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ENGLAND IS MOBILIZING NORTH FLEET

CABINET WORRIES OVER THE SINISTER ACTION.

Because England Feels She is the Most Closely Interested Nation, She Will Mobilize North Pacific Fleet at Esquimalt—Latter Place a Source of Naval Supplies—President Will Likely Secure Increased Appropriation—England Active.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 6.—What is considered by even the most conservative observers of international politics, as a most ominous portent for the continuance of the peaceful relations existing at present between the United States and Japan, is the attitude of the British admiralty. From the recent activity in British naval circles, there is apparently no doubt in the minds of the admiralty that war between the United States and Japan is certain to come, and, in the near future. Here is what the English are doing to prepare for the shock:

The British North Pacific squadron is to be increased.

The fourth cruiser squadron, consisting of Cressy, Eurylus, Hogue, Brilliant and the Indefatigable and six cruisers of the County class, will be added to the fleet now operating out of Esquimalt.

Esquimalt is being hurriedly prepared for the sudden demand upon it as a naval base of the first caliber. Preparations are being made to accommodate a greatly enlarged num-

ber of troops at that point. So sinister is this move regarded at Washington that a special conference was held today between President Roosevelt and the democratic members of the naval committee from the house.

The mobilization of the British North Pacific squadron was the subject under discussion.

The president, it is said, wishes to be assured that he will have no democratic opposition to his desire to have the naval appropriation increased to \$69,000,000 in order that a number of new battleships may be ordered at once.

In case of a great naval war between the United States and Japan, England, both in the light of a possible ally of Japan and as the next most interested nation with the nearest coast line in the war zone, feels that it should be prepared for any eventuality.

EX-PREMIER NOW IN ITALY

BOY MANUEL HAS SURPRISING ABILITY.

Former Premier of Portugal Who Helped to Rule With Carlos During the Directorate, Has Left Native Land Forever—New Cabinet Fears to Allow Young King to Attend Funeral of His Father and Brother—Diplomats to View Remains.

Lisbon, Feb. 6.—Italy will be the home of ex-Premier Franco. He has already arrived in that country and says he will never return to Portugal.

Manuel, the boy king, is showing an ability to grasp the subject of government that surprises his advisers. His cabinet is trying to secure his word that he will not attend the funeral services of his father and brother next Sunday, but the king states that he will do so, despite any danger he might run. The diplomatic corps will visit the chapel where the remains lie in state, tomorrow.

NORTHWEST FOR HUGHES

WASHINGTON POST HAS FIGURED OUT RESULTS.

After Carefully Canvassing Conditions the Washington Post Finds That Hughes of New York, is Going to Get Away With Taft—Gives Northwest to the Latter—Oregon Evenly Divided Between Hughes and Taft—La Follette Will Lose.

Washington, Feb. 6.—After an exhaustive canvass lasting over two weeks, the Washington Post announces that the drift of sentiment in the republican party throughout the country is strongly in favor of Governor Hughes of New York, in the northwest the Post splits the Oregon delegation four to each Hughes and Taft; Washington, four for Hughes and six for Taft. Idaho, six for Taft.

The Post states that Hughes will be 125 behind Taft on first ballot, but that Taft will lack 150 votes of nomination on first ballot. The Hughes vote will increase steadily from the first ballot until he is nominated, states the Post. "Uncle Joe" Cannon will lose votes the fastest, declares the Post's informant. They will go to Hughes. Foraker's delegates will crawl into the band wagon shortly after, and then the Fairbanks and La Follette men will come in with a rush.

Hall Case to Jury Tomorrow.

Portland, Feb. 6.—Judge L. R. Webster is making the closing speech for the defense in the Hall land fraud case today. The jury will probably receive their instructions tomorrow morning.

Surveyor General Appointed.

Washington, Feb. 6.—After a conference with Senators Borah and Heyburn today, Roosevelt promised to appoint L. A. Utter of Weiser to the office of surveyor general of Idaho.

