

CZAR JOLLIES THE KAISER

CZAR OF RUSSIA MAKES BID FOR GERMAN FRIENDSHIP

Relations of Russia and Germany for Long Time Growing Closer—Matiny at Vladivostok Not Subdued

ST. PETERSBURG.—A new grouping of the powers of Europe, with Germany and Russia arrayed side by side in the closest friendship, and the mismatched alliance of the empire with republican France lagging in the rear was forecasted by the words of Emperor Nicholas at a gala luncheon at Tsarskoe Selo in honor of Emperor William's birthday.

Rising to his feet before a brilliant company of Russian and German representatives to propose to a toast to the German emperor, Emperor Nicholas lifted his glass and said slowly and distinctly, as if weighing every word: "I drink to the health of the emperor of Germany and the king of Prussia, my brother and my very dear friend."

The phrases chosen were significant enough in themselves, the emperor in previous years having proposed the health of the emperor-king without the qualifying expression brotherhood and friendship, but turning to Herr von Schoen, the German ambassador, who was standing at his right, the emperor grasped him by the hand and is reported to have said: "Frere, c'est plus que allie" (brother, that's more than ally.)

The stage of the momentous utterance was the great dining hall of the Alexander, or "little" palace at Tsarskoe-Selo, where the emperor has his winter residence. The empress and Grand Duke Michael were present at the luncheon, to which were invited, besides all the members of the German embassy, the staff, Court Minister Fredericks and many high dignitaries of the court, generals, admirals and all the Russian knights of the German order of the black eagle, while the presence of Count Witte, the premiers and Count Lamsdorff, the foreign minister, gave ministerial sanction to the significant utterance.

All were in full uniforms. The emperor and Grand Duke Michael wore the uniforms of the Prussian regiments where they are honorary commanders.

The emperor's choice of the word "ally" indicates that the defensive alliance with France is still considered binding, but undoubtedly, as has been the gossip in diplomatic circles here for some time, not a hair's breadth beyond the letter of the treaty providing for common action only in case France is not the aggressor, and there is no telling how soon it will be allowed to pass into desuetude.

The present relations between Germany and Russia have been a matter of slow but steady growth, and signs of the new alignment have long been in the air. Since the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war the warm personal friendship always existing between the two monarchs has been knit closer, and the many material tokens of friendship manifested by Germany during the war, compared with the lukewarm support to which was limited her new found entente with Great Britain, has builded up a strong Germanophile sentiment in influential St. Petersburg. At the same time much of the necessity to France of the Franco-Russian alliance vanished when France clasped hands with Great Britain and practically assured herself of an ally in case of war.

The present relations between Germany and Russia were also the text of an address, delivered by Ambassador von Schoen, before the German residents of St. Petersburg who assembled in honor of Emperor William's anniversary. He spoke with confidence of the amity existing between the two nations.

Among the callers at the German embassy to offer their congratulations on the emperor's birthday were Mr. Meyer, the American ambassador. Foreign Minister Lamsdorff also called in person.

Numerous arrests of editors of newspapers in the provinces continue. Several members of the staff of the Kishineff newspaper, Bessarabskaia Zehish, have been taken into custody.

On the bourse imperial fours rose to 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ and closed firm. The improvement in the market was due to the influx of gold, the increased discount rate bringing millions from abroad.

TOLD THE TRUTH

NORMAN HAPGOOD NOT GUILTY OF CRIMINAL LIBEL

Jury Prompt To Acquit Him

SCORING GIVEN TOWN TOPICS DECLARED JUSTIFIED.

Congratulated by District Attorney Jerome on Outcome of Trial Colonel Mann to Begin a Civil Suit.

NEW YORK.—An unusually sensational trial came to an end when a jury in the criminal branch of the supreme court reported that Norman Hapgood, editor of Collier's Weekly, was not guilty of criminal libel. The case had been on trial several weeks. The verdict was rendered ten minutes after the case had been given to the jury. The charge against Mr. Hapgood was brought at the instance of Justice Joseph M. Deul, of the court of special sessions and was based upon an editorial in which the editor criticised Justice Deul for his connection with Town Topics.

