

THE PEACE COMMISSIONERS.

How Senior Rios Describes the American Peace Commission.

President McKinley's Breach of Faith in Claiming Conquest of the Philippines.

Spanish Honor Insulted by Reference in His Message to Maine Disaster.

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 17.—The following is the full text of an interview between the Spanish peace commission, and M. de Rios, the Paris correspondent of the London Times, published in that paper this evening: Senior Montero Rios is quoted as saying:

"We have fulfilled here a very painful mission, to which it is impossible to dream of looking back with any regret, but of doing our duty. We depart without other consolation than the exclamation, 'All is lost, save honor.' We knew in advance that we should have to deal with an implacable conqueror, who in no way would concern himself with the accuracy of international law, but whose sole object was to realize from victory the largest possible advantage. This conception of international law is absolutely new; it is no longer a case of might against right, but of might without right. As for us, we had only to protect ourselves against the abuse which it was desired to inflict upon us, and to do so, in spite of our blunders and mistakes, that we had not compromised the proverbial loyalty to the Castilian flag."

"Mistake also has grandeur. The Americans have acted as vainglorious parvenus (spatist conquerors). They do not yet know the difference between the things which the most fortunate nations cannot escape later on—when they, too, will have had reverses; when they will have become homogeneous, and no longer obliged to satisfy the exigencies of political parties they will form, like all other nations with a past, a code of international rights and duties, and be less inflexible towards those who have suffered defeat. They will better understand that strict observance of conditions is not the thick of a fight, is a guarantee and a protection for all concerned—for the conqueror as well as the conquered. Nations do not count by days or weeks, but by centuries, and in the course of their existence, events assume various complications."

"We signed on August 12, a protocol suspending hostilities, and it was on the 14th that the American general demanded the surrender of Manila. The archipelago had not been won, and has not yet been conquered. The fate of the Philippines remained undetermined, and Spanish sovereignty was still in force, since the American was engaged with a considerable force to suppress the insurrection. But after a journey across a portage, the United States President McKinley changed his policy and decided upon claiming the Philippines by right of conquest."

"The resistance of Carro, supposed to be un conquered. The two chief islands, the two rivers—Mindanao and Luzon—are not won. Mindanao, the island of the Great Lake contained a population of half-breeds—half Malay and half Spanish—constituting a military monarchy which rules the rest of the islands and occupies the richest portion of the territory on the shores of the lake. I know the country and its inhabitants. They are proud, strong and warlike, and only to be conquered, but their conquest will not be accomplished quickly. Yet the United States claimed them as well as the other islands, as though their conquest was complete."

"But what most pains me is that in this great whirlwind which we have lost all, lost all our last armada, there has been an attempt to deprive us of our own territory. On December 1st I proposed to the Americans to appoint a technical commission to examine the question of the Molines. We said Americans should appoint an American, an Englishman and a Frenchman, all specialists, and that the American general should give a verdict. If they should declare Spain innocent, the President of the United States should address a message to the senate declaring Spanish honor intact and that Spain was falsely accused of having betrayed the laws of hospitality by blowing up a vessel at anchor in one of her ports. If Spain should be declared guilty a Spanish ship should go to America, salute the United States flag, and Spain would pay the costs."

"This is the proposal we made on December 1st. It could and must have been telegraphed, for it could be put in two hundred words; yet on December 6th, in his message to congress, the President made an allusion to our proposal but described the blowing up of the Maine as a suspicious event. On December 9th, the American commission declared they refused to discuss this question. This is what especially irritates us. We have great defects, our temper and credulity even, but our national honor is dear to us. Yet at that honor Americans wished to deal the death blow."

"Well, we are now going home to help Spain staunch the wound. We have happily at our head a woman whose virtues, courage and intelligence are our strength and hope, who is believed and esteemed by all parties, who henceforth has the heart of a Spaniard. The latest news from the frontiers is that all is pretty quiet; there are moreover really no Carlists left. He has lived too long in the most advanced countries to be so retrograded and the Carlist and the fanaticism has disappeared. Nor are there any longer men who want a republic. Castellar and Salmeron are loyal opponents."

"Spain has ceased to be great Spain, but we shall abide by our traditions of honor and sobriety. Perhaps by the time our young King, who has been brought up in the school of adversity under the eye of a noble man, attains his majority, we will see the days of peace and prosperity return."

