

FIRST STEP TAKEN.

Japan and Russia Recall Ministers and Sever Diplomatic Relations.

Conflict Expected to Begin Without Formal Declaration of War—Japs Weary of Waiting the Slow Process of the Czar.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 8.—Although the fear was general here that the presentation of the Russian note to Japan might be followed by an act on the part of the Japanese government which would plunge the two countries into war, the startling action of Japan in severing diplomatic relations with Russia before the actual delivery of the Russian note came like a bolt from a clear sky. It was believed that the receipt of the note might have unmasked an ultimatum, but that Japan should sever diplomatic relations, a step little short of a declaration of war, was almost like a blow in the face under the present circumstances and it is resented here accordingly. The authorities believe this action places Japan distinctly in the wrong before the world, and moreover, after such a "piece of impudence," as it is denominated here, makes easy an appeal to the patriotism of the Russian people.

The news that at any moment Japan had drawn the sword and that the first clash had occurred would not be surprising. The events leading to Japan's abrupt action have marched with great rapidity. The Russian note was already in the hands of Baron de Rosen, Russian minister at Tokio, for delivery to Baron Komura, the Japanese foreign minister, when at four o'clock Saturday afternoon M. Kurino, the Japanese minister here, presented himself at the foreign office and informed Foreign Minister Lamsdorff that his government, in view of the delays in connection with the Russian answer and the futility hitherto of the negotiations, considered it useless to continue diplomatic relations and would take such steps as it deemed proper for the protection of Japan's interests. In obedience to instructions, therefore, he asked for his passport.

With war imminent, orders have been given for a rigid censorship over all information relating to naval and military movements. Preparations were also made for the czar's journey to the ancient capital, Moscow, where he goes in accordance with the traditional custom of his forefathers to invoke divine guidance. While the imperial train is passing to Moscow troops will line every foot of the way.

Outbreak in Balkans Expected.
London, Feb. 7.—The prospect for a great war breaking out in the far east which is acknowledged even in hitherto pacific quarters, has been brought appreciably nearer by the developments of the last day or two. That a Russo-Japanese conflict will be followed by a Balkan outbreak, which in time may develop into a widespread European conflagration, is also considered probable and increases the depression here pervading all political circles in England and on the continent.

TO HEAR MORMON CHILDREN.

Senators Investigating Reed Smoot Want to Know About the Violation of the Anti-Polygamy Laws.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Complete investigation of the protests against Senator Reed Smoot retaining his seat in the United States senate will begin March 1, before the committee on privileges and elections. Chairman Burrows was given unlimited power to summon witnesses and to appoint a subcommittee to go to Utah to take testimony if such a course shall be found to be necessary. A list of 20 witnesses was submitted by the protesters and most of these will be here soon after March 1. It was determined that the hearing of the case shall be public.

The witnesses to be summoned are for the most part members of the Mormon church. Among them are children alleged to be the offspring of polygamous marriages contracted since the manifesto of 1890.

Fell Off the Bridge.

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 8.—Patrick Sheehan, a laborer 45 years old, was drowned yesterday afternoon by falling off the Missouri Pacific bridge into the Kaw river. He started across the board walk on the south side of the bridge and lost his balance, fell forward and struck his head on the heavy girders that bind the bottom part of the bridge.

To Colonize 20,000 Farmers.
Chicago, Feb. 7.—Now that the Santa Fe has become interested in land and colonization schemes in Texas it is proposed to settle at least 20,000 farmers immediately. C. L. Tallmadge, of this city, and several others have secured more than 1,000,000 acres in northern and western Texas.

Speed to Prosecute Oklahoma Frauds.
Lawton, Ok., Feb. 8.—Horace Speed, United States attorney, of Guthrie, has arrived here to begin the prosecution of alleged frauds against the government in the letting of contracts for improvements which were paid out of the lot sale fund.

JURY FREES ED BUTLER.

A Wild Whoop from the Alleged Briber's Followers Greeted the Verdict at Fulton—Folk Dumbfounded.

Fulton, Mo., Feb. 7.—The jury in the Butler bribery case returned a verdict Saturday morning at ten o'clock which read: "We the jury, find the defendant not guilty."

