THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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ARMY SOON TO LEAVE

Only Small Portion of American Troops to Be Retained at Pekin.

ALL BUT FOUR REGIMENTS GO TO MANILA

Orders Directing Chaffee to Maintain Legation Guard Cabled.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONGER ARE WITHHELD

Great Britain Adheres to Position of United States as to German Note.

OBJECTION TO PRINCE TUAN IS ENTERED

Consul Goodnow Advises State Department that the Taotai of Shanghai Has Been Degraded for Pro-Foreign Attitude.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 25.—The United States government today took the first step towards the redemption of its pledge made to the Russian government August 28 last by cablegram instruction to General Chaffee to reduce the American forces in China to the proportions of a legation guard. Nearly a month ago the Russian government was told through M. De Wollant, its charge here, that if the Russian forces and ministry were withdrawn from Pekin "we shall give instructions to the commander of the American forces in China to withdraw our forces from Pekin, after due conference with the other commanders as to the time and manner of withdrawal." That time has now come and today's action marks the beginning of the disappearance of the American army from China, for although some military force is to remain, it will not be of the character of an army, but under the conditions laid down in the order to General Chaffee and especially under its official designation as a "legation guard," will be rather of the nature of a civil guard. This small force will not be included in any military operations which may be conducted by the allied armies and so will not fall subject to the direction of Field Marshal Count von Waldersee, the commander-in-chief.

Much thought has been given to the proper number of troops to be allotted for this purpose, and it is believed that the 1,400 men selected will be quite sufficient to protect the American legation against any force that could be brought against it. It is noteworthy, too, that the most complete arrangements have been ordered for the maintenance of the men, while care has been taken that there shall not be a shortage of ammunition, as there was in the British legation during the siege. It is estimated about a week will be required to bring the 3,500 soldiers away from Pekin, but as the start cannot be made immediately it will at least be the end of the first week in October before the movement can be completed.

It is stated at the quartermaster's department that there are not transports available to bring off the force which will come out of China. Three or four vessels will be at Taku by the time the troops are ready to move. Besides the transports for the men a number of animal ships will take away the horses and mules which will not be needed in China. General Chaffee is authorized to take from the ships now at Taku such stores as will be necessary to last him through the winter.

Text of Chaffee's Orders.

The text of the order to General Chaffee is as follows:

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 25.—To General Chaffee, Pekin. September 25, No. 41: Pending negotiations for a settlement the secretary of war directs that a legation guard of a regiment of infantry, four troops of cavalry, with rapid fire guns and light battery, with complete equipment and reserve supply of ammunition adequate for any emergency be retained in Pekin under your command, and that you send the remainder of your force in China to Manila to report to MacArthur. The guard should be amply provisioned, etc., until navigation opens next spring. Retain such officers for staff duties as you deem necessary; all others of whatever corps or department will be sent to MacArthur for duty as soon as possible. All stores and materials not required for the legation guard send to Manila. Place yourself in close relations with our minister, acting with him on the lines that will best subserve our interests, keeping this department fully advised. It is important that you have the confidence of the generals of the other powers. General Wilson with his aides will remain in Pekin for the present. Special instructions may be sent him. Cable MacArthur concerning requirements to carry these instructions into effect. Inform generals commanding forces of other powers of your intention to withdraw part of our forces. Show this to Conger. By order Lieutenant General Miles.

CORBIN.

There were no developments on the diplomatic side of the Chinese question today and although Baron Sternberg, the German charge, and Minister Wu called separately at the State department, they brought no communications which were made public. The instruction to Minister Conger relative to establishing relations with the Chinese envoys is still withheld, presumably to allow the president to administer some finishing touches. This instruction is regarded as of much importance and will make a part of the case of the government and be laid before congress at the next session. It is settled that Minister Conger is to be a member of the commission to settle the various questions remaining to be adjusted.

England in Line with America.

The reported adhesion of the British government to the position assumed by the United States government respecting the proposition to make the surrender of the Chinese ringleaders a condition precedent to negotiations has given the greatest satisfaction in official circles here.

The report that Prince Tuan has been signally honored by the Chinese government has not yet been officially confirmed, although the authorities have word of Chinese rumors that some such action has been taken. The matter was referred to today in the talk between Acting Secretary Hill and Minister Wu and the latter stated that he did not credit the report, for the reason that the place of grand secretary, said to have been conferred upon Tuan, is one of comparative unimportance, mainly a sinecure, and is not held by a prince of the blood, as Prince Tuan is. In view of this information the State department is not disposed to attach serious importance to the reports, but if it should prove true that Prince Tuan has been advanced to a high station it doubtless will be taken cognizance of by the State department and may lead to serious consequence. This government has laid down the principle that no one in any way connected with the outrages shall have anything to do with the forthcoming negotiations with either Prince Tuan or any others notably connected with the disturbance.

