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CALLS HAGUE MEETING

Czar of Russia Urges a Conference of the Nations at the Hague

IT COMES AS A SURPRISE

General Impression Had Gained Foot-hold That Meeting Would Be Post-poned for a Year — Russia Now Urges an Early Convention — Some Diplomatic Work Necessary.

Washington, April 4.—Unexpectedly the Russian government has made another movement toward the reconvening of The Hague conference when Baron Rosen, the Russian ambassador, presented to Secretary Root a proposal for the reconvening of the conference at The Hague early in the coming summer, and indicated that the Netherlands government had assented to the proposal. It had been supposed that owing to the complexity of the problem involved in the arrangement of even a tentative program for the conference and the delays caused by the necessity of persuading the Swiss government to make the time and program for the approaching Red Cross convention conform as far as possible to The Hague project, it would scarcely be possible for the conference to assemble earlier than a late date next fall.

There were reasonable objections, however, to such a date, and it was intimated that it might be necessary to defer the convention until next year. The matter had been left in large part to the governments of Russia, and the Netherlands to adjust, the first named because the proposal for the conference had originated with Emperor Nicholas, and the latter for the reason that the host should be consulted when it concerned the matter of the date for the conference.

The fact that they have agreed makes it probable that the other signatory powers to the original Hague conference which have accepted the invitation to attend the next conference will agree to the proposed date, although the short period of time available will make it necessary for some of the powers which have given little attention to the subject recently, to do some rapid diplomatic work in order to arrange programs, according to their own desires. For it is certain that this proposed Russian program as conveyed to the state department yesterday by Baron Rosen will, while not meeting positive objections, at least call for some projects differing materially in scope and detail from the Russian plan.

A casual reading of the proposal discloses nothing that is calculated to arouse opposition on the part of the United States government, but unless the Algeiras conference has materially modified the views of certain of the European great powers, there is a notable disinclination to enter into any engagements that would further restrict the independence of action of a power in international matters. The first paragraph of the Russian program is regarded as tending toward this restriction, in that it makes it easier for powers to engage in mediation or arbitration and in consequence enables a majority of the powers to force a settlement upon one of their number when it would much rather protract the use of some diplomatic measures and even proceed to the verge of forcible compulsion.

Several Russian proposals are really in substance the same as those proposed by The Hague conference itself as proper for consideration by another conference, but there is a suggestion of the last great war in the reference to a regulation for opening hostilities for the Russians have never admitted the legality of international law of the Japanese attack upon the Russian warships in Chemulpo harbor and at Port Arthur without it, was asserted, due notice.

The suggestion relative to the recognition of private property rights in shipping and cargoes will find ready favor with the state department for this government has been foremost in advancing this for many years.

The Russian program provides that all political questions shall be excluded from the conference and makes the following provisions: Amelioration of provisions of the convention concerning the settlement of international controversies, as far as the court of arbitration and the investigation committees are concerned.

Additions to the laws and usages of land warfare, among others, opening of hostilities, rights of neutral on land, declarations of 1899—renewal of one of them. Completion of a convention regarding the laws and usages of naval warfare relating to the special operation of naval warfare, such as bombardment of fortresses, and duties of neutral vessels into warships; private property of belligerents at sea; time allowed merchant vessels to leave neutral or hostile ports after the beginning of hostilities; rights and duties of neutrals; contraband; rules to which belligerent vessels must submit in neutral ports; destruction of uncontrolled causes of merchant vessels captured as prizes.

Into this convention would be inserted provisions concerning land warfare, which would apply to naval warfare; supplements to the convention for the adaptation to naval fights of the principles of the Geneva convention held in 1864.

DISCUSS VALUE OF PLAY.

Kindergarten Teachers in Convention at Milwaukee. Milwaukee, Wis., April 4.—The Persistence of Play Activities Through School Life: Their Value and Relation to Work" was the subject of discussion at the first open session of the International Kindergarten union convention at Plymouth church last night.

will take measures either to make it agreeable or he or she "will take her doll and rags and go home."

Miss Patty S. Hill, of Louisville, Ky., discussing the same subject, said there was no doubt that the motive of play is on the increase in modern education, all the way from the kindergarten thru the university.

Other speakers included Superintendent of Schools Carroll G. Pearce of Milwaukee and Miss Ada Van Stone Harris of Rochester.

A conference was held behind closed doors Saturday afternoon, when the subject "The Training of Kindergarten Teachers Under Different Conditions," was discussed.

Miss Alice O'Grady, of the Chicago Normal School, said the need of the profession required personality, enthusiasm, culture, and scholarship, and general pedagogic insight. For the first time she believed that the study of the mother play and the education of man are the best possible subjects to secure these results.

