

JAPAN TO MAKE LAST ATTEMPT AT SETTLEMENT

Russia's Terms as Presented it is Decided Cannot be Accepted.

OFFICERS OF STATE END CONFERENCE

Situation Grave--Even Most Conservative Press Says it is Time to Act.

Tokio, Dec. 17.—A conference of the elder statesmen and cabinet ministers resulted, according to a semi-official statement, in a determination to present a strong front to Russia in view of the latter's unsatisfactory reply to Japanese proposals.

Another report says it is understood, although the Russian reply was considered highly unsatisfactory, the conference decided to make another and probably last attempt to arrive at a friendly settlement.

The situation is considered grave, and even the most sober section of the Japanese press declare it is high time for action.

OPPOSITION TO THE CUBAN BILL STRONG

Passed Last Evening—Senators Hoar and Foraker in a Tilt.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The Cuban reciprocity bill, which gives force and effect to the commercial treaty between the United States and Cuba, was passed by the senate last evening by a vote of 57 to 18. Nine democrats—Bacon and Clay, of Georgia, Cockrell and Stone, of Missouri, Simmons and Overman, of North Carolina, Blackburn and McCreary, of Kentucky, and Gorman, of Maryland, voted "aye" on the passage of the bill. One republican—Bard, of California—voted in the negative.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The president signed the Cuban reciprocity bill a few minutes before 1 this afternoon.

Washington, Dec. 17.—In the senate today during the debate on the Hoar resolution calling upon the president for such information as may be in his possession relative to the state of the republic of Panama and the treaty that country negotiated, there was a lively controversy between Hoar and Foraker. The latter claimed Hoar's speech should have been made in closed session because it criticized the president. Hoar said Foraker misrepresented him, saying the president had not disclaimed knowledge of the revolution on the isthmus, and this information was what he sought.

In the course of Gorman's speech in reply to the question, he said the democrats would vote against the canal treaty if it is necessary to save the honor of the country.

JUDGE HUTCHINSON DEAD. DEMISE OF MRS. ANGELL

Chicago, Dec. 17.—Judge Jonas Hutchinson, of the superior court, died here today of heart failure.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Dec. 17.—Mrs. James B. Angell, wife of the president of the University of Michigan, died at her residence here today of pneumonia after a brief illness.

MORRELL HAS GRIEVANCES

Which He Looks Upon as Worth About \$75,000 of the Money of Two Other Men.

Chicago, Dec. 17.—Two damage suits for a total of \$75,000 filed in the circuit court by Herbert H. Morrell against Charles J. Morrison and Attorney Lee D. Mathias. The suits are the outgrowth of trouble that arose between Morrell and Morrison in connection with the management of the Bankers' Consolidated Home Safe com-

Says Miners Must Bow to Operators Or Become Exiles From the State

Salt Lake City, Utah, Dec. 17.—Gov. Wells gave out a remarkable interview yesterday after being closeted with President Kramer, of the Utah Fuel company, who is directing the fight against the miners. In this statement, which has aroused the anger of workmen all over the state,

pany, of which Morrison is president and Morrell treasurer. In a suit for \$50,000 damages against Morrison and Mathias, Morrell charges them with malicious prosecution. He alleges he was advised by Morrison to sign notes for \$12,000 in order to have it appear upon the books of the company, of which they are officers, that the capital stock was fully paid. He declined to do this, and was arrested in Minneapolis upon a fugitive warrant, Morrison was brought to Chicago and upon a hearing the charges of embezzlement and obtaining money by false pretenses before Justice Cavely he was discharged. He was re-arrested Saturday night upon the same charges, he declares, and the case continued before Justice Martin for ten days. In a \$25,000 damage suit against Attorney Mathias, Morrell declares that the latter told his bondsmen and his attorney, Azel F. Hatch, that he was not to be trusted.

NOT NECESSARILY SO DARING

Seems That There Was Nothing To Be Afraid of for an Hour or so.

