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## NEW LIGHT ON CHINA

Minister Conger Says Emperor is Willing to Expedite a Settlement.

### ANXIOUS TO DO ALL THAT HE CAN

Considers It Difficult for the Eleven Ministers to Agree Upon a Modus Vivendi—Nevertheless Feels Certain Powers Will Reach Conclusion in Short Time.

NEW YORK, May 6.—Minister E. H. Conger, who has lately returned to this country, furnishes an article on the Chinese situation which will appear in the coming number of Leslie's Weekly. Mr. Conger says in part:

"Unless matters have changed very materially since I left China six weeks ago, the powers will reach some conclusion in regard to the Chinese very soon. Of course it is difficult for eleven men to agree on anything, especially when they have eleven governments with differing views behind them. China is perfectly willing to do anything that the powers agree upon—that is, within her ability to accomplish. She is only too anxious to expedite these matters and settle down to peaceful pursuits again. Of course the powers must not demand an indemnity which China will be physically unable to raise. It is not certain that, finally, some nation may not demand territory of China in lieu of a money indemnity. It is perfectly certain that if any nation does make this demand, the partition of China will follow, and this will inevitably cause much dissension between the powers. These difficulties and disputes would be long in the settling, and would lead to terrible confusion in China.

"Russia has so far mitigated her demands that there is not now much danger of serious difficulty between her and Japan. Personally, I am very much in favor of the continued existence of China as an empire, governed by her own emperor. It will save us and all the rest of the world lots of trouble if the integrity of the empire is maintained.

"As far as the punishment of Chinese officials goes, China has already done all that she could. Something out of the ordinary had to be demanded by the powers, for it takes a good deal of punishment to impress this people and this was no ordinary offense. In some cases the officials whose punishment was demanded were more powerful than the government, and then, of course, the punishment could not be enforced. Except in these cases, everything was done as the powers demanded.

"At home I understand that I was thought bloodthirsty, but in China I was the most lenient of all the ministers, except one. We knew the conditions better than those who were not there could possibly know them. Drastic measures were demanded, but I do not think that we were cruel. What would seem a very severe punishment to us at home would not impress the Chinese at all, for the reason that they indulge in so many cruel and unusual punishments. The reports of cruelty on the part of soldiers have been grossly exaggerated, though I am sure that there was plenty of brutality on the part of individual soldiers. As an army, the allies were exceedingly well behaved. Nor were the stories of unrestricted looting true. In Peking the soldiers took what they needed, of course, just as we would have seized anything we needed while we were caged up in the compound had we been able to fasten upon anything that would help us to withstand the siege. As for the stories of missionary looting, they are undisguisedly false. The missionaries did not loot."

### KILLS A VALENTINE INDIAN.

Ladeaux is Held for the Slaying of John Bull-Walks-Behind.

VALENTINE, Neb., May 6.—As the result of imbibing too much firewater Friday night several Indians engaged in a row among themselves on the outskirts of town, where they were camped. The row resulted in Antine Ladeaux shooting John Bull-Walks-Behind, the ball taking effect in the left side just below the heart and ranging toward the backbone. Several Indians seized Ladeaux after he had done the shooting, bound him hand and foot with ropes and then turned him over to the sheriff. They called a physician to attend to the wounded Indian.

## THERE ARE MANY MISSING.

Jacksonville Still Unable to Reckon Mortal Cost of Fire.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 6.—Rumors of loss of life are heard on every hand tonight and the river has been closely watched today. Many persons have confirmed the report of loss of life at the Market street wharf. Numerous advertisements appeared in the local papers asking for aid in searching for persons who are missing. As many have left the city for the Gulf it is impossible to ascertain who have been lost in the Market street pier tragedy.

The hunger of 10,000 homeless people was satisfied today upon the arrival of relief trains and boats bringing provisions from neighboring towns. Early this morning a commissary was established in the center of the city and thousands were fed during the day. The relief fund is growing hourly and every mail brings offers of assistance.