Too Friendly to Foreigners.

Consul General Goodnow has advised the State department that the taotai at Shang-

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

STANDS BY UNITED STATES

England Agrees with This Country on the Proposition of Germany.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—Lord Salisbury has replied to the German note in terms identical with those of the United States.

The British premier's decision to refuse to agree to the terms of the German note was communicated verbally to the German ambassador here, Count von Hatzfeldt-Wildenberg, during the course of a long interview this afternoon. His lordship's decision is not known here and the exclusive information of the Associated Press will probably not be given out in England until the reply is put on paper and transmitted to Berlin, which may be tomorrow or later.

Only a few officials are cognizant of what Lord Salisbury said to Count von Hatzfeldt-Wildenberg in regard to the latest development in the Chinese question. Official circles here were inclined to believe that his lordship would agree with Germany. But instead of doing so he used almost exactly the terms in which Washington's refusal was couched and this, said a high official to a representative of the Associated Press, "is all the more surprising, considering that the Washington officials had not the slightest inkling of what England's attitude would be."

Opposed by Europe.

What will be the result of this difference of view between the United States and Great Britain on one side and Germany, Austria, France and Italy on the other? No official was found by the representative of the Associated Press who was willing to risk an opinion, though they agreed in believing it did not entail a breaking off of the negotiations.

The representative of the Associated Press has ascertained that Lord Salisbury this afternoon refused to pass on Prince Ching's request for credentials as plenipotentiary, referring the whole matter to the British minister at Pekin, Sir Claude MacDonald. This decision has been communicated to the Chinese minister here, Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Luh, who cabled it to China.

Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng Luh spent a long time at the foreign office this afternoon, but he did not see Lord Salisbury, nor did he learn the nature of Great Britain's reply to Germany. The minister said to a representative of the Associated Press that he could hardly believe Lord Salisbury's views differed much from those of the United States.

The Chinese minister said: "America is the only country in the world strong enough to have taken such an initiative as she did when she stood out against the German proposals. I feel deeply grateful that the Americans did so. Theirs is the only logical point of view."

According to a dispatch received here from Berlin, the Russian and Japanese replies to Germany's proposal, received yesterday, asserted that Russia "assents in principle," while Japan's answer is an "unemphatic approval."

A news agency dispatch from Hong Kong says that 20,000 Triads have congregated in the neighborhood of Chung Chuin and threaten to make an attack on Canton.

BERLIN, Sept. 25.—The foreign officials here inform the Associated Press that Russia and Japan have formally answered the German note, "particularly emphasizing their agreement to the proposition to have the ministers designate the guilty."

Great Britain has not yet formally answered.

The correspondent of the Associated Press finds that political circles here are confident Great Britain will not adopt the United States position.

WAITING FOR LI HUNG CHANG

Expected He Will Establish Chinese Authority in Pekin on His Arrival.

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PEKIN, Sept. 20.—(Via Taku, Sept. 24.)—The diplomatic and military authorities are awaiting the arrival of Li Hung Chang. There is a general desire for the establishment of some semblance of Chinese authority, which, when done, it is believed, will tend to a clearing of the situation. The military is deemed unable to secure peace to the country.

The authority of Li Hung Chang to treat for peace is still doubted. Referring to this matter, United States Minister Conger said: "Our first task is to examine and pass upon the credentials of Li Hung Chang. Beyond that we have no policy or plan of action."

William Woodville Rockhill, special United States representative in China, will probably not await the arrival of Earl Li. He is busy conferring with the ministers and investigating the situation.

The Russian are inaugurating a Red Cross hospital under the patronage of the czarina. The institution will be opened to soldiers of all nationalities.

Thirty British who were wounded in the Fun Choo explosion are dead.

EARL LI TAKES GLOOMY VIEW

Expects Settlement of Present Troubles to Occupy Considerable Time.

(Copyright, 1900, by the Associated Press.)

TIEN TSIN, Sept. 23.—(Via Taku, Sept. 24.)—Li Hung Chang will proceed to Pekin in a few days. He remains under close Russian guard and access to him is difficult. In the course of a conversation with a representative of the Associated Press, Earl Li said he did not believe that an early settlement of the difficulty was probable, because of the number of nations to be treated with, and he did not think the attack upon the Pei Tang forts complicated the situation.

FIGHTING ON SABI RIVER

British Collide with Boers in Endeavor to Intercept Steyn and Reitz on the Way North.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—The Daily Mail has the following dispatch from Lourenzo Marquez:

"Heavy fighting is reported across the Sabi river. This means that the British are intercepting Steyn and Reitz, who with their forces are attempting to push northward and to effect a junction. A commando is said to be surrounded near Pietersburg."

