

## COMPANY IS AGREEABLE

Ratifies Terms on Which We Take the Canal.

## PREPARING A REPLY

Reyes Has Little Reason to Hope for Concessions.

Paris, Dec. 30.—At a meeting of the Panama Canal company here today the management submitted a report asking for approval of the company's agreement with the United States. The report was adopted by an overwhelming majority, showing the opposition to the United States is insignificant.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Admiral Lambert today called the navy department and he had ordered the cruiser Detroit to San Domingo to relieve the Scorpion, which was ordered there yesterday.

**Long Cabinet Meeting.**  
Washington, Dec. 30.—At the meeting of the cabinet the Panama situation was the principal subject under consideration. All members of the cabinet except Secretary Hay, who is ill; Secretary Shaw, and Attorney General Knox, who are out of the city, were present. The meeting was one of the longest held for several weeks, the session consuming quite two hours. At the conclusion of the meeting the members were not communicative. Secretary Root was delayed nearly half an hour in his arrival at the meeting, having been in conference with General Reyes, the special representative of Colombia.

**Root Is Managing the Case.**  
This circumstance caused it to transpire that during the illness of Secretary Hay Secretary Root has been designated by the president to conduct the negotiations of this government with General Reyes. Secretary Root laid before the president the details of his interview with the Colombian minister. Careful consideration was given to the Colombian note filed with the state department by General Reyes, but it can be said that no answer yet has been made to it. The note was submitted by the Colombian minister in Spanish, and some delay was encountered in the translation of the document.

**Reyes Has a Hopeless Task.**  
No intimation of the contents of General Reyes' note or of the reply of this government is given from any authoritative source. It is known, however, that the administration regards the ratification of the treaty with the republic of Panama as the first step to be taken in the entire pending matter. What this government may do subsequently will be determined, at least in part, by the circumstances then surrounding the case. Preparation of the answer of this government to the communication from General Reyes is progressing, but it is said that it will not be ready for presentation before tomorrow. His frequent conferences with the officials of the administration have enabled General Reyes to realize that the United States will not retrace a step on the isthmus.

## TWENTY-SECOND VICTIM OF PERE-MARQUETTE WRECK

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 30.—Conductor George Neil, the 22nd victim of the Pere Marquette wreck near East Paris Saturday, died today. Neil lived at Ionia.

## Generating Plant Blows Up.

Long Tree, Iowa, Dec. 30.—A generating plant in Smith's barber shop exploded last night. No one was injured. The damage was slight.

## Death of Marquis.

Dublin, Dec. 30.—The Marquis of Sligo died today.

## Cat Has Long and Cold Ride on Trucks of a New York Train

Utica, N. Y., Dec. 30.—An Albany cat, perched on one of the trucks of a New York newspaper train, made the journey between that city and Utica yesterday, traveling the distance at the rate of a mile a minute. The feline was well groomed, its sleek body indicating that it had a good home in the capital city. All attempts at persuasion did not stir the cat when the train reached this city, for the reason it was frozen to the trucks. The cat

## CONVERTS PROFESS TO BEHOLD VISIONS

Indiana Town Wrought up Over Revival of Holiness Band.

Clarksville, Ind., Dec. 30.—For nine weeks and more a band of revivalists belonging to the Holiness denomination have been conducting meetings at Jefferson, this county, which have resulted in the greatest religious awakening ever known in the community. Rev. Frank Middleton and Rev. F. M. Clarke are in charge.

The meetings sometimes continue the greater part of the night. Many of the converts profess to see visions of the home beyond, and after their conversion the women eschew plumage and gaudy decorations, while the men discard neckties. The church building is unable to accommodate the throngs attending the services, while the influence is spreading in every direction.

## RUSSIA IN QUEST OF MORE REVENUE

Now Proposes to Make Government Monopoly of Tea and Sugar.

Moscow, Dec. 30.—The government is considering making the sale of tea and sugar a state monopoly, as proposed by M. Witte while finance minister. There is great opposition to the proposal on the part of the tea and sugar trade, but the growing needs of the treasury and the exhaustion of other resources, as pointed out in M. Witte's last budget, are believed in well-informed circles to make the adoption of the proposition probable.

The present brandy monopoly yields upward of \$300,000,000 yearly—about one-fourth of the revenues of the empire—and the monopoly of tea and sugar is expected to be even more profitable, as the expenses of its operation will be small.

## WHERE HE REACHED HIS LIMIT

When the Husband Hired His Wife Out to a Neighbor to Plant Corn She Struck.

