

SIGNED THE NOTE

United States a Party to the Peking Agreement.

THE FACT CABLED BY CONGER

American Minister Furnishes the Envoys With a Written Explanation Setting Forth Position of His Government.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Secretary Hay has received a cablegram from Minister Conger, at Peking, announcing that he had signed the agreement reported by the Foreign Ministers, but had done so with a written explanation, setting forth the exact position of his government. The text of the statement is not forwarded by Mr. Conger, but it is understood to be based upon the latest instructions which were received from the department, which, while disapproving some of the more severe language, accepted it as the best arrangement that could be made at this time.

CRITICISMS THE NOTE

Russian Paper Does Not Think It Will Bring Peace.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 24.—The Novoye Vremya sharply criticizes the joint note of the powers in China as being too long to produce effect. It says the accusations against the Emperor and Dowager Empress are unfounded, and that the accusation that Prince Tuan is alone responsible for the treasury is ridiculous. The paper adds: "Rulers sometimes betray their own country, but treason towards foreign powers is a new conception. The state is in the ultimatum that the troops will not be withdrawn before the conditions are accepted cannot mean Russia, whose troops have already vacated Peking."

NORTHERN PACIFIC OPERATORS

Company Declines to Adopt the Rules Submitted.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 24.—As a result of a conference held yesterday between President Melien and Vice-President Kendrick, the Northern Pacific company today sent a long communication to the committee of telegraphers in session at St. Paul, notifying them that the Northern Pacific could not consent to the adoption of the rules submitted by the committee in behalf of the Northern Pacific branch of the Order of Railway Telegraphers.

Fate of Missionaries

EDGAR RAPINS, Ia. Dec. 24.—The first and only missionaries to be killed in the death of Dr. and Mrs. Van Rensselaer of New York, were received here today by Robert S. Sinclair, a brother of Mrs. Hoyle. Under date of October 22, Rev. J. W. Lowrie, writing from Pao Fung Pu, says: "The Hodges, the Simcox family and Dr. Taylor defended themselves to the last in the Simcox house, and all perished in the flames. The children, Paul and Frances, who nearly suffocated, ran out of the house and were decapitated by the Boxers and thrown into a well."

The Question of Indemnity

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: "Two hundred million dollars is the maximum sum the Administration wants the powers to demand in indemnity. The figures are likely to be many times that amount. The United States Army has a deficiency of \$1,000,000 for transportation and Army supplies, and most of that is charged against China. A determined effort will be made by the President and Secretary Hay to induce the powers to consent to the arbitration of the indemnity question by a committee to be appointed in conformity with the provisions of The Hague treaty."

PATRIOTISM WITH A SUBSIDY

Rockefeller and Other Poor Men Would Be Assured a Livelihood.

Kansas City Star. In his recent speech in the Senate in behalf of the ship subsidy bill, Senator Hanna took up the case of the "much abused" American line of steamships. He believed, he was "inspired by no little patriotism" in engaging in the Atlantic trade. They went into it because of the sentiment in favor of the American flag and the fact that it was no profit in the business, continued the Senator, "and there never will be under these conditions, present measure evidently intended to remedy this state of affairs. Under the subsidy bill the four principal ships of the American line—the New York, the Great Republic, the St. Louis—will each receive more than \$300,000 a year. In return for this annual gift from the Government for 20 years they will carry the mails free. It is believed that these vessels will cost between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. If they cost \$2,000,000 they would be earning 10 per cent gross on the capital invested, without carrying a passenger or an ounce of cargo except the mails. That is the subsidy that the Government is free to insure the company against loss. Most men would be ready to engage in a business on which they were to be paid 10 per cent on the investment, and from what they might expect to earn in the ordinary course of trade.

The New Rubber Trust

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 24.—The International Rubber Company, with an authorized capital of \$20,000,000, was incorporated here today to manufacture and deal in rubber goods of all kinds.

Receiver for a Baltimore Bank

BALTIMORE, Dec. 24.—Judge Stockbridge today appointed Daniel Brinson receiver for the Economy Savings Bank, which closed its doors Saturday.

A WINTER ROUTE TO THE EAST

The ultimate of Utah and Colorado is temperate the year round, and clear skies and sunny days are as proverbial in Winter as in Summer. The mean annual temperature in Salt Lake City or Denver is about 50 degrees, and the average annual precipitation 14.7 inches. With such consequential precipitation there can be little or no trouble from snow in the districts traversed by the Grand Western Railway, and its immediate connections—the Colorado Midland or Denver & Rio Grande Railroads.

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A FRENCH RAILROAD COMPANY SEIZES AMERICAN EXHIBITS.

A Claim of Demurrage Charges—Sailing of the Auxiliary Cruiser—Prairie Seriously Delayed.

THE SCRANTON STRIKE

Second Day Passed off as Quietly as the First.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 24.—The second day of the street-car men's strike passed off as quietly as the first. Seven men imported from Syracuse joined with the company's superintendent, foremen, clerks and three old employes in manning eight cars, although they ran through all parts of the city from day break until midnight, not a single instance of violence or even intimidation was reported. The strikers quietly went about their work, taking their usual places and succeeded in inducing four of them to quit, and in exacting promises from three others not to go to work tomorrow.

INDIAN WAR VETERANS

Reasons Why They Are Entitled to Pensions.

PORTLAND, Dec. 24.—(To the Editor.)—Arthur W. Dunn's communication from Washington, D. C., in Sunday's Oregonian regarding the pension bill for Indian War veterans has not and never will be passed in Congress. He says "there is no doubt merit in this bill, but its passage has been delayed by the members of Congress desire to avoid. This is what has killed the bill in the past and what will operate against it in the future."

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THE SCRANTON STRIKE

Second Day Passed off as Quietly as the First.

PARIS, Dec. 24.—Thirty cars, forming part of the United States Government exhibit, were suddenly laid under embargo today at Havre, the railroad company declining to surrender them, pending payment of a claim of 120 francs. This extraordinary action seriously delaying the departure of the United States auxiliary cruiser Prairie from Havre for New York, with the Government exhibits, was made the subject of a formal protest to the French Government by United States Ambassador Porter.

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