

BRITANNICALLY

Japan Only Waits for
Order to Begin War.

AGREE RUSSIA MUST YIELD

Otherwise the Two Powers
Will Join Forces.

MIKADO'S FLEET SET SAILS

Rumor is Afloat That the Forces
of the Czar Intend to Seize Ching
Wang Tai-Ships All Tak-
ing on Hard Coal.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—The German foreign office in estimating the probabilities of war in the Far East, fixes its attention, at this moment, on Great Britain rather than on Japan, for it is recognized that Japan is only waiting for Great Britain to give the word before beginning hostilities. A new and even portentous element in the situation, as it is looked upon here, is the rising feeling in Great Britain that Russia must yield or Japan and Great Britain ought to fight her.

The Associated Press learns from high diplomatic source that the German government, while refusing to believe that war is certain, is convinced now that if war between Russia and Japan ensues, Great Britain will take a part in it, because the British government looks upon war as possibly the only means of saving and re-establishing her position in the Far East.

Sir Frank Lascelles, the British Ambassador, who returned here from England three days ago, is understood to have imparted his impression indirectly to the German government that the British cabinet apprehended that war would result if Russia persists in her present attitude toward Japan. This expression of opinion by the Ambassador has been stripped of all suggestion that Great Britain might participate, but great significance is attributed to it.

The leading financiers know nothing of any Russian overture to float a loan of \$25,000,000 in Germany and the report to that effect published by the Tageblatt in a dispatch from St. Petersburg is regarded as unfounded.

Britain Will Make No Comment.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The British foreign office declined to discuss the statements made in the Associated Press dispatches from Berlin today, on the ground that "the contingency was too hypothetical." The German and other newspapers the impression prevailed not, however, based on any official communication from the British government that the Russian-Japanese negotiations have reached a point at which it would not be at all surprising if Great Britain expressed her willingness, providing Japan agrees to accept a certain specific compromise, to guarantee to back up Japan, if necessary, by force of arms.

There are no known developments and the diplomats do not expect any immediate action until the Russian reply to Japan's request for a reconstruction of the latest Russian note is received.

JAPANESE SQUADRON SAILS.
Rumor is Afloat That Russia Will
Seize Ching Wang Tai.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Special dispatches to the London morning newspapers add practically nothing to the news already given by the Associated Press that the Japanese situation, and deal mainly with the alleged Japanese naval preparations. The Daily Mail's correspondents today admit that the steamers of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have not yet been chartered, and that no mobilization orders have been issued, but they give a rumor of the intention of Russia to seize Ching Wang Tai and report that a Japanese squadron of six battleships has left Sasebo, 25 miles north of Nagasaki.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at Nagasaki, says the Japanese fleet is replacing the local soft coal in its bunkers with hard Welsh steam coal, and also that all superfluous work on the vessels is being removed.

The Japanese Legation here has no further news. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister, and his staff, will remain in London over the Christmas holidays. In financial quarters, both in London and Paris, confidence is still unshaken that peace will be preserved. This confidence is reflected in the firmness of Russian bonds which, though sold to only a small extent in England, are held in France to an amount between \$1,000,000,000 and \$1,500,000,000, and it is contended that this fact alone will induce Foreign Ministers to take the strongest efforts to prevent Russia going to war. The amount of Japanese bonds held in Great Britain is said not to exceed \$6,900,000.

FAINT HOPE WAR WON'T COME

Minister Satow Says Japan Will
Fight for What She Thinks Right.

PEKIN, Dec. 23.—The two members of the diplomatic corps at the Chinese capital whose opinions regarding the present critical condition of affairs in the Far East are probably most valuable are Japanese Minister Satow and Sir Ernest Mason Satow, who for over three years has represented the British government at Peking. It is no secret that both see only a faint prospect of war being avoided.

Minister Satow was connected with the British diplomatic service in Japan for a quarter of a century. He is one of the greatest living authorities on Japanese history and literature, and is in constant communication with the foremost statesmen of Japan. He is quoted as saying that any one who imagines that Japan will not fight for what she conceives to be her greatest interests does not know the Japanese people. Minister Satow is an adherent of the "Young Japan" party, and has always advocated war, if necessary, to secure the evacuation of Manchuria.

Sir Robert Hart, director of the Chinese imperial maritime customs, said today that he feared China would be the chief sufferer by the war should it occur, for she might be ground between the two mil-lions. The decadence of the Chinese government has never been more conspicuously displayed than in these times, when her Ministers go from legation to legation, imploring other governments to help China, without any thought of China helping herself. There is absolutely no strong man among the ruling Ministers—no Prince Kung, Marquis Tang or Li Hung Chang—all are venerable conservatives like Prince Ching.

