

DEATH IN ITS TRAIL

A Tornado Causes Terrible Havoc in the South.

THE LOSS OF LIFE NOT YET KNOWN

Fourteen Killed and 150 Injured at Birmingham, Ala.

GREAT PROPERTY DAMAGE

Vague Reports of Disaster Received From Other Points in the Storm's Path—Authorities Taking Measures to Prevent Acts of Vandalism.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 25.—A tornado swept up this valley a little before noon today and cut a path 150 yards wide through a part of the city. Two hundred houses were wrecked. Fourteen persons in this city were killed and about 150 injured. Of the latter several will die.

Reports from the surrounding country will swell the total of casualties considerably. Smaller places in the path of the storm suffered terribly.

At 2:30 o'clock this morning a huge black cloud was seen rolling eastward by the citizens living on the South Highlands, a residence portion of the city. The sky darkened quickly and a fear of a downpour people sought their homes to escape the rain. Then was heard a crackling noise, like a fast freight train on a down grade, and the tornado was upon the city.

It was in a spiral form and cut a path just about 150 yards wide. It dipped and seemed to take every other house. After the wind had passed over the rain began falling in torrents. Trees and all wires, poles, posts, and other things were swept away like feathers.

As soon as the storm had passed over the valley the work of relieving the injured began. A general fire alarm was turned in, though there was no fire, and the entire police force was summoned. The fire department went to work under Chief J. T. Mullin, getting the dead and injured out from under the debris.

TWO HUNDRED HOMES WRECKED.

The storm destroyed more than two hundred homes, the greater part of which were occupied by negro families. Dr. G. C. Chapman, a prominent physician, alighted from his buggy, seeing the heavy clouds and went into Miner's grocery store on the Highlands, to escape the drenching rain. The store was torn down and the doctor was killed, as was W. P. Dickinson, who was with him.

Dr. R. V. Mobley, another physician, was on the Highlands responding to a call when the wind came along and picked his horse and buggy up and tumbled them over and over. The doctor lies in a precarious condition.

The home of the Hon. Robert J. Love, State Chairman of the Democratic party, was shattered like an eggshell. His wife and infant son were killed instantly. The residence of Prof. Frederick L. Grambs was torn apart and his wife and mother-in-law hurt. The fire department rescued Mrs. W. H. Thomas, mother of a prominent real estate agent, from the ruins of her home. She died later.

RECAUTIONS AGAINST VANDALISM.

Mayor W. M. Drennen was on the scene shortly after the storm, and immediately established headquarters in the stricken part of the city. The military companies were called out and a guard placed over that territory to prevent depredations. The following is the list of dead:

- MR. G. C. CHAPMAN. Dr. R. V. Mobley, collector of Mutual Benefit Association; F. M. Baker, Dr. G. C. Chapman, president commission merchant; W. P. DICKINSON, relative of Dr. Chapman; MRS. W. H. THOMAS; J. ALEXANDER, grocery merchant; NEGRONS; F. M. BIRD, collector of Mutual Benefit Association; MRS. MAGGIE BLEVINS; CARRIE HUBSON; LEZIE GOODLOE; F. STEADHILL; LEZIE GREEN; Dallas carpenter, colored; The fatally hurt are: Mrs. D. D. McLaughlin, Mrs. R. P. Thomas, Mrs. J. Ferguson, Mrs. Myles, Prof. Grambs' mother-in-law, and Carrie Elin, colored.

THE COURSE OF THE STORM.

The storm did not strike the St. Vincent Hospital, which stands on a little hill just in front of the valley through which the storm passed. Had this gone down there would probably have been 200 or 250 more killed and wounded. From Birmingham the storm swept on to Ironville, six miles east of the city, where it continued to play havoc. Twenty-five buildings, including a big brick store, were demolished. In the store were four white men and W. G. Gardner, a negro carpenter, who was killed outright. Murck Triplett, Clay Gore, and Will Gardner were fatally hurt. Two negro children of Clarence Hunter were also killed at Ironville, while a dozen whites and blacks were more or less hurt.

At Cleveland, a suburb three miles west of the city, the storm tore down fences and uprooted trees. Mrs. George Hall was struck by lightning and instantly killed.

At Pratt City, North Birmingham, Enley, Green Springs, Avondale, Woodlawn, and Gate City, suburbs, the wind tore off roofs and destroyed out-houses.

