

WILLING TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS

COMPROMISES PROPOSED PRESENTED BY JAPS

Russia Will Not Pay Indemnity or Other Financial Contributions Towards Cost of War.

Portsmouth, Aug. 23.—The meeting of the plenipotentiaries this morning was in reality not a meeting of the plenipotentiaries at all. The secretaries of the plenipotentiaries were still in dispute over the text of the protocol, and the plenipotentiaries gave up the conference room to them to adjust their differences.

The plenipotentiaries remained in their respective private quarters while the secretaries were trying to straighten out their difficulties. It was claimed that certain corrections to which both sides had agreed had not been placed in the text.

At 12.15 this work had not been completed by the secretaries, and it was decided to take a recess until 2.30 p.m. At that time it is understood the plenipotentiaries will go into formal session and take up the protocol in full, deciding any disputed questions as they arise.

RUSSIAN SAYS THERE IS STILL HOPE

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 23.—Excessive tension are the words which should be used to describe the situation before the peace plenipotentiaries meeting this morning. There were evidences of excitement in both camps as the chiefs and attaches made their preparations for departure. The summer guests of the hotel were as agitated as the plenipotentiaries, and the crowds on the veranda to witness the departure were larger than any since the conference began its sitting.

The popular belief was that today would decide the issue, but the Associated Press had what is considered certain the statement that such will not be the case. Were it to go to a complete show-down of hands.

A rupture was certain at the long exchange of instructions which M. Witte received from his government last night would not permit him to accept the compromise which was offered this morning, but it received an important explanatory statement. The cablegram from St. Petersburg was sent before M. Witte had communicated to the Emperor the contents of the communication from President Roosevelt delivered to him yesterday afternoon at the navy yard, so that was not necessarily to be accepted as the Emperor's last word, and M. Witte who, there is reason to believe, is in sympathy with the compromise suggested is prepared to "spare for time".

At the conclusion of the sitting today it is thought an adjournment will be taken over to-morrow in order to give M. Witte an opportunity.

To Hear Further from his government. A high Russian authority, summoned up the situation this morning with the words: "There is still hope."

Almost to a man the members of the Russian mission would personally show the compromise suggested by the President. In this opinion it offers an honorable road to peace, but they are powerless if the Emperor's advice stands firm. The Russians realize that the turn events have taken will put their country in a difficult position if a rupture comes now. Japan will stand before the world as not implicable, but ready.

To Accept a Compromise. "By the arrangement to practically yield, in whole or in part, article 9 (cession of Sakhalin) while obtaining in substance, if not in form, article 9 (reparation for the cost of the war). Should Russia refuse this solution, which will enable her to maintain quite correctly that she ceded neither territory nor paid war tribute, they believed nothing can prevent the world's verdict from being against them. They say that in effect it only involves the recognition by Russia of an accomplished fact (the military occupation of Sakhalin) and an equal recognition of the practical impossibility of Russia re-conquering it with her navy at the bottom of the sea.

The Japanese seem keenly alive to the advantage of their position. Should Russia eventually decline the compromise they say they do not believe she can escape the responsibility for the failure of the negotiations. "It will be a diplomatic Tausima for Russia," said one of them this morning.

Articles 10 (interned warships) and 11 (limitation of Russia's naval power in the Far East) can be easily arranged. They were never serious obstacles. Japan is believed only to have placed them in the list of conditions to give away.

The Final Bargain, but even Russia would not prove obstinate; certainly not on 10, if five and nine were adjustable.

conference as the proposition of Japan. Should Japan formally propose the compromise, M. Witte can only ask for time to deliberate, i.e., to consult his government for the last time. He gives no absolutely final answer to-day.

THE PROTOCOLS HAD NOT BEEN CORRECTED.

Portsmouth, Aug. 23.—The peace conference adjourned at 12.15 p.m. M. Witte and Baron Rosen at once left the navy yard in their automobiles for the Hotel Wensworth.

This morning's adjournment is officially explained to have been due to a development of divergence of views in the text of the protocol. The Russians contended that some corrections suggested by M. Planco, to which it was understood the Japanese had agreed, had not been made. When this situation developed it was decided to read the protocol in full, and decide the disputed points in the conference. The work was not completed and at 12.15 o'clock the conference took a recess until 2.30 this afternoon.

