

TO WAIT A WEEK

JAPAN GIVES RUSSIA THAT TIME FOR REPLY TO NOTE.

GET READY IN MEANTIME

NATION PREPARED AND GRIMLY RECONCILED TO WAR.

Would Welcome Honorable Peace, But Resolved to Fight Before Receding From First Position

TOKIO, Jan. 17.—Japan does not anticipate Russia's rejoinder for at least a week. In the meantime the nation is prepared and grimly reconciled to war. Political and other distinctions have disappeared and the country is patriotically united. The government is receiving many offers of contributions. In the event of war, amounting to many millions of yen. The Japanese people would welcome an honorable peace, but are resolved to fight before receding from their position in oriental affairs. They fear the aggression of Russia and believe if it is not stopped now it will never be stopped. They are confident that their demands are fair and moderate and their diplomacy which has been patient, has gone to a reasonable limit. They expect the world's sympathy in the struggle and have a splendid confidence in their army and navy. In the event of reverses or a national disaster it is thought that England or the United States would intervene to preserve a balance of power in eastern Asia.

The growth of British and American sentiment is remarked. No nervous displays of the flags of the two nations are made and popular songs reciting the glories of the "Hion" and "Uncle Sam" are sung. The characters of "Uncle Sam" and "Johnny Bull" are also seen at public dances. The activity of the United States in the opening of the ports of Mukden and Antung is keenly watched and in some quarters it is hoped that this may aid in solving the problem of insuring peace. The censorship prohibits the publication of military movements.

The associated press correspondent is reliably informed that Japan has received a Russian communication, saying that Russia will respect the rights and privileges already acquired by the powers in Manchuria under existing treaties with China, excepting the establishment of foreign settlements, and in so far as these rights and privileges are not prejudicial to Russia's future relations with Manchuria. These reservations are regarded as nullifying the value of the assurances.

Given an Icy Bath
LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 18.—Eighteen delegates to the convention of the national league of commission merchants were thrown into the icy water of Echo river, which winds a tortuous course through Mammoth cave and were saved only by the presence of mind of the guide John Nelson and the heroic work of Charles A. Muehlbrunner of Pittsburg, Pa.

The roof of the cave over Echo river is arched, and the space in the center owing to an unaccountable rise in the river, is only two and a half feet above the water. In order to insure the passage of the boat the men and women were forced to stoop over. At one place the boat swerved to one side, raking the heads of the persons in the boat next to the bank. These leaned farther forward to escape striking their heads. This lowered one end of the boat, and the water began to flow in rapidly. The guide saw the danger, and called to Muehlbrunner to jump and take the chain. This he did landing on a steep bank, which afforded only a slight foothold. Lying down on his face, held to the chain and pulled the boat towards the bank.

Fight Bandits Off
M'CLENNY, Fla., Jan. 18.—Passenger train No. 76, eastbound on the Seaboard Air Line, was held up one mile east of Sanderson at 7:54 by four white men. The door of the baggage car was blown open with dynamite, the robbers mistaking this car for the express car. The engine was stopped by a volley of shots fired into the cab. The fireman and engineer were taken off the engine and escorted to the second class coach and the robbers ran the train ahead about half mile, when they blew up the baggage car.

Kills Half Breed Indian
SPRINGVIEW, Neb., Jan. 18.—Dan A. Hoby came to Springview and surrendered himself to Sheriff Cottrill, stating that he had killed one "Jim" Ramus, half blood Indian, in a fight about a mile north of the state line on the Rosebud reservation. He claims self defense. He is awaiting the arrival of the United States marshal. Hoby is uncommunicative and the details of the tragedy have not been learned.

NOTE NOT OPTIMISTIC

RUSSIAN PEOPLE REGRET FAILURE OF DIPLOMACY IN EAST.