Today an order was promulgated under martial law requiring all merchants whose stores were spared by the conflagration to open their doors and sell to all who asked. The streets have been crowded all day with shoppers who lost all in the fire and many stores will remain open all night.

It is estimated that 3,000 persons have left the city and every outgoing train is crowded with refugees. Five carloads of tents were received today, the property of the state, which are to be used by the homeless temporarily. Another shipment of tents is expected to arrive from the government tomorrow.

The Times-Union and Citizen estimates the total property loss at \$11,000,000. These figures are based upon an itemized statement furnished by a volunteer committee of citizens.

## MAKES THE SHOWMEN SHUT UP.

Buffalo Exposition Management Closes Concessions.

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 6.—The first Sunday of the Pan-American exposition's official existence brought out a good sized crowd. The gates were open, but the buildings were closed. Guards stood by the doors of the great exhibit buildings and told the visitors that no one would be allowed to enter.

On the Midway two of the shows opened their doors this morning and their criers announced that they were ready for business. They were promptly notified by the exposition police to close their shows. They did so under protest and a test case will be tried to decide whether the Midway concessionaires have a right to give their exhibitions on Sunday. The claim set up by the concessionaires is that their contracts specify that they shall be allowed to run every day the exposition grounds are open to the public.

## REGULARS WILL COME NEXT.

War Department Planning a Further Reduction of Forces.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—It is expected that within a day or two a program will be completed at the war department for a substantial reduction of the present strength of the United States army in the Philippines. The regular troops now there who have seen the most service are the Fourth, Eighteenth and Twenty-third infantries, and one battalion of the Third artillery. They went out to Manila in 1898 in the first expedition under General Anderson, and if the announced policy of the department heretofore lived up to it continued, these will be the first organizations to return to the United States. Some of these troops will be replaced with the new levies just raised in this country. It has not yet been determined how large a reduction will be made.

It Will Be Mrs. McKinley.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., May 6.—The much discussed question as to whom would fall the honor of launching the battleship Oregon has been settled by the announcement that this function will be performed by Mrs. McKinley. After the simple ceremonies preceding the event, consisting of short addresses by President McKinley, Governor Nash and Irving M. Scott, Mrs. McKinley will press the button and the released ax will sever the rope just at the turn of the tide.

The Swift Packing company of Kansas City was awarded the contract for furnishing beef to the Missouri penitentiary for one year at \$5.03 per 100 pounds.

## A TOWN FLAME SWEEP

The City of Jacksonville, Florida, Suffers a Great Conflagration.

### THE LOSS IS VERY MANY MILLIONS

Heart of the City Eaten Out by the Devouring Element—Business Blocks and Residences in Great Numbers Are Entirely Wiped Out.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 4.—The most disastrous fire in the history of this city began yesterday shortly after noon, in a small factory, started by a defective wire, according to the best belief, and burned for nearly ten hours. In that time property damage estimated from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 was caused.

According to the city map 130 blocks were burned, many of them in the heart of the business and residence section, where the estimate of houses to the block is ten. Many of the finest public and private buildings were destroyed, including hotels, theater, churches and residences.

The casualties cannot be accurately estimated tonight. That there were several seems to be well authenticated. Among them was that of Fire Chief Haney, who sustained a bad fall. The mayor ordered all saloons closed and has impressed help to clear the wreckage. The mayor stated that he estimated the loss at \$15,000,000 and that 10,000 to 15,000 people were homeless.

Along the entire length of Beaver street, from Davis street to the creek on Liberty street, all buildings have been destroyed. This is fourteen solid blocks of residences. For the same distance Ashley and Church streets have both been completely blotted out. When the fire reached Bridge street in its eastward course it enveloped in flames an area three blocks wide, taking in Duval, Monroe and the north side of Adams street, burning the entire section of the city and running fourteen blocks to the Duval street bridge.

How much further in that direction the city is burned it is impossible to learn, the street being impassable, but it is feared that St. Luke's hospital was burned and it is said that the Presbyterian church in East Jacksonville is ablaze. If this is correct, the fire must have extended five blocks further east. The fire, which broke out at 2:45 o'clock this afternoon, has covered, as far as is definitely known, a distance of two and a half miles by half a mile wide.