Indianapolis, Dec. 17.—One of the most daring safe robberies in the history of the police department occurred in the office of the Star elevator. The robbers worked for an hour and exploded seven charges of dynamite. Three men stood guard with drawn revolvers, while three others ran in and out of the place, attaching the fuses. The heavy explosions raised the roof of the building from its foundation. Terrified people in the neighborhood stood at a distance and watched the operations of the robbers, who finally became discouraged at their repeated failure to reach the inside of a burglar-proof strong box inside the safe, left a few minutes before the police arrived. Only a small sum of money was taken.

MURDER OF A DEPUTY SHERIFF

Riverhead, L. I., Dec. 17.—William H. Rafford, a deputy sheriff, and warden of the county jail here for more than fifteen years, was shot dead by A. Tuttle Reeves, at Aqueduct, a village three miles from here. Rafford had gone to serve an execution upon Reeves, who has for years had the reputation of being very eccentric. The murderer after killing Rafford, fortified his house and defied arrest.

ADJOURNMENT IN SIGHT

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 17.—The state board of equalization will adjourn probably a week from today. Dr. Barnes, chairman of the capital stock committee, has been called to Chicago by the serious illness of his daughter, Mrs. Edna Jones. Chairman Hopkins, of the general equalization committee, is away. The assessing of corporations and railroads is finished.

Plea of Guilty Saves His Life

Buffalo, Minn., Dec. 17.—Thomas May, who murdered his uncle, Martin May, of Montrose, in September, and who was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of murder in the first degree, has pleaded guilty of murder in the second degree and has been sentenced to imprisonment for life.

APPEAL AGAINST "TOD" SLOAN

Paris, Dec. 17.—The stewards of the French Jockey club have entered an appeal in the case of "Tod" Sloan, the jockey who obtained a verdict of costs against the Jockey club in his suit for \$40,000 damages for being warned off the turf.

SUPREME COURT ADJOURNS

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 17.—The supreme court has adjourned the December term and today 150 opinions were made public, including a number of important cases.

Practically Seared to Death

Columbus, O., Dec. 17.—"Doctor" J. F. Eckelberry, aged 58, is dead under peculiar circumstances. On Sunday Eckelberry and James Stone, aged 58, were out carousing together, after which the former gave Stone some medicine to relieve him from the effects of drink. That night Stone died, and while the coroner rendered a verdict of death from excessive drink Eckelberry was told that threats had been made against him to Stone's sons. The matter so worried him that he committed suicide.

M'KNOWEN GUILTY

Took Money While Treasurer of University of California.

HAD AN INCOME OF HIS OWN

But Stole Other Funds to Put Up on His Favorite Horses.

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 17.—W. A. McKowen, secretary of the board of regents of the State university, has confessed to President Benjamin Ide Wheeler that he is a defaulter to the amount of \$20,000 and possibly more. Most of the money was lost at the race track. McKowen has been suspended by President Wheeler and placed under arrest by the local authorities. Secretary McKowen's arrest followed the discovery that he had attempted to pay a racing debt with a check made out to him personally by Mrs. Phoebe Hearst.

Paid It to a Bookmaker

This check was for \$1,100, and was handed over by McKowen to a bookmaker, John Davis, in payment of markers on the races for \$1,120. Davis gave McKowen \$40 in change and deposited the check in the Western National bank, from which it turned up to expose the affair. President Wheeler said: "I have suspended McKowen from office pending the action of Governor Pardee, who is president of the board of regents and has placed the office in charge temporarily of my private secretary, Victor Henderson.

Been at It for Five Years

"From what we have thus far learned it appears that McKowen at different times since 1898 has used sums of money that came into his hands, and instead of depositing them with the treasurer either as fees or donations of the university has appropriated them to his own use. He covered this up, as far as we know, by taking corresponding amounts from university funds by charging them as expenditures under the head of one or the other university funds. "He says he has not falsified his bookkeeping by making false entries or in any other way. So far as we know in this fiscal year the loss amounts to \$4,200.

Couldn't Get Along on \$2,400 a Year

"The total amount we do not know. He said he thought it would be \$20,000 or more. He had spent it on the race track." President Wheeler spoke highly of McKowen's personality, and was visibly affected in telling how his trust had been betrayed. McKowen has been in the university about twenty years, is unmarried and about 40 years of age. His salary was \$2,400 a year.

