

# Oregonian

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## HOPES OF PEACE GROW SMALLER

### Pessimism Fills Atmosphere About Envoys of War- ring Nations.

### WILL SPLIT ON INDEMNITY

### Witte Is Firm Against It, but Might Pay to Get Sakhalin Back.

Formal Meetings of Con-  
ference Begin Today.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Aug. 9.—With

the probability that Baron Komura will tomorrow reveal to the Russian plenipotentiaries the terms upon which Japan is willing to conclude peace, opinion as to the outcome among those who are congregated here to watch the proceedings has become decidedly pessimistic. This is due to the growing conviction that Japan's conditions will not prove as moderate as was at one time anticipated, and, especially in the matter of indemnity, may produce a possibility of their acceptance by the Russian envoys as a basis of negotiation.

The firm attitude of Mr. Witte in private conversation against the payment of indemnity and the insistent reports emanating from Japanese quarters that a stiff war contribution approximating the cost of the war, variously stated at from \$500,000 to \$500,000,000, constitutes one of Japan's demands, indicates a wide if not an irreconcilable difference between Japan's irrefutable minimum and what Russia is prepared to accept. Upon the question of the payment of a large indemnity the instructions of the Russian plenipotentiaries are believed to admit of no concessions, although it is possible a certain compensation in kind might be arranged. For instance, it is suggested that for the relinquishment of the island of Sakhalin, now potentially in Japanese hands, the possession of which by Japan would give her command of the whole Siberian littoral, Russia could with propriety pay a large sum.

### COURT PLOT TO CRUSH WITTE

### Grand Dukes Will Blame Him Whichever Way Conference Ends.

BERLIN, Aug. 9.—(Special.)—It is likely that Mr. Witte's popularity in America will be increased still further by the report which is current among the members of the Berlin diplomatic corps to the effect that his appointment as plenipotentiary was the result of an intrigue which aimed to bring about his ruin. It is asserted that the way is greased for blaming Witte, no matter how the Portsmouth conference turns out. The Ambassador of one of the great powers said today:

"The situation in a nutshell is that Witte will be blamed if he does and blamed if he does not conclude peace. His appointment was sanctioned by the Russian war party and the grand dual clique, to which he is most obnoxious. In the fond hope that, however negotiations result, they will prove his political undoing.

"If he agrees to the terms of Japan, he will be branded as a man who sold his country. If he fails to agree, he will be upbraided as incompetent, as a political ignoramus and as a fire-eating statesman upon whose head must rest the additional bloodshed in Manchuria resulting from his failure."

### HEBREW BAKERS FIGHT HARD

### Wreck Nonunion Shops and Rain Missiles on Police.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—Frequent outbreaks of rioting, calling for drastic action by the police, marked the course of the strike of the Hebrew bakers on the East Side today. In an attack on a bakery in Allen street 50 rioters broke into the place, completely wrecked it and upset the barrels of flour and dough in the street. The police reserves had to be called out before the rioters could be dispersed.

### CRUISER VARIAG IS AFLOAT

### Japanese Recover One of First Rus- sian Ships Sunk.

TOKIO, Aug. 10.—(2:30 A. M.)—The Imperial navy department has announced the successful floating of the cruiser Variag yesterday afternoon. In view of the fact that the vessel was there is a strong feeling of general satisfaction over the raising of the vessel.

### NOT SO EASY AS KUROPATKIN

### Oyama More Careful About Attack on Linnievich.

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 9.—Rev. John C. Ambler, Episcopal missionary to Japan, who returned to this country on the Kanagawa Maru this evening, says that in his estimation Field Marshal Oyama is not withholding an attack upon General Linnievich because of the impending peace conference in the East. It was reported that Oyama was more than 100 votes been cast at Roslyn school elections. Mrs. Mackay got 23, Remsen 24 and Dr. Lays 51. It was a sad blow to the last-named, who peddled tickets all day and could not believe the result when it was announced.

Dr. Bogert still controls the board with the hold-over members, but his term expires next year and he realizes that, unless he is very, very good, Mrs. Mackay will decree his official decapitation, and he is wondering exactly what she wants, and what is going to become of the old traditions of the school. Mrs. Mackay is

tion Baron Komura's good faith and frankly say it was due to a misunderstanding. This evening the assemblies were observed by a general exchange of cards. Mr. Witte, Baron Komura and his suite sending theirs through the hotel office, while the cards of the Japanese mission were left at the doors of the members of the Russian mission by a little Japanese messenger boy. Commanders Winslow and Gibbons also made their official calls upon the two missions late this evening.

