

DROPS OUT

One of the Appointed Peace Plenipotentiaries Sends in His Resignation.

ST. PETERSBURG—M. Muraviev has resigned his position as chief peace plenipotentiary.

It may be regarded as practically certain that he will be replaced by M. Witte, president of the committee of ministers, who all along has been considered the Russian statesman pre-eminently qualified to undertake the difficult task of negotiating peace with Japan.

Though the emperor on two previous occasions has flatly declined to accept M. Witte, he has now indicated his readiness to make the appointment. The commission, however, will not be actually signed until Foreign Minister Lamsdorf, who throughout the war has been M. Witte's warm supporter, has had an audience of the emperor. To that extent only the matter may be regarded as unsettled, nothing being certain in Russia, as a prominent diplomat remarked recently, until the emperor's signature has been affixed. M. Witte's selection undoubtedly will be hailed as a practical assurance of peace. While it would be a mistake to denigrate him as a "peace at any price" man, M. Witte earnestly believes that the struggle should be ended and should be succeeded by an understanding between Russia and Japan which would insure peace in the far east for half a century. Indeed, he is personally believed to be in favor of a Russo-Japanese alliance.

The conduct of negotiations by M. Witte, it is felt by the peace parties here, would inspire instant confidence in Japan.

The only handicap under which M. Witte labors is his lack of familiarity with the English language, as the only foreign languages he speaks are German and French.

WORRALL CLAIMS COLLUSION.

Says Railroads and Grain Dealers' Association Work Together.

OMAHA—Before Notary Charles G. Bearall, Thomas D. Worrall, president of the Worrall Grain company, told of the efforts of the Nebraska Grain Dealers association to squeeze his company out of the grain business in Nebraska. Mr. Worrall's testimony is taken at the request of the opposing counsel in his suit for \$128,000 damages.

The witness insisted on all the questions put to him being written out in plain sight on a typewriter before he would answer them.

An interesting portion of the testimony concerned the possession by the secretary of the Nebraska grain dealers' association of full information about a car of grain loaded by a farmer and consigned to the Worrall company before the car was anywhere near Omaha. The secretary came to Worrall and tried to induce him not to handle the particular car of grain. The plaintiff's counsel will try to show that the information was transmitted by a railroad company, thus showing collusion with the so-called grain trust.

HAVE GOOD BACKING.

Russian Embassy Said to Be With War Party.

ST. PETERSBURG—The Associated Press has high warrant for the statement that M. Witt, president of the committee of ministers, was strongly urged on the emperor for head of the peace commission. Even Foreign Minister Lamsdorf is said to have joined in recommending his election. The emperor, however, flatly declined to appoint him, and after M. Nelidoff, ambassador at Paris, pleaded illness, his majesty personally chose M. Muraviev, the ambassador at Rome. Two of the five plenipotentiaries to the plenipotentiaries, though M. Pokotiloff, minister to China, and M. Shipoff, director of the imperial treasury and former president of the zemstvos, are distinctly Witte men.

SUGAR DROPS 20 PER CENT.

Heavy Crop in Europe. Due in August, Causes Decline.

San Francisco, Cal.—A reduction of 20 per cent in all grades of sugar has been announced. The cut is attributed to the weakness of the raw sugar market, the price of that article having recently dropped 1 1/2 cents per pound.

The decline in raw sugar has been in a measure caused by the excellent prospects in Europe for a large increase in the beet sugar output and the crop, which forms a little more than one-half of the world's output, will come into the market in August.

Shorts and Stevens Busy.

WASHINGTON—Chairman Shorts of the Panama Canal commission, and Mr. Stevens, the newly appointed chief engineer, are in Washington. Both expect to leave for Oyster Bay Friday. They will leave for Panama July 18, and Mr. Stevens' family will follow him in the fall. Mr. Stevens is now considering the question of filling the vacancies in the engineering corps and will familiarize himself with the available matter here before he inspects the forces at Panama. No plans will be made till he reaches the isthmus.

