

# Messenger and Visitor

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## Baron Komura Speaks.

Baron Jutaro Komura, the Japanese plenipotentiary and peace envoy who is now in the United States for the purpose of taking part in the approaching Russo-Japanese Peace Conference, has spoken with considerable freedom in reference to the affairs of his nation. The New York "Times" represents Baron Komura as saying in the course of an interview with a representative of that paper, that from this time on, no matter what the results of the Conference may be, financial and industrial conditions in Japan are certain to show vast improvement. The so-called yellow peril, the Baron says, is wholly a creation of the imagination of some interested people in Europe. Not only Japan and China, but the entire civilized world will gain immensely as the result of Japan's conflict with Russia. The Japanese feel most gratified, he says, because in the pending war they have not only secured the permanent security of their own country, as it now seems, but they have for at least a century and perhaps for all time arrested the glacial advance of "the bear" to the Southeast. Baron Komura mentions three things without which the Japanese could never have won the victories which they have won. In the first place, they were thrice-armed by having their quarrel just; secondly, their entire public service was absolutely free from corrupt practice, and finally, their mode of life has ever been one of such extreme simplicity that their soldiers thus gained an equipment for the stress of war, they never could have gained had they, like too many other nations, abandoned themselves to lives of luxury and sloth and been unwilling, if not unable, to put their hands to strenuous tasks. It will not require many years, the Baron says, for Japan to recover from the effects of the war with Russia. She will gain also from the growth of commercial and political relations with the United States, Great Britain and Europe, and he is confident that those who are now prophesying about the yellow peril will not find their horrifying predictions realized in any degree. Baron Komura alluded to the kindly treatment which Russian prisoners had received at the hands of the Japanese, and the friendly feelings which had been thus engendered. As an instance of this, he mentioned that two Russian officers had been fellow passengers with him on the "Minnesota" on the trip to Seattle, and that just before the ship reached port, they had drunk his health and given most hearty expression to the kindly sentiments they entertained for his countrymen and himself.

## For Hudson's Bay.

The steamer "Neptune" which goes to Hudson's Bay with supplies for the steamer Arctic's party and the Northwest Mounted Police on the Bay stations is expected to leave Halifax early in August. The "Neptune" will take 400 tons of hard coal, which is the fuel burned by the Arctic and at the stations. She will also take a quantity of fresh meat. This will be carried in refrigerators, and supplies of ice will be taken at various ports to last until the steamer meets the drift ice. It was intended to take the whole supply of fresh meat in this way, but it is now proposed to take two or three head of beef cattle, fifteen or twenty sheep, and some fowls. Food for these for eight or ten weeks, will be taken along, and stalls and pens for the animals will be built on the deck. The beef in the refrigerators will be first supplied to the Arctic's crew and the police at the station, and then the cattle, sheep and fowls will be put on shore and fed so long as the supply of fodder lasts. The "Neptune" will also take a quantity of perishables, including cabbage, new and old potatoes, apples, lemons, etc. She will also take a quantity of lumber, nails, etc., to be used at the stations for repairs, but it is now thought no houses will be required, though at first it was intended that one or two in sections would be taken. So far as known here the only men going on the ship beside the crew will be a dozen N. W. M. Police to take the places of some now there whose time has expired, and others who may be sick.

## Britain Wants Peace.

The sensation (which however never assumed very large dimensions,) in reference to a threatened rupture between Germany and France has subsided. But the newsgatherers manage to pick up something as a kind of aftermath of the Morocco incident. Thus the As-

sociated Press has obtained from a high official of the British Foreign Office "an interesting statement" regarding the relations of Great Britain, France and Germany. Beginning with a declaration that Great Britain would welcome a defensive alliance with France, because it would ensure a long continuance of European peace, by acting as a check to German ambitions, the official characterized the charges made in the German press against Great Britain of seeking to involve France in a war with Germany as absolutely contrary to the facts. He said: "France certainly is not desirous of war with Germany, and had Great Britain, as alleged, urged France to fight, the French Government and press would not now display that friendliness towards us which is apparent on all sides. When Germany created the controversy with France over Morocco the British Government informed the French Government that it would support it in whatever policy it decided to pursue. Accordingly Great Britain declined to participate in the international conference when France declined, and accepted when France reconsidered its decision; but any charge that we sought to bring about war or failed to use our good offices to prevent a conflict is absolutely false. We would undoubtedly have stood by France in any conflict over the Moroccan question, but we do not want a conflict, and desire an understanding with France solely to ensure peace."

## The Peace Conference.

The first meeting of the Russo-Japanese Peace Conference will not be held until August 5th, and nothing can be certainly known as to the terms of peace which Japan will propose until the meeting takes place. But of course those whose business it is to supply the public with news cannot be debarred from the privilege of guessing what propositions will be made. We are told, accordingly, that the indemnity that Japan will demand will not fall much short of \$1,000,000,000. This guess is based upon the supposition that Japan will demand from Russia sufficient to cover the cost of the war to date, and upon estimates of Japan's outlay for purposes of the war. Besides the indemnity, it is believed that the conditions to be proposed by Japan as essential will include the cession to Japan of the Island of Sakhalin, the Liao Tung peninsula and the railway as far as Harbin, the recognition of Japan's predominating influence in Korea and the return of Manchuria to China. It is believed that at the opening of the Conference, Japan will formulate the conditions which she considers essential to peace. If Russia is prepared to accept these conditions in a general way, the Conference will proceed to the consideration of details, but if Russia cannot accept the terms offered, the Conference will break up, as Japan will not probably consent to waste time in fruitless discussion.