The verdict was read by Judge Graves. With a wild whoop a dozen of the Butler followers dashed out of the room and down the street. Butler stepped quickly from his place and shook hands with the foreman, Rosser. Then he walked down the line of jurors quickly shaking hands with each of them. Judge Graves polled the jury and discharged them. Butler was himself again in an instant. The old man was fairly laughing and his followers could hardly find ways enough to express their satisfaction with the result.

Circuit Attorney Folk, who was in the court room, appeared dumbfounded. "I thought the state presented a good case," he said. "Beyond that I have nothing to say at this time."

About 18 ballots were taken, according to Foreman Rosser, and at the start the jury stood ten for acquittal and two for conviction. "One of those voting to acquit changed after the first ballot," said Mr. Rosser. "The other man held out stubbornly until 9:45 o'clock a. m., when he finally came into line. I do not care to mention the names of the two men who held out for conviction, nor the one who remained firm up to the last moment. The jurors did not want to convict the defendant on the testimony of hoodlums and perjurers, whose statements were flatly contradicted by men of good character. Again, we did not think the circumstances pointed to the defendant's guilt. On the evidence of the state, even though we thoroughly credited it, there was serious doubt as to Butler's guilt. Weighing the facts carefully, we think we did our full duty fairly and impartially."

GREAT FIRE IN BALTIMORE.

Many Blocks in Business Portion Wiped Out—Early Reports Placed Loss at Nearly \$50,000,000.

Baltimore, Md., Feb. 8.—Fire started a few minutes before 11 o'clock yesterday morning in the wholesale dry goods house of John E. Hurst & Co. and at three o'clock this morning it was raging fiercely. It steadily ate its consuming way eastward in Baltimore street, after having destroyed almost all of the large stores and warehouses in the wholesale district around Hopkins' place and all the buildings on both sides of Baltimore street from Howard to Holliday street, from Charles and Baltimore to Charles and Lexington, and in Fayette street from Charles to Holliday, including a total of about 20 blocks of the most modern and substantial buildings in the city, involving a loss which cannot now be estimated, but which has certainly already reached \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000.

DID NOT SPARE WOMAN.

Mob at Doddsville, Miss., Hanged a Negro and His Wife Charged with Killing a White Planter.

Doddsville, Miss., Feb. 8.—Luther Holbert and his wife, negroes, were burned at the stake here yesterday by a mob of over 1,000 persons for the killing of James Eastland, a prominent white planter, and John Carr, a negro, on Wednesday at the Eastland plantation, two miles from this city. The burning of Holbert and his wife closes a tragedy which has cost eight lives, has engaged 200 men and two packs of bloodhounds in a four-days' chase across four counties and has stirred this section of Mississippi almost to frenzy.

Gov. Mickey Scores Grain Gamblers.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 7.—In a speech before the State Y. M. C. A. convention Gov. Mickey said that in 99 cases out of 100 the man or boy who made \$100 on the board of trade would go to hell. He said he would rather have his boy work on the farm for \$1 a day than have him make \$1,000,000 in grain speculation. The governor criticised bucket shops and grain exchanges and said that one-tenth of every dollar honestly made ought to be given to the Lord.

To Oust a Baking Powder Company.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 8.—It was said here that a proceeding would be instituted in a few days in the supreme court by the attorney general in the nature of an ouster against the Royal Baking Powder company, of New York, to bar it from doing business in this state on account of a violation of the state statutes pertaining to trusts and monopolies and likewise on account of a violation of the state criminal statutes respecting the bribing of public officials.

A Gale at St. Louis.

St. Louis, Feb. 8.—A heavy gale swept over St. Louis before dawn yesterday and did considerable damage to property. For 15 minutes the wind maintained a velocity of 60 miles an hour. Signs were blown from buildings, a number of smokestacks and telegraph poles were blown down, and a row of flats on Twentieth street was unroofed.

HE ADMIRES BRYAN.

Senator Patterson, of Colorado, Digs Up Some Recent History.

Says the Nebraskan Is Brave Enough to Fight Those "Who Go from One End of the Political Teeter to the Other."

