

# Servians May Release Adriatic Port

## Sir Edward Grey Seeks Moderation

### BALKAN LEAGUE SEEKS TO MAKE SEVERE TERMS

#### Porte Must Surrender Practically All of Eastern Turkey, Pay Heavy Indemnity and Pay Fiddler

LONDON, Dec. 16.—It is officially announced that the ambassadors of France, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary and Italy will, in the course of these "conversations," go over the whole ground of the status of European Turkey as a result of the war, including the questions of the interests of the great powers arising out of the change in the territorial situation. There is no fixed program, and efforts will be made to avoid touching on questions in regard to which some of the powers have taken up a fixed stand and which they do not consider to come within the scope of the discussions.

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## Ambassadors of the Nations to Meet

### Parleys Begin Today in British Capital

LONDON, Dec. 16.—It is officially announced that the ambassadors of France, Germany, Russia, Austria-Hungary and Italy will, in the course of these "conversations," go over the whole ground of the status of European Turkey as a result of the war, including the questions of the interests of the great powers arising out of the change in the territorial situation. There is no fixed program, and efforts will be made to avoid touching on questions in regard to which some of the powers have taken up a fixed stand and which they do not consider to come within the scope of the discussions.

## GOLSTON TO ACCOMPANY

### MME. BERNICE PASQUALI

#### Pianist Will Assist at the Call's Hammer Burning Ceremony

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traffic squad did not have to clear a way for the diva. The gay, bright face of a beautiful woman was sufficient to divide the hurrying throng, and was enough, too, to check the homeward rush. Many were late to dinner last evening because Pasquali discovered Lotta's fountain—but by the same grace there will be many early diners on Christmas eve, because Mme. Pasquali is to be at Lotta's fountain that night, so the balance will be preserved.

Mme. Pasquali's manager, Senor de Avigneau, was incredulous when the diva announced that she had discovered the bronze fountain before his eyes—had found the pinnacle of song.

#### TABLET IS READ

But he gallantly followed the singer to the foot of the fountain, from which song bursts so happily and spontaneously on Christmas eves.

"And this is it," exclaimed the singer as she examined the tablets in honor of Lotta Crabtree, the donor of the font, and of Mme. Tetrazini, whose song held enraptured tens of thousands at the fountain and the contiguous streets two years ago.

"Tell me all about Lotta," insisted the singer.

"She was an Undine and sprang from the earth, bringing the gift of water," explained De Avigneau merrily.

"I know better than that; she was a charming singer, I know. Tell me of her, please."

Something of the story of the California actress who charmed the early miners by the sweetness of her voice and her winsome personality was related to the splendid American singer of today.

Mme. Pasquali, the famous soprano from the Metropolitan opera house, the singer whose wonderful voice has charmed the most cultivated audiences of the world, was touched by the story of the California girl who faced the hardships and dangers of pioneer days that she might carry the brightness of her gift of song into the dreary, lonely mining camps of the California hills.

The situation of the fountain appealed to Mme. Pasquali. "I am sure," she said, "that the high buildings behind the singing stand will serve as a sounding board to carry my voice well into the streets. It will be a rare privilege to sing here in the streets of San Francisco, and I am impatient for Christmas eve."

#### CROWD PAUSES IN STREET

As a staff photographer took advantage of Mme. Pasquali's discovery of Lotta's fountain to immortalize the event in a print, the crowd in the street paused, attracted by the spectacle of the beautiful woman in her fur and silks paying her homage to the memories of Lotta's fountain, which too many San Franciscans pass carelessly by.

"But I love the crowds, the people," said the well-loved singer. And she laughed when newsboys schemed that they might be included in the group about the singer.

While Mme. Pasquali was discovering Lotta's fountain and the place where she will sing, the preparations for the great civic event, the burning of the hammer, went on without a quiver of remorse over the fate of the implement that is to be destroyed so thoroughly. Another artist, Golston, the famous pianist, has volunteered to play that evening, to add to the musical treat.

The platform from which Mme. Pasquali will sing will be erected at Lotta's fountain. John McLaren, superintendent of Golden Gate park, volunteered yesterday to aid in decorating the stand, and S. Sadler, proprietor of the Capital Decorating company, promised the flags that will contribute to the gaiety of the stand.

#### SPECIAL TRAINS FOR CEREMONY

The Southern Pacific, Western Pacific and Santa Fe Railroad companies announced yesterday that they will run excursion trains to San Francisco for the Christmas eve celebration and will give a special rate of one and one-third fare from any point in California to San Francisco. The tickets to be made good for 10 days. From tickets where 125 people will prepare for the trip special trains will be run by the Southern Pacific company.

#### YESTERDAY'S FIRE RECORD

Box 276, at 12:35 p. m., one story frame building at 30 Bird avenue, owned and occupied as dwelling by P. Adams. Loss to contents small, building none. Caused by can of tar boiling over.

#### CLOTHIER'S WIFE WINS SUIT

(Special Dispatch to The Call)  
SAN JOSE, Dec. 16.—Pretty Mrs. Irma Belshor, aged 26, was granted an interlocutory decree of divorce today following the recital of many acts of cruelty on the part of her husband, Manuel P. Belshor, the local clothier, whom she testified is in the neighborhood of 40 years of age. She asked for alimony, and announced that she was going to Los Angeles to live with her sister, Mrs. Ida B. Holoman.

#### NEUMAN SUBMITS REPORT

Comprehensive System of Highways Given by Engineer of San Mateo  
REDWOOD CITY, Dec. 16.—C. M. Morton of Stockton, an engineer who was employed by San Mateo county to assist County Surveyor J. V. Neuman in estimating the cost of a comprehensive system of highways throughout the county, submitted his report to the board of supervisors today.

