



LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. { CONTINUED ON PAGES 3, 5, 6.

GEN. MERCIER CHANGING FRONT

There is Much Speculation as to His Hidden Motive.

MAY ADMIT HIS ERROR

Some Think He May Make Avowal of His Mistakes—Experts in Favor of Dreyfus—They Testify that Esterhazy and Not the Accused Was the Author of the Famous Bordereau—Detail of Trial.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Rennes, Aug. 29.—The air of Rennes this evening is filled with rumors of conspiracies and predictions of course de theatre, but nothing precise can be ascertained. General Mercier's attitude during the last few days has mystified his followers in the case. It is extremely clever and the general feeling is that he is preparing something of a few days.

THE GENERALS DIVIDED.

It is now accepted as beyond question that there is a serious division of opinion on the part of the Generals. While the three are planning generally against Captain Dreyfus they all pulled together, but since the tide of evidence began to turn in his favor, as was notably the case during the testimony of Captain Freysler and Colonel Cordier, which proved much more damaging to the General Staff than the large amount of certain dividing lines have become manifest between the various Generals. General Robert, Major Loubat, Captain Chanut and M. Brillien, the principal keeper of archives in the War Office, form one extreme. General Mercier and General Goussier form another, and General Billot and General De Bodeloffre a third. According to one report the first two colonies intend to throw over General De Bodeloffre, whom they feel to be faltering and declare that he is responsible for all the errors and humiliations of the court-martial of 1894, thus making him the scapegoat. According to another report, General Robert, who was not implicated in 1894, and who fought against Dreyfus because he inherited from his professors the responsibility for so doing and placed over conditions in the accounts of the matter furnished him by the General Staff will cut himself off from General Mercier, Goussier and De Bodeloffre.

A PLAUSIBLE HYPOTHESIS.

This is a plausible hypothesis, since Robert has assumed throughout the role of the defender of the army, thus making himself popular with the army and with a large section of the nation, and he probably would not lose by separating himself from the wrongdoers of 1894, and declaring that his opinion has been changed by the evidence given during the present trial.

ANOTHER STORY.

Yet another story is that the Generals are going to give way on the authority of the evidence in view of the strong expert evidence and will admit that Esterhazy wrote it, alleging, however, that Dreyfus furnished the information, not direct to Esterhazy, but to a third person, who acted as intermediary without Dreyfus knowing Esterhazy.

ANOTHER DREYFUS DAY.

In the matter of evidence to-day was quite a Dreyfus day, only the deposition of the last witness, General De Loye, being unfavorable to the testimony of M. Ploet, a member of the Institute, is little likely, however, to serve the cause of the accused materially, if at all, because his introduction of Col. Schneider, the Austrian military attaché, as a champion of Dreyfus, was rather calculated to arouse resentment and adversely to influence the judges, and it was followed by General Robert's beautiful protest against Col. Schneider's complimentary allusions to French officers.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.

To-morrow's proceedings behind closed doors will deal with the question whether Captain Dreyfus was in a position to divulge the information regarding the artillery which was produced in the bordereau.

WHAT IS EXPECTED.

The session will be very important and is bound to have a tremendous influence upon the judges one way or the other, because they are all artillery officers and will be able to appreciate such evidence better than the cryptographic intelligentsia that have been held before them by the handwriting experts. The Dreyfusards expect that their artillery witnesses, Major Hartman and Major Dursois will effectively satisfy the judges that Dreyfus was ignorant of the matters mentioned in the bordereau and an artillery officer would not have been guilty of stating the error which it contained.

A DOUBTFUL STATEMENT.

The usual papers publish the doubtful statement that Charles De Freysler was leaving the court room yesterday af-

ter his deposition, remarked to a friend: "I am leaving an atmosphere of acquiescence."

PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL.

The first witness to-day, M. Paul Meyer, member of the Institute and director of the School of Ancient Manuscripts, described his researches in connection with the Dreyfus case, which led to his conviction that the bordereau was not only in Esterhazy's handwriting, but was actually written by Esterhazy. "I am convinced," said M. Meyer, "by a magnifying glass that the bordereau was written in a free hand and without hesitation. I have precisely hesitation in the formation of the stroke which reveals the use of a method of writing, I can affirm that it is in the writing and in the very hand of Esterhazy. That is perfectly clear to me."

