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WILL BE FIRM

The Russian Reply Must Entirely Satisfy

Japan

TO PREVENT WAR

Any Proposition Made by Russia Will be Closely Scrutinized and Every Contingency Weighed—Character of the Forthcoming Note is Unknown—British Ambassador Did Not Say it Would be Satisfactory.

Tokio, January 30.—The government, it is said, does not possess any Russian information concerning the character of the forthcoming note, though it has received various reports the majority of which say the reply will be satisfactory. None, however, emanate from a source which warrants their full acceptance as correct. In the judgment of many just now, the character of the note does not warrant the belief that Count Lamsdorf, the Russian foreign minister has given out the slightest intimation of its contents. Even that carries little assurance, for the Russian and Japanese conceptions of what constitutes a fair bargain differ very materially.

The government of Japan does not anticipate the reception of the Russian reply for a few days. When it comes it will probably be considered by the throne in conference with the cabinet and elder statesmen. The presumption that Russia has made concessions does not in the least warrant the conclusion that there will be a peaceful settlement of the existing difficulties. Her entire proposition will be carefully scrutinized and every condition and contingency of the situation closely weighed. If the reply should prove to be completely unsatisfactory to Japan, the outcome of the conference is manifest. Should it give partial satisfaction an exchange of notes is possible, although there remains slight room for additional diplomacy.

London, January 30.—A dispatch to Reuters Telegram Company from St. Petersburg says the transportation of merchandise over the trans-Siberian railroad will be stopped after January 2nd, in order to leave the line open for the conveyance of troops and stores.

The dispatch adds that War Minister Kuropatkin will be appointed to command the Russian land forces in the event of war with Japan.

London, January 30.—The foreign office, referring to the cablegram from Minister Griscom at Tokyo to the state department at Washington said today:

The British ambassador at St. Petersburg did not express an opinion as to whether or not the Russian reply would be satisfactory to Japan.

St. Petersburg, January 30.—"It will be astonishing if Japan remains inflexible," were the significant words of an official of the foreign office to the Associated Press this afternoon in speaking of the Russian response to the Japanese proposals, which will be dispatched to Tokyo next week.

The remark was not intended to convey the idea that Japan necessarily will accept the full details of the Russian propositions, but rather if she is actuated by a sincere desire to preserve peace Russia will offer a reasonable basis in a modus vivendi.

Death of W. J. Bryan's Sister

Lincoln, Neb., January 30.—Miss Nannie Bryan, sister of William J. Bryan, died here at 1:30 this afternoon.

MRS. FLORENCE MAYBRICK

RELEASED FROM PRISON

London, January 31.—Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper says this morning that Mrs. Florence Maybrick, the American woman who was serving a life sentence for having poisoned her husband, was released from the Aylesbury female convict prison at 6:45 o'clock on the morning of January 25th, on special license. Her mother, the paper says, had visited her Saturday January 23rd, and evidently was the bearer of important news. The governor of the prison on Sunday conferred with the prison officials with a view to arranging for the departure of the prisoner, which was carried out very quietly.

Mrs. Maybrick, accompanied by one of the prison matrons entered a closed carriage and drove to Aylesbury station where she took a train for London. She drove from Euston station and from there went to a private house not far from the metropolis. She will remain there for a short period in order to recuperate and to await the completion of formalities which will

INTERVIEW WITH SEC. HAY

TALKS ON THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST.

And the Effect a War There Would Have on the Markets of This Country—Also Spoke About Colombia and Panama.

Thomasville, Ga., January 30.—Secretary of State John Hay, was this afternoon asked for a statement in regard to the rumored settlement of the war crisis in the Far East. "I never discuss matters of this kind away from Washington," he said, "but I do not think the information is definite enough to call for any formal expression of opinion at this time from me. It is probable that Japan has received the communication from Russia which is pointed to as the basis of the rumored settlement, and in the natural course of events it will not be known for a week or more whether the amended provision will meet Japan's approval. If one country determined to start a war of course war will be unavoidable. In international relations, it does not require two to make a quarrel, and aggressive action on the part of either of the parties at issue will naturally precipitate a conflict."

Mr. Hay was asked what effect on the cotton and wheat markets of this country a declaration of war in the east would produce and replied:

"I do not believe that it would have any effect whatever upon either the size of next season's crops or the prices these products will bring in the markets of the world."

"Do you think a Russo-Japanese war would increase the output or consumption of these commodities?"

"I do not think it would."