When the fire reached Julia street it was a roaring conflagration and there was no prospect of it being put under control. The local military companies were called out to keep the crowds back and the fire department began to use dynamite to blow up houses a block from the fire hoping thus to prevent the fire from spreading. So fierce was the blaze, however, and so strong had become the wind, that millions of sparks and flying, burning shingles spread over five or six blocks, setting the roofs of the houses on fire in advance of the department.

It is impossible at this hour to ascertain the losses, but it is estimated by insurance agents that it will be between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000. Six lives are reported lost in the conflagration. The mayor has called a meeting of the city council for tomorrow to consider ways and means of relieving the sufferers.

Well Known Farmer Killed.

NEW LONDON, Ia., May 4.—Harry Hephrey of Canaan township, a well known farmer, was killed while at work in his field by the accidental discharge of a shotgun. He had leaned his gun against a fence post and was plowing, when, in making a turn, the horses knocked the gun down and it exploded. The contents entered Hephrey's heart, killing him instantly.

Typhoid at German Forts.

BERLIN, May 4.—An epidemic of typhoid fever has broken out in several forts and villages in the neighborhood of Metz. The Eighth Bavarian regiment has alone last sixteen men from the disease and has 231 men sick.

Wins Holy Terror Case.

RAPID CITY, S. D., May 4.—P. B. McCarty of this city has received word from the supreme court at Washington that he has won the Holy Terror case, which gives him one-eighth interest in the Holy Terror mine at Keystone.

## CHINA CANNOT MEET DEMANDS.

Must Have Aid to Pay Indemnity—Tone of Waldersee's Letter.

PEKIN, May 3.—At a meeting of the ministers yesterday the report of the indemnity committee was read. Regarding the resources of China the report was very voluminous. It was practically a repetition of Jameson's well known pamphlet on the subject. Sir Robert Hart offered suggestions similar to those already credited to him and cable to the Associated Press. It is asserted that the revenues from all available resources will not allow China to pay the indemnity unless assistance is rendered.

The next meeting will be held next Tuesday. The subject of Count von Waldersee's letter will then be taken up and a reply to it will be drafted. The ministers assert that they know what they want without being told. They particularly object to any of the legation guards being under any authority except that of the ministers themselves.

## NEBRASKA PENSION FRAUDS.

Fred Dorer Taken to Omaha for Crime Against Veterans.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., May 3.—Fred Dorer, alias Fred Dolan, who was arrested here on a charge of drunkenness two weeks ago and later identified as a man wanted by the government authorities for pension frauds, was taken to Omaha today for trial in the federal court. Pension Commissioner Tedrow of this city recognized the man as one who is alleged to have committed pension frauds near Beatrice, Neb., in April, 1899. It is claimed that Dorer represented that he was a special pension examiner and could secure pensions and increases in pensions for the old soldiers in that district. Under this pretense, it is alleged, he collected a sum of money and then left the country.

## WU THINKS CUSTOMS TOO LOW.

Says Present Rate is Inadequate to Provide for New Loan.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—It is believed here that the hitch which is said to have arisen at Peking over the proposition to increase the Chinese customs duties to meet the indemnities demanded by the foreign powers is caused by the wroaching by Mr. Rockhill of his plan for the abolition of the likin duties as a condition for his acquiescence in the customs increase. The United States government has in the past admitted a readiness to permit the Chinese to increase custom rates providing there was no discrimination between the powers. Minister Wu says that the present 5 per cent rate is totally inadequate to provide a sinking fund for a new loan.

## COMING HOME OF TROOPS

Many of the Volunteer Troops to Return Before the End of May.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3.—Major Miller, chief quartermaster at Manila, has cabled the war department an approximate schedule of the sailing of transports from Manila with troops to be mustered out of service, as follows:

May 10, Hancock, with the Thirty-first; Buford, with the Forty-first; Pennsylvania, with the Fortieth.

