Morning Oregonian.

BIGGS AND GESNER DENY CONSPIRACY

VOL. XLV.-NO. 13,916.

No Plot, They Say, to Suborn Perjury.

NOR WAS WILLIAMSON A PARTY

Timber-Land Deals, They Hold, Were Legitimate.

NO INTENT TO BREAK LAW

Testimony of Witnesses That Implied Contracts Had Been Made to Buy Claims Is Also Vigorously Denied.

Dr. Van Gesner, partner of Repre-Biggs, United States Land Commisrigid cross-examination conducted by Government comes to make its argument. This morning Marjon Biggs Williamson will take the stand.

Gesner Gives Testimony.

Dr. Gesner in answer to the questions asked by Attorney Wilson, gave his he knew of anyone willing to put up the case at har. He admitted having made by Representative Williamson, the witness the loans to a number of the entry- stated that Mr. Williamson came to his men, but said that he did so in order office one day and remarked that "the to protect the property he Sad already craze had struck him." meaning that he on of the country. Dr. Gesner denied that he had any contracts claim: with the various entrymen and stated. It was shown by the witness that there had been no conspiracy with Ma. Campbell Duncan was angry when he was rion Biggs and Representative William. forced to relinquish his claim, because in which the now famous "20-20 men" played such an important part in the that Duncan met him on the street, and he testified, and first approached him and asked him to lend them money with which to file on the claims. He stated that he agreed to furnish them the money, providing they would give him the use of the land for a range for sheep. For the use of the range he had agreed not to charge them interest on the loans. He said that the sheepshooters had established a dead line and in order to protect his property, he was forced to secure more range and thought that he had gone the right way about, it, when he made the loans to the entrymen who came to him and asked for financial help.

Before agreeing to furnish the money to the entrymen. Dr. Gesner stated that he had first consulted Biggs and had DEFENSE OPENS ITS CASE engaged him as a lawyer. He also consulted Attorney Barnes, and had been assured by both that what he intended to do was legal, provided he did not enter into a contract with the entrymen before they made their filings. On cross-examination, Dr. Gesner stated that he had made up his mind to buy some of the claims taken by the entrymen, provided he could get them at a fair market value, but that at the time he leat the money, he was looking forward only to protection for that one season. He admitted having told the entrymen where to file, and gave them the numbers of the locations upon which they afterward filed, but he denied that he had first taken the entrymen over the land and pointed out the claims they filed upon, Mr. Heney produced the map made by Special Agent Jones. showing the locations of the lands owned by the Willamette Valley Wagon Road Company. The claims which ace at issue in this case, those taken up by the men that Dr. Gesner lent money to, lay in some instances between the lands leased by the firm of Williamson & Gesner from the Willamette Valley Wagon Road Company, and the witness was very closely questioned by Mr. Heney, it hadn't been his intention to have the entries made on these sections so that the firm might have a continuous range. Dr. Gesner stated that he had never taken

Never Talked With Williamson

When questioned regarding the knowledge that Representative Williamson had ut the taking up of the timber claims. Dr. Gesner testified that he had never discussed the matter with his partner. Representative Williamson. He could not recall whether Mr. Williamson had read the report of Secretary Hitchcock's investigations. He stated that he had made the loans himself, and had not first talked with his partner before doing so. In fact, he stated that he did not believe that Mr. Williamson knew of his reason for having the entrymen take up the claims. He said that the part Biggs played in the transactions, aside from his regular duties as Commissioner, was that of an attorney, and denied that he had asked Biggs to get people to file on the lands. Mr. Heney questioned him regarding a letter which had been sent him by Special Agent Neuhausen, when he was in Prineville investigating the alleged frauds. Over this let-

per became confused in his answers. It seems that the letter which was sent to Dr. Gesner was mailed May 16, and a letter which was received from the witness was dated May 30. In attempting to explain why he had not answered the letter pefore, Dr. Gesner stated that he was too ousy to go to Prineville. When pressed in regard to the reason for not complying with the request made by Mr. Neuhauser for Dr. Gesner to call upon him at a Prineville hotel as soon as possible, Dr. Gesner stated that he was busy having. This answer stood until his counsel, realizing that May was hardly having time, interrupted, when he stated that he was busy irrigating.