Wu Ting Fang, the well-known ex-Minister to the United States, tells his official colleagues that he despairs of China's future. "I see no hope," he says, "for

China. The partition of the empire, soon or later, is inevitable."
He is disgusted with the official life of Peking, and proposes to resign his present position at the first opportunity. His experience is that of the majority of enlightened Chinese officials. He did good work in negotiating the commercial treaties recently signed, and was summoned to Peking and given the vice-presidency of the Board of Commerce. The President of this important board is Prince Tuan Chen, a youth whose only qualification for the position is the fact that he took a hurried trip around the world when he represented China at the coronation of King Edward. Yet he votes most of the practical proposals made by the other members of the board.

The greatest discouragement prevails among the provincial officials who come to Peking. They all declare that they never before found the government so lacking in able men.

Italy Shows Deep Interest.

ROME, Dec. 23.—The situation in the Far East is being followed with interest here. The rumor, which gained wide currency in Rome, that war had been declared between Russia and Japan, was promptly contradicted by the Japanese Minister to Italy, who, in an interview today, said Japan had the complete sympathy of the United States, which desired the pacific development of Korea. The Minister said he did not know what attitude would be taken by the United States Government in the case of war between Russia and Japan.

Rear-Admiral Delibero, naval aide to King Victor Emmanuel, has been ordered to the command of the Italian squadron in the Far East, rendered vacant through the resignation of Admiral Mirabello as Minister of Marine.

France Made No Offer to Arbitrate.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—An authoritative denial is made here of the report published in London that Foreign Minister Delcasse had offered to arbitrate the Russo-Japanese dispute. The steps taken by M. Delcasse are confined to those outlined in the dispatches yesterday, he and Lord Lansdowne making pacific representations at Tokyo with the view of ameliorating Japan's answer. In making these representations, France and Great Britain acted separately, but on the same general lines. Their action, therefore, is not in joint accord, but is limited to an urgent expression in favor of a pacific solution. The official view here continues to be that an agreement will be reached.

CHINA HAS GRAVE FEARS.

Diplomats Also See Many Perils Men-
acing the Kingdom.

PEKIN, Dec. 23.—The optimistic feeling in some quarters concerning war between Japan and Russia is not shared by the diplomats at Peking, whose knowledge of the present situation of affairs entitles their opinion to the highest consideration. It is positively known the Japanese Government has drawn the line for a settlement, beyond which it will not make any concessions, and that she is determined to fight before yielding what she considers to be her vital interests. It is believed that unless Russia concedes important points another exchange of notes will precipitate matters.

It is also believed that Japan will refuse any arrangement holding in abeyance the question of the evacuation of Manchuria, which was one of the terms of the proposed arrangement recently announced from St. Petersburg, and which it is now supposed was intended by the Russian Government as a "feeler." This would be a violation of expressed pledges given to Japan and China. Minister Uchida is reported to have said he would be obliged to resign his position in the event of such an agreement.

The most dangerous situation in the situation is the confidence of the Russian officials in the Far East that a war would mean an easy victory for Russia, and that the possibility that a partition of the empire may result from China's inability to maintain the neutrality of her harbors and subjects. The young officials and newspapers discuss the possibilities of an alliance between China and Japan, but the only available Chinese troops are the 15,000 Japanese-trained men of Yuan Sui Kai, who was recently appointed commander of the Imperial Army and Navy, who might be depended upon under foreign leadership, but whose present officers are incompetent and of doubtful courage.

ADMITS AN UNDERSTANDING.

Minister to Britain Also Says Japan
Can in No Wise Make Concessions.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Baron Hayashi, the Japanese Minister here, in an interview with a representative of the Associated Press said:

"Nothing has actually been arrived at between Great Britain and Japan regarding the course of action that will be pursued in the event of a Russo-Japanese war beyond the stipulations of the Anglo-Japanese treaty."

In common with admitting some such arrangement for the support of Japan by Great Britain, provided Japan agrees to accept a certain specific compromise as surmised by the German Embassy, said to see how Japan's demands can be modified.

"I am getting very pessimistic regarding the eventual outcome," he said, "but I do not expect the question of peace or war to be settled until after the new year. If the dispute can only be settled by war, the present delay, of course, is greatly to Russia's advantage."

