

EASTERN WAR SCENE CHANGES

Reported There May Be Conflict Between Russian and Chinese Troops.

ARE SENDING ARMY NORTH

Japanese Have Landed a Force on Korean Coast—Russians Said to Be Crossing the Yalu River into Chinese Country.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 26.—Reports of an alarming nature of the situation there continue to pour out of the far east. These include the statements that the Japanese are landing an armed force at Masampo, Korea, but that 3,000 Russian troops are crossing the Yalu river.

The reported dispatch of a Chinese army of soldiers trained by European officers beyond the great wall to preserve order in Manchuria can not be confirmed here, and the reports of the Japanese at Masampo and Russians at Yalu are discredited at the foreign office here by M. Kurino, the Japanese minister to Russia.

M. Hartwig, a departmental chief of the Russian foreign office, yesterday spoke feelingly to M. Kurino regarding the harm being done by exaggerated and often utterly baseless reports. M. Kurino is in no way anxious because of the delay in Russia's response to the latest Japanese note and says that Japan is not pressing for an immediate reply.

"Russia will be given all the time she needs," the minister is quoted as saying.

The statement published by the Novoe Vremya that while Russia desires peace she can not surrender all, coincides with the distinct impression gathered by the correspondent of the Associated Press from the foreign office that Russia will continue to maintain that the question of the sovereignty of Manchuria is solely a matter between Russia and China.

May Mean War with China.

The Svjet and the St. Petersburg Listoe have raised an outcry over the reported sending of Chinese troops to Manchuria, and the latter newspaper declared that it is true that these troops go with the purpose of threatening the railroad between Port Arthur and Vladivostok, it means war with China, and not with Japan.

In an interview the Chinese minister to Russia is quoted as saying:

"The talk of China going to war with anyone is absurd. We have no intention of fighting. If Chinese troops are being sent north it is solely for the purpose of inspiring confidence in our own people, who are alarmed and who would become panic-stricken in the event of hostilities between Russia and Japan. Personally I have no knowledge of this reported movement, but the fact of it would not necessarily be communicated to me."

The Russ has attacked the Novoe Vremya for what it terms its "colossal stupid mistake about the destination of the American Asiatic squadron, the Novoe Vremya having said the American warships were going to Nongampo, when actually their destination was the Philippines, and also for presaging American intervention in the far east."

Japan to Issue a Huge Loan.

London, Jan. 25.—No news from the far east was received at the Japanese legation here yesterday.

Special dispatches from Tokio published here report that the Japanese minister of finance has had a conference with the leading Japanese bankers and has decided to issue a loan of 100,000,000 yen.

The Japanese newspapers assert that at the new year reception the czar reminded Minister Kurino that the Japanese ought to remember that Russia is a great power.

The Daily Telegraph says it learns from a Russian correspondent that Viceroy Alexieff recently advised the mobilization of the Siberian troops. To this Minister Kurino dissembled, but the czar after considering the matter conferred with Viceroy Alexieff, and the necessary orders were issued.

Outrage by Russian Marines.

London, Jan. 26.—The Tokio correspondent of the Times says letters received there from Vladivostok declare a party of Russian marines landed at Vladivostok January 9 and subjected the Japanese residents to great violence. They wrecked twenty-four houses, maltreated women and inflicted wounds upon the aged persons and children. The rioting lasted for twenty hours. The rioters were accompanied by their officers, according to the letters from Vladivostok, and were not restrained by the local authorities.

Japanese newspapers advocate the withdrawal of all Japanese from Siberia and ask what may be expected in the event of hostilities if such things occur during peace.

Russia Very Active.

New York, Jan. 26.—Military activity at Black Sea ports continues on a more extensive scale than ever, cables the Russian correspondent of the Times. Men are arriving for shipment on transports to the far east, and the railways are gorged with military stores. Private freight is sidetracked in order to expedite shipments of supplies.

Five more transports carrying 25,000 tons of cargo and a large number of troops will be dispatched as soon as possible. The transports will take guns and munitions which are needed at Port Arthur.