ANOTHER CONFIRMATION.

Prof. Auguste Molinier, of the School of Ancient Manuscripts, gave similar evidence. He said that each fresh examination of the bordereau only served to further convince him that it was the work of Esterhazy. "Amid deep interest in the witness's demonstration, how the conclusions of the experts who attributed the bordereau to Dreyfus were mutually destructive, and dwell on the defects of M. Berthillon's arguments, pointing out the striking resemblance of the alleged doctored handwriting to Esterhazy's writing, who, he added, in everybody's opinion had relations with Colonel Schwarzkoppen, the former German military attaché at Paris, and the distinguished member of the staff of the bordereau and that of the prisoner.

The members of the court-martial were apparently much interested and asked a number of questions, to which M. Meyer, responding, made the conclusion that Esterhazy was the writer of the bordereau.

GENERAL MERCIER INTERVENES.

General Mercier requested permission to speak and called attention to the fact that in his testimony before the Court of Cassation Prof. Molinier said a change was apparent in Esterhazy's handwriting after 1894 and asked that the professor's former evidence be read. M. Lohat, leading counsel for the defense, inquired if General Mercier intended with the object of verifying Prof. Molinier's evidence. Counsel added that it seemed to him General Mercier intervened less in the character of a witness than as a representative of the government's position.

Mercier replied that on this special point he desired to confirm the evidence of Prof. Molinier, which, he said, corroborated M. Berthillon's statement that Esterhazy, the man of straw, changed his handwriting in order to replace Dreyfus.

IN CONCLUSION, GENERAL MERCIER SAID:

"Having emphasized the point in regard to the change in Esterhazy's handwriting in 1894, perhaps before, I am satisfied." (Cries of approval.)

ANOTHER DREYFUS WITNESS.

Professor Gray, also of the School of Ancient Manuscripts, traversed similar ground to that covered by Prof. Molinier. He said the bordereau had only a superficial likeness to Dreyfus' handwriting and asserted that it was certainly the work of Esterhazy.

THE WITNESS ALSO SAID THE BORDEREAU WAS NOT WRITTEN WITH THE AID OF KEY WORDS.

M. Lohat asked if the witness noticed a change in Esterhazy's calligraphy, and Prof. Gray replied that he had studied the question but did not think there had been any marked change.

BERTHILLON AGAIN SAT UPON.

M. Berthillon at this juncture said that he desired to speak, but the president of the court, Col. Jouhaux, hastily rose and said that M. Berthillon should sit down.

"THE SITTING IS SUSPENDED."

Then M. Berthillon resumed his seat in high indignation. On the resumption of the sitting M. Georges Ploet, a member of the Institute, was called for the defense, Maître Demange, of counsel for the defense, explaining that Ploet was summoned because, as Major Lohat had an interview with a foreign military attaché, in the course of which mention was made of the document inserted in the dossier by General Mercier.

Col. Jouhaux recommended this witness to be very cautious in his statements.

NOT ALLOWED TO TESTIFY.

After promising to exercise care, M. Ploet started with saying that he had an interview with the Austro-Hungarian military attaché, Col. Jouhaux stopped the witness, saying:

"You cannot continue. Rise this."

Major Carrière, the Government commissary, also exclaimed, sharply:

"I protest in the name of the Government and the State against the indiscretion of the witness."

M. Ploet then began an interview with "a certain military attaché," and that the conversation turned upon the Dreyfus case. The attaché expressed surprise at the "incorrect attitude of French officers" in doubting the word of foreign officers.

DREYFUS INNOCENT.

"My impression," added the witness, "was that he was anxious to assert fully and unequivocally the absolute innocence of Dreyfus. (Sensation.)"

M. Ploet, after attacking said only three documents enumerated, and it was thereupon, the fact being that the others were badging, meant to swell the dossier."

Witness noted that the attaché employed the expression, "hydraulic brakes," and never "pneumatic brake."

ESTERHAZY A SWINDLER.

In regard to Esterhazy, the attaché, M. Ploet, said, declared that he considered him a swindler. The attaché also asserted that Esterhazy had relations with Colonel Schwarzkoppen, who dismissed him because Esterhazy only brought information devoid of interest.

