

WITTE'S REPLY MAY END CONFERENCE; OYAMA AWAYS THE SIGNAL TO ATTACK

Japanese Now Have Russian Answer to Demands, Which It Is Believed Declares Mikado's Terms to Be Unacceptable—Outlook for Agreement is Dark.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 12.—The meeting of the peace conference this morning, as indicated in these dispatches last night, was brief. It lasted a little more than an hour. The Russian reply was delivered by Mr. Witte, and the meeting adjourned to give Baron Komura and his colleagues opportunity to examine the document. Mr. Witte indicated courteously that he would expect the same expedition in the Japanese response as had been observed in the preparation of the Russian reply, and this was readily assented to. The Russian plenipotentiaries immediately returned to the hotel, while the Japanese remained at the navy yards.

IF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BROKEN OFF OYAMA WILL IMMEDIATELY GIVE BATTLE TO LINEVITCH.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS LEARNS FROM AN UNIMPEACHABLE SOURCE THAT OYAMA'S PLANS ARE PERFECTED, HIS ARMIES ARE READY, AND ONLY AWAIT THE SIGNAL THAT A RUMPTURE HAS OCCURRED TO LAUNCH HIS ATTACK.

SO PESSIMISTIC IS THE FEELING AMONG THOSE IN THE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES, THAT THE PREDICTION WAS MADE TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT, THAT IF A MEETING SHOULD BE HELD THIS AFTERNOON IT MIGHT BE THE LAST, AND THAT THE HISTORY OF THE "WASHINGTON CONFERENCE" WOULD BE ABRUPTLY CONCLUDED TODAY.

Will Reply at Once.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 12.—The

Japanese plenipotentiaries have agreed to make their response to the Russian reply at 3 o'clock this afternoon or at the same time tomorrow.

Soon after adjournment of the joint session and the departure of the Russians from the building, the Japanese chief envoys and their assistants went into formal session in their private council chamber, taking into consideration and preparing for cabling the Russian reply to Tokyo.

May End Suddenly

St. Petersburg, Aug. 12.—Dispatches from Portsmouth make it clear that unless there is a very substantial abatement of the demands of the Japanese plenipotentiaries, which is unlikely, the peace conference will come to a sudden conclusion. The two nations are so wide apart that all hope of agreement has been practically abandoned here. It is probable that the next session will end in final adjournment and that Mr. Witte may sail for Europe very shortly.

St. Petersburg Hopes for Best.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 12.—Some hope is expressed in the newspapers that the Japanese may withdraw certain of their stipulations and thus make further negotiations possible, but the unanimous editorial opinion is that if the Japanese do not recede the Portsmouth conference is at an end, for, as one editor puts it, a nation with half a million men in the field facing the enemy cannot treat on the basis of payment of an indemnity and territorial concessions.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 12.—The Russian reply to the Japanese conditions of peace was delivered by Mr. Witte to Baron Komura this morning. The heat was already almost unendurable when the Japanese and Russian

plenipotentiaries set out for the navy yard about 9 o'clock. The mercury was in the nineties on the veranda of the hotel and not a breath of air was stirring. The foreigners were fairly overcome. They were mopping their brows and their eyes were closed. The heat evidently affected their tempers. The grim, serious business on hand upon the issue of which the whole world waits breathlessly, seemed temporarily forgotten in the general exasperation of the weather.

Mr. Witte and Mr. Takahira, who have suffered from the heat since the unprecedented heat wave which has held this vaunted summer resort in its relentless grip for three days, looked almost worn out. Baron Komura, with Mr. Takahira, and Mr. Witte, with Baron Rosen were taken to the navy yard in automobiles, while the secretaries and attaches of the missions went over in a launch. The latter greeted each other on the wharf with smiles, but there was little cordiality and no fraternizing. The few remarks exchanged were simply the polite and complaints against the weather.