Naval and military stores in unusual quantities are being bought on condition of immediate delivery. The admiralty authorities, answering inquiries on the part of a shipowner, decline to define the rights of neutral ships bound for Japan. Shipping rates have advanced 100 per cent. during the last fortnight, otherwise traffic of foreign ships, especially in Japan coal, was obtained by indirect purchase and continues normal.

Japan Hasn't Moved Yet.

London, Jan. 23.—There is no confirmation here of reports that Japan has occupied Masampo. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, has not only discredited them, but said the Japanese government had previously decided not to take any half measures, or any steps which could be construed as being prejudicial to negotiations so long as they are proceeding.

"When Japan decides to take action," he added, "she will announce it frankly to Russia and the rest of the world."

According to Baron Hayashi the situation is unchanged and he continues to take the gloomiest view of the situation.

OUTRAGED BY COSSACKS

Lapan Thinks War More Desirable Than a Peace Which Permits Such Things.

New York, Jan. 27.—A Tokio cable says that letters from Vladivostok state that a party of Russian marines was landed (place not stated) on January 9, and submitted the Japanese residents to great violence, wrecked twenty-four houses, ravished women and wounded old people and children. The riot lasted twenty hours. The rioters included officers. The civil authorities did not restrain them. The Japanese press asks what is to be expected in the event of war if such crimes can occur in time of peace. The dispatch adds that rumors of Russia's pacific intention do not affect Japan. The nation is absolutely determined to fight for a thoroughly satisfactory settlement.

Japan Can't Wait Long.
The Herald's St. Petersburg special says the same almost painful silence which preceded the dispatch of the previous reply to Japan again reigns. In spite of optimistic views expressed, I own I am unable to find any convincing proof of the same, while there is abundant evidence to believe that true, Japan has placed no time limit for Russia's reply, but I have it on the best authority that the Japanese consider delay in the highest degree dangerous. This was stated to me in an emphatic manner, which left no doubt of the earnestness of the speaker's meaning, and which I interpreted as being that Japan may at any moment find herself unable to stem the public sentiment there toward war.

The Danger in Tibet.
London, Jan. 27.—With the danger of a clash in the far east believed to be averted, interest has been partially diverted to the almost equally serious position in Tibet, where Russia and Great Britain have divergent claims to paramount influence. At the present moment far-reaching diplomatic regard the danger of open hostilities between the lion and the bear as by no means slight. It is realized, of course, that much will have to be done through diplomatic channels before a clash could come, but it is realized also that unless one side or the other backs down completely war is the only possible eventual outcome.

Russian Encroachments Seen.

Following her usual policy in such matters, Russia has been gradually pushing her frontier forward. One year a lone "survey party" appears and lodges itself in tents. The next the tents are replaced by little stone huts occupied by a party of soldiers "sent out to guard the surveyors." Then follows a garrison and then strong fortifications. Meanwhile the "surveyors" have pressed forward still further and the small detachment of guards have followed. Thus it has been going on for some years, till the British India office is seriously alarmed as to the ultimate fate of Tibet, which, as a buffer state, is one of the Indian empire's chief safeguards.

Matters came to a head last year when news was received that Muscovite officials were negotiating with the Dalai Lama, the spiritual and political ruler of Tibet, making him presents and striving to obtain the right to supplant China as his traditional protector. To offset this British envoys were sent to interview the Lama, but in accordance with that practice which for centuries has kept Tibet closed to all but Buddhists, they were turned back. Then it was decided to send the envoys back, guarded by a strong military force under Colonel Younghusband, than who the British army has few more successful commanders. Their expedition is now on its way, hampered by a total lack of accurate information of the country, but, apparently, progressing slowly and surely.

Danger is Imminent.

The immediate danger lies in a clash with the Tibetans. Should they feel that the British expedition were an attempt to curtail the spiritual and political ruler of Tibet, making him presents and striving to obtain the right to supplant China as his traditional protector. To offset this British envoys were sent to interview the Lama, but in accordance with that practice which for centuries has kept Tibet closed to all but Buddhists, they were turned back. Then it was decided to send the envoys back, guarded by a strong military force under Colonel Younghusband, than who the British army has few more successful commanders. Their expedition is now on its way, hampered by a total lack of accurate information of the country, but, apparently, progressing slowly and surely.