Murder Eleven Missionaries.

LONDON, Sept. 25.—The China inland mission has received a cable message announcing the murder of eleven missionaries at Sih Cheo Taning Yah Yang, in the province of Shan Si.

The American missionaries, J. H. Roberts, Mark Williams, William Sprague, Mrs. Sprague and Miss Virginia Murdock, who escaped from Kaigan, province of Chi Li, China, in June last, and were chased by the Boxers across the Gobi desert, traveling thence by way of Siberia, have reached this city in good health and will sail on the Anchor Line steamer City of Rome, which is to leave Glasgow September 27.

TROOPS WANTED AT HAZLETON

Sheriff Harvey Wires to Governor Stone Asking for Armed Assistance.

MINERS RESORT TO MARCHING TACTICS

President Mitchell of the Mine Workers Expresses Himself as Well Pleased with Situation and Hopeful of the Outcome.

HAZLETON, Pa., Sept. 25.—It was learned tonight that Sheriff Harvey of this (Luzerne) county has telegraphed to Governor Stone, asking that troops be sent to this county on the ground that he (the sheriff) cannot guarantee the safety of persons and property during the night marches of the strikers. The governor, it is understood, is considering the matter. It was also learned that the sheriff's request was backed up by several telegrams from private citizens of Hazleton, who, it is said are mine operators. It is believed that the sheriff is of the opinion that the presence of troops will prevent any further marching, thus lessening the possibility of serious trouble.

Riot Act Read by Lantern Light.

Last night's march of 300 men from Cranberry, Tomhicken, Derringer and Gowen probably hastened the action of Sheriff Harvey in asking for state help. The strikers met after midnight at Cranberry, and when they reached Tomhicken they were stopped by Sheriff Harvey and thirty armed deputies, who went to that place on a special train. It was yet dark and the sheriff read the riot act to them by the light of a lantern. The strikers then scattered in different directions and began missionary work in preventing mine workers from going to the Potts mine at Tomhicken, Derringer and Gowen. They were successful in preventing a large number of men from going to work, and in consequence the Derringer and Gowen mines were crippled. The Tomhicken slope was only slightly affected. Four of the marchers were arrested, charged with breach of the peace, and in the afternoon were taken to South Wilkesbarre and committed without bail.

There was no conflict between the deputies and the strikers. Rhone Trescott, a coal and iron policeman, says he saw Mother Jones on a hill at Derringer directing the movement of the men. President Mitchell denies this. It was rumored that another march was to be made tomorrow to Black Creek, three miles from Hazleton.

Markles' Reply to Their Employes.

The most important development here today, aside from the request for soldiers, was the answer of C. B. Markle & Co. to the demands presented by the firm's employes ten days ago. The answer is not considered satisfactory by many of the Markle employes, and what action they will take at their meeting tomorrow is not certain. There is much sentiment tonight in favor of a strike. The firm flatly refuses to grant the demand of the men for a 5 and 10 per cent advance, announces its willingness to pay the men semi-monthly, agrees to arbitrate the question of cheaper powder; refuses the demands of the driver boys and engineers for more pay; promises to adjust grievances relating to the carrying of men and tools down and up the slope in mine cars; offers the timber men a new scale for propping, which is lower than the rate asked for, agrees to build a powder house so that the men will not have to carry the explosive a great distance and concedes the pillar robbing grievance.

The Markle firm tonight announced that at "the request of the mine workers in its employ work will be suspended tomorrow in order to give the men time to consider the company's answer to their demands made ten days ago."

Leaders Counsel Firmness.

The United Mine Workers held a meeting at Jeddo this afternoon before the answer of the Markles had become public. Many of the Markle strikers were present. The principal speech was made by President Mitchell, who, having heard a rumor that the Markles had granted the demands of the men, urged the miners who had struck "not to go back to work, but to stand firm in the fight until victory comes." The labor leaders would make no comment tonight on the Markle answer, but it was known they are much pleased. If the company had conceded the wage demand, which is only about half of what the United Mine workers are asking throughout the region, it was feared there would be a big break among the men who struck in the Markle mine. They now believe that the firm's mines will be completely tied up and point to tomorrow's voluntary suspension as evidence that the Markles are afraid that their men will quit.

Statement by Mitchell.

President Mitchell, in discussing the situation in the entire region tonight, said:

"Reports from the Schuylkill district are that the entire Mahanoy valley from Mahanoy City to Ashland is idle. This is a gain of three large collieries. In the Lehigh valley region Eckley, Derringer, Tomhicken and Gowen were closed today and we made satisfactory gains at other mines where the men have been working. It is generally conceded that the strike in the Schuylkill district will soon embrace every man employed there. On the whole we are well satisfied with the status of the strike."

