

CRISIS AT HAND

War in Far East More Probable Than Ever.

RUSSIA MUST ACT QUICKLY

Another Week and Japan Will Demand Immediate Reply.

PLANS FOR CAMPAIGN MADE

Thoroughness is Pronounced Superior to That of Germany Prior to the Franco-Prussian Struggle— Korea to Be First Fied.

TOKIO, Jan. 1.—The situation is growing extremely critical, and it is believed that the chances for war are greater than ever before. Peace hinges on the character of Russia's response. If the Russian reply is unsatisfactory, it is almost certain that Japan will fight immediately. If Russia desires peace, her position will be difficult to maintain for the Japanese are distrustful of her promises.

WILL INVOLVE ALL, SAYS MILES

Russo-Japanese Conflict Means Europe Will Be Brought In.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—Lieutenant-General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., retired, who stopped here today en route East, said in an interview: "If war is declared between Russia and Japan it probably will involve all the nations of Europe."

BRITAIN'S REVENUES DECREASE

Total for Nine Months of the Fiscal Year Reaches \$13,497,040.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The Treasury Department tonight issued an account of revenue in the United Kingdom for the nine months of the fiscal year of 1903-4. Of an estimated total of \$22,560,000 the returns show that \$13,497,040 was paid into the exchequer. As compared with last year the following showing is made: Customs, decrease, \$75,000; excise, decrease, \$1,600,000; stamps, duties, etc., decrease, \$3,000,000; etc.

CHINA ACTING HOSTILE.

Officer in Close Touch With Viceroy Says Situation is Critical.

PARIS, Jan. 1.—The Chee Foo correspondent of the Paris edition of the New York Herald says that Colonel Artimoff, who is in close touch with Admiral Alexieff, Russian Viceroy in the Far East, declares the situation is most critical. The Japanese, he says, apparently want war, and the Chinese, especially Yuan Shi Kai, commander-in-chief of the Chinese army and navy, are assuming a hostile attitude.

RUSSIA'S MIND NOT MADE UP.

Nothing Has Been Decided Regarding Reply to Japan.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 31.—The Foreign Office declares nothing has yet been decided regarding Russia's reply to Japan. M. Kurino, Russian Minister here, has been conferring actively with Foreign Minister Lamsdorf, notwithstanding the fact that the Japanese official is suffering severely from a cold and from lumbago.

Insurance Rates Are Higher.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—War insurance rates at Lloyd's yesterday were higher, although the situation in the Far East, so far as known, is unchanged. The warships which Japan purchased from Argentina have been rechristened as the Kasa and Nisui. They will be completed and handed over to Japan at the end of January, and the fact that a declaration of war before that time would render them useless, it is thought, will likely reconcile Japan to a further delay.

Britain Getting Cruisers Ready.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The British third-class cruisers Intrepid and Latonia have been docked at Portsmouth in preparation for foreign service. It is understood that they will proceed to China. It is asserted in Dublin that a number of naval reserve men of that district have been instructed

to be in readiness to embark on the third-class cruiser Melampus if the mobilization of the reserves is ordered.

America's Policy Surprises It.

BERLIN, Dec. 31.—The Frankfurter Zeitung, which has been one of the most steadfast friends of the United States among the German press, expresses mild surprise that the East Asia policy of the United States has lately grown so passive and lax.

Russian War Risks Imposed.

MOSCOW, Dec. 31.—The imposition of war risks today by the insurance companies in shipments hence to the Far East was the first local intimation that Russo-Japanese hostilities were considered within the bounds of possibility.

American Gunboat Reaches Corea.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—A cablegram to the Navy Department today announced the arrival of the gunboat Vicksburg at Chemulpo, Corea, where she is expected to remain for some time for the protection of American interests.

Russian Cruiser Off for Far East.

LIBAU, Russia, Dec. 31.—The Russian second-class cruiser Alma has sailed for the Far East.

TURKS THREATEN CHRISTIANS

Great Plot is Discovered in Salonica and Many Arrests Follow.

SALONICA, European Turkey, Dec. 31.—Over 100 Turks were arrested here today on suspicion of complicity in a plot to massacre Christians. The arrests continue. Quantities of arms and explosives have been seized.

ANARCHISTS ARE NOT FEARED

Chief O'Neil Says They Cannot Tamper With Shells for Navy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Admiral O'Neil, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance, has had his attention called to a dispatch from Philadelphia giving the details of an alleged plot of anarchists to blow up the big guns of the warships of the American Navy by tampering with projectiles stored at the Midvale Steel Works, at Nicetown. The plot is said to have been discovered by the explosion of a projectile in the works.

