

ment of Messrs. Williams and Smith by the federal grand jury of the District of Columbia for criminal libel. The basis of the action is published articles intimating that there was a "graft" of \$28,000,000 in the sale of the Panama canal zone to the United States by the French company. October 12 Judge Anderson dismissed the proceedings against Williams and Smith. "That man has read the history of our institutions to little purpose," said Judge Anderson in concluding his brief, "when he does not view with apprehension the success of such a proceeding as this to the end that citizens could be dragged from their homes to the District of Columbia, the seat of government, for trial, under the circumstances of his case. The defendants are discharged."

Five hundred homes were destroyed and one hundred ships were wrecked at Key West, Florida, as the result of a hurricane which swept over that city. Only one life was lost.

A St. Petersburg cablegram carried by the Associated Press says: "M. Stchepkin, a constitutional democrat, has been elected to the duma from Moscow, to fill the vacancy created by the death of an octoberist member. M. Brodsky was elected from Odessa and succeeds a constitutionalist, M. Pergamen, deceased. The result of the election at Moscow is an especially noteworthy victory for the opposition, as the first category of voters by whom Stchepkin was elected is composed of the more wealthy and conservative electors and the campaign was waged on the issue of 'Stolypinism.' At Odessa Brodsky is elected in the face of a campaign of intimidation against the Jewish electors by reactionaries."

The Nebraska board of the State Historical Society has accepted the Bryan prize offer of \$25 for the best article on Nebraska history. A committee was appointed to outline rules for the contest.

United States Senator Flint of California, whose term expires March 4, 1911, says that he will not be a candidate for re-election, because he is too poor.

Captain William Mitchell Lewis has announced himself as a candidate for governor of Wisconsin on the progressive republican ticket. He lives at Racine.

It now develops that E. H. Harriman left to his widow \$267,000,000. Before he died he distributed among his children and his aides \$33,000,000.

Samuel Gompers has returned from Europe. He was given a great reception in New York and when he reached Washington City 25,000 laboring men and women met him at the depot.

The Disciples of Christ, otherwise known as the Christian church or the "Campbellites," celebrated their centennial at Pittsburg, Pa., from October 11 to October 19.

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Crane Gave It to Them "Red Hot"

Says President Taft Told Him to Do It, but Secretary Knox Removed Him for Doing It.

Charles R. Crane, whom Mr. Taft appointed minister to China, was recalled just as he was about to sail. Earlier dispatches said that he was called for further instruction. An Associated Press dispatch of later date says:

"It is known now that the immediate occasion for the recall of Minister Crane was an article in the Washington special correspondence of the Chicago Record-Herald of September 27, evidencing a somewhat minute acquaintance with confidential matters supposed to be known only by responsible officials in the state department, and presumably by Minister Crane, relative to the attitude of the United States government toward the two treaties recently concluded between China and Japan. That publication was highly objectionable to the department of state in that it disclosed the possibility of protest on the part of the United States against the consummation of these treaties, and it is known that Secretary Knox and his associates in the department have held Minister Crane responsible for the disclosures. These treaties, which would practically confer upon the Japanese a monopoly of the mineral developments of Manchuria and would also make the Japanese the virtual dictators of Chinese railway extension in Manchuria, are regarded by the state department, it is said, as destructive of the principle of 'the open door' enunciated by the late Secretary Hay and subscribed to by Japan in a formal agreement with Mr. Root when the latter was secretary of state. The Chicago publication was regarded as particularly unfortunate at this time because of the purpose of the state department to have Mr. Crane take careful soundings of the feelings entertained among the other foreign ministers and ambassadors resident in Peking before any representations were made to the Japanese government."

Following is an Associated Press dispatch:
Washington, October 12.—Charles R. Crane of Chicago, minister designate to China, today was practically deposed by a demand from Secretary Knox for his resignation.

Thus a new chapter in American diplomacy was written. A citizen chosen with special regard for his qualifications for the post was recalled before he had embarked from San Francisco and discharged from his high office because of alleged indiscreet disclosures through the press. Moreover, this minister, breaking through all the old traditions, insisted on defending himself from the aspersions cast upon him by the secretary of state by the issuance of a statement which most people here comment upon as certain to be embarrassing to the administration.

The history of this extraordinary affair, which began about a week ago with the announcement that Minister Crane had been stopped at San Francisco at the moment of embarkation for his post by a demand from Secretary Knox for his return to Washington, reached at least its first crisis today, when the secretary, in a formal statement, announced that Minister Crane's resignation had been invited, and the minister designate replied in a formal statement that while his resignation already had been tendered to the president,

he felt himself unjustly treated. Moreover, Mr. Crane, in his statement, reflected severely upon the officials of the state department, charging that not only had they refrained from giving him the instructions usually issued to a minister or ambassador about to leave for his post, but that he had been denied access to them even after he had made repeated appointments with them.

He enters a sweeping denial of the charge that he "gave out" a newspaper story which is said to be the cause of his deposition, and places squarely upon the shoulders of President Taft the responsibility for the various utterances he has made regarding conditions in the far east which have aroused the ire of Secretary Knox and for final action upon his resignation.

Mr. Crane's statement is as follows:

"The statement issued by the department of state is slightly inaccurate in saying that the secretary has informed me that my resignation will be accepted. The letter I received from Mr. Knox at noon today says that he has recommended to the president that the president accept my resignation. Before this letter had been received by me I had already sent to the president, through his secretary, Mr. Carpenter, the following telegram:

"Washington, D. C., Oct. 12, 1909.—President William H. Taft: The state department objects to certain things I have done in the effort to carry out my understanding of your wishes as expressed by you to me.

"I have carefully considered the entire matter. In my judgment no mistake has been made, except as the department has made it a mistake. However, I did not and can not guarantee to make no mistakes, unless I have the cordial support and co-operation of the government.

"The manner in which the department has proceeded and is proceeding is inconsistent with my own self-respect, and my conception of the dignity of the position, and with the understanding I have received from you, and under all the circumstances have decided to await information as to your wishes before taking action. You will understand, of course, that my resignation is in your hands.

"CHARLES R. CRANE."

"The statement of the department is further inaccurate that I 'gave out a newspaper story' about the preparation of a protest in regard to the agreement between China and Japan. It would have been accurate if the statement had said, as was indicated in its closing paragraph, that a brief conversation of mine with a newspaper representative contributed to the publication by him of a discussion of this agreement, and the possibility of a protest by the government, and that the department regarded this conversation as 'indiscreet.' The publication referred to did not mention my name, nor in my judgment would it have been a mistake if the department of state had not chosen to vouch for its accuracy and given to it an official significance by its own conduct.

"It certainly contained nothing of substance that was not a matter of common knowledge deducible by any competent newspaper reporter from facts commonly known.

"As an illustration of this the New (Continued on Page 14)

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