

RUSSIA IS FRIENDLY

Occupancy of Port Arthur is a Temporary Concession by China.

ACT HAS NO IMPORTANT SIGNIFICANCE

War Ships Usually Spend Winter in Kiao Chau Bay.

CONDITIONS MAKE THAT IMPOSSIBLE NOW

China Shows Its Neighborliness by Then Offering Port Ar. har.

RUSSA ACCEPTS IT IN SAME SPIRIT

At Least This is the Version of the Affair Given Out by the Chinese Minister at Washington.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Minister Wu Ting Fang, the diplomatic representative in this country, expressed the belief that the reported occupancy of Port Arthur by a Russian squadron would prove to be but a temporary convenience to the czar's fleet granted to the Russian government. He said the Russian squadron in Asiatic waters was granted permission last year to winter at Kiao Chau and the Russian ships remained there during the winter, but as soon as warm weather set in they resumed their maneuvers in the Pacific ocean. For the convenience of the Russian officers, the Chinese government sent interpreters to Kiao Chau and made every effort to make them comfortable. In view of the German occupancy of Kiao Chau it was impossible to permit the Russian ships to return to that port and the minister therefore believes that the Russian admiral asked and received permission to winter his ships at Port Arthur. It is impossible for Russian vessels to anchor at Vladivostok during the winter, owing to the ice. The minister also stated that it was his opinion that the Germans would eventually withdraw from Kiao Chau.

So far as known in Washington there is no intention on the part of the Chinese government to seek the exercise of the good offices of this government with a view to securing the withdrawal of Germany.

Minister Wu is anxious that American interests shall be extended in China. Two or three American interests are now seeking concessions in the celestial kingdom, but he is desirous that more shall reach out for Chinese trade and thus promote relations between the Peking and Washington governments. He says, however, that he has no ulterior motives with reference to China. It does not want Chinese territory, and the development of its interests in the celestial kingdom would naturally increase and strengthen the concern of this government in the welfare of its Asiatic friends. It is understood that the minister is considering the advisability of suggesting to his government that the president be asked to authorize the employment by the Chinese of army and navy officers of the United States to train the army and navy of China. At present English officers are employed for the navy and German officers for the army, but the governments which these gentlemen represent are both practicing Chinese territory.

FORCING THE ISSUE

The policy which Germany is pursuing in the Pacific is a matter of much speculation in Washington. It is generally believed that the emperor has simply been influenced by his desire to secure the passage by the Reichstag of the bill to increase the German navy. It was said at the Navy department that Germany is expending \$9,000,000 during the years 1897-98 for vessels under construction. One battleship and two gunboats have been authorized, but work has not been commenced upon them. The vessels under construction include two first class battleships, one armored cruiser, five protected cruisers, one torpedo boat destroyer and eight torpedo boats.

The report that Germany proposes to seize Hawaii and Samoa is regarded as ridiculous by administration officials. Germany has little interest in those islands, and the Hawaiian Islands. It is admitted that the interests in Samoa are large. The last administration was willing to denounce the treaty of June 14, 1899, between the United States, Great Britain and Germany. Mr. Olney informing the German ambassador here that "the treaty is unsatisfactory to the United States and is one which its interests require to be essentially modified or altogether abrogated." President McKinley proposes that the United States shall retain its grip on Samoa and will agree to no proposition which contemplates the turning over of the share of this government in Samoa to either Germany or Great Britain.

CHECKMATE FOR ENGLAND

BERLIN, Dec. 20.—The Paris correspondent of the Cologne Gazette telegraphs that paper that he learns on reliable authority that the Russian occupation of Port Arthur was connected with the visit there of the British war ship Daphne, a week ago, when, in spite of the protests of the Chinese, the Daphne entered the inner harbor, for the alleged purpose of ascertaining whether there were Russian ships there. China complained of the incident to the representatives of the powers at Peking. The British foreign minister is said to be at Tallinn, and, according to the correspondent quoted, is shortly expected at Port Arthur. The Cologne Gazette regards the occupation as merely a continuance of the co-operation of Germany with Russia in eastern Asia.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—An unconfirmed report is current here that part of the British far eastern squadron will be stationed at Wel-Hai-Wel this winter. If true, this indicates that Great Britain is working in harmony with Japan. The latter power still occupies Wel-Hai-Wel, pending payment of the Chinese war indemnity.

The evening newspapers are much disturbed over the situation. "What do we get?" is the burden of their complaint, and they all insist upon the necessity for immediate action. The Globe says: "Russia and Germany now have the two most important strategic positions in northern China, and Great Britain, whose commercial interests are ten times greater, must be content with the crumbs from the St. Petersburg and Berlin tables."