In common with the diplomats in London, Baron Hayashi shares the belief that Russia's reply is not likely to be decisive.

PRINCESS IS GIVEN A DIVORCE

Daughter of the Spanish Pretender
Accuses Husband of Cruelty.

DRESDEN, Dec. 23.—The court has dissolved the marriage of Prince Frederick and Princess Alicia of Schoenburg-Waldenburg. The Princess, who is a daughter of Don Carlos, the Spanish pretender, was reported some time ago to have eloped with her coachman, but this was denied from several sources, and she began divorce proceedings against Prince Frederick on the ground of bodily injury and forcible seizure of her liberty. The Prince and Princess were married by the present Pope while he was Patriarch of Venice, and the Prince and Princess expect that the pontiff will agree to the dissolution of the marriage.

WINS ON PROTECTION ISSUE.

Supporter of Chamberlain is Elected
to Parliament.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Rowland Hunt, Liberal Unionist, and a supporter of Joseph Chamberlain's fiscal policy, has been elected by a majority of 29 votes to represent the Ludlow division of Shropshire in the House of Commons, to succeed Robert J. Moore, Liberal Unionist, deceased. At the last election Mr. Moore was elected without opposition, but at the previous contested election his majority was near 400. The issue was clear-cut. The contest was fought exclusively on the fiscal question. The constituency was divided with organizers and speakers from Birmingham and representatives from the Free Food League.

May Reply at Any Moment.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 23.—Russia's reply to Japan is momentarily expected to be delivered. The Foreign Office officials

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Gold crowns, \$5; full set teeth, \$5; bridge work, \$5; gold filling, \$1 up; silver fillings, 50c.

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and diplomats continue to express the opinion that as both parties earnestly desire a peaceful settlement, and as their allies have left nothing undone to this end, war will be averted. An early conclusion of the negotiations, however, seems unlikely.

In regard to the Vladivostok dispatch saying Viceroy Alexieff had been authorized to settle on the spot all questions concerning neighboring states, etc., the Foreign Office declares the Viceroy's powers remain as determined by ukase issued August 2.

Cripples Borrowing Capacity.

PEKIN, Dec. 23.—The new Chinese Board of Commerce has promulgated the railway laws compiled by Wu Ting Fang, ex-Minister to Washington and now vice-president of the board, of which Prince Tuan Chen, a son of Prince Ching, is president. These laws are calculated to materially cripple the borrowing capacity of the railway companies, and to restrict the control of the railways to the Chinese security holders. The regulations further restrict the holding of shares by foreigners to a maximum of 50 per cent, and prevent the companies from borrowing on land values, limiting the power of the mortgage to the machinery and the buildings. The railway companies must apply for concessions to both the new Board of Commerce and the Foreign Office.

Naval Students Ordered Back.

Kobe, Japan, Dec. 23.—It is reported here that telegraphic orders have been sent to all of the students at the Japanese Naval College, who are now on their vacation, directing them to report forthwith, preparatory to resuming their studies. This action is believed to forestall the dissolution of college, as the officers now serving there are needed on the warships, and midshipmen will probably be assigned to duty with the fleet.

Mercier's Report on Dreyfus Case.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—The Dreyfus Commission today considered the report of Victor Mercier, one of the directors of the Ministry of Justice, and reporter of the Dreyfus Commission, on the evidence submitted by War Minister Andre. It is generally supposed that the commission will support M. Mercier's findings, and that they are favorable to Dreyfus.

Anti-Jewish Excesses Threatened.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Jewish Chronicle announces that a joint meeting of the foreign committee of the Board of Deputies of the Anglo-Jewish Association will be held December 25 to consider the question of making representations to the Russian government, through the Foreign Office, relative to the report that fresh anti-Jewish excesses are threatened at Ruzhik on the Russian Christmas day. The Jewish Chronicle adds that it understands the matter is already engaging the attention of Foreign Secretary Lansdowne.

Marconi to Begin Station in Rome.

ROME, Dec. 23.—Signor Marconi is expected to arrive in Rome in a few days for the purpose of directing the work of the powerful wireless telegraph station which is to be constructed at Capri, and which is to be connected with South America. The station is to be erected at Pisciotta, on the Royal estate, near King Victor Emmanuel's hunting lodge, at San Rossore.

France Will Make Treaty With Italy.

ROME, Dec. 23.—Camille Barrere, the French Ambassador, has sent a communication to the Italian government which says the French government is now prepared to sign an arbitration treaty between France and Italy on the lines of the treaty recently signed between France and Great Britain. It is understood that such treaty will soon be signed in Paris.

