

THE BIG PACKERS

THEY MUST STOP TAMPERING WITH WITNESSES.

WHAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY SAYS

More Attempts to Influence Testimony Manifested—Fifteen Witnesses Examined During the Day, Among Them an Omaha Man.

CHICAGO—Conspiracy indictments are threatened against heads of the big meat packing concerns unless alleged tampering with witnesses who have been summoned to testify before the federal grand jury is discontinued at once. With two witnesses on the stand yesterday who, it is asserted, admitted that they had been approached with a suggestion that their testimony be mild, the jury, it is declared, is getting ready to take drastic measures. "We will shut off interference with witnesses," said Assistant Attorney General Pugin, "even if we have to resort to proceedings under the conspiracy statute to do so."

Belief was general that Mr. Pugin has already laid out plans for new indictments. Fifteen witnesses were heard, three women being among those who testified. The women were said to be stenographers employed by the National Packing company.

One of the witnesses before the jury was Charles E. Meade of Boston, formerly connected with Swift & Company's car lines. Mr. Meade said that he had not been in that business for three years. The witness said that since his retirement Swift and Company had disposed of their interests in the car line business.

L. S. Curtis of T. E. Baker & Co. of Boston, and Frank Dimpon of Omaha were other witnesses before the jury. Mr. Dimpon explained the meat business from the viewpoint of the medium through which the customer obtains meat.

The fifteen secret service men who have been frequenting the corridors in the building where the grand jury is in session were not to be seen yesterday. District Attorney Morrison was said to have ordered that waiting witnesses instead of spending their time in the vicinity of the jury room are to be concealed in down town hotels until called before the jury. In this way the witnesses will be more readily prevented from learning the identity of the secret service men watching for possible irregularity.

Ten men arrived in the jury room in the afternoon and reported to the government officials. It is said that the ten are employed by railroads in Michigan.

TO CRUSH LOAN SHARKS.

Illinois Legislature Is Taking Some Drastic Measures.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—By unanimous vote, a sweeping anti-loan shark bill was ordered to third reading by the upper house of the Illinois legislature. The bill provides that there can be no legal assignment of wages unless both husband and wife join in the transaction, and three days' notice is given the employer.

Attorney General Stead, a number of eminent lawyers and the Merchants' club of Chicago are backing the bill. Senator Dickson, who introduced the measure, said in addressing the senate: "Homes are wrecked and men who once got into the clutches of loan sharks are driven to suicide. There is a crying need for this measure."

CATTLE GROWERS WILL HELP

Assist the Government in Breaking Up Beef Trust.

EL PASO, Tex.—The following statement with reference to the resolution of Texas cattle men to give all possible evidence in the campaign against the "beef trust" was issued by President W. W. Turney of the Interstate Cattle Growers' association:

"Ninety-nine per cent of the cattle growers of the country believe there is an illegal combination having for its end the stifling of competition and the controlling of 98 per cent of the cattle shipped to the six great slaughtering markets—Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Fort Worth, Omaha and Los Angeles—and they are ready to help the government and will help it all they can to break up this monster. It can be done and the cattle men will help."

Will Try to Use the Rivers.

ST. PETERSBURG—During his forthcoming inspection of the Siberian railroad, Minister of Railroads Hilkofer proposed to make an exhaustive inquiry into the possibility of organizing a big system of transport along the rivers.

Downer Duchess of Abercorn Dead

LONDON—The dowager duchess of Abercorn, who was Louisa Jane Russell, daughter of the sixth duke of Bedford, died of gastritis at Coates castle, Sussex.

Gets \$20,000 Judgment.

SIoux FALLS, S. D.—Judge Carl of the United States court in this city has granted to Isaac L. Ellwood of DeS Moines, a judgment for the sum of \$20,000 against the city of Huron. S. D. Ellwood recently instituted a suit for the recovery of principal and interest on bonds which were issued in 1890, for the ostensible purpose of refunding the outstanding bonds of the city, but which were, in reality, issued for the purpose of carrying on the fight for the state capital of South Dakota.

Proctor's Daughter Dead.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark.—Senator Redfield Proctor of Vermont has left for Boston, called there by the death of his daughter. It is reported he has purchased a winter home in Hot Springs.

Lord Kelvin Seriously Ill.

LONDON—The condition of Lord Kelvin, the distinguished scientist who is in a critical condition as the result of an operation for internal trouble, was reported as being less satisfactory.

JAPS NEW PLANS.