MASSACRED ONE HUNDRED. Chinese Rebels Deal with French Priest and His Converts.

London, Dec. 19.—According to a despatch Shanghai, which has been received from Chung Yang, 50 miles south-west of Ichang, province of Ho-pe, on the north bank of the Yangtze-Kiang, 200 miles above Chin Kiang Foo. They have massacred a French priest and one hundred converts.

HARCOURT'S DESERTION.

Liberal Press Scolds the Late Leader and Would Retire Him on a Peccage.

Party Seriously Divided as to His Successor—Mr. Asquith a Favorite.

Irish Members Believe That Liberal Dissension Adds to Their Importance.

London, Dec. 17.—The sensation in political circles this week has been Sir William Vernon Harcourt's trap-door exit from the front of the Liberal stage, which has left his party in a broken-winded condition, and it is very clear from the speeches delivered at yesterday's meeting of the National Liberal Federation that the rank and file are seriously displeased with what regarding Harcourt's desertion.

"The letters of Sir William Vernon Harcourt reveal that a state of intrigue and internal division has existed in inner Liberal circles for the past year. Now the Liberal organs open up and give Sir William a piece of their mind. The Speaker, as mouthpiece of the party, says: 'Noting the tone of the language of Sir William Vernon Harcourt or Mr. Morley are what we had a right to expect from them. They have been regarded as shining examples, and we are sorry they have now fallen short of their own reputation.' The Liberals seem quite divided on the subject of Sir William's successor, and the organization of the Liberal party is an embarrassing conflict of utterances for Mr. Morley, Mr. Asquith and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain has a slight lead, and if he would consent to sacrifice his big practice at the bar, which is inconsistent with the duties of the leadership, he would, doubtless be selected. Harcourt will remain a private member of the party, and as soon as a chance comes into power he will receive a peerage and practically retire from parliament."

A RIOT IN HAWAII.

Cubans Raise Their Flags Prematurely and Conflict With Spaniards Results.

American Teamster Wounded During the Row—Cuban Editors and Outfits Seized.

By Associated Press.

Havana, Dec. 17.—A riot occurred at Carro, a suburb of Havana, this evening. In the disturbance, which took place at 7:30 o'clock, a number of shots were fired, and one man is reported to have been killed and five wounded. The residents of Carro, supposed to be Spaniards, had officially evacuated the suburb, raised Cuban and American flags over a number of buildings. Crackers were fired and speeches were made on the street corners, and this rioting on the part of the Cubans led to the affray, and was struck by a bullet in the right arm. He was brought to the Infirmeria hospital. Senator Castro, civil governor of Havana, has informed General Greene that the offenders will be severely punished. Señor de Castro says he saw no Spaniards at the scene of the affray."

At 9:45 this evening General Lee and General Greene were in conference with the Spanish officials. Captain-General Castellanos issued orders to-night for the arrest of the printing press, and the editors of certain clandestine Cuban publications which circulate in the city, and to prohibit the sale of any cause disorder. The decree will probably be enforced to-night."

A CEMETERY SPECULATION.

Sale of American Burying Ground at Jerusalem Part of Clever Scheme.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—Particulars of the acquisition of the legendary abode of the Virgin Mary by the German Catholics in the incident expectation of an arrangement by which the Sultan, in order to oblige Emperor Williams, would place them in possession of the rest of the property, which was in the hands of Mussulmans, who were forced to sell under the order of the Sultan. The Catholic press notes, in most surprise, that while the Catholic clergy and press formally and generally thanked the Emperor for what he has done for them in Palestine, the Protestant press and episcopacy have remained silent."

DECLARE FOR RECIPROCIITY.

National Board of Trade Consider It Would Be Advantageous to the States.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The first matter which came before the meeting of the national board of trade to-day was the report of the committee on reciprocity. The board of trade, which is composed of representatives of the various industries of the country, especially in manufacturing, and recommended that reciprocal trade treaties should be concluded with the countries of the American continent. It was also resolved that in the board's opinion the most important manufacturing industry of the country is the iron and steel industry, and that the most important trade relations between the United States and the Dominion of Canada and the colony of Newfoundland.

A GAMBLING SCANDAL.