Influential Paper of Russia Believes It Will Take Time to Save the Island Kingdom From Danger.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.—Private dispatches from St. Petersburg indicate, says a Times dispatch from Paris, that the Japanese note has not helped to fortify optimistic anticipations. As long as there was room for further negotiations, Russian diplomacy helped Russia to gain time. But Japan, having been given a final answer to the latest indefinitely Russian note, will, not, it is expected wait indefinitely for a decision on Russia's part.

There is said to be a good deal of irritation in St. Petersburg over the failure of Russian diplomacy. It is recognized that the conclusion of the Chinese-American treaty has materially affected Russia's prestige. It is reported that Russia stands in greater fear at the present moment of the United States than of Great Britain. Another source of chagrin is the indifference of France.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 18.—The czar's assurance given at the Winter Palace January 14, on the occasion of the New Year's reception, that he desired and intended to do all in his power to maintain peace in the far east, is regarded by the foreign diplomats as a hostage given to the world for the preservation of peace, while the guaranty that Russia will recognize the open ports and other concessions in Manchuria will, it is thought, place the onus of a rupture on Japan. Most of the newspapers here join the peaceful chorus, one paper remarking, however, that it was strange for Russia to first hear the czar's words by way of America.

The Novoye Vremya, referring to the reports of the offer of good offices from the United States, France and Great Britain, asks: "Is such an action necessary when the whole world has been informed of what his majesty has graciously been pleased to say to the diplomats at the Winter palace? How is it possible to render further service to the cause of peace after the czar has announced that he will direct all his influence to maintain it? A more cautious guaranty that Russia will not draw the sword it is impossible to conceive." It concludes as follows: "Japan is in an unfortunate position and will require great tact to avoid the dangers arising from the good office of officious friends."

Burke's Bill Favored
WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—A favorable report has been ordered on the Re-Sub Indian reservation bill Congressman Burke of South Dakota has been instructed to prepare the report. In continuation of the meeting held by the Indian affairs committee on Saturday the committee held an almost continuous session Monday. The morning session was wholly devoted to consideration of whether congress should assume the right of taking the Indian lands without the sanction of the Indians concerned. Upon that proposition the Indian committee in executive session decided by a vote of 12 to 2 to open the Re-Sub reservation to settlement without submitting the question to the Indians. This is along the line of the supreme court decision that the government is a trustee for the Indians and also up in the recommendation from the Indian department.

William Martindale Free
KANSAS CITY, Jan. 19.—William Martindale, former vice president of the First National bank of Emporia, Kan., who was indicted for misapplication of the bank's funds after it failed in 1891, was freed by a decision rendered by Federal Judge John F. Phillips in Kansas City yesterday. Following the failure Charles F. Cross, president of the bank, a noted fancy stock breeder, committed suicide. Martindale is one of the most prominent men in Kansas.

KH's Man And Runs Away
ARAPAHOE, Okla., Jan. 19.—In a quarrel over a \$300 note, John Bigham, agent for a Milwaukee brewery, shot and killed Gus Huddleston. Bigham endorsed Huddleston's note and when the latter neglected to pay it attached Huddleston's cattle. One of the bullets fired by Bigham lodged in the vest pocket of former Probate Judge Love. Bigham fled after the shooting.

American End Nearly Done
MEXICO CITY, Jan. 18.—Charles K. Pepper, representative of the United States government for the projected Pan-American railway, has left here for home after a journey of 25,000 miles and visiting the capitals of twenty-one different governments. Mr. Pepper says the Pan-American railway, is within 100 miles of the Guatemala line and when completed Guatemala and Nicaragua will build lines in continuation.

TIRED OF HIS JOB

KING PETER OF SERBIA WILLING TO ABDICATE.

COUNTRY IN AN UPROAR

READY TO ADMIT POSITION HAS BECOME UNCOMFORTABLE.

Conspirators Making Threats of Further Stuchi-Rising in Southwest Africa Colony.

VIENNA, Jan. 19.—King Peter of Serbia according to a report from Cetinje Montenegro published by the Neues Wiener Journal, is prepared to voluntarily renounce the throne and allow the powers to nominate his successor.

