

CANADA OBJECTED

The Real Reason for Great Britain Withdrawing from the Seal Conference.

Meeting To Be Purely Consultative and to Have No Binding Effect.

New York, Sept. 29.—The English press in discussing the hitch which has arisen in the negotiations for the seal conference assumes that the idea of inviting Russia and Japan was an afterthought on the part of the Washington government.

The state department is charged with attempting to enlarge the inquiry by drawing Russia and Japan into it when the subject at the foreign office, Mr. Foster had a conference with Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in which the scope of the proposed meeting was fully discussed.

The Japanese minister also interested himself in the question. For a month preceding July 8 no secret was made of the fact that the United States government had invited Russia and Japan to a seal conference.

The assumption of certain English journals that the proposal to include Russia and Japan was an afterthought for the sake of entrapping Great Britain and Canada into a conference, in which they would be outvoted, is as baseless as the fantastic idea that American diplomats have devised a fresh expedient for giving the lion's tail another twist.

The truth is that the master of the foreign office understood perfectly the broad scope of the conference to which England had been invited along with Russia and Japan, but accepted the proposal in a guarded way, so that he could object to the presence of representatives of those two powers if he chose to do so.

Ambassador Hay was, however, equal to the emergency, for in a perfectly courteous letter of acknowledgment, dated July 29, he reminded Lord Salisbury that, as he had indicated all along, the Russian and Japanese representatives would attend the conference.

When Lord Salisbury decided in September to object to the presence of these representatives, it was because previous to that time he had been assured by the British government that the conference would be held on a purely consultative basis, and that the United States would not be invited to participate.

Regarding the improvements necessary for the proper navigation of Kootenay river, he was often difficult to carry them out, but he saw the necessity of keeping up the navigation for as long a period as possible each year, and he would represent the matter to the minister of public works so as to have the government engineer go over the river this year and make an estimate of the work necessary.

He then stated that he was ready to reply to any questions on political topics which might be put to him, but none being made, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Bostock, moved by Dr. Watt, and seconded by Mr. J. A. Harvey.

WITHDRAWS HIS CHARGES. Forrester Retracts His Accusations Against Collector McDonald.

J. S. Clute, the customs inspector for this district, who has been engaged for the past week investigating charges preferred against B. R. McDonald, the local customs officer, by Kilan Forrester, formerly a clerk under Mr. McDonald, expects to complete his examination tomorrow, when his findings of fact will be forwarded to the department at Ottawa.

A decision in the matter will be issued from the department and it will be some time before the result is known. The most interesting development in the case occurred on Saturday night, when Inspector Clute received from Allan Forrester a complete retraction of the charges which he had made against Sub-Collector McDonald. It was these charges, which were very sensational, that caused the present examination.

Mr. Forrester had been a clerk in the custom house up to the time he filed his complaint with the department, and among other allegations he charged Sub-Collector McDonald with having misapplied government funds, as well as being in collusion with L. J. Finnegan, the customs broker, to the mutual profit of both.

Mr. Forrester accused the sub-collector with having been particularly active when the records were changed hands, when, so he said, the official had charged excessive duties, and pocketed all above the legal amount. Mr. Forrester's present retraction puts an entire new phase on the situation.—Roseland Miner.

What's that? exclaimed the disappointed individual who was held up by a foot pad. Money or my life? he asked. Money, my boy, take her.—Philadelphia North American.

A SPANISH COUP

Bold Philibuster Expedition to Cuba Is Quickly Nipped in the Bud.

Fearing That Many of the Party Were Massacred by Enraged Spanish Officials.

New York, Sept. 30.—A special to the Journal from Havana says: Capt. Jose Montero and a company of marine artillery embarked secretly on the gunboat Neva Espana some days ago and left Havana in the night. It was rumored that the authorities heard of the destination of the filibusters, and were quietly preparing to seize it. The greatest secrecy was observed. A gunboat waited quietly in the Bay of Corrientes, Pinar del Rio. It is impossible to ascertain how the expedition was captured and the men escaped. Owing, however, to the knowledge of the authorities some days before a gunboat was dispatched, and the unusual official reception, it is to be feared that the whole expedition has been massacred.