Will Likely Turn Their Attention to Vladivostok.

ST. PETERSBURG—The impression prevails in some circles that the Japanese, having removed the possibility of the main army in Manchuria assuming the initiative, will now turn their attention to the next objective of the war—Vladivostok—is strengthened by the Associated Press dispatch from Gunshu pass announcing the withdrawal of the Japanese from the immediate front of the Russian army for a distance of thirty-five miles south. It is realized of course that this may be merely a bluff to cover flanking operations, but it is not improbable that the Japanese having cleared southern Manchuria of Russian troops and secured a position from whence expulsion would be a long and difficult process, may be satisfied to hold the Tie Pass line without further extension of communications.

While the voice of the emperor's advisers is for peace if honorable terms are obtainable, the government, as is the part of wisdom, is going forward with all provisions for the continuance of the war. Preparations are reported to be making for the mobilization of five corps. It has been understood that the guards would be retained at St. Petersburg, but some of the officers of this crack organization believe their services have been requisitioned and are making preparations to that end.

There has been a recrudescence of reports of a change in the attitude of the war office. It was stated Monday night in a usually well informed source that Lieutenant General Sakharoff will leave very shortly and will be succeeded by General Ridiger, now chief of the chancellery of the war office. It is also reported that General Polivanoff will be appointed chief of the general staff. Both Polivanoff and Ridiger are of the younger school of generals, and have high repute as theoreticians and administrators. General Ridiger is the author of a number of text books on tactics.

The government is advised that Chinese bandits are appearing in great numbers along the Siberian railroad and causing interference with the train service.

The Japanese have apparently withdrawn from the region to the south of the Russian front. Cossack patrols who have been making extensive reconnaissance southward found no Japanese within thirty-five miles. General Linevitch is dispatching scouting parties east and west to guard against a possible turning movement.

PRIZE LANDED FOR OMAHA

Formal Order Issued Making it Rural Mail Division Headquarters.

WASHINGTON—The order establishing division headquarters of the rural mail delivery service at Omaha and removing to that point the rural delivery district headquarters at Kansas City was issued at the postoffice department Tuesday. With this order was an announcement that Postmaster General Cortelyou had appointed Charles E. Llewellyn of Nebraska a division superintendent and assigned him to take charge of the new headquarters. The change will take place April 17, when the three clerks who have composed the force under the supervision of Postoffice Inspector J. R. Harrison will be transferred to the force that will be appointed for the work under Superintendent Llewellyn.

The district of which Omaha will be the headquarters will remain as at present, consisting of the states of Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma and the Indian Territories.

GOOD NEWS FOR POSTMASTERS.

All in Fourth Class in Nebraska Can Retain Their Jobs.

WASHINGTON—All fourth class postmasters of Nebraska may rest fully assured that their services will be retained for another term of four years, providing they are proficient and do not violate the president's order respecting office holding. Pernicious political activity will not be countenanced by the administration.

Postmaster General Cortelyou stated that the same rule should apply toward all presidential postmasters in the state. This new policy is likely to create a great deal of dissatisfaction among the Nebraska congressmen, since the naming of postmasters is about all the federal patronage they have to dispense.

Monument to Cervantes.

HAVANA—The provincial council has voted in favor of the erection of a monument to Cervantes, author of "Don Quixote."

Dr. Hewitt Dies Suddenly.

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Dr. E. C. Hewitt, for fifteen years president of the Illinois State Normal school, died suddenly Friday. He was 77 years old.

Whiteman Released on Bail.

BUFFALO, N. Y.—Alonzo J. Whiteman was released from jail on \$10,000

Armour Man is Indicted.

CHICAGO—The federal grand jury returned an indictment against Thomas J. Connors, general superintendent of Armour & Co., on the charge of interfering with a witness summoned to appear before the jury now investigating the so-called beef trust. Mr. Connors, who is J. Orden Armour's most confidential employe and the active head of one of the largest packing companies in the world, was arrested on a bench warrant by a United States deputy marshal and brought to the grand jury room.

Germany Wants No Butting In.

BERLIN—The suggestion that an international congress might be called to arrange the Russian-Japanese terms of peace finds no favor at the foreign office in Berlin, where a full settlement between the belligerents without the interference of other powers is much preferred. An international congress would mean a derangement of the present equilibrium of interests, because those undertaking to settle peace would seek advantages for themselves as a proper brokerage on the transaction.