A mass meeting has been called for tomorrow at noon when the matter of re-

moving those in need will be taken up. Mayor Drennen, with his forces, are in the stricken part of the city, dealing out food and rations to those in need. The mayor gave out a statement this afternoon, saying that it would be definitely decided tomorrow at the mass meeting whether or not help from outside will be requested.

He says that not less than 2,000 people are affected by the storm. Ten blocks in the city were passed over by the storm, and of this number five of them are totally destroyed.

The militia and police tactics are preventing any thieving and other depredations in the stricken districts.

SMALLER TOWNS HIT OFF. It is impossible to hear anything from Weems and Trussville, small places fifteen miles east of the city. It is rumored that a dozen people have been killed in those places. The telegraph companies have no wires to that point and messengers could not be waited.

The mayor of the city, late this afternoon, stated that he had information that there were fourteen dead in the city proper, and one hundred and fifty injured, several of whom could not possibly recover. He said that as far as he could see, and from the indications of the response to be made by the citizens tomorrow, he is of the opinion that those who have been stricken will get assistance as much as is necessary at home. It is impossible tonight to figure up the damage done to property by the storm. Pratt City, a mining suburb, had a double experience with the storm. At 1 o'clock the wind struck there and tore off the roofs of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company's commissary and several other buildings.

Three hours later the storm returned and wiped up a dozen buildings and unroofed the new high school building and nearly every church in the place. No one was killed, though several were severely injured.

The city has been flooded all day with telegraph messages, making enquiry as to the safety of relatives.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 25.—A tornado passed through Florence and Darlington Counties late this evening. Its extent cannot be ascertained tonight, but passengers on incoming trains report that lives and houses in the path of the wind were leveled.

Mr. and Mrs. George McCown were crushed in their home, near Darlington. Many negro cabins were destroyed.

DAMAGE DONE IN GEORGIA.

A Train Blown From the Tracks by the Tornado.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., March 25.—The tornado which swept over this section and which was most felt at Birmingham, Ala., today, played havoc down the line of the Chattanooga, Rome and Southern Railway.

Just below Rome, Ga., at Silver Creek and Lindale, the damage was great. Thousands of feet of telegraph and telephone wires are down, cattle killed, and a number of people reported killed and injured. Farms, houses, mills, and other buildings were blown away and railroad traffic delayed.

The extent of the damage cannot be accurately ascertained, as communication has not been restored.

COLUMBUS, Ga., March 25.—A tornado struck a Central of Georgia passenger train two miles below Buena Vista, Ga., this afternoon and blew it from the track.

The engine was derailed and several cars were turned over on an embankment. The train was traveling fifteen miles an hour. No one was killed and there were only a few slight injuries among trainmen and passengers.

At Casseta, Ga., a church was blown down.

SNOW STORMS IN THE WEST.

Many Trans-Continental Trains Blocked in Nebraska.

OMAHA, March 25.—A dozen trans-continental trains on the various lines in Nebraska are snowbound tonight and several hundred southbound passengers for New York and intermediate points are indefinitely delayed. The roads hope to get the trains moving by tomorrow.

Trenton, Pa., March 25.—A heavy snow-storm has caused considerable discomfort, and delayed trains, but they will all be running on time in a short while, and then the people of the West will be smiling because the ground has received such a good drenching from the melting snow.

The heaviest snow reported to the railways at this city was at Deadwood, where it averaged thirty inches on the level, and drifted in places fifty feet deep. Along the line of the Elk Horn and Burlington to the northwest there was a great deal of sand mixed with the snow, which caused more trouble than the snow did, as it was heavier to move.

The Elk Horn train which left Omaha Saturday got through to Deadwood before it had encountered the worst part of the storm, but it was twelve hours late. Train No. 15, which left Omaha and Missouri Valley on Sunday afternoon, did not try to get further west than Long Pine, where it started back.

On this line the track between Long Pine and Chadron was blocked all of Sunday and during last night, but it was expected that it will be opened this afternoon.

THE LUNCH OF THE SHAMROCK II.

LONDON, March 25.—A Glasgow despatch says that a lunch has been provisionally fixed on for the launch of the Shamrock II. for the yards of Denny Brothers.

PRESSURE FROM THE CZAR

An Emphatic Refusal of China's Appeal for a Delay.

The Time for the Signing of the Manchurian Agreement Not Extended—Viceroys Urge Rejection of the Treaty—American's Position.

LONDON, March 25.—A despatch to the "Times" from Peking says that M. De Giers, the Russian Minister, has returned with an emphatic refusal of a copy of a telegram from the Czar imploring an extension of the term for the signing of the Manchurian Convention and the further amendment thereof.