From reliable authority it is learned that twenty-eight of the party, including several American artillery men who had been sent down with the cannon, were taken prisoners and summarily executed. It is impossible to verify the latter statement, though many things combine to show there is good ground for believing the story.

SPANISH CABINET RESIGNS. Madrid, Sept. 29.—The Spanish cabinet has resigned. The Queen has accepted the resignation, and General Azcaraga to continue in office until a solution of the crisis is found. Her Majesty will summon the leaders of the various parties and the presidents of the chambers to-morrow to consult as to the situation. Senor Sagasta has been telegraphed for to return to Madrid. The Liberal leader will be asked to form a cabinet.

Washington, Sept. 29.—Secretary Sherman does not believe that the change of ministry in Spain will materially affect the relations of Spain to the United States or Cuba, which seems to indicate an expectation on his part that when the cabinet is reorganized it will be found to be still of a Conservative tendency. On the other hand, high officials in the administration expect that a Liberal cabinet under the leadership of the veteran Sagasta will be erected on the ruins of the Azcaraga cabinet. If this should be the case, the future is said to be full of promise for Cuba for a while.

The Liberals have not hesitated to express their opposition to the great expenditure of human life and vast treasure in the effort to carry out the representative Conservative programme for the conduct of the war. It is believed that the Liberals are not prepared to go the length of promising freedom to Cuba, but from the expressions of the leaders of the party it is hoped that they are willing to grant a liberal measure of home rule to the island.

London, Sept. 30.—A dispatch from Madrid says a rumor prevails there to the effect that a communication has been received by the Spanish government from the leaders of the Cuban insurgents suggesting a basis of a possible settlement of Cuban difficulties.

Madrid, Sept. 30.—As a result of the interviews which Gen. Azcaraga, the retiring premier, and Gen. Polavieja, had at the conference with the queen, her majesty became convinced that it is impossible to reunite the Conservatives in order to form a strong ministry. Therefore she accepted the resignation of the ministry.

THRASHER DESTROYED. One of the Torpedo Bots Coming Here Lost and Three of Her Crew Killed.

The officers of the Esquimaux dock yard were busily engaged in placing mooring buoys in Esquimaux harbor for the two torpedo boats, Thrasher and Virago, which are coming to this station from England. The buoys placed for one of the vessels will, however, not be used for a long time to come, for news has come in a dispatch from Plymouth, Eng., that she has met with disaster. In company with Gen. Polavieja, had destroyed and Lynx she ran ashore during a fog on Dodman's point, near Plymouth. The Thrasher broke in two soon after grounding and it was feared that the Virago, which was soon to have sailed for Esquimaux, was a very swift sailer. She was about 270 feet in length over all.

A WOMAN LYNOCHED. A Notorious Character Strung Up by Negroes in Virginia.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 30.—A special to the Evening News from Covan's Depot, Va., says: "Peb" Falls, the worst woman in the Virginia mountains, has been lynched. The body was found yesterday dangling from a rope hitched to a sycamore limb. It had been hanging there several days. The lynchings were probably negroes, as "Peb" Falls had not associated with her own race for years. The lynching was done at Massanutten mountain, six miles east of here. "Peb" Falls was as vile a woman as could be imagined, but bad as she was, the citizens and governor will not put up with the lynching of white woman by negroes.—The woman fifteen years ago was respectable.

NOT TO KILL THE OZAR. Warsaw, Sept. 29.—Though an official denial will be forthcoming, it has leaked out that there was a deliberate and determined plot against Emperor Nicholas at the time of his recent visit to this city. The scheme was only frustrated by an accident. One hundred and thirty arrests were made. Among those in custody are four disguised German officers, who had been active in the actual work of tunneling a mine. A number of merchants and manufacturers are also implicated.