Denies Alleged Remark. Mr. Hency held back a bit of sensation

intil he took charge of Dr. Gemer after HAVE FIFTEEN COMPANIES he had gone through the redirect examination. There was a bit of a filt between counsel for the defense and the District Attorney, but Judge De Haven alpped it in the bud and cut off further controversy by saying that the incident was closed. When things settled down Mr. Heney asked the witness if he knew J. O. Booth, a hotelkeeper of Grant's Pass. The witness re piled that he did not, and then he was asked if he (Dr. Gerner) had not met Booth at the Imperial Hotel in this city recently. Again there was a denial. Mr. Heney tried to get the witness to admit that Booth had remarked during the conversation that "he noticed that the wit esses were not telling much," and that Dr. Gesner had replied that they were not because "they knew which side their bread was buttered on." The witness denied having made such a remark to any-

Marion R. Biggs followed Dr. Gesner. He stated that he was born in Pike County, Missouri, and a smile flickered over the crowd. He said he was admitted sentative Williamson and Marion R. to the bar from that state, and told of where he had practiced law before set sioner, two of the defendants in the tling in Prineville. The testimony was case now on trial before Judge De given with a great deal of cocksureness and the answers he gave could be plainly Haven, testified yesterday in their own heard all over the courtroom. He stated behalf. Dr. Gesner passed through the that he had been employed by Gesner as an attorney, and had advised him in re-District Attorney Heney and, although gard to the measures to pursue in regard his original story was not snaken to lending money to the entrymen. Biggs much, he was forced into several ad- stated that he had informed Dr. Gesner missions that will be used when the that, so long as he did not enter into contract with the entrymen, what he was about to do would be legal. He denied will be subjected to cross-examination that he had mentioned the names of and unless court should adjourn at either Representative Williamson or noon, it is possible that Representative Wakefield to any of the entrymen, and he swore there was no agreement between himself and Dr. Gesner for him to obtain entrymen. He said that when people came to his office and inquired of him if version of the way in walch he had money, that he told them that perhaps started out to obtain the timber lands Dr. Gesner would accommodate them. In which since have involved him in the regard to the claim which was taken up

The witness gave a history of the Dr. Gesner had decided not to furnish Wilson drew from Biggs the statement Horse Heaven country. The entrymen, that Duncan, when talking of Dr. Gesner, had called him vile names and had made a threat to get even. Biggs denied that he had asked Green Beard to take his family and file on claims for Dr. Gesner, and he said that all the changes madin the entries after they had been forwarded to the Land Office had been donat the request of the persons making the entries, and not at the request of any one else. He swore emphatically that he explained to each entryman that they must not make a contract to dispose o the claims before they had made the filings, and he swore that he had read over the conditions to the various entrymen and had insisted that they read them over also. He was still on the stand when court was adjourned.

Dr. Gesner Denies He Ever Con-

tracted to Buy Timber Claims. When Judge De Haven opened the hear ing of the Williamson case yesterday

When Judge De Haven opened the hearing of the Williamson case yesterday morning, Mr. Heney asked permission before the defense went on with its case to recall Miss-Lang for a short time, as he had forgotten to ask her a question or two that he desired. The permission being given, Mr. Heney asked if all of the claims filed upon by the claimants noted in the indictment had been held up by the Land Office, or if any of them had been passed to patent. Miss Lang stated that none of them had been patented. Cross-examined by Judge Bennett, the witness stated that practically all of the claims that had been tiled upon at that time had been held up for investigation and cross-examination by a special agent of the department.

