

## NEW LIGHT ON CHINA

Minister Conger Says Emperor is Willing to Expedite a Settlement.

### ANXIOUS TO DO ALL THAT HE CAN

Considers It Difficult for the Eleven Ministers to Agree Upon a Modus Vivendi—Nevertheless Feels Certain Powers Will Reach Conclusion in Short Time.

NEW YORK, May 6.—Minister E. H. Conger, who has lately returned to this country, furnishes an article on the Chinese situation which will appear in the coming number of Leslie's Weekly. Mr. Conger says in part:

"Unless matters have changed very materially since I left China six weeks ago, the powers will reach some conclusion in regard to the Chinese very soon. Of course it is difficult for eleven men to agree on anything, especially when they have eleven governments with differing views behind them. China is perfectly willing to do anything that the powers agree upon—that is, within her ability to accomplish. She is only too anxious to expedite these matters and settle down to peaceful pursuits again. Of course the powers must not demand an indemnity which China will be physically unable to raise. It is not certain that, finally, some nation may not demand territory of China in lieu of a money indemnity. It is perfectly certain that if any nation does make this demand, the partition of China will follow, and this will inevitably cause much dissension between the powers. These difficulties and disputes would be long in the settling, and would lead to terrible confusion in China.

"Russia has so far mitigated her demands that there is not now much danger of serious difficulty between her and Japan. Personally, I am very much in favor of the continued existence of China as an empire, governed by her own emperor. It will save us and all the rest of the world lots of trouble if the integrity of the empire is maintained.

"As far as the punishment of Chinese officials goes, China has already done all that she could. Something out of the ordinary had to be demanded by the powers, for it takes a good deal of punishment to impress this people and this was no ordinary offense. In some cases the officials whose punishment was demanded were more powerful than the government, and then, of course, the punishment could not be enforced. Except in these cases, everything was done as the powers demanded.

"At home I understand that I was thought bloodthirsty, but in China I was the most lenient of all the ministers, except one. We knew the conditions better than those who were not there could possibly know them. Drastic measures were demanded, but I do not think that we were cruel. What would seem a very severe punishment to us at home would not impress the Chinese at all, for the reason that they indulge in so many cruel and unusual punishments. The reports of cruelty on the part of soldiers have been grossly exaggerated, though I am sure that there was plenty of brutality on the part of individual soldiers. As an army, the allies were exceedingly well behaved. Nor were the stories of unrestricted looting true. In Peking the soldiers took what they needed, of course, just as we would have seized anything we needed while we were caged up in the compound had we been able to fasten upon anything that would help us to withstand the siege. As for the stories of missionary looting, they are undeniably false. The missionaries did not loot."

### KILLS A VALENTINE INDIAN.

Ladeaux is Held for the Slaying of John Bull-Walks-Behind.

VALENTINE, Neb., May 6.—As the result of imbibing too much firewater Friday night several Indians engaged in a row among themselves on the outskirts of town, where they were camped. The row resulted in Antine Ladeaux shooting John Bull-Walks-Behind, the ball taking effect in the left side just below the heart and ranging toward the backbone. Several Indians seized Ladeaux after he had done the shooting, bound him head and foot with ropes and then turned him over to the sheriff. They called a physician to attend to the wounded Indian.

Business Over Wyoming Oil. OGDEN, Utah, May 6.—F. M. Phelps and other California men returned from the Front Oil fields in western Wyoming and report the discovery of considerable quantities of the flowing oil which has been determined to be a substantial. M. L. O'Brien and R. A. Shubert, from Bakerfield, Cal., who have made the locations in the district, state that the wells spring up through sand in the formation, indicating numerous convulsions of oil.

### THERE ARE MANY MISSING.

Jacksonville Still Unable to Reckon Exact Cost of Fire.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 6.—Rumors of loss of life are heard on every hand tonight and the river has been closely watched today. Many persons have confirmed the report of loss of life at the Market street wharf. Numerous advertisements appeared in the local papers asking for aid in searching for persons who are missing. As many have left the city for the gulf it is impossible to ascertain who have been lost in the Market street pier tragedy.

The hunger of 10,000 homeless people was satisfied today upon the arrival of relief trains and boats bringing provisions from neighboring towns. Early this morning a commissary was established in the center of the city and thousands were fed during the day. The relief fund is growing hourly and every mail brings offers of assistance.