"I suppose you noticed in today's papers the announcement that Colombia proposes sending an expedition against Panama."

"Really, I never discuss matters of this sort away from Washington. I hope, however, that Colombia will realize that such an attempt must be useless and needless. The status of Panama is too well recognized to admit of its subject on now to Colombia."

Mr. Hay asked with quite a show of interest for the latest news from General Reyes and as to whether or not he was still in the country. The secretary referred to the position of certain southern newspapers favoring the Panama canal, and declared it the sensible view, as well as the best advised from a purely party standpoint.

"The state department," he said, "does not discuss any question."

"This branch of the government is considered from a national standpoint and its effect on the whole country interests."

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS.

Conference on the Bacon Resolution. No Decision Reached.

Washington, January 30.—The Democratic Senators were in conference for three hours today on the Bacon resolution, instructing the President to effect an adjustment of the claims of Colombia against the United States on account of the Panama revolt. A number of speeches were made, but no decision was reached, and it was announced that another meeting would be held next week.

Almost all the Senators present spoke, and general tendency of the remarks was more favorable to the treaty than on former occasions. All the speeches were favorable to a course looking to the conciliation of Colombia, and the feeling was expressed by a number of the speakers that an assurance of this course on the part of the United States would have the effect of securing the votes of a large majority of the Democratic Senators for the treaty.

The nearest approach to an agreement was on the Stone resolution, directing the Senate committee on foreign relations to make an investigation to determine the part played by the United States in the Panama revolution. There also was a feeling that there should be a cessation of speeches on the Panama question until replies are received to the resolutions of inquiry which already have been adopted.

Withdraws from Race for Governor.

Topeka, Kas., January 30.—Governor William J. Bailey today issued a statement withdrawing from the gubernatorial race. He stepped out, he says, because "it is apparent that the bitter factional fight that is now going on in the Republican party in Kansas is a menace to Republican success."

Fire Destroys Big Silk Mill.

Paterson, N. J., January 30.—Fire started by the explosion of chemicals in the large silk mill of Ashley and Bailey, employing 1,500 hands, destroyed the entire plant today. The loss is estimated at \$300,000, partly covered by insurance.

ONE SESSION

Decision of the House in the Mileage Problem

Problem

GREAT INTEREST

Was Manifested in the Determination of the Question and Several of the Representatives Took Part in the Discussion—The Urgent Deficiency Bill Was Passed Without Division.

Washington, January 30.—The House today voted unanimously to strike from the urgent deficiency bill the provisions for the second payment of mileage to the Senators and Representatives of this Congress and then passed the urgent deficiency appropriation bill. This action was the climax to an exciting discussion of the mileage problem begun yesterday, first on a point of order raised against the provision by Mr. Maddox of Georgia, then on a motion to strike out, made today by Mr. Underwood, of Alabama.

Argument on the point of order that it was not authorized by law turned on the question of whether this was the second session of Congress or merely a continuation of the session convened November 9th on the call of the President. Messrs. Fuller, of Illinois and Cooper, of Wisconsin, contended that there had been two sessions, while Mr. Parker, of New Jersey, insisted that because new senators had been given for meeting on December 7th, the status of the session which he held to be continuous, was not altered.

Mr. Littlefield supplemented his argument by reaffirming that there had been no interregnum between the two sessions. Mr. Tawney, of Minnesota, as chairman of the committee of the whole, in a carefully prepared opinion, overruled the point of order against the appropriation, saying the parliamentary question as to whether existing law authorized the payment of mileage was the point to be decided by him and the question as to whether the mileage should be paid was for the committee to decide.

An amendment by Mr. Grosvenor providing for the return of the mileage to the treasurer was agreed to and Mr. Underwood's motion to strike out the provision for mileage was adopted without a dissenting vote. The result was loudly cheered.

Deep interest was manifested in the determination of the question and there was but few absentees when the House convened.

During the debate Mr. Parker insisted that there was nothing to warrant the drawing of mileage for travel in 3,000 miles during the period that the clock was striking 12. He said that the House had talked of horses and carriages used by the several government departments and made the point that it would be inconsistent to allow a fictitious construction on the mileage item.

Mr. Livingston, of Georgia, called attention to the fact that the House on meeting December 7th had notified the President and Senate of its assent. Why that that done he inquired, if this was a continuous session.

Mr. Parker replied that it was desired to take every precaution, reaffirming his contention, however, that the House could not adjourn the November session without concurrent resolution.