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 30.—Mrs. Lillian Doebler, of this city, who has just been granted a divorce from Ives W. Doebler on the ground of habitual drunkenness, extreme cruelty and failure to support, averred in her bill of complaint that her husband, just before she left him, hired her out to a neighbor by the day to plant corn and told her that she must go. She refused and left him.

She also alleged that he had forced her to work in the fields with him husking corn and weeding sugar beets and that they earned together about \$15 a week, all of which he appropriated for his own use, and spent most of it for liquor. During the last winter they lived together she said she cut wood with him in the woods with a crosscut saw when the snow was deep.

## MOB LAW AT COUNCIL BLUFFS

Causes the Authorities to Take Two Negro Prisoners to the State Penitentiary for Safety.

Council Bluffs, Ia., Dec. 30.—Neely Zimmerman and George Burk, two negroes who narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of an infuriated mob, have been taken to the state penitentiary at Fort Madison, Ia., for safekeeping. During the afternoon the men were taken before Judge Wheeler and waived preliminary examination. The judge then signed an order for their removal and the men were hastily spirited away to Fort Madison.

During the day Sheriff Cousins learned of an organized plan to lynch Zimmerman and Burk, and again made a request for a company of militia to guard the county jail and arranged for a heavy force of city police to assist in case their services were requested. Four assaults within a week similar to those made on Mrs. Sparks and her daughter had wrought up the working people of the city to the mob law point.

## Henry B. Plant's Estate.

New York, Dec. 30.—Henry B. Plant, the founder of the Plant system of steamships, railways and hotels, who died in 1899, left, according to the report of the appraiser appointed by the surrogate's court to assess the value of the estate for the purpose of the inheritance tax, a gross personal estate of \$12,729,000.

# HUNDREDS OF LIVES LOST IN IROQUOIS THEATRE

Panic Following Discovery of Fire in New Chicago Play House Results in Terrible Calamity—Floors of Galleries Covered With Dead.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—At 4:45 p. m. Chief Musham said from personal investigation he believed there were from 300 to 500 dead bodies in the first balcony of the theatre.

It is estimated 60 bodies had been rescued from the fire at 4:45 p. m.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Fire broke out in the Iroquois theatre this afternoon. The audience fled in a panic to the street. A dozen men and a number of women had their faces and hands fearfully burned and were attended at a neighboring drug store.

At 4:20 the loss of life is known to be 10. The fire started on the stage at the end of the second act and a panic ensued immediately, many being caught in the crush.

## Hundreds on Floors.

Fire Marshal Musham, who has just been up in the balcony, says it looks as if there were 200 or 300 people lying piled upon the floors of the upper balconies. He could not say whether they are dead or alive. In one place there seemed to be over 100.

The Iroquois theatre opened about a month ago and was largely destroyed by fire today. Between 100 and 200 people lost their lives from suffocation or being crushed to death in the panic which followed the cry of "fire" by some one in the audience.

## Started in Drapery

The flames were discovered among the drapery on the stage, and Manager Davis says they could have been put out, but the panic seized everybody and all rushed for the doors.

All on the first floor escaped, and

it was not known there there was a serious loss of life until the firemen went up into the balconies.

The floors of the first and second balconies were found to be literally covered with people. In places they had been thrown down in the crush and trampled upon and, unable to escape, they were overcome by the smoke.

## Taking Out Dead.

A large number have already been taken out, and some dead bodies and others injured.

The fire is now out and the firemen are searching the ruins for the missing. It will be several hours before the extent of the loss of life is known.

## A STUBBORN BLAZE

Takes Twelve Hours and Thirteen Engines to Overcome a Fire at Pittsburg.

## STORAGE WAREHOUSE DAMAGED

Construction Is Condemned by the Owner—Cost May Reach \$700,000.

Pittsburg, Dec. 30.—For twelve hours, commencing at 6 a. m. thirteen engine companies battled with a stubborn fire in the six-story storage warehouse of Haugh & Keenan, at Third street and Duquesne way. Crossed electric wires is given as the possible cause of the conflagration. The loss, according to James F. Keenan, president of the company, will not fall below \$200,000, and may reach \$700,000. The insurance will not cover more than one-tenth of the loss. Keenan blames the steel shutters and doors which are approved by the fire underwriters for most of the damage. He contends that if the firemen had been able to open these doors and shutters the flames would have been under control long before they were.

## Built to Resist the Flames.

The building is a solid brick structure, equipped for a warehouse, and constructed of slow combustion material. It was supposed to be practically fireproof. Its solidity and protected character were the means of making it one of the hardest fires to fight the department has had for years. From the time the fire was discovered in the morning until it was smothered out in the evening not once did the flames appear in any great volume, but slowly and surely ate their way from the fifth floor to the sixth, and from the fifth to the third. All the goods that were not burned were more or less damaged by the flood of water poured into the building.