The real interest in the case was due to the fact that the names of scores of persons of the highest social and financial standing became involved through the efforts of the defense to prove that the statement contained in the alleged libel were correct and therefore justified.

To attain this end some of the inner workings of Town Topics, a weekly publication which circulates extensively in social circles, were laid bare. I was in this connection and through testimony concerning a limited edition book which bore the title "Fads and Fancies," that the names of prominent persons became involved.

"Fads and Fancies" was sold to subscribers at \$1,500 or more per copy. Among the witnesses who testified at the trial were Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry, Oliver H. P. Belmont, Harry S. Lehr, Bernard N. Baker of Baltimore, Colonel Mann, Justice Deul and Robert J. Collier. Colonel Mann editor of Town Topics, who was present when the verdict was announced, said that he had nothing to say regarding the verdict, but that he had brought a civil suit against Collier's.

As Mr. Hapgood left the room District Attorney Jerome, who conducted the case against him, slapped him on the shoulder, saying:

"My dear old man, I'm very much pleased that it turned out as it did."

They left the court room together. "I will not attempt to disguise from you the utter loathing and contempt I feel for some of the witnesses whom I myself have introduced," declared District Attorney Jerome to the jury in this argument for the prosecution in the action for criminal libel brought against Norman Hapgood, editor of Collier's Weekly, an complaint of Justice Joseph M. Deul of the court of special sessions.

"For more than two weeks we have been wandering through Vanity Fair," said Mr. Jerome, "witnessing exhibitions of human weaknesses and folly, and in some instances of human degradation."

Continuing Mr. Jerome said:

"It may be that I ought not to be here prosecuting one of the best friends I've got, for a crime which, in my private judgment, I believe he ought to have done, and which I might have done in his place with more heat and more vim than he displayed. The law not to restrict the liberty of the press has provided that if the published article be true, and published with justifiable ends, it is a defense. On the ground of excuse the prosecution concedes that this publication was honestly made in a belief that it was true. If you find that the article was true you have got to acquit."

"Now, let us see the character of this paper (referring to Town Topics). Mr. Shepard has told you that Colonel Mann has stated that it was the natural revolution of personal journalism. If that is true, it ought to be applicable to more than one daily paper in New York whose trend is that way. There is scarcely a paper that does not print vile scandals and obscene matter. I don't see what interest it conserves to publish such stuff. I don't see what interest articles relating to the adultery of this or that person have for you and me.

TWO DEAD IN A FIGHT

NEW YORK'S CHINATOWN SCENE OF DEADLY FIGHT

Many Others Injured in New Year's Celebration of Rival Societies—Recalls Former Fight.

NEW YORK.—A score of Chinamen engaged in a revolver battle in the streets of Chinatown which resulted in the death of two Chinamen, Ching Yong and Lee Soon, the mortal wounding of a third and the serious injury of a fourth of the combatants. The battle was between members of the two rival Chinese societies, the Hip Sings and the On Leong. Chinatown was full of visitors at the time, who were witnessing the celebration of the Chinese new year. The fight began in Pell street, under cover of the racket of firecrackers set off intentionally by members of the rival societies. Many spectators attracted to the scene by the firecrackers were in danger from bullets, which flattened themselves against the brick walls or broke the windows for nearly a block up and down Pell street. The police rushed among the fighting Chinese, snatching still smoking revolvers from their hands or knocking them down.

Chinese non-combatants and some spectators lay flat on the pavement to escape the bullets.

When the battle ended four Chinamen lay dead or unconscious in the street, eight revolvers were scattered about and seven Chinamen were prisoners in the arms of the police.

Members of the On Leong society under arrest said that they were going through Chinatown wishing a "happy new year" to friends when a body of the Hip Sings attacked them.

Last summer these two societies fought with revolvers in the Chinese theater here, when several were shot.

