THE PRESIDENT AS PEACEMAKER

An Effort to Bring the Two Warring Powers Together.

SANGUINE HOPES OF SUCCESS

An Identical Note Dispatched to Russia and Japan, Urging Them, in the Name of Humanity, to Conclude Peace.

Washington, June 10.—When President Roosevelt left Washington, Friday, on a two days' trip to Virginia, he was confident that the result of the international negotiations for peace in the far east had been successful and that the final blow in the Russo-Japanese war had been struck.

While extreme reticence is manifested in every official and diplomatic quarter, it is known authoritatively that the exchanges which have been in progress for the last ten days between the Washington government and the powers of the world, including the two belligerent nations, has been successful to an unexpected degree. President Roosevelt, who has taken the lead in the negotiations, has been accorded the cordial support of the great continental powers, including Russia's nearest friend, France. The direct representations made through Ambassador Meyer, at St. Petersburg, to the czar, were received by Emperor Nicholas in a most friendly spirit. Tokio responded in an equally amicable way. So near are the two warring powers to amicable contact at this moment that in all Washington circles, official and diplomatic, mere hopefulness has given way to notable optimism.

It is not unlikely that within 48 hours a definite statement of the situation may be issued from St. Petersburg, Tokio or Washington which will throw clear light on it. It can be said that only Tokio remains yet to be heard from regarding a phase of the negotiations. That the response of the mikado's government will be favorable, no doubt is entertained.

"On June 8th the following dispatch was sent by the president, through diplomatic channels, to the Japanese and Russian governments:

"'The president feels that the time has come when in the interest of all mankind he must endeavor to see if it is not possible to bring to an end the terrible and lamentable conflict now being waged. With both Russia and Japan the United States has inherited ties of friendship and good will. It hopes for the prosperity and welfare of each, and it feels that the progress of the world is set back by the war between these two great nations. The president, accordingly, urges the Russian and Japanese governments not only for their own sakes, but in the interest of the whole civilized world, to open direct negotiations for peace with one another. The president suggests that these negotiations be conducted directly and exclusively between the belligerents; in other words, that there may be a meeting of Russian and Japanese plenipotentaries or delegates without any intermediary, in order to see if it is not possible for these representatives of the two powers to agree to terms of peace. The president earnestly asks that the (Russian), (Japanese) government do now agree to such a meeting, and is asking the (Japanese), (Russian) government likewise to agree. While the president does not feel that any intermediary should be called in in respect to the peace negotiations themselves, he is entirely willing to do what he properly can if the powers concerned feel that his services will be of aid in arranging the preliminaries as to the time and place of meeting. But if even these preliminaries can be arranged directly between the two powers, or in any other way, the president will be glad, as his sole purpose is to bring about a meeting which the whole civilized world will pray may result in peace."

The foregoing note was forwarded to the Russian and Japanese governments Thursday afternoon. It is rendered especially significant by the fact that it was prepared and sent only after assurances had been received from Tokio and St. Petersburg that such a proposition would be welcomed. While both Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, and Minister Takahira of Japan were cognizant of the nature of the note, it was not sent to their respective governments through them. It was cabled by direction of the president to St. Petersburg and to Tokio, and there delivered directly to the Russian and Japanese governments, respectively by Ambassador Meyer and Minister Griscom.

Was Just in Time.

Des Moines, Ia., June 10.—Just in time to stop what would have been the first legal hanging in Iowa in ten years, an appeal was filed with the supreme court, Friday, in the case of Charles Rocker, of Rock Rapids, under sentence for murder. Rocker was to have been hanged at Anamosa Friday.

To Succeed Gen. Boynton.

Washington, June 10.—Secretary Taft has appointed Gen. Ezra A. Carman as chairman of the Chickamauga Military Park association to succeed the late Gen. H. V. Boynton.

Church Separation Bill.

Paris, June 10.—The chamber of deputies adopted sections of the church and separation bill, placing the state churches gratuitously at the disposition of the parochial societies for the exercise of religion.

A Telegram of Sympathy.

Des Moines, Ia., June 10.—A telegram of sympathy to King Oscar of Sweden on account of the secession of Norway was sent by the Augustana synod of the Swedish Lutheran church which convened in Stanton, Ia.

GETTING OUT OF THE WOODS

Radical Move Made in Reorganization of the Equitable.

Paul Morton Elected Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Old Officials Resign.