### Correspondents Are Pessimists.

The Japanese and Russian newspaper correspondents have broken the ice and have begun to fraternize. It is perhaps significant that the correspondents on both sides are sending to their respective homes dispatches of anything but an optimistic character.

In the opinion of the Russians the Emperor's manifesto promulgating the national assembly project will materially strengthen the position of the Russian envoys by relieving the internal situation.

As the Russians like to smoke while at the table, all the members of the Russian mission tonight dined in their apartments, a practice which they have decided to continue hereafter.

### WILLING TO PAY INDEMNITY

### But Russian Council Votes Against Cession of Territory.

ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Mr. Witte has sent a cable dispatch to the czar declaring it to be his conviction that only humanity moved President Roosevelt to take action leading to the present peace conference. He says the American people sincerely sympathize with the Russian and the chances of agreement with the Japanese envoys appear brighter, since the sentiment for peace on reasonable terms which prevails everywhere in the world is likely to save Russia from the possibility of a humiliating peace. At today's meeting of the Council of Ministers and dignitaries at Peterhof 20 votes were cast for continuation of the war, a majority voted for payment of a money indemnity and against the ceding of territory. A minister who was present at the meeting said:

"In order to save millions of innocent lives and avoid a disaster which must result from a continuance of the war, we are ready to make sacrifices for peace. But, if Baron Komura wants our money, our land and our honor, we must take the responsibility for the innocent blood that will be shed. We are all convinced of American sincerity and are all grateful to President Roosevelt, who has done so much to save Russia from suffering the horrors of a civil war, a foreign war and famine simultaneously."

### SCHOOL BOARD OF MOSSBACKS.

The Mackays have a beautiful country home at Roslyn, L. I. Many other wealthy New Yorkers live here, but the town is absolutely controlled, so far as elections go, by the villagers. The local school is in charge of six trustees, elected by the people for terms of three years, two retiring each year. The Roslyn temple of learning is antiquated and as much out of date as an old lamp or a horse-car. For as long back as the memory of man runs the school in the same old way. They frowned on "new-fangled notions," and were severely certain that what was good enough for their fathers was good enough for their children.

The leaders in the board are Dr. J. H. Bogert, who has been president ever since Civil War days, and Dr. Peter D. Lays. The latter was a comparatively young member, having only held office 16 years, but the older men bowed to their rulings, and year after year Bogert and Lays have directed everything, even including the quality of the chalk and slate pencils.

### Mrs. Mackay "Butts In."

Unfortunately for the dictators, Mrs. Mackay took an interest in the school. Many days she visited it, listened to the recitations and finally became convinced that the curriculum was too circumscribed. Finally she plucked up courage, and timidly suggested to Dr. Bogert that the pupils should learn other things beyond the three Rs.

The venerable president of the board failed to take her remarks in good spirit. He declared that the children were learning as much as their parents ever did, and he (Dr. Bogert) would not allow any change and that settled it. Whereupon Mrs. Mackay smiled her sweet smile and walked away.

The next act in the drama was an unexpected inspection of the Roslyn school by a member of the staff of the State Board of Education. His report endorsed the views of Mrs. Mackay, and hailed the local board over the coals in great style. Whereupon Dr. Bogert waxed angrier than ever.

"What does that woman want, anyway?" he demanded. "She is the cheek-kesting in the world." Finally meeting her on the street one day, he personally told her his views.

"The school is run by the board," she said, "and the board satisfies the people. If you are so anxious for reform, why don't you get a board of your own? Perhaps you might like to be a member yourself."

And Mrs. Mackay remarked, with another sweet smile:

"Doctor, your words are full of wisdom."

She Defeats the Bosses.

The next day the president was astonished when he heard that Mrs. Mackay had decided to be a candidate. Once her course was decided upon, the society woman put up what is technically called a "whirlwind campaign."

She visited the voters in their houses, issued personal appeals on the dainty Harbor Hill stationers, rallied the children as vote-getters, and gave all of Roslyn the exciting time of its life.

## WOMAN AND MAN AS POLITICIANS

### Mrs. Mackay Staggered Moss- back School Board by Getting Elected.

### BOWLS OVER AN OLD FOGEY

### Jerome Asks Citizens to Run Him as Independent Candidate, Though All Parties Want to Nominate Him.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—A woman and a man figure prominently in the political news of New York: the woman because she has been elected to office, the man because he has evolved a new method.

The woman is Mrs. Clarence Mackay, one of the most beautiful members of society; the man is District Attorney William Travers Jerome, who is not beautiful, but makes up for it in energy.