When they entered the launch, they were performed compelled to speak again to each other as they were taking their seats, but before they had gone 200 yards the attempt to keep up the conversation ended. Perhaps among the Russians the reserve was less noticeable than among the Japanese. But there was little to choose between them in this respect. Their strained attitude toward each other could have been manifest to the most indifferent observer. It seemed a bad augury. Indeed, pessimism, black pessimism reigned.

It was already well understood that Mr. Witte's reply upon the two main points was a firm but courteous refusal. The Russians made no concealment of that and such indications as came from their headquarters, breathed a spirit of implacable resolution to the end of victory. Indeed there were open intimations that unless the Japanese modified their positions upon these points the attempt to make a peace must result in failure and predictions were freely made among the Russian correspondents that next week would see the end.

Ploughed into Cattle

Chicago Express Kills Four Near Merritt, but Holds the Rails.

St. Catharines, Aug. 12.—The Chicago Express ran into a drove of cattle this morning near Merritt. Four cattle were killed, but the engine and train held to the rails and no one was injured. The cattle belonged to Chas. Stokes, milkman, of Merritt.

Great Sawmill Fire

Big Plant at Fredericton Destroyed, at a Loss of \$200,000.

St. John, N. B., Aug. 11.—The Aberdeen sawmill at Fredericton, owned by Donald Fraser & Sons, was destroyed by fire this evening, together with six to ten million feet of lumber, entailing a loss of \$200,000. It was the worst fire in the history of Fredericton in half a century. The mill was running full blast when the fire broke out, probably caused by a hot-box on a flat piece of timber in the basement, and so suddenly and rapidly did the fire break out and the flames spread through the oil-saturated building, that the men had no time to escape with their lives, and a number had to leave their clothes behind.

The dwelling houses were saved, also five million feet of lumber piled at the upper end of the yard. The mill was built in 1884 and was well equipped. Donald Fraser said tonight he thought the property was insured for about one-third its value. They will likely rebuild the mill, which is one of the best for the South American market, and was being held for better prices.

No Terminus Chosen

Site for Western End of G.T.P. Not Yet Decided Upon.

Toronto, Aug. 12.—Mr. William Wainwright, general superintendent of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, accompanied by Engineer Wood, of the Lake Superior branch, which is to run from Port Arthur to intersect the transcontinental line, interviewed President of the board, Hon. Dr. Reame yesterday morning.

Although the exact nature of their interview was not disclosed, it is understood that the Government demands in connection with the filling of plans for the new branch and the handing over of the provincial grant were discussed. The preparation of the branch line plans will be completed as soon as possible, but no building will be done until these bear the approval of the Minister of Public Works.

As to the 6,000-acre land grant, Mr. Wainwright says it is given as a bonus, and should certain areas turn out worthless from a mining or agricultural standpoint, the company have the right to deflect their road to take in profitable tracts. The terminus of the new branch will, according to Engineer Wood, be about 250 miles east of Winnipeg.

Mr. Wainwright emphatically states that the western terminus of the G. T. P. has not yet been chosen or discussed by the board.

Pelee Island for Game

Leamington, Ont., Aug. 12.—It is reported that a syndicate is attempting to purchase the whole of Pelee Island, with the intention of converting it into a game preserve.

Went Through Bridge.

Frankford, Ont., Aug. 12.—Edward Sharp was driving a traction engine owned by D. Smith across Frankford bridge last night, when the engine dropped into the river, taking one whole span of the bridge with it. Mr. Sharp was badly scared, but it is thought he will recover. The engine lies bottom side up in the river.

A NEW BATTERY TO DEFEND QUEBEC

Powerful Ordnance To Be Placed on Banks of St. Lawrence Below the City.

[Special to The Advertiser.]
Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 12.—The militia department has settled upon the site of the land battery that is to be established on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, just below Quebec, for the further protection of that port and of shipping by the St. Lawrence route. An order-in-council has been put through in connection with the appropriation of the necessary land which has an elevation of 150 feet above the river. The guns which are now on hand ready for mounting are big enough to command the whole river at this point. The new fortification will be about two miles below the city and will be sited on the east bank of the river. It is to be some five miles down stream from Quebec.