Coxe Bros. & Co. admitted this afternoon that their collieries at Derringer and Gowen were slightly affected this morning, but asserted that those men who did not go to work were intimidated by the marchers. The operators at other collieries said as usual that they were in better shape today than at any previous time during the strike.

General Superintendent Kudlick of the Coxe Bros. & Co. mines was arrested today on a charge of assault and several minor charges. He waived a hearing on two of the charges this afternoon and will be given a hearing on the other charge tomorrow. Peter Gallagher, a striking miner of Freeland, is the prosecutor. He charges that Mr. Kudlick deliberately drove his horse into him on the public road.

LOOK FOR GENERAL TIEUP

Strike Leaders at Shamokin Confident that Short-Handed Collieries Will Have to Shut Down.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., Sept. 25.—Local strike leaders say that from information received tonight the Locust Spring colliery at Locust Gap, operated by the Philadelphia & Reading Coal and Iron company, will be completely tied up tomorrow. It has been working shorthanded for several days. They claim the Ashland mines will also be shut down in a few days. Mine officials here are particularly jubilant over the resumption of work at the North Franklin mine, No. 1, at Treverton, also a Philadelphia & Reading company operation.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

GEN. JOHN M. PALMER DEAD

Was Apparently in the Best of Health the Evening Before—Heart Failure the Cause.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 25.—General John M. Palmer, ex-United States senator from Illinois, died at his residence in this city at 8 a. m.

He died from heart failure. He was an honorary pallbearer at General McClernand's funeral last Saturday. Last night General Palmer was on the street viewing the state fair illuminations until a late hour, apparently in the best of health. He was about 83 years of age.

General Palmer complained yesterday of a pain in his chest. He slept uneasily last night and about 3 o'clock this morning Mrs. Palmer called a physician, who did not think the general's condition alarming. The general awoke about 7 o'clock this morning, still complaining. He talked to his wife for a short time, then fell into a doze and expired soon after.

John McAuley Palmer was born on a farm on Eagle creek, Scott county, Kentucky, September 13, 1817. The family removed to Illinois in 1831 and settled upon a farm on Wood river, in Madison county. Senator Palmer received such education as the limited school facilities of the time and country afforded. He worked his way through one year of Shurtleff college at Upper Alton and then went to work to learn the cooper's trade. He then in turn was a clock peddler and school teacher, devoting his evenings to reading law. His determination to become a lawyer was strengthened by a chance meeting with Stephen A. Douglas and he went to Carlinville and entered a law office. In December, 1839, he went to Springfield and was admitted to the bar. On the same evening he met Abraham Lincoln and from that time to Lincoln's death they were warm personal friends. On December 29, 1842, he married Miss Melinda Ann Nealy. Ten children were born of the marriage, six of whom are living. In 1843 he was elected probate justice of his county. In 1849 he was elected county judge and in 1851 to the state senate. In 1856 he was chairman of the first republican state convention and a delegate to the national convention in Philadelphia, which nominated Fremont and Dayton. When the second call for troops was made he enlisted as a soldier and was later elected colonel of the Fourteenth Illinois regiment of volunteers and afterward chosen by General Hunter to command a brigade. In the same year he was commissioned brigadier general. After the war he engaged in the practice of law in Springfield. In 1868 he was elected governor of the state on the republican ticket. He went to the United States senate in 1890.

GREAT STORM AT CAPE NOME

Several Lives Lost, Vessels Wrecked and Vast Amount of Property Destroyed.

SEATTLE, Wash., Sept. 25.—The steamer Roanoke brings news of a most disastrous storm at Nome. It raged with unusual violence for nearly two days up to the evening of September 13 and was the severest that ever visited northwestern Alaska.

A number of barges and lighters were driven ashore and totally destroyed. Along the beach for miles, both east and west of Nome, the wind and water have created havoc with tents and mining machinery. A number of lives are believed to have been lost. It is known that Andrew A. Ryan of Los Angeles was drowned. Fully 500 people are homeless, while the loss to property and supplies is over $500,000. There is not an alley leading to the beach that is not filled with debris. Many of the Front street buildings abutting on the beach have been damaged. Numerous small buildings were swept completely away.

The largest individual losers are probably the Alaska Commercial company and Wild Goose Mining and Trading company. A serious loss is the disappearance of over 2,000 tons of coal.

Captain French, in command of troops, has thrown open the government reservation to those rendered homeless by the storm and will extend such assistance as is possible.

