

THE REAR REEDED

Taft's Opinion of Canal Commission.

GIVEN TO THE PRESIDENT

He Will Submit Plan for Better Management.

PRESIDENT AGREES WITH HIM

Rearrangement of Duties and Change of Personnel, Says Roosevelt—Dr. Reed Comes in for Severe Criticism.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Secretary Taft today made public a letter which he has written to the President concerning complaints made by Dr. C. A. L. Reed regarding the work of the Isthmian Canal Commission. In the course of his letter Secretary Taft said that many of the things complained of would be remedied by placing the control of the canal under one head, or at least under a commission composed of not more than three members. He added that he will submit to the President in a short time a plan for the rearrangement of the commission. President Roosevelt in his reply said he was glad to know that the Secretary is preparing a plan for the rearrangement of the commission, and promises to give the plan immediate attention when received.

Following is the full text of the Secretary's letter to the President, dated March 17:

I herewith transmit the answer of the Commission to the charges contained in the report of Dr. Reed to me as to the sanitary provisions made for the Isthmian Canal Commission at the Isthmus. I think that a reading of the two documents will show that the Commission was biased and controversial and not written in the judicial spirit that inspires confidence in its justice and accuracy. Dr. Reed visited the Isthmus at my request to act as an assessor of the sanitary provisions provided by the treaty between Panama and the United States, but as he was not a member of the Commission, it is not surprising that he should have been biased. In his report he makes his criticisms, less extreme in his statements and less stippled in his references to the action of the Commission, than in his report to me. Dr. Reed published without my knowledge or consent.

Need Check on Expenses.

The reply of the Commission seems to show that a large part of the plans and the action of the Commission in the matter of the sanitary provisions was fully considered and agreed to by Colonel Gorgas and the other medical officers in the employ of the Commission, and it is doubtful if any of the charges made by Dr. Reed were not made by him. It is quite probable that had the approval of the Commission in the matter of the sanitary provisions, it may well be doubted whether the Commission would have been discharging its duty in withholding such supervisory control.

Taft's Plan of Action.

It is doubtless true that there have been undue delays in the furnishing of what was needed for sanitary purposes on the Isthmus, but I venture to think that it is due rather to the inherent clumsiness of the Commission, and not to any lack of interest or intention of any member of that body. There must be some restraint for purposes of economy upon expenditures by an executive officer in the matter of the sanitary provisions, and the Commission should be held responsible for the cost of such large sums as were necessary for the organization of the sanitary system, the construction of plants and the purchase of supplies. It may well be doubted whether the Commission would have been discharging its duty in withholding such supervisory control.

Not All Syrians Are Affected.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Jackson U. Ralston, of this city, who is umpire of the Italian-Venezuelan Mixed Commission, which considered the Gaunt mines and other awards called on Acting Secretary of State Adee today in regard to the order that Syrian traders must settle their affairs and leave Hayti by April 1. Ralston is of the opinion that the order concerns only those about whom the department has had correspondence. He called to Minister Powell for his interpretation of the order, and, pending a reply, nothing will be done by this Government.

NEW ISLAND RISES FROM SEA

Volcano Raises It, and Japan Promptly Hoists Her Flag.

SPECIAL CABLE.

TOKIO, March 21.—Amid loud rumblings and clouds of various colored smoke, a new island gradually emerged from the sea off the island of Iwo. It has been many weeks since the first signs of the upheaval were noticed, and the inhabitants of Iwo have watched the phenomenon with an interest akin to awe. A venturesome party of Japanese finally rowed to the newly formed island and raised the Japanese flag. The new acquisition to the Mikado's territory is an island two and three-fourths miles in circumference, and rises to a height of 400 feet above the sea. It has been named Nishima.

Lieut. McIn's Sentence Approved.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—The President has approved the sentence of dis-

missal imposed on Second Lieutenant Albert J. Mohr, Fourth Cavalry, by a general court-martial convened at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, on conviction of conduct unbecoming and insubordination. This officer had written letters to the President alleging that a number of his superior officers in the Department of the Missouri were in a conspiracy to force him out of the Army.

CABINET CONSIDERS CANAL.

Burt is Most Likely Choice for Manager, Wallace to Remain.