MUST DEFINE "EXTORTION"

LANGDON WANTS TO KNOW THE DIVIDING LINE.

Supreme Court of California Will Be Asked to Explain in Detail How Far a Man Can Graft Without Committing Sin—Decision Comes as Surprise as Schmitz and Raef Believed Appellate Court Decision Would Stand Undisputed.

San Francisco, Feb. 6.—The supreme court will be asked to define how far extortion can go before it becomes a crime.

This decision comes as a surprise to the Raef and Schmitz defense, as they believed the Langdon-Heney prosecution would let the appellate court's decision stand. Langdon, however, wants exact definition as to how far a man can graft before he becomes a law breaker in California.

Fulton Will Answer.
Washington, Feb. 6.—Senator C. W. Fulton announced today that he will issue a reply to Heney's charges today, making a detailed denial.

HARRIS FOUND GUILTY BY JURY

Charles Harris has been found guilty of assault and battery and will be sentenced tomorrow. His case went to the jury yesterday at 4 o'clock, and the jury returned a verdict of guilty about an hour later. Harris struck A. Lun of North Powder with a rock, during a quarrel over an account.

Circuit court is today hearing the case of M. R. Woodard, et al, vs. Abe Eaton of Union, in which the plaintiff is suing to quiet title to a piece of land surrounding the headgate of the water supply to the Union Woolen mills. A rental of \$700 is also involved in the litigation.

CROWD TO SEE HEADGATES OPEN

Pendleton, Feb. 6.—The East Oregonian said yesterday:

That Pendleton, Umatilla county and in fact, all of eastern Oregon will join in a monster excursion to Hermiston and the government irrigation project on the occasion of the opening of the great reservoir the first week in June, is now almost assured. The exact date for the excursion has not been fixed and will depend largely upon the date upon which the project is completed.

At the meeting of Pendleton Commercial association last evening the transportation committee of the association was instructed by the meeting to make arrangements for the excursion and plans are now on foot for the event.

In conversation over the telephone today with Engineer John T. Whistler of the Umatilla project, the transportation committee was informed that the project would be completed and the reservoir filled for the first time during the first week in June and that the government would be glad to co-operate with the association in arranging for a monster excursion at that time.

Water will be turned into the distributing canals of the system in a few weeks, perhaps by March 1, and it is the sentiment of many of the business men of the city that an ex-

curtion should be run to Hermiston on that occasion, also to give people an opportunity to see the project in its finished state, with the big excursion to the finished project in June. It is possible that an early spring excursion will be run and the committee will give it due publicity, if such is decided upon.

Attack Wildcat Schemes.

Seattle, Feb. 6.—At the second annual banquet of the Washington State Mining Association last evening, the "wildcat" operator and mine promoter received a terrific drubbing. It was started with a speech from Governor Mead and before it ended, resolutions had been adopted and the stand of the organization against such concerns strongly stated. A year ago the Seattle Star exposed the wildcatting and showed that the state association was largely responsible for its continued existence.

GOVERNMENT TO THE NATIVES

SENATOR STONE PROPOSES A PLAUSIBLE SOLUTION.

Five Years Hence, Says Missourian, the Philippine Islands Will Be Given Over to Home Rule—United States to Give Complete Independence and Guarantee Neutrality by an International Compact—Has Bill for That Purpose Introduced.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Senator W. J. Stone (democratic) of Missouri, has announced in a resolution upon which he intends to deliver a speech, a definite program for the disposition of the Philippine Islands. In a resolution he sets the date of December 19, 1913 as the time upon which the government of the islands shall be given over to the natives with a guarantee of complete independence. Stone wants neutrality of the islands guaranteed by international pact with recognition of their independence.

Attempt to Wreck Train.