SAYS RIVALS IN BUSINESS DID IT

Investigation to be Made of Cause of Fatal Fire at Braidwood.

Joliet, Ill., Dec. 17.—Joseph Messersmith, of Braidwood, Ill., whose home and place of business were destroyed by fire Monday, in which his wife and daughter and an employe were cremated, declares that the buildings were fired by his business enemies for revenge. He will ask for an official investigation. Messersmith recently opened a meat market and cut prices, arousing bitter opposition.

NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF SWITZERLAND

Berlin, Dec. 17.—M. Comtesse, member of the bundesrath from Neuchatel, and M. Ruech, a member from De Vaud, were today elected, respectively, president and vice president of Switzerland.

IOWA BANK CRACKED AND \$1,000 MADE AWAY WITH

Garden City, Iowa, Dec. 17.—The bank here was dynamited last night by three men, who secured \$1,000.

Charged with a Brutal Murder

Bonford, Ind., Dec. 17.—The murder case of Joseph Weeks, son of a wealthy man, and his wife, Cora Weeks, charged with killing Mrs. Susanna Ireland, the aged mother of Mrs. Weeks, is on trial here. The murder was mysterious. Mrs. Ireland lost her life in a room of a building in Bonford where the Weeks' made their home. It was reported that Mrs. Ireland had committed suicide. They both say Mrs. Ireland shot herself, but know no reason for the deed.

Notifies a "Tendency to Evade"

Referring to the Tulloch charges Conrad and Bonaparte says: "The tendency to evade answering these charges evinced by those replying to the postmaster general's request for such answers is illustrated very forcibly by the charges against Perry S. Heath, former assistant postmaster general, which have been heretofore

AGREE UPON SETTLEMENT

Philippine Friars Ask \$7,210,000 in Gold.

FOR THEIR PROPERTY

Governor Taft Concludes Long Period of Negotiating.

Manila, Dec. 17.—The friars have agreed to sell their lands in the Philippines for \$7,210,000 in gold. This agreement was reached between Gov. Taft and the friars last night, after long and tedious negotiations continuing for more than three years.

The friars have been the most serious obstacle to the complete pacification of the islands Gov. Taft has encountered during his administration.

At Odds With Filipinos

The Filipinos have steadfastly refused to recognize the friars, whose acts of repression during the Spanish regime made them the particular object of native animosity. The Filipinos accused the Spanish friars of extortion, immorality, laziness and persecution. With the downfall of Spanish rule the friars were compelled to flee to Manila for personal safety. They have not since ventured to return to the lands they have claimed to own.

SMITH AND HEATH HIT

Conrad and Bonaparte Report on Their Examination.

OF BRISTOW'S FINDING

Explanations Made Declared Not Satisfactory.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The report of Conrad and Bonaparte on their examination of the Bristow report in the postoffice scandal insofar as that report generally, but nonconcerns as to certain passages, and recommendations for publication of the report. It suggests that the Bristow report should note how gravely the statute of limitations has interfered with the punishment of notorious offenders exposed in the report, and suggests that the statute term be lengthened to at least five years. They also say that the omission of the names of members of congress come in as part of the history of cases was in their judgment wrong, while exception is taken to Bristow's reference to Consul Baldwin at Nuremberg, as "probably knowing as much about this fraud as any other party."

Good Word Also for Christianity

Conrad and Bonaparte say that while his connection needs explanation he is fairly entitled to a suspension of judgment until he has had the opportunity to explain, as he is a man of good reputation. They also object to the inclusion of the name of G. A. C. Christianity, the law clerk recently allowed to resign, in a passage in the Bristow report that speaks of "the administrative methods of Tyner, Barrett and Christianity," etc. They say that inasmuch as the acceptance of Christianity's resignation was recommended after a full inquiry he is entitled to the benefit of an exoneration from all suspicions of willful official misconduct by intimating that his methods were the same as Tyner's and Barrett's.

Referring to the Tulloch Charges

Conrad and Bonaparte says: "The tendency to evade answering these charges evinced by those replying to the postmaster general's request for such answers is illustrated very forcibly by the charges against Perry S. Heath, former assistant postmaster general, which have been heretofore

Continued on Page Eight.