It was then, continued M. Ploet, that Esterhazy tried to enter the War Office and almost succeeded, and it was then that he wrote to Colonel Schwarzkoppen the letter since known as the bordereau. In reply to the writer of the bordereau, added M. Ploet, Colonel Schwarzkoppen returned the telegram on the card known as the Petit bleu, but on reflection he crumpled it up and threw it in the fireplace.

In Favor of Jiminez.

Cape Haytien, Hayti, Aug. 26.—Advices received from the cities of Santiago and Puerto Plata in Santo Domingo, say that both have been proclaimed in favor of General Juan Isidro Jiminez, the revolutionary aspirant to the Presidency. A provisional government has been established at Santiago, where the presence of General Jiminez is demanded with enthusiasm by the people.

Ordered to Take Imus.

Manila, Aug. 26.—It is reported that Aguinaldo, the Filipino leader, has ordered his Generals in the province of Cavite to close in on Imus, and it is added that troops are concentrating around the town from the Lake country. The rebels, it is further said, have an outpost of 700 men on the Marinas road, and an equal force in the town of Anabo. The Americans are entreching the town, and they have no fear of the result of any attack by the rebels.

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JOHN R. M'LEAN THE CANDIDATE

The Choice of the Democrats of Ohio For Governor.

WON ON FIRST BALLOT

The Convention Re-affirms the Chicago Platform in Its Entirety. Demands the Re-Nomination of Bryan in 1900, Condemns Imperialism and Trusts, Favors Independence for Cuba and the Philippines and Denounces Political Bosses.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Zanesville, O., Aug. 26.—John R. McLean was nominated for Governor by the Democratic State Convention on the first ballot. The remainder of the ticket is as follows:

Lieutenant-Governor—A. W. Patrick, of Tuscarawas.

Supreme Judge—De Witt C. Badger, of Madison.

Attorney General—J. W. Dore, of Seneca.

Auditor—George W. Sigafos, of Darke.

Imperialism Condemned.

We are radically and unalterably opposed to imperialism in the United States of America. When we have solved some of the race problems that confront us at home, then, by example, we can proclaim the blessings that follow free institutions and thus procure benevolent assimilation without criminal aggression."

We are opposed to entangling alliances with foreign kingdoms and empires.

We commend the action of Congress in declaring that our war with Spain was for humanity and not for conquest.

We proudly recognize the valor and glorious achievements of our gallant soldiers and sailors from Bunker Hill to this very hour as being among the most thrilling and glorious in the history of the world, but we profoundly regret that American soldiers are being unlawfully used in the name of liberalism to crush and destroy growing liberty in the Orient and we denounce the secret and vicious alliance now in evidence between England and the Republican administration whereby this nation may become involved in war with foreign nations.

We demand that the Cubans and Phil-

ippines not only be permitted, but encouraged to establish independent republics, depriving all of their governmental powers from the consent of the governed.

We denounce the Republican party for its 25 years of abject subservience to the shipping interest of Great Britain and we denounce the Hanna-Byzantine shipping bill, which, if enacted into law would further shake our interests.

We are in favor of maintaining our splendid and efficient navy. A large standing army in our republic is a menace to liberty. We favor the initiative and referendum, the passage of the eight-hour labor law, the more rigid inspection of mines and workshops, the prohibition of sweat-shops, and the abolition of the contract system of prison labor.

THE TRUSTS DENOUNCED.

We declare that all unlawful combinations of capital are the legitimate fruits of a gold standard and other corrupt Republican legislation on the question of the tariff. We demand that all articles, the prices of which are controlled by the trusts, be placed on the free list. We denounce the Attorney General of the United States appointed from the State of New Jersey, the hot-bed of trusts, for his refusal to enforce the trusts of the United States against them, and commend the Attorney General of Ohio for his earnest efforts to enforce the statutes of Ohio against such illegal combinations, and pledge the nominee of this convention for Attorney General to the enforcement of the statutes of the State against them.

POLITICAL BOSSES.

Political bosses are to be detected and are inimical to this form of government. Bosses represent simply a concentration of political power, or a ring. They live and exist through jobs and schemes leaped upon the taxpayers. They substitute their rule in the par-

ty, and we continue to demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold as equal in primary money at the rate of 16 to 1, independent of all other nations in the world.

The Hon. Wm. J. Bryan still retains our entire confidence and we demand his re-nomination in 1900.

We recognize the solemn fact that our government cannot be both Republican and Imperialist.