Mrs. Mackay is the first New York society woman to enter the arena of politics. True, she is only a member of the school board, but she is going to control it and the selection of her associates. The election this month proved that.

It is an interesting story, never fully told, that of how a wealthy society woman decided to enter politics. In many respects it is like that of the man, who, dissatisfied with a Summer resort hotel, built one himself that contained all the conveniences he decided were needed.

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quietly resting at Saratoga. She has not outlined her plans fully, further than to say that she believes in manual training. She is going to be very much in evidence in the new board, however, and if she cannot teach the young idea to shoot in her own way this year, is almost certain to decree the election of up-to-date trustees next year.

### Jerome as an Independent.

The man with the political eye is District Attorney Jerome. He has not waited for conventions, but comes out boldly and announces that, if 2000 citizens (the number required by law) will sign his petition, he will run as an independent candidate for District Attorney, regardless of the action of the great political parties.

"My former office," he says, "I have made a record upon which my fellow-citizens can judge me. If they like my record, it is in their power to re-elect me regardless of the wishes or whims of any bosses whatsoever, and I can take my office under obligations to no one except the people."

Jerome's declaration has already been sent to Misdummer politics. Given his past business record, the chances that he will need, and it would surprise no one if he appeared on practically every ticket.

The Citizens' Union is formally pledged to him, the Republican district leaders may it would be foolish to put anyone else on their ticket, and Charles F. Murphy believes that Jerome's name on the Tammany list would bring votes to Mayor McEllan.

In the meantime Jerome is now, worrying. In fact he is so busy with his legal duties that he has no time to do anything but work.

### Looks Forward to Good Fight.

The District Attorney loves a good fight, and will have all the fighting between now and January 1, when his term expires. It will be the supreme test of his powers. He will have to meet the greatest aggregation of legal talent ever assembled in defense of accused men in this city. If he wins, he will be classed as a great prosecutor. If he loses he will be classed with the failures.

G. H. Hummel, ex-Supreme Court Justice, F. M. Johnson, ex-Supreme Court Justice, and Benjamin Steinhardt will be tried in October for offenses growing out of the Dodge-Morse divorce case.

The public prosecutor is investigating the Equitable, and one branch of the Criminal Court will convene September 11, at his request, to take up expected indictments. The Town Topics and "Fads and Fancies" revelations promise to develop a number of criminal actions. Six prisoners are in the Tombs awaiting trial for murder, several of the cases being sensational. In addition 383 other persons are under indictment for various offenses. So it will be seen that Mr. Jerome is very busy. "My campaign," he repeated the other day when asked the question, "Why, that's in the hands of the people. I've told them Barkis is here, and I've told them to keep me here, and I've told them to elect me, and I've told them to elect me. All the same, Mr. Jerome is radiant, supremely confident that he will be re-elected.

### Jerome's Banner Is Out.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—The first political banners to be displayed in the interest of William Travers Jerome as an independent candidate for re-election as District Attorney, were suspended yesterday at Forsyth and Grand streets by a recently formed organization, whose members pledged to support Mr. Jerome at the polls.

### POUR OUT TAINTED MONEY

### ROCKEFELLER MAY GIVE \$50- 000,000 TO UNIVERSITY.

HARPER VISITS HIM TO ARRANGE FOR  
Great Extension of Chicago's  
Vast Institution.

CLEVELAND, Aug. 8.—The World-News today says:

"At conferences now taking place at Forest Hill between John D. Rockefeller and President William R. Harper, of Chicago University, plans are being formulated for the further endowment of that institution by Mr. Rockefeller. Dr. and Mrs. Harper arrived in Cleveland today. The visit of the Harpers to the home of Mr. Rockefeller is said to be one of a social nature, but it is known that plans covering the outlay of \$5,000,000 are under consideration by Mr. Rockefeller, who desires to make the university the greatest seat of learning in the world. It is believed final steps in the matter will be taken in the near future. Mr. Harper leaves, and his return to Chicago will be followed by the announcement that work of enlarging the university will be begun at once."

### Harper's Health Improved.

CHICAGO, Aug. 8.—President William R. Harper, of the University of Chicago, accompanied by Mrs. Harper, left last night for Forest Hill, the home of John D. Rockefeller, near Cleveland, O. The visit, it is announced, is purely social. Dr. Harper said his health is better than it has been at any time since he was operated on for cancer, and that he is enjoying his strength while teaching two hours daily, besides attending to his official business at the university.