Freights Crash at Komoka; Painful Injuries to Trainmen

West and Eastbound Trains Come Together in Early Morning Fog.

An east and a west bound freight train came together at Komoka this morning. One of the trainmen had his arm broken and three others were rather painfully bruised or cut. The rolling stock was damaged to some extent, but the wreckage was soon cleared away and traffic was not delayed more than twenty minutes after the relief crew from London reached the spot. Both engines were partially derailed.

A few minutes before 8 o'clock a.m., the eastbound freight, with engine No. 791 in charge of Conductor Hodgins, was entering the siding at Komoka. Engine No. 403 was pulling the westbound train slowly into the station along the main line. A dense fog which prevailed rendered it impossible for either engineer to see the other train. The eastbound engine had not entered the siding more than a few feet when its caboose was struck by the oncoming No. 403.

The signal was against the westbound train, but when the engineer saw it and put on the brakes, the latter went "lock-ed" and the wheels skidded, bearing the engine far enough to strike the other.

The men who were hurt were all from Samia. Brakeman Peart was the most seriously hurt, his arm being broken and his body bruised. Dr. Drake was summoned from this city, and went out and attended the men. Fireman Young received a cut over the right eye. Conductor John Murphy, in charge of the westbound train, was bruised about the body. Fireman J. H. Leggett had his head cut.

Peart was brought to this city at once and taken to the hospital. The other men were attended to in Komoka, and will not be more than a few hours off work.

British Fleet Reaches Quebec

Prince Battenberg's Fine Squadron Visits Ancient Capital.

Quebec, Aug. 11.—Amid the thunder of guns from the citadel, the ship of the second cruiser squadron, under command of H. S. H. Prince Louis of Battenberg, arrived in the harbor of Quebec at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon and cast anchor, to remain for a visit which promises to be of the greatest interest, and in honor of which the citizens of the ancient capital have made every preparation on a grand scale for a round of festivities such as seldom has been seen.

Upon the arrival of the fleet, the admiral, Prince Louis, was received by a salute from the citadel and the salute was replied to by the flagship. Every point of vantage overlooking the river was crowded with those anxious to witness the spectacle of six of the premier ships of the royal navy coming up the river.

Admiral Prince Louis, with his staff, landed about six o'clock and drove up to the Governor-General's headquarters. The people of the city, the celerity and returned back to the ship about seven o'clock.

The Governor-General, Lord Grey, will go on board the admiral's flagship tomorrow morning.

Norway's Dissolution Vote.

Christiania, Aug. 12.—Preparations for the holding of a referendum tomorrow are complete. The people of Norway are almost unanimously in favor of a dissolution. The state railways and private steamship companies will carry voters free.

Shea Boss Again.

Philadelphia, Aug. 12.—Cornelius P. Shea, of Chicago, was today re-elected president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters by a vote of 120 to 117, defeating Daniel Furman, of Chicago.

The Weather.

Tomorrow—Fine and Cool.

London, Saturday, Aug. 12. Sun rises, 5:18 a.m. Moon rises, 5:40 p.m. Sun sets, 7:57 p.m. Moon sets, 2:34 a.m.

The very fine, warm weather has continued throughout the Northwest Territories and Manitoba, and also in most other districts in Canada. A few light scattered showers occurred in the Lake Superior region and the far eastern portion of Quebec.

Minimum and maximum temperatures: Victoria, 52-58; Kamloops, 54-64; Calgary, 54-74; Edmonton, 56-76; Swift Current, 54-80; Winnipeg, 56-78; Parry Sound, 62-86; Toronto, 62-84; Ottawa, 62-84; Montreal, 72-84; Quebec, 62-82; St. John, 54-66; Halifax, 56-84.