ANOTHER MEETING THIS AFTERNOON.

Portsmouth, Aug. 23.—The peace envoys returned to the conference room at 2 o'clock, half an hour in advance of the time set for the afternoon meeting.

AMBASSADOR PAYS VISIT TO THE CZAR.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 23.—Mr. Meyer, the American ambassador, went this afternoon to Peterhof, where he was received in audience by the Emperor. The subject of conversation concerns the possible conclusion of peace.

PRESIDENT SENT MESSAGE TO MEYERS.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 23.—President Roosevelt sent a long message to Ambassador Meyer on Monday evening.

REGARDED AS A FAVORABLE SIGN.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 23.—The Associated Press cable from St. Petersburg announcing that Mr. Meyer, the American ambassador to Russia, had had an audience of the Emperor at Peterhof this morning is considered one of the most hopeful signs which has thus far developed in connection with the President's efforts to bring the belligerents to a compromise. By those who understand the situation at St. Petersburg, the possibility of good results, such a direct appeal are fully appreciated. It was at such a personal audience with Meyer that the Emperor gave his consent to send plenipotentiaries to the present conference.

GERMANS THINK OUTLOOK IS FAVORABLE.

Berlin, Aug. 23.—The foreign office looks upon the possibility of peace as more favorable to-day than they were yesterday, but no predictions are ventured. The increase of confidence rests upon indications of Japan's forbearance, and upon President Roosevelt's influence. Reports from St. Petersburg, however, are not hopeful. The Associated Press has the influence of London's greater optimism.

FEELING OF CONFIDENCE IN FRENCH CAPITAL.

Paris, Aug. 23.—Reports from Portsmouth to-day, indicating prospects of mutual concessions, restored the feeling of confidence in official and financial circles. A bourse showed a notable improvement from the sudden slump of yesterday. Russian securities were active and the Berlin stock market showed a perceptible advance. The Russian bank statement also favorably influenced the situation.

RUSSIANS MAY MAKE NEW PROPOSAL.

Paris, Aug. 22.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Temps contradicts the reports sent to the London Times and the Berlin Lokal Anzeiger to the effect that at a council held at Peterhof it was decided not to make further peace concessions. He says that the council, or the council, pronounced by a small majority for the conclusion of peace and that the Emperor has ordered the Russian delegates to make a new proposition relative to indemnity. The correspondent adds that the Russian delegates have received telegrams from generals in the field urging against the conclusion of an unfavorable peace as the army feels sure of victory.

CORRESPONDENTS TAKE HOPEFUL VIEW.

London, Aug. 23.—The Morning Post, which throughout the war has strongly identified itself with the Japanese side, in a despatch from its correspondent at Portsmouth, published this morning, declares that the "Peace of Portsmouth" is within measurable distance. The correspondent says that both sides will make substantial concessions for the sake of peace. Russia, he says, will pay Japan a sum in the guise of expense for the maintenance of prisoners, and that Sakhalin will be divided, Russia retaining the northern and Japan the southern part, while Japan will abandon her claim as to interned warships and the limit on Russian naval force in the Pacific.

The Portsmouth correspondent of the Times states that there is hope for peace, and that the Japanese are ready to arrange a settlement in a way that will satisfy Russian dignity and honor. Apparently, says the correspondent, the terms of this settlement is the partition by Russia of a portion of the island of Sakhalin, in consideration of a payment of money in lieu of indemnity.

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Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 23.—The Japanese plenipotentiaries today, at the conclusion of the afternoon session of the peace conference, threw their cards upon the table. It was the dramatic moment, the moment to which all the previous proceedings of the conference had led. The protocols involving agreement on eight of the twelve conditions originally presented by Japan had been signed. One side or the other must make a move or

What frayed your linen? Not Sunlight Soap—No, indeed!



SUNLIGHT SOAP REDUCES EXPENSE

The plenipotentiaries had reached the porting of the ways. The adversaries faced each other across the table. Of course, it was well understood what would happen, but that in a way only made it more dramatic.

Figuratively President Roosevelt entered the conference room. M. Witte sat silent, and the move in the great diplomatic game pointed to Japan.