DEPEW EXPLAINS

What He Says of Loan Made By Equitable.

New York.—Senator Chauncey M. Depew has made a statement to the Paris correspondent of the New York Tribune regarding the loan of \$250,000 made by the Equitable society to the Depew Land Improvement company on property alleged to have been worth only \$150,000, in which he says that he never had advocated or recommended any such transactions, because he was a director of the Equitable.

Senator Depew further says: "That loan never could have been made unless the official appraisers of the Equitable had reported after examination that \$250,000 was only 60 per cent of the property's value, such being the rule of the society, and that on such a report the officers of the company had unanimously approved it."

"The Depew Land Improvement company was organized and in operation some five years before it was induced to become a stockholder. It then had about 3,000 inhabitants, and many thriving industries, including the New York Central shops, and connection with several trunk lines. The company appointed a general manager who built houses, a hotel, opened streets, extended the water and sewer systems and incurred great liabilities in improvements. A few of the larger stockholders formed a plan to pay off all liabilities and provide working capacity, but the stockholders were so numerous, a large number living abroad that co-operation could not be secured, and went into the hands of a receiver five years after the Equitable loan. Appraisals of the property has been made by the officers and independent persons, the lowest valuation being \$200,000 over and above all liabilities. If the Equitable and other creditors join and take the property out of the hands of the receiver, and put on a going basis, there is no possibility of loss. On the contrary in the judgment of those best acquainted with the property there is a certainty of profit."

"A few days before I sailed from New York I placed my resignation as counsel in the hands of Chairman Morton, and I am very glad that he accepted it. I had passed my 71st birthday, and I had made up my mind before I reached 72 to secure something of that rest and freedom from incessant work that has been denied me year after year."

GOODS MUST GO BACK.

Europe Flooding This Country With Impure Goods.

NEW YORK—Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture has sent out an order and circular letter in regard to a large amount of adulterated foodstuffs imported since the pure food law went into effect and which have been held up because the chemistry department found that all kinds of adulteration had been practiced. Secretary Wilson in this order modifies a former one in which he declared that the goods must be sent back to Europe. The secretary's order which arrived in New York custom house provides that goods already imported shall not be sent back but may be sold in this country. He orders, however, that cans of peas colored with sulphate of copper shall be distinctly labeled so as to show this fact, various strawberry jams shall bear the label reading "artificially colored," and some canned mushrooms must be sold as "stems and scraps."

THE COMING PEACE MEETING.

Portsmouth, N. H., Definitely Decided Upon as the Place.

WASHINGTON—Assistant Secretary Pierce announced that the plenipotentiaries of Russia and Japan had agreed upon Portsmouth, N. H., as the meeting place for the sessions of the peace conference to be held outside of Washington. The sessions will be held in the government navy yard at Portsmouth in the new building just completed there.

Third Assistant Secretary of State Pierce has been specially commissioned by the president to make all arrangements for the meeting of the plenipotentiaries at Portsmouth and is preparing to leave for that place to confer with the commandant of the navy yard. The meeting will be held in the general store house.

HAS A FEW MILLIONS LEFT.

But Tom Lawson Says He Is Going to Give It Back.

MINNEAPOLIS—Thomas W. Lawson, the hero of "Frenzied finance," was the guest of the Minneapolis Commercial Club and spoke to 300 members of the club after luncheon. "I'm not afraid of personal violence. I came out here unguarded. I have several millions myself and I wronged the American people by getting it. But I did not know it at the time. When the time comes I will give that money back to them."

Morton Cuts All Salaries.

NEW YORK—Sweeping reductions in the salaries of various officials and employees of the Equitable society were announced Thursday by Chairman Morton. The decreases will amount to 20 per cent on all salaries \$15,000 per annum; 15 per cent on all annual salaries between \$9,000 and \$15,000, both inclusive, and 10 per cent decrease from all salaries above \$2,000 and below \$9,000 per year. These changes become operative on August 1 next and effect a saving of from \$150,000 to \$200,000 a year.