Reno, Nev., Feb. 6.—Attempts to wreck the Nevada-California-Oregon railroad express, which runs between Likely, Nev., to Reno, have become so frequent that a reward of \$200 has been offered for the capture of the perpetrators. On many occasions obstructions have been found on the track. Boulders are found on the track almost daily and recently a heavy rail was found chained to ties across the rails.

CAMPAIGN OF EDUCATION.

Marion County Horticultural Commissioner to Hold Series of Meetings. County Horticultural Inspector Armstrong of Marion county, is about to hold a series of meetings for fruit-growers in that county at which addresses will be delivered accompanied by practical demonstrations of orchard work.

COMMISSIONER BEN BROWN

REPLIES TO COMMUNICATION OF MR. CHAMBERS OF COVE.

Answers all Questions—Shows Cost of Rock Road—Challenges Chambers to Show Where Court Has Misappropriated Money, and Wants to Know Why it is That Chambers Has Waited Until Just Before Election to File His Kick.

Island City, Feb. 2, 1908.

Editor Observer:

In your issue of January 29, Mr. W. Chambers, wants to know considerable. The most of which he could find by read the monthly reports. He wants to know how many miles of rock road was made last year. There was one-quarter of a mile built, which cost \$300, including the cost of setting up the machinery, building roads, etc., to locate the crusher. It was out of the question with labor at from \$2.50 to \$4 per day, and teams at \$8, to build more. If Mr. Chambers will look up the statistics he will find it costs from \$3000 to \$6000 per mile to build macadam roads back east. The rock for this road had to be hauled over three miles.

Next. The reason why we bought machinery that cost \$1500 more than the M. & M. offered it for, was the reason he wought standard machinery, such as was recommended by such men as Judge Webster and the board of commissioners of Multnomah county, and Judge Scott and the board of Marion county.

Next. In regard to putting a few props under the Harris bridge, our bridge superintendent tells me that if he is not mistaken in the matter, Mr. Chambers was at the bridge when he was at work on it, and remarked the bridge was dangerous and the work being done was all right.

Next. Yes; we used some of the road district's money, owing to the fact that we had so many new bridges to build and repairs to others, the general road fund ran out. The money in district No. 24 had been lying in the treasurer's hands all summer. The supervisor could have had warrants, which would have been paid next April, or credited back to the districts where it belonged.

Next. It is a dirty political falsehood, when he says the county court appointed themselves to draw two salaries. If he knows, why don't he enlighten the taxpayers and let them investigate. I defy Mr. Chambers to show where this board has taken a dollar the law does not allow them.

Next. Judge Henry says he never promised to make a monthly statement of all the expenditures. However, there is a monthly statement published, which Mr. Chambers can see by taking the papers.

I had thought to let the Chambers' communication pass, but wanted to show the taxpayers that there was no

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WARM GOODS FOR COLDDAYS At Altogether Comfortable Prices

This week will see the clearing up of many of the broken lines in our stock of cold weather goods at prices which will please those of you who are economically inclined—Read the following items over carefully and while reading remember there are a great many which we cannot list here for want of space.

50c Stocking Caps 35c

in colors Red, White and Blue in solid colors, and with fancy borders and tassels. Choose this week for 35c

25 Black Wool Squares for choice this week 10c

Misses, Childrens and Ladies Heavy Jersey Leggings, extra lengths 75c to \$1

50c Childs Night Drawers in Pink & Blue baby striped outing this week 39c

75c Mens Mittens 49c

in heavy Wool and wool lined leather Mittens, this week for choice 49c

35c Boys Gloves and Mittens in Wool and lined leather, this week 22c

75c & 85c Mens Caps 48c in Corduroy trimmed leather, Plush, Corduroy & heavy Wool Caps, choice 48c

Mens Heavy Gray German Sox 85c this week

BARGAINS

The Fair DEPARTMENT STORE LA GRANDE, OREGON

BARGAINS

VALENTINES

Splendid Assortment All 1908 Styles All Prices

HILL'S DRUG STORE

La Grande Oregon