WASHINGTON, March 21.—Questions relating to the Isthmian Canal and the reorganization of the Canal Commission occupied much of the attention of the Cabinet at today's meeting. No definite announcement was made at the conclusion of the meeting regarding the canal question other than that a statement on the general subject of the decisions reached will be made prior to the President's departure on his Southwestern trip. It is stated that the name of Horace G. Burt, former president of the Union Pacific Railroad, is under consideration for the position of executive head of the commission, but it has not been decided yet whether he will accept the place.

His appointment would interfere in no respect with the retention at the head of the engineering work of the present chief engineer, Wallace, who is assisted by probably two other engineers, but will give control of the practical engineering of the canal construction. It is the desire of the President and of Secretary Taft to make Mr. Burt the business head of the Canal Commission, and build up around him such an organization as he would require to accomplish the great work he would undertake in the name of the commission. His salary, it is intimated, will not exceed \$25,000 a year. Some details of the reorganization of the commission remain yet to be worked out.

It has not been determined definitely whether the President has authority to reduce the number of the Commissioners, but it is believed that the number will be reduced. It is said to be not unlikely that Barclay Parsons and William H. Burr, two of the present members of the commission, will be retained as assistants to Engineer Wallace. In other respects the Commission's personnel will be changed entirely.

SEEKS FRIENDSHIP OF FRANCE

German Sees in Russia's Humiliation a Favorable Opportunity.

LONDON, March 21.—The Daily Chronicle this morning claims to have the authority of the German Embassy at London for stating that Germany is anxious for a reconciliation with France and that Emperor William is desirous of getting on terms of closest friendship with the French government.

According to a high official of the Embassy whom the Daily Chronicle interviewed, the present moment is considered most opportune to arrive at such an understanding, the Russo-Japanese war having entirely changed the political situation. Germany, this official said, had reason to consider the Franco-Russian alliance as directed against herself and in that case the motive of German overtures to France might have been misjudged. Now, however, it will be responsible for Russia to engage in war with Germany for years to come, even if she wished, and therefore, if the question of revenge is buried, there is nothing to prevent Germany and France from shaking hands and inaugurating an era of peace and good will.

PLACES HIS COUNTRY FIRST

Kuropatkin Voluntarily Takes Command Under Former Subordinate.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 21.—(3:30 A. M.)—The Russian army in Manchuria is still to have the services of General Kuropatkin, who is considered by many in Europe his series of reverses, the best general and foremost strategist of the Russian army. Sinking all feeling of personal bitterness because of his supersession and all the old-time enmity between himself and General Linievitch in a patriotic desire to be of service to the fatherland, the ex-Commander-in-Chief volunteered to remain in his capacity with the army which he had so long commanded. The tender has been accepted by Emperor Nicholas and gratefully received by the new leader of the grand army.

Must Not Take Manchuria

America Leads Neutral Powers in Giving Pledge to China.

SPECIAL CABLE.

KOBE, March 21.—According to the Pekin correspondent of the Maitchi Shimbu, one of the leading Tokyo papers, United States Minister Conger has notified the Chinese government that in future no power will be permitted to acquire territory in Manchuria. It is also said that in this policy America is supported by Great Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Hungary and Italy.

DRIVEN TO PEACE

Rather Than Yield Their Privileges, SAY RUSSIAN NOBLES

France Has Forced Bureaucrats to Discuss Terms.

BLUFF AT CONTINUING WAR

Preparations Only a Prelude to Negotiations—Kuropatkin Accepts Subordinate Command, but is Distrusted.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 21.—(1 A. M.)—General Kuropatkin has been appointed commander of the First Manchurian Army. The appointment is gossiped in the Official Messenger today.

CHICAGO, Ill., March 21.—(Special.)—A special cablegram to the Daily News from Tsarokoo-Selo says:

France's refusal to lend Russia more money without the indorsement of a national assembly has induced the bureaucracy to prefer peace to resigning its prerogatives. The spreading of agrarian troubles has converted both landowners and nobility into active anti-war partisans. The Czar presided over a meeting held yesterday to discuss peace terms. One of the most prominent members of the committee said to the Daily News correspondent as he left the conference: "The mobilizing of further troops, the equipping and dispatch of the navy to the Far East and the improvement of the Trans-Siberian Railway before making any attempt to negotiate peace terms indicate that there will be a limit to the concessions that will be made, and that beyond that limit the war must go on. Russia is succumbing to an unholy alliance of cosmopolitan high finance, international Socialism and Jewish perfidy." "While the country at large commends Kuropatkin's conduct in desiring to remain at the front and to serve under General Linievitch, General Dragomirov's friend, Prince Borisoff, said this morning: "I know Kuropatkin. He is subtle. I do not trust his assumption of humility. I hope Admiral Alexieff's friends and Linievitch, will not consent to his presence with the army."