Today an order was promulgated under martial law requiring all merchants whose stores were spared by the conflagration to open their doors and sell to all who asked. The streets have been crowded all day with shoppers who lost all in the fire and many stores will remain open all night.

It is estimated that 3,000 persons have left the city and every outgoing train is crowded with refugees. Five carloads of tents were received today, the property of the state, which are to be used by the homeless temporarily. Another shipment of tents is expected to arrive from the government tomorrow.

The Times-Union and Citizen estimate the total property loss at \$11,000,000. These figures are based upon an itemized statement furnished by a volunteer committee of citizens.

### MAKES THE SHOWMEN SHUT UP.

Buffalo Exposition Management Closes Concessions.

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 6.—The first Sunday of the Pan-American exposition's official existence brought out a good sized crowd. The gates were open, but the buildings were closed. Guards stood by the doors of the great exhibit buildings and told the visitors that no one would be allowed to enter.

On the Midway two of the shows opened their doors this morning and their criers announced that they were ready for business. They were promptly notified by the exposition police to close their shows. They did so under protest and a test case will be tried to decide whether the Midway concessionaires have a right to give their exhibitions on Sunday. The claim set up by the concessionaires is that their contracts specify that they shall be allowed to run every day the exposition grounds are open to the public.

### REGULARS WILL COME NEXT.

War Department Planning a Further Reduction of Forces.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—It is expected that within a day or two a program will be completed at the war department for a substantial reduction of the present strength of the United States army in the Philippines. The regular troops now there who have seen the most service are the Fourteenth, Eighteenth and Twenty-third infantries, and one battalion of the Third artillery. They went out to Manila in 1898 in the first expedition under General Anderson, and if the announced policy of the department heretofore lived up to is continued, these will be the first organizations to return to the United States. Some of these troops will be replaced with the new levies just raised in this country. It has not yet been determined how large a reduction will be made.

It Will Be Mrs. McKinley.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., May 6.—The much discussed question as to whom would fall the honor of launching the battleship Oregon has been settled by the announcement that this function will be performed by Mrs. McKinley. After the simple ceremonies preceding the event, consisting of short addresses by President McKinley, Governor Nash and Irving M. Scott, Mrs. McKinley will press the button and the released ax will sever the rope just at the turn of the tide.

The Swift Packing company of Kansas City was awarded the contract for furnishing beef to the Missouri penitentiary for one year at \$5.03 per 100 pounds.

Waldorpe to Return in June.

BERLIN, May 6.—In view of the favorable development of events here, says the Peking correspondent of the Lokal Anzeiger, it is possible that Count von Waldorpe will return home about the middle of June.

Krugger and McKinley.

LONDON, May 6.—The Geneva correspondent of the Daily Mail asserts that President McKinley has informed Mr. Krugger that he cannot receive him, either officially or unofficially.

## A TOWN FLAME SWEEP

The City of Jacksonville, Florida, Suffers a Great Conflagration.

### THE LOSS IS VERY MANY MILLIONS

Heart of the City Eaten Out by the Devouring Element—Business Blocks and Residences in Great Numbers Are Entirely Wiped Out.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 4.—The most disastrous fire in the history of this city began yesterday shortly after noon, in a small factory, started by a defective wire, according to the best belief, and burned for nearly ten hours. In that time property damage estimated from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 was caused.

According to the city map 130 blocks were burned, many of them in the heart of the business and residence section, where the estimate of houses to the block is ten. Many of the finest public and private buildings were destroyed, including hotels, theater, churches and residences.

The casualties cannot be accurately estimated tonight. That there were several seems to be well authenticated. Among them was that of Fire Chief Haney, who sustained a bad fall. The mayor ordered all saloons closed and has impressed help to clear the wreckage. The mayor stated that he estimated the loss at \$15,000,000 and that 10,000 to 15,000 people were homeless.

Along the entire length of Beaver street, from Davis street to the creek on Liberty street, all buildings have been destroyed. This is fourteen solid blocks of residences. For the same distance Ashley and Church streets have both been completely blotted out. When the fire reached Bridge street in its eastward course it enveloped in flames an area three blocks wide, taking in Duval, Monroe and the north side of Adams street, burning the entire section of the city and running fourteen blocks to the Duval street bridge.

