

# Messenger and Visitor

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## Signing of the Treaty of Peace

The following account is given of the final scenes in connection with the signing of the Russo-Japanese Treaty of Peace at Portsmouth on September 5: As soon as the delegates had taken their seats Mr. Sato left his chair and went to Mr. Witte's side, with the Japanese copies of the treaty, which he placed before him. At the same time Mr. Plancon placed the Russian copies before Baron Komura. Almost at the same moment, the two selected pens, and signed their names, first to the French and then to the English text. The copies were then signed by Baron Rosen and Mr. Takahira. Mr. Sato returned the Japanese copies for the signatures of Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira. Mr. Witte and Baron Rosen affixed their signatures to the Russian copies, and the Treaty of Portsmouth was signed, the ceremony being completed at 3.50. Up to this moment no word had broken the silence of the conference room. Throwing down his pen, Mr. Witte without a word reached across the table and grasped Baron Komura's hand, and his conferees followed. There was nothing stately about this simple ceremony. It ran true, and deeply impressed the attaches and secretaries of the two missions, who, with the invited guests, had formed a large circle around the delegates sitting at the table. Baron Rosen was the first to break silence. Rising from his seat the Ambassador, looking Baron Komura and Mr. Takahira straight in the eye, said a few words which one had only to hear to know that they came straight from his heart. He began by saying that he wished on behalf of Mr. Witte and in his own name to say a few words. "We have just signed," continued the Ambassador, "an act which will have forever a place in the annals of history. It is not for us active participants in the conclusion of this Treaty, to pass judgment on its import and significance. As negotiators on behalf of the Emperor of Russia, as well as that of Japan, we may with tranquil conscience say that we have done all that was in our power in order to bring about the peace for which the whole world was longing. As delegates of Russia, we fulfil a most agreeable duty in acknowledging that in negotiating with our hitherto adversaries, and from this hour our friends, we have been dealing with true and thorough gentlemen for whom we are happy to express our high esteem and personal regards. We earnestly hope that friendly relations between the two Empires will henceforth be firmly established, and we trust that His Excellency Baron Komura, as Minister of Foreign Affairs, and one of the leading statesmen of his country, will apply to the strengthening of these relations, the wide experience and wise statesmanship he so conspicuously displayed during these negotiations, which have now been concluded." Baron Komura replied that he shared entirely the views of Baron Rosen. The Treaty of Peace which they had just signed was in the interest of humanity and civilization, and he was happy to believe that it would bring about a firm and lasting peace between the neighboring Empires. He added that it would always be pleasant for him to recall that throughout the long and serious negotiations which they had now left behind them, he and his colleagues had received from the Russian delegates the highest courtesy and consideration, and finally he begged to assure Their Excellencies, the Russian delegates, that it would be his duty as well as his pleasure to do anything in his power to make the Treaty in fact, what it professes to be in words—a Treaty of peace and amity. At the conclusion of Baron Komura's remarks, Mr. Witte arose and said he desired to see Baron Rosen and the Japanese delegates at once for a few minutes. The four retired to the Russian office and were closeted for ten minutes. What transpired in that final conference of the peace makers, the world may never know. The delegates have refused to discuss it even to their secretaries.

A correspondent of the Toronto 'Globe', writing from Moose Jaw, Asa., respecting the prospects in the great district of country of which Moose Jaw is the centre, says: "The greatest crop taken off since 1891 is the verdict of farmers and grain men in this district concerning the crop now being harvested. It is estimated that 40,000 acres tributary to Moose Jaw are under wheat crop, and will yield not less than 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, all of good grade. What I have seen bears out that opinion. Everywhere the wheat is

a good stand—close, stout straw, of safe height, and well headed. Much of the wheat one sees hereabouts is six-rowed, well filled, and bespeaks a possibility in many cases of a yield over the thirty-bushel line. Beginning at the bottom with a double berry and continuing to the top with a double row of three berries, the head of wheat perfectly formed is capped with a single berry well filled. In some cases one finds the embryo of the fourth berry on each side. Until a few years ago it was generally considered that Moose Jaw was to be a ranching centre, but later years have disproved that view. Away to the southwest, in the Wood Mountain country, as yet unsurveyed and not at all settled, there are millions of acres of land now utilized only by the ranchers. But all along the east side of the Soo line, right over into the land opened up by the Arcoia line, settlers are coming in rapidly and taking up holdings, well back of the railway. The hope of Moose Jaw, however, is in the country to the northwest, which will be opened up by the extension of the Soo line to Edmonton. A drive out through some of those townships now settled within ten miles of the town told of the great things which are just ahead of the district. Not only magnificent wheat fields, but also incomparable oat fields were to be seen. I was in one forty-acre field of oats, on the farm of Bunnell and Lindsay, about five miles from town, where the grain stood five feet six inches high, and so thick that the binders were well taxed to handle it."