ACCUSED OF LIBEL. Editor of the Silvertonian Is Under Arrest at Silverton.

Silverton, Sept. 27.—James Cameron, editor of the Silvertonian, was arrested yesterday for criminal libel on a charge laid by Constable Hamilton. He was brought before Justice Granville and remanded till Monday, October 4th. This was the first court ever held in Silverton. The town is excited over the matter. Two petitions are being circulated, one for Hamilton's removal, and the other to assist Cameron in his defence.

The Hamilton in question was formerly constable at Sandon, where he was charged with manslaughter in office in having attempted to blackmail citizens of that place. The charge was investigated by Superintendent Hussey, of the provincial police, and Hamilton was subsequently removed to Silverton. He was not discharged from the service and the public has never been able to learn if the charge made against him at Sandon was sustained.

SKIES ARE CLEARING Danger of a Japanese Conflict Diminishing—A Settlement Is Proposed.

Cash Payment in Gold Would Heal All Wounds—Will Compromise With Hawaii.

Washington, Sept. 29.—An official announcement of the departure of the Japanese cruiser Naniwa for Yokohama, together with the statement that the immigration question rages between Hawaii and Japan is likely to be shortly settled without arbitration, has thrown a peaceful aspect around the American question in the Pacific.

This cheering news has been communicated to the state department by Minister Sewall, stationed at Honolulu, where his report has just reached the department. The most important statement made by Mr. Sewall is that the Hawaiian-Japanese authorities have estimated that \$100,000 in gold will settle the claims of the natives against the Dole authorities, as a result of the rejection of some 1200 immigrants who came to the islands last spring.

Heretofore Japan has shunned heretofore behind the statement that Hawaii must admit first the "principle of monetary liability," and when this admission has been made she would be willing to discuss the amount that should be paid to save the wound her dignity had suffered.

THE CAMPAIGN CONCLUDED.

The Insurgent Indian Tribesmen Subdued by British Forces.

Simla, Sept. 30.—The campaign against the Mohmands is successfully concluded, and nothing now remains but to collect the fines. The upper Mohmands have been severely punished, and the lower Mohmands, covered by the success of the British troops, are awaiting terms of office of the surgeon-general of the Indian army in the vicinity of Hangu, and a force of insurgent tribesmen attacked Suddie yesterday, but were easily repulsed. All the English women have been removed to places of safety in Kurram valley.

THE FEVER SITUATION. Great Blockade of Freight Near New Orleans—An Angry Mob.

New Orleans, La., Sept. 30.—President Oliphant, Dr. Carter and Dr. Gaiter reached this city early this morning. They left yesterday to meet Dr. Swearing and other health officers with a view to raising the quarantine embargo against Haiti, and had a very rough experience there. A mob with shotguns prevented further progress and they were ordered to turn back, which, under the circumstances, they were compelled to do. During the trip they had gathered up twenty-four representatives of the health boards and a meeting at Cade at which they fully discussed the situation here and elsewhere and adopted a resolution tending to relieve the congestion of freight. A committee was appointed to communicate with the authorities of the lines with a view to securing an amelioration of the present oppressive conditions.

Washington, Sept. 30.—A summary of the progress of the yellow fever epidemic up to the close of yesterday, made at the office of the surgeon-general of the marine hospital services, gives a total of 682 cases, and 60 deaths in the entire country.

FROM THE CAPITAL Walter S. Booth Crushed Between Cars—Prof. Dawson Back from His Trip.

Sir Oliver Mowat Said To Have Matrimonial Intention—Young Men for the Senate.

Ottawa, Sept. 30.—Walter S. Booth, a railway mail clerk, nephew of J. R. Booth, who was married eight months ago, fell between two cars on the Canada Atlantic last night and was killed. Deceased's wife was on the train.