The loss of life in the great storm at Nome on September 11, 12 and 13 is believed to have been small. The tug Islam, the largest of S. D. Lane's fleet, sank with its crew of three. The launch America, while trying to aid the big barge Skookum, went down with Captain Madison, its commander, and the engineer. Three or four men working along the water front, in an effort to save something from the wreckage, are said to have been swept out to sea, but their names are not known.

From Benny river came a report of the wreck of the schooner Prosper and the drowning of Captain Geiser, together with one of his seamen.

The shock of the storm brought ashore the Alaska Commercial company's barge York, heavily laden with winter provisions. An hour later the mammoth barge Skookum, after battling the storm, dragged its anchors and started toward the beach and destruction. The North American Transportation company lost the tug Bob, valued at $2,000, which was broken to pieces. The steam launch Stra sank at anchor and the Belvidere is a wreck at the mouth of Snake river. The little schooner Zenith, which attempted to put to sea, was blown about two miles up the beach.

TRAGEDY ON PARALLEL ROADS

Locomotive of Passenger Train Running at High Speed Crashes Into Another, Two Lives Being Lost.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Sept. 25.—A peculiar railroad accident in which two lives were lost occurred here this afternoon on the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis and the Chicago & Alton parallel tracks running to the state fair grounds. Two passenger trains were running side by side on the two tracks at a high rate of speed, when the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis locomotive left the track, turned over and crashed into the Chicago & Alton engine. Engineer John Ryan and Fireman Hall of the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis crew were crushed to death under their engine. Both lived in Springfield. Brakeman A. J. Mack jumped from the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis train and was badly bruised. Both engines were wrecked and several of the coaches were damaged.

There were but few passengers on the trains and all escaped serious injury.

LAST PLEA IN HOWARD CASE

Fate of the Man Who Is Accused of Killing Goebel Soon to Be Settled.

FRANKFORT, Ky., Sept. 25.—Judge G. B. Williams, acting commonwealth's attorney, this forenoon made the closing speech in the argument before the jury in the case of Jim Howard, charged with being a principal in the assassination of William Goebel. The case went to the jury at noon.

The jury reported at 5:13 o'clock this afternoon that the jurors had been unable to make a verdict. A hung jury has been generally predicted. Judge Cantrill did not discharge the jury, and it will report again at 9 o'clock tomorrow.

It is generally believed the jury is hopelessly hung up and that a verdict will not be found, as it is supposed the jurors are divided on the question as to Howard's guilt or innocence and not as to the degree of punishment.

VER MEHREN FAMILY FUSS

Row Over Alimony Ends in Wife's Attempt at Murder.

ANGRY WOMAN SHOOTS HER HUSBAND

Quarrel in Presence of Their Children and Father is Taken to Hospital, While the Mother Goes to Jail.

Mrs. Sarah Ver Mehren, wife of Herman H. Ver Mehren, the wholesale liquor dealer, went to his place of business on lower Farnam street shortly after 6 o'clock Tuesday evening and demanded a check for $35. He refused to give it to her. A quarrel ensued, during which the woman drew a pistol from her bosom and shot him through the abdomen. The ball penetrated the liver and the doctor thinks it may have inflicted a fatal wound.

William Kaufmann, the bookkeeper, who attempted to disarm Mrs. Ver Mehren, was shot twice through the right arm, but his wounds are slight. The shooting was witnessed by the three young sons of the Ver Mehrens, by Kaufmann and by Lou McAvoy, a shipping clerk.

Mrs. Ver Mehren was at once arrested and taken to the police station where, with her three sons, she spent the night in the police matron's rooms. She says she is not sorry she shot her husband and hopes he will die.

The wounded man was taken to the Presbyterian hospital. His condition at last accounts was critical.

Herman H. Ver Mehren is the head of the wholesale liquor firm of Ver Mehren, Frick & Meyer, 1001 Farnam street. The family residence is at 1414 Dorcas street.

Story of Domestic Trouble.

Last March Mrs. Ver Mehren instituted divorce proceedings against her husband, alleging infidelity, neglect and abuse. Two co-respondents were named. Pending the final hearing of the case the court ordered that the defendant should pay his wife $70 a month temporary alimony. This, she says, he never paid willingly and adds that she had to "hound" him to get enough money to support herself and sons.

"About 6 o'clock this evening," said she, "I took my boys downtown with me, intending to get a check from him if possible. When we were within a half block of the store I had Herbert and Johnnie wait with me and sent Rudolph, the oldest boy, to his father to ask for the money. In a few minutes he came back saying his father refused to write a check. Then, accompanied by the three boys, I entered the store myself and asked him why he refused to give me money as the court ordered. He at once flew into rage and ordered me out.

"'If you don't get out this minute,' he said, 'I'll kick you out.'

"I began to back up toward the door.

"'You know I'm asking no more than is my due,' I said.