BLACKMAR

Head of Grand Army Suddenly Passes Away at Boise, Idaho

BOISE, Idaho—General W. W. Blackmar, commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, died Sunday of nephritis.

His wife was with him during his illness. The body will be embalmed and taken to the home of the family at Boston. The general arrived here on July 10 on a tour, during which he intended to visit grand army posts throughout the northwest. He was ill when he arrived and gradually failed. The seriousness of his condition was kept from the public at the request of his wife.

General Blackmar was born July 25, 1841, at Bristol, Pa. He enlisted in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania cavalry and subsequently joined the First West Virginia. He served with distinction throughout the war and at Five Forks was promoted on the field by General Custer to the rank of captain. Throughout three administrations, those of Governors Long, Talbot and Rice, he was judge advocate general of Massachusetts. At the last national encampment of the Grand Army he was elected commander-in-chief.

BOSTON.—Except to two or three officials of the Grand Army the news of the death of Chief Blackmar was received with great surprise in this city. The home of General Blackmar was in this city and since his elevation to the position of commander-in-chief, the headquarters of the organization have been here. General Blackmar is succeeded by John R. King of Washington, senior vice commander.

Two weeks ago the commander-in-chief broke down and was ordered to his bed in his summer home at Hingham by his physicians. At the time his indisposition, however, was regarded as slight. On July 7 General Blackmar's condition had apparently improved and it was decided to permit him to continue his visits to western departments, which he had begun early in the year.

Assistant Adjutant General E. B. Stillings, commander of Kinsey post No. 113 of this city of which General Blackmar was a member, will leave Boston tomorrow for the west. He will assist Mrs. Blackmar in arranging the funeral, which will probably be held in this city.

HINGHAM, Mass.—The news of the death of General Blackmar was entirely unexpected by the residents of Hingham, where General Blackmar lived during the summer months.

JAPS WILL CLAIM SAKHALIN.

Will Want Its Formal Cession as Part of Peace Articles.

ST. PETERSBURG—Prices rose on the Bourse upon the improvement in Russian securities abroad, due to M. Witte's appointment as chief peace plenipotentiary.

According to information received here Japan intends to claim the island of Sakhalin by right of conquest and its formal cession will be one of her unalterable demands.

The government has issued another \$5,000,000 in paper roubles, the whole outstanding paper obligations being \$495,000,000 against \$547,000,000 in gold.

COUNTING ON A RATE WAR.

Western Passenger Association Expecting It.

DULUTH, Minn.—The Western Passenger association ended its convention here and adjourned to meet in Chicago the second Tuesday in September. Much of the time at the session was taken up by a discussion of the differential rates, but no conclusive action in regard to them was taken, owing to the fact that three roads of the association—the Missouri Pacific, the Wabash and the Chicago & Alton—were not represented at the meeting. The general opinion is that there is to be a rate war between the Chicago-New York roads.

WILL BE AN IDEAL PLACE.

Portsmouth Possesses All the Advantages of a Summer Resort.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—Rear Admiral Meade, who is in command of the navy yard, said that having had no intimation that the peace conference would be held at the navy yard, he could not at this time tell what arrangements would be made for their accommodation.

The new general store building just completed is the largest and most imposing of any in the yard, being four stories in height and of ample dimensions. It is of brick and brown stone and at present is not occupied.

New Head of Admiralty.

LONDON—A dispatch to a news agency from St. Petersburg today announces that Vice Admiral Birleff has been appointed head of the Russian admiralty in succession to Admiral Avellan, who resigned.

Opposes the Boycott.

WASHINGTON—Mr. Rockhill, the American minister at Peking, has called the State department that the Chinese government is vigorously opposing the threatened boycotting of American goods.

PREFECT IS KILLED.