New York, June 10.—Paul Morton, who retires from the secretaryship of the navy on July 1, was, on Friday, elected chairman of the board of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance society. His election marks the first and most important step in the reorganization of the society, and was followed by the tender of the resignations of President James W. Alexander, Vice-President James H. Hyde, Second VicePresident G. E. Tarbell, Third Vice-President George T. Wilson and Fourth Vice-President William H. McIntyre.

HON. PAUL MORTON.
The New Head of the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

The new chairman, to further quote Senator Depew, did not consent to take office until he had received positive assurances that he would have a "free hand as to measures and men."

Mr. Hyde "divested" himself of the majority control, but, as made clear in his letter to the board, retains a substatial interest in the society.

All of the resignations submitted to the meeting are subject to the pleasure of Chairman Morton, and none has yet been accepted.

Just what action Mr. Morton will take as to these resignations was not disclosed, but it was strongly intimated that President Alexander and Vice-Presidents Tarbell, Wilson and McIntyre retired with the belief that their executive relations with the Equitable had ended.

The interests to which Mr. Hyde disposed of his stock number some two score individuals, led by Thomas F. Ryan, vice-president of the Morton Trust Co., which has close relations with the Mutual Life Insurance Co., one of the Equitable society's principal rivals.

The men requested to hold the majority stock by Mr. Ryan are former President Grover Cleveland, George Westinghouse, of Pittsburg, and Morgan J. OBrien, recently elevated to the chief justiceship of the appellate division of the supreme court of this district.

"BETTER FEELING" EXISTS.

More Seasonable Weather Has Brought About a "Better Feeling" in Business.

New York, June 10.—Bradstreet's weekly review says:

The situation this week may be summed up in the phrase, "better feeling," which is predicated on rather more seasonable weather, allowing better crop progress, a larger volume of retail trade and improved re-order business at wholesale. These in turn are reflected in a more assured tone as to fall business in distributive lines. Relatively best advices come from surplus cereal crop producing regions, but the feeling at the south is likewise better. Against this is to be noted some temporary quieting, due to rains or cold weather in the northwest, the lake region and the east, while new business in iron and steel is smaller and prices are easing. All measures of trade movement still point unmistakably to large gains in all lines over a year ago.

Crop reports confirm last week's intimations of a turn for the better in winter wheat, corn and cotton crop prospects.

NO HOPE FOR MRS. ROGERS.

Supreme Court of United States Refuses to Interfere in Mrs. Rogers' Behalf.

Albany, N. Y., June 10.—Judge Rufus W. Peckman, of the United States supreme court, has declined to grant a writ of error which would allow the case of Mrs. Mary Rogers, of Vermont, now under sentence for the murder of her husband, to go to the United States court. The decision means that the last hope, except the governor intervenes, of saving the woman's life is gone.

Wife of Former Texas Governor.

Fort Worth, Tex., June 10.—Mrs. Sul Ross, wife of former Gov. Ross, died in Bryan. She was Miss Lizzie Tinsley, daughter of Dr. Tinsley, who came to Texas from Georgia in 1854. She married L. S. Ross in 1861. Five children survive her. Death was due to paralysis.

Young Woman's Sudden Death.

Taylorville, Ill., June 10.—Miss Maggie Parrish, the 18-year-old daughter of B. F. Parrish, died suddenly of ptomaine poisoning as a result of eating canned peas.

Met On Amicable Ground.

St. Louis, June 10.—Typograhpical Union No. 8 and the employers have settled their differences. A three years' contract has been signed, increasing the scale of job printers $1.50 per week, the closed shop and a nine-hour day.

The Steel Trust's New President.

Youngstown, O., June 10.—The Telegram says: Frank Baackes, of the American Steel and Wire Co., will be the new president of the Republic Iron and Steel Co. after its reorganization next fall.

MRS. MYERS WAS CONVICTED

The Jury at Liberty, Mo., Found Her Guilty of the Murder of Her Husband.

Liberty, Mo., June 12.—The jury which has been sitting for the past week in the case of Agnes Myers, of Kansas City, charged with the murder of her husband, Clarence Myers, returned a verdict, Sunday, of guilty of murder in the first degree. The verdict means that the death penalty—hanging—is to be inflicted. When the jury retired at 11 o'clock Saturday night it stood ten for conviction and two for acquittal. The jury continued its consideration of the case intermittently throughout the night, and the deliberations continued for several hours Sunday. It was not until the most urgent arguments were presented by the ten men in favor of conviction that the other two were prevailed upon to change their votes.