## Matters Political.

It is reported that Hon. S. N. Parent, ex-Premier of Quebec, has been appointed a member of the Trans-continental Railway Commission with the position of chairman of the Commission. Mr. McIsaac, M. P., for Antigonish, N. S., has also been appointed a member of the Commission.—The Canadian Pacific Railway has not yet given up its fight over the Victoria, Vancouver and Eastern Railway. Mr. Drinkwater who led the C. P. R. forces when the bill was before the Railway Committee and the House of Commons has written the Railway Commission, asking that the plans of the Victoria and Eastern be not approved until such time as the Dominion Government gives its sanction to the line crossing the international boundary. It is understood that the question came before a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday last on a report of the Minister of Railways to approve of the crossing, but that it was held over for further consideration.—Mr. R. L. Borden, leader of the Opposition has purchased a site for a residence in Ottawa, and it is said to be his intention to devote all his time to the interests of the party.—Herring curing experiments under the direction of the Dominion Government have been begun at Yarmouth and other points on the Southern Shore of Nova Scotia. Similar experiments carried on last year at Canso have been discontinued. Herring are abundant in that vicinity, and it is expected that several packing establishments will be erected there. Large quantities of the fish have been shipped from Canso to the United States where the herring cured after the Scotch method bring \$15 a bar-

rel, while the ordinary product from Canada and Newfoundland is selling for \$6 and \$6.50 a barrel.

## The Seawanhaka Cup Lost.

The results of the yachts races this year will naturally go to deepen the conviction, already sufficiently strong in the minds of our republican cousins, that they are able "to lick creation." For many years past they have defeated every attempt of British yachtsmen to win the international race, and they have not only captured the Emperor's prize for the trans-Atlantic race, but have also as the result of the recent races on Lake St. Louis, between the Canadian defender "Alexandra" and the challenger "Manchester" lifted the Seawanhaka Cup which had for so many years remained on this side the line that it had almost come to be regarded as a Canadian possession. It must be said, too, that the defender in the races this year was not only beaten, but so decidedly beaten that our Canadian yachtsmen must produce a much better boat than the "Alexandra" and also handle her much more skillfully before they can hope to recapture the cup. The Seawanhaka cup was offered for international competition in 1893 by the Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club, and since 1896, until the present year, it had been won each year by a Canadian yacht.

## The Lord's Day Case.

A London dispatch gives the information that judgment was delivered by the Imperial Privy Council, on Wednesday last, on the petition of the Dominion Government for leave to appeal the Lord's Day case. It was held by the Privy Council in 1903 that the major part of the Lord Day legislation now in force in the various Provinces was beyond the powers of the Provinces. The Supreme Court of Canada afterwards refused to say whether a draft bill submitted by the Minister of Justice, defining the powers of the Dominion and Provinces, was in accordance with the constitution, and from this decision the Dominion sought an appeal to the Privy Council. The application was refused, although Mr. Newcombe, Deputy Minister of Justice, said the matter was one of great public interest to the Dominion and the Provinces, which should know their respective jurisdictions. The court declined to hear Mr. R. U. McPherson, who appeared for the Lord's Day Alliance, supporting the petition.

As was expected to be the case, President Balfour has declined to resign on account of the adverse vote secured on a motion of Mr. Redmond's some ten days ago. The Government has been able to show that it is still able to command a majority of sixty or more in the House of Commons, and so far as Parliamentary support is concerned there appears to be no reason why it should resign simply because the Opposition were able to score a majority in a thin House on some minor feature of the Government policy. But if Mr. Balfour has still a safe majority in Parliament, it is very evident, from the results of bye-elections and from many other indications, that the Government has steadily lost favor with the country, and it is doubtful if the Premier will think it prudent to resist much longer the strong demand for dissolution.

The immigration from Great Britain to Canada is increasing while it is decreasing from the United States. The official returns for the year which ended June 30 last, show a total immigration of 146,266, an increase of 16,000 over the previous year. There was a decrease, however, in the number coming from the United States of 1,628. Arrangements have now been made to take arrivals on the Pacific coast. During the past six months 675 persons arrived at Vancouver and Victoria.

Much apprehension has been caused in the South by the outbreak of yellow fever in New Orleans. Up to Sunday evening the total number of cases reported was 283, with 57 deaths. The number of new cases reported on Sunday was 27, and the deaths that day three. Vigorous efforts are being made to stamp out the disease. The theory appears to be generally accepted that the disease is communicated through the bite of mosquitos. There is some danger of the contagion reaching more northern cities, a number of suspected cases have already been quarantined in New York.