The prince of Montenegro is said to have received a mandate from Russia to clear up the precarious situation in Serbia and King Peter is alleged to have recognized the untenability of his position and to be willing to abdicate. His successor, it is added, will only be permitted to ascend the throne conditionally, on his agreeing to punish the leaders of the conspiracy which resulted in the assassination of King Alexander and Queen Draga removing all those who were directly or indirectly concerned in the regicides.

The statement published by the Neues Wiener Journal is not confirmed but all reports indicate that affairs in Serbia are steadily growing worse and that they are causing the greatest anxiety in Russia and Austria. The Serbia conspirators are said to be openly threatening to take revenge on Europe by joining in the expected Macedonian outbreak in the spring. The internal condition of Serbia is alarming. Outside the towns life and property are insecure. The roads are infested with brigands.

BERLIN, Jan. 19.—Dr. Steubel director of the colonial department of the foreign office in the reichstag made a full exposure of the government's information about the Hereros rising. He said the rising of the Bendezwarts tribesmen had unquestionably been ended between the 6th and 10th of January, but at the same time came the first news of the movement in central southwest Africa. A telegram arrived January 11 from Windhoek saying that Okhanjha had been occupied by natives and that telegraphic connections with Windhoek and Swakopmund was cut off. The government immediately dispatched a relief column by railroad from Swakopmund, but it is not known how far it got. The relief of Otjimbingwe, a mission station south of Windhoek, which was also occupied by natives, was attempted from Karibib, and forces been sent to protect the railroad station at Karibib, which has been placed in a defensive position. One German post in the northern portion of the Hereros territory was also besieged. The natives had secured tropical uniforms from a shop at Johann Albrechtshöhe, which they had plundered.

Can Do No More
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—President Roosevelt transmitted to the senate yesterday additional correspondence touching the relations of the United States with Columbia and Panama, covering the period from December 23, 1903, to January 6, 1904.

A statement of grievances on the part of Columbia was presented to the state department by General Reyes December 23. Reyes says that the course of the United States had worked a deep injury to Columbia and he cited the treaty of 1846 as showing that the independence and sovereignty of Columbia was to be maintained intact between the two governments.

Reyes deals minutely with the various phases of the questions at issue, and discussing the rejection of the Hay-Herran treaty by Columbia, he expressed the conviction that the treaty would have been approved with amendments that would probably have been acceptable to the United States had not the American minister at Bogota repeatedly declared in the most positive manner that his government would reject any amendments that might be offered.

Smoot Files His Reply
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Senator Smoot has filed with the committees on privileges and elections his second reply to the presentation made by Attorney Taylor. The reply follows the lines of argument made by the attorneys for Mr. Smoot in the hearing before the committee Saturday last and places on record detailed denials of assertions made by Mr. Taylor. Senator Smoot will without a doubt fight to the end.

AMAZES THE JURY.

Facts Brought Out at Iroquois Inquest Are Astonishing.

Chicago correspondence: From the instant when it was known that men, women and children were dying inside the Iroquois Theater, which had been widely advertised as being absolutely fireproof, people began to ask who was to blame and the Mayor appointed an investigating committee almost before the fire was extinguished.



A thorough examination of the building was made and criminal carelessness seemed apparent at almost every turn. The fire escape exits were hidden with hangings, there was no means of opening the doors, there were no ladders that could be used when the escapes were once reached, the persons responsible for the care of the scenery during the play were absent from their posts, the asbestos curtain was made of exceedingly flimsy material—so flimsy, in fact, that it would probably have been little protection had it been entirely lowered, there were no sprinklers, there was no glue over the stage to create a draft away from the auditorium should a fire start, the skylights were nailed down, the building ordinances had been repeatedly violated in placing chairs and in narrowing the aisles far under the limit, and there were many other things of like nature.