It is hinted, by the way, that England has been keen in her support of Japan during her trouble with Russia than might otherwise have been the case, as she felt that a blow to Russian prestige in the east would certainly be carried to the Dalai Lama and would be likely to influence him against the Muscovite should the clash come. It is believed that Russia is likely to be invoked as a protector than a Russia successfully defying the world to remove her clutches from Manchuria and keep her clutches off Korea. Hence Britain's anxiety to insure the success of the Japanese remonstrances.

Arrest for Treason.

Tokio, Jan. 25.—Takashima, the Japanese interpreter for the Russian attaché, was arrested Saturday on suspicion of acting as a spy in the Yokosuka fortified zone. He has been taken to Yokosuka for trial. It is alleged that convincing evidence has been obtained regarding other suspects, which is causing a very strong feeling against such treachery, which is a capital offense in Japan.

Port Arthur Isn't Hurt.

Port Arthur, Jan. 27.—The highest officials here repudiate the published accusations of Russian hostility to the United States because of its Manchurian policy, and the appointment of American consuls under the new treaty with China. Officially it is asserted that no large reinforcement of eastern forces is expected at present.

This Will Cheer Russia.

Manila, Jan. 25.—Japanese merchants in this city have received advices from the home government in case of outbreak of hostilities, they had better transfer their business over to Americans.

CITY IS FLOODED.

Parkersburg, W. Va., is Largely Under Water and Hundreds Driven From Homes.

Parkersburg, W. Va., Jan. 27.—The lower portions of Parkersburg are under water today. This includes the business part of the town almost up to Third street, while among the residence districts, Riverside, Westwood, and the South Side are pretty well inundated. All public buildings available were occupied last night by persons and their families, and several hundred were driven from their homes while many are living in the second stories.

SENATOR BURTON OF KANSAS IS INDICTED

St. Louis Grand Jury Takes He Sold Influence to Fraudulent Concern.

THE JERUSALEM AFFAIR

It is Recalled as Having Caused Strained Relations Between the Senator and President Some Time Ago.

St. Louis, Jan. 26.—United States Senator Joseph Ralph Burton of Kansas was today indicted by the federal grand jury, charged with accepting a bribe from the Rialto Grain company for his influence in securing the use of the mails for their advertising matter. Burton is charged with attempts to secure the aid of a number of high postoffice department officials in permitting the use of the mails by the Rialto people. The Rialto Grain company has been under investigation by the state courts for several months on account of internal troubles on complaints of investors, and indictments were found against its officials, but none has been convicted. At one time the offices were closed by alleged creditors, but were reopened on making arrangements to satisfy the claims which had been made.

The indictment of Senator Burton will not be a severe shock to people who have been reading the reports connected with the Rialto case. It has been repeatedly charged that he gave letters of recommendation and commendation to some of the bogus turn concerns of the city, and that for these he was paid large sums. Burton has denied these stories at time, but has never made a very clear case.

The Jerusalem Affair.

Some time ago the Kansas senator got on bad terms with the president by trying to use a private letter of Mr. Roosevelt's for advertising purposes. It seems that Burton was deeply interested in a project to reproduce a Jerusalem in miniature on the World's fair grounds. It was to cover about ten acres. The senator was a silent partner. He wrote a letter to the president referring to this exhibit, and the president courteously replied expressing interest. The letter promptly appeared as advertising matter, to help sell stock in the new Jerusalem company. The president was very angry, and relations with Burton have been strained ever since.

Burton Explains.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Senator Burton said he did not know why the indictment was returned at St. Louis against him. He was attorney for Dennis, head of the Rialto Grain company, and his only connection with the postoffice department was in acting as Dennis' attorney.

BLOW TO DEATH TRUST.

New York City Offers to Supply Chicago With Anti-Toxin at Cost.