SHANGHAI, March 25.—The Viceroys are still vigorously opposing the ratification of the Russo-Chinese convention regarding Manchuria. The Viceroys of Canton and Nanking are leading the opposition.

The mayor of the city, late this afternoon, stated that he had information that there were fourteen dead in the city proper, and one hundred and fifty injured, several of whom could not possibly recover. He said that as far as he could see, and from the indications of the response to be made by the citizens tomorrow, he is of the opinion that those who have been stricken will get assistance as much as is necessary at home.

As a final concession, before the expiration tomorrow of the time limit fixed by Russia for the signing of the Manchurian Treaty, the Russian Government has, the Chinese Minister at St. Petersburg telegraphs, expunged Article VI, which deprived China of foreign military and naval instruction in the northern provinces.

PEKING, March 25.—At the memorial and burial services of the missionaries massacred at Pootung-fu, which occurred on Saturday and Sunday, an organization of the highest Chinese officials was formed to entertain the foreigners attending.

They acted as hosts, provided food, and attended the ceremonies. With hundreds of others of Chinese they made oblation in honor of the dead. They also bore the expense of the burial. French and German bands and two or three Chinese bands were present, besides detachments of troops and the several foreign commanders. The Catholics contributed flowers and shrubs, and as the scene of the ceremonies was some distance from the city they erected booths along the route from which they served tea to those taking part in the procession.

The new troubles which have come to China and Korea have excited intense interest in Government circles, but it was not believed until yesterday that the United States would be drawn into them in any way. American official concern in the agreement between Russia and China for the transfer of Manchuria to Russian control has been confined to the hope that the Czar's Government would not compel the Chinese plenipotentiaries to accept the terms of the agreement. There have been no representations on the subject to Russia, and the negative answer returned by Secretary Hay to China's appeal for American influence to prevent the execution of the Manchurian Convention was strictly informal.

In view of Russia's repeated assurances that she would not make any concessionary arrangements with China without the concurrence of the other Powers, this Government felt that it could not question her good faith in the Manchurian matter.

But the dismissal by the Emperor of Korea of McLeavy Brown, the English Director-General of the railway, has furnished a reason for American objection to Russia's attempt to get the upper hand in the Far East, and while so far no change has taken place in the attitude of the United States, the opinion of the American people is likely to be moved by the removal of Mr. Brown's removal will furnish the opportunity of making representations designed to have Russia understand that this country must be considered a party in the settlement of the new Eastern question.

Mr. Brown's removal is regarded with disfavor by the United States, and Korea has been so informed. If, today, the last day of treaty-making, the Emperor had signed the Manchurian agreement, the Chinese plenipotentiaries affix their signatures the Government may take a direct measure of ascertaining what Russia intends to do by calling the attention of the authorities at St. Petersburg to the adherence given by Russia to the principle that one Power shall make no private arrangement with China unless all the other Powers consent.

Continuation of the report that McLeavy Brown had been dismissed came to the State Department yesterday in a telegram from Horace N. Allen, United States Minister at Seoul, who said in his despatch that the Emperor had replaced American interests in Jeonju and he had so informed the Emperor of Korea. The Government approves Mr. Allen's course and it is probable that his renunciation to the Emperor will be backed up by an official communication from Washington, although at this time all the reasons which induced Mr. Allen to object are not known here.

It is realized in Washington, however, that the large American interests in Korea, which were regarded as safe under the administration of Mr. Brown, are now placed in danger through his dismissal. There can be no doubt that the suspicion prevails in official circles here that Russia secured his displacement and that this is the first step toward complete Russian ascendancy in the Hermit Kingdom. The large investments of American capital in Korea, would prove of little value, it is believed, if the country passed under the control of a European nation, and for that reason, and the additional one that the United States is quite as much opposed to the territorial disintegration of Korea as it is to a similar disposition of China, the dismissal of McLeavy Brown will be used as a basis for an attempt to secure unequivocal understanding as to what Russia intends to do.

MR. STONEHOUSE'S DEATH

The Failure to Restore Order Blamed for the Murder.

PEKING, March 25.—Two missionaries, Owen and Digban, belonging to the London Mission, started today to recover the body of Stonehouse, the missionary, who was murdered last Saturday, while crossing a ferry in the Tungan district, sixty miles south of Peking.

The perpetrators of the crime were a band of robbers, who were implicated in the Boxer movement. This murder illustrates the dangerous condition of the surrounding country. The local officials

are forbidden to use five troops to maintain order, and hence they are helpless in the present case they are not responsible.