In order to secure the last two requirements she thought kindergarten teachers should organize all the other work with a large ideal of correlation in mind, choosing subjects and grouping them with reference to the specific training involved.

IN A SANDSTORM AT SEA.

Ship From Calcutta Covered With Grit For Two Days on Voyage.

New York, April 4.—The log of the German steamship Schofels, from Calcutta, which docked at the foot of Forty-seventh street, South Brooklyn, tells a story of storm experiences of a more varied character than is often encountered by China traders of modern times in a single voyage.

February 21, while in the Red Sea, the ship ran into a sandstorm which lasted for two days, covering the deck several inches deep with a fine, powdery grit and keeping the officers and men who had to be on deck continually sneezing.

All Choke and Sneeze.

"We first noticed the sandstorm early on February 16," said Chief Officer Diederich Kloppenburg. "Ahead of the air was dense with a thick, yellowish mist, which at first we thought to be a smoke-laden fog. When we ran into it every man on deck was set to choking and sneezing. It was like running thru a light snow. You could discern objects in every direction for a considerable distance, but everything had a yellowish tinge."

"We had to keep all cabin ports closed and every time one passed in or out of a door a cloud of the fine, yellow sand sifted in and covered everything. There was a little wind at the time and the sea was comparatively smooth, but the air was completely surcharged with the fine grit. Evidently there had been a severe sandstorm just before we reached that point and we ran into it after the storm."

"After leaving Port Said we had continuous rough weather, with one storm after another, which kept our decks awash and the ship laboring heavily all the way thru the Mediterranean. A peculiarity about these storms was that one would be bitterly cold, with biting, freezing wind, and perhaps the next would be like a summer gale, high wind, but as hot as the coming from a blast furnace."

Meets Gale After Calm.

"After leaving the Mediterranean we had about thirty-six hours good weather and then the Storm King got after us again. He came at us from the westward, the northwest and the southwest, one blow after another. The ship was rolling and laboring heavily under successive storms, with high, dangerous seas continually breaking on board, until we were nearing this coast on March 14, when the wind died down for a few hours. But before midnight it broke out again from the westward and by the 16th was blowing a gale. We made the Delaware breakwater in that gale and were safe in shelter during the worst of it, in which this coast was dotted with distressed and stranded vessels."

SOLDIER TURNS BURGLAR.

Thief Held for Wounding Californian Has Diary of Loots.

San Jose, Cal., April 4.—The residence of George Douglas, a wealthy retired miner from Colorado, was entered by a burglar during Monday night. Douglas exchanged shots with the man and was fatally wounded. The burglar was hit twice, but escaped. He fled to Santa Clara, three miles away, where he was captured. In his pocket was a diary giving a number of houses in Palo Alto and San Francisco and the dates on which they had been robbed by him.

Wife Discovers Burglar.

Mrs. Douglas was awakened and aroused her husband, Douglas, taking a lamp and a revolver, went to the dining room, where he saw a man standing with a revolver in one hand and eating. Douglas immediately fired. The burglar replied and began backing toward the kitchen. Douglas followed, both men firing.

The lamp was dropped and extinguished when the burglar clinched with Douglas, striking him over the head with the butt of his revolver and rendering him senseless. The burglar escaped, but upon seeking treatment later at a Santa Clara physician for two wounds in the right leg was arrested.

Burglar a Deserter.

Douglas, whose home is in Leadville, Col., where he has large interests, is 60 years of age. He was taken to the hospital, where his condition is considered serious.

The burglar told the sheriff that his name is George Douglas, that he enlisted in Company I, Fourteenth infantry, regulars, at his home at Reading, Pa., on June 2, 1905, and deserted from his company at Portland, Ore., last month. His diary begins at Portland on March 9, and is closed at San Jose on April 2. It details a number of robberies, the total receipts being small. He said that he had no accomplices.

Through Tourist Car Service to California via Chicago Great Western Railway. Two cars per week, one leaving Marshalltown 9:30 a. m. every Thursday via Kansas City and Rock Island to Paso route, arriving Los Angeles 12:55 p. m. the following Sunday, the other via Kansas City and Santa Fe route, leaving at 7:05 p. m. every Thursday arriving Los Angeles 8:25 a. m. the following Monday. For further information apply to J. R. Harding, agent, Marshalltown, Iowa.

The Adventurers

By H. B. MARRIOTT WATSON

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CHAPTER XX. YOU will remember," said Sercombe, "that the last time I saw you was when we rode back to the Woodman with that cart before us. You know well enough what was there. Well, I didn't even inquire if you had looked. But I guess I know a smart man when I see him, and Mr. Greatorax, I took off my hat to you on that same occasion—more particularly as you served me to a nicety. I was near done on that event—as close a shave it was as I have ever seen. I thought I had my eyes sharply set in my head, and I think I have, but Mr. Hood needs four eyes on him, and one in the middle besides. He had me in the half light, and I found he meant to bolt for it. We got those trinkets out by the passage, and a nasty job it was.