AMERICAN BOAT TAKES THE LEAD

The Iroquois Crosses Starting Line Ahead of the Temeraire.

Charlotte, N. Y., Aug. 12.—The starting gun in the International yacht race was fired promptly at 11 o'clock. The American boat went over the line first at 11:00:41; Temeraire at 11:00:56. The Iroquois took the windward position at 11:02:30. The Temeraire also took the windward position by outpointing the Iroquois.

The Iroquois seemed to be outpointing her rival, but the Temeraire was pointing high.

There is a 7-mile breeze blowing from the southwest with prospects of increasing. The course is a triangular one 3 miles each leg to be sailed twice around, making an 18-mile course.

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Struck Foreman Gets Holiday

He Gets Holiday

Fireman Bolton Gets Fractious and Is Suspended From Duty.

While the Japanese and Russian envoys are negotiating for peace at Washington, the members of No. 3 Fire Station, South London, are negotiating for battle.

Foreman Thomas Aitkin and Fireman Bolton are the principals in the battle of South London. As a result, Bolton is suspended for ten days, while Aitkin has several cuts on his face.

The row is the first serious one which has taken place since Lawrence Clark became chief. And that it will be the last for some years those who know the chief are ready to admit.

This week Foreman Aitkin, according to the information secured by Chief Clark, desired to make a change in the meal hours of the men under him. The change, it is said, did not meet with the approval of Bolton, and he began to argue with his superior. Finally matters became so very warm, and according to Aitkin, Bolton, assaulted him viciously. The foreman defended himself with all the power he could command, but he was not able to stop the assault, and he will thoroughly investigate the case. Tomorrow he leaves with Ald. Saunders for Duluth, where they will attend the fire chiefs' convention, so it is not probable that the case will come up for a couple of weeks.

Bolton told the chief he would appeal to No. 3 committee at once, but the chief told him that as far as the ten days' suspension was concerned, it would stand. He said that he would not permit fighting on the department by any one, the chief said today. "Such disgraceful tactics as these I will stamp out at all costs. The striking of an officer by a fireman I will not countenance, no matter what the nature of the grievance of the fireman. All the men may appeal to me against the decisions and orders of the subordinate officers, but they must not take the law into their own hands."

\$15,000 in Gems Lost

Diamonds Amongst Debris of the Great Hoboken Fire.

New York, Aug. 12.—A diamond hunt is going on in the ruins of the Lackawanna railroad terminal at Hoboken. There was a vast quantity of baggage in the building at the time of the fire, and none of it was saved. Among other things consumed was a trunk, said to have contained \$15,000 worth of diamonds owned by a wealthy New York woman. Private detectives are watching the laborers engaged in clearing away the debris, but no trace of the diamonds has yet been discovered, and the railway officials refuse to confirm the story of their loss.

Who Will Get Appraisership?

Windsor, Ont., Aug. 12.—Hon. R. F. Sutherland has forwarded the revised list of delayed customs appointments to Ottawa, and it is expected that it will be confirmed today. The most coveted appointment to be made is that of appraiser, which was first apportioned to Severn Ducharme, of Belle River, Ont., but it is said that Walter Welsh, who has had much experience in the customs office here, is to be promoted. Ducharme being taken care of in some other way.

CROWNED QUEEN OF REUNION, WAS MRS. BEST, OF DETROIT

The Week at a Glance.

Visitors in London, 35,000

Cost of the celebration and reception to the Old Boys, \$7,000

Cost of the celebration and reception to the city, \$2,000

Money spent in city by the visitors, \$175,000

Bands in London during festivities, 15

Meals served by the hotels and cafes, 60,000

Homes and business houses decorated for the celebration, 8,000

Electric lights used in the illumination of the city streets and private residences, 5,000

Followed Wife's Orders

She Told Him to Drown Himself and He Promptly Obeyed.