A bond issue will be submitted to the people of the county at an early date, when the proposition of building the good roads will be definitely decided. The engineer's estimate recommends a bond issue of \$1,250,000.

## RAILROADS HELD

### TIDEWATER COAL MARKET IN GRIP

#### Justice Lurton Also Affirms That They Planned to Strangle All Little Operators

Continued From Page 1  
petition be removed, the monopoly which the defendants may exert over production and sale will be complete.

The justice considered the charge of a "general combination" to apportion output. Reliance was made, he said, in support of this charge on the conference of railroad presidents in 1906, when, it was averred, efforts were made to distribute the coal business upon the basis of the amount carried in previous years.

#### SCHEME PROVED ABORTIVE

"The weight of proof," declared Justice Lurton, "satisfies us that whatever might have been contemplated or attempted, the scheme proved abortive, or, if attempted, was abandoned long before the bill was filed."

Taking up the Temple Iron company feature of the case, the justice detailed how independent operators in the Wyoming region of Pennsylvania about 1898 pledged their tonnage to a new road to tidewater, and how the New York, Wyoming and Western Railroad company was "projected in good faith" on the strength of these pledges.

The eight collieries of the Simpson & Watkins firm were described as powerful factors in this project. He describes how, through the aid of J. P. Morgan & Co., the Temple Iron company was bought, converted into a holding company, its obligations guaranteed by the six railroads in proportion to their annual coal tonnage, and finally how the Temple purchased the property of the Simpson & Watkins firm.

The withdrawal of the support of this firm from the proposed railroad was held to have thwarted the road's construction.

#### EVIL IS IN COMBINATION

The court dealt with the argument that no injunction should be issued against the Temple company because the alleged strangulation of the projected road was a thing of the past.

"The evil is in the combination," declared Justice Lurton. "So long as the defendants are able to exercise the power thus illegally acquired, it may be most efficiently exerted for the continued and further suppression of competition. Through it, the defendants, in combination, may absorb the remaining output of independent producers."

"Without it the several groups of coal carrying and coal producing companies have the power and motive to compete."

He called attention to the fact that the railroad presidents were members of the Temple's board of directors, and said this relation afforded "the time, place and occasion for concert of action."

#### CONTROL 'INDEPENDENT' OUTPUT

The justice took up the contracts with the independents, referred to as the "65 per cent" contracts, because the railroads were to pay that percentage of the price of coal at tide-water to the "independents" for their coal. Justice Lurton declared it was "plainly developed" that these contracts were made by concert, and the "plain deduction" was that the contract was made to control the sale of the independent output.

Whether the department of justice will undertake further investigation of the coal situation has not been determined. The producers' complaints have been received alleging restraint of trade as being accountable for the high price of coal this winter in certain sections of the country. Action on these has been deferred pending the decision handed down today.

#### ELGIN BOARD TO FIX PRICE ON REAL VALUE

Organization Threatened by Government Reorganizes Butter Market Status After Row

ELGIN, Ill., Dec. 16.—In the most exciting annual meeting in its history, the Elgin Board of Trade today abolished the practice of fixing arbitrarily the price of butter by its quotation committee and adopted a plan to have the board itself determine the price, based on actual sales.

The action came as a result of the suit recently filed by the federal government for the dissolution of the board.

The reorganization of the board and the amendment to its rules was the culmination of a bitter fight for control of the organization waged for years between the committee or selling interests and the producers.

The commission men elected a board of five directors, abolished the quotation committee and made several important changes in the organization's methods. The producers' faction left the hall before the reorganization was effected and threatened to organize a rival board.

The other changes in the rules provide for the lowering of the quality standard of butter to score 92 points in summer months and 90 points in winter months. The present requirement is 93 points throughout the year.

Another change requires that all butter must be sold the same week in which it is made and that all prices are to be made from Elgin or Chicago instead of from the shipping point.

#### POLICEMAN'S SON IS OVERCOME BY REMORSE

Writes Letter to Father, Which Brings the Old Gentleman to Boy's Rescue

(Special Dispatch to The Call)  
FRESNO, Dec. 16.—Reading in the newspaper that his father and mother were worried as to his safety, the 15-year-old runaway son of Patrolman Bradley became remorseful yesterday and wrote a letter to his father, which resulted in his arrest last night in Kern, near Bakersfield.

The lad was brought to Fresno this morning by his father. He wrote in his letter that he left home because he did not like the way he was treated at school that he was earning \$1.50 a day and was getting along all right and that there was no cause for worry.

The letter was cleverly mailed on the train, so there was no postmark, but the Fresno policeman was able to ascertain the address.

## REGISTER FIRM

### RUINED RIVALS, SAYS WITNESS

#### Agent Testifies That Company Offered to "Buy Out" or Drive Out Competitors

CINCINNATI, Dec. 16.—The National Cash Register company offered to buy us out or drive us out of the business—there was no other alternative.

This was the testimony given today by A. L. Delkin and Fred N. Ladd, former partners in a cash register agency in Atlanta, in the trial of President John H. Patterson and other officials of the National Cash Register company.

Delkin testified the National company had offered his firm \$10,000 to stop selling machines made by opposition companies, and that he had been informed by the National agent it was always the policy of the National company to buy out or drive out all opposition.

Infringement suits were filed against the firm by the National company, according to the witness, and further threats to start a fight against the agency were made, but it was some time later, in 1906, that it was deemed advisable to sell out to the National.

On cross examination Delkin admitted advertising Hallwood machines at \$125, similar to Nationals that sold at \$350, but denied that it was a "knocker" machine put out by the opposition.

Preston McKinney, a Los Angeles publisher, testified that he was following an American Cash Register company's agent and had written a story about it.

J. A. Sundwald of Seattle, who began his testimony Friday, finished his cross examination at this morning's session.

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