The defense opened its case by calling M. E. Brink, of Prineville, to the stand. Mr. Brink testified that he had lived in Prineville for 15 years or more, and that he knew all of the defendants and many of the witnesses that had testified for the prosecution. He was asked if he had remembered a conversation that had been had been Campbell A. Duncan and Attorney Barnes and himself, and stated that he had met Barnes and Duncan on the walk, where they had discussed the timber-claim question. Duncan had stated that he had sworn to the truth in his affidavits made before Biggs. Mr. Wilson, who conducted the examination of the witnesses, inquired if Brink had asked Duncan if he had feit under any obligations to Gesner to sell the land he had filled upon to him. The witness stated that he had seeked the question, to which Duncan had replied that he was under no obligation and had not made any contract with Gesner.

On cross-examination by Mr. Hency the witness was asked who had suggested the

obligation and had not made any contract with Gesner.
On cross-examination by Mr. Hency the witness was asked who had suggested the question to him, and he stated that he had been asked by Gesner to find out what the witness knew about the subject. There was a good deal of talk at time about home people standing together, wasn't there?" Mr. Hency asked, but the witness denied that it was so.
"What was the question you asked Duncan?" It asked him if he had any contract to sell the land."

"What did he say?" "He said that he did not have any contract to sell the timber claim."
"You didn't ask him anything further." "One or two questions."
"Did Barnes ask him how it happen that Gesner gave him back the fill fees." "No. sir."

Was it planned that Barnes sho "Was it planned that Barnes should have Duncan there and wou should come up and meet him?" No. sir."
On the redirect examination Mr. Wilson asked the witness if anything had been said about his being able to get any sum whatever out of Gesner for the lands, and the witness stated that nothing of The kind had been said.

Isom Cleek, a bartender of Prineville. was the next witness for the defense. He Isom Cleek, a bartender of Prineville, was the next witness for the defense. He

"Concluded on Page 14.)

UNITE TO FIGHT THEATER TRUST

Shubert and Independent Companies Form New Combinations.

Klaw & Erlanger Accused of Trying to Squeeze Shubert, Who Will Fight Them With Fourteen Rival Theaters.

NEW YORK, July 14.-Announcement of a new combination of actors in Amerca against what is known as the Theatrical Trust was made today by Lee Shubert. The leading companies in the new ombination are those headed by David Belasco and Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske, Lee Shubert will manage the line of thea ters which will be placed at the disposal of Mr. Belamo, Mrs. Fiske and others.

The new combine will back 15 com panies on the road and such actors as Sarah Bernhardt, Ada Rehan, Jefferson de Angelis, Henry Miller, Lillian Russell, David Warfield, Blanche Bates, Bertha Galland, Robert Hilliard, Mrs. Fiske and Mrs. Leslie Carter. The actors under the new management expect within another week to have a separate number of theaters on their own circuit in America to play the year round.

He Has Fourteen Theaters,

Mr. Shubert announced that this comany now has 14 playhouses under its control, including theaters in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, St. Louis and London, England, and that within a week he would be able to open a dozen more to his attractions. Besides these places, the new combination is counting on the support of independent houses all over

The amendment by the theatrical syn dicate managers of a contract which Mr. Shubert says he made with them, agreeing to pay them 25 per cent of the profits of the syndicate's attractions booked at his theaters, was 'the cause of his break from the trust ranks. His friendliness toward David Belasco during the last two months, he said, was a further cause of the new combine. (Williemson) wanted to file on a timber

Squeezed by the Trusts. "We signed a contract with the theatrical syndicate which is headed by Klaw & Erlanger, agreeing that the syndicate

CONTENTS TODAY'S PAPER

TODAY'S-Fair and warmer. The War in the Far East itte has stormy interview with Czar and may decline mission. Page 1.

President and Takahira arrange for peace conference. Page I. Negotiations will be under Crar's personal direction. Page 1. Japan will insist on cession of Sakhalin

Mutineers of Potemkin shot or in chains

Mutiny of troops at Tiffie. Page 5. Clever satire on Czar. Page 5. Foreign.

Kaiser trying to prevent Norway from be-coming republic. Page 3, Germany denies Swedish alliance. Page 3, French exiles will renew agitation on re-turn. Page 5. Celebration of Bastile day in France

National. Roosevelt arranges for canal digging Shonts and Stevens. Page 4. Taft's party in Honolulu. Page 1.