General Count Shouvaloff Assassinated While Receiving Petitions.

MOSCOW—Major General Count Shouvaloff, prefect of police here, and formerly attached to the ministry of the interior, was assassinated while receiving petitions. One of the petitioners drew a revolver and fired five times at the prefect, who fell dead. The assassin was arrested.

The assassin who was dressed as a peasant, has not yet been identified. He was recently arrested as a political suspect, but escaped from the police station before his examination.

The assassin waited in the anteroom of the prefecture and, entering the audience room, he advanced toward Count Shouvaloff, firing five shots at close range. The bullets passed through the body of the prefect.

WHEAT CROP PHENOMENAL.

Harvest in Red Willow Will Exceed the Record.

INDIANOLA, Neb.—A grain harvest greater than the big crops of 1891 and 1892 is now being gathered in this country. Binders are running day and night and Sunday. Hundreds of acres are lying in bundles unshocked for want of hands. Good shockers are getting fifty cents per acre. Two hundred to three hundred hands could get good wages in this county alone. It is estimated a great many fields of barley will yield 60 to 75 bushels per acre; wheat and rye 30 to 50 bushels per acre. Three hundred and four hundred-acre fields are a common sight. Corn and other crops are immense.

PEACE COMMISSION ITINERARY.

Will Go to Duluth From Seattle and Thence to Buffalo.

ST. PAUL, Minn.—President J. J. Hill of the Northern Pacific railroad is personally arranging the itinerary of the Japanese peace plenipotentiaries in their journey from Seattle to Washington. The party, which is headed by Baron Komura, will arrive at Seattle on the steamer Minnesota July 20. They will travel eastward over the Great Northern to Duluth, where they will embark on the steamer Northwest for Buffalo via the Great Lakes. At Buffalo the party will be taken by the Pennsylvania railroad to Washington, arriving there early in August.

SEARCHING FOR A DAUGHTER.

Nebraska School Superintendent at Chicago.

CHICAGO—A. G. Smith, superintendent of the Central City, Neb., schools, and Mrs. Smith have come to Chicago and taken apartments at the Saratoga hotel to search for their missing daughter. Heartbroken, the parents declare that they will not return to Nebraska until some trace of their daughter is found.

"Florence was such a good girl," said Mr. Smith. "I cannot understand why she left the young woman's school—the Deaconess seminary for girls, at Aurora—to come to Chicago. We were educating her there. The last we heard of her was that she started out to earn her own living as a nurse."

Advance in Window Glass.

CHICAGO—At a meeting of the western window glass jobbers here the retail price of window glass was advanced 10 per cent. The raise takes effect at once.

PEARY NOW READY TO SAIL.

Ship Finally Finished and Funds to Carry Him Through.

NEW YORK—With \$35,000 subscribed toward his expedition to reach the north pole, Robert E. Peary announces that he will sail this week for the north. Commander Peary's new Arctic ship, the Roosevelt, has been waiting several days for supplies which could not be bought on account of the lack of funds.

The polar expedition which has been in preparation since October 15, 1904, has cost \$150,000, including today's subscription. The entire amount has been donated by American business men to the Peary Arctic club, whose members are anxious that none but Americans have any hand in this polar expedition.

MUST DIE BY HIS OWN HAND.

Fate of German Officer Who Drew Black Ball.

MARINETTE, Wis.—That he drew the black ball in a duel by lots with a German army officer and that he will be found dead as a result, is the substance of a letter just received by a friend of Victor Van Taske of this city who disappeared July 4. Von Taske, who is a young man, was a bookkeeper. According to the letter his death would result from a dispute of several years ago when he was a German army officer. A duel was proposed and it was agreed that they draw lots as to who should make away with himself. Von Taske drew the black ball which meant his death by his own hand.

Want Saturday Half Holiday.