## Will Have to Be Rebuilt.

In estimating the loss, President Keenan said: "We had more than 300 renters in the building, and every foot of the 150,000 feet of floor space was occupied. It is hard to tell what the value of these goods were, but the total may reach \$700,000. The loss on the building which is owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad company, will reach \$25,000, but it might as well be a total loss for the walls are bulged so much that they will have to be rebuilt."

## Collecting of Fossils in the Blaze.

The McCormick Harvesting company was a heavy loser, and the Carnegie museum may lose considerably on its Bayet collection of fossils, which were stored in the building for want of room at the Carnegie Institute building. This collection was bought by Andrew Carnegie from the king of Belgium last year at a heavy cost. It contains 215 cases, containing 100,000 pieces and is the largest individual collection in the world.

## CHILDREN LEFT LOCKED IN HOUSE BURNED TO DEATH

Chicago, Dec. 30.—While Mrs. Michael Kondas was away from home yesterday afternoon fire damaged the dwelling and suffocated her two children, Barbara, aged 4, and Mary, aged 2, whom she had left locked in the house. It is supposed the children played with matches.

## PESSIMISM IN RUSSIA

Press Takes Gloomy View of the Outlook.

## POINTS TO THE PAST

Desperate But Not Hopeless Say the Japanese.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 30.—Foreign dispatches received here yesterday are reflected today in more pessimistic editorials. The Novoye Vremya begins its leader with "There is no war today; Tomorrow there may be war." The papers rather fatalistically direct attention to the fact that was marked the opening of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The Novoye Vremya, nevertheless, still professes faith in a peaceful settlement.

It is officially announced, in view of reports current abroad on renewed attacks on Jews, that Kishineff was never quieter than at the present time.

## Hope in Japan.

Paris, Dec. 30.—It is learned in diplomatic circles the Japanese government has informed the foreign diplomats the situation with respect to Russia is desperate, but not hopeless. It is believed this information was communicated to the French government for presentation at St. Petersburg.

## Purchase Warships.

London, Dec. 30.—Japan this evening completed the purchase of the Argentine warships Moreno and Rivadavia, now building at Genoa, Italy, for which Russia also was negotiating.

## Minister Exercised.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The Japanese minister called at the state department today and reported that the situation in the far east is one that gives great concern and that Japan is making preparations for the worst. It is hoped, however, Russia will reconsider her first answer to Japan's request.

## LEAVES HIS ESTATE TO FOUND SCHOOL

Will of Late Washington Carrington Is Probated at Peoria.

Peoria, Ill., Dec. 30.—The will of the late Washington Carrington was today filed for probate. He leaves his entire estate valued at \$750,000 for the founding of an educational institution near Peoria to be known as the Carrington institute and university.

## GOV. YATES WILL FILE A PROTEST

Holds that Tax of 52 Cents on \$100 Is Too Much of a Burden.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 30.—The state tax commission has fixed the state tax rate at 52 cents on the \$100 assessed valuation, and Governor Yates will file a protest against the rate, declaring it to be too high and without authority. The governor was understood to favor 45 cents, alleging that with the other sources of revenue it would produce enough revenue for the state purposes. The state auditor and state treasurer argued that the rate last year was too low, that the levy tax bill for the last legislature made it imperative that they raise \$5,500,000 a year from taxes for state purposes, and that there is no way of evading the mandates of that law.

They also contended that the other sources of state revenue, such as the Illinois Central 7 per cent. on gross earnings, the inheritance tax and the fees from other departments are not likely to be up to the high water mark of present year. The governor's protest will contain figures to substantiate his position and he will argue that the tax levy bill of the last legislature is not mandatory, but discretionary.

## PROTEST AGAINST COTTON GAMBLING

Factory Employees at Manchester, England Hold a Mass Meeting.

Manchester, England, Dec. 30.—At a mass meeting of the cotton trade held here a resolution was adopted strongly condemning "international cotton gambling, which has greatly injured the trade, resulted in serious losses and lessened employment, thus bringing great distress," and also inviting the government to receive a representative deputation with the object of urging measures to prevent "gambling in cotton." The meeting was well attended by representative men.

C. W. Macara, president of the Masters' Federation, in moving the resolution, said the developments of the cotton industry throughout the world had been such as to make it necessary, if the situation was to be effectively met, to form an international combination to reduce consumption. Want of foresight in allowing "combinations of gamblers" to assume gigantic dimensions before taking steps to counteract by equally powerful combinations was responsible for the prevailing abuses.

