

THROWS UP THE SPONGE

Spain Bows to the Superior Power of the Victor and Will Conclude the Peace Treaty.

The American Commissioners so Informed at To-Day's Session—Probable Terms of the Treaty.

Paris, Nov. 28.—At to-day's session of the peace commission the Spanish commissioners announced that they had been authorized by their government to reply that the American propositions are inadmissible on legal principles and are not a proper compromise on legal principles. On the Spanish part all diplomatic resources are exhausted, and the Spanish commission is now asked to accept or reject the propositions. Spain, inspired by reasons of patriotism and humanity, and to avoid the horrors of war, resigns itself to the power of the victor. She accepts the offered conditions in order to conclude a treaty of peace.

The American demands include the acquisition of the whole of the Philippine and Sulu groups for \$20,000,000, and it is also understood that the United States will purchase the Caroline group. The question of the debt of Cuba was settled. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday.

When the members of the two commissions were seated, Senor Montecinos, president of the Spanish commission, immediately handed the Spanish reply to Mr. Arthur Ferguson, the Spanish interpreter attached to the United States commission. The answer of the Spaniards was so short that less than ten minutes were consumed in rendering it into English for the Americans. Spain's reply was as already cabled, and added that Spain had throughout the controversy had the strongest argument, and as between positions so diametrically opposed, the American offer would not be a fair sum. Nevertheless, the reply continued, Spain desired to avoid further effusion of blood and further disorder, and had concluded to accept the American offer unconditionally and thus bow to the superior power of the victor.

The secretaries were then empowered to prepare the treaty articles embodying the session of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, and the payment by the United States of \$20,000,000 for submission to the meeting which will be held on Wednesday next.

Much remains to be done. It is not understood from the news so far received that the commission have yet reached the point of signing a treaty. Much remains to be done in execution of the last instructions of the state department before the peace treaty itself can be completed. The American signatures, however, should the state department decide to permit the treatment of the remaining questions to be settled to separate conventions. The instructions to the American commissioners were the renewal of the trade treaties with Spain, for the acquisition of Ulau, for obtaining concessions for the construction of railroads, and for the procurement of religious toleration in the Cavallines. These things are not likely to be disposed of, so it may be assumed that the American commissioners will feel they have complied with the spirit of their instructions if they succeed in concluding the peace treaty's provisions binding the Spanish government to negotiate hereafter on these subjects on lines which may be broadly defined in the present treaty.

Three more sessions of the peace commission should suffice to complete the work of that body. However, it is believed that the work can be completed before Christmas.

Europe Liable to America. Paris, Nov. 28.—There is no denying the fact that the whole European continent will bitterly resent the American acquisition of the Philippines. This sentiment is not confined to diplomats, but, especially here in Paris, it is the opinion of the general public. The French society. It is known that a high official of the French foreign office said yesterday: "The appearance of the American flag in the Philippines is a disturbing factor to the whole of Europe. Americans, as is well known, lack diplomatic manners, and will surely bring constant trouble to all our shores."

As to the general sentiment, Mr. William Stead, who has just returned here after his tour of the continent, has seen many, Russia, Austria, Turkey and Italy, and who has seen the highest politicians in each country, and in some cases their rulers, and has been the correspondent of the Associated Press. "The immense majority of Europeans are, of course, absolutely ignorant of the acquisition of the Philippines. This sentiment is not confined to diplomats, but, especially here in Paris, it is the opinion of the general public. The French society. It is known that a high official of the French foreign office said yesterday: "The appearance of the American flag in the Philippines is a disturbing factor to the whole of Europe. Americans, as is well known, lack diplomatic manners, and will surely bring constant trouble to all our shores."

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TO MUSTER OUT TROOPS.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The war department, in view of the assurances that a peace treaty will be signed, is arranging to muster out more troops. It is probable that from 30,000 to 40,000 volunteers will be mustered out as soon as selections of regiments can be made.

ACCIDENT NEAR SICAMOUS.

Vancouver, Nov. 28.—(Special)—A bad accident occurred six miles south of Sicamous on Saturday night on the Shuswap & Okanagan railway to a north-bound passenger and freight train. Three box cars went over a 15-foot dump, and the baggage and express car, passenger coach and superintendent's private car all went off the track, but the engine remained on. The track was all ripped up. The passengers escaped with a severe shaking. Engineer Van Antwerp and Conductor Morrow had a very narrow escape.

JAPANESE CRUISER DAMAGED.

Newcastle, Nov. 28.—The second-class protected cruiser Kasagi, built by the Gramp for the Japanese government, and which left New York on November 25, was damaged by a heavy gale. The ship has sustained considerable injury by colliding with and damaging a bridge abutment at this place.

TELEGRAM FROM DREYFUS.

Paris, Nov. 28.—Madame Dreyfus by permission of the authorities received the following telegram from her husband: "I rejoice with all of you. My health is morally and physically good."

EARTHQUAKE IN GREECE.

Patras, Greece, Nov. 28.—At 9:30 o'clock yesterday evening a severe earthquake occurred here, causing the inhabitants to become panic-stricken. At 10:20 p.m. a second shock was experienced. No fatalities, however, have been reported.