WASHINGTON—Four hundred mechanics of the government navy yard met here and appointed a committee of two to confer with the president at Oyster Bay looking to securing from him an order allowing the navy yard employes Saturday half holidays during the summer, as in the case of employes in the executive departments. A telegram was sent the president asking when he will see them. President Gompers and Vice President Duncan will accompany the delegates.

GET LAND

Uncle Sam Has a Big Slice That He Will Open to Settlement.

WASHINGTON—Uncle Sam will soon open to public settlement nearly 1,000,000 acres of the unallotted lands on the Uintah Indian reservation located in Utah. The president's proclamation opening the land will be issued about the end of the present month. The same plan of entry will be followed as in the opening of the Rosebud agency, by registration and drawing.

An act passed by the last session of congress provides that these unallotted lands, excepting such tracts as may have been set aside as national forest reserves and such mineral lands as were disposed of by the act of congress of May 27, 1902, shall be entered under the general provisions of the homestead and townsite laws; each entry is not to exceed 160 acres in area. The law provides further that all lands opened to settlement and entry under this act remaining undisposed of at the expiration of five years shall be sold for cash under terms prescribed by the secretary of the interior, not more than 640 acres to any person.

The vast tract to be opened to settlement in this reservation is mainly mountainous country and is generally believed to be comparatively poor. Its value is said to have no comparison to the land opened and settled upon in the Rosebud Indian country. There are some sections of the country, however, that are covered with rich granite deposits.

The date of the opening and the places to be designated where the drawing will take place probably will not be announced before the president issues his proclamation which is expected to be made public some time between August 1 and September 1. In order to obtain registration each applicant will be required to show himself duly qualified to make homestead entry on the lands under existing laws and give the registering officer such appropriate matters of description and identity as will protect the applicant and the government against any attempted imposition.

Registration cannot be effected through the use of the mails or the employment of an agent, excepting that of honorably discharged soldiers and sailors entitled to the benefits of section 3204 of the Revised Statutes of the United States, as amended by an act of congress, approved March 1, 1901. The drawings will be held under the supervision and immediate observance of a committee of three persons whose integrity is such as to make their control of the drawings a guarantee of its fairness.

At each land office, commencing on the day to be named by the president in his proclamation, the applications of those drawing Nos. 1 to 125, inclusive, for that land district must be presented and will be considered in their numerical order during the first day, and the applications of those drawing Nos. 125 to 250, inclusive, must be presented, and will be considered in their numerical order during the second day, and so on at that rate until all of the lands subject to entry under the homestead laws have been entered.

WITTE SEES THE EMPEROR.

Is Given Instructions and Information About Peace Matters.

ST. PETERSBURG—M. Witte had a prolonged audience with the emperor at Peterhof, at which the whole subject of the peace negotiations was gone over in detail. The difficulties of the situation were freely discussed and indications were given that his majesty is more apt personally to govern M. Witte's course than the formal instructions which have been given him.

M. Witte will leave St. Petersburg next Wednesday for Paris, sailing as previously announced, from Cherbourg July 26, on the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse. M. Witte will accompany her husband as far as Paris, where she will remain for the present, though she may possibly join M. Witte later in the United States.

Brings Suit for Damages.

NEW YORK—Denying that the wreck of its fast passenger train near Harrisburg, Pa., on May 11 last, was caused by dynamite or due to negligence of employes, the Pennsylvania Railroad company filed answer to a suit recently brought by Clarence F. Opper, who asked \$50,000 damages for injuries received in that wreck. Mr. Opper stated that he was compelled to walk a long distance in his bare feet and that his hearing was practically destroyed by the explosion.

Granite Boys Will Entertain.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H.—The state of New Hampshire desires to participate in entertaining the Russian and Japanese peace envoys who are to hold their conferences in this city next month. Edward N. Pearson, secretary of state, will come from Concord Saturday evening to confer with Assistant Secretary of State Pierce regarding arrangements for the accommodation of the envoys and to tender the assistance of the state. It is expected that Mr. Pierce will come to Portsmouth Saturday or Sunday.