We stand in line with Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, Grant and all other American patriots, living and dead, in insisting the perpetuity of our republic.

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RICHMOND NEWS AND GOSSIP

Launching of Torpedo Boat to Be a Great Event.

TO HELP WELCOME DEWEY

Governor Tyler, His Staff and State Troops Invited to National Capital Dewey Day Exercises—Delegate to Irrigation Congress Appointed—Richmond to Have a New Morgue—Other News.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

Richmond, Va., Aug. 26.—The launching of the torpedo-boat Shubrick here in October is to be made an occasion somewhat similar to the State Fairs formerly held here, but which Norfolk has now secured. A body known as the Old Dominion Tournament and Fair Association has been organized for the purpose of holding a grand inter-State tournament here on the 11th instant, followed the next day by some excellent races.

The association has made arrangements with the railroads to run ex-

STATE TROOPS DESIRED.

It has been suggested that the Governors of the States, their staffs and State troops might desire to take part in the exercises and parade, which will be reviewed by Admiral Dewey, President McKinley and members of the cabinet, and the Reception Committee sincerely hopes that the State of Virginia will be represented on the occasion.

DELEGATE TO IRRIGATION CONGRESS.

Governor Tyler has appointed Dr. Jas. O'Keefe, of Tazewell county, delegate to the National Irrigation Congress, which is to be held in Missoula, Montana, the first week of September.

MORQUE FOR RICHMOND.

The probabilities are that Richmond will soon have a morgue—a place in which no man would be ashamed to be caught dead. The morgue that has been used for many years is a most respectable place, and the change will certainly be for the better.

INVESTIGATING THE WORM.

Mr. J. L. Phillips, of Blacksburg, is in Henrico county to-day, making an investigation as to the nature of the worm which is devastating crops.

FLEEING FROM LYNCHERS.

PRISONERS TAKEN TO RALEIGH FOR SAFETY. (By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 26.—During the early hours of yesterday morning three prisoners were lodged in Wake county jail here to escape mobs in other parts of the State. Sheriff Makhan, of Durham county, brought Melvin Parker, a bold-looking negro convict, who committed a brutal assault upon E. J. Phillips, Old Bossie Hurdstone, white, on Monday last. Parker was a trustee on the road gang at the time the crime was committed. His guilt is clear. The Durham jail was surrounded by a mob about midnight, but the sheriff had already started through the country for Raleigh, a distance of 28 miles. He reached here at 5 o'clock this morning. The leaders of the mob were shown through the jail, and on their assurance that Parker was not there the mob dispersed and quiet was restored.

With Parker was brought Andy McAdams, a negro boy only 12 years old, who assaulted a four-year-old white girl named Paquette at Haw River last week. He had been sent to Durham for safe keeping. The other prisoner brought here was John Jefferson, of Wilson county, who shot and killed Capt. John James from ambush on Monday night.

No attempt to take the prisoners from this jail is expected.

THE WORK OF STRIKERS.

ANOTHER CAR BLOWN UP—FIVE PERSONS INJURED.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Cleveland, Aug. 26.—A combination car on the Wilson avenue line was blown up by a powerful explosive between Sewell and Quincy streets to-night at 9:29 o'clock. There were six passengers on board, five of whom sustained broken legs. The other passenger and the driver of the car escaped without injury. When the explosion came it was with such force that it lifted the car entirely off the track, destroying the trucks and demolishing the building. The car fell against the track in such a way as to imprison the injured and now frantic passengers. These were rescued by the crew of the car.

The report of the explosion was such that it was heard on the public square three miles from the scene. The injured are: J. F. Ingraham, leg hurt, scalp cut and internal injuries; Mrs. L. Schroeder, left leg broken at the knee; Miss Ella Schroeder, right ankle sprained and bones in the right foot broken; E. L. Shultz, head hurt; Mrs. E. D. Shultz, left leg broken.

A CORRUPT NEGRO.

CHARGED WITH BUYING AND SELLING NOTES.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 26.—A special from Rome, Ga., says:
Wm. Gammon and J. L. Camp filed charges to-day against G. M. Dent, principal of the colored schools, and asked the School Board to declare his office vacant. It is alleged Dent sold his vote for a large sum of money in the fall election of 1898. It is charged he made a business of buying negro votes and speculated upon them, selling to the highest bidder. They claim Dent is a corruptionist and unfit to hold office.

