

Fair, cooler; northwesterly winds, becoming variable.

NO. 1,397.

DREYFUS IS INNOCENT

Piquart Admits He Was Condemned for Another's Crime.

DISCLOSED AT ZOLA'S TRIAL

The Colonel Had Just Been Insulted—The Most Dramatic Day of All—The Lie Passes and a Duel to Follow—Billot, Minister of War, May Resign.

(Special cable—Copyrighted.) Paris, Feb. 12.—The point reached to-night in the trial of M. Zola is a paradox.

It is generally admitted that the defendant has proved his case, yet he will probably be condemned. Even a majority of his enemies have been convinced, as much by the silence of the army authorities when questioned as by the direct testimony of other witnesses, that Dreyfus was found guilty upon evidence secretly submitted to his judges.

It is admitted that this is utterly illegal, yet public opinion is still so strongly prejudiced that the gross outrage upon the first principles of justice is openly excused and defended, and the resentment against M. Zola for denouncing the authorities, who are guilty, is scarcely lessened.

The incidents of the trial should not distract attention from the astounding crisis which has seized the public mind of France, and which portends evils and calamities that none can estimate. The bald truth is this: It is openly admitted to-day that the prisoner on the Isle du Diable was illegally condemned, and that the government had full knowledge of the fact.

The prosecution has been a marvel to the bench and bar. Even antagonistic spectators have been unable to restrain their admiration of his dramatic turn of the enemy's weapons upon themselves. To-day's session was perhaps the most dramatic of the week, and comprised by itself a melancholy exposure of the infamy which has been committed and is now defended in the name of France.

Col. Piquart, under the spur of a gross insult from a brother officer, in open court, retold to-day in plain language how the highest authorities of the army first tried to suppress his evidence that another committed the crime charged to Dreyfus, and when he persisted, opposed and finally traduced him.

Col. Piquart assumed the witness stand at noon. He asserted that Zola went too far in accusing the members of the Esterhazy court-martial of violating justice. The fact, he said, belonged to those who presented the case, the documents put in evidence being all favorable to the accused.

Paty De Clam the previous affair. It was they who forbade fresh inquiry into the Dreyfus affair when in the course of my duty, by reason of fresh discoveries in regard to Esterhazy, I revealed the mistake that had been made.

"It is because I persisted in pursuing the inquiry that they have attacked my honor as a man and an officer. It is for this that tomorrow, perhaps, I shall be driven from the army, which I love."

When there followed another scene, when M. Labori intimated that M. Henri's testimony was not true, Henri left the witness box and sprang toward the lawyer, shouting:

"I will not permit my word to be questioned." M. Labori replied that he did not question M. Henri's honor, but his version did not agree with that of his brother officers, and therefore he concluded that the witness was mistaken. The court finally intervened and refused to permit any further pursuit of this line of inquiry, which bore directly upon the Dreyfus case.

M. Demenge, who was the defendant's lawyer in the Dreyfus court-martial, was the next witness. As he had not spoken throughout the agitation during the past two years there was intense interest in what he might say. This interest was fully justified by his revelation, which he made in spite of the effort of the president to check his words.

He affirmed first that Mathieu Dreyfus had followed his advice in denouncing Esterhazy and then had encountered obstacles which convinced the witness that the government was opposed to throwing light upon the affair and would combat a re-opening of the Dreyfus case, even although it was proved that his conviction was illegal. He, thereupon, advised the Dreyfus family to postpone further proceedings until the present excitement subsided, because the false issue of the honor of the army had been raised and it would be impossible to obtain justice.

M. Labori asked the witness if Dreyfus had been condemned legally. M. Demenge replied: "It is absolutely certain that he was not legally condemned. There was communicated to me a statement by a member of the Dreyfus court-martial that a secret piece of evidence of which I and my clients were ignorant, was submitted to them."

fact that our diplomacy has lately sustained a series of humiliating checks. It really seems as if Labori were right when he declared that Lord Salisbury and he were the only two little Englishers left."

The news of the admiralty's cool counter in the far East and today an announcement from the railway concession have done something to mollify the rank and file of the Tory party, while the fact that Japan has intimated to China that she will not wait for the installment of the war indemnity has caused some hope that Great Britain is utilizing Japan in this fashion in order to compel Peking to reopen the loan negotiations, still the Tories are full of resentment at what they consider Lord Salisbury's betrayal of the country's honor.

That fact is that the situation is everywhere as grave as ever, and the mild attitude of the opposition leaders is only explicable by the rumor that Lord Salisbury has given the earl of Kimberley a confidential résumé of the situation abroad and a statement of the preparations made for meeting all eventualities.