Washington, Feb. 6.—In his prayer at the opening of the senate the chaplain, Rev. Edward Everett Hale, made reference to the illness of Senator Hanna, saying: "Father, we ask for those who are in great sorrow; we ask for those who are on the bed of sickness; we ask for those who minister to them, that Thou wilt give them life and light and love."

A bill was passed providing for the transportation of 600 teachers from Porto Rico to and from the United States next summer for the purpose of study.

The urgency deficiency appropriation bill was laid before the senate, the provision for the St. Louis exposition loan being the immediate question under consideration and Mr. Patterson (Col.) took up the political phase of the question, making a special reply to Mr. Foraker. He said that having noted the want of prosperity on the part of the trusts and syndicates, the Ohio senator had introduced a bill, which, if it should become a law, would supply that deficiency. Mr. Patterson conceded that prosperity was not so much dependent on tariff laws or the balance of trade as most people believe. On the contrary, he found that good times depended more upon the volume of currency than on other causes, and he traced the prosperity of the decade from 1880 to 1890 to the extensive coinage of silver in that period. This epoch covered Mr. Cleveland's first term but Mr. Patterson declared that when democrats contended that his second term covered a prosperous period they did violence to the facts of history. The panic of 1893 had been the result of the crusade against the greater circulation of silver both in the United States and elsewhere. He declared that Mr. Cleveland's last term was not a democratic administration, in fact, but that it presented the spectacle of a democratic president putting republican politics in execution.

Patterson referred to Mr. Bryan, saying: "I am glad that there is one man in the party with power and influence enough to make himself felt who enters his protest against surrendering the party to those who go from one end of the political teeter to the other as their interests may seem to require." Mr. Patterson reasserted his conviction that the nomination of Mr. Bryan for the Chicago convention of 1896 had insured a far larger vote than another candidate on another platform would have secured. He then announced his intention not to press for a further recognition of free coinage by the democratic party, saying that "the party is worse than insane which continues to advocate a policy which the country has declared against." Such a course would destroy the usefulness of any party.

The point of order made by Mr. Bailey against the St. Louis fair appropriation of \$4,500,000 was lost by a vote of the senate, and the amendment was agreed to. The urgent deficiency bill was then passed.

DRIFTS TWENTY FEET HIGH.

In Montana Trains Were Stuck in the Snow and Passengers Suffered for Food.

Lewiston, Mont., Feb. 6.—Pushed by four locomotives the great snowplow on the Montana railroad yesterday headed the first train that has reached this place in ten days. During that time three expresses have been tied up in the drift between here and Helena and, it being impossible to send aid to them, some of the passengers suffered for food. Two trains are still to be rescued. In some places the drifts were 20 feet deep and the snow falls down the locomotive stacks, making it impossible to proceed.

LOPEZ IS IRRECONCILABLE.

Well-Known Filipino Agitator Will Be Expelled Because He Refuses to Take the Oath of Allegiance.

Manila, Feb. 6.—Sixto Lopez, the well-known Filipino agitator, whose unfriendly disposition toward American rule in the Philippines has been exhibited upon occasions in the past, has arrived here and refused to take the oath of allegiance. He will be promptly deported.

VOLCANO IN EAST INDIES.

Near Java an Entire Town Is Reported Swallowed Up and Hundreds of People Perished.

Amsterdam, Feb. 6.—Advices received here say that an entire town in the east end of Java, Dutch East Indies, is reported to have been swallowed up by a volcanic eruption and that hundreds of persons were killed.

Stone's Farm Brought \$13,000.

Nevada, Mo., Feb. 6.—W. A. Lantz, of Creston, Ia., purchased the farm of Senator W. J. Stone, containing 400 acres, in Vernon county, for \$13,000.

HANNA HAS TYPHOID FEVER.

Examination of the Senator's Blood by a Microscopist Confirmed the Diagnosis Made by Physicians.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Senator Hanna is officially pronounced to have typhoid fever. The following bulletin was issued by his physicians immediately after the consultation: "Senator Hanna has typhoid fever. The diagnosis is confirmed by the complete blood examination reported by Dr. Edward Behrond. The senator rested fairly well last night, and his temperature is 100, pulse 82."