RIOT AT WARSAW

FOUR PERSONS KILLED AND FORTY WOUNDED.

SEVERAL OF LATTER WILL DIE

Crowd Carrying Red Flags Attack Patrol of Troops and Police.—Proclamation Distributed Warning People Away from Public Buildings.

WARSAW—A serious conflict occurred at 7:30 o'clock Sunday evening in Dzikia street, where a Jewish socialist society known as the Bund had organized a demonstration. Troops which came to disperse the gathering fired into the crowd, killing four persons and wounding forty others.

Other disturbances are reported to have occurred. The street had been patrolled throughout the day. Conditions here are causing much easiness and nervousness. Hand printed proclamations have been found in the streets, warning the public against walking near public buildings and other places, as bombs would be thrown in these quarters. Several parents whose children are attending school in defiance of the school strike have been warned by letter to withdraw their children, as the school buildings will be blown up. Representatives of the party of violence (it is not quite clear whether they are revolutionaries or socialists) are visiting private persons and levying contributions for "ammunition." They produce lists of names with the amounts to be collected from each and request the contributor to sign his name opposite these assessments, which range from \$2.50 to \$25.00.

When Governor Maximovitch arrived here ten days ago to assume his duties he ordered that the Cossack detachment waiting him at the station be retired, saying he did not want an escort. Driving through the city today, however, the governor general's carriage was surrounded by twenty Cossacks.

The editors of the Polish newspapers were summoned to the castle yesterday. Governor General Maximovitch received each of them separately in a most friendly manner, and talked with them on various subjects, especially on the question of the censorship. He invited them to come to him in case of any difficulty.

The trouble in Dzikia street began when, under the pretext of holding a memorial meeting for a late Jewish socialist leader, a crowd of more than 1,000, mostly Jews, carrying red flags, marched into Dzikia street and was met by a mixed police and military patrol of twenty men. The police declare the socialists fired revolvers at them, the leaders inciting the mob to attack the patrol, which thereupon fired several volleys into the crowd. Four men were killed and forty were wounded.

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TO STUDY DEEP WATERWAYS

President Appoints Commissioners to Meet the Canadians.

WASHINGTON—The president has selected the American members of the joint international commission to study the effect on the navigation of the Great lakes of the changes of level expected to result from the execution of the deep waterway project. They are George Clinton, a lawyer, of New York; General O. H. Ernst, corps of engineers, United States, and Prof. Gardner S. William, professor of hydraulic engineering at Cornell. The Canadian commissioners are: J. P. Maybe of Toronto; W. King, Dominion astronomer of Ottawa, and Louis Acoste, civil engineer of Ottawa, with Thomas Cole as secretary.

The American commissioners have been instructed to arrange a meeting among themselves for organization and then to correspond with the Canadians to select a time and place—probably Toronto—for the joint meeting to begin the work.

NEWSPAPERS ARE NOW QUIET

Believed They Have Been Given a Tip by Government.

ST. PETERSBURG—The newspapers are so significantly silent about the peace reports from abroad that it leads to the inference that they have been warned by the government of the inadvisability of airing their views at this time.

These papers which have been favoring peace say nothing, while the small section of the press which has been insisting on a continuation of the war contents itself with the reproduction of articles from foreign newspapers showing that peace now means the abandonment forever of Russia's position on the Pacific.

No Community of Interests.

HAMBURG—At a general meeting of the Hamburg-American Steam Packet company, Herr Ballin, director general of the company, said no plans existed for the establishment of a community of interests between the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd lines.

Girl Goes to Penitentiary.

CHICAGO—Inga Hanson, former Salvation Army girl, convicted of perjury, was denied a new trial and will go to the penitentiary on an indeterminate sentence. The perjury was committed in a remarkable attempt by the prisoner to obtain \$50,000 damages from the Chicago City railway for alleged injuries in a street car accident by which Miss Hanson claimed to have been rendered deaf, dumb, blind and unable to walk. She claimed to have been suddenly cured by prayer as the result of a revival.

Morton at Havana.

WASHINGTON—The Dolphin, with Secretary Morton's party, arrived at Havana from Guantanamo Tuesday. Captain Gibbons, commanding the vessel, in reporting his arrival at the Cuban capital, informed the department that Captain William A. Swift, who is accompanying the secretary, is ill with typhoid fever and is in a hospital at Havana. Captain Swift has been designated for assignment for assistant chief of the Bureau of Navigation, to succeed Captain Pillsbury, who goes to North Atlantic station.