Chicago, Aug. 12.—James Garron returned home intoxicated yesterday and his wife told him to jump into the lake and drown himself.

"All right," said Garron, "I'll do just that."

He did, and though he was alive when taken from the water, he died in the hospital two hours later. In the pocket of his coat the coroner found this note: "This is to certify that my wife, Maggie Garron, told me to leave the house and go to the lake and drown myself. Good-bye and God forgive her."

Mrs. Garron became hysterical when informed of her husband's act, and hurried to the hospital but did not arrive a few minutes after his death. "I was only joking," she said as she knelt at the side of the bed where lay the body of her husband.

British House Dines Caillaud

French Admiral, His Officers and M. P.'s Further Cement Entente Cordiale.

London, Aug. 12.—The series of festivities in London, Portsmouth and Dover, in honor of the arrival of the French fleet, was wound up this afternoon by a luncheon in the House of Commons, given by members of both Houses to Vice-Admiral Caillaud and some 130 of his officers. About 500 sat down to the luncheon, while from 300 to 400 ladies occupied the galleries. The toast proposed for the occasion testified to the warmth of the entente cordiale which had received such a fitting illustration by the interchange of visits of the fleets at Brest and Portsmouth.

Billy's Death Unavenged

Archibald Smith Fails to Appear Against Alleged Slayer.

The goat which is alleged to have been murdered in North Dorchester, "butting in" must go unavenged at least, if one Pound was the person who did the deed.

Pound was brought before Squire Lacey yesterday afternoon to answer the charge, but the owner of the goat, Archibald Smith, who had two informations against him, did not show up and the court dismissed the case.

This morning Squire Lacey and Gorrell sat to hear the charge of cruelty to the self-same animal which Smith again failed to appear. Smith was dismissed.

So Billy goes unavenged.

A New County Constable

Arthur Dalglish, Ex-Police Constable, Receives the Appointment.

Mr. Arthur Dalglish, of this city, was this morning appointed a county constable by Judge Elliott, at an adjourned sitting of the June sessions of the peace.

Dalglish belonged to the city force until a short time ago, when he was forced to resign on account of inflammation in the eyes. His eyes are much improved now and he is back to the job, only this time he will round up criminals in the fields instead of in the alleys.

Dalglish is a good man, was a favorite with the city policemen, and will make good in the county. His appointment was recommended by Police Magistrate Love, J. W. Jones, George Hiscox and Chief Williams.

For County Championship

McClary Nine to Play at Stratroy on Wednesday.

The McClary team is going to Stratroy to play the team of that place. The Stratroy boys challenged them to play for the county championship, as they were not satisfied with the beating Phillips gave them some time ago. The McClarys are running a special train to Stratroy Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., and the return fare is 60 cents. A good crowd is going to take in the excitement.

Butler Will Recover.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 12.—Tom Butler, the bicycle rider known as "Yoio," who was injured Tuesday, is improving and his physicians say he will recover.

Interesting Event at the City Hall—Praise for Citizens and Visitors Alike.

With the presentation of a diamond ring to Mrs. Charles Best, of Detroit, in the city hall this morning, the Old Boys' reunion came to its end. Today's staff of clerks are busy in Secretary McCann's office paying out prize money and settling up all sorts of accounts.

After much preparatory work, Secretary McCann has given out a resume of the greatest of all reunions, which will be found elsewhere, and it shows that the "Old Boys' reunion" this year broke all previous records all along the line, and that the people who came here, as well as the people of London, had the time of their lives.

Today the crowds on the streets are of a slightly holiday proportion, but they are gradually becoming smaller as every train leaving the city carries hundreds of visitors away. Sunday will practically wipe out the departures, though quite a few people are taking advantage of the extensions allowed on the tickets and will spend a week more in London.

President Carrothers and Secretary McCann are expressing the most profound thanks that the feast has passed off without an accident of any serious nature.