Charges that Government tobacco are fixed. Page 8. Forest reserve officials forbidden to fees. Page 5. Major Langfitt to be succeeded by Major Boessler. Page 4.

New York editor refuses to answer ques asked by Legislature in Hooker Page 3.

Philadelphia grafter indicted. Page 4. Southern railroad man speaks on rate ques-Race riot rages in New York City for two

Shuber forms combination to fight theater trust. Page 1. Jerome is again refused evidence against Equitable, Page 4. Building in Winnipeg falls and crushes many to death. Page 1.

Portland loses to Tacoma. Page 7. Americans win tennis match with French-men. Page 7. Pacific Coast.

Land frauds stir Lewiston. Page 6, Militia in camp at Gearhart. Page 6. Railway company now has right of way or north bank of Columbia. Page 6. Canadians slow about allowing extradition of Collins. Page 6.

Commercial and Marine. Good undertone to hop market. Page 15. Front street again well supplied with fruit. Page 15. Trade reports indicate large Fall buying Page 15.

Break in wheat prices at Chicago. Page 15. Condition of world's wheat crop. Page 14. New York stock market dull. Page 15. Heavy shipments of fruit from San Fran-cisco to Puget Sound. Page 15. Lumber cargoes going out daily. Page 12. Lewis and Clark Exposition.

missions, 17,500. Page 10. Schoolteachers have day at the Pair. Page Pure Food Congress decides to throw aside standards of Department of Agriculture as antiquated. Page 10.

Portland and Vicinity.

Gesner and Biggs take the witness stand in the Williamson case. Page 1. Transportation committee of Chamber of nerce censures railway inactivity. peaker Cannon denies report that he was insulted on opening day of Fair. Page 16,

Concessionaires will test Sunday closing in Doctors take trip up river and have planked salmon luncheon. Page 10. conference of charities and corrections ready for work. Page 10.

could book its attractions in our houses for E per cent of the profits for a period of five years," said Mr. Shubert. "After we signed this contract a letter was sent us by the syndicate asking us to amend the contract by agreeing not to add any more theaters to our own circuit." Mr. Shubert says that at this point he had only eight theaters in his own circuit

and did not feel strong enough to make

a fight against the syndicate. "When I asked," Mr. Shubert continued, "why this new amendment was required, I was told that our company had violated its contract with the syndicate by refusing to accept some of its attractions which it had booked at our houses. They sald this was a violation of our contract with them, though that document contained the provision that the syndicate attractions were at all times subject to our order. After this conversation the matter was allowed to rest for a time. Meanwhile the Lyric Theater Company

was extending its own circuit and acquiring new attractions. When our company was building the Garrick Theater in St. Louis, the syndicate told us that we would not be allowed to book our own attractions in our own houses if we pursued our policy. And yet at its convenience it always filled its theaters with

our attraction Tried to Shut Out Belasco.

"On my return from Europe last June was met by Mr. Erlanger and had a chat with him about patching up our difficulties. He told me that, if I did not book Belasco in any of our theaters, I could have anything I wanted. Because booked Beiasco in the Garrick, he said that the tours of 'The Royal Chef' and of 'Fanta,' already booked, were off.

"Let me say that in the present move we are not attempting to fight the syndicate, but merely in self-protection trying to find a place for our own attrac-

JOSHES" MISS ROOSEVELT

TAFT COMPLIMENTS HER ON BEING STRENUOUS.

Speech at Honolulu, in Which Secretary Proposes Separate Bureau to Manage Islands.

HONOLULU, July 14.—Secretary of War Taft and party arrived this morn-ing on the steamer Manchuria. Soon after the vessel docked the visitors went driving to the Pall. As the guests of the citizens' committee they visited local places of interest and had lunch-

eon at the Royal Hawalian Hotel, where Secretary Taft made an address. The Manchuria was met outside of the harbor by Acting Governor Atkinson and a committee of citizens.