New York, Jan. 26.—"It costs New York about \$20,000 a year to run the laboratory for the production of anti-toxin used in Greater New York," said Dr. Parks, in charge of the anti-toxin laboratory at Willard Parker hospital. "I am informed, however, that one of the three houses in the trust alone clears a profit of more than \$100,000 a year on the sale of anti-toxin. It is the knowledge of this condition which caused us to offer aid to Chicago, and if the trust keeps on raising prices as they have done, we shall offer to furnish all cities that need the serum at cost."

Before the first of January the New York laboratory had been furnishing supplies to several other cities, including Chicago. The complaints of the anti-toxin trust were of such a nature, however, that it was determined not to sell the serum to other cities. The knowledge of this determination was made known the trust sent the price of the serum up 100 per cent. Inasmuch as the three firms in the trust supply 95 per cent of the serum used in this country, this meant death to thousands of little ones throughout the country unless some relief could be secured. New York again offered to furnish Chicago such supplies as might be needed, with the assurance that no further regard for the feelings of the trust magnates would cause a withdrawal of the supply.

REMOVES THE DANGER.

New York Man's Invention is Guaranteed to Make the Third Rail Safe.

New York, Jan. 26.—Employees of the telephone company in Harlem are all talking about an invention for rendering safe the third rail on elevated roads, which John C. McDonald, the company's wire chief at the Tremont exchange, has made. Mr. McDonald will not tell the details of his work until he has secured a patent on it. He did say that his invention or attachment would render it harmless or "dead" except only on the space occupied by a train.

"My invention," he said, "makes it impossible for a person to receive a shock from the third rail, unless he falls under a train. It will also be possible by the use of my contrivance to avoid collisions, as, by regulation with my invention, the power on the rail for 500 feet, or one mile behind each train, may be rendered inert. The interborough company has promised me space for a trial of my invention, and I shall hold it as soon as I learn whether my application for a patent has been successful. To prove that I am right, I'll stand on the rail in my bare feet."

HOOSIERS BOOZERS.

Drunkenness in Indiana Seems to be Rapidly Increasing According to Statistics.

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 26.—Drunkenness in Indiana was greater in 1902 than in 1901, according to reports of county sheriffs made to the board of state charities. The total number of intoxicated persons harbored in the jails in 1903, was 12,394, and in 1902, 11,365. Of the total number admitted in 1903, 11,394 were whites and 690 colored. There was 32 boys and 7 girls under the aged of 16 years; 9,563 men and women, from 17 to 50 years; 1,891 men and 18 women were more than 50 years old. Of the remaining 383 the age is unknown. The sheriff of Wabash county reports that one man admitted on account of drunkenness was 104 years old.

SUPREME JUDGES MIFFED

Diplomats Placed First in Line at Washington Judicial Reception.

Washington, Jan. 27.—The old-time precedence feud between the diplomatic corps and the supreme court broke out anew at the White House Thursday night. The diplomatic theory is that members of the corps represent kings, potentates and sovereign states when they are the persons of these powers by proxy. Hence they should be accorded the precedence that would be accorded their rulers if present. If King Edward, President Loubet, or the Kaiser were the guests of President Roosevelt, he would take precedence as being at home with such guests immediately following him. The corps argues that its members should follow the president and precede all others.

Members of the supreme court argue that diplomats are simply foreign official persons, officials holding appointive jobs, while they form a co-ordinate branch of the United States government. The controversy is nearly a century old and has broken out at most unlikely places, notably the funeral of Admiral Sampson. Thursday night's reception at the White House was to the judiciary.

First, but Last.

The supreme court headed the list. Or, arriving at the White House members of the court were detained at the door of the blue room while the diplomatic corps was received by the president. Major McCauley of the marine corps has been recently attached to the White House entourage as social aide-camp. He stopped the members of the supreme court last night.

"The diplomatic corps goes first, Four Honor," he told Chief Justice Fuller.

"But this is the reception to the judiciary, sir," responded Chief Justice Fuller in cutting retort. "The corps, at least, we should take precedence."