CROWD AT LEEDS

Greets Chamberlain, Who Speaks to Large Audiences on the Tariff Matter.

MRS. CHAMBERLAIN WITH HIM

Divides the Honors with Her Husband—Formulation of a Tariff Bill.

Leeds, Dec. 17.—Joseph Chamberlain addressed two immense audiences here, making the last speeches of his fiscal campaign for the present year. From the moment of Chamberlain's arrival at Leeds the enthusiasm was tremendous, and many demonstrations were made in the streets. The appearance of Chamberlain on the platform, accompanied by Mrs. Chamberlain and a number of the north country



MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, FROM A NEW PHOTOGRAPH.

gentry and members of the house of commons, was the signal for an ovation which continued for many minutes. The first speech was made in the Coliseum, and was listened to by 3,500 persons, and a similar number attended the overflow meeting held afterwards in the town hall, which was altogether inadequate to accommodate the great crowd seeking admission.

Committee to Look for Facts

The feature of Chamberlain's speech at the Coliseum was his announcement of the fact that he was engaged in getting together a committee to make inquiries among the various branches of trade at home and abroad, the work of which committee, he expected, he said, will result in clearing away many difficulties. The committee will consist of about thirty business men of the highest standing, who will begin from all centers of industry, both in the United Kingdom and in the colonies. Subcommittees will be formed to deal with each branch of trade and to take exhaustive evidence, meeting twice weekly until their work is finished.

Will Formulate a Tariff Bill

When the reports are completed Chamberlain said he expected to be in a position to formulate a tariff bill acceptable to the country, which will not only foster imperial trade but which will enable Great Britain to give trade advantages to those who are prepared to tender her similar favors.

AT THE PARTING OF THE WAYS

John Bull Must Not Lose His Chance Now, Chamberlain Says.

The rest of Chamberlain's speech was largely a repetition of his former arguments. He said he had been blamed for saying that preferential trade with the colonies would mean an addition to the cost of living. In answer to this Chamberlain quoted a letter from Charles Booth, of the firm of Alfred Booth & Co., Liverpool, in which Booth said that he did not think Chamberlain's proposals would add to the cost of living, but that even if they did that fact would not, in Booth's opinion, detract from the merits of the said proposals, which, if carried out with reasonable prudence, would undoubtedly conduce to the national and imperial prosperity.

Chamberlain said the country was now at the parting of the ways, and posterity would never forgive the government if it lost the slightest chance of securing what was actually needed by the nation. It was not a question of party policy, he said, and while it was not free trade it was a near approach to it. Chamberlain spoke sarcastically of the "tree feeders," who, he said, had gone to the bottom of an inclined plane with the home rulers and the little Englanders, and he wished them joy in their company.

Referring to Tuesday's elections in Lewisham and Dulwich, Chamberlain said that even the Duke of Devonshire's encyclical did not possess pontifical authority. In conclusion Chamberlain said he advocated "the splendid isolation" of the mother country and her colonial children as a family, standing together through good and through ill. This might be a dream, said Chamberlain, but they had the power to make it a reality.

All the news all the time — The Argus.

FORCE OF COLOMBIANS ON THE GULF OF DARIEN

Cruiser Atlanta Returns With First Definite News of Advance on Panama.

BUSY WITH MEASURES OF DEFENSE

Energetic Protest Against Presence of American Warship Made by Commander.

Colon, Dec. 17.—The United States cruiser Atlanta, Commander Turner, returned here last night from the Gulf of Darien. She discovered Dec. 15 a detachment of Colombian troops numbering virtually about 500 men, but according to their statements totaling about 1,500 or 2,000 men at Titumal, on the western side of the gulf just north of the mouth of the Atrato river. The commander of the Atlanta sent ashore an officer, who conversed with the Colombian commander.

The latter protested energetically against the presence of the American warships in Colombian waters, inasmuch as war between Colombia and the United States had not been declared. He politely requested the Atlanta to leave the gulf because it belonged to Colombia. Commander Turner ignored the request, and the Atlanta returned to Colon to report to Rear Admiral Coghlan.