President Roosevelt walked over from the white house personally to inquire after the senator's condition. He spent ten minutes at the hotel.

Dr. Behrond is a microscopic expert of this city. He made two tests. The first one showed the presence of the typhoid bacillus. The second test was made to confirm the first one. The doctors say the case of typhoid is irregular.

THREE WANT THE PLACE.

Elkins, Fairbanks and Webster Actively in the Race for Vice President on the Republican Ticket.

Chicago, Feb. 6.—The acceptance of plans for seating 8,264 people, allotment of 2,000 admission tickets to Chicago people and some vice presidential politics, marked the meeting yesterday of the sub-committee on arrangements for the republican national convention. Senator N. B. Scott, the chairman, proclaimed the candidacy of Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of West Virginia, for vice president. Committeeman-New, of Indiana, announced that Senator Fairbanks was his candidate, and R. B. Schneider declared that John L. Webster, of Omaha, was also out for the place.

CANNOT ROB THE RIVER.

Nebraska Supreme Court Decides Against Irrigators and in Favor of a Mill Owner at Concordia, Kan.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 6.—The supreme court yesterday handed down an opinion in which it holds that Nebraska irrigators using the water of the Republican river to the detriment of a Kansas mill owner may be enjoined in the state courts from making such use thereof. The complainant, a miller named Cline, at Concordia, Kan., alleged that the water in the river is diminished by its use for irrigation in Nebraska and his mill cannot run. The lower court denied him relief, but the supreme court decides that comity, as well as riparian rights, are involved and reverses the trial court.

TO SAVE A BROTHER'S LIFE.

One Hundred Members of the Modern Woodmen Gave Strips of Flesh to Charles Schisler, Who Was Scalded.

Des Moines, Ia., Feb. 6.—One hundred Modern Woodmen of Los Angeles, Cal., bared their arms to a surgeon's knife here giving strips of flesh from their arms to save the life of Charles Schisler, the Des Moines stationer who was almost fatally scalded by the explosion of an instantaneous heater. The operation, if successful, will be recorded as a remarkable surgical feat, as great patches of skin of Schisler's chest, neck and arms were burned out. The Woodmen lodge of which he is a member volunteered its services.

Tax Muddle in Oklahoma.

Guthrie, Ok., Feb. 6.—Should the opinion of P. C. Simons, the attorney general of Oklahoma, relating to the payment of taxes, be sustained, and many attorneys think that it is a correct interpretation of the law, all deeds to Oklahoma property sold for taxes since November, 1898, will be invalidated. The next legislature will be asked not only to amend the tax law, but to validate those tax deeds. Lawyers question the power of the legislature to cure the defective titles.

The National Flag Law Declared Invalid.

New York, Feb. 6.—The law forbidding the desecration, mutilation or improper use of the national flag, passed by the state legislature last year, was declared unconstitutional yesterday in the appellate division of the supreme court in so far as it relates to the use of the flag in advertising devices and on trade labels. The case grew out of the sale of cigars in boxes bearing labels which included the national flag in the design.

Dewey's Naval Plans Approved.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Admiral Dewey's suggestions in favor of heavy fighting ships for the navy prevailed with the house committee on naval affairs, over the recommendation of the general board, submitted by Secretary Moody. The bill carries an aggregate appropriation of \$95,000,000. The ships authorized are one battleship, two armored cruisers, three scout cruisers and two squadron colliers.

Situation Reported as Hopeless.

London, Feb. 6.—The Tokio correspondent of the Times says the situation is regarded as hopeless. It is generally believed, he continues, that the councils of the elder statesmen held February 3 and 4 decided upon the final measures to be taken in the event of an unfavorable reply from Russia.

MARSHAL HACKETT REMOVED.

