

THE MANCHURIAN TREATY

China Said to Have Formally Rejected the Convention.

Russia Notified That the Celestial Government Cannot Afford to Grant Special Privileges During the Existence of the Present Crisis

LONDON, April 4.—A London news agency has received a despatch from Peking, stating that China has formally notified the Russian Government that she is unable to sign the ratification of the Manchurian treaty. It is stated that China declares in the notification that the Empire is now passing through the most perilous period in its history and that it, therefore, needs the friendship of all the Powers. For that reason, however willing the Chinese Government might be to grant the Russian...

In its note, it is said, the Chinese Government has signified that during the present crisis it will grant no privileges to any one of the Powers. The statement is made by Earl Li Hung Chang, according to the news agency despatch from Peking, that this action definitely settles the matter of the Manchurian treaty. He also says that Russia was informed and notified of China's decision on March 27. Prince Ching, the Chinese peace envoy, who has been acting in the conferences with the foreign ministers regarding the punishment of officials engaged in the Boxer outrages and the indemnities, says that every Chinaman except Li Hung Chang opposed the signing of the Manchurian treaty.

In view of the final action of China in the matter of the convention, the next step to be taken by Russia is awaited with the greatest interest. There are persistent rumors in Peking that the forces of the czar are preparing to give a practical demonstration of their power to dominate in Manchuria, in consequence of the refusal of China to agree to the terms proposed. It is also stated that the few Russian officers who were stationed at Tientsin have already gone to Port Arthur.

STEAMBOAT ON THE ROCKS.

Accident to a Providence Liner in Narragansett Bay.

NEW YORK, April 4.—The Providence liner steamer Chester W. Chapin, en route to this city, went aground in a dense fog last night in Narragansett Bay, near Providence. The steamboat grounded on a rocky shoal in the narrow passage between Warwick's Neck and Patience Island, just off Providence Island. She struck the rocks bow on, and slipped an entire bow's length on the shoal. Her bow was ripped open, and she immediately began to fill, but did not sink, as she was already fast on the rocks.

GENERAL BOTHA'S LETTER.

The Communications to Kitchener Regarding the Peace Conference.

LONDON, April 4.—A letter from General Botha, the Boer Commander-in-Chief, to Lord Kitchener, dated February 13, is published today. In this letter General Botha says: In reference to your verbal message regarding the settlement of the war, I have the honor to inform your excellency that nobody is more desirous than I am to bring the bloody strife to an end.

LOSSES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A Statement Issued by the British War Office.

LONDON, April 4.—A statement issued by the War Office as to the casualties during the South African war to the end of March is as follows: Deaths—Officers, 89; men, 15,734. Missing—Officers, 17; men, 738. Died after returning—Officers, 4; men, 261. Invalids discharged as unfit for duty, 2,123.

LAUNCHING OF THE CELTIC.

The White Star Liner Leaves the Ways at Belfast.

BELFAST, April 4.—The new White Star Line steamer Celtic was successfully launched from the yard of Harland & Wolff today. It is expected that she will be ready to go into commission by July.

RACE WON BY EVASIT.

H. J. King's Horse Takes the Northamptonshire Stakes.

LONDON, April 4.—The race for the Northamptonshire stakes of 800 sovereigns, one mile and a half and 200 yards, was run at the Northampton spring meeting today and was won by H. J. King's Evasit. C. Hibbert's Raparree was second, and L. Brassey's Greenway third.

The Friederich III. Floated.

Kiel, April 4.—The German battleship Kaiser Friederich III. commanded by Vice Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia, went ashore Tuesday night at Cape Areona. She was floated subsequently and arrived here yesterday. The damage sustained was extensive.

Condition of M. Waldeck-Rousseau.

PARIS, April 4.—Prime Minister Waldeck-Rousseau, who has been suffering from a cyst under his tongue and an abscess in the throat, passed a bad night.

An Immediate operation was necessary to relieve him.

Open a bank account with Union Trust and Savings Co., 1414 F st., and get interest on deposits.

RUSSIA'S CHINESE POLICY.

Significant Absence of Count Cassini From the Diplomatic Reception.

When the regular weekly reception by the Secretary of State to members of the Diplomatic Corps ended this afternoon, Count Cassini, the Russian Ambassador, who, it was expected, would have some communication to make regarding China's refusal to sign the Manchurian treaty, had not put in an appearance at the State Department.

The absence of Count Cassini is regarded as significant, as it indicates an indisposition on the part of Russia to make any explanation of her policy in the Manchurian incident, and to avoid embarrassing questions.