### RECEPTION TO TAFT PARTY

### Brilliant Gathering at Manila—To- bacco Men Tell Troubles.

MANILA, Aug. 9.—Thousands of people attended the reception given to Secretary Taft, Miss Alice Roosevelt and the other members of their party by the Army and Navy Club tonight. Rear-Admiral Ensign, of the Russian Navy, and his staff, were present. The reception was the most brilliant in the history of Manila.

During the morning the party, in automobiles, inspected New Fort McKinley and reviewed the troops. In the afternoon the tobacco planters were given a hearing. Previous to the evening reception, the establishment of the largest and richest old Spanish-Philippine commercial firm on the islands was inspected.

### Governor Dineen Not Coming.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Governor Dineen will not visit the Lewis and Clark Exposition, State Superintendent of Instruction Alfred Bayless will be sent as his representative.

## FIRST CONTRACT ON CELILO CANAL

### Portland Firm Will Dig Upper End to Point Below Celilo.

### OTHER CONTRACTS TO COME

### Before Smyth & Jones Finish Work, Further Appropriation May Al- low Other Deals—Roes- ler to Have Charge.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash-  
ington, D. C., Aug. 9.—Smyth & Jones,  
of Portland, will build the first seg-  
ment of the Dalles-Celilo canal on the  
Upper Columbia River.

The Acting Secretary of War has directed that the contract be awarded this firm, it being the lowest bidder who entered into the recent competition at Portland, its price being \$294-251.75.

When the contract is formally closed between this firm and the Government, and the contractors furnish a bond to the Secretary of War, to guarantee satisfactory completion of the work, the firm will be expected to concentrate its plant and force of laborers at or near Celilo and commence actual construction as soon as possible. Under the terms of the contract, the work must be completed by December 31, 1908.

### All Present Funds Will Do.

Smyth & Jones will build what is known as the first segment of the canal, that portion extending from the upper end of the canal to a point half a mile below Celilo. This is only a small portion of the entire waterway, but is all that can be constructed with the funds now available. It is assumed that before this work is done Congress will make a further appropriation to continue the work, so that there will be no necessary delay in construction. If more money is made available at the next session of Congress, other contracts may be entered into as soon as plans are prepared for the canal can be built in sections and need not be constructed continuously from one end to the other. But the manner of construction will depend largely upon the way Congress appropriates funds.

### What Contract Covers.

The present contractors will complete the upper end of the canal, all but the guard gate at the point where the canal enters the river, and the gates and operating machinery at the first lock. They will excavate part of the canal, partly through solid rock, partly through sand or gravel. At other points it will be necessary to build embankments where the canal crosses low places. Wherever needed, the canal will be lined with cement, and its bottom throughout will have a concrete floor. The contractors will excavate and build the first lock and prepare it for the gates. Because of the cost, it has been impossible to provide for the gates at this time, but they will be taken care of under a subsequent contract.

### Engineer Not Yet Chosen.

The Chief of Engineers has not yet selected the engineer officer to supervise the work on The Dalles-Celilo canal, and unless some one is chosen before the contractors make a start, the work will temporarily be left in the hands of Major Roesler, who succeeds Major Langitt. It is probable, however, that some officer will soon be especially detailed to take charge of construction of the canal and incidentally look after other improvements on the Upper Columbia and Snake rivers.

### SAYS HIS WIFE IS A MAN

### STRANGE GROUND FOR DIVORCE OFFERED BY TAILOR.

### After Eleven Years of Happy Mar- ried Life, He Discovers Spouse Is of His Own Sex.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—(Special.)—The courts of this city are wrestling with a divorce suit filed by a Russian tailor that beats anything of record; it probably has no parallel in the history of the legal profession.

This tailor, in his bill asking for the annulment of his marriage, states that he has been married to his present wife 11 years, but gives as the astounding ground for his suit the declaration that he "has just discovered that his wife is a man."

Eleven years ago this couple met and were married in a small Russian town. They soon came to this country, the husband opened a tailor shop and was successful. His wife remained at home, doing her household work in order to economize, and all through the 11 years she has kept it up.

From all that appears on the surface, the couple have enjoyed 11 years of married bliss; they have lived happily together until now. The husband does not state any of the details attending his remarkable discovery, merely making the bare announcement, adding that he will have more to say to the court.

Meanwhile the wife has little to say in self-defense. She makes evasive replies when asked if her husband's charge is true, and dwells upon their long, happy life together. She charges that some other woman has won the affections of her husband and that the present suit is the result of a conspiracy to get her out of the way.