The crime for which Mrs. Myers was convicted was one of the most atrocious ever committed. According to the story of her paramour, Frank Hottman, who confessed to being an accomplice with Mrs. Myers in the murder of her husband, the crime was premeditated and was executed in the most brutal manner. Hottman was tried last February for the crime and was convicted, and is now awaiting the death penalty.

FIRE IN ST. LOUIS SUBURB.

Two Teamsters Reported Missing in a Fire Which Burned Stables at Wellston, Mo.

St. Louis, June 12.—Fire which supposably originated from an overturned lantern in the stable in the rear of No. 6223 Easton avenue, spread to four brick buildings and threatened with destruction that section of Wellston for a time at 10:30 o'clock last night.

Early this morning it was reported by the police that two of the half dozen teamsters who have been sleeping in the Motts & Forrest stable were missing.

Fully 5,000 visitors to west end summer gardens were marooned for several hours on account of the trolley wires being burned away.

LOSSES REACH MILLIONS.

Thousands of Acres of Rich Farm Lands in Northeast Missouri Under Water.

Quincy, Ill., June 12.—Thousands of acres of rich farming land with growing crops of corn, wheat and oats, in northeast Missouri, are covered with water, ranging in depth from a few inches to ten feet. The losses in the various flooded sections will reach millions.

Many heads of cattle and other stock have been drowned, and large quantities of personal property have been lost or destroyed by the high water in the Mississippi river and tributary streams.

Seven persons are reported missing in the vicinity of Alexandria, Mo.

TEN YEARS FOR BIGELOW.

The Milwaukee Bank Refaulter Goes to Fort Leavenworth Prison for Ten Years.

Milwaukee, June 12.—Frank G. Bigelow, self-confessed defaulter of the funds of the First national bank to the amount of a million and a half dollars, pleaded guilty to an indictment of the federal grand jury containing ten counts, each a violation of the national banking laws, and was sentenced by United States District Judge Joseph V. Quarles to ten years' imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kas. Bigelow arrived at Fort Leavenworth Sunday night.

GOLDEN STATE LAND FRAUDS

Investigator Declares They Dwarf Those of Oregon—Serious Charges Against Officials.

San Francisco, June 12.—Francis J. Heany, United States district attorney, appointed to prosecute the land fraud cases in Oregon, who has been investigating similar frauds in California, declared that the California frauds dwarf those of Oregon.

It is alleged that some officials of the state land office are involved in frauds and their assistance made the work of the land grabbers easy.

A BIT OF FRENCH COURTESY.

They Tender a Torpedo Boat to Carry Paul Jones' Body Down the River Seine.

Paris, June 12.—The French government has indicated its willingness to assign a torpedo boat to carry the body of Paul Jones down the River Seine from Paris to Havre, where a French squadron will deliver the body to an American squadron.

This will necessitate a change in the rendezvous of the American squadron from Cherbourg to Havre, which is now under consideration.

Foretold Hour of Death.

Palmyra, Mo., June 12.—William G. Rose, a well-known citizen of Palmyra, died of consumption. He announced that he could see his dead mother, was in communication with her and would die at 2:15 a. m. He died at exactly the time named.

Had the Gold With Him.

Naples, June 12.—The police have arrested Giacomo Campoli, who arrived here by the steamer Italia from New York. Campoli is charged with the theft of two bars of gold valued at $12,000 which were found in his valise.

A Wise Judge.

St. Louis, June 12.—Police Judge Tracy holds that a man may whip his mules to make them obey the same as he would a refractory child. Thomas Moriarity was arrested at the instance of a humane society agent, for mule whipping, but the case was dismissed.

A Tennessee Jurist.

Jackson, Tenn., June 12.—Judge John L. H. Tomlin, aged 84, died here. Before his retirement he was one of the most prominent jurists in this part of the country.

ISAAC and ISHMAEL

OUR BIBLE STORY by the "Highway and Byway" Preacher.

(A Vision Between the Lines of God's Inspired Word.)

Scripture Authority:—"And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac . . . And the child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast, the same day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac. And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son."—Gen. 21:3, 8-11.

THE sweet, merry laughter of a little child floated out upon the morning breeze, and a mother's tender voice could be heard, as she talked to and played with her darling.

