

RED BANANAS ARE SCARCE

Twenty Years Ago Brought Less Price Than Yellow.

"Red bananas are not often seen in the market these days," said a commission man, "and when we do get them, they bring fancy prices. Fifteen or twenty years ago, the reds were the leading banana, and sold for a less price than the yellow. The change is due to commercial reasons—the yellow banana is more profitable, requires less time in its care and cultivation, and consequently, costs less. More of the yellows grow on a bunch, stick to the stem better, and stand handling far better than the red. With these advantages, the reds have been practically driven out of the market. The comparatively few bunches brought here are soon gobbled up by fancy fruit dealers, and they bring good prices. Some people prefer the flavor of the red banana, and some like that of the yellow, but the price has a great deal to do with it, the less price the yellow can be offered to the consumer determines and settles the question.

"Bananas were never so cheap as they have been in recent years, and what was formerly an expensive luxury is one of our cheapest articles of everyday food, ranging in price from 7 cents to 20 cents a dozen. As little as some people think of it, the best and most wholesome bananas are the ones peddled from the push carts by the vendors. I say this because these fellows never buy bananas until the fruit is thoroughly ripe, and in a day or two more would not be fit for market. The peddlers get them cheap and rush them out at a lively rate. A banana is not wholesome food—it is unfit for the stomach—until perfectly and thoroughly ripe. When commission men get a large consignment of bananas, they cannot afford to let any grass grow under their feet while getting rid of the stock, for a few hours' delay may mean the spoiling of hundreds of dollars' worth of the fruit. When it reaches this stage, the banana auction takes place, and then the street men get in their work, buying fine, large, perfectly ripe bunches for as low as 25 cents. Banana auction mornings around here on Louisiana avenue are the liveliest mornings we have, and the sons of Italy are on hand by the hundreds. I have seen as many as 400 carts lined up here to get supplies of bananas.

"The great bulk of the banana trade is now controlled by a company which banana importers have organized, and this company uses the fastest steamers for plating the fruit on the markets. Formerly, we got them—years ago—in sailing vessels, but bad weather would knock the vessels out and the cargo would go to rot. No such trouble as that is experienced now, the fast steamers, built especially for the fruit trade, land here in good shape and with the fruit in prime condition. It is after unloading that the danger of rotting comes, and the fruit must be disposed of in quick order. Most of our bananas come from Costa Rica, British and Spanish Honduras, Colombia, Jamaica and Cuba—that is, from countries around the southern part of the Gulf of Mexico and around the Caribbean Sea. The bulk of the fruit from the Gulf countries goes to New Orleans for distribution; that from the other countries coming to Atlantic ports. The fruit was never so widely distributed, and especially in interior points.—Washington Post.

HORSE CARS ARE PASSING.

Nearly Half of Those Still in Use Are in New York City.

The growing use of automobiles and electric railways is fast displacing the horse, and yet in some of the largest cities of this country cars drawn by horses and mules are encountered on some of the most prominent streets. Especially is this true in New York City, where can be found nearly one-half the horse cars now in use in the entire United States. It is hard for the stranger entering the metropolis and expecting to find everything, even the street car facilities, strictly up to date, to believe that several of the most important street railway lines in that city use horses for the motor power, until they encounter a real horse car on one of the uptown or cross-town routes. According to the latest reports, there are about 25,000 miles of street railways in this country. Of these, 250 miles use horse or mule cars, the balance electricity or cable power. Of these 250 miles of horse cars, 116 miles are found in the Empire State, and the greater part of that in New York City. In California there are forty-two miles, in Kansas twenty-two miles, and the remaining eighty miles are to be found principally in the South and West. Boston is another city where horse cars were in use to a limited extent until very recently, and the line that was longest in operation stretched out for a mile or so in the Back Bay district, whose residents were obliged to ride in old-fashioned and badly lighted cars, while their less opulent friends of other sections of the city were given trolley cars to ride in. In the South, especially in Charleston, Atlanta and New Orleans, relics of bygone years in the shape of hobbled horse cars are still to be found. They may be called horse cars, but mules instead of horse flesh are used in drawing them—horses are too valuable and too highly thought of to be put to such a base use as drawing horse cars.—New Haven Register.

