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DIPLOMATIC SECRETS.

Sensation Caused in Europe by Revelations Attributed to Bismarck.

Denied—Austria the Assurances of Germany.

LONDON, Oct. 28.—The Times' Berlin correspondent says: "The official references to the Bismarck revelations (regarding the secret Russo-German treaty) have only served to increase the unfavorable impression already produced. The Berlin Post depreciates the revelations, but admits that it is not conceivable that patriot anxiety to protect Germany from the danger of war may have induced Prince Bismarck to kindle this warning beacon visible to everyone from afar. The correspondent thinks that Bismarck's chief motive was to create a sensational diversion in favor of the Dreikönig and to prevent the government from trying to improve its relations with England."

HAVRE, Oct. 28.—The Hamburger Nachrichten, Prince Bismarck's recognized organ, denies that the interview published in the Neue Freie Presse, of Vienna, on October 25, was had with Prince Bismarck. The statesman, when interviewed on that occasion, was reported as expressing the opinion that the czar's visit to France was necessary to keep the French in good humor, and that the overpowering question before the world now is the Russo-English antagonism. The Hamburger Nachrichten furthermore confirms the assertion that the secret Russo-German treaty of 1894-95, the existence of which was first disclosed by that journal last week, was not renewed in 1895, owing to the outbreak of the chancellor crisis which resulted in Prince Bismarck's retirement and the opposition to the treaty of General von Caprivi, Bismarck's successor in the chancellery.

VIENNA, Oct. 28.—The official Austrian organs are still silent on the subject of the revelations made by Prince Bismarck in the Hamburger Nachrichten, regarding the alliance between Germany and Austria during the last years of his regime as chancellor; but an article in the Neufreie Presse on the subject has attracted much attention, declaring that a written treaty of alliance between Russia and Germany actually existed without the knowledge of the other powers. This agreement it appears was made in 1894, and for six years pledged the parties to benevolent neutrality in the event that either was attacked without provocation. When the treaty expired the German chancellery crisis occurred, and Caprivi, coming into office, effected the renewal on the ground that it complicated Germany's policy and could not be continued. Germany's refusal to renew the agreement and her simultaneous friendly policy towards Russia and Austria, influenced the Russian alliance with France. The Neue Freie Presse in the above article also declares Austria's confidence in the loyalty of the present German government.

BUDA PESTH, Oct. 28.—The Pester Lloyd, speaking of the Bismarck revelation, says that Austria is not satisfied with the present state of affairs and with Germany's assurance that her honesty and loyalty obligations towards Russia and France have been impaired by Prince Bismarck's revelations of the former entente between Germany and Russia.

PARIS, Oct. 28.—Le Temps declares that the alliance between Russia and France has nothing in it inimical to England.

LONDON, Oct. 28.—The Marquis of Dufferin, who has recently retired from the post of British ambassador at Paris, was accorded a banquet at Belfast to-night, at which he made a speech. He declared that owing to his age and deafness he had definitely retired from official life. Although England was not loved, the Marquis continued, she had no dispute with any nation of Europe, except Turkey. The salvation of the Armenians, he asserted, cannot be found in any scheme applied to the Armenians alone, but in reforms giving protection to all Turkish subjects. The Marquis also expressed the hope that the United States and England would be the first to practically apply the principle of arbitration to the settlement of international disputes. Lord Dufferin said that every Englishman's soul would revolt in horror at the thought of any fratricidal collision with the United States which would only result in involving the United States and them in a common ruin.

The Times despatch from Simla, India, says: "During the famine the Punjab will benefit enormously from irrigation in the tract supplied by the Chenab canal, the extensions of which are being vigorously pushed. The Gujranwala and Jung sections of the canal have just been opened, watering ten thousand acres, which will mostly be sown with wheat. The soil is rich and is certain to yield splendidly. The whole project is an enormous one, bringing vast tracts of waste land into cultivation. The crops from other lands about the Chenab canal are abundant, and, besides, only one-tenth of the last wheat crop was exported. It is known that the grain supply of the Punjab is very large, but the dealers are holding their stocks and raising prices from larger profits."