German Officers Ruined by Smart Swindler Introduced in Their Club.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—A gambling scandal affecting a number of aristocrats has been brought to light and created a sensation. A smart club called the Jovial Club, frequented by the officers of the regiment of cavalry and introduced by two highly respected members and soon became a favorite. All went well until rumors about his antecedents began to circulate and it was noticed that luck invariably favored him. The Berlin Tagblatt says the stranger got many young men of the best families in his power. The whole affair will shortly be sifted in the law courts. Several club members have sued and the affair is likely to have serious results for military officers, in view of Emperor William's dislike of gambling, to suppress gambling in the army."

GERMANY SQUARED.

Promise of Commercial Concessions Reconciles Her to Philippines Transfer.

Berlin, Dec. 17.—The semi-official Post-Tribune publishes an inspired article saying: "It is an enviable fact that Germany has resolved to favor as much as possible German commercial interests in the Philippines. There is no doubt that a modus vivendi will be found, satisfactory for a number of years to both nations." Continuing, the Post-Tribune said: "A very simple, but very great thing has happened. A misunderstanding has been removed. The people of the United States had not understood Britain's feeling towards them. Now they understand. That is all. But it is immense." "Great Britain," he continued, "has not proposed to use the United States for her purposes, any more than our friends across the Atlantic have proposed to use Great Britain for their purposes. Where our interests are identical we may hope for co-operation. When our country has an interest and the other has none, we may hope that the country not interested will do what it can to support its friends. Where the interests may unhappily tend to diverge, but should hasten to mutual conciliation, to an understanding, so as to arrive at a speedy compromise before there is any chance of a breach of their friendship." (Applause.)

BRAGGY OF THE SEA.

Invald Penned in a Cabin Creaked Down With Wrecked Schooner.

Nova Scotian Coal Carrier Becomes a Wreck With Loss of Two Lives.

By Associated Press.

Halifax, Dec. 17.—The schooner Parisian, 107 tons, of Louisbourg, bound from Louisbourg to Halifax, with a cargo of coal, went ashore off the southern side of White Point, near the rough coast, on the coast, last night. As soon as the vessel struck, the crew abandoned all hope of saving her, and the vessel was thrown into the water. The boats were lowered, but were speedily swamped by the heavy seas. The captain, fearing that the vessel would list, ordered the men to cut away the masts. When the masts fell the mast-boom and the mainmast fell, and the vessel fastened the cabin doors and to imprison within Miss Louise Dowd, of Big Bay, an invalid, who was on her way to a hospital here. Just after the mainmast fell the vessel went to pieces, and everyone on board was thrown into the water. Capt. Wilcox, Mate Jonathan and Cook Salmon reached the shore, but Miss Dowd and Seaman Green were drowned. The captain's breast was seriously injured. The vessel and cargo are a total loss.

ICE BOUND ON LAKE ERIE.

Immense Accumulation of Shipping at Buffalo and Detroit.

Buffalo, Dec. 16.—The marine blockade of this port continues and is unprecedented. There are fully eighty large steamers in the river waiting to be unloaded or frozen in. They carry about nine million bushels of grain, while in the different elevators seven million bushels are at present stored. This total of sixteen million bushels of grain, while in the different elevators is a record breaker of the first dimension. The ice is so rapidly to permit any of the boats attempting another trip up the lakes, consequently this great load of grain cannot be taken into the winter in the port. The railroads are hampered in their efforts to get the grain to the coast by the continued snow blockades.

CHINA'S EMPEROR ON VIEW.

Present at Reception of Ambassadors' Wives by the Empress Dowager.

Peking, Dec. 15.—The numerous difficulties having been finally overcome, the Empress Dowager yesterday granted an audience to the wives of foreign ambassadors and ministers, in order to give them a glimpse of the palace. There a group of gorgeously arrayed mandarines met them and escorted them to the great hall from which Chinese ladies conducted their audience. The Empress Dowager was seated upon a date decorated with chrysanthemum and apple blossoms, with the emperor at her left hand. Claude Macdonald, wife of the British ambassador, as doyenne of the diplomatic corps, read a speech in English expressing her pleasure and that of the other ladies at the opportunity to tender their congratulations to the empress dowager on her birthday, and also expressing their regret that their respective governments had not yet been able to send them to the palace. The ladies assembled at the British legation and proceeded to the palace. 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