May 20, Logan and Kilpatrick, with the Thirty-eighth, Forty-third and Forty-fourth; Indiana, with the Fortyecond.

May 25, Grant, with the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth; Ohio, with the Forty-seventh.

If there should be any surplus they will be sent on the Thomas.

Iowa is Launched Again.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 3.—The battleship Iowa was launched today from the Bremerton navy yard, after undergoing repairs and a thorough overhauling. Less than four weeks were required in the great undertaking, although six weeks had been allowed by the navy department. The Iowa is now awaiting sailing orders.

Twins Burn to Death.

SIoux CITY, Ia., May 3.—Jay and Joy, the 3-year-old twin children of Mrs. Layton Hubbard, were burned to death in a stable at Hawarden, Ia. The children were playing in the barn and set fire to some papers. The charred remains were found after the barn had been destroyed.

Shot Through the Heart.

NEW LONDON, Ia., May 3.—Harry Hephrey, farmer, while plowing in the field, leaned his shotgun against the fence. In making a turn his horses knocked down the gun and it went off, sending the load into Hephrey's heart, killing him instantly.

## IS GOULD AND CLARK

These Are the Men Now Figuring in Union Pacific Theories.

### BUYING IN ORDER TO CONTROL.

New Yorker Thought to Cherish Three-Road Control Scheme—Clark Wants Outfit for New Line, and is Said to Be Seeking Privileges in the East.

NEW YORK, May 2.—The Mail and Express says: It was learned from official sources that William K. Vanderbilt is a large holder of Union Pacific stock and that he acquired his holding after reaching a full understanding with E. H. Harriman. Those in a position to know assert that Mr. Harriman was placed at the head of the road at the instance of Mr. Vanderbilt, although others declare that Mr. Harriman is the joint choice of Messrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, George J. Gould and Kuhn, Loeb & Co.

Mr. Harriman is a close personal friend of Mr. Vanderbilt and was picked out to manage the Union Pacific because he was regarded as an able railroad man. From sources close to Mr. Vanderbilt, it appears that the present management of the Union Pacific is not only in thorough accord with that gentleman, but has stood ready for a long time to make a deal with the Chicago & Northwestern, which the Vanderbilts control. But up to the present year of great deals, Mr. Vanderbilt, it is said, thought it was better for the Northwestern to have several strings to its bow, rather than tie up exclusively with the Union Pacific.

The Burlington deal, however, changed the western situation and the aggressive policy of Messrs. J. J. Hill and J. P. Morgan in combining the Burlington, Northern Pacific and Great Northern forced the Northwestern to prepare for future emergencies.

There are excellent reasons for the assumption that Mr. Vanderbilt has been the largest buyer of Union Pacific on the great rise to nearly 130 either for his own account, with a view to increasing his interest, or on account of Chicago & Northwestern, so that the latter can exercise a leading influence in Union Pacific.

There is good ground for believing that George J. Gould, as president of the Missouri Pacific and a leading director in Union Pacific, has been a heavy buyer of the latter stock and that by means of his large private holdings of stock which may later be turned over to the Missouri Pacific, the latter road will, jointly with the Northwestern, and possibly the St. Paul, control Union Pacific.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 2.—The Evening Express this afternoon published a report that private advices have been received here to the effect that John W. Gates, the steel magnate, is responsible for the recent phenomenal advance in Union Pacific stock and that Gates is acting for Senator W. A. Clark and associates, who are endeavoring to secure control of the Union Pacific as an outlet for the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake railroad.

## ANNIVERSARY OF MANILA BAY.

Admiral Dewey and His Comrades in Battle Meet at Banquet Board.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 2.—The third anniversary of the battle of Manila bay was celebrated here tonight by a banquet at the Raleigh hotel, participated in by officers of the American fleet who took part in that conflict. These numbered about twenty-five persons, less than one-fourth of those who were in the battle. The greater number of them came from stations along the Atlantic coast, from Portsmouth, N. H., to Norfolk, Va. The floral decorations were unusually attractive, but four large American flags, with the American eagle and shield as a centerpiece, were the features of the decoration.