INDIANAPOLIS.—After another day of argument no agreement has been reached by the scale committee of the joint conference between the mines and operators of the central competitive district. The operators have abandoned their specific demand for 15 per cent reduction in wages, but insist upon "a substantial decrease." The miners have, it is said, decided to abandon their first demands and will agree to a compromise renewing the present scale and conditions. A sub-scale committee of sixteen has been appointed consisting of two operators and two miners from each of the four districts.

Accused of Robbing Bank.

ALTAMONT, Mo.—A warrant has been sworn out for the arrest of Lee DeFord, cashier of the Bank of Altamont, charged with embezzlement of \$21,000 of its funds, but he left the city before it could be served. The bank has been placed in the hands of John Meade as temporary receiver. DeFord, who is thirty years old and married, is the son of a wealthy Altamont man. It is believed he lost the money in speculation.

Found Guilty of Bribery.

SIoux CITY, Ia.—After being out for seven hours a jury in the district court to-night found Ed Anderson, formerly captain of police in Sioux City, guilty of accepting a bribe from J. H. Bigelow, a slot machine man. Bigelow charged Captain Anderson with accepting \$1,200 for protection for his slot machines under the anti-gambling ordinance which forbids operation of slot machines in Sioux City.

Fatal Fire at New York.

NEW YORK.—One fireman was killed and twenty-five firemen were overcome by smoke in a fire in a storehouse of the American manufacturing company in Brooklyn tonight. Nine of the men who were overcome were seriously affected that they were taken to hospitals. One of them is expected to die. The storehouse contained jute, Manila hemp and bagging. The property loss amounts to about \$25,000.

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Don't marry a girl for the sake of seeing her chaperon out of a job.

It's the proper caper for a bachelor vegetarian to wed a grass widow.

NOW IN TRIM FOR FIGHT

RUSSIAN FLEET EQUIPPED FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE

Increase Tension at Tokio as Result of Long Delay at St. Petersburg in Answering Japan's Note.

ST. PETERSBURG.—A dispatch from Vladivostok dated today, and issued here by a semi-official agency, says the Russian fleet at Vladivostok had been fully equipped for immediate service and prepared for sea. All the wood fittings of the ships were removed yesterday. The harbor is being kept open by the breakers. The fleet consists of four cruisers, the *Cromohai* (of 12,336 tons), the *Russia* (of 12,150 tons), the *Bogatyr* (of 6,700 tons), and the *Rurik* (of 10,223 tons), and a transport, the *Lena*.

The czar now has before him the report of the special council on the Russian response. All the papers relating thereto were submitted to him yesterday by The Grand Alexis, and the czar is giving them earnest consideration. He had not rendered his decision up to which he is expected to do so this evening, and it is authoritatively said it may possibly be several days before the response is forwarded to Tokio.

Prices on the bourse are a gain week 4 per cent falling point. Prince Khilkoff, the minister of communications, has started today on a tour of inspection of the Siberian and Trans-Baikal railways.

"The announcement of the Russian mobilization proceeds the Russian response, as a warning to Japan," says the Bourse Gazette today.

Dollar Wheat a Reality.

CHICAGO.—One dollar wheat in the sample room of the board of trade became an actuality today. The fact that the price which has long been retained gave added impetus to the efforts of the bull leaders in the pits and shortly after the dollar mark was reached in the sample prices the wheat, corn and oat pits established new records, eclipsing previous high marks for the year.

An advance of 2 1/2 to 2 3/4 cents a bushel was made to-day in the price of wheat. The May option sold up to 94 1/2 cents. Manipulation of the market by Armour interests was credited with being a leading cause of the sharp rise, but a reason of perhaps greater potency was the increasing evidence of the imminence of war in the orient. The close was at 93 1/2 to 93 3/4.

Other cereal markets jumped even more excitedly to new high record prices for the season. The May delivery of corn showed a gain of 2 1/2 cents a bushel. The option touched 55 cents and the close was practically at the top.

