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PEACE LIKELY NOW, JAPAN WITHRAVS MONEY CLAIMS; BURDEN OF SETTLEMENT HAS SHIFTED TO RUSSIA

FOREST FIRES THREATEN MANY SECTIONS

border Line of Maine and New Brunswick in North Marked by Line of Blaze - Short Rain Brings Relief to North Shore - I. C. R. Counties Suffer.

Forest fires threaten destruction of much property in several parts of the province and already much has been done. Reports from several places are given here.

Rex Cormier, of Hampton Superior School, who came in from Giletton county last night, said the forest fires were causing serious harm on both sides of the Maine border. In the neighborhood of Monticello and Bridgewater (Me.) many persons had temporarily abandoned their homes and were tenting in the fields and along the shores of lake and stream. The houses they lived in were literally surrounded by the blazing forest and it was thought best to avoid the risk of perishing by fire in the dwellings.

Mr. Cormier referred to the destruction of the Medunukim Lumber Company mills near Monticello on Sunday night. The loss is estimated at \$30,000, with small insurance.

On the way down from Carleton county, fires were frequently seen back in the woods. In fact much of the western portion of the province was threatened.

Situation in Harcourt Vicinity.

Harcourt, N. B., Aug. 28.—Forest fires are causing much loss and alarm south and southeast of Harcourt. Jean Vanour, of St. Norbert, lost his barn, mare and cow on Friday. Thomas McWilliams' block of braced lumber land, six miles square, on Coal Branch, is burned over, and John Brown's lot of 300 acres is ruined.

Stephen Farrer's house in Lorne was in great danger yesterday, and was saved only by the shifting of the wind, which permitted the smoke to drift away from the buildings while the fire was for a moment directed off the premises.

The Mount Carleton buildings, only a few of which are now inhabited, as the mines are not running, are all in serious danger. There is a big fire in the woods of East Adamsville, and one back of Grandville. There was a little rain this forenoon.

Country in Alarming State.

Havelock, N. B., Aug. 28.—The apple crop is small this year, and the apples have not grown any for the last month on account of the dry weather. The grain and potato crops are also affected. The pastures have nearly dried up, and the hay fields look parched and dry. Brooks have ceased to run and wells have gone dry. The state of the country at present is something alarming.

Rain Helps North Shore Situation

Moncton, N. B., Aug. 28.—(Special)—The hearts of the North Shore people were

New Basis of Settlement Found in Tokio's Willingness to Drop Indemnity

Russia to Have North of Sakhalin and Price to Be Fixed by a Mixed Commission—Witte May Protest Today But Japan Has Transferred Onus of Situation to the Russian Side.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 28.—Tomorrow morning, Baron Komuro, acting upon instructions received from Tokio as a result of today's meeting of the cabinet and other statements, under the direct presidency of the Mikado, will submit to Mr. Witte a new basis of compromise, and that compromise, it is firmly believed tonight, will be partially saved.

The Associated Press has definite knowledge that several days ago President Roosevelt was authorized on behalf of Japan to waive all claim for indemnity or reimbursement for the cost of the war, and to cede back to Russia the north half of Sakhalin Island, leaving the "redemption price of the same to the arbitration of a mixed commission."

This statement was transmitted to the Russian Emperor through the American ambassador at St. Petersburg. An Associated Press telegram announced that the Czar's reply was "partially responsive." There is reason to believe that this proposal was not a revival of the effort of Japan to secure an indemnity under the arbitration of a mixed commission.

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The Way to Peace Prepared.

The revelation contained in the Associated Press' exclusive announcement today that Japan had already informed Emperor Nicholas through the intermediary of her friend, President Roosevelt, and makes clear that the Japanese are not in a position where they abandoned the claim for indemnity they could be held responsible for continuing the war for money.

The Japanese have now foregone the demand for indemnity practically turn the tables upon the Russians and shift the burden back to the Russians if they do not consent to submit a minor issue to the impartial judgment of a tribunal.

But Witte Dismisses.

Mr. Witte publicly dissents vigorously from the proposition and there will be a struggle with Peterhoff, but if Japan's terms are formally renounced claim for direct or indirect compensation for the expenses of the war the big stumbling block to peace is out of the way. Everything will depend upon the form in which the proposal is submitted. Should the renunciation be so coupled with the offer to arbitrate, it is not clear that it was still only a disguised demand for tribute the gift might only be narrowed, not bridged.