On the first floor, the exits to be used in case of emergency were not only shut but bolted, and evidence of neglect and evasion were visible in all parts of the theater. And this in a playhouse which has been called the very best in the country. As soon as it seemed probable that the horror could have been averted but for a neglect of duty, twenty men were arrested on the charge of manslaughter. They included stage hands, stage manager, electrician, carpenters and several actors, the last named being connected in a criminal way because of things they did while the fire was in progress. Subsequently Will J. Davis and Harry J. Powers, resident managers of the Iroquois, were taken into custody on the same charge, and released under \$10,000 bonds.

Members of the coroner's jury and the officials of the Iroquois inquest have been astounded by the evidence of utter incompetence, criminal neglect and proof of violation of existing laws for the protection of human life brought out during the examination of witnesses. Robert E. Murray, engineer of the theater building, in effect told the jury that the possibility of fire or panic in the new playhouse had never been considered by the management so far as the taking of precautions was concerned.

No arrangements had been made and no instructions given for the protection of patrons of the theater. The evidence showed that there were four stairwells in the building, but only a single fifty-foot piece of hose; there were exits, but they were not marked; there was no fire alarm box on the premises and ventilators were in working order, but nobody operated them. Murray did not know whose business it was to operate safeguards of human life with which the theater was equipped. Knowledge of how to work the fastenings was necessary, he swore, to open the exits.

The witness told one long story of pitiful neglect. At a dozen points in his testimony those who heard it were struck with the fact that one man with a thorough understanding of his business in charge of the employees of the theater, including the engineer, would have made the playhouse a safe place for public attendance. His testimony was the first expert testimony concerning the inner workings of the theater force that had been submitted.

Gates of Death.

George Dusenberry, superintendent of the auditorium of the Iroquois Theater, admitted on the witness stand there was utter lack of discipline at the theater, and he testified that at least one exit was locked, that two iron gates across stairways were closed and that there was no way for people to distinguish exits. A double set of iron gates at the turn in the grand marble staircase, near where the dead were found piled a dozen deep, held back the fleeing audience and reduced by half the avenues of escape. Heavy padlocks kept the gates in place. These gates were not provided for in the plans of the structure filed with the building department and were put up without a permit from the authorities. They do not appear in any of the reports.

Superintendent Dusenberry was under a fire of questions for two hours. He acknowledged that he kept in his possession the only keys to certain balcony doors and gates. Before he left the witness stand his information had tended greatly to clear away the situation that existed in the theater previous to the fire. On his testimony that city building inspectors regularly visited the theater, and that inspector William Curran was in the auditorium, supposedly in his official capacity, a few minutes before the fire, a subpoena was issued for Curran. Curran is the building inspector who visited the Iroquois Theater just before the fire and pronounced everything in order. He told the coroner he had no real business there and had just dropped in. In fact, the most rigid examination failed to discover exactly where the inspector did have business.

He showed ignorance of the most ordinary duties of his office. He was equally uncertain in regard to the responsibilities of other employees of the department. In the face of his testimony he confessed to having been on the pay roll sixteen out of the last eighteen years.

GOES TO ST. LOUIS.

Democratic National Convention Will Meet on July 6.

The next Democratic national convention will meet in St. Louis on Wednesday, July 6. The world's fair city was chosen prize when the national committee, in session at Washington, on the second ballot, by a vote of 28 to 21, decided against Chicago. On this ballot all of the New York votes but one went to St. Louis, thus deciding the contest in favor of the latter city.

Building Commissioner Williams, Deputy Commissioner Stanhope and Inspector William Curran indicted the building department for gross inefficiency, negligence and ignorance in their frank admissions before the coroner's jury. The lack of knowledge on the part of Commissioner Williams regarding the construction of the building and its equipment was only equaled by his frank admissions of ignorance regarding the stipulations of the building ordinance. He even asserted he had not been familiar with the theater laws until he had made a study of them after the fire. The records of the building commissioner's office, by his admissions, consist not even of adequate notes.