How much further in that direction the city is burned it is impossible to learn, the street being impassable, but it is feared that St. Luke's hospital was burned and it is said that the Presbyterian church in East Jacksonville is ablaze. If this is correct, the fire must have extended five blocks further east. The fire, which broke out at 2:45 o'clock this afternoon, has covered, as far as is definitely known, a distance of two and a half miles by half a mile wide.

When the fire reached Julia street it was a roaring conflagration and there was no prospect of it being put under control. The local military companies were called out to keep the crowds back and the fire department began to use dynamite to blow up houses a block from the fire hoping thus to prevent the fire from spreading. So fierce was the blaze, however, and so strong had become the wind, that millions of sparks and flying, burning shingles spread over five or six blocks, setting the roofs of the houses on fire in advance of the department.

It is impossible at this hour to ascertain the losses, but it is estimated by insurance agents that it will be between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000. Six lives are reported lost in the conflagration. The mayor has called a meeting of the city council for tomorrow to consider ways and means of relieving the sufferers.

Well-Known Farmer Killed.

NEW LONDON, Ia., May 4.—Harry Hephrey of Canaan township, a well-known farmer, was killed while at work in his field by the accidental discharge of a shotgun. He had leaned his gun against a fence post and was plowing, when, in making a turn, the horses knocked the gun down and it exploded. The contents entered Hephrey's heart, killing him instantly.

Typhoid at German Ports.

BERLIN, May 4.—An epidemic of typhoid fever has broken out in several forts and villages in the neighborhood of Metz. The Eighth Bavarian regiment has alone lost sixteen men from the disease and has 281 men sick.

Wine Holy Terror Case.

RAPID CITY, S. D., May 4.—P. B. McCarty of this city has received word from the supreme court at Washington that he has won the Holy Terror case, which gives him one-eighth interest in the Holy Terror mine at Keystone.

Could Get Arkansas Line.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., May 4.—A special from Helena, Ark., says: John J. Horner, president of the Arkansas Midland railroad, today admitted that his road would pass under the control of the Gould system within the next sixty days, probably sooner. He returned yesterday from St. Louis, where the deal was practically closed. The sale included the main line from Helena to Arkadon and the branch from Pine City to Brusley.

### CHINA CANNOT MEET DEMANDS.

Must Have Aid to Pay Indemnity—Tone of Waldorpe's Letter.

PEKIN, May 3.—At a meeting of the ministers yesterday the report of the indemnity committee was read. Regarding the resources of China the report was very voluminous. It was practically a repetition of Jamesson's well known pamphlet on the subject. Sir Robert Hart offered suggestions similar to those already credited to him and cable to the Associated Press. It is asserted that the revenues from all available resources will not allow China to pay the indemnity unless assistance is rendered.

The next meeting will be held next Tuesday. The subject of Count von Waldorpe's letter will then be taken up and a reply to it will be drafted. The ministers assert that they know what they want without being told. They particularly object to any of the legation guards being under any authority except that of the ministers themselves.

### NEBRASKA PENSION FRAUDS.

Fred Dorer Taken to Omaha for Crime Against Veterans.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., May 3.—Fred Dorer, alias Fred Dolan, who was arrested here on a charge of drunkenness two weeks ago and later identified as a man wanted by the government authorities for pension frauds, was taken to Omaha today for trial in the federal court. Pension Commissioner Tedrow of this city recognized the man as one who is alleged to have committed pension frauds near Beatrice, Neb., in April, 1899. It is claimed that Dorer represented that he was a special pension examiner and could secure pensions and increases in pensions for the old soldiers in that district. Under this pretense, it is alleged, he collected a sum of money and then left the country.

### WU THINKS CUSTOMS TOO LOW.

Says Present Rate is Inadequate to Provide for New Loan.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—It is believed here that the hitch which is said to have arisen at Peking over the proposition to increase the Chinese customs duties to meet the indemnities demanded by the foreign powers is caused by the broaching by Mr. Rockhill of his plan for the abolition of the likin duties as a condition for his acquiescence in the customs increase. The United States government has in the past admitted a readiness to permit the Chinese to increase custom rates providing there was no discrimination between the powers. Minister Wu says that the present 5 per cent rate is totally inadequate to provide a sinking fund for a new loan.

### COMING HOME OF TROOPS

Many of the Volunteer Troops to Return Before the End of May.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3.—Major Miller, chief quartermaster at Manila, has cabled the war department an approximate schedule of the sailing of transports from Manila with troops to be mustered out of service, as follows:

May 10, Hancock, with the Thirty-first; Buford, with the Forty-first; Pennsylvania, with the Fortieth.

