead of five inches.

Altogether there is a notable absence of new features in the designs of the battleships, which fact, taken in connection with the small amount of progress reported in the designs for the Maine class, may be an indication that our naval designers have very nearly approached the ideal battleship in their work.

As far as these particular ships are concerned, the fact that the navy department is limited to \$30 per ton in the purchase of armor plate makes it impossible to build them in the absence of further legislation, and the department will be obliged to content itself with the more preparation of detailed plans during the coming summer.

The six cruisers of the unarmored type provided for can, however, be built, and Chief Constructor Hiebhorn has already been working out the designs upon lines approved by the board of bureau chiefs. It is the purpose of the navy department to place contracts for the ships at the earliest possible moment. They represent a type of cruiser, which would be of great value just now for our foreign service. The plans call for vessels of about 2,600 tons, and the ships will be improved Marbleheads, so to speak, being 90 tons larger than ships of that class, and with better batteries and more coal capacity. A most important consideration is they will be sheathed with wood over the steel hull and fully coppered, enabling them to keep the seas even in tropical waters for many months without being compelled to seek a drydock. The battery will be made up of six five-inch guns for each ship. The cost will be considerably more than that of the Marblehead, which was \$24,000, for the amount allowed by congress was \$1,341,800 each. This difference is accounted for by the many improvements made in the Marblehead's design, a notable one being the use of water pipe boilers, giving much greater speed and economy.

PRESENTED TO THE QUEEN.

Ambassador Choate Gratified at Graciousness of His Reception.

LONDON, March 7.—United States Ambassador Jos. H. Choate returned from Windsor at noon today, after having been formally presented to Queen Victoria and having passed the night at the Castle.

While the ambassador declines to give the details of the ceremony or discuss his visit to the queen, he told the Associated Press that he was much gratified at the cordiality and graciousness of his reception.

ULTIMATUM IS DELIVERED.

Colozado Telegraphers Give Their Employers Until Noon Today.

DENVER, March 7.—It was given out tonight that the telegraphers of the Colorado & Southern railroad have given President Trumbull, of that road, until noon tomorrow to agree to the demand for an increase of salaries and that a strike will be ordered at that time if he refuses. Chief Powell, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, has been here several days on this subject.

GREAT DANGER IN A CAPITOL COMMISSION

Probability That Governor Will Veto the Bill.

WOULD CREATE BIG DEBT.

Measure at First Looked Harmless, But Is Far From It.

Commissioners Given Power to Issue Warrants Drawing at Least 8 Per Cent. Interest—No Guarantee of Interest on the Capitol Fund—Lands Soon Would Be Gone, and a Burden Thrown Upon the People—Approaching Adjournment of the Legislature Foretold by the Usual Course.

Special Staff Correspondence.

OLYMPIA, March 7.—The governor still has two days in which to report back the bill providing for a capitol commission with his veto, or he could hold it until Friday next and then veto it after the legislature has adjourned and without doubt the veto would be sustained by the courts.

But if Gov. Rogers is anything he is courageous. He has a stalwart backbone that never bends to the assaults of his enemies, and it would be surprising to see him fear to do his duty. His duty in this case from his standpoint is to veto the capitol commission bill, and it is my opinion that the veto will be forthcoming before twenty-four hours sweep past.

Dangerous Law Unheeded.

Little has been said of the capitol commission bill, and yet it is one of the most important bills that has passed the legislature this session—important because it is undoubtedly dangerous and never should have been enacted. It came up like a rainbow after the storm over the capitol building bill which the governor vetoed, as it seemed harmless, and neither house gave it serious consideration before passing it. If it provided for no particular outlay of money and merely named three commissioners to work under the old law of 1883, under which Gov. McGraw failed to erect the capitol building.

When all legislation for a new appropriation for the erection of the capitol building had failed it was decided by the people of Olympia to take up the old law of 1883, but the capitol commission was vacant and it was feared the governor would not appoint under the old law.

Senator Miller therefore offered a bill, which passed both houses, naming L. C. Gilman, of Seattle; A. A. Phillips, of Olympia, and Land Commissioner Bridges as the capitol commission. This is the bill now in the hands of the governor.

The law of 1883 gives the commissioners a salary of \$5 per day, together with mileage and expenses, and authority to employ a secretary at \$125 per month. A superintendent is also provided for at \$5 per day.

Warrants at 8 Per Cent.

It is proposed, under this bill, to attempt to dispose of state warrants on the capitol building fund as contemplated in the act of 1883, and with the proceeds from these warrants, issued on a mythical fund, to go ahead with construction. These warrants would draw at least 8 per cent. interest, whereas general fund state warrants hereafter issued will draw not to exceed 5 per cent. interest, the difference being that the capitol fund warrants would draw the interest as contemplated in the act of 1883, which I understand was 8 per cent., if not 10 per cent.

The dangers of the commission law as they are being pointed out are these: 1. In the absence of any guarantee of interest on the capitol fund warrants, the interest would have to be exactly in order to command attention in the money market.

2. There is every likelihood that the commission, which would have to proceed on the lines originally laid out for a million dollar capitol, would secure from \$100,000 to \$200,000 from the sale of the capitol fund warrants and that when this was expended the work would have to stop.

3. Thus an additional burden of debt would be thrown on the state's capitol lands, and any future financial scheme or contract for the building that might be deemed wise would be impossible on account of the great indebtedness hanging over the land.

4. The state's capitol lands dissipated and mortgaged to nearly their full capacity, the building less than half completed, there would then be nothing left for the people of the state to do but to go down into their own pockets and pay half a million of dollars for the completion of the capitol.

To my mind this is not an overdrawn picture. It represents the actual condition that is threatened, and the people of the state should pray for a veto of the bill by the governor, while the senate should act promptly and refuse to pass the bill over the governor's veto.

Signs of Adjournment.

Signs of approaching dissolution of the Sixth legislature are beginning to appear. The work is crowding the members, more particularly the senate, however, than the house. The lobbies are being again filled with spectators, and by people interested in the passage of special measures. Night sessions are being held by both houses, and the time for the dinner hour has been shortened half an hour in order to give more time for work.