The allied Powers have already divided a large part of the province of Chi-li into spheres which are nominally under foreign control. The troops are not sufficient to maintain posts in the cities and other places in the districts or to protect missionaries visiting convents and securing indemnities for losses sustained by converts.

McDonough traveled without an escort through a turbulent section of the country. The missionaries held that his murder shows clearly the mistake of the foreign Powers in refusing to include in the indemnities demanded a list of the losses of converts who suffered through their connection with the foreigners.

Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister, has been especially emphatic in protesting against indemnifying the converts through the aid of the foreign Powers. The missionaries are thus left to arrange matters by consultation with local officials, who generally are ready to meet their desires, especially those of the British and American missionaries.

The people in the Tungan district have already suffered considerably from the excesses of a small army of other troops who have demanded money and commandeered clothing and food. This has increased the antipathy of the people and made difficult the attempts to take legitimate redress made by the missionaries for the native Church. This failure to make complete arrangements for the restoration of order, and for the just settlement of all questions resulted in the murder.

TO QUELL THE AGITATION

An Extraordinary Council of Russian Ministers Held.

The Procurator General of the Holy Synod Urges Radical Measures—The Situation Graver—More Rioting Reported in Various Cities.

LONDON, March 25.—A Berlin despatch to a news agency says that an extraordinary council of Ministers, under the personal presidency of the Czar, is in session at Tsarskoe Selo, the summer palace near St. Petersburg, debating steps to stop the revolutionary outbreaks all over the Empire.

It is asserted that the gravity of the situation is growing, that the Cossack officers have practically refused to lead their men against women and defenceless men, and that Prince Viasemsky, a member of the Council of the Empire, has resigned as a protest against the extreme measures taken by the Government.

The Czar was extremely agitated at the council today. He is for peaceful measures, but the Procurator General of the Holy Synod urges radical steps and ascribes the outbreaks to liberalism.

Rioting continues in St. Petersburg and Kiev.

LONDON, March 25.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Daily Mail" says, under date of Monday, that toward evening yesterday (Sunday) there was a collision between the troops and the factory hands, who had been forbidden to enter the city.

A riot followed, and there was a great deal of bloodshed. Many persons were arrested.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 25.—(P. M.). There is a tremendous crowd on the Nevsky Prospekt, but the people are orderly. Carriages pass without interruption. The demonstration commenced at about noon. Nothing has happened yet.

The barracks are full of troops of all arms, while the courtyards of the churches and public buildings in the neighborhood of the Nevsky Prospekt conceal numbers of Cossacks and police.

DELAWARE SEVERELY DEFEATED.

The Boer General Loses His Gun and Wagon.

LONDON, March 25.—General Kitchen, in a despatch to the War Office, dated Pretoria, March 25, says: "Batlabeni's force, including Shoket's column, attacked DeLarey 1,500 strong southwest of Ventersburg about having defeated him, followed up rapidly, with the result that the Boer rear guard was driven in and the Boer wagon and gun, was captured at Vaalburg."

"Our troops displayed great gallantry and courage, and I am proud to state that I have personally killed 160 rifles, 53 wagons, 24 carts, and 149 prisoners. Our losses were slight. Many Boers were killed, wounded, and taken prisoner."

LONDON, March 25.—According to the "Times" Johannesburg correspondent, General De Wet has been appointed commandant of the Boers. Philip Botha was appointed to succeed him as fighting general, but he (Botha) was killed the other day at Doornberg.

There is nothing to indicate whether the new appointment involves General De Wet's withdrawal from active leadership in the field. He is supposed to now be with Gen. Louis Botha north of the Delagoa Bay Railway line.

Philip Botha was represented as being General De Wet's right-hand man and a leader of who some forces entertain the highest opinion.

General Botha has taken 3,000 horses, 2,000 cattle, and 1,500 sheep into De Wet's army.

A TREASURY RUMOR DENIED.

Germany Did Not Promise England to Protest.

LONDON, March 25.—The Berlin correspondent of the "Standard" says the American statement to the effect that Germany promised England to support a protest against the amendment of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty is semi-officially denied.

A DARK CELL FOR LUCCHESI.

The Anarchist to Be Subjected to Stricter Discipline.

VIENNA, March 25.—It is reported that Lucchesi, the anarchist who assassinated Empress Elizabeth and who was sentenced to imprisonment for life, has been troublesome lately. He has repeatedly defied the authorities, and the warden of the prison where he is confined and he is continually cursing them.

