SIGNED BY ALL

Joint Note to China Is Ready for Presentation to the Chinese Envoys.

Text of the Document to Be Kept Secret Until After Its Delivery.

Agreement as Signed Said to Be Not Wholly Satisfactory at Washington.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—A representative of the Associated Press was informed at the foreign office here that the joint note which had been signed by all the ministers at Peking would be presented to Prince Ching and Li Hung Chang immediately. The text will be published as soon as it is delivered.

SENT WITH RELUCTANCE.

Instructions to Minister Conger to Sign the Peking Agreement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Instructions have been sent to Minister Conger at Peking to sign the agreement which, according to Peking advices, already has been signed by all of the other ministers at the Chinese capital. This instruction is sent with some reluctance because the agreement as it now stands does not completely represent the view of the United States government. But it is believed to be the most favorable compromise that could be reached unless the negotiations are to be drawn out to a dangerous length, for all reports indicate a growing spirit of unrest in China, owing to the absence of any form of native government in Chi-Li and the adjacent provinces. So the United States accepts the "irrevocable" condition imposed upon the Chinese government, though after all this expression is rather a matter of form rather than substance, for diplomacy knows no such thing as "irrevocable" agreement.

As to the British condition, that the occupation of Peking and Chi-Li is to continue until China has given satisfactory proofs of her intention to comply with the conditions laid down in the agreement, it is said that this will not affect the status of the United States. Mr. Conger has, by direction of his government, notified the other ministers that the United States force will not again be called into China for the purpose of occupation, this nothing more than a legation guard is to be maintained. It therefore is expected here that the agreement will be signed before the end of the current month.

MANY DOCKMEN ON STRIKE.

Thirty Thousand Laborers Quit Work at Antwerp.

ANTWERP, Dec. 20.—The dock laborers strike, growing out of the dispute between the shipowners and their employes regarding night and Sunday work, became general during the day, and it is estimated 30,000 men have quit work. The coal men have joined the dock laborers. Ship crews and firemen are loading their vessels, but they make little progress at the work. Few, if any, outsiders have yet arrived to take the place of strikers. Mounted police are patroling the streets and quays on the alert to suppress any disorder that may occur.

SAY THEY WILL STRIKE.

Santa Fe Switchmen and Brakemen Want Telegraphers' Demands Granted.

TOPEKA, Kan., Dec. 20.—Santa Fe switchmen and brakemen here say they will strike if the demands of the telegraphers are not granted by Third Vice President Barr. The conductors announce they will stay by the road, but it is asserted that they will be induced to join in the strike if one is ordered. The engineers and firemen have not yet said whether or not they will strike.

The strikers here profess to be more sanguine of success now than they have been at any time since the beginning of the strike.

TO COST $6,000,000.

Union Pacific Awards the Contract for a Forty-Mile Cutoff.

SALT LAKE, Utah, Dec. 20.—A special from Cheyenne, Wy., says:

The Union Pacific Railway company has awarded a contract for a cutoff through Echo canyon from Echo, Wy., to Salt Lake, a distance of 40 miles. The contract price, $6,000,000, is one of the largest in the history of railway construction in the West. The contractors have four years in which to complete the work. It is said the Union Pacific has completed a deal with the recently incorporated Los Angeles and Salt Lake railway, which will give them a practical air line from Chicago to the Pacific coast via Salt Lake.

Uses of Burlap.

An enormous and increasing amount of burlap is used in this country, 500,000,000 yards a year, it is said. Burlap is used for making bags, it figures in coat linings, and is even entering, in a dressed-up state, into wall coverings. But it is chiefly used for packing and wrapping, and with our increasing export trade great quantities of it are demanded.

GOLD MINE SOLD.

English Syndicate Buys the Portland at Victor, Col., Paying $15,000,000.

The Portland mine has been sold to an English syndicate for $15,000,000. The deal has been practically completed, the purchasers being a combination of British financiers, including the Exploration company, limited, of London; the Venture corporation, Werner Beit & Co., the Great South African firm, and a number of the leading individual capitalists of London. The Portland covers 183 acres in the richest section of Battle mountain, and has paid more in dividends than any other mining company now in existence in Colorado. The underground workings measure not far from 15 miles.

The mine was opened originally by James Burns, James Doyle and John Harman, all of whom it has made millionaires. Subsequently a consolidation of adjacent property was effected, whereby W. S. Stratton came into posession of about one-third of the stock.

Shipments were commenced in April, 1894, and since that time the ouput of the property has been $10,000,000. The amount paid in dividends since that time has been $3,307,080. The lowest price on record for the stock is 26½ cents, the highest price $3.35 a share.

BRIEF BITS OF NEWS.

Former Governor Wolcott of Massachusetts is dead.

Dr. Richard A. Wise, member of the house from Virginia, is dead.

The Northern Pacific and Soo roads have agreed to the Great Northern proposition to abolish round trip colonist tickets west of St. Paul.