There were so many people here," President Carrothers said, "that I was always afraid some unfortunate thing might occur. But I think the citizens will agree that the feast has been a success, and I can assure you the officers of the association are more than grateful to all those who helped them out in so many different ways this week. The reunion has been a good thing for the city, and it most certainly gave the visitors the time of their lives."

The presentation of the diamond ring to Mrs. Best took place in the city hall at 11 o'clock today. Mrs. Best, who was always a favorite with the visitors, was the first to be crowned "Queen of the Reunion," and she was crowned "Queen of the Reunion."

Mr. Plummer called the meeting to order, and after the reading of the resolutions, secured the largest number of votes, and was crowned "Queen of the Reunion." He introduced Mrs. Best to Mayor Campbell, President Plummer, Police Magistrate Love, and other prominent gentlemen spoke.

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Then his worship was introduced to Mrs. John Cousins, of Chicago, and she was presented with a beautiful gold watch, she having secured the second highest number of votes.

His worship concluded by expressing the hope that all had had a nice time, and he extended to all a cordial invitation to come to London for the next Old Boys' reunion.

Mr. Nicholas Wilson addressed the gathering, and he said he was proud to bear testimony to the fact that the visitors were the best-behaved crowd that ever came to London, incidentally remarking, too, that the crowd which the Irishmen took to Port Stanley was a credit to the city and to the people who composed it.

Police Magistrate Love, after congratulating the winners of the honors, said it also gave him pleasure to testify to the orderliness of the vast crowds which had been here this week. Nowhere else could such a spectacle be observed. No other city could boast of such gentleness and such general good behavior.

"London has set an example for the whole of America in the way in which her big celebration has been carried out. There has been no trouble and everything has passed off in a manner creditable to the men who had the celebration in charge, and creditable to the citizens of London."

Continuing, Mr. Love paid Mayor Campbell some complimentary compliments for the manner in which he had handled the affairs of his office in the face of more than ordinary difficulties, and he concluded by saying that brother could congratulate himself that he had such a polished gentleman and steady chief magistrate's chair at this time.

Mr. John Cousins also spoke, after which the meeting dispersed. The following was the result of the balloting for queen of the reunion:

Mrs. Best, Detroit Votes, 1,021
Mrs. Cousins, Cincinnati 1,021
Miss Plawn, Cleveland 325
Mrs. Spink, Chicago 25
Scattered votes 9

It was announced at the city hall today that Mr. Thomas Hall, of Rochester, Minn., a former well-known Londoner, had his leg injured while on his way to the reunion, and was laid up at a hospital near Chicago. He luckily came right along, however, and is now in this city, walking on crutches.

Mr. S. Hemmelford, of Milwaukee, accompanied by his wife, who is a native of Chicago, who is visiting his brother on Stanley street, was taken ill with typhoid fever this week upon his arrival here, and he is now under the doctor's care.

Mr. Thomas Weston, of Chicago, is very anxious to effect an old school chum, Mr. Alf Hogan, who he says is in the city, but so far he has been unable to find him. Mr. Weston is staying at 64 Stanley street.

TYPHOID EPIDEMIC

Thousands of Cases in Greater New York and Hundreds of Deaths.

New York, Aug. 14.—That New York city is in the grip of a typhoid epidemic that will not be checked until cold weather sets in, is the opinion made by Health Commissioner Darlington.

In proportion to the population there have been more cases and more deaths in Brooklyn than in any other borough and the fact Dr. Darlington attributes largely to the contamination of the water supply of that borough.

Dr. Biggs and Dr. J. S. Billings, chief of the division of communicable diseases, are in charge of the typhoid situation, and a house-to-house canvass for cases of typhoid was begun under their direction today in the Thirteenth Ward of Brooklyn.

Dropped Six Floors

Buffalo, N. Y., Aug. 12.—An elevator in the Board of Trade building dropped from the sixth floor to the basement at noon today. Four persons were injured.