"The diplomatic corps goes first," insisted Major McCauley, in his soft, low, well modulated voice.

Chief Justice Fuller talked to Major McCauley, while the court waited. The corps was not to be deterred. Chief Justice Fuller had ample time to express clearly what was on his mind, because not only ambassadors and ministers, but under-secretaries and attaches of the various governments had passed through before the court was allowed to begin its state procession past the president. Chief Justice Fuller left the house immediately on passing the receiving line. So did several other members of the court.

CHEAP FARE ENJOINED.

Federal Court Delays Reduction of Cleveland Street Car Line to Three Cents.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 27.—Judge Wins of the United States circuit court, upon application of the Cleveland Electric Railway company, issued a temporary injunction today restraining the city officials from enforcing the ordinance recently adopted by the city council providing for 3-cent street car fares within a certain zone. The ordinance fixed tomorrow as the time for the inauguration of the new fare schedule. The injunction is to hold until February 13.

In its application for an injunction the railway company claims that all its capital and the security for bonds will be jeopardized if the acceptance of a 3-cent fare is forced.

It asserts that the enforcement of the ordinance will amount to "taking property without due process of law, and deny to it the equal protection of the law, in contravention and violation of the provisions of the constitution."

BABY BAKED TO DEATH.

Act of a 5-Year-Old Girl at LaCrosse Wis.

LaCrosse, Wis., Jan. 27.—While Mrs. Deaver was chopping wood her 5-year-old daughter, played a baby brother in a hot oven, closed the door and baked the baby to death before the mother returned. The oven had been heated for baking.

THE MARKETS.

Sioux City Live Stock.

Sioux City, Jan. 26.—Sioux City Stock Yards.—Hogs—Butcher and heavy, \$4.70; light, \$4.60; mixed, \$4.50; calves, \$3.50; fat cows and heifers, \$2.25; 3.70; stockers and feeders, \$2.50; calves, \$2.50; yearlings, \$2.50; butchers, \$2.50.

Chicago.

Chicago, Jan. 26.—Hogs—Receipts, 35,000. Market steady to easy. Good heavy, \$5.40; light, \$5.30; mixed, \$5.20; butchers, \$5.10; rough heavy, \$4.95; 5.05.

South Omaha.

South Omaha, Jan. 26.—Cattle—Native steers, \$3.25; 3.50; cows and heifers, \$2.50; 2.80; stockers and feeders, \$1.50; 2.40; calves, \$2.00; 2.25.

Kansas City.

Kansas City, Jan. 26.—Cattle—Native steers, \$3.00; 3.40; cows and heifers, \$2.15; 2.50; stockers and feeders, \$1.40; 2.15; calves, \$2.25; 2.75; calves, \$3.00; 3.50.

GRAIN MARKETS.

Grain and Provisions.

Chicago, Jan. 26.—Cash quotations were as follows: Flour—Market firm. Wheat—No. 3 spring, 78¢; No. 2 red, 82¢; No. 2 white, 84¢.

Minneapolis.

Minneapolis, Jan. 26.—The closing cash prices on track were as follows: Wheat—No. 1 northern, 91¢; to arrive, 87¢; No. 2 northern, 87¢; No. 3 northern, 84¢; No. 4 old, 81¢.

TORNADO KILLS SCORES OF PEOPLE

Fuller Report of the Terrific Calamity at Moundsville, Ala.

VILLAGE IS WIPED AWAY

Thirty-Seven Persons Are Known to Have Lost Their Lives and More Than 100 Injured—Every Business House Destroyed.

Tuscaloosa, Ala., Jan. 25.—A disastrous tornado swept over Moundsville, Ala., a town of 300 inhabitants, fifteen miles south of Tuscaloosa, and as a result thirty-seven persons were killed and more than 100 injured. Every business house, with the exception of a small drug store, was completely destroyed.

The tornado struck the city from the southwest and moved a path a quarter of a mile wide through the town.