Yesterday was the day fixed by Russia within which China must comply with demand of the czar's Government by signing the treaty transferring Manchuria to Russian control. One before Russia had fixed a time limit for China to sign. This expired on March 25, and the limit was extended to yesterday.

While officials here profess to have no knowledge of what China has done or intends to do, they are satisfied of the truth of the reports from Peking that the Emperor Kwang-Hsu has positively declined to instruct his plenipotentiaries to sign. This defiance of Russia creates a crisis which all the powers are watching with interest, realizing that any radical action against China by the Russian Government may bring trouble to the whole civilized world.

According to statements here the only advice received from China within the past twenty-four hours came from General Chaffee, commanding the American Guard in Peking. He said that a conference would take place between the commanders of the allied forces to arrange for carrying out the plan of dismantling the Chinese forts. This Government is opposed to a radical policy in that regard and General Chaffee will be instructed to urge that China be not left without means of protection from her foes.

WESTERN NEW YORK FLOODS.

Considerable Damage Caused by the Heavy Snowfall.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., April 4.—Floods due to the persistent snowfall have wrought some loss to property in this section of the State. Considerable damage is reported near Watkins, Schuyler county, due to freshets in many streams. All the wires along the Northern Central Railroad to Elmira are down. At Castle, in Wyoming county, eighteen inches of snow fell yesterday, and the streams are rising rapidly. Warsaw, Wyoming county, has had a despatch today saying the heaviest snowfall of the season. The ice has passed out of the Genesee, but the river is still high. It is not believed, however, that there will be any serious damage done in the immediate vicinity.

MINE DISPUTE IN ILLINOIS.

The Employees Resume Work Pending an Agreement.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 4.—Nearly all the mines in the Springfield sub-district were closed yesterday, owing to the failure of the operators and miners to reach an agreement on the demand of the miners for free oil and cotton for the inside laborers and an advance of 15 cents per day in the existing general strike throughout the district was threatened, but late last evening the officials of the Miners' Union and the Illinois Operators' Association held a session, when it was agreed to resume operations this morning, pending an agreement.

MAY REDUCE THE FLEET.

A Recommendation That Vessels Be Withdrawn From the Philippines.

Rear Admiral Crowninshield, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, has suggested to Secretary Long the consideration of the question of reducing the fleet in the Philippines on account of the apparent collapse of the insurgent forces. Recent reports have shown that there is very little activity on the part of the insurgent blockade runners, and with the capture of Aguinaldo and the daily surrender of insurgent commands, the navy does not need such a large force to cooperate with the army. Before taking action the Navy Department will ascertain the opinion of Rear Admiral Remey, Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic station.

GENERAL VAN VLIET'S WILL.

His Entire Estate Left to His Wife During Her Lifetime.

The will of Brevet Major General Stewart Van Vliet, dated September 28, 1881, was filed for probate today. By its terms General Van Vliet bequeaths his entire estate to his wife, Sarah Jane Van Vliet for life.

ON CHARGES OF BLACKMAIL.

The Preliminary Hearing of Hopp and Hudson Begun.

The preliminary hearing of Ferdinand Hopp, proprietor of a Pennsylvania Avenue lunch room, and James Hudson, who were arrested last night on a charge of blackmail preferred by T. H. Pickford, of Louisiana Avenue and Ninth Street northwest, began in the Police Court at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

A FIRE IN IOWA.

The Business Portion of Lehigh Practically Destroyed.

FORT DODGE, Iowa, April 4.—Almost the entire business portion of the little town of Lehigh, which is located eight miles south of Fort Dodge, was destroyed by fire yesterday.

His Two Hundredth Ocean Trip.

NEW YORK, April 4.—Captain Skjold, of the Danish steamship Island, which arrived today from Copenhagen, has completed his two hundredth trip across the Atlantic as master.

Sorfolk & Washington Steamboat Co.

Delightful trips daily at 6:30 p. m. from foot 7th st. to Old Point Comfort, Newport News, Norfolk, and the South. For schedule, see page 1.

KING EDWARD'S CIVIL LIST

The House of Commons Select Committee Reports Its Provisions.

Total Charges to Be £20,000,000 Annually, an Increase Over the Allowances to Queen Victoria—Amounts for the Duke and Duchess of York.

LONDON, April 4.—The report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the King's Civil List was issued today. The provisions are as follows: Their Majesty's privy purse, £110,000; salaries of the King's household, £125,800; household expenses, £152,000; works, £20,000; royal bounty alms, £13,200; unappropriated, £8,000. These charges are all annual ones. Queen Victoria's allowance for household expenses proved insufficient for each of the last thirteen years of her life, with one exception, and she paid the deficit out of her privy purse.