The members of the distinguished party declare they nad an enjoyable voyage to Honolulu. There were several dances on board, in which Secretary Taft and Miss Roosevelt participated. Lectures were also given on pated. Lectures were also given on Philippine subjects. Secretary Taft, in an interview referring to Chinese clusion, said that it was not propto admit any more Chinese of the coolle class, but merely to treat more cour-teously Chinese that are entitled to admission to the United States.

Mr. Taft and his party were guests this afternoon at a luncheon given at the Ha-wallan Hotel. The dining-room was elaborately decorated and a large gathering of territorial officials and prominent citizens was present. Territorial Secretary Atkinson presided. In his address of wel-come he made reference to the probability of Mr. Taft's being a future nomines for President and his remarks met with general applause. Mr. Atkinson said, in the course of his remarks, that Hawall as a fortified post was more important to the United States than the Philipppines will ever be

In responding to the toast, "The President," Mr. Taft began with a humorous reference to Miss Alice Roosevelt and her representation of the President and, continuing, said that President Roosevelt unable to come himself, had sent along a member of his family, and that for straightforwardness and strenuousness the President was well represented by his

that the best way to handle insular affairs would be to have a bureau at Wash ington devoted to looking after Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines and Porto Rico Later in the afternoon Mr Taft, Miss Roosevelt and others of the party went to Waikiki Beach and experienced surf-

Mr. Taft said that Governor Carter has had a successful administration in Hawaii and believed that he would withdraw his resignation after having seen the President, who wants Mr. Carter to remain in

Returning from Walkiki, Miss Roose velt, Mrs. Dubols, Senator Newlands and Representative Longworth, who were guests of Sheriff Brown, were too late for the steamer Manchuria, which had al-ready left the whart. They were taken out on a tug, which was carrying a large number of citizens to bid the party farewell, and were transferred to a launch in the open sea and then carried to the Man-

FOUR DEATHS FROM HEAT

Reduced Humidity Gives Slight Relief to New York.

NEW YORK, July 14.-With the tem-

perature three degrees below the 50 mark at 11 o'clock tonight, immediate promise of relief for sweltering New York dissolved. Four fatalities due to the heat and humidity were reported today with 21 prostrations. The mercury reached a maximum of \$6 today.

Although the temperature was the same as yesterday, the humidity decreased from 86 to 55 in less than six hours. The imetrations from heat.

CHINA OPPOSES BOYCOTT

Rockhill Cables Government Is Friendly to United States.

WASHINGTON, July 14.-Mr. Rockhill, the American Minister at Pekin, has cabled the State Department that the Chinese government is vigorously oppos-ing the threatened boycott of American

Plain, Blunt Man Arouses Anger of Monarch and He Declines Mission.

QUESTION IS STILL OPEN

Czar Prefers Rosen to Head Mission and Witte Threatens to Resign. Lamsdorff Tries to Dissuade Him.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 15 .- (2:20 A. M.)-M. Witte, after his audience with the Emperor at Peterhof, returned last evening to St. Petersburg and drove directly to the Foreign Office, where he was closeted for three hours with Foreign Minister Lamsdorff.

A sensational report was current early this morning that M. Witte might not go to Washington after all. According to the story, his audience with the Emperor was anything but smooth, His Majesty rather resenting M. Witte's plain-spoken ideas and indicating that under the circumstances he would prefer that Baron Rosen should act as chief plenipotentiary.

The Emperor is even said to have intimated that Count Lamsdorff had exceeded his authority in officially announcing to the Washington Government that M. Witte would occupy the

first position M. Witte is sai dto have left the Emperor in an ugly frame of mind and to have frankly informed Count Lamsdorff that it would be impossible for him to undertake the mission. It was only by the greatest effort, the story says, that the Foreign Minister has succeeded in persuading aim not to flatly refuse, and the question as to whether he will go to Washington is said to be still open.

Although the Associated Press heard this story from a high personage, its were for a prolongation of the strug-informant was not prepared to vouch gie. France, through Ambassador Neiinformant was not prepared to vouch gie. France, through Ambassador Nel-laformant was not prepared to vouch gie. France, through Ambassador Nel-laformant was not prepared to vouch gie. France, through Ambassador Nelfor it, and there is no confirmation of it from other quarters up to this hour. It is, therefore, sent under great reserve, as it may prove to be an inven-

WITTE'S THANKLESS TASK.