## SAYS IT IS EXAGGERATED

Reported Reduction in Wages Contemplated by Jones & Laughlin at Pittsburg.

Pittsburg, Dec. 3.—A report is current that the Jones & Laughlin Steel company had notified its employees of a proposed reduction in wages, ranging from 25 to 50 per cent., and an increase in the working hours from eight hours a day to twelve hours. The new scale was to be effective Jan. 1.

When seen by a representative of the Associated Press W. F. B. Jones, president of the company, said the report was most misleading and untrue. "A reduction," said he, "will be made, taking effect Jan. 1. This reduction has been agreed to by all our employees affected, the men realizing the necessity of a reduction. In a few cases a change will be made from an eight to a twelve hour turn. This, however, affects only a small number of our men. The twelve-hour turn has been in effect in similar positions for years in all other mills."

## WAR AT SAN DOMINGO

Revolutionists Are Again Pounding Away at the Capital of the West Indian Black Republic.

San Domingo, Dec. 30.—The insurgents are attacking this city, which is being defended by the troops of the provisional government, who are now fighting in force. A commission from San Pedro de Macoris, which has declared in favor of the insurgents, has arrived here and is demanding the surrender of San Domingo to the insurgent forces.

General Morales, the provisional president, is determined to resist to the limit all attacks by the insurgents. He has left on the Dominican gunboat Independencia with the intention of attacking the insurgents in ports to the south.

## Shepherd Dog Assumes Role of Protector of a Crippled Squirrel

New York, Dec. 30.—Huddled together under a blanket of snow were found early this morning near the mounted police station in Central park a crippled squirrel and Shep, a collie. Through the long hours of the night the little cripple had been protected from the cold by the shaggy coat of Shep, who nestled so close to his charge that the latter was kept warm. When the two animals were

## RUSH PACT IS IN PERIL

Both Countries Desire Warships on Great Lakes.

## CANADA BUILDS BOAT

Smith, of Michigan, is Active for Abrogation.

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 30.—The building of a Canadian armed cruiser for the great lakes has caused comment on the treaty supposed to restrict such a movement. Under Secretary of State Pope points out that no treaty exists between Great Britain and the United States limiting the number and armament of vessels to be maintained by the United States or Canada on the great lakes. There is an agreement to cease placing them there after six months' notice by either country. Pope doubts if it is binding.

## State Department Hasn't Heard.

Washington, Dec. 30.—The state department has not been informed up to this moment that the Canadian government contemplates placing an armed cruiser on the lakes in addition to the few small and insignificant national vessels now maintained there. Recently the Canadian government laid down a couple of revenue cutters for lake service, and although these were — being of modern type — better vessels than those heretofore employed for this work, their construction was not regarded here as violating the treaty.

## Keeps an Eye on Canada.

Attention was called to the matter, however, by some of the representatives from the great lake section and the state department made a quiet but effective inquiry into the character of the Canadian cutters. A United States naval officer visited the place where the vessels were being built and examined their construction, a fact that gave rise to some feeling on the part of the Canadians when they learned of the visit.

## Will Bring Up an Old Question.

As soon as congress reconvenes after the recess there will without doubt be a renewal of the attempt which has been made annually for the last ten years to secure a repeal or modification of that section of the Rush treaty between the United States and Great Britain that limits the use of naval vessels on the lakes. Representative William Aldrich, of Michigan, has taken a particularly advanced position in this matter and his activity has, it is said, excited a corresponding movement in Canada.

## Smith Has Heard News.

He has heard from some quarter that he believes to be reliable a statement that the Canadian government is about to enter a formal protest against the location of the proposed United States naval training station on the great lakes, according to the plans of the Taylor board, to which congress is expected to give effect during the present session.

## Which Will Spur Him On.

Anticipating such protest, Smith already has prepared himself to renew with force the attack upon the Rush treaty, holding as he does that it has had a paralyzing effect upon the important shipbuilding industries of the great lakes, as they would otherwise be in position, not only to supply themselves such naval vessels as might be needed for training purposes on the lakes, but could also enter into competition with the deep-sea shipbuilders for larger naval construction.

## BURNING OF CHILD WAS CAUSE OF LEPROSY RUMOR

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 30.—A report circulated in Lincoln yesterday afternoon that cases of leprosy had been discovered in the Russian colony of the city is declared by authorities to be without foundation. A Russian child had been severely burned, and the secretiveness of its parents is declared responsible for the report.