Prof. Dawson returned here last night from his trip through British Columbia. He reports the mining outlook in Kootenay, excellent, but not any more hopeful than the Lake of the Woods district.

The Montreal Gazette, in its Ottawa correspondence to-day, says that Sir Oliver Mowat is going to be married to a Toronto widow when he goes to government house. Those who ought to know something about it say there is no truth in the report.

H. C. Cook is pressing his claims to the Ontario senatorship. It is not likely he will succeed, as the government are appointing young and strong men to the senate, so as to make up in quality for what they have not got in quantity. In this way the upper chamber may be reformed.

The postmaster-general has approved the design for new postage stamps, which will be issued when the present stock of stamps is exhausted, in about three months.

SCHOONER BRYANT ADMIRT. Grave Fears Entertained for the Safety of a Port Townsend Craft.

Port Townsend, Sept. 30.—The tug Holyoke arrived last night from St. Michaels, having left on September 11th with the schooner J. Bryant in tow. On the 21st of the month, while off Kadik Island, a heavy storm prevailed, and the tug was forced to leave for 24 hours. During the storm the hawser which connected the schooner to the tug parted and the schooner was blown down to the beach. The schooner has been lost, grave fears for her safety are entertained. She carried a crew of seven men and two passengers.

NEEDN'T LOSE SLEEP. No Reason Why Canadians Should Tremble at the Yantio's Presence.

Toronto, Sept. 30.—Speaking of the dispatch of the steamer Yantio to Lake Erie, the Globe says: "The Yantio is a superannuated vessel, which has just been discarded by the United States navy, and its presence in Lake Erie need not keep the people of the north shivering awake at night. It is altogether unlikely that it is a breach of the treaty for if the United States decide to abolish it, there it is to be present when they bring it to a termination by giving the requisite notice."

CANADIAN BRIEFS. St. Catharines Growing—Steamship Officials at St. John, N. B.

St. Catharines, Sept. 30.—The returns for the city show a gain of \$225,000 in property and two hundred and fifty in population since last year.

St. John, N. B., Sept. 30.—A number of Dominion steamship officials paid a visit here yesterday and inspected the harbor. They refused to state the object of their visit.

Montreal, Sept. 30.—Canon Leblanc, one of the most venerable priests in the archdiocese of Montreal, died this morning, after a long illness.

"Does your husband worry about the grocery bills?" asked the nagged-looking lady. "Yes, my dear," said the lady with the new silk skirt and rusty shoes. "We let the grocer do it all."

WAS HE MURDERED?

W. A. Gordon, of Nanaimo, Arrested on Suspicion of Having Killed His Partner.

He Makes Several Contradictory Statements Regarding His Partner's Disappearance.

These and His Strange Actions Caused His Arrest at Hazelton.

William A. Gordon, a former resident of Nanaimo, is under detention at the provincial jail with the prospect of a serious charge of murder being laid against him. At present there is very little evidence against him, nothing in fact save his own actions, contradictory statements and strange proceedings. The crime which Gordon is supposed to have committed is very similar to that for which Butler, the Australian murderer, recently paid the full penalty at Sydney, New South Wales. Butler, it will be remembered, lured his victims into the wilderness, killed them and stole their effects. Gordon is held under suspicion of being guilty of a very similar crime. He is thought to have killed his mining partner, a fellow Nanaimite, named Isaac Jones, and appropriated his goods.

Gordon was brought down from Hazelton by Provincial Police Constable Chapman and arrived at Victoria yesterday evening on the steamer Tees. Immediately the steamer arrived he was handed over to Sgt. Langley, of the provincial police, who was awaiting him, and by the sergeant he was taken to the provincial jail.