INVITATION TO GOVERNOR TYLER.

Governor Tyler received an invitation from the Admiral Dewey Reception Committee of Washington to-day to participate in a suitable welcome to Admiral Dewey which the people of the District of Columbia are arranging to give him when he returns to the National Capital, about October 2nd. This principal feature will be the public presentation by the Secretary of the

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Navy of the sword voted the Admiral by Congress, at the rear front of the Capitol. There will be an illuminated night parade in which a large number of military, naval and civic organizations will participate.

A CLAIM MADE BY GOV. TYLER

Will Get Three-Fourths of Legislators Yet to Be Named, 70 VOTES IN CAUCUS

Out of a Total of 47 Already Nominated He Has 11 to Martin's 27, With 2 Doubtful and 4 Contested—Hold Over Senators Run Total Up to 69, Giving Tyler 23, Martin 35, 51x Doubtful.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

East Radford, Va., Aug. 26.—Your correspondent found Governor Tyler in better spirits than usual. While he has probably lost Wythe, which was not unexpected, he feels that it has been more than offset in other sections of the State.

THE MACHINE'S METHODS.

It is given out from his headquarters what is believed to be an accurate statement of the delegates nominated up to the present time. This shows that there have been ten Senators nominated and thirty-seven members of the House of Delegates, of whom Mr. Martin has 27, Tyler 14, with 2 doubtful and 4 contested, making a total of forty-seven. There are twenty-one hold-over Senators, making a total of fifty-eight, and hold-overs to date of sixty-eight of whom Tyler has 23, Martin 28, and doubtful 6.

IN TWENTY-ONE OUT OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS THAT HAVE NOMINATED FOR MARTIN, TYLER'S NAME WAS NOT ALLOWED TO GO BEFORE THE PEOPLE, AND IT IS CONCEDED THAT MR. MARTIN HAS RUSHED CONVENTIONS AND NOMINATIONS IN EVERY PLACE WHERE HIS PROSPECTS ARE MOST FAVORABLE.

FUTURE NOMINATIONS.

There are seventy-two yet to be nominated and it should be borne in mind that of these seventy-two Senators and Delegates, there are 11 in the Ninth District, 8 in the Sixth, eight in the Tenth, 5 in the Eighth and 10 in the First, and that these are Tyler's strong-holds, from which he expects to get at least three-fourths. He is confidently counting on at least forty-five of the counties yet to be nominated, and insists that he will have at least sixty-eight or seventy members of the caucus.

JONES SCORES MARTIN AGAIN.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)
Richmond, Va., Aug. 26.—Congressman W. A. Jones spoke to-night in Manchester, having a good sized audience. He again attacked the record of Senator Martin, scoring him heavily along the lines followed by him at South Boston and in other speeches during his canvass for Governor Tyler. The speech was well received.

SOUTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS.

CECIL RHODES RAISES A RUMPUS—A WARNING.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
Cape Town, Aug. 26.—There was a violent scene in the Cape House of Assembly to-day when Mr. Cecil Rhodes repeated his conviction that the Transvaal secret service fund was largely raised during the last Cape Colony election by the expenses of a Caledonian candidate. He said he hoped that in the forthcoming Transvaal settlement the secret service payment list would be destroyed, as otherwise many Cape families would feel uncomfortable.

Several unionists were afterwards reported from the chair for being guilty of insulting the speaker. The government has refused to provide facilities for women and children to leave Johannesburg. There is great anxiety at the Simons town dock yard in drilling men on shore and overhauling vessels.

SUFFERING IN PONCE.

PORTO RICANS THREATEN TO BURN THE TOWN.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)
New York, Aug. 26.—The steamer Caragua, which arrived to-day, brought a number of passengers from Porto Rican ports. One of the passengers said:
"The desolation and destruction caused at the town and harbor of Ponce is appalling. The number of deaths among the people has not as yet been ascertained, but will certainly number 5,000 for the whole island, probably 5,000. The destruction is being relieved as rapidly as possible by the Government officials. The lowest class of people, however, are inclined to be troublesome, and it is feared that there will be an outbreak among them. The place has been struck by floods by the will of God," they say. "Complete the work by fire and they threaten to put the town to the torch. The night before we saw the Garrison of 400 troops were under arms expecting trouble."

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