The West African question grows more difficult. It is certain the colonial secretary, Chamberlain, and Lord Salisbury are stubbornly and diametrically opposed on this point, the former being desirous of meeting France in the most uncompromising fashion. The condition of things now reached may be indicated by a remark credited to Sir Charles Dike that if the Government does not retreat ignominiously from the position it has taken up in West Africa it will be extremely difficult to avert war with France. This is doubtless an exaggerated view of the situation, but it is equally doubtful that Lord Salisbury is skating on the thinnest ice with danger marked everywhere.

A stern-wheel steamer destined for the Yukon was successfully launched at Queen's Ferry on Thursday. She is named the Research. She embodies the intentions and aspirations of what is probably the most capable and best equipped party leaving England during the coming season to seek fortune in the Klondike. She draws two feet and six inches of water, with a speed of ten knots. She will carry stores for fifteen months, and the most elaborate kitchen outfit. She has a commodious deckhouse, in which twenty-two men expect to pass the next winter comfortably. So confident of success are they that they have already arranged to charter a tugboat, which they specially designed hull tank for storing the gold they are sure to find in the Yukon.

Gen. Merriam and one hundred tons of supplies will be sent from the Oregon Mondays. The latest strike was made on Roseau Creek, which flows into the Yukon, six miles above Sixty Mile Creek. I estimate the spring clean-up will be between \$10,000,000 and \$12,000,000.

The young sailor said, "Aye, aye, sir, but surely was needed at the anchor and said he would raise the flag as soon as he got through. But he never finished. He lost his life while at work on the anchor."

rious with the Times, which, to cover up its action, published a later missive from Peking, with the astounding story that the British had been unable to do not understand the necessity for secrecy in such matters.

All this, however, leaves English public opinion profoundly nervous over the fact that Russia, Germany and France have secured new and definite methods in China, which may at any moment be developed into occupations, ultimately becoming annexations, with an effectual a ringed fence of tariffs against the rest of the world as France has erected in Madagascar. All Zealand has secured Russian and German pledges to keep open ports, but experience in Madagascar and elsewhere shows that pledges of this kind are not worth the paper they are written on when annexation ensues.

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RESCUED MIDOCEAN

Thrilling Experience of the Veendam's Passengers.

THE ST. LOUIS JUST IN TIME

A Derelict Disables the Holland-American Liner and She Begins to Make Water Rapidly—Cool Conduct of the Captain Saves—Set on Fire and Abandoned.

New York, Feb. 12.—The steamship Veendam, of the Holland-American line, bound from Rotterdam for New York, stove a hole in her bows—last Sunday either with her own shaft or by hitting a submerged derelict. After a terrific tussle with the pumps, in spite of which the water that poured into her kept gaining on the workers and when she was within, at the most, five hours of sinking, Providence sent along the American liner St. Louis.

The Veendam's captain, the last man to leave his ship, piled high in her cabin the chairs and tables and other furniture, and throwing kerosene oil over the mass, fired the ship. The St. Louis sailed off just at the gray dawn of last Monday, leaving the doomed ship adrift on her beam ends. A thick smoke almost on her bow, the St. Louis was shuttling up from her hatchways and sheets of flame licking eagerly what little woodwork there was left to burn.

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HAS LEE RESIGNED?

A Rumor to This Effect in Circulation Last Night.

WILL PLEAD JUSTIFICATION.

Plan of Defense in the Lattimer Tragedy Unfolded.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Feb. 12.—The complete plan of the defense of Sheriff Martin and his deputies has been unfolded. The prosecution has fifty witnesses yet to call. This will occupy most of the next week. The motion to take the case from the jury will be omitted.

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AN ULTIMATUM TO SPAIN

Our State Department Sends an Imperative Message.

A REPLY IS RECEIVED

Minister Woodford Instructed to Say That a Disavowal of De Lome's Utterances Is Expected by This Government at Once—Judge Day Receives a Long Cablegram in Answer to the Demand—Not Yet Translated, But Believed to Contain an Expression of Regret and Apology—Will Be Made Public Today.

A ultimatum was sent to the Spanish government yesterday, and it is believed a reply has already been received. The answer was not translated last night, but its contents will be made known to-day.

The President, after a conference with Judge Day, Assistant Secretary of State, directed him to send an imperative dispatch to Gen. Woodford, the American minister at Madrid, to demand of Spain an immediate disavowal of the sentiments expressed in the notorious letter written by Dupuy de Lome. The cablegram was sent at once, and it was terse and to the point, and contained instructions to the minister to make the earliest possible reply.

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