The sounds reached the ears of a woman seated in her tent at some little distance away, and, shifting her position uneasily, as though the harmony and joy in the other tent had struck a discord in her own, she sighed, and muttered to herself:

"And now what of Ishmael?"

"What's that, mother?" quickly spoke up a boy who was tinkering over some boyish contrivance in the tent door, but who, at the sound of his mother's sigh and half inaudible words, dropped his work and looked up at her, inquiringly. "Did you speak my name?"

The woman started as one does when suddenly made conscious that the inward emotions have been betrayed. Instanly his sympathetic nature was aroused, and springing lightly to his feet, he went towards his mother, and, throwing himself at her feet and looking up into her face, he asked again, more insistently:

"What is it, mother?"

The relationship between the two was peculiarly close and tender, due largely to the circumstances surrounding the lives of both. The stern service of her mistress Sarah had its recompense in the joy of the coming of the son into her life; and she patiently endured, and lavished her affection upon the boy whom Sarah had coveted and then spurned. The touch of the boy's impulsive hand, his appealing look, his tone of sympathy, quite overcame her, and she burst into tears.

Don't, mother, don't!" exclaimed the boy, in great distress, while at the same time he caressed her, tenderly. "What is troubling you? Has"—

A little goo at the tent door startled them, and they both looked up just as a sturdy boy of between two and three years of age came toddling in. As he caught sight of Ishmael he uttered a gleeful shout, and came running towards him with outstretched hands. A smile lit up the troubled face of the older boy, and for the instant, forgetting the distress of his mother, he stooped to take the baby and have a frolic with him, as was his wont, for ever since the coming of little Isaac, Ishmael had been his loyal admirer and faithful guardian and playfellow, but as he stooped down, his eye fell upon the face of his mother, who with dark, almost evil look, was taking in the whole scene. Quickly checking himself, he turned toward his mother and studied the telitale emotions which were playing across her face, while the disappointed baby tugged at his tunic and whined, impatiently. Ishmael had never before seen such looks upon his mother's face, but that they were in some way connected with the little fellow who had so unexpectedly broken in upon them he instinctively felt.

At that instant a shadow fell across the doorway, and the form of a woman appeared. Her quick eye took in the tableau before her. The strained, drawn, hard look on the face of the Egyptian mother, the puzzled, troubled expression in Ishmael's face, and the impatient wail of her little son as he tugged sturdily at the older boy's garments and sought to obtain the accustomed attention which was for some reason he could not understand being withheld.

"Ah, here you are, you little runaway! Come, see what mother has for you," holding up a new garment of rich coloring and finest texture, which the proud mother was preparing for the great festal occasion which was to mark the weaning of the boy and his formal recognition as the sole heir of Abraham's possessions and position.

At the sound of Sarah's voice, Hagar looked up with a startled and guilty expression, and, trying to smile, she bowed low, and then spreading a rug at Sarah's feet, she said, with an effort at composure:

"Will not my mistress be seated?"

"Not this morning, Hagar, there is so much to do in preparation for Isaac's feast, which my hands alone must do, that I cannot," and with a pretense of not having noticed the jealousy and unhappiness of the other woman, she picked up her baby and hastened from the tent.

Hagar, who had risen when her mistress had entered, now paced the floor of her tent in great agitation, and the boy followed her movements in silence, the meanwhile pondering over the circumstances of the morning. Suddenly the mother stopped in front of him and exclaimed, fiercely, almost incoherently:

"The new garment, the great feast? Do you not know what that means for you? Oh, Ishmael—"

And again sobs and tears broke forth, cutting short the mother's words.

"But what of it, mother?" stammered the boy, in a dazed sort of way.

The failure of the boy to appreciate the situation seemed to exasperate the mother, and she exclaimed, passionately:

"What of it! Cannot you understand that you have no part or lot with Isaac? As son of Abraham thou art not to share in aught that is his save such beggarly portions as he may give you during his life. The new garment is for the heir! The feast is for the heir! And Abraham and the great sheiks of all the country round will make merry as Isaac is proclaimed heir! And you," seizing the boy by the shoulders and almost shaking him in the frenzy of her grief and despair, "and you are just Ishmael, son of the bond-slave!"

The first dawning feelings of jealousy and sense of wrong suffered began to rise in the boy's soul as his mother's words and her bitter grief cut deep into his sensitive nature. A feeling of resentment rose within him against those who could cause his mother so much grief, and the fact that his mother's thought was for him, made him all the more responsive to her mood. And with the feelings of jealousy and resentment came a new stirring within of self-reliance and independence. The proud spirit of the boy was touched, and an ill-defined, vague purpose took possession of him that day to achieve apart from anything that Abraham could or would do for him.