Mail advices received at Marseilles from Antananarivo, capital of the island of Madagascar, say that on September 15 the queen, accompanied by the general commanding the garrison and a strong escort, made a tour around the capital, during which she was attacked by the insurgents, who killed five of her

escort and wounded ten others. Thirty insurgents were killed.

King Humbert and Queen Margherita and the Prince of Naples and his bride, Princess Helena, dined to a grand serenade to-night from the balcony of the Quirinal. The approaches to the palace were thronged with a multitude of people and great enthusiasm was manifested.

CAMPAIGN IN CUBA.

HAVANA, Oct. 28.—Captain General Weyer has issued orders to the commanders of the Spanish columns that the horses of captured insurgents shall be turned over to the privates of the infantry companies, thus providing for a more efficacious pursuit of the insurgents and for the more expeditious dispersal of the armed bands of insurgents in Matanzas and Havana provinces.

The prosecutor has made application for the imposition of the death penalty in the court martial of the insurgent leader Lopez Coloma; for a term of 14 years' imprisonment in the case of Sotero Mendez; and for a term of three years' imprisonment in the case of Manuel Collazo.

Gonzales Manuza, an ex-magistrate of the supreme court, who had been sent to Chaffarins, has been ordered to return to Havana on account of his relation to the case of the dynamiters. The brothers Armand and Carlos Fernandez Alvarez have been shot at Matanzas.

General Fitzhugh Lee, the U.S. consul-general, informed the correspondent of the Associated Press this evening that he will sail for New York on Saturday. General Lee says that the purpose of his trip was to make a visit to his family and attend to private business.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—The Spanish Minister, Dupuy de Lome, has returned to Washington after a three months summer vacation in New England, and to-day called on Mr. Olney at the State Department. The minister, his family and his official staff returned with him, and the Spanish legation offices are again opened. It is understood that the minister's call on Mr. Olney was without special significance.

"The military status in Cuba has undergone a complete change within recent days by the heavy augmentation of Spanish troops and the opening of an aggressive fall campaign. The Spanish forces arriving at Cuba from March 8 up to one month ago consist of 165,551 men."

HAVANA, Oct. 29.—Montalvo, an oculist and a member of the local central autonomist committee; a planter named Juan Onahten, Antonio Escobar, and editor of La Discusion, and 185 members of a secret association, will to-morrow be sent to the island of Fernando Po, off the coast of Africa, one of the penal settlements of Spain. La Discusion was recently suppressed by the government for printing a leading article in which Escobar was the author, commenting upon the subject of the joint intervention of the United States and Mexico with the view of settling the Cuban question. Gomez Carrera, an artist, who was arrested on false charges, has been released.

EXPLOSION AT WILKESBARRE.

WILKESBARRE, Oct. 29.—An explosion of gas occurred in the South Wilkesbarre shaft of the Lehigh & Wilkesbarre Coal Company this afternoon. The mine was not in operation to-day, only fifteen men, mostly repairers, being inside. So great was the force of the explosion that it shook the surface for miles around. Dense volumes of smoke came up the shaft, which for some time prevented rescuers from going down.

A party of rescuers entered the mine shortly before three o'clock. They found William R. Jones and John Joseph, miners, who had been overcome by the fire damp and killed. A second rescue party pushed their way into the rock tunnel, where they found four more bodies.

One person was killed, two fatally injured and a fourth seriously hurt by an accident on the Wyoming Valley traction line early this morning.

VENEZUELAN COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—Prof. Burr, the map expert sent abroad by the Venezuelan commission returned last night and was before the commission for three hours to-day. He presented a number of maps and documents secured from the archives of Holland bearing directly on the pending issue, and not hitherto presented by either Great Britain or Venezuela. The British claim is based on their succession to the rights of the Dutch, so that these maps and documents are regarded as an important branch of the case.