Baron Komura in a few words explained that Japan, in her great desire for peace, was ready to make certain "modifications" in the original articles, in the hope that Russia could find it possible to accept them. He then presented in written form to M. Witte the

Compromise Proposition which President Roosevelt had suggested. It was concrete and specific, and it followed the lines "outlined" in the dispatches. It contained instructions for providing for the payment by Russia of Japan's bill for the cost of the war, on condition that Russia would accept article 5, which was modified as to include Sakhalin so modified as to include an arrangement for the repurchase by Russia of the northern half of the island for 120,000,000 yen.

This has been the attitude of the foreign office since the four points in dispute were returned to St. Petersburg from Portsmouth, and it is the true expression of Russian official and public opinion. Since the beginning of the discussion here on Japan's original terms, Russians recognize the serious intention that Russia could or would pay indemnity. Each day has sharpened the conviction that such a payment is impossible, and to-day the universal opinion, from the highest to the lowest, is that Japan's insistence on an indemnity dooms the Portsmouth negotiations to failure. Russians recognize the serious intention that Russia could or would pay indemnity. Each day has sharpened the conviction that such a payment is impossible, and to-day the universal opinion, from the highest to the lowest, is that Japan's insistence on an indemnity dooms the Portsmouth negotiations to failure.

The following authoritative statement of the Russian position with regard to the phase of the negotiations created by the presentation of the Japanese compromise to-day was made to the Associated Press to-day:

It stated and appeared in present American and English newspapers which, while eloquent, studiously moderate and well intentioned, are calculated to give the impression of a compromise of peace and the general character of Japan's new proposal, with which it is intended Russia can close without loss of dignity. The respective newspapers which the envoys of Japan came forward a to-day's sitting with a proposal which was new in form but old in substance. It is equal to the terms already agreed upon, the two contentious clauses stipulating that Russia shall surrender to Japan her disarmed warships and limit her naval strength to that of a nation, now argues the difference between the two powers to the compass of what is in appearance a single question, the sale of Sakhalin.

Recently, therefore, Japan has also struck her pen through the Most Obnoxious Clause of all, that which deals with indemnity, and all that she now asks Russia to do, in addition to the terms already agreed upon, is to purchase the northern half of Sakhalin for a sum of 120,000,000 yen. Japan having obtained all that she needed and longed for as a nation, now argues down the issue to a question of dollars and cents, yet refuses for peace sake to waive her demand. Russia, on the contrary, has conceded freely and fully everything she could give consistently with her sense of national honor and dignity. To withdraw the cash claim, therefore, would be immensely costly to Japan than it would be for Russia to allow it. Therefore, despite the positive and emphatic declaration of the well-meaning but mistaken journalists alluded to above, peace is not and cannot be assured until Japan unreservedly withdraws her claim to have the costs of the campaign refunded by Russia.

WILL NEVER CONSENT TO PAY INDEMNITY.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 24.—The Associated Press has the best of reasons and authority for declaring again, with increasing emphasis, that Russia will never consent to the payment of an indemnity to Japan. The payment would so greatly menace the vital interests of the state as to make this article in the Japanese terms utterly impossible of acceptance. Furthermore, the Associated Press has the same reasons for the declaration that if Japan withdrew her indemnity demand, peace would practically be assured, as the Russian attitude on the three other points, including the cession of Sakhalin, does not preclude the possibility of reaching a satisfactory settlement on these points.

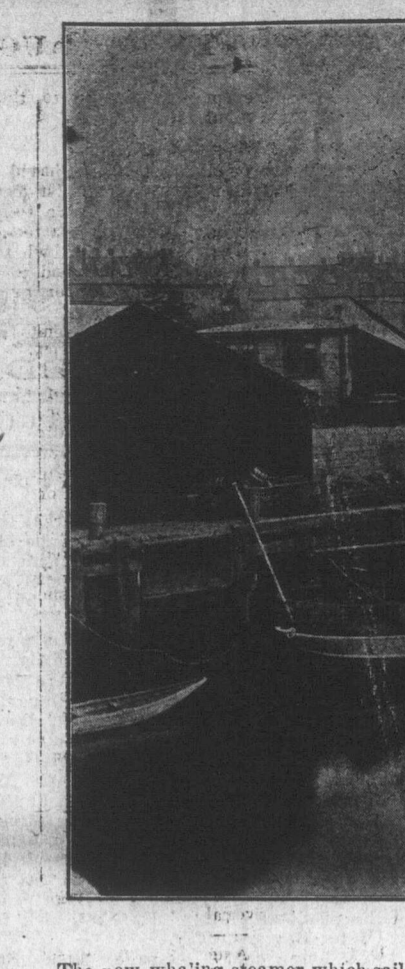
Indemnity is the crux of the whole matter. If this question can be arranged, it is believed here that all other questions, such as the return of the interned warships, will be practically settled themselves.