The Pall Mall Gazette echoes the Standard's inquiry as to America's attitude and says: "Of course the partition of the coast, which is bound to come, will not be confined to Russia and Germany. Every naval state in the world is actively concerned in the disturbance of the equilibrium in the far east, Great Britain, France and

WANT MORE MICROSCOPISTS

Additional Aid Needed to Pass Upon Meat Products.

SOUTH OMAHA PACKERS FILE A REQUEST

Secretary Wilson Will Ask an Additional Appropriation to Help the Matter—Mercer Takes It Up.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has decided to ask congress for a special appropriation of \$25,000 in order that microscopists may be able to pass upon meat products for foreign shipment. Packers of the United States are bringing powerful pressure to bear on Mr. Wilson to the end that relief may be afforded them in being able to fill their orders for American packed meats through an increased force of microscopists. Owing to the small sum of money remaining to the credit of the bureau of animal industry, Secretary Wilson was compelled to reduce the force of expert meat examiners at nearly all the packing houses in the country. South Omaha was particularly affected and the packers there are urging immediate action, after the holidays, for an appropriation to carry on the work of examination. Congressman Mercer called upon Secretary Wilson today in the interest of the packers of South Omaha and the head of the agricultural department agreed to bring about the relief if possible. Mr. Mercer showed the secretary that several of the South Omaha packers had orders ahead for export that would keep them running up to September, but if the microscopical force was not increased they would be unable to fill their orders, resulting in great loss. Mr. Mercer will support the secretary in securing an additional appropriation outside of the regular appropriation bill, which will be reported shortly after the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Mercer is urging upon Sir Julian Pauncefote, her majesty's representative to this country, the importance of having an English consul stationed at Omaha. Sir Julian, while appreciating the importance of the post, has not yet decided whether to recommend to his government the appointment of a resident consul.

Senator Kyle of South Dakota today called at the Indian office and had a conference with Commissioner Jones relative to the removal of Agent Johnson of Sisseton agency. S. D. Senator Kyle urges the removal on the grounds of gross mismanagement of the affairs of the agency; and further, that in making appointments Johnson has placed the democrats in control to the exclusion of republicans. The commissioner refused to talk about the matter today further than to say that the senator had called and asked for the removal of Johnson, and that he has taken the matter under advisement. Agent Johnson has been in charge at Sisseton but a short time, having been appointed by the present administration.

It is probable that the visit of W. A. Mercer here will result in much needed improvements and additions to the schools on the Omaha and Winnebago agencies. The agent and Chief of Schools, Ericsson, of the Indian office have gone over the improvements suggested by the former and the expenses of the same will be taken from the general Indian fund. Among the improvements asked by Agent Mercer are the construction of dormitories to the schools at both agencies.

EVANS FINDS FAULT WITH THE LAW

Commissioner of Pensions Displeased with Civil Service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Commissioner of Pensions Evans today appeared before the senate committee on civil service and re-education, which is conducting an investigation into the operation of the civil service law.

Mr. Evans was questioned at length by Senators Lodge and Pritchard about the civil service operation, and his application to the force.

He expresses the opinion that the law did not accomplish the results its friends insisted that it did. The best men in his office were those who had come in under the so-called "spoils system." They did their duty and expected to hold their positions by so doing. The pension examining boards, he said, ought not to be in the classified service, as it was desirable to secure men as members of such boards who had had wide surgical experience—army experience, if possible—and such men would not enter into competition for the places with young men just out of college. He thought, however, that the entire system of appointing the boards was wrong, and that all of them should be under a uniform system of appointment.

The commissioner believed the head of a bureau was in the best position to pass upon the efficiency of a clerk, and he ought not to be hampered in removing a clerk for his inefficiency. If permitted to do so he could remove at least 100 clerks from his office without effecting the efficiency of the force.

He thought it would be desirable to have a definite tenure of office, not exceeding ten years, so that every year about 10 per cent of the new blood could be introduced into the force. This would do away with the abuses resulting from some clerks remaining in office too long.

The commissioner thought some reform would have to be enacted or the country would have the infliction of a civil pension list. He believed it was a mistake to include in the classified service the special examiners, medical boards, chiefs of divisions and all others receiving salaries exceeding \$1,400.

News for the Army.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—Leaves of absence: Lieutenant Colonel Charles C. Hood, Nineteenth infantry, extended four months on account of disability; Lieutenant Robert H. Anderson, Ninth infantry, extended one month; Lieutenant Richard L. Livermore, Tenth cavalry, three months; Captain Charles Dodge, Twenty-fourth infantry, four months, with permission to go abroad. First Lieutenant John P. Ryan has been transferred from troop A to troop H, Sixth cavalry.