"This seemed to make him even more angry. He seized hold of me and tried to drag me to the door and, when I resisted, he suddenly turned to Mr. Kaufmann and said: 'Kaufmann, call the police!'

"Then it was that I drew a pistol from my bosom and fired at him. I fully intended to kill him and hope I've done so. I don't remember how many times I shot—five or six times, I think—but I was struggling all the time with Mr. Kaufmann, who was trying to take the revolver away from me."

Asked if she had gone to the store with the intention of killing her husband, Mrs. Ver Mehren said:

"No; I didn't intend to shoot him until he tried to call the police. That made me mad. This evening was the first time I ever carried the pistol."

Mrs. Ver Mehren, whose maiden name was Feenstre, was married to her present husband in Arcadia, Ia., twelve years ago. They moved to Omaha almost immediately after the marriage and have lived here ever since. They have three sons, Rudolph, aged 12; Johnnie, aged 10, and Hubert, aged 9.

For the last two years their domestic relations have been unpleasant, Mrs. Ver Mehren being very jealous of her husband. They had frequent quarrels, during which, she says, he often pointed a pistol at her and threatened to shoot.

When Mrs. Ver Mehren was seen at the jail last night she was engaged in serving her sons with some cold victuals. She appeared calm at first. Her hand was steady and there was no indication of nervousness.

She was assured that her husband's wound was not necessarily fatal.

Row Over His Descent.

"He always wanted to give out the impression that he was of French descent," said she, "and was very much afraid people would think he was of Teutonic extraction. Once he wrote his father, who lives in Germany, to find out something about his ancestors and the reply came back that his great great grandfather was a native of Holland. Well, he thought I didn't know about this correspondence, but I did and I knew where he had hid his father's letter.

"One day at the supper table the question of his nationality came up and I said something about his being Dutch.

"'I'll have you to know that I'm French!' he exclaimed.

"'You're not,' I answered. 'Your ancesters came from Holland.'

"Then he jumped up, kicked over the table with all the dishes on it and screamed: 'By ——, I won't be Dutch!'

"'But I have a letter proving it,' I says.

"He dared me to produce the letter and I produced it. Then he became white with rage and drawing a revolver he thrust it in my face and threatened to blow my brains out if I didn't give the letter to him. As the children begged me to give it up and avoid trouble I did so."

Mrs. Ver Mehren is a brunette, slender, well preserved and self-possessed. She is apparently about 32 years old.

Dr. Porter was called soon after the shooting and at his direction Ver Mehren was removed to the Presbyterian hospital. The bullet fractured the tenth front rib, passed through the abdominal cavity, penetrated the liver and the eleventh back rib, lodging in the muscles of the back. An operation for the removal of the bullet was successful. The wound is considered very serious, but Dr. Porter thinks that there are good prospects for recovery. At a late hour last night he was reported as resting easily.

Ver Mehren's Story is Brief.

Ver Mehren was averse to talking of the events which led up to the shooting. He said his wife entered the store and demanded a check, which he declined to give her. The demand was repeated and he told her to wait a day or two. Her reply was, "Give it to me now or I will shoot you." Then she drew a revolver from her bosom and opened fire. Ver Mehren thought five or six shots were fired, the first of which went above his head and the others also went wide of the mark with the exception of the last and that struck him in the abdomen.

CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast of the Weather:
Fair; Cooler; Northwest Winds.

Temperature at Omaha yesterday:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	75	1 p. m.	65
6 a. m.	73	2 p. m.	65
7 a. m.	74	3 p. m.	65
8 a. m.	76	4 p. m.	65
9 a. m.	64	5 p. m.	64
10 a. m.	61	6 p. m.	63
11 a. m.	61	7 p. m.	62
12 m.	63	8 p. m.	61
		9 p. m.	60

TORNADO IN TAMA COUNTY

Severe Storm Does Much Damage to Iowa Town, Killing Four.

TAMA, Ia., Sept. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—Meager word is had from a storm which passed over this county tonight.

The town of Ferguson was blown away. Four persons are reported killed.

DES MOINES, Ia., Sept. 25.—Four persons were killed and several others severely injured in a waterspout and tornado at Ferguson this evening. The Milwaukee agent and the telegraph operator were badly hurt. The railway station was badly wrecked, several cars were blown from the tracks and more or less damaged and many houses were destroyed. Wire connections with Ferguson are interrupted and it is impossible to learn the names of all those killed and injured. The partial list is:

Killed:

CHILD OF JOHN LOVLADY, hotel proprietor.

Injured:

William Robinson, Milwaukee agent.

James Mullen, Western Union telegraph operator.

John Lovelady, hotel proprietor.

A severe waterspout and wind and rain are reported from the vicinity of Redfield and Madrid, where the tracks are washed out in many places. Trains along the Great Western road also report a hard wind and rain this side of Marshalltown.