Barred From the Country.

NEW YORK—Although he had lived in the United States five years, owned the house in which he lived in this city and had taken out his first citizenship papers, Joseph Witous has been debarred from the country by the immigration authorities on returning from a six months' visit to Europe. The medical officers who examined Witous on his arrival at Ellis island pronounced him insane and, as a result, the doors of the country were closed against him. Witous is said to be highly educated and well to do.

MAGOON TO BE GOVERNOR.

Lincoln Man Selected as Canal Zone Executive.

WASHINGTON—Judge Charles E. Magoon of Lincoln, Neb., who is the law officer of the bureau of insular affairs, war department, will be the new governor and minister of the Panama canal zone, as was announced several days ago. He will have the combined executive and diplomatic duties as a result of the reorganization of the isthmian canal commission, now being made by the president and Secretary Taft.

Judge Magoon has done important work for the government in connection with the legal administration in the Philippines. He is qualified in every way to undertake the organization of the canal zone government.

Plans for the reorganization of the commission are rapidly being perfected by the president and Secretary Taft. Announcement of the retirement of the present members of the commission is expected to be made within the next day or two.

Although the president has been advised that under the law there must be seven commissioners, it is possible that he may not name all of them at once.

Judge Charles E. Morgan will be designated to act as the governor of the canal zone, in place of General Davis. He will also assume the duties as United States minister plenipotentiary to Panama, now being performed by Hon. John Barrett.

WILL OF MRS. JANE STANFORD

After Bequests of \$4,125,000, Balance Goes to University.

SAN JOSE, Cal.—The will and codicil of Mrs. Jane Stanford were proven and admitted to probate Friday, and letters of administration were issued to Charles G. Lathrop, Timothy Hopkins, Joseph D. Grant, Whitelaw Reid and Thomas B. Crothers, as executors, without bonds. The estate was represented by Attorneys S. F. Lieb and Mountford Wilson. All of the above mentioned, and also Charles K. Lovell, Robert G. Hooker and T. F. Draper, were examined by the court. They testified that at the date of the will Mrs. Stanford was in full possession of her mental powers and physically strong.

The will was executed July 28, 1903, and signed in the presence of Lovell, Wilson and Draper, in the library of Mrs. Stanford's San Francisco home. The codicil was written by Mrs. Stanford herself in August, 1904, under the direction of S. F. Lieb.

By the terms of the will \$2,000,000 are left in trust to Ariel Lathrop and descendants of D. S. Lathrop, her brother; \$1,000,000 in trust to her nieces, Jennie L. Lawton and Amy L. Hanson, and the children of Christine L. Gunning; \$1,000,000 to Charles G. Lathrop; \$125,000 to various charitable institutions.

PRESIDENT'S WESTERN TRIP.

Chief Executive to Spend Two Months Hunting in Texas and Colorado.

WASHINGTON—President Roosevelt will leave Washington Monday on a trip to the west and southwest. He will be absent nearly two months. One of the chief objects of the trip, which the president has long had in mind, is the reunion of his Rough Rider regiment of the Spanish-American war, which is to take place at San Antonio, Texas, Friday, April 7th, and for which an elaborate program of exercises has been arranged. There will be a number of brief stops en route, where the president will make addresses. Leaving San Antonio, there will be a brief stop and address at Fort Worth, which will terminate the public part of the trip, following which the president is to go hunting in the Panhandle of Texas and later in Colorado. All arrangements have been made whereby the president will keep in touch with public affairs, both during his railroad ride and while hunting, so that he will be enabled to pass on all matters requiring his attention. The president is looking forward with keen pleasure to his long vacation.

TEN YEARS IN PRISON.

That is the Sentence Imposed Upon Mrs. Chadwick.

CLEVELAND, O.—Unless the higher court interferes, Mrs. Cassie L. Chadwick will spend the greater part of the next ten years in the Ohio state penitentiary.

A sentence of ten years was imposed on her by Judge Robert Taylor in the United States district court here. The sentence came at the close of a busy day for the court in hearing arguments on a motion for a new trial, which lasted all day. The motion was overruled.

Mrs. Chadwick was convicted on seven counts and sentenced upon six counts. For four of these counts a sentence of two years was imposed. Upon two counts a sentence of one year each was imposed, making a total sentence of ten years.

Austria Asks For Inquiry.