## Cholera in Europe.

An outbreak of Asiatic cholera has occurred in Berlin. Up to September 3, more than fifty cases had been reported and nineteen deaths. Cases have also occurred at Hamburg. The Imperial Health Office of Germany is, however, reported to be confident that it has the disease in hand and that there is little danger of its assuming alarming proportions. In cases in which death occurs in connection with symptoms resembling cholera, the utmost care is taken to determine on the highest medical authority whether the disease is really cholera or not. The Minister of the Interior has issued an order, covering all Prussia requiring physicians immediately after the death of any suspected patient to send a messenger with sections of the alimentary canals to the Institute of Infectious Diseases for a verdict. This is the practice in cholera districts. The interval between death and the medical decision is less than twelve hours. In the opinion of the German Imperial Health Office the danger of the migration of the cholera to America is remote.

## Anglo-Japanese Treaty.

The London 'Times' announces that the new treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan was signed in London on August 12, by the Marquis of Lansdowne and Viscount Hayashi. To this announcement the 'Times' adds the following statement: "We believe, as has been foreshadowed in our columns, that the terms of the treaty when published will prove to have a broader basis and more extended scope and duration compared with the alliance already established by the Anglo-Japanese agreement of January 30, 1902. While it is drawn on a purely defensive line it will effectively secure the maintenance of the territorial status quo in Asia, and provide for the joint protection of both contracting parties against any hostile action on the part of one or more powers. Conceived in no aggressive spirit and directed to no offensive purpose, it can but prove a powerful guarantee of the preservation of peace in Asia, and, indirectly, throughout the world."

## Japan and Canada.

What Japan has gained in Korea and Manchuria as a result of the war she will probably be able to hold securely against any force or combination of forces likely to be brought to bear against her. The commercial and industrial development, which may be expected to proceed rapidly, will continually tend to make her position more impregnable. Consul-General Nosse, Japan's representative at Ottawa, is quoted as saying the other day to the representative of a Toronto newspaper: "Within ten years through emigration and trade development Japan's position in Korea, Manchuria and Mongolia will be such that it will be impossible for Russia to regain what she has lost in those territories if she desired to attempt it. There

is," Mr. Nosse continued, "A splendid opportunity now for Canada to develop trade with Japan, Korea, Manchuria and Mongolia in manufactures and natural products. Geographically she is well placed for that purpose. Of course Canadians are busily engaged in the development of their own country, and lead to great things in the future, as witness the immense development of trade with the United States which followed our war with China. While it is true that Japan gets no war indemnity from Russia, our financial position is sound. The renewal of the treaty with Britain is an additional guarantee for the future, and in the end our extended sphere of influence will more than make up for the cost to us of the war." will be largely, for some time to come, but at the same time there are no great difficulties in the way to prevent her sharing, with other countries, in the trade development of the far east. The open door will be kept wide open. If the foundation is laid by Canadian manufacturers and merchants now it may

## Canada's Population.

According to an estimate based upon careful computation, prepared by the Census Department, Canada's population is now considerably more than six million. The natural increase of population in Canada in the twelve months of the last census year was at the rate of 12.70 per 1,000, the ratio of births having been 27.82 and of deaths 15.12. Computed at the same rate and adding the number of immigrants reported, the population on July 1 of each year should be as follows:

Population April 1, 1901	5,371,315
Population July 1, 1901	5,413,370
Natural increase twelve months	68,750
Immigration in twelve months	67,350
Population July 1, 1902	5,549,500
Natural increase in twelve months	70,478
Immigration in twelve months	128,364
Population July 1, 1903	5,748,342
Natural increase in twelve months	73,004
Immigration in twelve months	130,331
Population July 1, 1904	5,951,677
Natural increase in twelve months	75,587
Immigration in twelve months	146,266
Population July 1, 1905	6,173,530
Increase in population since the census of 1901	802,215

"The still lingering impression of the Yukon as a region of perpetual ice," says the Toronto 'Globe', "is agreeably modified by the collection of wild flowers in the natural history department of the (Toronto) Exhibition. The interesting collection was made by Elgin Schoff, Esq., during his leisure moments when practising his profession at Dawson, and comprises some 225 species. The time at Mr. Schoff's disposal was necessarily limited, yet he has succeeded in making a collection thoroughly representative of the flora of the Yukon valley. Many of the specimens exhibited are familiar and admired in many parts of this Province. The many beautiful forms and colors displayed give a gratifying assurance that the short northern summer has many attractions for all who like a respite from the pursuit of gold."

There is evidently a good deal of popular dissatisfaction in Japan over the terms of the peace Treaty concluded at Portsmouth. This dissatisfaction has been voiced by many of the newspapers, and in several of the cities it has found expression in popular demonstrations of a violent character. In Tokio the mob has been especially violent, attacking the residences of members of the Government and carrying its riotous demonstrations to such a pitch that it was found necessary to proclaim martial law in the city. It is, however, not likely that these demonstrations will have any very serious consequences. The dissatisfaction at the failure of the Japanese Government to secure an indemnity from Russia may lead to a reconstruction of the present administration, but it is probable that the more reflective classes among the Japanese will quickly recognize the wisdom of concluding the war on the terms which could be secured. If those terms are not all that the Japanese had hoped for they are at least highly advantageous to Japan, and the more the people reflect upon the matter the more they will be convinced that their Government has done wisely in making peace.