All the private advices that reach the Russian mission from Petersburg indicate that the military party is bellicose, and active in insisting that negotiations be broken off. Even Mr. Witte feels the pressure of this sentiment, and as a man of ambition he may not feel that he can afford to lay himself open to the charge that he is temporizing with the situation. He has power under his position to reject out of hand any proposition involving the payment of a kopeck of tribute. He need not consult his imperial master, he is a man of independent action and he is quite capable of his own proposition tomorrow favors still of "blood money" to refuse even to accept it for reference to St. Petersburg. But such a reckless stroke is not expected. Mr. Witte knows that public opinion both in America and Europe as well as in Russia would condemn him if he broke off the negotiations just as the way was opened for a possible accord.

While apparently the real negotiations leading to today's denouncement were con-

One Russian View.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 28.—The Soviet today says: "The Japanese conditions for peace would be acceptable only if a Japanese army was threatening St. Petersburg and a Japanese army was occupying Moscow. Russia will not bow to the Japanese had met with such high and low. It was declared to be impossible, meretricious. The Japanese declined to admit it; the Russians said they would not accept it. Mr. Witte intimated strongly that Peterhoff did not appreciate him of any such action by the president. There was even a disposition to ridicule the idea of the consent of arbitrating half the island. Nevertheless on all hands it was admitted if Japan took this position the ground was cut out from under Emperor Nicholas. Mr. Witte, by demands of skill in concealing all the demands of Japan involving the real issues of the war had maneuvered his adversary into a position where unless they abandoned the claim for indemnity they could be held responsible for continuing the war for money."

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(From Our Own Correspondent.)

New York, Aug. 28.—There is little hope that the postponement of today's session of the peace conference will result in any delay more than a day, at the most, of the most inevitable end. Knowing the attitude of both the Russians and Japanese on the money question, we can find in President Roosevelt's latest action hardly more than the smallest chance of his bringing the warring nations to an agreement.

Since that Friday afternoon a little more than a week ago, when it became plain that the Russian and Japanese envoys were widely divided on the question of indemnity, the only hope of peace has been in the repeated delays, in the opportunity for "something to turn up" as long as the envoys, though deadlocked, continued to meet and adjourn.

In the ten days since President Roosevelt began his negotiations with the two governments involved, virtually nothing has been done.

Russia has yielded absolutely nothing and Japan has shown a more conciliatory spirit, but on the crucial point stands as firmly as ever. The meetings have dragged on, and today, as last Wednesday, to say a phrase worn threadbare here, "The situation is unchanged."

Thought End Had Come.

At Portsmouth last evening, it was confidently believed that the meeting this afternoon would be the last of the conference. Members of the Russian and Japanese suites made no secret of the fact that by tomorrow they expected to be on their way to New York. The tension between the opposing diplomatic forces had become so great that it seemed impossible to avoid a break. Then, about 9 o'clock, Mr. Takahira, the junior Japanese envoy, called on Mr. Witte in his rooms, and after a brief conference announced that he had asked the Russian envoys to agree to an adjournment till tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Takahira when seen this morning, said they could see through the storm the figures of the awakened crew, some of whom managed to crawl into another of the ship's hatches. This was, however, caught in the trough of the sea, thrown against the ventilators and wedged fast. Pitiful efforts for help could be heard as they went down.

Along through the remainder of the night, with the storm threatening to swamp their boat, the two men were gradually borne ashore. Their condition was pitiable.

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WALL STREET MOVED BY MANY VAGUE RUMORS

Report About Peace Conference Led to Heavy Buying at the Close, But the Tone Was Generally Feverish—A Heavy Opening Due to London Influence.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

New York, Aug. 28.—Stocks moved in an uncertain way over a fairly extensive range of prices in today's session on the stock exchange. In Wall street's phrase, London came lower, and influenced a rather heavy opening here. There was also considerable selling for London accounts in the first hour. Room traders endeavored to facilitate the general decline by some operations of their own, and there was a fair amount of selling which appeared to come from speculative houses. The temper of the street before the opening had not been particularly enthusiastic, but it is doubtful if all the various reasons that were given for liquidating long stocks or going short, such as the cloudy prospects for peace between Japan and Russia, Mitchell's anarchistic strike talk and the latest fantastic production of the Boston Frenzies' pen, were anything more than excuses.

The early selling carried prices down all around on the average of a point and more from Saturday's high and closing figures, and there were only feeble and irregular recoveries until early in the afternoon, when it began to be reported that Japan had offered to waive her demand for indemnity. This led to some fairly heavy buying by some of the prominent sellers of the morning, and early in the last hour the market was at about the highest of the day.

Portsmouth Reports Were Mysterifying.

Contradictory statements regarding the attitude of Japan and Russia toward all the questions at issue between them, resulted in imparting a feverish tone toward the close, and the market in its last stages looked rather heavy. The bond department was featureless, with prices rather steady. Local transactions in stocks were \$15,000 shares.