SALT LAKE CITY—The Austrian government, through its consul at San Francisco, has demanded of the Utah authorities a rigid investigation of the killing of Jacob Oman, a citizen of Austria, by a special policeman at Castlegate, Utah, on January 27th last. Oman, with several other Austrians was quarantined for smallpox in a pesthouse, guarded by Officer R. A. Lewis. Oman tried to break quarantine when Lewis shot him in the head, killing him instantly. He says the shooting was accidental.

Gilbert Gets Judgment.

ST. LOUIS, Mo.—A judgment was rendered on Friday in the United States circuit court for \$6,450 against the Louisiana Purchase Exposition company in favor of Cass Gilbert, a New York architect. Mr. Gilbert sued for \$21,000, alleging that the sum was due him for drawing plans for certain world's fair buildings. William H. Thompson, treasurer of the exposition company, and other high world's fair officials, stated that the verdict will not be appealed.

Deny Charges of Castro.

WASHINGTON—Solicitor Penfield of the state department said Sunday night concerning the charges made in Venezuela against General Francis V. Greene and the asphalt company of which he was the head, to the effect that he and the asphalt people had aided the Matos revolution, that some months ago General Greene had submitted to the state department a sworn denial of the truth of these reports and had backed his denial by affidavits from responsible officers of the asphalt company.

Moscow Papers for Peace.

MOSCOW—With the exception of the Moscow Gazette, practically all the newspapers of this city are for peace on condition that there be neither cession of territory nor payment of indemnity. At a banquet held a few days ago a prominent merchant declared that the "happiest end of the war would be immediate peace, but if the government consents to indemnity he will throw the bomb. Enough Russian gold has been spent in Manchuria."

ADVANCE BEGINS

JAPANESE MAIN ARMY MOVING FORWARD.

SEARCH FOR THE RUSSIANS

Activity of Oyama's Troops on the West Near the Mongolian Frontier.—Large Scouting Parties Thrown Out for Investigation.

ST. PETERSBURG—The news from the front indicates that Field Marshal Oyama has begun a genuine advance of his main army with wings far extended. Heavy reconnaissances are being made against the Russian center, with the object of developing the Russian position.

It is officially announced that General Karkevitch has been appointed General Linevitch's chief of staff in place of General Sakharoff, who has been transferred to the Alexander committee for the care of the wounded. General Stakeberg has also been appointed a member of the same committee.

A dispatch from General Linevitch, dated March 30, says: "There is no change in the situation. The enemy is displaying activity east of the railroad."

"Heavy snow fell during the night." A telegram from Gunshu Pass says General Linevitch has forbidden the inhabitants of Harbin, with the exception of the women and children, to leave that place without special permits, fearing that the town may be denuded of workmen.

GUNSHU PASS—RECONNAISSANCES

disclose especial activity on the part of the Japanese on the west near the Mongolian frontier. It is reported that an anti-foreign propaganda is conducted among the Chinese, who are stirred up to a renewal of the Boxer disturbances. The Hun Yuan societies of Mukden and Kirin and the Tsai Li society, which is strong in Tsitsihar and northern Manchuria, are said to be working to spread this agitation among the Manchurian population and Japanese success is doing much to augment the movement. Many Chinese bandit chieftains are leaders in numerous secret societies extending throughout China and their influence may have a powerful effect on the attitude of the Chinese government and population.

ADMIRAL BARKER RETIRES.

Admiral Evans Now Commands the North Atlantic Fleet.

WASHINGTON—After long and distinguished service, Rear Admiral A. S. Barker, commander-in-chief of the North Atlantic fleet, hauled down his flag on the Kearsarge, and was placed on the retired list of the navy.

In the war with Spain Admiral Barker was one of the most prominent members of the strategy board. He was later in command of the navy yard, New York, and from there, in April, 1903, was appointed to the supreme command of the North Atlantic fleet. Admiral Barker will make his home in Washington. He is a native of Massachusetts, whence he was appointed to the naval academy.

MRS. MAYBRICK'S POSITION.

England to Be Asked to Rehabilitate Her in Eye of Law.

WASHINGTON—Mrs. Florence Maybrick, accompanied by her counsel, had a long conference with Acting Secretary of State Adee. In the legal proceedings now in progress, to which Mrs. Maybrick is a party, involving considerable property interests, some obstacle has been encountered in availing of Mrs. Maybrick's testimony because of her peculiar legal status, and she is seeking the good offices of the state department to procure the papers necessary to rehabilitate her in the eye of the law. The state department will probably take up the matter with the American embassy in London.