Appointed With Reluctance and Sure

ST. PETERSBURG, July 15 .- (1:30 M.)-M. Witte is shouldering the task of conducting peace negotiations on behalf of his country in a patriotic spirit, but before him and the knowledge in advance that, even if he succeeds, he cannot secure terms which the Russian revolutionists can call otherwise than humillating. He is aware of the intrigues against him at court, but he is big enough to believe that the events of history will justify the wisdom of making peace on the best terms possible, as he considers that all the energies of the government should be directed to the solution of the

internal problems of the empire. The greatest element in the strength of M. Witte's position after negotiations shall have been begun is the fact that he is in thorough accord with Count Lamsdorff, the Foreign Minister, who can be depended upon to support his recommendations before the Emperor against all

contrary influences. A prominent Russian statesman, who s qualified to speak on the matter, said

to the Associated Press: "The Emperor now seriously desired peace. In spite of somewhat strained personal relations in the past between the Emperor and M. Witte, due to the fact that the latter was never a fawning courtier, but always insisted on bluntly telling his imperial master what he be lieved; the Emperor has always recognized his great ability and devotion to the best interests of Russia. It was gall and wormwood to His Majesty, however, to turn for the extrication of Russia from her difficulties to the very man who predicted all the disasters with which the fortunate war, and whose advice he so ong rejected. The fact that the Emperor has done so proves the measure of his

"Nevertheless His Majesty is surround ed daily, even hourly, by members of the military party, many of whom are blindly chauvinistic. The Emperor cannot disregard the men who control the power which supports the throne and the dynasty, and therein lies the danger that even M. Witte may fall. However successful the negotiations may be, the machinations of the military party will have to be reckoned with.

ARRANGE FOR CONFERENCE

Takahira Discusses Plans for Reception by President.

OVSTER BAY, N. Y., July 14.-Impor tant details concerning the forthcoming peace conference between plenipotentiaries representing Russia and Japan were unproved conditions were noticeable in the der consideration today by President greatly reduced number of deaths and Roosevelt. He and Mrs. Roosevelt had as guests at luncheon at their Sagamore Hill home Minister Takahira of Japan, Theodore P. Shonts and John F. Stevens chief engineer of the Isthmian Canal Com-mission, and Thomas W. Hynes, Auditor

of Porto Rico Several days ago Mr. Takahira made as engagement to see the President today ncerning the arrangements for the re-Hill, and about some other details of the peace conference to be held at Ports-mouth, N. H.

1:20 o'clock from New York. He was met make for permanen at the station by one of the President's belligerent nations.

confidential messengers, who escorted him to Sagamore Hill. Assurance was given that the Minister's visit was not of notable significance. He bore no special ad-vices to the President from the Japanese government. He discussed with Mr. Roosevelt some points about the ap-proaching conference, but it is announced

that no date was agreed upon for the re-ception of the Russian and Japanese en-voys by the President.

Mr. Takahira could not say positively when Baron Komura, the Japanese Min-ister of Foreign Affairs, who is the principal envoy of Japan to the conference, would arrive in this country. He is now on his way from Japan, and is expected on his way from Japan, and is expected to reach New York about July 30. If M. Witte, the chief plenipotentiary of Russia, shall have arrived by that time, the reception to the envoys by the President will probably take place at Sagamore Hill on August 1. The precise date will be determined by the State Department at a conference between the recently appointed Secretary Elihu Root and the plenipotentiaries.

plenipotentiaries.
It is the expectation that the envoys will come from New York to Oyster Bay or the cruiser Mayflower and the dispatch boat Dolphin. They will be accompanied

boat Doiphin. They will be accompanied by Mr. Root and perhaps by other offi-cials of the State Department. They will go directly by the same vessels from Oyster Bay to Portsmouth. Mr. Takahira expressed his personal gratification at the designation of M. Witte as leading plenipotentiary of Rus-sia. He said that M. Witte was one of Russia's most eminent statesmen, and his sta. He said that M. Witte was one of Russia's most eminent statesmen, and his appointment would lend confidence and weight to the conclusions of the confer-ence. He said that arrangements for the conference were moving along smoothly, and expressed the hope that a satisfactory agreement would be reacched.