The most prominent characteristic of the day's market, throughout its various stages, was a lack of any important pressure, and no great supply of stocks. Market-wide developments in and out of the street, other than those referred to, were not particularly important, but money was offered down to 112 before the close, and some small amounts loaned at that figure. The operations derived some significance from the fact that Kahn, Look & Coy, regarded as the custodian of the Japanese cash balance in this country, were credited with breaking the rate.

Word Received from Tokio.

"Mr. Witte said that you told him that you expected a communication from Tokio."

"That is true," said Mr. Takahira. "We received it this morning, but of course I cannot disclose anything of its nature."

"Will Japan make any more concessions?"

"I cannot say."

"Do you think tomorrow's meeting will be the last?"

"That, too, is impossible for me to say," replied the junior envoy.

Mr. Witte stayed in his rooms this morning and declined to make any further statement regarding the delay.

A report was sent out from here today by a news agency who made it known to Russia that she would waive all claim to an indemnity and sell the northern half of Sakhalin for a price to be settled by arbitration. Mr. Witte was asked about this story today. He said: "This is simply an incorrect report of the proposition which was made to us last Wednesday to pay an indemnity by another name. The matter was laid before us and discussed at that meeting and was rejected by us. 'Did Japan offer to arbitrate the price to be paid for Sakhalin?'"

"What difference would it make if she did?" cried Mr. Witte. "The whole question has been discussed and rejected. We would be the same to us whether she asked it or anybody else fixed it. We should not pay one cent for it. The whole question has been discussed and rejected."

Mr. Witte is understood to refer to the proposition of Japan to waive indemnity and sell Sakhalin for \$500,000. He has previously stated that Japan asked \$900,000 for the northern half of the island. Baron Kaneko made the same statement last Friday.

News to Takahira.

When Mr. Takahira was seen today regarding this new version of Japanese offer of arbitration. It is news to me. He was asked whether such a proposition were presented to Russia, would meet with favor. "I am in no position to say how Mr. Witte would treat it," he replied very emphatically. It is a new combination to me.

"I do not even know whether or not it has been brought to his attention. Of course it is possible that Minister Takahira may have spoken to him about it last night. I do not know. I am not prepared to say, if it should be presented to the conference tomorrow, what attitude Mr. Witte may take. He might throw up his hands and say that it made no difference that everything was at an end. Or he might consider it of importance sufficient to communicate to the Czar. I do not know whether it has been brought to his attention or not."

Mr. Korostovitch's statement regarding Mr. Witte's probable action was, however, forestalled by the envoy's personal declaration that even arbitration of the price would be paying and Russia would not pay.

One reasonable explanation of this story is that it is an echo of some discussion between the envoys at the time the Sakhalin barter was suggested, but that such a proposition was never formally made. Some suggestion might have been made by one or the other party as to whether or not such an arbitration scheme would be considered. But this afternoon little credence is given the idea here that Japan ever formally offered to waive indemnity on such a basis as to allow (Continued on page 8, third column.)

ARRANGEMENTS OF TARIFF COMMISSION

Only a Few of the Principal Places in Each Province to Be Visited

Nothing Beyond Winnipeg Dates Arranged Yet—The Governor General's Deputy - Immigration Figures for July.

Ottawa, Aug. 28.—(Special)—The ministers comprising the tariff commission have not yet fixed any dates for tariff hearings beyond Winnipeg. They wish to keep themselves free to make arrangements after they arrive there. Only a few of the principal places in each province can be visited. These will be so chosen as to afford opportunity for the people in all sections to attend.

Such meetings as may be determined upon in Manitoba will take place immediately after the Winnipeg meeting.

An order in council has been passed appointing Sir Henry Tschereau chief justice of the Supreme Court, deputy of the governor general, during the latter's absence in the Northwest.

Last July there were 8,840 immigrant arrivals at the seaports of Canada, or three less than in July, 1904. The arrivals from the United States numbered 3,133, as against 3,012 for the same period of 1904.

SLICK STRANGER DUPES PEOPLE OF THE ST. CROIX

Entertaining Englishman of High Degree Said to Have Improved Acquaintance Very Well Financially.

St. Stephen, Aug. 28.—(Special)—A so-called Englishman of "high degree" has been working the summer cottages along the American side of the St. Croix. As a result of his visits it is said he is about \$1,000 to the good.

Some days ago a Cahis gentleman was driving to his estate cottage when he overtook a stranger on foot and invited him to ride. The stranger proved so entertaining that the Cahis man was given the cottage of the Cahis man was given and accepted. He remained for some days, becoming acquainted at the nearby cottage and the ladies found him portly, agreeable and assented for truth the stories told of his fine old English home and family tree.

He had a scheme which would increase the wealth of the investors and particularly his new-found friends.