The Select Committee recommends £29,000 a year for the Duke of York, and £10,000 a year for the Duchess. No provision is made for the children of the Duke and Duchess of York on account of their youth. An allowance of £18,000 per annum is made for the daughters of the King, and £70,000 for the Queen, if she survives her husband.

The Royal Buckhounds are abolished, which will result in a saving of £6,500 yearly. As a result of an enquiry made by the King, the salaries of several officials of the household will be reduced on the expiration of their present term of service and the places held by others abolished.

The total charge under the new scheme will be £20,000,000, compared with allowances of £55,900,000 annually under Queen Victoria's reign. Henri Labouchere, editor of the "Truth" and one of the members of the committee, presents a minority report, signed by himself alone, in which he recommends a civil list of £45,000,000, which will include an allowance of £20,000,000 annually for Queen Alexandra.

In his report, Mr. Labouchere refers to "the present ostentatious expenditures among some who have suddenly acquired large fortunes," and says he does not believe the King desires to enter into monetary competition or to encourage his subjects in such vain-glorious prodigality.

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MR. HACKETT TO RETIRE.

Soon to Give Up the Assistant Secretaryship of the Navy.

It has been arranged that Frank W. Hackett, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, will retire from office when Secretary Long returns to Washington from his summer vacation. The reason assigned for this at the State Department is that, when Mr. Hackett became Assistant Secretary it was with the understanding that he would not remain in office any great length of time.

There is no doubt that if Charles H. Allen, Governor of Porto Rico, who is now on his way home, will resign, Mr. Hackett's former duties, the President will be only too glad to appoint him to succeed Mr. Hackett. In that event Mr. Hackett may retire sooner than is now expected to make room for Mr. Allen.

MRS. McPHERSON'S ESTATE.

Will of the Late Senator's Widow May Be Contested.

NEW YORK, April 4.—The disagreement over whether the body of the late Senator from New Jersey, is likely to be followed by a bitter contest over her estate, valued at some \$500,000. Funeral services were held today in Washington, where the body was removed, despite the protests of Arthur Johns, counsel for Mrs. Muir, the daughter of the deceased. The body was cremated, in obedience to Mrs. McPherson's wish, and the ashes will be buried beside the body of the late Senator McPherson in a Washington cemetery. The body was accompanied to the capital city by Mr. Gregory, brother of Mrs. McPherson, and A. S. Baldwin, executor of her estate.

The second will, which the body had in this city until the arrival from abroad of Mrs. Muir, who, he said, would be here in a few days. The lawyer declared that he had received from Mrs. McPherson a letter, which the body had in New York until she reaches here.

When Mrs. McPherson died, on March 29 it was said that by her will she left her fortune to Mr. W. W. Gregory, Miss C. Parsons of Philadelphia, A. S. Baldwin, of New York, and Read G. Dilworth, Miss Parsons was a close friend of Mrs. McPherson, Mr. Baldwin was in charge of her business, and Mr. Dilworth was made executor of the will of Mrs. McPherson.

A TRAGEDY IN INDIANA.

Mail Carrier Kills His Wife and Cuts His Throat.

MARION, Ind., April 4.—When Victor R. Schultz, a mail carrier, went home last evening, he found his wife sitting in a room with Mrs. Carwell Bowman, a neighbor, who was here to see Mrs. Schultz, who was suffering from a severe illness. Schultz walked to where his wife was sitting, seized her by the left arm and, placing a revolver over her head, pulled the trigger. The bullet passed through the heart and into the back of the head. Schultz then cut the wires connecting a telephone, went to an upper story, removed the contents of his trunk, and packed his grip and returned to the first floor.

OIL STRIKE IN LOUISIANA.

A Profitable Well Found in St. Martin Parish.

NEW ORLEANS, April 4.—Ex-State Senator Robert Martin, of St. Martin parish, St. Martin parish, La., brings the news that oil has been struck on his plantation to a depth of 250 feet. St. Martinville is just back of a direct line west from New Orleans to Beaumont, the distance from New Orleans to St. Martinville being 150 miles. St. Martinville is within about three miles of the Gulf of Mexico, and will have ample deep water transportation facilities.

A STRIKE SETTLED BY ARBITRATION.

LOWELL, Mass., April 4.—Late last night, after a conference brought about by the State Board of Arbitration between the master painters and the union men, the differences were adjusted. The master painters agreed to get an eight-hour day and a minimum wage of \$2. The painters, who had asked for \$2.25, accepted the terms offered, and will return to work.