Mr. Williams acknowledged that he had never received an official detailed report of the inspection of the Iroquois Theater and never had made an inspection of the completed theater himself. Although the entire theater had been erected, with the exception of driving the piles, since Mr. Williams' appointment by Mayor Harrison he admitted he had never examined the plans of the building. According to his own testimony, the head of the building department did not ask a single question in regard to the structure or its equipment or appliances for the safety of the public.

It was brought out that the eighteen inspectors reported to no one in particular and that they were not instructed as to their duties. They were assigned to certain territories, it seemed, and were allowed to do much as they pleased. No inspections of theaters as to overcrowding and the handling of the crowds according to the ordinances, or as to fire equipment or provisions for exits, were made in a regular way. It was said by the witnesses that any inspection of the theaters was voluntary with the inspectors, and the inference from the testimony was that the inspectors went more to see the show than for any other reason.

Here are some of the striking facts developed by the testimony of Commissioner Williams, Assistant Commissioner Leon E. Stanhope and Inspector William Curran:

The reports made by Inspector Laughlin during the building of the Iroquois Theater consisted in brief memoranda of the progress of the work which the inspector wrote in a book and which Commissioner Williams never looked at.

The final report on the building, made the day before it opened, consisted in a verbal statement made by Laughlin to Williams that "the Iroquois is O. K."

Although Williams became head of the building department when the foundation piles of the building were being driven, he never saw the plans of the building and knew nothing of whether the building conformed to those plans, except in one instance.

In this instance Laughlin reported that the plans of the stage floor were being changed, and after inspection of that particular piece of work Williams allowed the floor to be laid on the changed plans.

Williams accepted Laughlin's verbal report or "O. K." without questioning the inspector about fire appliances, exits or any other portion of the building or its equipment.

After the building was opened there was no further inspection of it by any one assigned to that work.

An examination of the building after the fire showed that one aisle on the main floor had been filled with seats. When Assistant Stanhope asked Laughlin about it the inspector said that the aisle was there when the theater opened.

There is no systematic inspection of the downtown theaters. Certain of the inspectors and other attaches of the office visited the theaters on their own time, but never made any reports of what they found as regards crowds, except in rare instances.

Spasmodic attempts to inspect the theaters were made by Williams and in a few instances managers were compelled to find seats for crowds standing in the aisles.

Williams did not know until after the fire that the Iroquois Theater was violating nearly every one of the ordinances made for the safeguarding of patrons.

Williams had not read the building ordinances as they concern theaters until after the Iroquois fire.

The commissioner made a report to Mayor Harrison that nearly every theater in Chicago was violating the ordinances, but no action towards closing the buildings was taken until after the Iroquois disaster.

Cross-examined by Assistant State's Attorney Barnes, Williams admitted that he had failed to perform nearly every duty required of him by the ordinance. He pleaded too much work and not enough money to employ assistants.

Mayor Called as Witness.

Mayor Harrison and Alderman William Mavor, chairman of the Council finance committee, were called as witnesses at the Iroquois fire inquest. The Mayor was asked why, after receiving from Building Inspector George Williams a report that practically every theater in Chicago was unsafe, he did not revoke their amusement licenses and compel them to make the changes required by the ordinances. He was asked, further, why, knowing that other theaters had evaded the building ordinances, he did not require a report of conditions at the Iroquois before the permit allowing it to open was issued.

Chairman Mavor was asked why a sufficient amount of money had not been found for the building department to allow for enough inspectors to inspect theaters frequently, and prevent such violations of the ordinances as made the tragedy at the Iroquois possible.

The request for these witnesses was made after the jury had heard Building Commissioner Williams and two of his subordinates give testimony that showed the inadequacy of the inspection department of that office, and the inefficient handling of the few men there. The story amazed the jurors.

Humorous News Items.

Panama sleeps as soundly as a man with a big dog in his yard.

Russia should take off its skates and stop sliding down the map.

Eggs cannot be classed as mere luxuries now. They are tantalizing dreams.

Hereafter, it is believed, the fireproof drop curtains in Chicago will be fireproof and will drop.