Mr. Maddox said he should vote against taking mileage. He declared that Congress was duty bound to set examples of economy to the government departments.

On a viva voce vote Mr. Underwood's motion was declared lost but tellers were demanded.

Immediately both Republican and Democratic members arose and all started for the tellers. The scene provoked laughter and applause, and as the crowd in front of the speaker's desk grew denser there were demands to "call off the tellers and make it unanimous." When all had passed and been counted in favor of striking out the mileage, those opposed were asked to vote, but not a single member responded. There was more laughter and applause, and the chair announced that 167 votes had been cast in the affirmative and none in the negative.

The deficiency bill was passed without division just as it came from the committee of the whole.

A concurrent resolution accepting the status of James Marquette, missionary and explorer, and providing that it remain in statutory hall in the capitol, and extending the thanks of Congress to the people of Wisconsin was passed.

The House adjourned until Monday.

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GRIDIRON CLUB DINNER

BRILLIANT ASSEMBLAGE ENJOYS "ROASTS" OF THE CLUB.

Many Unique Features Were Designed—National and International Events Saturated and Barbed.

Washington, January 30.—The Gridiron Club entertained notable guests at the annual dinner given by this famous newspaper organization at the Arlington Hotel tonight. There were 235 present and in the large assembly were the President, members of the cabinet, diplomats, Senators and Representatives, army and navy officers and persons prominent in the business and literary world. Men whose names have figured in connection with the presidency, including the present chief executive, Hanna, Taft, Gorman, Cockrell and Francis, were present and enjoyed the clever satire and gridiron quips at the expense of themselves, as well as the many unique features buttequeing national and international events. From the time President Louis A. Cockidge welcomed the guests until the "Songs of Home" at midnight, there was an uninterupted flow of wit and merriment. There were clever skits, topical songs, good speeches and everything possible to make a dinner complete gridiron success.

The menu was a treaty for the establishment of the "Gridiron alimentary canal," in which a number of guests figured as the high contracting parties. Two new members were initiated, Scott C. Bone, of The Washington Post and N. O. Messenger, of The Washington Evening Star. They were compelled to appear as news boys, selling extra editions of their respective papers, which, upon examination by the committee, were found to contain startling information concerning many of the prominent guests present.

One of the most humorous features of the evening was the appearance of "Professor Stringer Stringing, Ventriloquist," with "dummies" who were named for Senators, cabinet officers and the President.

The answers, which these "dummies" made to various questions, provoked peals of laughter. For instance the "ventriloquist" asked:

"Arthur Pue Gorman, is it true that Bryan has come out for you for President?"

Gorman, "Dummy"—"No, Bryan is a friend of mine."

"Ventriloquist"—"David Bennett Hill have you heard that Grover Cleveland may be nominated for President?"

Hill—"Dummy"—"Which party?"

At one stage of the dinner a number of members opened up a "Jai Alai, the gridiron gambling hall," and the wheel of fortune which was operated in connection with the scheme produced some amazing results, both in relation to presidential candidates and other prominent men.

Different guests were asked questions during the dinner of which the following are samples:

"General Corbin—What would have been your present rank in the army if you had served as a doctor?"

"Judge Taft—You are to be sworn in as secretary of war on Monday. Have you yet taken the oath of allegiance?"

"Secretary Wilson—What would be the result of crossing the ball weevil with the Scotch highball?"

Among those who made speeches were President Roosevelt, Secretaries Root, Shaw and Wilson, Judge Taft, the German ambassador, Speaker Cannon, former Senator Carter and Senators Hanna, Gorman and Cockrell.