Going to Norfolk for Wilbur.

The wife and mother of Harry G. Wilbur, the private secretary to Health Officer Woodard at Washington, was yesterday brought to Norfolk by the steamer Norfolk, which was to be followed by the steamer Norfolk, which was to be followed by the steamer Norfolk.

JONES AGAIN ON THE STAND

The Cross-Examination of the Rice Case Conspirator Continued.

Witness Closely Questioned by One of Patrick's Attorneys—He Claims That He Destroyed Letters Written Before He Attempted Suicide.

NEW YORK, April 4.—Vale Charles F. Jones, who is testifying against Attorney Albert Patrick in the proceedings against the latter, charging him with the murder of the aged millionaire, William Marsh Rice, resumed the stand this morning at 10:30 o'clock to submit to cross-examination on the confession that he killed Rice at the instigation of the lawyer-defendant.

Attorney Moore, who is one of Patrick's counsel, started at once to put Jones on the rack. He asked the late millionaire's valet-secretary where the letters were which he said he had written to the conspirator, Jones said that he had destroyed them as soon as he returned to the Tombs from the hospital. He said that a prisoner in the Tombs gave the letters to him when he came back to the Tombs.

There were three or four letters, Jones said, and he had left them on a shelf in his cell. Jones thought that he had completed two and had started a third when he was interrupted and consequently had not put any of them in envelopes. He did not remember to whom the completed ones were addressed, but thought that he had been writing the third one to Mr. House, who was then his counsel.

The interruption of which he spoke was a call to go to the district attorney's office where he met Mr. Byrne, Captain McClusky, Mr. Osborne, and Captain Baker. He said that up to that time he recalled no conversations with the authorities and Captain Baker at which there was any representative of the lawyers who were counsel for Captain Baker and the proponents for the so-called Baker will.

No more puzzling psychological phenomenon has appeared on the witness stand heretofore than Charles F. Jones, who says that at Albert T. Patrick's instigation, and in pursuance of an elaborate conspiracy, he murdered William Marsh Rice, to whom he had been valet and secretary for three years. He has been testifying against Patrick for two days in the murder examination before Justice Jerome.

FUNERAL OF DR. W. T. HORD.

The Services Held This Afternoon at St. Thomas Church.

The funeral of William Talaford Hord, Medical Director of the United States Navy, took place at 2 o'clock this afternoon from St. Thomas Church, J. A. Asplawall, rector of St. Thomas Church, read the burial service. The interment was at Arlington, in that part of the grounds reserved for naval officers.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT.

A United States Judge and Marshal for Indian Territory.

The President today made the following appointments: Justice William H. Clayton, of Indiana, to be a Justice of the United States Court of the Central District of Indian Territory. Benjamin P. Hackett, of Indiana, Territory, to be a Marshal of the United States Court of the Central District of Indian Territory.

COMMISSION FOR FUNSTON.

The President Signed It With Two Others This Morning.

The President today signed the commissions of Frederick Funston and Joseph L. Smith to be brigadier general and of Lloyd Wheaton to be a major general.

BIDS FOR A CRUISER.

Two Proposals to Construct the Milwaukee Received.

Bids for the construction of the projected cruiser Milwaukee, 3,500 tons displacement, and to have a speed of twenty-three knots, were opened at the Navy Department today. There were two bidders—the Cramps, of Philadelphia, and the Union Iron Works, of San Francisco. The Cramps submitted two bids, the first for a vessel of 3,500 tons, or 900 tons smaller than called for and to have a speed of twenty-two knots, at \$2,740,000. The second bid was on the department's plans at the same price, \$2,740,000, with a stipulation that the Secretary of the Navy should ask Congress for an appropriation bringing the limit of the cost of the vessel up to \$3,000,000.

MR. KNOX'S DECISION.

Believed That He Has Accepted the Attorney Generalship.

The decision of Philander C. Knox, the Pittsburgh attorney, in regard to the Cabinet portfolio offered him recently, is said to be in the hands of the President, and an announcement is expected late this afternoon. It is confidently predicted that Mr. Knox has agreed to accept the Attorney Generalship, but no definite statement to this effect has been made at the White House.

THE CONTEST IN NEBRASKA.

Representative Mercer Discusses the Election of Senators.

Representative Mercer, who was Chairman of the House Committee on the Buildings and Grounds in the last Congress, has returned from his home in Nebraska and was at the Capitol today. He will be here for several weeks looking after some personal matters in the department. "It was just two hours before the time fixed for the final adjournment of the Legislature," said Mr. Mercer today, "that an agreement was reached whereby the Senatorial deadlock was broken resulting in the election of two Republican Senators, J. H. Millard, of Omaha, and Governor Dietrich, the former for the long and the latter for the short term.