Oats advanced 1 1/2 and 1 3/4, selling at 61 1/2 for May delivery. Provisions shared in the general advance.

The market continued to gain in strength as the session advanced. Shorts were active buyers and there appeared to be no let up in buying by the bull leader. Within the last half hour of trading May wheat sold at 94 1/2, a gain of 2 1/2 and 2 3/4 over yesterday's close. Reducing sales caused some reaction and final figures were at 93 1/2 to 93 3/4, a gain of 1 1/2 for the day. July closed at 84 1/2, a net gain of 1 3/4.

May corn continued to advance. The feature in trading was the apparent scarcity of offerings. Just before the close of the price of May touched 55 cents, which was a gain of 3 1/2 cents over yesterday's close. Final figures were practically at the top at 54 1/2 to 55 cents.

Oats advanced along with other grains, but the situation in that pit was not quite so bullish as in wheat and corn. The May delivery sold up to 46 1/2 cents and 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 cents above last night's close. Final figures were at 45 1/2 cent, a net gain of 1 to 1 1/4 cents.

See Danger of Deadlock.

INDIANAPOLIS.—After another day of argument no agreement has been reached by the scale committee of the joint conference between the mines and operators of the central competitive district. The operators have abandoned their specific demand for 15 per cent reduction in wages, but insist upon "a substantial decrease." The miners have, it is said, decided to abandon their first demands and will agree to a compromise renewing the present scale and conditions. A sub-scale committee of sixteen has been appointed consisting of two operators and two miners from each of the four districts.

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IS BENT ON WAR

COLOMBIANS DETERMINED TO INVADE PANAMA

Advice Received at New York Tend to Confirm Previous Rumors—General Reyes' Warning Goes Unheeded.

FIGHTING FEVER GROWING

TEN THOUSAND MEN TO BE ON ISTHMUS IN MONTH.

NEW YORK.—This cable dispatch was received here last night from an official source in Bogota, according to the following:

"Government is helpless in effort to prevent war. In less than a month from now 10,000 men will be on the isthmus."

This information, confirming rumors cabled from Panama yesterday, that Colombia intends organizing, and sending an expedition against Panama, comes as a surprise, in view of the changed attitude of the Colombians who had apparently accepted the inevitable and depended on General Raphael Reyes, their special envoy to Washington to save what he could from the wreck, says the Sun. General Reyes was to have sailed yesterday for Barranquilla on the steamer Valencia, but for the second time he deferred his departure. Gen. Pedro Nel Ospina and De Lucas Caballero, colleagues of Gen. Reyes on the Colombian commission sailed on the Valencia.

The story continues, on seemingly good authority, it is stated, that Gen. Reyes remains here because his negotiations with the state department at Washington have not been completely broken off and that he has a tentative promise from this government that Colombia will be taken care of with a pecuniary balm for her injured feelings.

No comments could be solicited from Gen. Reyes at the Hoffman house last night on the threatening dispatch from Bogota.

Will Make Peace Possible

ST. PETERSBURG.—"It will be astonishing if Japan remains inflexible," were the significant words of an official of the foreign office to the Associated Press this afternoon in speaking of the Russian response to the Japanese proposals, which will be dispatched to Tokio next week. The remark was not intended to convey the idea that Japan necessarily will accept the full details of the Russian propositions, but rather if she is actuated by the sincere desire to preserve peace Russia will offer a reasonable basis in a modus vivendi.

All knowledge of the alleged mediation proposed by Prince Ching at Peking is denied here, and a specific denial is given to the assertion that the Russian minister there invited Prince Ching to take such action. The report that a thousand Russian troops are to occupy Antung is also contradicted, it being intimated that as this is one of the open ports of the United States the report might have been put out to arouse a renewal of hostile feeling in the United States.

It has been ascertained by the Associated Press that there was practically no division in sentiment among the emperor's advisors at Thursday's meeting.

Crime of a Negro.

ROANOKE, Va.—When George A. Shields, a well known young business man, reached his home in the heart of the city at the luncheon hour today he found his three-year-old daughter Mildred lying in a pool of blood in the hall, with two ugly wounds in her head. He found his wife lying in pools of blood on a closet floor upstairs with her throat cut from ear to ear and her head horribly hacked. Mrs. Shields managed to gasp:

"A large black negro man came through the kitchen and attacked me in the dining room."