In view of the known Russian attitude on the other eight points, Russia believes that Japan's insistence on indemnity is the only thing that will make peace impossible. Officials declare that attempts at word-juggling, such as calling indemnity by some other name, or attempting to collect indemnity under the guise of other payments, will avail nothing.

Russia, they say, will not conclude a peace treaty at Portsmouth which includes the payment of indemnity or other financial contributions. Russia is ready, however, to make a reasonable and proper payment for the maintenance of the Russian prisoners in the hands of the Japanese.

Direct Appeal to Emperor Nicholas. Oyster Bay, N. Y., Aug. 23.—President Roosevelt's final effort to induce a cessation of hostilities in the Far East is almost dramatic in its extraordinary interest.

Through Gen. L. Von Meyer, the American ambassador at St. Petersburg, he has made a direct appeal to Emperor Nicholas to permit the adoption of such measures in the pending peace conference as will terminate the war. A long cablegram was sent to Ambassador Meyer by the President late on August 21, and it is equal to the terms already agreed upon, the two contentious clauses stipulating that Russia shall surrender to Japan her disarmed warships and limit her naval strength to that of a nation, now argues the difference between the two powers to the compass of what is in appearance a single question, the sale of Sakhalin.



The new whaling steamer which sailed for Sechart Tuesday night, and which is to inaugurate a new industry on this coast.

Will Immediately Go Hunting—Overdue British Barque Reported Off Shore.

After waiting several months to see if some means could not be found whereby the vessel could be entered under the condition that the owners, the owners of the whaling steamer Orion Tuesday afternoon deposited with the collector of customs the sum of \$4,000.00 for the payment of duty. The vessel was thereupon entered as a Canadian steamer, and will be given a license to carry on her whaling operations.

This business was completed about 5 o'clock on Tuesday. Shortly afterwards the Orion had steam up and was ready to leave for the whaling station at Sechart. Capt. S. Balcom, manager of the Pacific Whaling Company, which owns the Orion, was aboard and soon after reaching the West Coast port the steamer will clear for the sea in pursuit of the big game, for the killing of which she has been so completely equipped.

This equipment has been previously described in these columns, and it has also been illustrated, so that the public are pretty familiar with all details. The whaling season is now believed to be on in earnest, as the big monsters of the coasting regulations, then the question arose whether she could do a foreign business, operating beyond the three-mile limit. But it was soon realized the steamer could not be advantageously worked in this manner, and so the duty was paid.

The Orion was built in Norway and came to Victoria under a provisional British registry. Had she arrived under the Norwegian flag she could have had all the privileges of a British built ship. Countries which allow British ships coasting privileges have also extended to them similar concessions in Great Britain and Canada, and Norway is one of such countries. But having taken out a provisional British registry to come to Canada, the Orion became a foreign built British ship. An act was passed at the session of the Canadian parliament of 1902 making it necessary for foreign built British ships to pay a duty of 25 per cent. on fair market value of hull, rigging, machinery, furniture, boilers and appurtenances before she could be allowed coasting privileges. This the Orion has done, and she will now receive a license from the department of customs entitling her to engage in the coasting trade of Canada.

YUKON LOWERING. Advice regarding the condition of the Yukon as late as Thursday last are to the effect that the water was dropping in the Fifty-Mile at White Horse at the rate of an inch a day.

The lowering of the water in the upper river at this rate means that shippers desirous of getting through goods into Dawson before the close of navigation will have to be quick about putting their freight on the road. With the falling of the water, the river steamers of the White Pass route will be forced to take smaller cargoes from White Horse, with the result that as the end of the season of navigation approaches, a congestion of at-shipment goods will occur at White Horse, and hundreds of tons of freight sent North a little later than the "last moment" will be held at White Horse.