OTHER ARRESTS WILL FOLLOW

Hitchcock Says Grand Jury is Working on Several Indictments.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Secretary Hitchcock tonight said regarding the arrest of John A. Benson in New York: "I have been informed that Benson was arrested this afternoon on an indictment found by the grand jury, and that he was held in \$10,000 bail for a hearing on January 1, before the United States Commissioner in New York relative to his return to the District of Columbia for trial."

BIDS ON BONDS CALLED FOR.

Philippine Issue of \$4,000,000 for Purchase of Friar Lands.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Clarence Edwards, Chief of the Insular Bureau of the War Department, today made public circulars calling for subscriptions for \$4,000,000 Philippine land-purchase bonds. The proceeds of which are to be applied to the purchase of friar lands. The bonds will be registered in denominations of \$100 to \$10,000, dated February 1, 1904, bearing 4 per cent interest, payable at the United States Treasury in United States gold coin. The bonds will run 10 to 30 years, and be free from all forms of taxation either in the Philippines or in the United States.

MEETS PICKED TEAM

Multnomah to Face Crack Californians.

VISITING PLAYERS CONFIDENT

Captain McMillan Will Head on Field Today Strongest Eleven of the Season—Chauncey Bishop is to Play End.

The annual football match between the Reliance Athletic Club of Oakland and the Multnomah Club of this city takes place this afternoon at 2:30 on Multnomah Field. It is the last game of the season for both clubs, and for many reasons both would like to win. Consequently something better than any game seen this year in Portland is to be expected.

Department Store Teams to Play.

Two football teams, representing the Meyer & Frank Company and Lipman, Wolfe & Co., will take a try at each other on the baseball grounds at East Eighth and Hawthorne avenue, at 10:30 this morning. Lipman, Wolfe & Co. are the favorites, and their team has had to go outside, with their opponent's permission, for talent. Their success is marked, as they have picked some stars, but the Meyer & Frank boys have been training together and hope to carry off the honors, anyway. They are slightly outwitted.

ALCO CLUB ARRANGES BOWLING SERIES.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 31.—(Special).—The Alco Club today completed arrangements with the Commercial Club of Eugene, for a bowling contest, the games to begin next week. The Albany team as selected is: J. Otto Lee, E. D. Cusick, W. A. Trimble, H. A. Nelson, Clyde Danahall.

OFFICIALS SEEKING AN EXILE.

Filipino Who Tried to Blow Up Lawton Funeral Procession in Manila.

MANILA, Dec. 31.—Ricarte, an exile from Guam, who returned to the islands after the American occupancy, but refused to take the oath of allegiance, has been residing at Hong Kong for nine months past as the head of the Filipino junta in that city. Originally, when a member of Aguinaldo's staff, he made an attempt to blow the Lawton funeral procession with dynamite in December, 1898. He returned to this city on December 15, but so far has managed to elude the authorities, who have been unable to locate him.

MEXICAN CURRENCY DEMONETIZED.

MANILA, Dec. 31.—The old Mexican currency will be demonetized tomorrow, and the Spanish-Philippine pesos will then be legal tender until July 1 next at the regular government rate.

PUNCH HOLE THROUGH JAIL.

Members of Seattle Chain-Gang Discovered Just in Time.

SEATTLE, Dec. 31.—The members of the chain gang, 31 in number, had punched a hole through a brick wall of the city jail, and the hole was large enough to admit a man's body when they were discovered at work by the city jailer tonight. The hole was cut with a pick that some member of the gang had smuggled into the jail after having been at work outside. There are a number of desperate men in the gang at present.

Wife of Famous Captain.

ATLANTA, Kan., Dec. 31.—Mrs. Ida Rowan, wife of Captain A. S. Rowan, died today. Captain Rowan was distinguished as "the man who carried the message to Garcia" in the wilds of Cuba at the outbreak of the Spanish-American War.

SIGNS WITH WESTERN LEAGUE

Jay Andrews to Manage a Team for Sexton.

Jay Andrews, who during most of last season was in charge of station No. 3 for the Browns, has signed for next season with President Sexton, of the Western League. Jay Andrews was one of the most popular ballplayers on the local team and the fans, while they will miss his snappy playing and genial good fellowship, will wish him all sorts of good luck during the season of 1904.

December Shows a Surplus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—The forthcoming monthly statement of the Government receipts and expenditures will show the total receipts for December, 1903, to be about \$2,747,000, and the expenditures \$2,248,000, leaving a surplus for the month of \$500,000. The surplus for the six months of the present fiscal year will be about \$2,433,000.