November Revenue Collections.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The monthly statement of the collections of internal revenue shows that for the month of November last receipts amounted to \$13,359,596, an increase as compared with November of last year of \$1,257,927. For the last five months, however, there is shown to have been a decrease of \$5,912.

Gideon Explains His Case.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The submission of the waste committee on Pacific railroads today heard F. M. Gideon, the attorney who was charged by J. K. Redding on Saturday with having manipulated the land

MAKES CHARGE OF BOODLING

Penfold Springs Sensation at Board of Education Meeting.

ACCUSES DENNIS OF TAKING COMMISSION

Deal Concerning the Lot at the Dupont School Blocked Till the Charge Shall Have Been Investigated.

The last regular meeting of the present Board of Education was signaled last night by the most sensational outbreak that has agitated the proceedings of that body this year. The charge was boldly made in the course of debate that a certain member of the board had accepted a commission to secure the purchase of the lot at the Dupont school by the board, and the charge was scheduled for investigation at the next meeting.

The charge was made in connection with a resolution which was offered by Dennis, by which the committee on claims was instructed to include in its report an item of \$100 as the purchase price of the lot. The same resolution had been introduced at previous meetings, but had been voted down. Last night it was about to be declared adopted.

Ayes—Bandhauer, Dennis, Irey, Moore, Van Gilder, Sears, Winter, President Lunt—8.

Nays—Jordan, Anderson, Penfold, Johnson—4.

Before the president announced the vote Penfold stated that he had voted against the resolution because a member of the board was to receive a commission of \$32 on the sale. He said that the rules expressly provided that no member of the board should be interested in any contract and he regarded this as a practical violation of the rule.

DENNIS TAKES IT UP.

Dr. Moore said that if that was the case he wished to change this vote. Dennis stated that the insinuation was directed at himself, and added that he wished to denounce it as a falsehood. He wanted to know where Penfold had obtained his information.

Penfold said he would produce the evidence to corroborate his charge of the next meeting and asked that action on Dennis' resolution be postponed until that time. Dennis, Bandhauer, Winter and Lunt insisted that the matter should be investigated at once. Jordan explained that this was manifestly impossible and urged that all action on the subject be postponed. Moore, Lunt, Irey and Bandhauer then changed their votes pending an investigation and the resolution was declared adopted.

Chairman Penfold of the finance committee submitted the following financial statement as required by the rules:

Receipts, July to December, 1896, \$47,453.23  
Receipts, July to December, 1897, 103,470.28  
Expenses, July to December, 1896, 90,551.96  
Expenses, July to December, 1897, 115,685.32  
Deficit December 1, 1896, \$2,788.26  
Deficit December 1, 1897, 32,859.34  
Deficit January 1, 1897, 16,710.25  
Estimated deficit January 1, 1898, 163,809.09  
Estimated surplus for year ending December 31, 1897, 335,685.32  
The estimate of the deficit January 1, 1898, does not include liquor licenses, which may be paid in December.

MAJORITY RESSENTS IT.

The report was discussed at some length, mainly because one or two majority members insisted that the commission on expenditures with those of the preceding year was a reflection on the committee on public property and buildings. It was explained that no such intention existed, but this did not head off a half dozen speeches in explanation of the increased item for repairs.

The secretary was instructed to purchase 100 wall maps for use in the schools.

City Treasurer Edwards notified the board of warrants amounting to \$175,945.28 were outstanding at 7 per cent interest. Additional warrants on which interest had accrued aggregated \$3,428.42.

The report of Superintendent Pease showed an enrollment of 15,291 pupils from the beginning of the year to the close of November. The average number belonging was 14,816 and the average daily attendance was 14,015. The membership at the close of November was 14,802. The average daily attendance over the corresponding date of last year.

A number of bids for mulching the grounds around various school buildings were placed on file.

The superintendent of buildings was instructed to make recommendations of such plans as his judgment advised for beautifying the school grounds next year.

The previous action by which the schools were ordered closed at noon Friday for the holiday vacation was reconsidered and the schools will close at the end of the afternoon session Thursday.

Penfold, Jordan, Anderson, Irey and Secretary Gillan were designated as a committee to represent the board at the meeting of the Board of Education of the state, which will be held at Lincoln Tuesday, December 28, in connection with the annual convention of the Nebraska State Teachers' Association.

MUTUAL FELLOWSHIP FUND.

Before the board adjourned President Lunt very graciously expressed his appreciation of the courtesies that he had received from other members of the board during the year. He said that while there had been differences of opinion during the year, he left the board with only the kindest feelings toward all his associates.