Revolutionists Mark Time

ST. PETERSBURG.—An important conference of the revolutionary organizations was concluded in Finland, after several sessions lasting for two days. The conference decided to postpone all further revolutionary operations until March, when it was hoped by the delegates, the agrarian troubles would commence. There were ninety delegates in the conference representing the central committees of the social democratic revolutionists, the peasant league, the council of workmen, the Polish socialists and the Finnish revolutionists.

The collapse of the December uprisings disheartened all except the Poles who wished to make another attempt at the end of the month but this desire was negated. All the parties were expected to "lie low" until the peasant movement furnished a new opportunity. The delegates of the peasant league promised to have the armies of peasants knocking at the gates of the cities to join hands with their brothers within. It was decided that active operations would be continued only in the Baltic provinces.

The Finnish organizations were entrusted with the securing of a new supply of arms to replace those captured by the government. These arms it was planned, would be smuggled across the Finnish border.

France Means Business

PARIS.—Ministerial circles here are annoyed over the published reports relative to France's alleged hesitation and nervousness regarding the Venezuelan question. A highly placed official of the foreign office protested energetically against the statements made on the subject, saying:

"France has always been and still is determined to obtain the fullest satisfaction for past and present affronts from Venezuela. She, however, will select her own time for action and will not stir up the wasps nest, to which Castro has shown the way, until her general policy leaves her free to do so. France will not act at any one's bidding. She will choose her own hour and moment and then act as becomes her with absolute resolve to have her rights respected."

To a question whether a blockade had been ordered a direct negative was given.

A dispatch from L'Orient says the orders have been given to the arena there to dispatch large quantities of ammunition to Fort de France Island of Martinique for the Atlantic division of the French fleet now cruising on Venezuelan waters.

BAKER EXPLAINS

WHY HE INSERTED ADVERTISEMENTS IN TOWN TOPICS.

QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY

Colonel Mann Made Known Relation Existing Between the Paper and Fads and Fancies

NEW YORK.—Bernard N. Baker of Baltimore was the first witness to testify in the trial of Norman Hapgood, editor of Collier's Weekly, on a charge of having criminally libeled Justice Joseph M. Deul. Mr. Baker said he was president of the Baltimore Trust company and was president of the Atlantic Transport company for 1880 to 1900.

Mr. Shepard of counsel for the defense showed to Mr. Baker two copies of Town Topics of December 15, 1898, called his attention to the item under the head of "saunterings" and asked if they referred to Mr. Baker's family. Mr. Baker said they did.

Mr. Shepard then read them to the jury. They referred to the "blossoming forth" of Mr. Baker's family into Baltimore society. After reading the item Mr. Baker said he visited Colonel Mann, editor of Town Topics in his office. He had no acquaintance with Colonel Mann but introduced himself.

Continuing Mr. Baker said:

"I saw Colonel Mann. We talked over these objectionable articles appearing in Town Topics and I said I wanted them stopped. He told me that it was only the best people who were mentioned in Town Topics. He said that other steamship lines had advertisements in Town Topics and that my company ought to secure one. He said that all steamship men were after something and that I might want something which Town Topics could help me get. He said there ought to be reciprocity. I told him that if he wanted our advertisement he ought to say so.

"He said 'Town Topics was friends as well as enemies.'"

Colonel Mann showed him the advertisements of the American line of steamers, and told him that of the Atlantic Transport company should be of equal size, said Mr. Baker.

He then authorized the insertion of the advertisement. The witness identified it in an issue of Town Topics of January 26.

"Did those articles referring to you and your family cease after the insertion of the advertisement?" asked Mr. Shepard.

"I think so," said Mr. Baker.

The witness said the advertisement continued to be published in Town Topics for about a year.

Three years later, in 1901, items concerning his family again appeared in Town Topics, said Mr. Baker, and he consulted counsel about stopping them. After that, the witness said, Moses E. Wooster the agent, visited him and asked him to subscribe to Fads and Fancies. "I was surprised that Town Topics should ask me to subscribe said Mr. Baker. "He told me the subscription price was \$1,500. Afterwards he called again, showed me copies of Town Topics and told me the paper saying pleasant things and that if I would consult Colonel Mann I could find out what I wanted."