Besides this there is no clue to the criminal. Mrs. Shields had been outraged, after which her assailant dealt her several blows on the head with a hatchet, fracturing the skull, dragged her upstairs, where he cut her throat with a razor and threw her into the closet fastening the door on the outside. The little girl was struck to hush her cries. The dining room floor was covered with blood and showed there had been a terrible struggle.

Fatal Fire at New York.

NEW YORK.—One fireman was killed and twenty-five firemen were overcome by smoke in a fire in a storehouse of the American manufacturing company in Brooklyn tonight. Nine of the men who were overcome were seriously affected that they were taken to hospitals. One of them is expected to die. The storehouse contained jute, Manila hemp and bagging. The property loss amounts to about \$25,000.

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PUTS OFF PENDING CRISIS

RUSSIA FURTHER DELAYS FINAL ANSWER TO JAPAN

Thursday Now Set as Day of Definitive Results—Japanese Minister at London in the Dark as to Probable Tenor of Reply.

FIX THE WAR PAY

JAPAN TAKES ANOTHER STEP TOWARD TROUBLE.

ORDINANCE NOW ISSUED

RUSSIA IN MEANTIME EXPERIENCING AWAKENING.

Death of Reliable News at Tokio, But No Change for Better Expected—Answer Certainly This Week.

LONDON.—The Tokio correspondent of the Times cables that an ordinance has been issued fixing the war pay of men in the army and navy.

A correspondent of the Daily Mail at Nagasaki says in a dispatch that Japanese refugees from Port Arthur, Port Dalny and Harbin, report the arrival already of one Russian division on the Yulu river. According to the Seoul correspondent of the Times, reports have been received from Ping Yang Korea saying that armed soldiers have been guilty of robbery and horse breaking there and the missionaries declare the anti-foreign feeling to be increasing.

A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Tokio says the Russian answer has not yet arrived there and that there is an absolute dearth of reliable news, but the dispatch adds: "Well informed persons continue indisposed to expect a satisfactory answer from Russia."

One of the highest Japanese officials in London, who has been intimately acquainted with every detail of the Russo-Japanese negotiations up to the present, made the following statement to the Associated Press this evening:

"I am convinced that the delay in sending Russia's reply is not for the purpose of enabling the Russian government to make further preparations for war, but that Count Lansdowne is honestly trying to bring the matter in dispute to an amicable settlement. The delay clearly means that a final struggle is going on between the peace and war parties in Russia. I hope, and I think, I may add, that I believe the peace party will triumph. The crux of the whole matter is Russia's assurances regarding Chinese sovereignty over Manchuria. On other points Japan may agree to certain modifications, but unless Russia gives an assurance, binding and in writing, regarding Manchuria, Japan will break off the negotiations and adopt measures to safeguard her interests. Japan is sincerely anxious for peace, notwithstanding reports to the contrary, and if Russia gives the reasonable assurance asked for there will be no war. Otherwise peace cannot be maintained."

Wind in a Fury.

DENVER, Col.—High winds prevailed along the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains in Colorado, Wyoming, and much damage to the city was wrought. In Denver two men lost their lives as a direct result of the gale, they coming into contact with a trolley wire broken by the wind.

Reports are being received from points in northern Colorado telling of the destruction of farm buildings and hay stacks in the country districts, and the falling of trees, small buildings, chimneys, etc., in the towns. In some places the force of the wind was so great that small stones were blown about promiscuously, shattering windows and injuring people. Numerous fires were started but as yet no reports of serious losses from this source have been received.

Predictions of Deadlock.

INDIANAPOLIS.—The Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and western Pennsylvania coal operators and miners' joint scale committee got to work today on the counter demands presented in open joint conference last week. Both sides indicated before going into conference that they did not expect to refer any report back to the general joint conference before Wednesday. Both operators and miners fear a disruption of the present central competitive belt agreement, and there are today in the Illinois operators' framing a settlement with the miners on practically their full demands.