Dr. Moore briefly responded and on his motion a vote of thanks was tendered the retiring president for his impartial dealings with the members.

DECIDE TO IMBUE FOR BURGLARY.

Procedure Against Robbers of the Dunning Morgue.

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—The grand jury voted today to indict Prof. William Smith of Kirkville, Mo., for the robbery of the Dunning morgue October 24 last. With him it was charged to hold Henry Dirich, the watchman, and John Lude, the janitor. Evidence was presented by the grand jury that the Dunning morgue was broken open and the bodies of the dead were taken away with them the shrouds in which the bodies were wrapped. This constitutes the crime of burglary.

Life Sentence for Killing His Father.

ALABAMA, N. Y., Dec. 20.—Jury today voted to hold Henry Dirich, the watchman, and John Lude, the janitor. Evidence was presented by the grand jury that the Dunning morgue was broken open and the bodies of the dead were taken away with them the shrouds in which the bodies were wrapped. This constitutes the crime of burglary.

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THE BEE BULLETIN.

Weather Forecast for Nebraska—Fair; Westerly Wind.

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2. No Base Ball Team for Omaha. Suit Against the Bartley Bondsmen. More Guesses About the Union Pacific. Editorial and Comment.

3. Forefathers' Day Celebrated in Omaha. Fight for Woodmen Headquarters. Douglas County Sold to James Moores.

4. Council Hears Local Matters. New Tera in the Novak Case. General News of the Farther West.

5. Doll Show for the Exposition. Batch of Omaha Burglars Captured. Current Comment on New Publications. Changes in the County Offices. Association of Lumber Corporations. Proceedings in the Federal Court.

6. Echoes of the Ante Room. 11. Commercial and Financial News. 12. "Our Elopement."

Temperature at Omaha:

Hour. Day. Hour. Deg. 6 a. m. .... 14 1 p. m. .... 16 7 a. m. .... 13 2 p. m. .... 18 8 a. m. .... 13 3 p. m. .... 18 9 a. m. .... 11 4 p. m. .... 18 10 a. m. .... 11 5 p. m. .... 15 11 a. m. .... 14 7 p. m. .... 12 12 m. .... 14 9 p. m. .... 9

KANSAS CITY AUDITORIUM BURNS.

Handsome Structure Seems Doomed to Destruction.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 21.—Fire broke out at 1:15 o'clock this morning in the big Auditorium building, Ninth and Holmes streets, which contains the biggest theater in Kansas City, and one of the big hotels. The fire originated in the servants' quarters on the sixth floor of the hotel.

Though the greatest excitement prevailed among the guests of the hotel, no one was hurt in the panic which followed the alarm of fire, and all escaped to the street.

At 1:40 the fire was believed to be under control, but at 1:55 the flames had burst forth again and seem to be making headway against the efforts of the firemen.

At 2:10 the fire has eaten down into the fourth story of the building, and it is believed that the entire structure is doomed. All persons have been ordered out of the building. The guests on the lower floors of the hotel have succeeded in saving most of their personal effects.

The Auditorium building cost about \$225,000, and is owned by Alexander Fraser, who also owns the hotel and theater furnishings. At 2:30 the fire is still burning fiercely. The east wall threatens to fall at any moment and all spectators have been driven back from the streets. A part of the roof has already fallen.

HIVERTON, Ia., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—Saturday evening shortly after 5 o'clock a fire reached down that a large frame dwelling about one mile south of town was on fire. All the household goods were removed before the fire got under much headway, but the building was entirely consumed. It was feared that several hundred bushels of corn which was cribbed near by and the barn and outhouses would also go, but they were saved. Fire was caused by the burning out of a flue. Insurance \$80. The building belonged to a Mrs. Jungquist.

BOSTON'S CITY ELECTION TODAY.

Three Candidates for Mayor and Re-elected City Council.

BOSTON, Dec. 20.—The municipal campaign closed tonight with rallies by supporters of all three of the leading candidates in various parts of the city, and tomorrow the 100,000 or more electors will choose a mayor, seven aldermen, eight members of the school committee, a street commissioner for three years and three councilmen from each ward. The candidates of the two existing political parties are the same as two years ago, Mayor Quincy heading the democratic ticket, while ex-Mayor Edwin U. Curtis is the candidate of the republicans for the third time.

The disturbing factor in the campaign has been the candidacy of Thomas Riley, who is running on the Bryan democratic ticket, and his campaign, which has been avowedly antagonistic to Mayor Quincy, has been conducted with great vigor by several young politicians. The campaign has been noteworthy for its intensity of feeling, especially on the part of Riley's supporters, whose onslaughts on Mayor Quincy have been exceedingly bitter.