Among the guests were: President Roosevelt, Secretaries Root, Shaw, Wilson and Cortelyou, Postmaster General Payne, Governor Taft, of the Philippines, Associate Justice Day, United States Supreme Court; Senators Aldrich, Beveridge, Blackburn, Burdick, Chandler, Dyer, Duffell, Gallinger, Gorman, Hanna, Kearns, Long, a d Scit, Speaker Cannon and Representative Dwyer, Grosvenor, Hepburn, Tate, Howard and Tawney, Baron von Sternburg, the German ambassador, Major General Henry C. Bryan, Brigadier General Charles F. Humphrey, Lieutenant Colonel James S. Pettit, Rear Admiral John G. Walker and Winfield S. Schey, Captain William K. Brownson, Lieutenant Commander Knapp United States Navy, Geo. Geo. W. Boyl, Pennsylvania railroad, Cornelius N. Biss, New York; Milton B. Allen, Washington; Dr. Edward D. Bedell, Philadelphia; Pomeroy Burton, New York World; F. N. Barksdale, Pennsylvania railroad; Major John M. Burke, New York; Belvidere Brooks, superintendent Western Union Telegraph Company, New York; Thomas H. Carter, Montana, president government commission St. Louis exposition; Robert C. Cowry, President Western Union Telegraph Company; W. Murray Crane, Massachusetts; J. M. Culp, Southern railway; George H. Daniels, New York Central; Vernon M. Davis, New York Supreme court; Charles H. Doble, as assistant general manager Associated Press; H. Clay Evans, counsel general railroad; David R. Francis, resident St. Louis Exposition; H. W. Fuller, Chesapeake and Ohio railway; Robert Fulton, St. Louis; M. E. Gable, Pittsburgh Times; Clement A. Grace, American Steamship Company; S. H. Harwick, Southern railway; General George H. Harris, D. C. G. Magruder, H. H. Holmes, John H. Holmes, Brown Herald; William L. Fogarty.

(Continued on Page Seven.)

GOES TO WALL

A. B. Baxter and Company of New York Make

Assignment

LOST ON COTTON

The Company Controlled a Chain of 125 Offices Throughout the South. Violent Fluctuations in the Cotton Market Responsible—A Statement Given Out by Attorney for the Assignee.

Atlanta, Ga., January 30.—Following an order issued today by the New York office of A. B. Baxter & Co., cotton brokers, the local office of that concern posted a notice today stating that the Atlanta office had assigned. Nothing official could be learned here as to the reason for the suspension, but it is probably due to the sharp break in cotton yesterday. It was stated by the Atlanta manager that all trades made for the day and those pending would be settled at the close of the market today.

Baxter and Company had only recently bought out Murphy and Company, incorporated, one of the largest stock brokerage companies in the country and had reached a capitalization of \$100,000.

The notice of the failure created a sensation. The defaulters, who controlled a chain of 125 offices from New York to New Orleans.

New York, January 30.—A. B. Baxter and Company incorporated, have offices in this city, at 61 Broadway, where it was said the corporation did a general brokerage business in stocks, bonds and cotton. An assignment was made today for the benefit of the corporation's creditors. The company of which A. B. Baxter was president and Felix Lipp secretary, was incorporated in 1902.

John F. McIntyre, of Cantor, Adams and McIntyre, attorney for the assignee, says of the suspension that it results from the short interest in cotton held by a number of the firm's customers who failed to respond to calls for extra margins. The firm's embarrassment, Mr. McIntyre says, will probably be only temporary. He has no idea at this time of the liability.

The firm claims to have a capital of \$300,000 and has numerous branch offices throughout the south. It had extensive leased wire system.

Mr. McIntyre says that the corporation was not a member of any of the New York exchanges, but was represented on many out-of-town exchanges, including, he thinks, the Chicago board of trade and the New Orleans cotton exchanges. The corporation had over 100 branch offices, according to Mr. McIntyre, its \$300,000 of capital was actually paid in. He added that the liabilities are certain to exceed \$100,000, but he could not say how much beyond they may go. He said further that it will take twenty days in which to prepare schedules of their assets and liabilities.

New Orleans, January 30.—Unofficial announcement was made on the floor of the cotton exchange of the closing of the house of A. B. Baxter and Company here today. Baxter and Company is one of the largest commission houses in the country, with branches in many cities. The offices here were closed before noon. The violent fluctuations in the cotton market are said to be responsible for their trouble.

Baxter and Company is the firm which instituted the litigation here in the effort to prevent the New York and New Orleans cotton exchanges from cutting off their quotations. An injunction was issued and the Western Union Telegraph Company was forced to continue to serve customers throughout the country, even if those customers were unrepresented in either cotton exchange.

On the boards of the company here, the following notice was posted:

"A. B. Baxter & Company have as-

signed. All trades will be closed out at the close of the market today."

It is not supposed that the firm has lost much money here, but through the middle south, it is estimated that they have been losing \$100,000 a day for some time past, against the long side of the cotton market.

Birmingham, Ala., January 30.—The Birmingham office of Baxter and Company brokers and commission merchants, was closed today by orders from headquarters. The local manager was surprised at the step, but says he supposes it was due to their recent position on the cotton market. The firm did a large business here.

Newport News, Va., January 30.—John E. O'Donnell, local manager for A. B. Baxter and Company, closed his office shortly after noon today when notification of the failure was received from the home offices. The losses here are trivial.