He was arrested at the instance of Indian Agent D. E. Loring, whose suspicion that all was not right was aroused by the strange actions of Gordon. He and Jones started out from Ashcroft last spring across the mountains to Germantown Creek, on a prospecting expedition, and from there they intended to go to Findlay and work around that part of the country. Early in July last Gordon returned to Hazelton, avoiding Mansons Creek, through which Jones and he had passed on their way in, when coming out. He immediately began to dispose of his partner's goods at Hazelton, selling the outfit, clothes and everything, including all Jones' personal property. Then it was that the people of Hazelton got suspicious and whispers began to fly about concerning the disappearance of Jones. When Gordon was first questioned about his partner he said he was coming on after him and on another occasion he said that Jones had returned by way of Quesnelle. His eagerness to dispose of his partner's goods and his very contradictory statements as to what had become of Jones, led Mr. E. Loring, the Indian agent at Hazelton, to believe that there had been foul play, and he ordered Gordon's arrest.

When arrested, a \$4000 was found on him concealed in the lining of his coat, at the cuffs and collar.

His statement, made at the time of his arrest, was that his partner had been drowned in the Omiceca river.

In a later statement he says that he and Jones left Quesnelle early last June to go to the Omiceca country, and they traveled along the trail together until they came to a place where the trail was very bad, where they decided to build a raft, on which to take themselves and their provisions down the Omiceca. They built the raft, and leaving their outfit and provisions on shore decided to test it before putting the supplies and outfit on board. This was on July 12th. Everything was left ashore, and both men had on only their trousers and shirts. When the raft was poled out into the swift water it broke up and Jones was thrown into the river. Gordon says he threw him a rope and made every endeavor to save him, but could do nothing. Seeing nothing could be done he came ashore, packed up all the outfit and equipment, everything down to Hazelton. He intended, he said, to have come right down there, make a statement and turn everything over to the authorities.

Explaining his contradictory statements at Hazelton, he says that while there he saw people eying him askance and heard whisperings about the disappearance of his partner. Knowing that he could not produce a body, and fearing that he would be held responsible for his partner's disappearance, he had gone out by way of Quesnelle, and had given him the goods to dispose of. He admitted that his action in this regard was wrong, but firmly clung to the statement that his partner had been drowned through having fallen from the raft. He emphatically denied that there had been any foul play, and said that should Jones' body be found there would be no marks of violence upon it.

The case is a strange one, as to-day one says Jones can be seen whether Gordon is alive or dead. As stated before, no evidence of any kind can be obtained against him save from his own statements. A story is current at Hazelton that a revolver was taken from Gordon while on his way into the Omiceca country owing to his having threatened Jones with it. But this, as far as can be learned, is but a rumor, and an improbable one.

Both Gordon and Jones are single men of middle age, and prior to now on their prospecting tour worked as coal miners at Nanaimo.

No charge has yet been laid against Gordon. No date has been set for the preliminary hearing of the case, but it will undoubtedly take place very shortly.

QUEST OF A KINGLY LOVER. Paris, Sept. 29.—The Radical has a sensational story that King Leopold of Belgium, now on his yacht Clementine, then known as the story says the king is not bound to the Congo, as reported, but is on his way to the United States after the beautiful ballerina of the Paris opera, Cleo de Merode, for whom the king has a violent passion.

PLOTTING AGAINST BRITAIN.

Russia to Join Hands With the Ameer of Afghanistan.

Paris, Sept. 30.—A dispatch to the Politique Coloniale from St. Petersburg says that the Afghan mission to Russia has departed, bearing a promise of Russian support in the event of Great Britain encroaching on the Ameer's territory.

The dispatch says that negotiations between Russia and Afghanistan continue with the object of establishing a league to oppose a British advance in Africa, and it is added, Russia is about to reach an understanding with the United States with a view of arresting the extension of the British empire in the Pacific.

SHIPPING NEWS.

The Happenings of a Day Along the Water Front.