As the election of Mr. Riley is considered out of the question, the contest apparently depends on how many votes he can draw from the regular democratic candidate, and insure an election of ex-Mayor Curtis. Although Riley gave a republican majority at the state election last month, the registration has been heavily democratic and is normally of that tendency.

Attorneys for Trust Companies Take an Appeal.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 20.—There was a sudden cessation of hostilities this morning in the proceedings brought by Attorney General Lucas to vacate the charters of the trust companies, and an instant appeal was made to the supreme court by the attorneys of the companies to determine the power of the special commissioner appointed by the court to hear the testimony.

When the day's hearing opened the trust companies announced they had witnesses present from New York and Boston who would explain the workings of the trust companies in the east. An objection was filed opposing the testimony. Commissioner Lucas, before whom the hearing is being held, announced he would exclude the proposed testimony.

The attorneys for the trust companies then filed an appeal to the supreme court, which was granted, and the question of the eastern expert testimony will be argued tomorrow morning before the supreme court at Jefferson City.

HEADQUARTERS FOR OMAHA ELKS.

George P. Moore Arranges for the New Orleans Meeting.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—The Omaha Elks tonight secured headquarters at the St. Charles hotel for the national meeting which takes place in this city next May. George P. Moore arrived today and has made arrangements with Manager Blakeley for the entertainment of the Omaha delegation in good shape. Mr. Moore believes the Exposition City will send fifty representatives to the meeting. Almost every day some state sources headquarters. Kentucky will be in tomorrow. Mr. Dinswiler grand orator, has just left the city. He says this will be the largest meeting of Elks ever held in the United States. New Orleans is expecting 10,000 visitors.

POPE IS IN EXCELLENT HEALTH.

Bishop Eward Describes His Visit to the Vatican.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Bishop Eward of Valleyfield, province of Quebec, who arrived here on the La Normandie from Havre today, described his visit to Pope Leo:

"The pope is in excellent health," he said. "I had an audience of an hour and ten minutes with him and his vivacity was a great asset. He asked questions everywhere and follows the events of the world with avidity."

Victim of Cigarette Smoking.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 20.—Peter S. McMahon of Albany, crazed by cigarette smoking committed suicide here today. He was about 29 years of age.

Movement of Ocean Vessels, Dec. 20.

At Hong Kong—Arrived—British steamer Coptic, from San Francisco, sailed—Steamer Peru, from San Francisco.

At Yokohama—Arrived—British steamer Belgic, from San Francisco.

At Queenstown—Arrived—Etruria, for New York.

At Bremen—Sailed—Muenchen, for New York.

At Gibraltar—Sailed—Werra, for New York.

At New York—Arrived—Augusta Victoria, from New York.

At New York—Arrived—La Normandie, from Havre.

MERE IDLE TATTLE

Story that Weyler Was Recalled to Pleasant United States.

STATEMENT WITHOUT ANY FOUNDATION

'Twas Done at the Express Request of the Queen Regent.

DECIDED ON DURING CANOVAS' LIFETIME

Liberal Government of Spain Appears to Be Gaining Favor.

ALL WANT THE CUBAN QUESTION SETTLED

Everybody in Madrid is Anxious to Hear that Lasting Peace Has Been Declared in the Island.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—A letter written by one of the foremost diplomats in Spain, and one, moreover, in the entire confidence of the government and consequently in a position to speak officially, destroys some of the arguments that have been used time after time in the past few days by those in opposition to the liberal ministry, says the Madrid correspondent of the Herald.

Speaking for this ministry, the writer points out irrefragably that Mr. McKinley's message cannot be construed as attacking the honor of the Spanish army, as General Weyler and his friends would like to make the public believe. In the second place, General Weyler was not recalled under pressure from the United States, but the express wish of the queen regent. His recall had been decided upon during the late Premier Canovas' lifetime. In the third place, the nation as a whole appears to be more strongly in favor of the government than has been the case in Spain for a long time. Every one is eager to have done with the Cuban question and at this very moment the city is decorated and illuminated as a sign of rejoicing over the establishment of peace in the Philippines, while on every hand one hears wishes that the next bit of good news may be of a lasting peace in Cuba.

OFFICERS FORSWEAR AUTONOMY.

Cuban Army Leaders Will Continue the Fight.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Copies of a statement signed by the officers of the Fourth Army corps of the Cuban army, operating in the department of Las Villas, renewing allegiance to the Cuban cause and forswearing autonomy, was received in this city today. This action by the officers of the Las Villas department makes the opposition to autonomy practically unanimous among the Cuban officers.

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