Both Great Britain and Venezuela presented maps and documents from Dutch sources. Prof. Burr's mission was to conduct an independent inquiry, without questioning the documents presented by the two countries, but giving the commission the advantage of a complete knowledge of the Dutch archives. Prof. Burr did not characterize his findings as favorable to one side or the other, as that is the province of the commission, and it will take some time to draw the bearing of the new documents on the issue. The commission adjourned to-day to November 10, in order that Prof. Burr may have time to make a written report, that of to-day being oral.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—There are a score or more cases of complaints of political assassinations on employees in Federal offices now on file awaiting the action of the civil service commission. In practically all of these cases correspondence has been going on between the commission and the parties interested where the violations of civil service law took place. Most of the charges affect offices in the west, though there is relatively a larger number in the east.

THEY WANT OFFICES.

Hungry Grits Beleaguer Ottawa's Members—Customs and Inland Revenue Reorganization.

Dr. Fagan Public Analyst for British Columbia—Next Year's Bisley Team.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

OTTAWA, Oct. 28.—The Imperial government is determined that pension cheques shall not get into the hands of improper persons if they can stop it. Under the Canadian postal regulations "Registered correspondence addressed to a deceased person may be delivered to the legal representative of the deceased." Postmasters are instructed that an exception is, however, to be made in this rule in the case of letters from the office of the district postmaster of British North America at Halifax, addressed to an imperial pensioner or reservist. Such letters are not to be delivered to any party whatsoever claiming them on behalf of a deceased pensioner or reservist, but are to be sent to the dead letter office for return to the district postmaster.

The supreme council of the 33rd degree, Scottish Rite Freemasonry, met in annual session to-day. Three honorary 33rd's were elected: W. R. White, Penbrooke; Alex. R. Stevens, Halifax, and W. B. McArthur, Ottawa.

Commander Spain reports to the fisheries department that the United States mackerel fleet are beginning to move westward. They have had very poor catches off our coasts.

Twenty-three barrels of contraband whiskey from St. Pierre-Miquelon, have been seized at Dalhousie. The casks of liquor had been fitted into oyster barrels and were being billed along with some oysters for western ports.

Mr. Oliver, of Alberta, a very fresh member, has freed 23 letters at one department in a week.

The council of the D.P.A. met to-night to consider the plans for the proposed permanent building at Bisley. It is proposed to put up a fine structure with all the necessary conveniences and 14 double bedrooms.

OTTAWA, Oct. 29.—Hundreds of hungry Grits clamored to-day for admission to the Reform Club building, where Messrs. Hutchison and Belcourt, the city members, are holding weekly receptions.

The members of the executive of the Dominion Rifle Association visited the suggested sites for the proposed new rifle range, and were practically unanimous in favor of the Rockcliffe site, about a mile below the city and on the banks of the river.

Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Henri Joly and Hon. Mr. Paterson had a conference today regarding the proposed reorganization of the departments of Customs and Inland Revenue.

Major Mason, of the 13th Battalion, Hamilton, is spoken of as commandant of next year's Bisley team.

Sir Charles Tupper leaves for England in a few days.

Messrs. Tyrrell and Low, of the geological survey department, were presented with gold watches to-day by Secretary of State Scott on behalf of the Royal Geographical Society for services rendered to geographical science.

Dr. Fagan, of Westminster, has been appointed; public analyst for British Columbia.

LAURIER HOPEFUL.

QUEBEC, Oct. 29.—(Special)—Hon. Mr. Laurier speaking at a Liberal banquet at the Hotel Frontenac to-night, said he hoped to announce the settlement of the Manitoba school question in a week.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 29.—(Special)—The Free Press to-morrow will say: "The Free Press is in a position to state with reference to the proposed terms for the settlement of the school controversy that the federal government has asked for greater concessions to the Catholic minority than the provincial authorities can give. This does not mean that a mutual settlement is impossible, and negotiations will be continued until an agreement is reached that can be accepted by both sides." An announcement from official sources may be looked for within a week or ten days.