Authorized to Sign Treaty With Cuba

ROME, Dec. 23.—Signor Savina, the Italian Minister to Cuba, has been authorized to sign a treaty of commerce and navigation between Italy and Cuba similar to that of 1890 between Italy and Mexico and including provisions for arbitration in the case of disputes.

Norman Coming to Investigate Tariff.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Henry Norman, M. P., the author and traveler, will sail for New York tomorrow from Liverpool on the Majestic. He proposes to investigate the question of preferential tariffs in Canada.

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321 Morrison; has the finest line of suit cases and bags in the city. Popular prices. Gravel, sand, sediments in the urine, are cured by Oregon Kidney Tea.

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MIRRORS PICTURES
OPERA GLASSES

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A box of Scarfs will delight any man—depend on it. Particularly if you choose the smart, handsome sorts we show. 50c, \$1, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50 and \$3 each.

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Bohemian Glassware, Tep-litz Vases, Austrian, Opal Ware, Dresden Pottery, German Steins, etc.

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A good collection, most attractive and artistic.

JEWELRY
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See the pretty holly boxes filled with best Paper and Envelopes, 43c and 65c.

DOLLS
Pretty Dolls that will delight the little mothers. Most attractively priced.

GLOVE ORDERS
A clever idea. Parties desiring to purchase gloves for a Christmas present, not knowing the sizes wanted, can purchase a Glove Order, the one receiving the glove order presents the same at our glove counter and gets the exact size and color of gloves wanted.

OPERA GLASSES
Made by the famous Lemaire, of Paris. A better Christmas gift can't be imagined. Prices run from \$3.75, for opera glasses in black, to \$22.75, in mother-of-pearl and aluminium.

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Charming White Coats, Bonnets, Slippers, Bibs, Gowns, Mittens, Sacques, Brushes, Rattles, Powder Boxes, Brushes, etc.

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A grand collection. A gathering of the best and choicest leather articles ever shown here. A wide choice in coin purses, collar and cuff boxes, music rolls, men's wallets and bill books, cigar cases, card cases, chain bags, traveling sets, dress suit cases, traveling bags, opera bags, automobile bags, burnt leather novelties. A superb collection of leather articles; prices from 10c to \$75.00.

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Assortment is simply bewildering. Every conceivable shape, any style, 25c to \$15.00.

UMBRELLAS
Holiday Umbrellas priced from \$1.75 to \$18.00; for children, 50c to \$3.75.

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Smoking Jackets, Blankets, Ropes, Underwear, Sox, Mufflers, Umbrellas, Sweaters, Suspenders, Neckwear, etc.

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Silk Waists, Petticoats, Furs, Dressing Sacques, Kimonos, Opera Wraps.

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Silk Gloves, Wool Gloves, Kid Gloves, 35c to \$4.50 pair.

STORE OPEN UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK TONIGHT

RULES FOR IDAHO

Hitchcock Liberally Interprets the Carey Act.

GENERAL OFFICE OVERRULED

State and National Laws Conflict in a Way, but the Governor Pledges Himself to Prevent Abuses.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 23.—The Secretary of the Interior, in a decision rendered today holds that the State of Idaho has full right to make further contracts with the United States for the segregation of arid lands to be reclaimed under the Carey Act.

This action reverses a decision of the General Land Office, which denied the state the right to select public lands under the Carey act, so long as the state law of March 13, 1901, remains in force. This law provides that if any lands reclaimed under the Carey act remain undisposed of two years after the irrigation system has been completed the state may sell the same in such manner, and to such persons as it may deem proper.

The Land Office held that the state can sell these lands only to bona fide settlers, and in tracts not exceeding 160 acres to each individual. The state recognizing the conflict between the state and National law has signed an agreement with the Government not to abuse the privilege of the Carey act, and has assured the Secretary of the Interior, through its Governor, that sales under the state law will be made only to actual settlers, and in tracts not exceeding 160 acres to each.

A promise has been made that no larger tracts will be sold to one person, and that no sales will be made to companies or corporations.

It was partly based on this assurance that the department's decision was rendered today. But it is admitted by the Secretary that once reclaimed lands have been patented to the state the Government cannot interfere with any sales the state may make. In other words, the good faith of the state is relied upon to prevent an abuse of the Carey act in Idaho.

MEANS MUCH TO THE STATE.

Six Irrigation Enterprises Were Held Up by the Ruling Revoked.