May 20, Logan and Kilpatrick, with the Thirty-eighth, Forty-third and Forty-fourth; Indiana, with the Forty-second.

May 25, Grant, with the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth; Ohio, with the Forty-seventh.

If there should be any surplus they will be sent on the Thomas.

Iowa is Launched Again.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 3.—The battleship Iowa was launched today from the Bremerton navy yard, after undergoing repairs and a thorough overhauling. Less than four weeks were required in the great undertaking, although six weeks had been allowed by the navy department. The Iowa is now awaiting sailing orders.

Twins Born to Death.

SIoux CITY, Ia., May 3.—Jay and Joy, the 3-year-old twin children of Mrs. Layton Hubbard, were burned to death in a stable at Hawarden, Ia. The children were playing in the barn and set fire to some papers. The charred remains were found after the barn had been destroyed.

Shot Through the Heart.

NEW LONDON, Ia., May 3.—Harry Hephrey, farmer, while plowing in the field, leaned his shotgun against the fence. In making a turn his horses knocked down the gun and it went off, sending the load into Hephrey's heart, killing him instantly.

Canada to Control Road.

OTTAWA, May 3.—The scheme by which the Manitoba government hopes to control passenger and freight rates within the province has been ratified by the Dominion railway committee. The provincial government will lease that portion of the Northern Pacific railroad lying within the province for a term of 999 years. It will be immediately turned over to McKensie & Mann of Toronto for management, the government fixing all freight rates.

## THE CREDIT OF JAPAN

Secretary Komats Defends by Saying the Panic is Not Serious.

### EXPENDITURES LARGE BUT PRUDENT

Government Has Something to Show for the Indemnity Money Paid Out of the Treasury and No Very Great Debt—Situation Quite Thoroughly Gone Over.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Midori Komats, secretary of the Chinese legation at Washington, in an interview today with an Associated Press reporter, made an interesting statement of the financial situation of Japan. He said:

"A good deal of comment has been provoked about the financial conditions in Japan by the publication of a very elaborate report sent to the United States by Consul General Bellows, and it is gratifying to me to see the American public taking so much interest in my country. While having no hesitancy in endorsing the statement contained in the consular report as generally correct, everything has two sides and it is a disagreeable thing to have one's worst part exposed, the better one being left out.

"I do not deny that our financial situation today is anything but satisfactory. It is true that the government has deferred all such undertakings as would involve new loans. It is true that a few local banks have been compelled to suspend payment and stringency is prevailing in the money market. It is also true that our imports have increased tremendously since the inflow of the Chinese indemnity. The total value of our imports, which was 138,700,000 yen (\$69,350,000) in round numbers in 1895, the year the peace treaty was concluded, increased to 324,700,000 yen in 1898, while the value of exports was 118,000,000 yen and 166,200,000 yen in the respective years.

"You will be greatly mistaken, however, if you should attribute all this to the improvident waste of money or unproductive and useless enterprises. Although a large portion of the Chinese indemnity has been used for the redemption of war expenses and military and naval expansion, yet the estimate of iron foundations, the extraordinary reserve fund and the capital of local industrial banks have drawn no small shares from it. Railways, telegraph, telephone and postal service have made great strides in the last few years and an enormous amount of money has been absorbed in their improvement and extension. You will observe at this moment twelve twin screw steamers of over 6,000 tons each, all newly built, plying between Yokohama and Europe, while three great merchant vessels, recently constructed in England, are running between Hong Kong and San Francisco, under the management of a Japanese company, and more than thirteen steamers from 3,000 to 5,000 tons, are being employed on lines to Bombay, Australia, Vladivostok, etc.

"Notwithstanding this, our public debt, as it now stands, does not amount to more than 437,900,000 yen (\$218,950,000). The foundation of our financial arrangement is too firmly established to be affected by any transient depression, any more than the bottom of a river is apt to be shaken by the feeble waves caused by a passing wind.

"There is no danger, in my opinion, that the present situation will result in any serious crisis. On the contrary it will produce, I am quite confident, a beneficial effect upon the national progress by affording the people a lesson that no good times should be abused by luxury or extravagance in any form."