DESTITUTION IN LABRADOR.

ST. JOHN'S, Oct. 28.—(Special)—The newspapers here publish frightful accounts of the destitution in Labrador, upon authority of Dr. Grenfell, superintendent of the mission to deep sea fishermen, who comes from England yearly with two assistants to do medical service on the coast. He declares that words are inadequate to do justice to the wretchedness of the people.

"BETRAYED" BY LAURIER.

WINNIPEG, Oct. 29.—(Special)—Le Manitoba of St. Boniface, while reserving for its next issue its comments on the declarations of Hon. Mr. Tarte, remarks in the meantime: "We are betrayed, and the cause of our separate schools has been basely abandoned by the Federal government—by those who in the last elections promised to save us." William Sutherland, member for North Qu'Appelle, has resigned his seat in the Northwest legislature.

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STARVATION IN LABRADOR.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Oct. 29.—Dr. Grenfell, superintendent of the deep sea mission, in a letter concerning the suffering on the coast of Labrador, said: "At Square island we found an anxious crowd awaiting us. Not a family had enough to eat and they had no means of getting food. We have arranged to supply 25 barrels of flour, 10 sacks of biscuit, a puncheon of molasses and chest of tea, in return for which the people will saw the wood which we have to sell next summer. An enormous boom is conferred upon these settlements, even by such small assistance as this. We took away a family having no means. We also left some clothing, quilts and counterpanes. Most of the houses have an utterly inadequate supply of bedding. Arriving at Boulter's Rock we soon had a crowded deck full of people. Here also they were fairly starving. Two Newfoundland traders came along asking what could be done for the people. No government relief has been promised to the settlements. Many families are already existing on flour alone, having neither molasses nor tea. We gave each family a bundle of clothing and promised to make representation of their needs to the proper authorities."

"At Pack's Harbor we were told that the children in one family in a neighboring island were running about stark naked all summer and had been found that condition by an Anglican missionary and we intend to provide clothes for those. While it is open to any one to take a different view of the outlook I must say that after five years on the coast, during which time I have made the acquaintance of almost every settler from Cape Chidley to Blanc Sablon, I can only repeat my opinion that unless the entire system of living and dealing is altered, and only if the cod and seal fisheries greatly improve, can a majority of the settlers even hope to do more than to prevent starvation and keep themselves covered."

"As I pass this fall, visiting some places for the fourth time, I can see no other hope for them than that the Newfoundland government should grant them free passages to Canada or the United States. We are doing our very best and are giving clothing to women and children, and sometimes to men. We shall be deeply grateful to any friends reading this if they will forward to St. John's contributions of clothing, of which we are lamentably short."

Revenue Collector Burgess, of the Newfoundland customs department, who has just returned from Labrador, corroborates Dr. Grenfell in every essential particular. He mentions the case of Crosswater Bay, which has a population of 488. Their total catch of fish for the season was fifteen cases of salmon. The entire population had to be supplied with the winter's food by him, acting under orders from the government. He reports that the people are in a state of poverty in many other parts along the coast.

Ben. Wrede, a former Victorian, missing in the Inhospitable Wastes of Omineca.

Mr. Ben. Wrede, formerly a resident of Victoria, and afterwards hotelkeeper in Vancouver and at Lardene, is reported lost in the northern portion of the province. On the 4th of March last Wrede wrote under date of Bear Lake, that he was on his way to the coast, to start with two sleighs on a 400 mile trip, to try and find a more profitable placer district than the one he had been in. Since that time, so far as is known, no one has seen or heard of him and the belief is general that he has been lost. When he started on the trip the thermometer was 60 below zero, but he wrote that he was in good health. It is thought he may have succumbed to the cold or met with an accident on some one of the many rivers in the Omineca country.

The following letter was received the other day by Mrs. Wrede in Vancouver on this point: "The minister understood St. Stuart's Lake."

Hudson's Bay Co., STUART'S LAKE, 9th Oct., 1896.