THE MOST SETTLE

United States Makes Demand on Castro.

OFFER TO ARBITRATE

But Restrictions Named by Venezuela Are Rejected.

COERCION THE ALTERNATIVE

Rights of American Concessionaires Asserted—Holland Threatens to Whip Castro—France Awaits Court Decision.

WILL RAISE RUSSIAN SHIPS

Japan Lets Contract at Port Arthur—Variag Under Repairs.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 21.—The steamer Hyades brought news from Japan that an English company has been awarded a contract to raise the sunken ship at Port Arthur. There was some talk of making a cofferdam at the harbor mouth and pumping out the water, but this plan was abandoned in favor of placing cofferdams about each of the sunken craft, by which means, it is explained, every vessel, with the possible exception of the Sevastopol, can be raised and repaired.

JAPAN WANTS SAKHALIN BACK

Agitation for Expedition to Recapture Ceded Island.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 21.—Advices received by the steamer Hyades today stated that an expedition may be sent from Hokkaido to capture the island of Sakhalin, regarding which the Japanese feel that they were cheated when Russia forced an exchange for the Kuriles. The Japanese shared the fishing privileges, which cost a million and a half dollars a year.

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Press correspondent, who was with Rennenkampf's command during the battle, has arrived at general headquarters slightly wounded.

Preparations are now making for mobilization of a number of detachments, not affecting, on a general scale, the orders however, but in districts in the government of Kiev, Warsaw and Moscow. The grenadiers have not received orders to proceed to Manchuria, but many officers of that organization, drafted to command units and now bound for the front, left Moscow yesterday.

Ovation Given Kuropatkin

Population of Harbin Cheers Him on Return to the Front.

HARBIN, March 21.—(1 A. M.)—At the departure south of General Kuropatkin thousands of civilians and soldiers gathered at the station and gave him a great ovation. Above thundering hurrahs were heard cries of "God send you happiness," "Good bye, brother," "Good bye, father." As the train started, soldiers rushed forward in a surging crowd and grasped the handrail of the General's car, throwing their caps in the air and running some distance with the car.

The scene made a deep impression on General Kuropatkin, down whose face tears streamed. Removing his cap, he saluted again and again and stood bareheaded on the platform as long as the train was in sight.

Readers of Harbin are uneasy and many of them are leaving. Chinese are withdrawing their deposits from Chinese banks here.

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The former Russian cruiser Variag, sunk at Port Arthur, has been raised and brought to Nagasaki. She is being rapidly repaired with a view to arming and commissioning her under the Japanese flag.

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The Council of Ministers met this morning, and Foreign Minister Delcasse longly detailed the relations with Morocco, but the statement regarding the proceedings of the Council does not mention Venezuela. This means that no action will be pending the receipt of information as to the Caracas court's decision.

The cable company during the day received a dispatch from M. Brun, the Caracas manager at Caracas, saying that the court's expected decision was not given today. He reported the general conditions to be quiet.

MUST ARBITRATE OR FIGHT

Demands by United States and Holland on Castro.

WILLEMSTADT, Island of Curacao, March 21.—The Venezuelan government, it is announced from Caracas, has received a note from the American minister, Mr. Bowen, requiring an answer as to whether Venezuela will arbitrate the questions pending, and saying that in case of a refusal the United States will feel free to take the step which may be necessary to secure justice.

The Charge d'Affaires of the Netherlands has advised the Venezuelan government, Holland will use coercive measures in view of the fact that she has been unable to secure the release from imprisonment in Venezuela of five Dutch officers who have been illegally kept in prison for seven months.

SPURN ROCKEFELLER'S MONEY

New England Preachers Make Unique Petition to Mission Board.

BOSTON, March 21.—Congregational ministers, representing Boston and various sections of New England, have forwarded to the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions a protest against the acceptance by the board of a gift of \$100,000 from John D. Rockefeller, the petition, which was prepared by a committee chosen at a meeting of the clergymen, protests against the acceptance of the gift on the ground that the Standard Oil Company, of which Mr. Rockefeller is the head, stands before the public under repeated and recent formidable indictments in specific terms for methods which are morally iniquitous and socially destructive, and that "the acceptance of such a gift involves the constituents of the board in a relation which would save them the trouble of beginning the board to the charge of ignoring the moral issues involved." In conclusion the protest says:

"We, the undersigned, therefore protest against any action by which our church may even seem to be compromised, and we plead with the officers of the board to decline the gift or to return it if it has been accepted.