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At the present time the water in the upper river is of a sufficient depth to permit all steamboats to take full cargo down to Dawson. A fall of a foot will necessitate a reduction in the amount of cargo taken out for the reason that even at the present stage of water difficulty is encountered in getting through Hell Gate with full cargoes.

THE SAXON REPORTED. The steamer Germanicus, which passed up from sea Wednesday, brought the first news to the city from the overdue British barque Saxon, which left Liverpool for Victoria and Vancouver 180 days ago. The collier passed the vessel at 4.30 yesterday afternoon. At least she sighted a barque displaying the signals "N. D. W. R.," reporting all well on board. She was seen about 15 miles off Discovery Island in lat. 49° 29' N. and long. 12° 40' W. A tug was heading for the ship, and it is possible that the Saxon will reach Victoria to-night or to-morrow morning. This news will be received with general interest in the shipping world, for the passage of the Saxon has been an exceptionally long one.

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The Aorangi sailed from Sydney on August 7th, and she is scheduled to reach Victoria on August 31st. She is bringing 140 passengers from the Antipodes.

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THE ROYAL ARCANUM.

Resolution Passed Asking Supreme Council to Reconsider Order Raising the Rates.

New York, Aug. 23.—The World says: "At a 12-hour secret session, attended by representatives of seven-eighths of the Royal Arcanum membership of the United States and Canada, held yesterday in the Manhattan hotel, resolutions were adopted demanding that the supreme council of the order rescind at Put-in-Bay next week the action raising the rates taken in Atlantic city last May. If this is not done it is announced there will be a mass accession of members who will disrupt the order. Open charges of breach of trust were made against the supreme council. The session was attended by prominent Arcanumites from the cities of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Michigan, embracing a membership of 235,000, out of a total of 310,000 in the entire order."

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The Scores of Victoria Shooters at Long Branch Ranges.

Long Branch Rifle Range, Ont., Aug. 23.—The Ontario Rifle Association meeting was continued to-day.

Perry and Carr will shoot today in the second stage of the City of Toronto match. This competition is shot at two stages, first, 7 rounds at 600 yards and 10 shots at 600 yards; second, 7 rounds at 800 yards. The 60 highest in the first stage shoot in the second. The first prize is a gold medal, presented by Corporation of City of Toronto and \$25; second prize, \$25; third, \$20; fourth, \$15; fifth, \$12; sixth, \$10; seventh, \$8; eighth, \$7; ninth, \$6; tenth, \$5; eleventh, \$4; twelfth, \$3.

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Shooting in the Bankers' match also took place to-day. The conditions were 7 rounds at 600, 600 and 800 yards. The first, \$20; second, \$15; third, \$12; fourth, \$10; fifth, \$8; sixth, \$7; seventh, \$6; eighth, \$5; ninth, \$4; tenth, \$3.

W. H. F. Clement, of Grand Forks, has been appointed County court judge in Kootenay vice Leamy, deceased. Thomas Mathers, of Winnipeg, has been appointed to fill the vacancy in the King's bench court, Manitoba.

G. W. Spencer, general manager of transportation for the C. P. R., has resigned to become general construction manager for the Mackenzie & Mann interests.

MYSTERIOUS CASE. Young Woman Found in Unconscious Condition in Street in Buffalo.

Buffalo, Aug. 23.—An unknown young woman, about 19 years old, in an unconscious condition was picked up by the police on Broadway early today. The police believed that she is suffering from morphine poisoning, but the surgeons at the hospital decline to express an opinion until a more thorough investigation of the case. Marks on the girl's clothing indicate that they were made in Canada. Caris found in her pocket the names "Blanch Boier, 66 Mohr street" and "Frances Boland."

Feet That Perspire also feet that are tender, sore, blistered, hot, swollen or inflamed can be quickly relieved by using Foot Elm. This is a marvelous remedy for such troubles. Eighteen powders for 25 cents in stamps. Ask about our \$100.00 in cash prizes. Competition open to all who use Foot Elm. V. Stott & Jury, Bowmanville, Ont.

FIRE ON THE OCEANIC. Liverpool, Aug. 23.—Fire broke out this afternoon in the stowage of the White Star line steamer Oceanic. The extent of the damage is not yet known. The Oceanic is scheduled to sail for New York to-day.



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