Ferguson is on the main line of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, and about forty miles east of Madrid in Marshall county, fifteen miles east of Marshalltown. It is a comparatively new town, with a population of between 400 and 500 people.

TEXAS TOWNS ALL RIGHT

Report that Marble Falls and San Saba Had Been Washed Away Proves Unfounded.

AUSTIN, Tex., Sept. 25.—The reports of the destruction of the towns of Marble Falls and San Saba, sent out last night, prove to be incorrect. Chief Train Dispatcher Fischer of the Austin & Northwestern railroad personally communicated with Marble Falls and San Saba today, and both towns were reported safe, with no loss of life or city property, but there has been great destruction of farm property all along the valley. A telegram tonight at 7 o'clock from M. Henry of San Saba to the headquarters of the Austin & Northwestern railroad in this city, says:

"Colorado river on a fifty foot rise and still rising. Several bridges washed away. San Saba river twenty-two feet rise. Cotton on lowlands ruined."

Official reports from points west of San Saba to the same headquarters are to the effect that great damage has been done to crops all along both the Colorado and San Saba rivers. At noon today the Colorado was reported falling at Marble Falls, above here, but reports tonight say that it is rising again, showing that the waters of the San Saba and Llano branches, as well as from the upper Colorado, are just beginning to be felt there. The river began to fall at this point this afternoon. There has been an immense quantity of debris floating by all day, including trees, sections of fences, fragments of small frame houses and some dead cattle.

From reliable reports from all sections of the flooded valley above it would seem that while there has been considerable damage to crops and farming property generally, there has been no loss of life reported up to tonight, as most of the people in the vicinity received timely warnings. Reports from south of here indicate that the valley was inundated and much damage done to farms, but no loss of life.

DIVIDING UP RELIEF FUNDS

Governor Sayers of Texas Will Have Nothing to Do with Money Given for Storm Sufferers.

GALVESTON, Sept. 25.—Governor Sayers arrived here today in response to a request from the Galveston Central committee for a conference in regard to several matters. The governor expressed himself as unwilling to have anything whatever to do with the distribution of any relief funds. He says he will apportion the funds in his hands among the various communities which have suffered from the storm, and that the citizens of each of these communities must entrust the distribution to the local committees, composed of the best citizens of their respective places.

The railroads are finding it exceedingly difficult to procure sufficient labor to restore their tracks in and around Galveston to good condition, to rebuild yards, pick up wrecked cars and handle freight.

APPLES ARE BADLY DAMAGED

High Winds Have Blown a Large Part of the Crop from the Trees.

NEW YORK, Sept. 25.—While first reports of serious apple losses, following the September gales, were in some instances exaggerated, latest advices to the American Agriculturist still show beyond question enormous quantities were blown from the trees. Sheltered orchards and those on the eastern slopes of hills escaped serious injury, according to that authority in its issue of September 29, but advices indicate that all the way from 10 per cent up to 60 and 75 per cent, and occasionally more, of the apples are on the ground.

The report of the flax crop of 1900, according to the American Agriculturist, places the acreage 50 per cent over last year's harvest, now 2,595,000 acres. The total crop of flaxseed of the United States is placed at 23,413,000 bushels, compared with 20,086,000 bushels one year ago.

Movements of Ocean Vessels, Sept. 25.

At New York—Arrived—Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, from Bremen; Friesland, from Antwerp; Spaarndam, from Rotterdam; Cevic, from Liverpool. Sailed—Cymric, for Liverpool; Deutschland, for Hamburg via Plymouth and Cherbourg.

At Plymouth—Arrived—Patricia, from New York for Cherbourg and Hamburg and proceeded. Sailed—Pretoria (from Hamburg) for New York.

At London—Arrived—Montevidean, from Montreal.

At Liverpool—Arrived—Vancouver, from Montreal; Numidian, from Montreal.

At Southampton—Arrived—Kaiserin Maria Theresa, from New York via Cherbourg for Bremen.

At Sydney, N. S. W.—Arrived—Previously, steamer Mariposa, from San Francisco via Honolulu, Apia and Auckland.

The Lizard passed Amsterdam, from New York for Bulgaria and Rotterdam.

At Queenstown—Arrived—Ultonia, from Boston for Liverpool and proceeded.

RAIN FALLS ON FAIR

Carnival Crowd Driven Home by a Most Untimely Shower.

GROUNDS THRONGED EARLY IN EVENING

Eleven Thousand People Brave Threatening Storm to Attend.

AK-SAR-BEN BOARD SEES ITS SUCCESS

Committees in Charge Working Hard to Improve Conditions.