Use of Wireless Telegraphy.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3.—A demonstration of the practical usages of wireless telegraph which occurred in Belgium has been reported to the state department in the communication from Consul General Guenther at Frankfurt, Germany. A captain of a canal mail steamer, which was fully equipped with wireless telegraphic apparatus, reported that on his last trip in he received a wireless message from a French lightship, anchored some twenty-five miles from Dunkirk on the Belgian coast, stating that the warning light could not shine again until aid was received from shore.

The C. R. Harper Manufacturing company of Marshalltown has filed articles with the secretary of state.

Beats Ready to Borrow.

BERLIN, May 3.—The Vossische Zeitung prints a special dispatch from St. Petersburg announcing that Russia has virtually arranged with France for loans amounting to 500,000,000 francs and that another Russian loan is being negotiated with English and American bankers in London. The dispatch further says that the czar is planning for a trip abroad during next August, and that he will soon visit Copenhagen and Darmstadt.

### ORDERS TO THE VETERANS.

Department Commander Reese Makes Public General Order No. 10.

Department Commander Reese has issued the following:

Headquarters Department of Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, State House, Lincoln, Neb.—General orders No. 10:

First—May 30 has become the nation's great day, observed, honored and respected throughout the land. Since man loved freedom and contended for it upon fields of fame, the heroes and patriots of all ages have been mourned in poetry and song, their deeds have been commemorated in bronze and marble, in sculptured obelisk and monumental pile, and as long as the principles of freedom shall endure this day will be remembered by the American nation, who will ever cherish the memory of our heroic dead by decking the bosom of their sepulchres with flowers of the loveliest hue. Thirty-three years have come and gone since General John A. Logan, our most distinguished volunteer officer of the civil war and then commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, instituted Memorial day.

Second—It is proper for us to remember the sacred duty we owe to the memory of our comrades who have answered to the last roll call—that we should pay our tribute of love to the silent dead; and therefore, in the proper observance of the day by the Grand Army of the Republic, that the Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies' Aid society, Sons of Veterans, Spanish-American war veterans, all national guard organizations and civic societies, as well as the public in general, should be invited to participate, especially the school children.

Third—Memorial Sunday has become a sacred day in the Grand Army calendar. No pains should be spared to make the arrangements for this day as complete and important as Memorial day itself. The hours should be so fixed that all could attend, and the exercises especially appropriate to the day and occasion.

Fourth—Post commanders will see to it that the Memorial day committee make proper arrangements with the school officers for patriotic exercises in the public schools on the Friday preceding Memorial day, and that comrades be secured to visit each school at the hour agreed upon to conduct the services. Comrades, see to it that our flag is raised at half-mast over every school house in the state, and, wherever possible, on all public buildings on May 30. Interest the people in our Memorial day; even if your post is small in numbers, make your services so interesting and your devotion so sacred that your neighbors will join you in paying homage to the heroic dead.

Fifth—Post chaplains will make full report of Memorial day proceedings upon blanks provided for such purpose.

Sixth—We should all remember that Memorial day is sacred to the memory of our dead comrades. The day should not be defamed by games of sport and amusement, and all posts and comrades should use all their influence to discourage, and as far as possible prevent, such desecration of the day.

Seventh—The thirtieth national encampment provided that the reading of President Lincoln's address at Gettysburg be made a special feature in all Memorial day exercises held under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic. Commanders of posts will direct that it be read in connection with the exercises of the day. By order of

JOHN REESE,

Department Commander.

JAMES D. GAGE,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Large Acreage of Sugar Beets.

GRAND ISLAND, Neb., May 6.—E. C. Howe of the American Beet Sugar company says that while the acreage of beets is somewhat better than that of last year, there is some doubt as to whether the local factory will be operated this year or not. If the tonnage is good Mr. Howe states that there will be no doubt about it. Should it fall short of 25,000, requiring an average of ten tons to the acre, a campaign next fall is a matter of doubt.

J. F. Lutz, Sentenced.

BEATRICE, Neb., May 6.—J. F. Lutz, who has been in jail here since February 21, awaiting a hearing for a new trial, was denied a new trial and sentenced to one year in the penitentiary. Lutz lived at Cortland, this county, and was convicted of barn burning.

Asylum at Hastings.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 6.—The contract for building the new \$50,000 wing on the asylum for chronic insane at Hastings was awarded by the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings to Burlinghoff & Grant of Beatrice.

Rev. E. F. Trefz, Chaplain.

LINCOLN, Neb., May 6.—Rev. E. F. Trefz of Omaha has been appointed chaplain of the First regiment of the Nebraska National guard.