Operations of the Subtreasury.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The total operations of the United States subtreasury for the year, today estimated, aggregated \$3,561,307,200, compared with \$3,477,307,800 last year. Subtotal receipts for the year show a falling off of \$1,115,000, compared with 1902, while payments for pensions were \$1,028,200 in excess of last year.

SEATTLE SIGNS VAN HALTREN

The Crack National League Fielder Signed by Parke Wilson.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—(Special).—Parke Wilson, manager of the Seattle club of the Pacific Coast Baseball League, has corralled for Seattle that grand old performer George Van Haltren, and his outfield is now complete. Jack Walters and Carlo Smith making up a trio that will be hard to beat. Van Haltren is a California production and one of the best known ballplayers in the country.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 31.—Among the telegrams of condolence received from abroad by Mayor Harrison were the following: "Berlin, Dec. 31.—Mayor Harrison: Wish to express deepest sympathy on account of terrible catastrophe at Tropic Theatre. Please let me know of missing, and if some of my acquaintances among them. What a terrible beginning of the new year many good citizens of Chicago will have."

PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA.

King Edward Sends Message.

TALENT ALL AT SEA

Only One Favorite Comes in First at Ingleside.

HUNT CLUB RACE TODAY.

Riders Will Compete in Point-to-Point Contest.

The New Year's day race of the Portland Hunt Club will be held this month at 10:30, and from the number of entries the point-to-point race promises to be the most successful ever held by the club. The race will start from West avenue, near the Grand Hotel, and will finish at the same point. This will give friends of the riders and the spectators a splendid chance to see the start and finish.

JOCKEY CLUB A LUCKY HORSE

Only One Favorite Comes in First at Ingleside today was marked by the defeat of Turpin, conceded to have the two-year-old race at his mercy, but after leading until the final sixteenth he was beaten by Mendon.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 31.—The racing at Ingleside today was marked by the defeat of favorite, Jockey Club being the only one to lead. Dick Turpin was thought to have the 2-year-old race at his mercy, but after leading until the final sixteenth he was beaten by Mendon, the second choice. Burnie Buntun was plucked on to win the 54-furlong race, but Rockaway closed with much gameness and won in a drive from the mare. Results: Six furlongs, selling—Kallah won. Emily Oliver second. Idaho third, time, 1:15.

THE SAME STORY AT ASCOT.

Only One Favorite, Bill Curtis, Captures a Purse.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 31.—Only one favorite gladdened the hearts of the bettors at Ascot Park today. That was Bill Curtis, who won the second race in easy fashion from Dargin and Golden Mineral. The mile and 70 yards race went to Henry Clay Rye, Ernie second and Clocheador third. The finish was very close, with Ernie coming very fast at the end. Rye was well played at 5 to 1.

SPORTSMEN TO MEET.

Game Association Elect Officers and Holds Smoker.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR. WHEN YOU DRINK DRINK THE BEST. Our Beer is Celebrated for Its Purity and Palatable Flavor. North Pacific Brewing Co. Astoria, Oregon. E. FROESSNER Manager. 211 McKay Building. Phone Main 2690. PORTLAND.

Game and Fish Association will be held Saturday evening at 7:30 in the rooms of the Oregon Mining Stock Exchange. In extending the call for the meeting President Joseph N. Teal has invited all sportsmen to be present. Including the annual election of officers, there will be a set programme, with several speakers and a smoker. Among the speakers will be J. A. Taylor, president of the Portland Kennel Club. There will also be addresses on the lives and habits of game birds, those to be delivered by well-known sportsmen.

PORTLAND TEAMS DEFEATED.

OREGON CITY, Or., Dec. 31.—(Special).—Twice did the athletic team from the Oregon City Y. M. C. A. go down to defeat tonight at the hands of local Y. M. C. A. players. The basket-ball game was a brilliant exhibition, in which the score was Oregon City, 4; Portland, 2. In a hotly-played game of indoor baseball the locals scored 21 to their opponents' 12.

Economists Elect Officers.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 31.—The Economists' Association today elected officers as follows: President, Frank W. Tausig; secretary-treasurer, Frank A. Pettey; Cornell.

Do not purge or weaken the bowels, but act gently on the liver and bile. A perfect liver corrector. Carter's Little Liver Pills.

BITULITHIC

The best form of Warren's Bituminous Macadam Waterproof Pavement. Equally satisfactory in wet or dry weather.

This pavement is in use from PORTLAND, OREGON TO PORTLAND, MAINE

It is durable, non-slippery, noiseless, sanitary and waterproof.

Unexcelled for re-surfacing old macadam streets, which afford the best of foundations.

WARREN CONSTRUCTION CO. 216 Oregonian Building PORTLAND, OR.

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GUETTO CUTLERY EVERY BLADE WARRANTED.