The following is a list of the white persons killed:

E. P. SEYMOUR, of Nashville, Tenn., telegraph operator at station.

A. H. WARREN, of Birmingham.

J. H. REDMOND, superintendent pumping station.

ROBERT S. POWERS, Tuscaloosa.

The negro dead are:

W. N. MILES, WIFE AND SIX CHILDREN.

ALBERT WILSON, WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN.

JOHN HOLSTON, WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN.

FOURTEEN OTHER NEGROES, unidentified.

Some of the injured will die.

Surgeons were rushed to Moundsville from Greensboro and Tuscaloosa, and everything possible was done to alleviate the sufferings of the injured.

By the force of the storm persons were blown hundreds of feet from their beds in the blackness of night.

Through terror a mother and three children fled from their home to seek refuge, and in the excitement a 6-year-old boy in bed. Today he was pulled from beneath some timbers, and thus far it is impossible to find another member of the family.

Bedding, carpets and wearing apparel are scattered for a distance of ten miles through what was a forest, but which is now a mass of uprooted timber.

The depot, the hotel, warehouses, cotton gins, thirty homes, the storehouse occupied by R. L. Griffin, A. W. Wiggins and Son, J. W. Dometek, A. D. Griffin and W. P. Phifer, together with their stocks, were completely destroyed.

Bales of cotton which were stored in the warehouses were torn to atoms, the fragments of lint lodging in trees, making it appear as though that section had been visited by a snowstorm.

A young clerk employed by W. P. Phifer, hearing the terrible roar of the storm let himself into a well in the center of the store. The store was completely carried away, but the young man was rescued uninjured.

BIG BANK FAILURE.

The Liabilities of the Cleveland Produce Exchange Company Placed at \$1,500,000.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 25.—The Produce Exchange Bank, which closed its doors. The insolvency court has appointed the Cleveland Trust company as receiver.

The assets and liabilities of the bank are each placed at \$1,500,000. An official of the bank is now under guard at his home. He will be taken before the grand jury, and will, according to statements of other bank officials, plead guilty to the charge of embezzlement. An indictment will be brought against him and the case hurried to trial. There is a great deal of uneasiness among the depositors, many of whom are small merchants, Italians and other nationalities, who sell fruit and vegetables from door to door and deposited their money in the Produce Exchange bank. The irregularity has been going on for eight years, it is said.

\$300,000 FIRE.

Great Blaze at Bay Mills, Mich., Destroyed All the Factories in the Town.

Minneapolis, Jan. 25.—A special to the Sentinel from Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., says:

Fire started in one of the Hall & Munson factories at Bay Mills, twelve miles west of here, and spread rapidly until it reached every factory in town. The company owned a large saw mill, woodworking plant and box factory, and a large stock of lumber. The total value of the plants was \$300,000, and a message received here says that nothing has been saved.

As soon as it started a special train left the Soo carrying a company of firemen.

The Hall & Munson plants were the largest of the kind in the upper peninsula, employing 300 men. The plants were insured, but it can not be learned how heavily.

The town, which has 1,200 inhabitants, will probably be left desolate, as there will be nothing to keep it up.

The origin of the fire can not be learned.

ST. LOUIS AROUSED.

City Will Wage Fight on the Christian Science Cult as Result of a Recent Death.

St. Louis, Jan. 25.—Aroused by the death of Mrs. W. H. Davis of 1018 Grand street, which occurred at the city hospital Monday night from blood poisoning, and which, according to the coroner's verdict, was due to "culpable negligence," Dr. John H. Simon, health commissioner, has resolved to wage a crusade against the practices of the cult known as Christian Scientists.

"In a civilized community we have no place for such an alleged faith as the one known as Christian Science," said Dr. Simon.

"A science which will permit the sacrifice of lives which it is possible, nine cases out of ten, could be saved by adequate medical attention, is anything but Christian."

"Such instances as the death of Mrs. Davis seem to make up an important chapter in the history of Christian Science, and it is revolting to think that in this age we permit such a social faith to flourish."

"Personally I am determined to stamp out what I regard as one of the most menacing evils of our day if it can be done, and the fact that the evil masquerades under the cloak of religious faith should not save it from the hand of the law."