POPULAR PASTOR DEAD.

Toronto, Nov. 28.—Rev. W. J. Barkwell, pastor of the New Richmond Methodist church, died at half-past two this morning at the general hospital as a result of a surgical operation he had undergone in the hope of relief from kidney trouble. He was aged about 42. His death was a great shock to the congregation and colleagues when it became known this morning. He was a singularly popular and successful pastor.

ACCIDENT NARROWLY AVERTED.

Savannah, Ga., Nov. 28.—The United States transport Chester, with 1,500 men and 150 military horses, was in the harbor here yesterday, sustained considerable damage. Four miles from the city they encountered the transport Mantoloking. The Mantoloking did not slacken speed nor move overboard. The Chester ran aground on a rock in the channel. She is now stuck in the channel and will be pulled off to-night at high tide.

FATHER AND SONS PERISH.

Salem, Mass., Nov. 28.—Two members of the crew of the schooner Bertha, from the island of Manchester, today died, having been without shelter or food for thirty hours. They were lost on the rocks near Fresh Island on Saturday morning. Their father and son, Wallace Thurston, his father, aged about 70 years, and his son John perished.

SENATOR GEAR'S VIEWS.

Burlington, Iowa, Nov. 28.—Senator John H. Gear, before his departure for Washington, said in an interview that the greater part of the short session would be taken up with appropriation bills. The majority of the public are in favor of the islands in dispute. In the firm belief that it is the will of Providence that we should bring order, progress and liberty to these regions, too long dominated and kept in darkness and ignorance by Spanish rule. We ought not only to keep the islands, he says, but after instituting reforms in the administration and social life, etc., establish over them a territorial form of government that is representative of the people. This system would apply to Hawaii, the Philippines, Porto Rico and such other islands as we might, by treaty of peace acquire from Spain.

BEHRING SEA QUESTION.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The Behring Sea question reached such an advanced stage in the consideration of the Anglo-American commission that a special meeting was held to-day to hear the report of the committee, which for the last ten days has been examining the Canadian and American experts relative to the value of the fishery in the Behring Sea. The expert testimony had enabled the committee to make a considerable advance toward a settlement, although it was understood that there were some points yet to be determined by the commission. After two hours devoted to considering the report and the views of the respective sides, a recess was taken, and the members of the commission, accompanied by their ladies, took a trip from the navy and Mount Vernon.

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

Paris, Nov. 28.—The chamber of deputies was crowded to-day, much interest being taken in the announced intention of some of the deputies to interpellate the government on the Picquet case. M. Paul Deschamps, Republican, announced that he had received a request to interpellate the government regarding the Picquet proceedings. The president of the chamber proposed an immediate discussion of the matter. But, M. Fourniere, Socialist, moved for an adjournment of an hour and a half in order that the Republican deputies might be able to consult with their colleagues on the same regarding the adoption of a common policy. The chamber rejected the motion by a vote of 262 to 294.

MAD MULLA'S WORK.

London, Nov. 28.—Special despatches from Simla, the summer capital of British India, say that Mad Mulla has been successful in his first fight, defeating the Dir tribesmen and killing a number of them. The Nawab has sent an army against the Mulla, and British native frontier troops are moving towards the valley, where the outbreak has occurred. The Mulla is trying to arouse a fanatical outbreak against the British.

STRUCK BY A TRAIN.

Ridgeway, Ont., Nov. 28.—B. Jones, while driving home across the M. C. E. tracks, was struck by a train and fatally injured.

GREAT GALE ON ATLANTIC.

Coast Towns and Shipping on the Work to Halifax Suffer From Big Storm Accompanied by Snow.

Ocean Liners Delayed—Loss of Life in New York—Halifax and St. John In It.

New York, Oct. 28.—New York was still suffering to-day from the effects of the gale of Saturday night, though some relief had been obtained. The weather was bright and clear and the mercury was working upwards. The street cleaning department worked with thousands of laborers shoveling and carting away, yet hundreds of streets remained half blocked with drifts. The street cars were stopped, but traffic from the north, south and west went from one to eight hours late. Telegraph and telephone wires were down in places and working only fairly well. There has been reported thus far from the coast that the storm in this vicinity and 16 persons were said to be suffering seriously from the effects of exposure. A train arriving from Boston by the New York, New Haven and Hartford railway this morning. It was due at 6 a.m. yesterday, and was nearly 25 hours late when it reached the Grand Central station. Passengers said they had passed through a blizzard of snow-balls in snow-banks without food or warmth.

NOTES FROM SIDNEY.