HAS NO PROOF OF MARRIAGE

Suit Brought in Paris by American Actress Dismissed.

PARIS—The civil tribunal of the Seine formally announced its decision in the case of Carrie Swain, the American actress, against Frank Gardner, the American sportsman, in which the actress claimed to be Mr. Gardner's wife. The decision was on a line with the recent announcement of the conclusions made by the attorney general. The court rejects the plaintiff's claims and says the correspondence between the parties shows that no marriage existed. The defendant's obligation therefore was only moral.

IGNITES A MASS OF POWDER

Explosion in Omaha Saloon Kills and Injures.

OMAHA—While taking a flashlight photograph in a saloon Albert Butler was instantly killed and William Coffey, W. J. Murray and M. Levy were seriously injured by an explosion of powder used by the photographer. Butler had set his grip containing a large supply of powder near the tripod and when he touched off the powder in the flash pan the light in some manner spread to the grip and the explosion followed. The force of the explosion threw Butler and his companions against a wall, the former's breast being torn away. The injured men will recover.

Francis McCord is Dead.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo.—Francis McCord, son of the late James McCord, died in Asheville, N. C., Friday. While he had been suffering with tuberculosis for some time, his death was unexpected.

Cotton Statistics.

WASHINGTON—The census bureau has issued a special cotton ginning report on the total crop, showing total crop, including linters, counting round bales as half bales, to be 13,597,783, equivalent to 13,584,457.

A CLASH OF ARMS.

Another Duel Between the Armies Looked For.

ST. PETERSBURG—Another duel between the opposing armies in Manchuria may be on the program for the coming week. The Russians, according to the Associated Press' Harbin correspondent, are now strongly fortifying their positions at Sipinghai against which Japanese are reported to be gathering in force. The story of the Russian retreat from Sipinghai to Chaoumiaodzi was incorrect, due to a telegraphic error in the confusion of similar Chinese names Chaoumiaodzi with Shuamuyatszi, south of Sipinghai, whence the Russian advance force retired to the fortified line at Sipinghai. The Japanese followed to some extent, but a border of twenty miles of debatable ground still remains between the two armies, over which the Japanese probably will not advance until they are ready to attack.

Equally important news is that a column of Japanese is moving against Kirin, perhaps with the intention of turning the position eastward and striking at the Vladivostok line of communication with the double purpose of isolating the fortress and separating General Linevitch's army from a valuable base of supplies, the Ussuri district.

Negotiations have been in progress between Paris and St. Petersburg. Even diplomats of the highest rank have failed to obtain from M. Delcasse, the French foreign minister, the results of these negotiations, but it can be announced on the same authority that Count Lansdorff, the Russian minister of foreign affairs, has within a week admitted that he had a general way outlined to M. Delcasse the general terms along which Russia might consent to consider peace.

Advices from Europe tell of the fear prevalent there in certain quarters that the activities of Lansdorff and Delcasse are directed toward an international conference, to be held in some neutral European capital, such as Stockholm, where peace negotiations might be conducted. It is said that this move has been in a measure blocked by the refusal of Japan to give any indication as to the peace terms she would accept until positively assured in the name of the czar himself that Russia is prepared to negotiate in good faith for peace. Not only does Japan insist upon this assurance, but she prefers to negotiate directly with St. Petersburg.

With the United States, Germany and Japan opposed to an international conference to end the war, the belief is strong in Washington that successful peace negotiations will date from the day St. Petersburg communicates with Tokio direct. The Washington government is alertly watching for the opportunity to assist Russia and Japan in getting into diplomatic communication.

WANT NEGOTIATIONS DIRECT.

Washington Opposed to an International Conference.

WASHINGTON—Neither Russia or Japan have asked President Roosevelt to assist them in ending the war. So far as the Washington government is aware, Emperor Nicholas has not weakened in his announced decision, "to prosecute the war to the bitter end."

The genuine wish of this government for peace in the far east is not based upon selfish interests. American financiers have not overladen themselves with bonds of either of the belligerent nations. Washington believes that it is to the advantage of both belligerents that the far eastern war come to a speedy end, and anything that this government can do to bring that about will be done gladly. From the outset of the war the president has taken the position, as has been repeatedly announced by Secretary Hay, that he will do anything in his power to assist Russia and Japan to a peace basis which his services shall be acceptable to the belligerents. But it is authoritatively stated that no official of the Washington government is ambitious to pose as the mediator between the czar and mikado.

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