JEROME TURNED DOWN AGAIN.

Second Attempt to Secure State's Report on Equitable Results.

NEW YORK—For a second time within twenty-four hours District Attorney Jerome made an unsuccessful attempt to procure from the New York office of the state superintendent of insurance an official copy of the superintendent's report on his investigation of the affairs of the Equitable Life Assurance society. The report has been made public at Albany last night. Mr. Jerome's personal representative, Assistant District Attorney Garvan, went to the office of Deputy Insurance Commissioner Hunter today bearing a long letter from the district attorney, together with a formal demand for an official copy of the document. Mr. Garvan and Mr. Hunter were closeted for more than half an hour, and when the assistant attorney emerged from the office he was empty-handed. He admitted that he did not get the desired document, but refused to discuss what took place at the conference. District Attorney Jerome said he would inform the government of the failure of the insurance department here to turn the Equitable testimony over to the district attorney's office promised.

SHORT LINES TO BE BUILT.

Some Union Pacific Extensions in Nebraska.

CHICAGO—Julius Kruttschnitt, director of maintenance and operation of the Harriman system, says:

"The Union Pacific and Southern Pacific roads will build a number of short lines from points where they seem feasible and paying. We are engaged in surveying and looking over a number of proposed extensions in the west, but have definitely decided on very few as yet."

The Union Pacific may use the Burlington stub from Hastings to Kearney, Neb., in connection with the new line from Kansas City which is being built. However, that point is not settled and the Union Pacific may use the tracks of the St. Joseph & Grand Island from Hastings to Grand Island to connect with the main line instead of using the Burlington to Kearney.

FRANCE GIVES HER CONSENT.

Will Participate in Conference on Morocco Affairs.

PARIS—Premier Rouvier and Prince von Radolin, the German ambassador, reached an agreement relative to the communications to be exchanged between France and Germany regarding Morocco. France consents to participate in a conference, having been assured in the course of the negotiations that her interests will be safeguarded. The official notes on the subject will be communicated to the chamber of deputies probably on Monday.

Information obtained in diplomatic quarters shows that it has practically been settled that the conference will be held at Tangier.

STRONGEST MAN THEY HAVE.

Czar Formally Appoints M. Witte Peace Plenipotentiary.

ST. PETERSBURG—Emperor Nicholas has assigned the appointment of M. Witte, president of the committee of ministers, to be chief plenipotentiary representing the Russian government in the peace negotiations to be conducted next month in the United States. The appointment which was signed after midnight, clothes M. Witte with plenary powers.

Official notification of the designation of M. Witte to head the mission was forwarded to Washington this morning. M. Witte will take passage on the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse which sails from Cherbourg July 26.

Rebates to Grain Dealers.

WASHINGTON—The inter-state commerce commission proposes to conduct an investigation in St. Louis, beginning July 22, into the question of alleged allowances made by railroads to companies or persons owning grain elevators or by such companies or persons owning elevators to shippers of grain.

WELCOMES THE INNOVATION.

Premier Balfour Says He Favors President's Suggestion.

LONDON—In the house of commons Mr. Robertson asked Premier Balfour whether there had been any further international conference proposed by President Roosevelt, and whether the government was prepared to agree to the president's proposal to include in the subjects for discussion the question of making private property not contraband of war free from capture or destruction. Mr. Balfour replied that the government cordially welcomed the proposal of President Roosevelt, but Great Britain, in common with other nations, reserved the right of considering what should be submitted to the conference.

GEN. STOESSL UNDER ARREST.

Held Because of Result of Investigation of Port Arthur Fight.

ST. PETERSBURG—The Nashashim prints a report that Lieutenant General Stoessel has been placed under arrest at Tarskoe Selo in consequence of the revelations made by the commission which has been investigating the defense and capitulation of Port Arthur and that the sword of honor donated by a number of French admirals of General Stoessel will not be presented.