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The Text of England's Reply on the Amended Canal Treaty.

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"Foreign Office, Feb. 22, 1898. "My Lord: "The American Ambassador has formally communicated to me the amendments introduced by the Senate of the United States into the Convention, signed at Washington in February last, to facilitate the construction of a ship canal to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. "These amendments are three in number, namely: "1. The insertion in Article II, after the reference to Article VIII of the Clayton-Bulwer Convention, of the words 'which convention is hereby superseded.' "2. The addition of a new paragraph after section 5, of Article II, in the following terms: "3. It is agreed, however, that none of the limitations foregoing conditions and stipulations in sections numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this article shall apply to incursions which the United States may find it necessary to make for securing by its own forces the defence of the United States and the maintenance of public order."

THE DEADLOCK UNBROKEN.

The Nebraska Legislature to Adjourn on Thursday.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 25.—The Nebraska State Legislature will adjourn on Thursday of this week, both houses having agreed today on that date. This means that only three more ballots will be taken in joint session. The Bryan men and the holding Republicans have agreed that an adjournment shall finally be forced after Thursday's ballot and that not more than one shall be taken each day.

Little hope is expressed that any election will take place. Several of the anti-Thompson men have weakened, and although they remain out with the Pastors, all will be present to prevent his election. The caucus to select a long term candidate held a meeting last night but it was hopelessly deadlocked. An effort was made to spring a new man from Omaha, Senator Baldrige, a member of Roosevelt's delegation, but it did not take well. The 20th ballot called Rosewater, 29; McKeljohn, 17; Currie, 7; Baldridge, 3.

After taking twenty-four ballots tonight the caucus adjourned. The last ballot called Rosewater, 22; McKeljohn, 15; Currie, 8.

Congressman Mercer arrived on the scene tonight and attempted to break in to the fight as a compromise candidate. The house rejected his candidacy, but tonight, offering to support anyone the caucus would name in place of Thompson.

BECKHAM'S VISIT CUT SHORT.

He Leaves New Orleans Because of Senator Harrel's Presence.

NEW ORLEANS, March 25.—The Kentucky gubernatorial trouble has been transferred to New Orleans by the appearance here at the same time of Gov. J. C. W. Beckham and Senator S. B. Harrel, of Warren County, in that State, who believes that he has a grievance against Beckham.

Governor Beckham came to New Orleans from the Mississippi coast two days ago with his wife, on account of whose health he is visiting his son, Adjutant General Haley and Messrs. McLeod and Newman, Kentuckians, are also here. The Kentuckians are at the Greenwald Hotel. Senator Harrel has been persistent in his efforts to encounter Governor Beckham in the hotel lobby, and from the very threatening language used by him it was believed by Beckham's friends that he was seeking to bring about a personal encounter.

Harrel is here for the purpose of receiving treatment for some nervous complaint. He was elected to the Senate from Warren County as a Democrat, but his party associates accuse him of deserting his colors in the contest between Geobel and his Republican opponent. He voted with the Republicans, they claim, on nearly every important issue raised in the contest, and he finally withdrew from politics and left the State.

The matter was called to the attention of Chief of Police Gaster, and detectives were stationed at the hotel to protect Governor Beckham should he feel an attack on him. The affair, however, caused Governor Beckham so much annoyance that the Kentucky party left this morning.

"The Governor has been annoyed as much since his arrival here," said Mr. Newman, "that we have decided to leave the city. Mrs. Beckham's health is not the best in the world and the unpleasant things which have happened have not been of benefit to her and no benefit to the Governor, who came here to take a rest. We believe we had better temporarily leave, and we will leave as soon as possible, and we will return to Baton Rouge, and that he will return and spend a week here. Senator Harrel expressed great delight over the Governor's retreat and suggested that he might take a very tonic and spend a longer time in the South."

Governor Beckham has refused to make any charge against Harrel, saying that nothing would please the Senator more than a week here. He felt that he was the Governor, was afraid of personal attack.

IMITATED MRS. NATION.

A Chicago Woman Tries to Wreck a Saloon.

CHICAGO, March 25.—Seized with a desire to imitate Mrs. Charles Nation, Mabel Kane armed herself with a hatchet shortly before daylight today, and proceeded to smash the saloon of Abe Polak at 222 Randolph Street.