Baleigh, N. C., January 30.—Shortly after the local offices of A. B. Baxter and Company closed here today orders from New York, the parties who had put orders with them here attached the funds in the bank, the amount being two thousand dollars.

MYSTERY OF LETTERS.

The Day's Developments in the Search for the Murderer of Miss Schaefer.

Bedford, Ind., January 30.—The court of inquiry investigating the Schaefer murder, today heard more evidence on the letters received by Miss Schaefer. One of the witnesses declared that doses of the after school closed at noon Miss Schaefer ran to her room for her mail, eagerly read the letters and immediately destroyed them.

Conductor Moore, of the Monon, told the detectives of a strange passenger he carried on his train which left Bedford for Louisville the morning after the murder. This passenger was a tall man, with steel gray eyes, and a reddish mustache. He seemed excited. This description fits the man who left the Park Hotel suddenly the morning after the murder.

The report of the Louisville expert who made an examination of the hairs found clutched in the hand of the dead girl, has been received here in official form for record. The expert finds that the hairs were torn from the head of a human being, no doubt, a man, who was white.

Indianapolis, Ind., January 30.—Indianapolis detectives are working today on the information obtained here by Sheriff Smith. The young man who was a friend of Miss Love, Miss Schaefer's room mate and who lives in a fashionable part of this city, has been closeted with the detectives today.

Dr. Emma Collop, a physician gave the detective some additional information today but she said it was not important. The detectives here are reticent concerning their interview with Dr. Collop. Captain Kinney said he sent men to investigate the clues given Sheriff Smith and he said it did not take long to satisfy the detectives that there was nothing in them.

ENGLAND FACES A CRISIS.

Parliament Soon to Meet, Will be One of Most Important in History of the Country.

London, January 30.—King Edward will open in full state, on February 2, what promises to be one of the most interesting and important sessions in the history of the British parliament. Every nation in the world is materially concerned in the decision that will shortly occur in the house of commons, and upon their result the future policy of the British empire must largely depend. No government of recent times has ever refaced the legislative under such altered conditions. Since parliament adjourned in last, not only has the cabinet been entirely reconstructed but the party lines have been completely broken. Seven distinct factions will take seats in the house of commons Tuesday.

In view of this complex state of affairs largely due to events since the last parliament met, the most acute politicians frankly confess themselves to be at sea. The Duke of Devonshire, Lord Avebury, Mr. Gaschen, Mr. John Gert, Lord George Hamilton, Lord Hugh Cecil, Winston Spencer Churchill and many others identified with the present party in power, will be Mr. Balfour's most bitter opponents the moment the fiscal question is raised. That will come quickly, for John Morley intends introducing an amendment to the king's speech on this point. It is possible though hardly probable that Mr. Morley may turn out the government. The debate is likely to take up several days.

A HORRIBLE CRIME AND

TRAGEDY IN ROANOKE

Roanoke, Va., January 30.—When George J. Shields, a well known young business man reached his home in the heart of the city at the luncheon hour today, he found his three year old daughter Mildred lying in a pool of blood on the reception hall floor with two ugly wounds on the head. Following blood stains from the dining room to an upstairs chamber he found his wife lying in pools of blood on a clothes closet floor, with her throat cut from ear to ear and her head horribly hacked. Mrs. Shields managed to gasp "a large black negro man came through the kitchen and attacked me in dining room." Besides this there is no clue to the criminal.

Mrs. Shields had been outraged after which her assailant dealt her several blows on the head with a hatchet, fracturing the skull, dragged her upstairs, where he cut her throat with a razor and threw her into the closet,

fastening the door on the outside. The little girl was struck to hush her cries. The dining room door was covered with blood and showed there had been a terrible struggle. The doctors entertain but slight hopes for the recovery of either the mother or child.

Ever since the discovery of the tragedy a large crowd of citizens has been in the vicinity of the city jail watching to see if the officers carry anyone into the building. At 5 o'clock tonight this crowd numbered more than 1,000 men. Mayor Cutchin has ordered Captain Francis, of the Roanoke Blues military company, to assemble his men as a precautionary measure.

By order of the mayor, all the saloons were closed at 8 o'clock tonight.

While Judge John Wood of the corporation court was pleading from the jail steps with the throng in the street to preserve order, some one in the crowd hurled a beer bottle at him. The missile barely missed its mark. At 11 o'clock the crowd had dispersed.