On the day before the feast Sarah said to Abraham:

"I like not the manner of Ishmael, of late. He cometh no more to our tent to visit Isaac, and I fear he is angry."

And then Sarah went on to tell what she witnessed in Hagar's tent some time before, since which time Ishmael had not been the same.

"It were better that he be not present at the feast to-morrow, lest the celebration in Isaac's honor cause the fires of jealousy to burn within his heart," Sarah continued. "He hath no part with thine heir. Let him go with the sheep herder who leaves with the flocks for the distant pasturage to-day."

Abraham shook his head slowly, while his countenance bore a troubled look.

"It seemeth hard to deny the boy the pleasures of the morrow. I fear thou art needlessly anxious. Should not Ishmael, my son, share in our joys and pleasures, and our plans?"

"Nay," quickly responded Sarah, "but dost thou not remember that the son of the bondwoman can have no part with the son of promise? Hast thou forgotten how the Lord hath spoken, saying that He would make His covenant with Isaac, and not Ishmael?"

The force of Sarah's words evidently impressed Abraham deeply, for as he turned to go, he said in quiet, sad tone of voice:

"I will arrange it according to thy wish."

Late that afternoon Ishmael trudged along behind the flocks, bitter resentment filling his heart.

"They are sending me off to get rid of me for the feast to-morrow," he muttered. "It is not fair! Mother says I have as good right to be there as Isaac, for am I not Abraham's son?"

Such was the burden of Ishmael's thoughts, and the longer he pondered the situation, and the farther he journeyed from home, the more positive became the conviction that grievous injustice was being done him. Suddenly he stopped, as a thought flashed into his mind, and he exclaimed:

"I'll do it! I'll do it!"

That night when darkness had fallen and the herder was rounding up some of the scattering sheep, Ishmael slipped away and started back towards home. The next morning he lingered on the outskirts of the tented area, for he dared not make his presence known. As he lay hidden in the bushes near enough to see and hear, he watched the guests arrive, and listened to the busy hum of voices as the visiting and merry-making went on. He saw the gifts as they were borne to Sarah's tent to be presented to little Isaac, and later he saw the latter in his gorgeous robes, such as the heir is accustomed to wear on such occasions, being borne aloft, while the assembled guests bowed before him and then with loud acclaim proclaimed him Abraham's heir and wished him long life and prosperity and power. Then came the feasting, and Ishmael, who had eaten nothing since the night before, found his hunger overcoming his fears, and leaving his hiding place he crept in to where some of the servants were feasting and making merry. Gladly they made place for him, for the boy was a general favorite with them, and while they cast knowing glances at each other, they plied him with questions as to where he had been and why he was not sharing in the festivities.

With a sneer in the direction of Isaac, and a shrug of the shoulders, Ishmael snarled:

"Why should all be given to Isaac? Am I not Abraham's son?"

"The boy is right," chuckled one dark-visaged fellow, by way of encouragement, and then noting the responsive nods on every side, and the brightening of Ishmael's countenance, he continued: "Here's to Ishmael, Abraham's heir."

The spirit of reckless fun then seized the rest of the group. One fellow threw over Ishmael's shoulders in lieu of the robes of the heir one of the brilliant rugs lying on the ground, and all bowed before him in mock solemnity. The commotion drew the attention of the rest of the company, and Sarah beholding, took in the situation at a glance, while the guests thinking it only some merry frolic of the servants turned again to their feasting and chatter.

But not so Sarah, and after the guests had all departed and she and Abraham were alone, her pent-up feelings burst forth:

"Cast out this bondwoman and her son," she fiercely and abruptly exclaimed. "For the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac!"

In bewildered surprise and sorrow, Abraham by questioning learned of the incidents of the afternoon, but the harsh measures which his wife proposed seemed very grievous unto him, for he loved Ishmael, but natural affection often brings one at cross purposes with faith and the plans of God.

Abraham bowed his head in grief and spake not.

"Cast out this bondwoman and her son," again demanded Sarah, "for he shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac!"

And Abraham, the father of Ishmael, the son of the bondwoman, and the father of Isaac, the son of promise, strode out into the night in silence, to fight out the issue alone with God.