Two show cases, two large mirrors, and several dozen bottles of liquor were destroyed within a few minutes, when the police arrested her. When taken to the central station, she insisted that she was the wife of Polak, whose saloon she had wrecked, and that it was her duty to destroy saloons. Polak denies that she is his wife.

Ocean Steamship Movements.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Arrived: Turk-ommen, Bremen. Arrived out: Wailre from New York, Liverpool, Bremen, Victoria, Launce, from New York, at Genoa.

A TALK WITH MR. HANNA.

The Delaware and Nebraska Situations Greatly Regretted.

NEW YORK, March 25.—"Prosperity rules everywhere in the country. Money is being put into new enterprises, trade is increasing, labor is in demand. From one part of the country to the other the mills and factories are in full operation." So said Senator Mark A. Hanna at the Waldorf-Astoria tonight. He had more to say along the same lines.

"What do you think of the deadlock in Nebraska?" the Senator was then asked. "Well, they all seem to be fighting," he replied musingly. "It is a pity. The Republicans made a great struggle out there. The victorious struggle which the party made for the Legislature in Bryan's own State, has been futile. The people of that State have voiced their desire to be represented in Congress by two Senators, but their victory has been rendered fruitless so far, because of the situation which prevails there."

"But will not some new expedient be resorted to, to settle the difficulty?" "New expedient? Why, I did not know that there was any expedient which had not already been tried. I would like to see the people of Nebraska represented in Congress as they have a right to be. That is my only concern in the matter."

Replying to an enquiry as to the action of the Delaware Legislature in adjourning without electing two Senators from that State, Senator Hanna said: "I have nothing to say about that except to deny the charges that have been made in some newspapers, particularly in Philadelphia, that I wanted to see Ad- dicks elected. There is no truth in those assertions. I have no interest in Ad- dicks or any other particular man.

"Just as in the case of Nebraska I want to have two Republicans sent to Washington from Delaware. When the men are I don't care. My only anxiety is to see Delaware and Nebraska properly represented."

THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS.

"It will be useful, in the first place, to recall the circumstances in which negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement supplementary to the convention of 1850 commonly called the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, were initiated.

"So far as her Majesty's Government were concerned, there was no desire to procure a modification of that convention. Some of its provisions had, however, for a long time past been regarded with disfavor by the Government of the United States, and in the President's message to Congress of December, 1888, it was suggested, with reference to a concession granted by the Government of Nicaragua, that some definite action by Congress was urgently required if the labors of the past were to be utilized, and the linking of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans by a practical waterway to be realized. It was further urged that the construction of such a maritime highway was more than ever indispensable to that intimate and ready intercommunication between the eastern and western seaboard of the United States demanded by the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands and the prospective expansion of American influence and commerce in the Pacific, and that the national policy called more imperatively than ever for the 'control' of the projected highway by the Government of the United States.

"This passage in the message having excited comment, your excellency made enquiry of the Secretary of State in order to elicit some information as to the attitude of the President. In reply, the views of the United States Government were very frankly and openly explained. You were also most emphatically assured that the President had no intention whatever of ignoring the Clayton-Bulwer Convention, and that he would loyally observe treaty stipulations. But in view of the strong national feeling in favor of the construction of the Nicaragua Canal, and of the improbability of the work being accomplished by private enterprise, the United States Government were prepared to undertake it themselves upon obtaining the necessary powers from Congress.

"For that purpose, however, they must endeavor, by friendly negotiation, to obtain the consent of Great Britain to such a modification of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty as would, without affecting the general principle therein declared, enable the great object in view to be accomplished for the benefit of the commerce of the world. Although the time had hardly arrived for the institution of formal negotiations to that end, Congress not having yet legislated, the United States Government were nevertheless most anxious that your excellency should enter at once into proparations with a view to preparing for consideration a scheme of arrangement.

"Her Majesty's Government agreed to this proposal, and the discussions which took place in consequence resulted in the draft convention which Mr. Hay handed to your excellency on the 11th of January, 1899.

"At that time the Joint High Commission, over which the late Lord Herschell presided, was still sitting. That commission, nevertheless, were most anxious to discuss various questions at issue between Great Britain and the United States, namely, the fur-seal fishery, the fisheries off the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the Alaskan boundary, alien labor laws, reciprocity, transit of merchandise, mining rights, naval vessels on the Great Lakes, defiance and marking of frontiers, and conveyance of persons in custody. But serious difficulties had arisen in an attempt to arrive at an understanding, and it had become doubtful whether any settlement would be effected.

"In reply, therefore, to a request for a

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