APPOINTMENT ASSURES PEACE Russia Hails Choice of Witte as Good Sign.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 14. - M Witte's appointment as chief Russian peace plenipotentiary was announced today in the Official Messenger in the

following words:
"Owing to the serious illness which overtook M. Muravier on his arrival in St. Petersburg, which made it impossible for him to familiarize himself at such short notice with the constitution." siderable material connected with the negotiations. His Majesty, the Em-peror, has been pleased to appoint President of the Committee of Ministers M. Witte to the post of chief plenfpotentiary."

Spontaneously all parties recognize that M. Witte's selection makes for a successful termination of peace negotiations. Another fact, that the Emperor at last yielded to the pressure for Witte's appointment, is accepted as being a complete assurance that His Majesty is sincerely determined to end the conflict and make peace if a pos-sible basis is obtainable. Every influence which championed M. Witte was for peace, while, on the contrary, in every instance those who opposed him but the main credit for M. Witte's se-lection belongs to Foreign Minister Lamsdorff, who never ceased to press

for his selection.

Count Lamsdorff and M. Witte are now in close alliance, and wher M. Bouligan retires from the Ministry of the Interior all the Ministers will at least be in harmony, especially should Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky, as rumor to-day intimates, return to the head of

the Ministry of the Interior The papers here generally were not aware last night that M. Witte's aphall his selection with intense satiswhich has not believed that an honorable peace is possible, seems willing to trust the issue in M. Witte's hands. The St. Petersburg Gazette dwells

especially upon the confidence with which his appointment will inspire the Tokio Government, where M. mercial and military adventure in Manchuria and Corea is well known paper reviews his steady st against the influences which precint tated the war, and, moreover, points out that M. Witte's selection insures harmony among the Russian plenipo tentiaries and delegates, as Baron Ro sen shares M. Witters views, and M. Pokotiloff and M. Shipoff were trained under him while he was Minister of Finance and belong distinctively to the Witte school. In conclusion the Ga-Witte school. In conclusion

zette says: "There is nothing so essential in the negotiations as complete union. M. Muravieff has already departed

CZAR WILL INSTRUCT WITTE Peace Negotiations Will Be Under

Personal Direction. ST. PETERSBURG, July 14.-M. Witte had a prolonged audience with the Em-peror at Peterhof this afternoon, at which the whole subject of the peace negotiations was gone over in detail. The diffi-culties of the situation were discussed and indications were given that His Majesty is more apt to personally govern M. Witte's course than the formal instructions which have been given him M. Witte will leave St. Petersburg next Wednesday for Paris, sailing as previously announced from Cherbourg July 25 on the North German Lloyd steamer Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse. Mme. Witte will accompany him as far as Paris, where she will remain for the present, though she may possibly join him later in the United

At M. Witte's personal solicitation M. Korotovitz, one of the ablest young diplomats, who formerly was secretary of the

CLAIMS ISLAND BY CONQUEST Cession of Sakhalin One of Japan's

Imperative Demands.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 14.-Prices rose on the Bourse upon the improvement in Russian securities abroad, due to M. Witte's appointment as chief peace plent-

According to information received here, Japan intends to claim the Island of Sakhalin by right of conquest, and its formal cession will be one of her unal-

President Glad of Appointment. OYSTER BAY, L. I. July 14 .- Presi-

ient Roosevelt has been notified officially by the Russian Government of of the committee of Ministers, to the position of principal envoy of Russia to the forthcoming peace conference. The President has expressed satisfaction at the designation of M. Witte, feeling assured that it means much to Russia to have so eminent a statesman mouth, N. H.

The Japanese Minister arrived here at on the commission, and that it will make for permanent peace between the

SHARP CENSURE FOR RAILWAYS

Chamber of Commerce Committee Acts.