Whatever Weyler's reasons were for not invading the United States, they were good ones.

NEBRASKA NOTES

Jesse B. Fulton of Beatrice and Miss Enid Jackson of Kansas City were married at Kansas City.

Henry D. Ewao, formerly a member of the Lincoln city council died of pneumonia at Havelock.

Mrs. Annie S. Lundgren, aged 19 years died at her home near Mead. She had been ill but a short time.

The Burlington has a large force of men at work putting in a new trestle between Plattsmouth and Pacific Junction.

R. D. Thomas of Howe suddenly dropped dead while driving with a friend at Odele. The remains were sent to Stella for burial.

Judge Jesson at Plattsmouth ordered the Nebraska Telephone company to pay to the city of Plattsmouth \$250 back taxes.

A claim of \$2,435 has been allowed the Western Electrical company of Omaha for installing the electric light plant at the penitentiary.

The new union depot at Fremont does not meet the approval of the railroads and will not be opened for some time until changes can be made by the contractor.

Nebraska City will send a delegation of six to the annual convention of Fremont at Fremont January 19, and will try to land Mike Baur as president of the association.

Albert Powers was found dead in his bed at Memphis when his daughter returned from a visit in the country. He probably died from apoplexy. He leaves four children.

The firemen of Norfolk are making big preparations to attend the state convention at Fremont January 19, 20 and 21. They will go in a special car.

Arthur B. Allen private secretary to Governor Mickey, has denied that he has any intention of becoming a candidate for state auditor on the republican ticket.

The Nebraska Historical society will hold its annual meeting at Lincoln January 12-13. The various constitutional conventions held in the state will be discussed.

While preparing to go to Arizona to spend the winter with her son, Mrs. Elizabeth Thurston of Fremont died suddenly. She was 72 years of age.

S. W. Schooley was struck by a mail sack hurled from a Union Pacific mail train last night and badly bruised. The sack struck Schooley with such force that he was thrown to the ground.

Invitations are out at Plattsmouth for the wedding of Miss Mary Abble H. Baird to George L. Farly, proprietor of the Plattsmouth Evening News. The wedding will take place January 19.

Mrs. J. A. Sawyer has resigned as member of the advisory board at the Millford Industrial home. The governor has accepted the resignation, but no one has been appointed to fill the vacancy as yet.

The Rev. T. C. Downs of Kansas City Kas., died suddenly on a freight train while on his way to Prestos from Falls City. He was a presiding elder of the Methodist church South. Heart disease was the cause of his death.

C. S. Benton a prominent farmer and member of the county board of supervisors of Hall county, was stricken with paralysis last week and will be unable to perform his duties upon the board for six weeks or two months.

H. Macleod, representative at Beatrice for the Scranton, Pa. schools, has disappeared. He was under \$500 bonds, furnished by a fidelity company, and his accounts are thought to be straight. He owed some money to a roommate.

The exhibition of the Garrison Poultry Fanciers' association closed after two days' of good attendance. Officers chosen are: President C. R. Hammond; secretary, J. L. Housery superintendent, C. E. Kidney treasurer, J. C. Ely.

John McCool and Mike Denny, convicted of horse stealing, were taken from Dakota City to the state penitentiary and the reform school at Kearney. Kenny will remain in the reform school until he is of age in 1907.

At Beatrice Miss Mabel Starn was elected as teacher in the schools to take the place made vacant by the resignation of Miss Gertrude Warren, who has accepted a position in the Omaha schools. An invitation was extended to the Southwestern Teachers' association to meet in Beatrice next spring.

At a meeting of the military board at Lincoln, a resolution was passed asking the governor to appoint General Barry, Colonel Talbot, Colonel McDonald and one other man, delegates to the Interstate National Guard convention at Jacksonville, Fla. this month.

Mrs. Calloway Anlock, who was Miss Mary McQuinn before her marriage two weeks ago died suddenly at Plattsmouth. She was but 28 years of age.