Dear Madam:—I am sorry to inform you that Vettale LeFort, a gold prospector here, claims that your husband is lost, as he has not been seen since last March. He made an appointment with Vettale and another man by the name of Murdock to meet at a certain place on the headwaters of one of the branches of the Finlay river, but although they waited at this place for several days, and saw some of Mr. Wrede's camps, he did not turn up. They then thought he had taken some other trail, so they left and came to the Hudson Bay Co.'s post on the Finlay river. I have received late news from this post and Mr. Wrede had not then put in an appearance, neither has he turned up at any other of the company's posts that I have heard of.

Sympathizing with you in your bereavement, I remain, Yours truly, A. C. MURRAY.

This letter has been forwarded to Mr. F. W. Behnen in the hope that he may discover from some of the old pioneers of Omineca what were the chances of Mr. Wrede's present safety. Mr. J. Griffiths, wharfinger of the C. P. N. Co., who is a very old settler in the region Mr. Wrede was prospecting in, believes there is still a chance of Mr. Wrede being alive, as he may have taken a different course from what he intended on setting out. Anyone who can throw light on the subject of his whereabouts would confer a kindness by communicating with Mr. Behnen or with Mrs. Wrede, at Vancouver.

GUTHRIE, O.T., Oct. 28.—A cyclone struck Mitchell post office, 20 miles east of here, last night at 7:30, and swept away the farm houses for miles. Postmaster Mullin and his wife are known to have been killed and many others are reported dead. Rescuing parties with coffins have been sent out. The particulars are meagre.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U.S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

BISMARCK'S BREAK.

Contemplated Prosecution of His Organ for Revealing State Secrets Abandoned.

Press Comments on the Disclosures—Why He Wanted to Use Russia.

LONDON, Oct. 29.—The proposed prosecution of the Hamburger Nachrichten for publishing state secrets has, according to a special dispatch from Berlin, been abandoned out of the fear of the harm such a step might do to Germany's foreign policy. It is added, however, that should Prince Bismarck publish the circumstances under which he resigned office, the government will be forced to act. The government would probably treat Prince Bismarck in the same manner as the latter treated Count von Arnim. Count von Arnim was arrested in October, 1874, and confined in Berlin for refusing to give up documents sent to him as ambassador. On account of illness he was released on bail, but again arrested in about two weeks' time. He was tried in December, 1874, and convicted of making away with the documents, but was acquitted of the other charges, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. He appealed, was tried again in June, 1875. The verdict confirmed the sentence. In November of the same year it was announced that Count von Arnim was to be prosecuted for treason. In May, 1881, he died at Nice as a result. It was said by Prince Bismarck's enemies of the prosecution which he had been subjected to by the chancellor.

PARIS, Oct. 29.—Le Figaro, referring to the disclosures made by Prince Bismarck in the Hamburger Nachrichten, regarding the secret alliance between Germany and Russia from 1874 to 1890, says: "Russia discovered that the treaty was a veritable delusion for her, and when Napoleon asked her in 1887 to renew the declaration of her neutrality in the event of an attack upon France, which was being planned by Germany, Russia formally refused to do so, and thereafter all blandishments of Prince Bismarck only served to increase the friendship between France and Russia."

It says: "The events in which Bismarck is concerned can now only be qualified as posthumous; since his fall from power he cannot be content to have no say in the less important affairs of his country. The predominant idea of Bismarck's administration was to make use of Russia to crush the western powers. Napoleon's alliance with England in the Crimean war for the benefit of England, served as a pretext for attacking Russian influences within the orbit of the German foreign policy, where they remained until after 1870. The results of the Franco-German war terminated by the treaty of Frankfurt, which was being planned by Germany, Russia formally refused to do so, and thereafter all blandishments of Prince Bismarck only served to increase the friendship between France and Russia."

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DOMINION FINANCES.

Surpluses of Revenue in Eighteen of the Twenty-nine Years of Confederation.

Fielding Likely to Add Nine or Ten Millions to the Public Debt.