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—The news received from Washington today to the effect that Secretary Hitchcock has reversed Commissioner Richards in connection with the latter's ruling that no patents should issue under the Carey act in this state, and no more contracts be made with the state under that law, is of great importance. The Commissioner's ruling was based on an amendment of the state law by which the state accepted the grant under the Carey act. That amendment provided that unutilized lands under Carey-act canals might be deeded to the construction companies. This was held to be in contravention of the National law, and the commissioner refused to proceed farther with Carey-act contracts in this state until the state law should have been amended.

The State Board recognized the correctness of the conclusion, but at once set about finding a way out of the difficulty. It secured from every company a waiver of right under that amendment, and the Governor and Attorney-General went to

Washington, where they appeared before the Secretary asking that the ruling be amended so as to permit the operations to proceed with such waiver in every case. This request was granted by the Secretary's ruling. It affects six enterprises, among them that of the Twin Falls Company. These six companies will reclaim about 400,000 acres of land and some of the projects are well under way.

WOOD COURTS FULL INQUIRY.

War Department is Written Regarding Runcie Charges.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The War Department has made public the following letter:

"Manila, P. I., July 23, 1902.—To the Adjutant-General, United States Army, Washington, D. C.—Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 17th inst. regarding your attention to statements made in the editorial columns of the New York Sun of June 2, 4 and 6, and later dates, which clearly charge me with conduct of a most censurable character—perjury and perjury of a high order. I have no objection to your making such use of the source from which the paper claims to have obtained its information, namely, statements of First Lieutenant James F. Runcie, late Major United States Volunteer Cavalry, made to various reliable parties, and to request that the matter be referred to the Inspector General of the Army for such action as may be required under the circumstances, or to any other authority which the War Department may deem proper. I enclose herewith a statement of the facts in the case, together with true copies of letters, extracts from letters, etc., bearing on the subject.

"The matter is now one of three and a half years' standing, and during the greater portion of this period I have been within easy reach of the aggrieved party or parties. The statement enclosed gives the addresses of most of the persons who have more or less knowledge of the affair. It will be noted that many of the letters are confidential official files of the Secretary of War. Very respectfully,

"LEONARD WOOD,"
"Brigadier-General, U. S. A."

ASKS FOR MONEY TO BUY ARMOR

Moody Finds Ships Are Being Finished Faster Than Expected.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—By reason of the greater rapidity with which the new ships for the Navy are being advanced to completion, Secretary Moody has transmitted to Congress an urgent request for an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for armor and armament to be made without delay. The last appropriation made for armor and armament was based on the amount expended per month last year, which was \$129,768. Since July last this item has amounted to \$1,205,980 per month, and after January 1 the manufacturers of armor have notified the department that a material increase is to be made in their output.

Moody has asked for an

immediate appropriation of \$200,000 to enable payment to be made to Cuba for the land acquired by the United States for the Guantanamo naval station and to enclose the same within a wall or fence, according to the terms of the treaty.

ASSISTANT TO CORTELYOU.

Lawrence O. Murray, of Chicago, Tendered Place by President.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Lawrence O. Murray, of Chicago, has been chosen Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor. The selection was announced today by the President, who stated that the office had been tendered to and accepted by Mr. Murray, and that the nomination would be sent to the Senate after the holiday recess. The appointment is made on the personal recommendation of Secretary Cortelyou, who has known Mr. Murray for a number of years.

(Lawrence O. Murray is now secretary and trust officer of a Chicago trust company. He was born in Addison, N. Y., in 1864. Murray was at one time private secretary to an assistant Secretary of the Treasury, and later Deputy Controller of the Currency. Subsequently, he became trust officer of a New York trust

company, resigning after three years to enter upon his present position.)

TO ASK CHINA TO DO AS AGREED

America Knows Nothing of Opposition of Powers to Treaty.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—It is learned at the State Department that the period of time from now until October 8 of next year is open during which the exchange of ratifications may take place between the United States and China of the commercial treaty recently ratified by the Senate. The ratifications must take place in Washington. There has been some intimation that they never will take place, because some opposition of foreign powers may cause the Chinese Government to withhold its ratification of the treaty. The State Department knows nothing officially of this, and is determined to use all proper measures to cause the Chinese Government to carry out the agreement into which it has entered.

McClellan Makes Appointments.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Mayor-elect McClellan tonight announced the appointments of ex-Assistant Secretary of the Navy William McAdoo as Police Commissioner and Maurice Featherstone as Dock Commissioner.

Give Furs!

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