Center of Population.

WASHINGTON, May 2.—The census bureau issued a bulletin announcing that the center of population of the United States, excluding Alaska and recent territorial acquisitions, on June last was six miles southeast of Columbus, Bartholomew county, in southern Indiana.

German's Surprising Action.

HONG KONG, May 2.—It is reported that the Germans have selected a concession at Canton, that the preliminaries have been arranged and that possession will be taken soon.

## MANAGER BALDWIN TESTIFIES.

Money Paid Captain James C. Reed Was for Shortage of Beef.

MANILA, May 1.—The trial of Captain James C. Reed, ex-depot commissary at Manila, charged with soliciting and receiving bribes and with other official misconduct, which began here yesterday, was continued today and was fiercely contested.

Thomas Harries, a bookkeeper of the firm of Robinson and Macondray, testified that Mr. Robinson paid Captain Reed \$881. The firm's books contained entries to that effect. Fred Macondray testified that he arranged to give Captain Reed per cent commission on the sales of vegetables furnished to troops.

Before testifying, Barry Baldwin, formerly United States marshal for California and now manager of the Macondray company, shipping merchants, tendered a statement to the court. He said attempts had been made to intimidate him and he asked for the protection of the court, but the latter declined to receive it and returned it to Mr. Baldwin unread. Mr. Baldwin testified to having a \$200,000 beef contract. Captain Reed came to his office and explained there were slight shortages in the beef deliveries on account of which Mr. Baldwin gave Captain Reed \$345.

Adjutant General Arlington testified that Captain Reed said Major Servis was short 1,500 pounds of beef. He admitted receiving money from Mr. Baldwin, but said the sum he received would be applied to the beef shortage.

## HAVE TO CHARGE FOUR BITS

Pan-American Directors Discover Necessity of Raising Admission.

BUFFALO, May 1.—The board of directors of the Pan-American exposition have reconsidered their action of Saturday in reducing the price of admission to 25 cents on Sundays. The attention of the board was called to the fact that the agreement under which the exposition first mortgage bonds were issued was based upon the understanding that the price of admission tickets to the exposition should be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children under 14 years of age. A meeting of the board was called and it was decided to make the price of admission the same for Sunday as that for the other days of the week.

Ramon Pando, son of President Pando of Bolivia, and special commissioner to the Pan-American exposition, arrived here this evening. Fernando E. Guachalla, Bolivian minister to Washington, accompanied him.

## GERMAN FORCES FALL BACK.

Belief There Will Be no More Expeditions.

BERLIN, May 1.—It is stated by officials here that the main German expeditionary force in China is now withdrawing to its former position, leaving a garrison at the pass at the great wall. The non-participation of the French in the battle was not due to orders received from Paris, but to their failure to arrive in time.

Further expeditions are not projected and will not be undertaken unless the Chinese make them necessary. In official circles it is believed that General Liu acted upon his own initiative or perhaps at the suggestion of some anti-foreign mandarin, officials not believing that the Chinese government ordered General Liu to resist the Germans, since such action is plainly against the government's interests.

## PUBLIC BECOMING TOO WISE.

Naval Board of Construction Instructs Its Members.

WASHINGTON, May 1.—The naval board of construction continued its discussion of the new ships authorized by congress and of general questions of naval architecture. Some of the members felt that the public was learning too much about what was going on in the board and a decisive resolution was adopted directing each individual member to hold no communication with the press on the subjects under discussion. The new chief constructor was present with sketch plans of a number of the excellent ships designed by his predecessor. The matter of batteries is still receiving the chief attention.

Cherokee Treaty Defeated.

MUSKOGEE, I. T., May 1.—Indications are that the Cherokee treaty has been beaten by a large majority. Chief Buffington's home gave 300 majority against the treaty. Buffington led the fight against the treaty. Defeat means enforcement of the Curtis law and much litigation.