Mathews Bros.' picture moulding factory, at Toronto, Ont., was burned Friday. [illegible] were injured, 3 seriously. [illegible]

[illegible] the Republican [illegible] for the nomination of President [illegible] in the present building.

JOKE WITH BARS OF GOLD.

National City Bank of New York City Has Fun at the Expense of Wall Street.

The National City bank has perpetrated a huge joke on Wall street, or somebody has been having fun with the great Standard Oil institution. On October 14 Paul Janssen, foreign exchange expert of the bank, announced that the bank had engaged $2,500,000 of gold in the Transvaal and was importing it direct. England was startled by its announcement. Many financial authorities questioned if $2,500,000 in gold could have been shipped from the Witwatersrand without the news of the shipment having first reached London through the military authorities. Wall street met this claim by the positive declaration that the gold was the personal wealth of President "Peter Paul Kruger," who had smuggled it out of the country.

When the manifest of the steamship Kaiserin Maria Theresa reached the custom house the other day it contained this entry: "Fifty cases of gold bars, marked P. P. K. Consigned to National City bank by agent of Deutsche bank, of Berlin, value £508,000."

When the 50 boxes arrived at the assay office they were taken to the vaults, broken open, and an assayer picked up one of the bars. It bore this familiar mark: "U. S. Assay office, New York, 1900."

Evidently the "Kruger" gold was a reshipment of United States gold that went from New York in June last.

VERY UNSETTLED.

Advices From the Island of Leyte Indicate Considerable Turmoil.

MANILA, Dec. 26.—Advices to the Associated Press from the island of Leyte show that there is still considerable turmoil on the west coast, but that the east is quiet, the leaders having retired to the mountains. Lieutenant Frank E. Lynch and three men of the Forty-fourth volunteer infantry were wounded near Ilongas, on the west coast. Two men of Company L, Forty-third volunteer infantry, were killed, and three of Companies L and F, together with Lieutenant Lewis H. Leaf, were wounded Dec. 13 near San Miguel, Northwestern Leyte.

No decided results have yet been secured by the 2,000 United States troops distributed among the coast towns of Samar.

The Federal party in Manila has decided upon a new organization and published in the Spanish and Filipino newspapers an address to the Filipinos.

Appeal for Peace.

"The number of Filipinos who are convinced that the time for peace has come increases daily," says the address. "The object of the Federal party is the union of all Filipinos who really wish for peace and who are disposed to work for it. It appeals to those who will attempt to attain for the Philippines the greatest number of liberties under the application of the American constitution. We call ourselves the Federal party because under American sovereignty the righteous aspirations of the Philippines will be to form a part of the American federation of the Union."

The executive committee has cabled President McKinley announcing that the organization has been perfected and tendering an expression of good will.

HELD BY THE RAILROAD.

United States Exhibits Hung Up in France for Freight Charges.

PARIS, Dec. 26.—Thirty cars, forming part of the United States government exhibit at the recent Paris exposition, were suddenly laid under embargo at Havre, the railroad company declining to surrender them, pending payment of a claim of 5,710 francs. This extraordinary action, seriously delaying the departure of the United States cruiser Prairie from Havre for New York with the government exhibits, was made the subject of a formal protest to the French government by United States Ambassador Porter.

The company bases its claim on demurrage charges on freight in the cars when the goods were brought to the exposition for installation.

GREETINGS TO KRUGER.

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Commercial Club Extends Freedom of the City.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 26.—The Commercial club of this city has unanimously adopted a resolution extending to President Kruger an official welcome and the freedom of the city. In accordance with this action the city clerk sent the following cablegram to President Kruger at The Hague:

"We extend greetings and most urgently request you to visit our city and meet more than 30,000 of our countrymen."

Missionaries Are Returning.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 26.—The steamship Olympia has sailed for the Orient. Among the passengers are John Woodberry, Dr. Y. Young and Miss E. Jones, missionaries from New York, who returned to this country at the beginning of the trouble in China last spring. They are now returning to continue the work which was interrupted by the Boxer uprising.

Said to Be Noted Criminals.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 26.—The names given by the four men captured at Ridgeway Sunday afternoon charged with an unsuccessful attempt to rob the bank of P. T. Stevens at Montfort are Harry Devert, J. Montague, J. H. Berry and James Hopkins. It is alleged the men are noted criminals. A detective is expected here who will identify them.

Upheld the "Loayalist" Faction.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26.—The national judiciary of the Junior Order United American Mechanics, which heard evidence to determine which of the two factions in this state is entitled to recognition by the national body, has made public its decision, in which what is termed the "Loayalist" faction is upheld.

Another Earthquake at Santiago.

SANTIAGO, Cuba, Dec. 26.—The second earthquake experienced by this district within a month, occurred at noon. The shocks were first scarcely perceptible, but they increased steadily and the last one was the most severe known for many years in this region.

Will Control the Clover Leaf.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 26.—A prominent railway official in this city is authority for the statement that the stock of the Clover Leaf is being purchased in heavy blocks by Canadian Pacific interests and that that road will soon have a controlling interest.