MUCH THAT IS NEW DOWN FOR TODAY

Program Changed by Addition of New Features and Arrangements Made for Children During the Afternoon.

The rain and the darkness worked together for bad on the carnival grounds last night and 10,000 people were more or less hindered in their holiday. Not once during the week have the elements shown a kindly face to the carnival, and when the throng was wedged tighter than brothers between the booths the ill feeling broke out into positive hostility. The board of governors, which had entrenched itself to receive the assaults of the confetti storming party, was routed by the damper missiles and incontinently fled. Thousands of skirts were drenched above shoetops and milliners' products faded into phantoms of their former selves.

The disaster of darkness came about through some mischance to the wiring due to the heavy requirements made on the fluid and was not remedied during the evening. The strings of incandescents redoubled their efforts, however, and the incident was not serious except on the midway, where the arch lights were the sole reliance. This spot of gayety took on a distressed appearance also after the rain. The unpaved quadrangle in the center was a morass of clinging clay. Carloads of cinders, however, will speedily furnish a sure footing.

Happily for the high lord of the treasury the rain held off until an unprecedented throng had crowded into the grounds. The total paid admissions for the day were close to 11,000. Four additional ticket boxes were erected outside of the central arch and the three turnstiles were choked with the flow. Many took warning from the preliminary drops and escaped the downpour, while more hardy visitors crowded into the gates with raised umbrellas. When the rain came in earnest through its own private gateways, however, there was a merry scramble. Muddy feet crowded into immaculate booths and the owners tried with a good grace to make the strangers welcome.

Cost the Governors Five Hundred.

When the rain declared a truce the gutters were running deep with water and the more prudent went their ways home. There were still a thousand or two left, however, and the merriment went on to the usual time of closing—the temperate hour of 11. Orators of the ballyhoo urged the passersby to scorn a little matter of rain and to enter instead their bright and cheering inclosures. None of the booths were injured, the only damage to the Board of Governors being the enforced idleness of two large midway attractions which are guaranteed $250 daily apiece.

The board is getting a full return from its booths, however, as every one of the 300 is let, each laden with its burden of things to eat, or see, or drink. The most brilliantly lighted private booth on the grounds is that of The Bee, which proclaims itst presence with an electric sign ten feet long studded with brilliants. A hundred lights throw radiance on a rare photographic collection of notable things and persons gathered by the staff artist. There are also reproductions of the Ak-Sar-Ben number on a solid background of papier mache matrices. An interesting feature is two rolls of paper used in the huge Hoe presses, each roll weighing 1,800 pounds.

Carnival Crowd Came Early.

The wind of the early morning caught up the silken slush of confetti on the carnival grounds and hurried it away to out-of-the-way corners; the lights of the night were faded to lusterless bulbs, and the merry throng was in dressing gowns or office jackets. The carnival, in short, bore a sedate demeanor; Ak-Sar-Ben avenue, Bohemian terrace and all the others were again the pathway for a workaday world. The weather, which has mingled threats with blessings in a way to keep brave knights' hearts a-flutter, opened for the day with an austerity which kept early visitors at a distance. Tardy exhibitors and showmen took advantage of this privacy to trundle in with their carts and hurry their wares into place. Hammer and nails beat a final chorus and the city of gilded shacks, a mirage of yellow and green, red and white, mounted with Aladdin-like suddenness.

When the threat of the skies gave way to blessings the workaday world seized its brooms and hammers and hurried away, for the crowd of the second day was at the gates. The visitors arrived in force before noon, attracted by the real merit of the booths, which were too serious a matter to admire in the whirl of the night before. Most of the trade exhibits have been set in place by experts in decorating with a really artistic effect. The camera man put in an appearance for the first time and scores of the booths perpetuated themselves in the morning sunlight. Then there were counters where one might eat—or, rather, taste—taking in return a moral obligation to remember the brand. In one spotless oilcloth kitchen an Alabama mammie served griddle cakes, crisp and delicious, while elsewhere one might sip at cocoa or nibble at patent food products.

The sole entertainment provided for the morning was a double concert in different portions of the grounds. Just within the central arch Obrecht's child band gave a number of creditable selections, and on the Eighteenth street platform the more numerous and mature musicians of Kiplinger's military band attracted a good crowd. During the afternoon the Obrecht children held a continuous reception. The regular program for the day began at 1 p. m., including all the performers who gave their initial performance on Monday. The brothers Lorbey went through their gymnastic antics and Gus Ryaff, George Rice's pigs and the St. Belmos all did their part toward enlivening the scene.

Concerts and Other Things.

Today one of the most eventful days, the visitors are invited to lose their identity behind masks and other disguises and "Who's who?" will be an unanswered question from 10 until 6. In accordance with the school board's action in declaring