Among the signers are: Daniel Deane, Cambridge; Edward F. Sanderson, Provost; E. L. George N. Goodwin, Detroit; N. H. N. Vandersly, Marshfield, Mass.; Reuben Thomas, Brookline, and James B. Williamson, Haverhill.

WORST FLOOD IN MANY YEARS

Swollen Rivers Swamp the Pittsburg Mills and Drive People Away.

PITTSBURG, March 21.—Pittsburg is threatened with one of the worst floods in years. At 11 o'clock tonight Forecast Frank Ridgway predicted over 30 feet of water, which, if it does not expect over 35 feet, if that much.

During the early hours today the water began to recede from the rise in the evening, but fresh impetus was given to the rising torrent by the arrival of nearly two inches over the entire watershed of the Monongahela River. Tonight about 10 miles above Pittsburg the Monongahela is rising rapidly, and at the harbor here the gauges show a rise of nearly three inches an hour.

Already a number of mills have shut down as a result of the water putting out the fires. From three to five feet more of water is expected up the valley, and a total of 30,000 men are liable to idleness.

Hundreds of houses on the South Side and in McKeesport and other suburbs of the city are surrounded by from two to eight feet of water, the occupants living in the second stories. In some places the water has entered the upper rooms and homes are being abandoned for the time being. No fatalities have been reported.

TORNADO TAKES NINE LIVES

Tears Through Alabama, Wrecking Houses and Slaying Occupants.

ROANOKE, Ala., March 21.—Reports have reached here of one of the most disastrous storms that ever visited that section, which swept across the southern part of Randolph County late last night. Eight or nine lives are known to have been lost and damage amounting to thousands of dollars was done to property. The tornado started at a point near Double Heads and proceeded in a northwesterly course.

The residence of Mack Carlisle was demolished and R. C. Haynes, of Roanoke, was killed. Three negroes were killed and several injured on the Wilson plantation. Three or four negroes were killed on the Holly plantation, near Rock Mills, at Lime Postoffice a store was demolished and a little white girl, daughter of Mr. Lucas, was killed and her mother seriously injured.

FRANCE HAS TAKEN NO ACTION

Will Not Send Warships, Thinking America Has Better Right.

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ON TO THE COAST

Milwaukee Road Decides to Extend.

PRESIDENT ADMITS FACT

Will Construct 300 Miles of Road This Year.

ACTION FORCED BY HILL LINES

Refusal of Traffic Agreement Caused Decision to Proceed With Construction to Portland and Puget Sound.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., March 21.—(Special.)—The admission of President A. J. Earling, of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, today that an early extension of the Milwaukee system to the Pacific Coast is a possibility makes practically certain the consummation of the much mooted plan that will give Portland, Seattle and Tacoma terminals of a new railroad. Heretofore the Milwaukee interests have emphatically denied that there was an iota of truth in the statements regarding the proposed extension, but to counter the trouble of a new railroad. Heretofore the Milwaukee interests have emphatically denied that there was an iota of truth in the statements regarding the proposed extension, but to counter the trouble of a new railroad.

It can also be said on unquestionable authority that the plan has been made to begin the construction of the extension within a month and that 300 miles of road will be put in shape for rails during the coming summer.

It has been developed that the Rockefeller family, Mr. Earling made the brief assertion that he would not now deny the report.

E. G. and P. A. Rockefeller, Mr. Van Wyck, L. Sackett, F. B. Adams, C. E. Sullivan and L. E. Jaun, all railroad investors, composed the party which had just returned from a tour to Chamberlain, S. D., in Mr. Earling's private car. While in the latter city, which is the present Western terminus of the Milwaukee, it is known that they gave serious thought and investigation to the proposed extension to the Coast.

THREE NATIONS DIVIDE LOAN

United States and Britain Join Germany in Lending to Japan.

BERLIN, March 21.—The new Japanese foreign loan will be divided among three nations, the United States, Great Britain and Germany participating. The amount will depend upon how much the bankers here and elsewhere will guarantee to dispose of, but probably it will not be less than \$50,000,000, of which amount Germany is likely to take \$15,000,000, although this is still undetermined.