(From the Montreal Gazette.)

The revised statement of receipts and expenditure on Consolidated Fund account for the fiscal year ending June 30 has been issued. Compared with the result of the operations in 1894-5, the figures show:

	1894-95.	1895-96.
Customs	\$19,833,962	\$17,640,463
Excise	7,929,005	7,805,962
Post Office	2,964,014	2,792,789
Public works, including railways	3,594,678	3,562,297
Miscellaneous	2,239,424	2,098,506
Total	\$36,617,484	\$33,929,969

Expenditure, \$36,980,966 \$38,009,341

There was a deficit on revenue account for 1895-6 of \$363,000. For the preceding twelve months there had been a deficit of \$4,153,876. The cause of this latter heavy shortage is well understood. In the session of 1894 there had been a revision in the tariff, and a very general scaling down of customs taxation. As a result, there has been also a decline in the total value of imported merchandise, in the ensuing twelve months, there was a falling off in the revenue from \$36,374,000 in 1893-4, to \$33,978,000 in 1894-5.

In the session of 1895 Mr. Foster, as Finance Minister, laid before parliament plans for making up the deficit, and bringing about an equilibrium between income and outgo. A customs duty was put on raw sugar, and some modifications were made in other schedules. The estimates of the expenditure were also cut down. The result is seen in the returns for 1895-6, given above. There was a reduction in the ordinary expenditure, compared with 1894-5, of over a million dollars, and an increase in the revenue of \$2,700,000. With the charge of an unexpected general election added to the total of his calculations, the Finance Minister only fell \$363,481 behind. The miscalculation was a very small one. It is nothing to what Mr. Fielding will be credited when the present year's accounts are adjusted.

In eighteen years out of the twenty-nine since Confederation, it may be added, there have been surpluses of revenue over expenditure on Consolidated Fund account. Their total amounted to \$39,873,065. In eleven there have been deficits, aggregating altogether \$22,582,538. In the net excess of receipts over ordinary expenditure during the time has the expenditure been over seventeen million dollars, which has been expended in public works, aiding the construction of railways, etc.

To the Consolidated Fund expenditure is to be added a sum of \$4,340,838, spent on capital account—that is, out of borrowed money. It went for the following services:

Public Works, Railways and Canals	\$2,620,817
Dominion Lands	\$2,369
Railway Subsidies	\$34,745
Militia	\$67,968

The latter item not many will cavil at. At the time it was resolved to make the expenditure it represents, there was an apparent danger that the military forces of the country would be called on to act in its defence. It was deemed necessary to put them in a position, as to armament and equipment, that would enable them to undertake such a duty with the best prospects of success. Past neglect in an important respect had to be suddenly made up for, and the process cost money. The items or public works, railway and canals, the latter especially represent generally expenditure on undertakings of immediate importance to the commercial interests of the country. To some extent the same thing can be said also of the sum paid out for railroad subsidies, \$394,745. The total Dominion expenditure on this item, since the plan of giving such subsidies was inaugurated, up to the close of 1895-6, was \$13,321,380. Practically it represents an increase of the national debt to that amount. It is a question whether it is not time for parliament to stop or, at least, greatly reduce such grants.

The increase in the public debt on the year, as a result of the expenditure under the two heads, has been five million dollars, a very considerable sum, but one that, unfortunately, is likely to be exceeded in 1896-7. The revenue of \$36,617,484 for 1895-6 cannot be greatly augmented during the current twelve months, even after the increases in the customs duties that will have to be made during the tariff revision, if it is intended to avoid deficits many times larger than Mr. Foster was responsible for last year. The expenditure for 1896-7, as indicated by the estimates, will be close to, if it does not exceed, forty-five million dollars. Instead of an addition of five millions to the debt, Mr. Fielding, in his first year, is likely to add nine or ten millions.

OWEN SOUND, Oct. 29.—Robert Edgar, tax collector, accidentally shot himself in the abdomen yesterday while hunting. He died instantly.

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