HEIR TO MERGER.

Wall Street Believes the Erie Road Will Succeed the Northern Securities Company.

New York, Jan. 26.—The directors of the Erie Railroad company declared a dividend of 2 per cent. on the first preferred stock of the company yesterday, making 4 per cent. for the fiscal year. By this action the great system passed automatically out of the hands of J. Pierpont Morgan, Louis Fitzgerald and Sir Charles Tennant, the voting trustees, in whose hands it had been since the reorganization was completed August 20, 1905. Under the terms of that organization all of the stock of all classes must now be issued by J. P. Morgan & Co. to the stockholders in exchange for the voting trust certificates which they have held since December 1, 1905.

Wall street believes that great developments are in store for the road. Many people believe it is to become the successor of the Northern Securities company if the United States supreme court should reverse its decision and the distribution of the stock of Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington, which it owns.

What Lawyers Think.

Eminent lawyers, it is said, have told Mr. Morgan that the legal objections to the Northern Securities company cannot be successfully raised. It is believed that the Erie, whose entire system has been built up by the absorption of competing and contributory lines, which has been unquestioned. They have pointed out to Mr. Morgan and Mr. Hill that the absorption by it of the western roads would have the effect of increasing the absorption of the Lake Shore and the Michigan Central by the New York Central, in accomplishing which the New York Central exchanged its own 3 1/2 per cent. bonds for the securities of the other companies which it absorbed. It is said on this treasury as collateral.

It is said on very good authority that just such a scheme is now being worked out in the office of J. P. Morgan & Co., contingent upon the decision of the United States supreme court next month, which, it is said, Mr. Morgan expects to be unfavorable.

In connection with these reports, it is significant that several months ago Mr. Harriman, who is now at peace with Mr. Morgan, was elected a director of the Erie, in which he has acquired a very large interest. It is also significant that Kuhn, Loeb & Co. have also bought heavily of the stock. This places the control of the road in the hands of J. Pierpont Morgan, James J. Hill, E. H. Harriman and Jacob Schiff, the men who controlled Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Burlington before the great fight which precipitated the Northern Pacific panic. It is plain that the redistribution of the securities of Northern Pacific in obedience to the mandate of the supreme court would transfer the securities into the hands of these four men who control the Erie railroad.

Probable Plan of Absorption.

It is believed that the absorption of the roads by the Erie would be accomplished by an issue of collateral trust bonds of the exact amount of the holdings of the Northern Securities company in Northern Pacific and Great Northern, Great Northern and Burlington. The Northern Securities company holds practically all the stock of the Northern Pacific railway company and over \$90,000,000 of the stock of the Great Northern railway. It is said that this plan can be carried out without requiring one dollar of new capital.

J. P. Morgan & Co. would say yesterday only that the Erie voting trust would be dissolved as the result of the action of the directors yesterday.

IF DIPLOMACY SHOULD FAIL.

The Czar and Mikado Urged to Resort to the Hague Tribunal.

London, Jan. 26.—Two identical cable dispatches, originating with W. T. Stead, and W. R. Cremer, M. P., were sent tonight to the czar of Russia and the mikado of Japan, urging these potentates, if diplomacy failed, to submit the far eastern dispute to the Hague Tribunal.

The messages are lengthy and they appeal especially to the czar as "The courageous originator of The Hague conference," to take the initiative in referring the matter to The Hague.

The appeal is signed by sixty prominent English advocates of arbitration. Among the signers are all the members of the labor delegation in parliament, Lord Avebury, Lord Hobhouse, the marquis of Bristol, Frederick Harrison, George Meredith, Sir John Gerst, Earl Grey, Lord J. C. Clifford, the Rev. R. C. Campbell and many labor leaders outside of parliament.

The Pekin correspondent of the London Times has cabled a corrected and minutely detailed list of all the Russian military forces in the far east, east of the Baikal in Eastern Siberia, and including the frontiers of Manchuria, which shows a total of 3,115 officers, 147,479 men and