Preparing a Defense

The Colombians were clearly busy with protective strengthening measures. Although they treated the Americans courteously, they decidedly resented the presence of the Atlanta's landing party. The Colombian force was composed partly of men landed recently at Atrato river by the Colombian cruisers Cartagena and General Pinzon.

Camp Well Provisioned

During the conference with the Colombians, the officers of the Atlanta observed the Colombians' camp, which appeared to be well provisioned and probably destined to be used as a base of operations. Gen. Ortiz, commander-in-chief of the Colombian forces, and others freely expressed the determination of Colombia to fight to the bitter end in case Gen. Reyes' visit to Washington is not successful and Panama is not returned to Colombia.

HAVING TROUBLE IN BIG TUNNEL

Water Drives Workmen Out of Highway Under East River.

New York, Dec. 17.—Serious difficulty is being encountered in the construction of the new East river tunnel from the Battery to Brooklyn owing to the nature of the river bed at that point. About ten days ago a leak about 300 feet from the shore drove the workmen from the tunnel. Air compressors were set to work to expel the water, but the air pressure has found an escape nearer shore, seriously weakening the pile foundation of one of the ferry slips.

When the pressure is high, it is said, a geyser of water boils up beneath the ferry house, and a large part of the flooring of the house, which settled from two to four inches, has been raised to prevent ferry passengers from congregating there.

GENERAL BLACK TENDERED OFFICE

President Roosevelt Offers Him Civil Service Commissioner-ship.

Washington, Dec. 17.—The president has tendered the position of civil service commissioner made vacant by

Sheriff Finds One Gang of Robbers

While He is Searching For Another

the death of John R. Proctor to Gen. John C. Black, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army.

JURY ACQUITS ANDERSON OF CHARGE OF ASSAULT

Henry Anderson, of Moline, was acquitted by a jury in the county court this morning of a charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

A verdict was reached after the jury had been out two hours. The trial of the case consumed seven days. The case resulted from one of the numerous tilts between union and nonunion molders during the strike that has been on for months in the factories of Moline.

Anderson, who is a teamster for Williams, White & Co., boarded a number of strikers at the shops of the company by which he is employed.

One evening a number of the strikers followed some of the nonunion workmen to the Anderson house after they had left the shops to go for their supper. Anderson, fearing the strikers were bent on an attack on his home fired three revolver shots, for the purpose, he declares, of frightening the strikers and attracting the attention of the police. He said as he opened the front door of his home a rock grazed his body. He supposed it was thrown by one of the union men. He said he had no intention of shooting any one, and came a long way from hitting any member of the crowd.

The story of the strikers was that they had been looting in the vicinity of the Williams, White & Co. factory for the purpose of getting a glimpse of the men taking their positions when the latter quit work, and that they trailed after them when they started for their boarding house, but deny that they made any threats or in any way acted in a manner to justify Anderson's assault.

State's Attorney H. A. Weld and C. J. Seidle prosecuted and W. A. Meese and G. A. Shalberg defended.

MEMBER OF KNOX COUNTY BAR KILLED BY TRAIN

Galesburg, Ill., Dec. 17.—J. L. Welles of Maquon, a member of the Knox county bar, was run over by a train here last night and decapitated. He was one of the oldest attorneys in the state.

COAL SHAFT AT CHATHAM BURNS WITH BIG LOSS

Virden, Ill., Dec. 17.—The Chicago-Virden Coal company's shaft at Chatham, Ill., was totally burned today. The loss may reach \$100,000.

NO MONEY IN THAT ACTION

Marie Correll Gets Half a Cent Damaged and Has to Pay Her Own Costs in a Libel Suit.

Birmingham, England, Dec. 17.—Marie Correll, the novelist, has been awarded half a cent damages, each side to pay its own costs, in a libel suit brought by her against the proprietor of the Stratford-on-Avon Herald in connection with a recent controversy in which Miss Correll opposed the erection of a Carnegie library, on the ground that it involved a desecration of Shakespeare's birthplace. The alleged libel consisted in a statement that Miss Correll desired to erect a library at the same place. The case attracted considerable attention, and the court was crowded, many fashionable people being present. Miss Correll testified in her own behalf for two hours, and emphatically denied that she ever intended to erect a library.