BRIEF BITS OF NEWS.

General Keoma, governor of Formosa, has been appointed minister of war in the Japanese cabinet, replacing Minister Kathura, who has resigned.

Dr. D. K. Pearsons of Chicago has given $3,000,000 to small Western colleges, and says he will distribute his entire wealth before his death in the same way.

Gillis Johnson was shot and killed by Charles Wilcox in a drunken row at Middlesboro, Ky. Wilcox was slightly wounded. Johnson is reputed to have killed three men.

Roland Reed, the actor, has been removed from the St. Luke's hospital to his home on West One Hundred and Twenty-second street, New York city. He has improved very much.

MONEY PANIC IN MEXICO.

Government About to Let Out the Silver Reserve in Consequence.

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 22.—It is stated that a money panic is now on in Mexico. John Hilsinger, manager for the El Paso and Juarez branch of the Banno Miner, the strongest bank in Mexico City and Chihuahua, states that the panic was becoming serious and that the government was about to let out the silver reserve, amounting to nearly $40,000,000, to relieve the situation.

"There is plenty of money in Mexico," said Mr. Hilsinger, "but no silver dollars, which is the only circulating money. The exportation of silver to the Orient has very nearly cleared the country of silver and a panic has resulted. The banks have asked the government to release the silver, which they propose to replace with American and British money."

Investigate After the Recess.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The special committee appointed by Speaker Henderson to investigate the circumstances connected with the death of Oscar L. Booz, who is alleged to have died as a result of injuries received from hazing while a cadet at West Point, decided to enter upon the investigation immediately after the holiday recess.

RESIDENTS FRANTIC.

Part of the Town of Pittston, Pa., Sinking Into a Mine.

PITTSTON, Pa., Dec. 22.—The cavein at the Ravine mine of the Pennsylvania Coal company continues. Before noon the principal street of the city, for a distance of 30 feet, fell into the mine. The cavein is the most serious in the history of the anthracite region. Police are guarding other sections which it is feared will also sink into the mines. Water and gas mains were broken by the cavein and water is continuing to rush into the mines. Seven houses were badly damaged and the residents of the neighborhood of the cavein are frantic with fear that their homes will be precipitated into the mines. The collapse was caused by the robbing of the mine pillars.

WHY MANY HEELS ARE LOST.

Modern Machine Pegging on Shoes Is Not at All Conducive to Long Wear.

"Have you noticed," asked the observant man, according to the New York Times, "how often one sees the portions of shoe heels scattered about at the elevated road stations and other places where a lift might easily be torn off? I wonder what the reason is. In the old days the heels of one's shees were the part that clung to the uppers most closely. You newspaper fellows are supposed to know everything. Just answer that conundrum." The writer could not, but a shoe dealer could, and did. "The reason," said he, "is because in these days of machine-made shoes the heels are fastened on by machinery, as is every other part of the shoe. Soft iron is used for the nails instead of steel, as this is handled more easily. When the lifts of the heels have been fastened in place the nails protrude. The shoes are then sent to another machine, where they are shaved off instead of being driven home, as in the days when the work was done by hand. The result is that they are insecurely fastened, and if one catches the heel of his shoe against a stair so that there is the least strain on it it gives way and pulls off. The moral is to have a set of steel nails driven into the heels when you buy a new pair of shoes."

TRAGEDY OF A LIFE.

Sailor Deserted by Friends Dies Alone on a Barren Island.

His Skeleton Found in His Bunk with a Diary by His Side in Which He Had Recorded His Terrible Experiences.

On Unimak island, which guards one of the entrances to the Behring sea, a rude mound of rocks marks the last resting place of Charles William Anderson, sailor, fisherman and hunter.

Anderson starved to death on the bleak and barren island waiting for friends who deserted him. He died on June 19, 1899, and his skeleton in his bunk and his diary beside it were found by two hunters who were driven on the island during a storm.

The diary was addressed to Andrew Groswold, of Unga, who arrived at San Francisco a few days ago with his friend's last writings.

Several vessels passed by his island prison, the pathetic record reads, but none saw Anderson's flag of distress. Once a vessel was becalmed close to the shore and he tried to reach it, but he had not the strength left to launch his little boat. His legs had failed him and he could only pull himself along by his elbows.

He deliberated on shooting his dog, Dempsey, but he could not screw up courage to slay his faithful friend. "He brought seals to me through the breakers," he wrote, "and I fed him as long as I could." Finally the dog disappeared.

The diary records the terrible sufferings of Anderson from thirst and his expeditions after fresh water. The last entry says:

"Monday, June 19.—Now I must go for water again. I am more afraid this time than before. But with God's help I may come back again. I would not like to die outside. But God's will be done."

He had his wish, for he returned and died in his bunk.

Killed by a Burglar.

HOUSTON, Tex., Dec. 21.—Charles E. Stone, an insurance man, was shot and killed by a burglar in his room. Stone fired at the man and missed. The thief then shot him above the heart and escaped.