"Well, Hood nearly got away that time, and if he had we might have whistled for him long enough. It isn't as if I didn't know the man. He was valiant to me ten years back. I took him through Chile, and we were together in the Italian trouble. That's how he



"He routed out a page of the old gentleman's diary."

got the notion of using me. We've been in some tight corners before, but I never saw him at his worst till now. Hood's gem. He's a special creation. By thunder, gentlemen, your notion of Hood is that of a month old child's! I know him, and I wish to know no more of his kidney. Well, no use to dwell on that. You'll see I had reason."

"Oae thing captain," I interposed. "How did Hood know of this treasure?"

"Know?" said Sercombe. "Why, he wouldn't be a day in Jerusalem without smelling out some mystery. He has a nose like a pointer's." He routed out a page of the old gentleman's diary, and Hood's way is not to leave to others what he can take for himself.

I tell you that he hung on to the old chap day by day, until it got too hot for him and he was sacked, but even then old Kesteven kept his tongue quiet. It wasn't to his interest to speak the truth, and Hood and he, as I understood, were as civil as oranges.

Mr. Greatorax can tell you. But then came that affair of the paper, and if it hadn't been for your sharp ears, Mr. Greatorax, he'd have got what he wanted even if he had had to stab the old man to his reins. But that failure threw him back, and that was when he wrote to me and I beat up the Greeks.

"Well, Hood fetched the cart up at the 'un, and there was that mess about the servant, poor devil! This confounded me, but Hood saw the advantage, and you being taken up with the crowd, whipped off his bag. By and by he comes down upon me and gives me the tip, and Stamboulis and I got away with the booty. If I say that I would have served him as he had tried to serve me there's no one will blame me. But the fact was he had got over my Greeks. That was the pinch.

"We got away through the forest and came by a place with a cavern, where the Greeks were in hiding. There we stowed cart and all. It was a snug hole, but I've never yet fathomed the hold that Hood had over those beasts that they let the stuff alone. But they did, and that's one to the man, boot-black, valet and enthrout that he is. In

forward and grabbed his neck. "By the Lord," I cried, "I am in two minds to throttle you and make this place a grave for yourself! And, by George, I would have done it for two pins! He wriggled in my grasp, and I jerked him up and landed him on the surface.

"Look here, Hood," said I, releasing him, "I've known your bad qualities for ten years, and I've seen you do things that beat most things I've seen, but I haven't come to this, nor you, but I haven't, while I'm by."

"Very well," said he, like a lamb. "I'll fill it in." And he never said another word.

"I went back to the cave, but this time I was not going to sleep, for I would not trust that black devil any more than Beelzebub. A little after I took a sleepy fit on me, but I fought against it tooth and nail. I sat up, with my back to the rock, and looked out of that window, as you might call it, at the growing light. Of Hood I got no sign, and there I sat and yawned and swore and pinched myself to keep my eyes open until one by one the Greeks stirred about me, kicked their legs and opened their eyes. Then I knew that my vigil was over, and when Stamboulis got up, shook himself and went outside to look at the morning I reckon I fell asleep.

"I slept very heavily for an hour or two, for when I awoke the sun stood high in the heavens. But not a sign of

"A little," said I, "as you ought to know."

"Yes, sir; I forgot," said he, falling unconsciously into the old habit of a servant. "Well, suppose we rush for it, bow all's clear?"

"What's your game?" I asked.

"I've got a boat down by the Ray," he said, "and we can make for the channel."

"Well, it sounds good," I replied, "though it's risky. But the Greeks are all sailors, and we can manage at a shift."

"At that he looked rather strangely at me and was silent. He moved off the bushes; then he came back. "They sleep pretty sound," he said and again gave me an odd glance.

"What is it?" I asked, for I knew his ways and that there must be something underneath.

"The Greeks are a nuisance," he observed, watching me. "We can do well enough without them."

"I thought I began to see now, and said I. I am not in much need of them myself, but how can we give them the slip? We can't fetch out the cart and harness and get away without waking the whole brood."

"No," said he softly; "I wasn't thinking of that."

"Well, let's have it," said I.

"He stared at me a moment. "We don't want any evidence against us, and we don't want partners," he said.

"We don't," I agreed.

"There's another way out," he said, with his furtive eyes upon me, and said I. "I am not in much need of them myself, but how can we give them the slip? We can't fetch out the cart and harness and get away without waking the whole brood."

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