Mr. Baker said that on the second visit Mr. Wooster showed him clippings from Town Topics and again urged him to subscribe to Fads and Fancies, but he did not do so. After that the witness said more items about Mr. Baker and his family appeared in Town Topics and Mr. Baker went again to see Colonel Mann.

"He informed me that there had been a definite change in the running of Town Topics and that it was to be run on a higher plane, because he was associated with better people," said Mr. Baker.

"I told him I wanted to be let alone and he promised that I would not be troubled again. He again asked me to subscribe for Fads and Fancies and said that he was going to send a solicitor to see me. Irving afterwards called on me with a letter from Colonel Mann."

Irving told him in substance the witness said, "that Colonel Mann would be 'extremely sore' and that the friendship of Town Topics was worth having." Mr. Baker refused again to subscribe to Fads and Fancies.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Some of the most influential citizens of Beatrice are considering the proposition of boring for gas in the near future.

Ogallala is figuring on a water-works system. The Commercial club has appointed a committee to investigate the matter and decide on a plan for the system.

William Eifert of Colorado Springs Colo., is at McCook searching for his brother Milton Eifert, who disappeared and of whom so far no trace has been found.

C. J. Click has been fatally hurt in runaway at Filley. Just as he was driving out of a livery barn his horse ran away. Click was thrown out, the fall causing internal hemorrhages.

Dell Thompson of Carlo has sold his stock of general merchandise to Fred Goodrich and will retire from the merchandise business after being connected with it since the town of Carlo was started.

Morgan Carpenter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ren Carpenter of Fremont, died after an illness with appendicitis. He was seized with internal hemorrhages after undergoing an operation.

J. L. Dudek, a painter, was found frozen to death on the road two miles north of Springfield. The painter had gone from Greta to Springfield. His family resides near Clarkson, Neb.

A small child of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Cornelia, living near Wood River swallowed a pin which lodged in the little one's windpipe. A surgical operation was necessary to remove it. The child is recovering.

Miss Nellie Snead, of Neligh, has been secured by the school board to teach the second intermediate in the schools at Oakland, filling the vacancy made by the promotion of Misses Nettie Nelson and Donee Griffith.

A new bank has been chartered to do business in Big Springs. The Farmers' bank will have a capital of \$5,000. The officers of the institution are: E. T. Clayton, president; H. J. Babcock, vice president; E. C. Wolfe, cashier.

Two ranches near Kimball and about twenty head of stock were destroyed and twelve other ranches damaged by the prairie fire which swept over forty miles of prairie, before being extinguished. Losses will aggregate \$75,000.

Mrs. Charles Abbott's 17-month old son, living west of Plattsmouth, in some mysterious manner had his clothes catch fire and before the mother could get downstairs to the child his right hand, arm, chest and face were so badly burned that death only relieved its sufferings.

The S. A. Foster Lumber company of Wood River, who operated a cement stone making machine last season and had orders for their entire product, are planning on installing a machine for the making of cement brick. The latter it is said, are much better than the clay brick and just as cheap.

Mrs. Frank Hodapp, a widow living a few miles south of Humboldt fell through an open trap door in her kitchen a few days ago and suffered some severe bruises, but no broken bones, although the distance was nine feet. The victim of the accident is quite fleshy and well along in years and her escape from serious injury is almost miraculous.

A daring piece of work was the theft of sixteen head of fat hogs from the yards of August Schultz, a well known farmer living a few miles north of Humboldt. No trace has been discovered of the midnight thief, although the porkers weighed about 250 pounds each and amounted to a fine shipment.

The winter weather does not seem to put a stop to the land seekers who are going into the Wood River section from all parts of the state. Land values are raising, but there are a number of good farms on the market very reasonable. A farm sold recently for \$75 per acre, but it was well improved. This same land, unimproved, can be bought for \$30 to \$50 per acre.

Lincoln was highly honored by a visit from the imperial Chinese Commission which is on a tour of the United States seeking information relative to commercial educational and governmental customs in vogue in this country. Lincoln was the only city visited between San Francisco and Chicago. The Chinese officials were exceedingly interested in the agricultural displays and methods of the state farm.