Grant His Appeal.

WASHINGTON.—Senator Dietrich today asked the senate to investigate his case without delay and the request was granted. A strong special committee was appointed for the purpose. Tomorrow it is expected Senator Dietrich will offer a resolution providing for the expense of the hearing and of the summoning of persons to testify.

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NEBRASKA NOTES

A farmers' institute has been organized at Loup City.

The funeral of Frank Cooney was held at Nebraska City.

A building and loan association has been organized at Loup City.

Thomas L. Kipling died at his home, ten miles southwest of Auburn.

Allen Bros. of Table Rock have sold their restaurant to Lee Smith of Pawnee City.

The Hastings canning company, with a capital of \$30,000 has filed articles of incorporation.

James Curley, a prominent resident of Gretna, fell on a slippery pavement and fractured his hip bone.

Mrs. W. P. Hall wife of a prominent attorney at Holdrege, died last week from the effects of consumption.

John M. Graham, an old resident and prominent citizen of Nemaha county, died at his home in Peru recently.

The Rev. Harry Schleh of Omaha delivered an address at a banquet of the Woodmen of the World at Memphis, last week.

Fruit men at Table Rock do not think the crop will be much injured, although the trees are covered with ice and snow.

A new brick store building has just been completed by the Modern Woodmen of America at Loup City at a cost of \$7,000.

A Hastings company for the manufacture of incubators has filed articles of incorporation, with a capital stock of \$25,000.

James Biddlecomb, who has been assistant auditor of the Burlington, has entered the shops at Havelock to learn the machinists' trade.

Mrs. Mariah Hagedorn an old resident of Sarpy county, died at Portia aged 67 years. She was born in Germany. She leaves six children.

Pioneers of Saline county are preparing to organize a historical society and prepare a record of happenings which took place at an early date.

Mrs. William Warner has purchased the millinery stock of Mrs. L. B. Hill and Miss Eva Stayer at Edgar, and will take possession on February 1.

Attorney General Prout has received the transcript of the proceeding in the Bartley case and will proceed to prepare his appeal to the supreme court.

Frank Toler of Anoka may lose an arm as the result of the discharge of a gun by reason of the trigger catching as he was lifting the gun into a wagon.

E. W. Baughman has sold his Havelock Times to Bert Tanner of Lincoln, and will enter the employ of the Armstrong Clothing company as a writer.

George W. Mover, aged 60 years died at his home near North Bend Saturday after a long illness. He was one of the early settlers and a prosperous farmer.

Will L. Withrow, publisher of the Plattsmouth Tribune, announces that after February 1 the Tribune will be a daily paper. This will give Plattsmouth two daily papers.

Mrs. S. H. Whipple, an aged woman of Beatrice, slipped on an icy sidewalk and fell, breaking several ribs. Miss Anna Dierks also broke her wrist by a fall.

Alec Thomas, a drayman at Shelton, was severely injured by being struck by a Union Pacific train as he was carrying freight across the track just ahead of it. There is doubt as to his recovery.

At a meeting of the committee of the Central Teachers' association at Aurora it was decided to secure Frank R. Roberson as one of the lecturers. An attendance of 500 teachers is expected.

The board of education, lands and funds, wants to buy any refunding bonds that may be issued by any counties to liquidate their indebtedness. This is the usual policy of the board.

The coroner's jury at Valley in the inquest on the remains of William Falcoer, killed by a Union Pacific engine, returned a verdict that Falcoer died while discharging his duties, and exonerating the company.

A request has been received from the gatherer of statistics at St. Petersburg, Russia, by the department of labor, asking for copies of plans used by the Nebraska labor bureau and all information that would assist in establishing such a bureau over there.

J. W. Dixon of Western, Sarpy county captured a live opossum weighing ten pounds. This is the first one captured in the county in several years. A southern dinner will be given by Mr. Dixon.

The Beatrice public library has been moved into the new Carnegie building, erected at a cost of \$25,000. William H. Charlton of Rocca and Miss Olfenbrun of Lanban were married at Beatrice. They will live at Rocca.