PROTEST AGAINST RODENBERG.

Civil Service Reformers Call Upon President McKinley.

William Dudley Foulke, of Indiana, and Richard H. Dana, of Boston, two prominent members of the Civil Service Reform League, accompanied by John Joy Edson, saw the President today. They were in consultation with Mr. McKinley for almost two hours and matters pertaining to civil service reform were freely discussed.

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THE NEW POTOMAC BRIDGE.

First of the Hearings Before the Commission of Engineers.

The commission of engineer officers of the army having in charge the preparation of plans and specifications for the construction of the proposed new bridge across the Long Bridge, held a preliminary session today at the headquarters of the engineer in charge of the work. A number of citizens were present and gave their views of the character of the structure needed. The commission consists of Lieut. Col. Charles J. Allen, Captains Edward Burr and Lansing H. Beach, and Lieut. George M. Hoffman. Colonel Allen had previously invited a number of prominent shippers to be present, and delegations from Washington and Alexandria were on hand. The Virginians represented Alexandria county. Colonel Allen stated the object of the meeting and requested those present to submit their views as briefly as possible.

Theodore L. Holbrook, representing the Washington Brick Company, was the first speaker. He said that his company was newly established and that its factories were situated in Virginia, near the end of the proposed bridge. He said that almost every brick used in this city was made in Virginia, there being in that State several other plants besides that of the Washington company, that sell brick in Washington. He said the general desire of the persons interested in the development of Alexandria county to have the new bridge situated as near the site of the present structure as possible.

George A. Fass, representing the Washington Hydraulic Press Brick Company, whose plant is located in Alexandria county, stated that it would be a great hardship to the brick manufacturers to have the bridge moved further than five hundred feet beyond the existing structure. At present the teams hauling bricks to the city are making three trips daily, but if the new bridge is constructed more than five hundred feet from the present site it will be impossible to do this and the cost of building material will thereby be increased.

Charles G. Smith, of Charles G. Smith & Sons, tugboat operatives, enquired as to the height of the proposed bridge. He said he thought that some attention should be paid to the development of the shipping interests in Washington. He said the desire of the shippers to obviate the necessity of delaying their tugs by waiting for the opening of a draw in the bridge and Mr. Smith suggested that the plans be made to allow for a height of at least thirty feet. The largest tug in service on the Potomac at present would require a bridge fifty feet in height to permit a safe passage.

Meredith Winslip, representing Winslip & Co., of Georgetown, told the commission he was a heavy shipper of coal. He said that Washington was the natural outlet for the coal fields of Pennsylvania and Virginia and that the business of shipping coal was growing every year. He called the attention of the commission to the fact that the bridge to be constructed will be in position for many years and some attention must be paid to the development of the city's commerce in the future. Mr. Winslip operates a number of tugs and he said it would require a bridge at least fifty feet high to permit a safe passage for them. Captain Beach asked if it was not possible to lower the smokestacks of the tugs.

Mr. Winslip said it could be done, but no provision had been made for it on his tugs. Captain Burr stated that the smokestacks of all the tugs on the Western rivers were provided with hinges and could be lowered when passing under a bridge which had no draw. Mr. Winslip addressed the commission on such length and finally stated that the bridge should be a monument to Washington commerce as well as a memorial for the dead. Then it was discovered that the speaker was laboring under the impression that the Memorial Bridge, as the project under discussion, Mr. Winslip said his remarks applied with even greater force to the project under discussion, when he discovered his error.

Albert H. Scherzer, representing a Chicago bridge building concern, was then introduced and presented plans for a new lift-draw bridge. He explained the plans at some length. W. A. Pratt, Civil Engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad, submitted the plans that have been prepared for the construction of the railroad bridge which will take the place of the Long Bridge. He had also made drawings of the proposed passenger bridge. J. E. Clements, Commonwealth's Attorney for Alexandria county, stated that the people of his county were interested in the matter because any great change in the present location would involve the expenditure of a large sum of money in reconstructing the roads in the county. He suggested that the plan of the railroad engineers, placing the passenger bridge about eight hundred feet beyond the railroad be adopted and that the roads leading from the present highway be included in the approach, thus relieving the county of the expense of building a new road.

Another open meeting will be held at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, when Colonel Allen hopes to hear from all those who desire to express an opinion as to the construction of the new bridge.