The steamer Tees returned from her extended northern trip about midnight yesterday. She has been as far as Skidgate and called at the different way ports and canneries on her downward trip. She brought a large number of passengers and a very heavy cargo of freight. She was full up to the hatches with salmon and carried many barrels containing about fifty tons of dog fish oil from the Skidgate oil works on her decks. The salmon cargo in all amounted to 11,933 cases, made up from the following consignments: From the Pelton Cannery Co., Naas Harbor, 4,277; from the same company's cannery at Mill Bay, 4,723 cases; from the Balmoral cannery, on the Skeena, 2,031 cases; from the Windsor cannery, on the Skeena, 2,102 cases, and 1,800 cases from the Alert Bay Cannery Co. Among the passengers who came down were Dr. Newcombe, Capt. Smith, master of the steamer Caledonia, which runs on the Skeena river; provincial police constables Wilson and Holden, and W. Gordon, their prisoner, and a party composed of John Hamilton, J. Barber and G. Jones, who have been surveying a trail through the Omiceca country. The Tees is advertised to leave again for the north to-morrow evening. She will go as far as Naas, calling at each of the way ports en route.

On the steamer City of Seattle, which sailed for the north this morning, were a party of six prospectors, the remaining members of the expedition which sailed on the steamer City of Topeka yesterday evening to Sitka, en route to Copper River. The expedition is composed of about a dozen miners, who were passengers on the Bristol on her last and unfortunate northern trip. They have outfitted in Victoria, and have outfitted very completely. Each man is fully armed, the greater number of them being provided with Winchester rifles. They do not fear interference from the Indians, but if the Indians do interfere with them, as they are reported to have done with prospectors working in that district, they will fight. The party are under the management and guidance of an old and experienced miner named Green. They will meet at Sitka, and proceed from there to Yakutat on the steamer Dora. At Yakutat boats will be procured for the remainder of the journey to and up the river.

Notwithstanding the dire stories brought down by the downward steamers arriving from the north, those going northward still carry large complements of passengers. The steamer City of Topeka sailed yesterday evening, and the steamer City of Seattle this morning, having between them over 300 passengers, all bound for the gold lands. The greater number are booked to Wrangell, intending to go in by the Stickeen route; many, though, are still rushing to Skagway and Dyea. Save the members of the Copper River expedition, but few passengers embarked at this port.

The Dominion steamer Quadra left this morning for Vancouver from which port she will take Hon. Clifford Sifton, minister of the interior, and the party who are bound with him to Skagway. She is expected to sail from Vancouver to-morrow afternoon.

The sealing schooner Carlotta G. Cox has been lying out at the Race Rocks all day. She is on her way to port from the Copper Islands with a total catch of 4,438 skids. The Cox will be towed into the harbor this evening.

"Did you say," said the dramatic critic, "that this pugilistic star is in the habit of making a penning bag of a body who speaks slightly of his histrionic talent?"

"That's his custom."

"I don't like to mislead the public. I guess the best thing to do will be to refer to him as an actor of great power!"

—Washington Star.

"Safe at last!"

"The electricity working up to date 1897 model bug-bull and signed a big sign of relief."

"It was a close shave."

"He wiped his forehead wearily."

"But at last the reporters have dropped the case and the police have taken it up. Now I can rest easily."—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Mrs. Kingley—You say you like colored servants better than white because they are slower. How is that? They'll never leave.—Brooklyn Life.

"Scientists are talking about the bicycle leg now," remarked Daknot. "At that doesn't need to be wheel, man himself to have that," remarked Gawwell.

"Doesn't he?"

"Not at all. He needs only a family of bears, and when they will pull his leg into bicycle shape in no time."—Pittsburg Chronicle.

Washington, D.C., Sept. 30.—Firemen are still playing out the rime of the Central lower section of the Capital Traction Co. this morning. The amount of the loss is roughly estimated as exceeding three-quarters of a million dollars. The Capital Traction Co. loses \$800,000 or more.