PLIGHT OF

Dog-in-the-Manger Policy of Corporations.

PROMISES ARE FORGOTTEN

Roads Combine to Divide Territory and Will Neither Build Extensions Nor Allow Others to Open Up Country.

BACKS PROTEST WITH FACT,

The transportation committee of the Chamber of Commerce, in making its annual report upon the transportation conditions of the state and upon the attitude of the great corporations which control traffic conditions, takes a decided stand against the spirit of inactivity that seems to hold these companies in leash. The

When railroad systems combine and agreements are made, by which territory is parcelled out and competition is eliminated and an almost perfect monopoly is created, then a corresponding duty and obligation is created to permit the best transportation facilities possible in this terri-

It is pointed out in this report that Oregon will be behind Idaho this year in railroad development, though it has furnished every inducement and shown every forbearance towards the railroad companies. Themselves refusing to build, every obstacle has been thrown in the way of those who

would develop the country, Promises have been made only to forgotten. In the state 56,000 square miles are without railroad transportation

Railroads from other states and sections will rob Portland and the state of its natural trade. In 1894 there were 1382 miles of railroad in Oregon, in 1904 1778 miles.

ing yardage and sidings. In Washington in 1904 were 3392 miles, being 1614 miles more than in Oregon, though Oregon has one-third

Oregon is gradually dropping behind until today it is at the bottom as regards railroad development. The chief danger now threatening from Reno, Nev. Into Southern Oregon, thus diverting the Central Ore-

gon business to California,

The transportation committee of the Chamber of Commerce, in its annual report submitted yesterday, takes great exception to the treatment accorded the state by the transportation companies. It cites the advancement made by other states, where the railroads have extended their lines as promised and by comparison shows the neglect under which Oregon has

suffered. The report shows by cold facts and deductions what could be done for the state by the railroads if these corporations would live up to their obligations, and points out the duty of these companies which prosper and grow rich by the suffrance of the people of the state.

The report is signed by L. A. Lewis, Henry Hahn, T. D. Honeyman, A. Devers, Edward Newbegin and S. M. Mears, and is in full as follows:

Portland, Or., July 15, 1905.-To the and failure to build additional mileage and particularly when it practically chall its policy and administration for at ten years past, it is but fair to state the sons for our conclusions.

Causes for Complaint.

It must be apparent that cause for complaint exists where the people of the whole state are aroused as they never were before; where all intrests act from a common impulse; where there is practical unanimity in the helief that we have been and are being unjustly dealt with. A general feeling of indignation in a community as conservative as this does not spring up in a night, but is the result of long-continued acts, if not of unfriendliness, at least of indifference; nor will this feeling, deep-seated as it is, be enadicated by promises, or professions of good will and things to be done in the future.

We reet upon this proposition:

deep-seated as it is, he eradicated by promises, or professions of sood will and things to be done in the future.

We rest upon this proposition:

When railroad systems combine, when agreements are made (immoral though they may be) by which territory is parcelled out between them and competition eliminated, when these systems control the great transportation routes of a country, and an almost perfect monopoly is created; when these same systems are created under laws of the state, protected by the state and given various privileges and rights, such as those of eminent domain as well as franchises of gress and constantly increasing value, a corresponding duty and obligation is created and irrevocably attaches to furnish transportation facilities to every part of such territory and at reasonable rates. These obligations and duties are voluntarily assumed, and if one does not desire the burden, he must not ask for the benefits. Combinations, truces and agreements are made to prevent competition and to make it as far as possible impracticable, if not impossible. This is defended as right and proper, from a transportation standpoint. This being so, as a corollary it follows that proper facilities and at reasonable rates must be furnished by those creating the conditions.

This state furnishes a striking example of the treatment accorded a conservative friendly community, which relied solely upon the good faith and sense of appreciation of favors conferred upon such combinations. Though additional conditions are an according to the conditions. Though additions are an according to the conditions. Though additions and sense of appreciation of favors conferred upon such combinations. Though additions and according to the conditions.