Why was the Klondike social a success? Because everybody had a good time, and, besides, because the Ladies' Aid netted about twelve dollars. Everything went down in truth, the base strike, Nuggets were scattered on the table. Mr. Thompson told his experiences in the Klondike and was a great success. He illustrated the turning of "dip-jacks" to an admiring audience who were engaged in the graceful art of drawing back. Mr. Thompson, in this is a true picture of the life of the gold seeker, their lot is not so barren of all enjoyment and comfort as is often represented. Where Fairclough, much amusement by his conjuring tricks, especially in his care in avoiding the light, choosing rather some obscure course, where sleight-of-hand could not be discovered.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

To the Editor.—There can be no higher ambition for a statesman than that of winning laurels in the field of agricultural development. In a previous issue I descanted upon some of the drawbacks of the Klondike, and of the cultural life, besides suggesting many points in its favor. But whether there be a wide-spread desire to become possessors and tillers of the soil, certain it is that any government will derive well of the citizen who earnestly strives for and successfully attains success in a large awakening to the pursuit of practical farming. I do not believe in grandiose legislation, and I think that it is the province of a government to do for settlers or agriculturists that which they can well do for themselves. I do not believe in a policy of whether of manufactures, mining, fishing or agriculture. The Anglo-Saxon race, and Canadians in particular, but especially the Colonians, have a natural vigor, capable and independent race, but there is a domain in which the government of a country may reasonably enter the domain of experiment and invention of judicious encouragement and of stimulus to natural advantage, in my judgment, the most successful of which is the province of agriculture. Columbia may well devise and undertake a vigorous agricultural policy. The government of Denmark is an example of what may be accomplished in this way. Not so many years ago it appeared as if that little kingdom, which is now a power in the world, had been the princely houses of the old world, would be blotted out of the map of Europe. Two strong nations had joined hands in a perfidious pact to divide its honor and territory, and then quarrelled over the booty. The despoilment and partitioning out of Denmark seemed to be a matter of time. But the jealousy, however, saved the little kingdom from the fate of Poland, and her own excellent government, by her own efforts, saved her from the fate of Poland, and her own excellent government, by her own efforts, saved her from the fate of Poland.

A MARRIAGE TEST.

Both in the northern and western islands of Scotland the natives have some peculiar customs unfamiliar to the dwellers on the mainland. One of these, known as the "marriage test," is practiced on the island of St. Kilda, where the groom, before he is deemed suitable for a husband, has to perform an evolution attended with no little bodily risk. The St. Kildians are a race of rock-climbers, and the aspirant for matrimony is therefore subjected to the test of balancing himself on one leg in high places. The groom, in this case, is required to balance himself on one leg in high places. The groom, in this case, is required to balance himself on one leg in high places.

PERIODIC STARS.

The great periodic star shower, which is seen at intervals of thirty-three and one-half years, is due November 12 and 13. On the night of the 12th, a considerable display of these meteors is expected. They are supposed to consist of the same extinguished, but incandescent by friction with the earth's atmosphere.

THE GATEWAY CITY SCORCHED.

Skagway Experiences Two Fires in One Week—Some Valuable Reports. On Wednesday, November 16th, the headquarters of the Yukon & White Pass Railway at Skagway were destroyed by fire, and several of the officials had narrow escapes. The fire was caused by a gas lamp in the office of the chief of the preliminary survey party. The fire spread rapidly, and the whole of the work done during the summer by the preliminary survey party was destroyed. A great many maps, reports and papers, also destroyed, can be duplicated with the aid of about two thousand people, whose efforts the loss was confined to the railway buildings would have been lost.

DISASTER IN RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 28.—A ferry boat full of workmen has capsized while crossing the Volga at Knessa, drowning twenty-nine passengers.

SMALL SCHOONER SUNK.

City Island, N. Y., Nov. 28.—A small schooner was sunk in the harbor of New York. She closed in shore and well out of water at low tide, but fills at high tide.

FIRE AT LONDON.

London, Ont., Nov. 28.—Fire caused \$8,000 damages to the factory and plant of the Stevens Manufacturing Co. from and it is covered by insurance.

CONSENTED TO RUN.

Milton, Nov. 28.—Lt. Col. Kerns, former Conservative member for Haldon and consented to run again at the coming election on December 8th.

METRIC SYSTEM IN DENMARK.

The Danish merchants have for many years complained about the Danish metric system. They do not agree with those ruling in other countries, according to the reports, has just been brought into the Danish Diet recommending the metric system. The Danish metric system is a law, to take effect as soon as possible.

DEED.

Stetson, At Victoria, B.C., on the 27th inst., Alfred Stetson, only son of Alfred Martin Stetson, M.P., of Nicola, B.C., died at the age of 18 years. The funeral will take place to-morrow (Tuesday) at 2 p.m. from No. 48 Rae street, and at Christ church cathedral in five minutes later. English papers please copy.

HAVE BEEN AND INJURED

An Explosion of a Box of Dynamite at Havana Kills a Number of Persons.

Meagre Particulars of the Disaster Place the Number of the Victims at Thirty-Eight.

Havana, Nov. 28.—A box of dynamite exploded this morning near the Reina battery, killing and injuring forty persons. An investigation into the cause of the explosion shows that it occurred on the Avenue Intanta, between the Santa Clara and Reina batteries. Many boxes of powder were stored in a private house, which also contained five rooms full of Mauser rifle and other cartridges, and the careless handling of one of the boxes of powder (not a box of dynamite, as at first reported, or one of the boxes of cartridges) caused the explosion, which killed or more or less seriously wounded 38 persons.

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