Unfortunately the remittance from home were unaccountably delayed, with the usual result that the gentleman of the house were induced to cash worthless checks and extend loans for a short time. However, as in all such affairs, before payday this slick young man left for parts unknown without leaving a cent to the Cahis man on the St. Croix, who will soon forget "Mr. Temple."

GREAT WAVE SENDS STEAMER TO BOTTOM; 20 MEN DROWNED; TWO HAVE REMARKABLE ESCAPE

Fernandina, Fla., Aug. 28.—Twenty men, constituting all but two of the officers and crew of the American steamship Peonic, from Philadelphia to New Orleans, with 200 passengers, were drowned by the sinking of that vessel off Florida today. The disaster was the result of a large gale along the coast during the night and early morning.

An immense wave struck the vessel about 12:30 a. m. The impact, coming just as the vessel was making a turn eastward, sent the ship to the bottom. The vessel rolled over and sank. The accident occurred so quickly that only two—an Italian and a Spaniard—were able to save themselves. They succeeded in getting into a life-boat and reached Amelia Beach about 11 a. m.

The escape of the two men was remarkable. One was at the wheel, the other on watch. As the ship began to "cave" they rushed for one of the small boats, into which they jumped as the vessel began to go down. They severed the ropes and the boat was thrown into the waves. They could see through the storm the figures of the awakened crew, some of whom managed to crawl into another of the ship's hatches. This was, however, caught in the trough of the sea, thrown against the ventilators and wedged fast. Pitiful efforts for help could be heard as they went down.

Along through the remainder of the night, with the storm threatening to swamp their boat, the two men were gradually borne ashore. Their condition was pitiable.

ROBBED HALIFAX LETTER BOXES

Detective Power Arrests English Hotel Porter on Suspicion

SAY HE CARRIED ON BOLD GAME

Letters Opened, Money Taken Out, New Envelopes Addressed and Letters Minus Money Sent to Destination—Handwriting Led to Arrest.

Halifax, Aug. 28.—(Special)—For some time there has been systematic robbery of the post office letter boxes going on here, and banks, hotels and merchants have been losing remittances. The suspected thief was secured by Detective Power this afternoon. His name is Joseph Lewis, aged 26, an Englishman, a former steward on one of the mail boats running to Halifax, and for the past nine months porter at the King Edward Hotel.

For four months, it is claimed, he has been robbing the mails. The post master has had frequent complaints of non-arrival of mail which contained money here, also that money that had been posted had not reached its destination, but letters which accompanied money had, but in transit had been tampered with, the money extracted, and the letters sent forward again in an envelope with address in different handwriting.

It was Lewis' handwriting that was the principal means of his capture. The firms of John Tobin & Co., and Brown & Webb, wholesale druggists, were among the heaviest losers. In the latter case a money order had been presented and cashed to the order of Brown & Webb without the knowledge of the firm.

COTTON SOARS ON THE NEW ORLEANS MARKET

New Orleans, Aug. 28.—New high levels for cotton were market in the trading to the noon hour, October then being seven points up at 11:00; December 10 points up at 11:15; and January 18 points up at 11:24. The continued drought in Texas scared Liverpool into a further advance than due and the statistical reports showing that for the first half of the year American cotton exports were three times greater than for the first half of last year, amounting to 388,000,000 yards compared with 129,000,000 caused the rise, the best quotations being the highest of the day.

RESUMES DIVIDENDS.

Chicago, Aug. 28.—Directors of the Republic Iron & Steel Co., at the meeting today, decided to resume the payment of the quarterly dividends on the preferred stock. A dividend of 1 1/2 per cent was declared. Dividends on the preferred at the rate of 7 p. c. a year payable quarterly, were paid regularly from Oct., 1899, to Oct. 1, 1903.

HUSBAND AND WIFE, 1,000 MILES APART, DIE AT ONCE

Banker Dead at Little Rock, Arkansas, While Body of Wife is Taken from Water at Coney Island.

New York, Aug. 28.—Separated by 1,000 miles, Mrs. Jane Johnson and her husband, Allan Johnson, a Little Rock (Ark.) banker, met death almost simultaneously today. At the precise hour when Mrs. Johnson's body was taken from the water at Coney Island, a telegram came into this city to inform her of the death of her husband.

She was a magazine contributor, who wrote under the nom de plume of Helen Dix Johnson, and her husband was president of the National Exchange Bank of Little Rock. The telegram bore the sending time of 11 p. m. At this hour a friend of Mrs. Johnson was giving an alarm because of her tardiness at a luncheon to which she had been invited. Mrs. Johnson had gone bathing, and her body was found some distance out to sea about 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The body had just been placed in the morgue at Coney Island when a messenger boy rushed in with the despatch.