Officer of Central Indian Territory District and His Subordinates Charged with Incompetence and Drunkenness.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Acting upon recommendations of the attorney general, which were based upon an investigation of the charges against certain officials under the department of justice in the Indian territory, the president has removed from office Benjamin F. Hackett, United States marshal of the Central district of the territory, and his successor will be instructed not to retain as deputies Frank S. Genung, T. P. Hackett, J. E. Emmert, H. F. Donathan, W. W. Wall, T. D. Smith, John A. Hunt, H. K. Wall and J. T. Hackett, nor as jail physician Dr. M. C. Wilson. Marshal Colbert, of the Southern district, will be directed to dismiss Deputy Marshals George F. Gates and Oscar Wilkinson.

The investigation also resulted in the removal of J. C. C. Rogers, deputy marshal, and H. L. Rogers, a constable, of the Northern district. The charges against Mr. Hackett were incompetence and failure to punish his subordinates for misconduct, particularly in permitting the escape of a man named Short, indicted for manslaughter. The deputies, Genung, T. P. Hackett, J. P. Emmert, and the jail physician, Dr. Wilson, were the persons involved in this escape. The other deputies dismissed were guilty of drunkenness, permitting prisoners to escape and violating the law concerning the introduction of intoxicants into the territory.

TORNADO AT RENO, NEV.

Several Big Buildings Demolished by a Terrible Storm That Struck the City Early in the Morning.

Reno, Nev., Feb. 5.—A tornado struck east Reno at 6:45 a. m. It destroyed considerable property, cutting a swath through the town. The Stone building, a structure 70 feet long, 24 feet wide and 22 feet high, was torn from its foundations and the walls crushed together in an inextricable mass of broken timbers. The Wah-Hoo hotel was lifted from its foundation walls and carried to the eastward. It collapsed and is an utter ruin. Other structures were damaged. No one was injured.

Children Tried to Be Outlaws.

El Reno, Ok., Feb. 5.—James Rice and William Blackburn, aged 11 and 12 years, were arrested for many alleged robberies committed while enthused by reading wild literature. They have lived several weeks in a cave, where dynamite and loaded weapons were found by the officers. Numerous ponies were stolen from the Arapahoe Indians, and their last alleged act was to steal a team in broad daylight from the business portion of El Reno.

They Didn't Arrest Her.

Norfolk, Neb., Feb. 5.—Impersonating Carrie Nation, Mrs. J. Courtney visited a saloon at Bassett with a hammer and smashed all of the glass in the mirrors behind the bar, pounded the bottles into bits, rolled amber fluid and liquors out upon the floor, poured beer into the cuspidors and scared the little crowd of men who were standing up to drink until they trembled. Mrs. Courtney has not yet been arrested.

Bryan Gives Salem a Library.

Salem, Ill., Feb. 5.—While here Tuesday, William J. Bryan confirmed the report that he would erect and give to the city of Salem a library building of splendid size and pattern. The building is to cost \$25,000, and in addition Mr. Bryan will furnish it completely and install the library at a cost of fully \$15,000. Mr. Bryan said that this library building was to be erected in memory of his father and mother.

Adopted a Clever Ruse.

Altamont, Mo., Feb. 5.—Lee De Ford, cashier of the Bank of Altamont, which closed its doors here last week, was not captured in Council Bluffs, Ia., as was reported. De Ford fled Monday night after confessing that he was an embezzler to the amount of \$21,000. De Ford had the dispatch sent from Council Bluffs to throw his pursuers off the track.

Bursting Pipes Wrecked a Residence.

Guthrie, Ill., Feb. 5.—A fine residence was partially wrecked and the occupant, C. G. Brotherton, one of the leading citizens of Guthrie, was possibly fatally injured by a remarkable explosion of hot water pipes. It is presumed that the water in the pipes ran low and steam generating brought about the explosion.

Bullet-Proof Vest for Roosevelt.

South Bend, Ind., Feb. 5.—Casimer Ziegen, of this city, has just finished a bullet-proof vest for President Roosevelt. The vest is one-fourth of an inch thick. It is soft and flexible, and is designed to be worn under an outer vest.

A Campaign for Cockrell.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Senator Cockrell's presidential boom, according to telegrams received from St. Louis, is to be organized into a fight at a meeting in St. Louis this month.

He Stole Diamonds at Wichita.

Oklahoma City, Ok., Feb. 5.—Charles Julian, wanted at Wichita for the alleged theft of diamonds, has been arrested here.