The wife, aside from a masculine nose and large, brawny arms and hands, possesses outward womanly characteristics.

The eyes, hair, the soft voice and gentle manner being a female. It is now up to the courts to decide the sex of the defendant in this extraordinary suit, and until the decision is handed down, no light can be thrown upon the mystery.

### MORE PAY, LONGER TERMS

### Loomis Suggests Plan for Improv- ing Consular Service.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Francis B. Loomis, Assistant Secretary of State, who has just returned to this country from Europe, arrived here tonight. After a brief stay in Washington he will go to Ohio for a month's vacation.

While in Europe, besides having a special mission to the John Paul Jones cemetery, Mr. Loomis made an investigation of the consular offices of this country. He said tonight that he was quite satisfied with the results of his investigation.

"I find," he said, "that our officers are, considering the system, as efficient as those of any other nation, and I believe that improvement is necessary only as far as the system is concerned. The cost of living does not diminish and, as most of the consular officers of this Government live on their salaries, I think they should be increased 50 per cent. I think that the tenure of office should be much longer than it is now. The short tenure and the removal of the office at the discretion of the President keeps men out of the service who might be drawn to it, if permanent rewards were offered as in the case of merit."

### VISITING TRADE SCHOOLS.

### Taft and Miss Roosevelt Busy With Sights of Manila.

MANILA, Aug. 10.—This morning Secretary of War Taft and Miss Alice Roosevelt visited the trade schools. At 10 o'clock the Alvaro de Manila, the foremost college in Manila, conferred upon Mr. Taft the degree of honorary president. At noon Rear-Admiral Train gave a luncheon in honor of Mr. Taft, Miss Roosevelt and Rear-Admiral Ensign. The party then visited the Cavite navy yard. The hearing of the tobacco interests is being continued.

### Pneumatic Tubes for Golden Gate.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—The Pneumatic Tube Mail Delivery Commissioner has decided to extend the investigation to San Francisco, and will start on a visit to that city in a few days.

### Root Sails for Labrador.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Aug. 9.—Secretary of State Elihu Root sailed tonight for Labrador. He hopes to meet Governor McGregor, who sailed a few days ago, and will probably cruise along part of the coast with him.

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## RESCUED FROM CORAL REEFS

### Shipwrecked Mariners Taken From Lonely Guano Island in Mid-Ocean.

### PROVISIONS ALMOST GONE

### Norwegian Barks Victor and Salamis Wrecked on Madden Isle and Crews of 26 Men Saved by the Matthew Turner.

AHERDEEN, Wash., Aug. 9.—(Special.)—Captain Jensen, of the schooner Matthew Turner, brings to this port a thrilling story of the rescue of 26 men, the officers and crews of two shipwrecked vessels, both Norwegian barks, the Victor of 69 tons with ten men and the Salamis of 100 tons with 16 men.

Captain Jensen on the evening of June 7 sighted bonfires on a low-lying island, a guano island named Madden, 150 miles from Honolulu. His ship was making but slow progress as the wind was light and about 8 o'clock a rowboat came alongside with a portion of the crews from the wrecked vessels. The captain reported that their barks had been caught in a westerly gale on May 19 and 20 and driven on the coral reefs where they quickly broke up. Only a small amount of clothing and provisions was saved. As the manager of the island had only six weeks' provisions left for his force of 100 natives and six white men, he felt that he could not care for an addition to the company, so the appearance of the Turner was hailed with joy.

The Turner hove to and all of the men with the provisions they saved from the wrecks, stores and boats were taken on board and reached Honolulu in safety. If it had not been for the food saved from the wrecked vessels, all of the men would have suffered from hunger. Captain Jensen retains two of the boats as relics.

The Victor was a wooden bark with Captain Donaldson in command. She sailed from Launceston, Tasmania, February 7. She was owned by O. Ribe, of Grimstad, Norway.

The Salamis was an iron bark, Captain Isak Larsen, leaving Melbourne, February 18. She was owned by L. Gundersen, of Farsund, Norway.

### NEW OFFICERS ON NICOMEDIA

### China Liner Arrives With a Change of Men in Command.

The steamship Nicomedia, of the Portland and Astoria line, arrive up at Montgomery dock No. 1 at 10 o'clock last night from the wrecked vessels, all of the men but with an almost entirely new list of officers.

The run from Yokohama was made in 16 days and without particular incident. For most of the way the weather was fine with northerly and westerly breezes. The sea was a trifle rough the first two days out, but there was no encounter on reaching this coast and just before arriving at the mouth of the river it was so thick that the steamer was compelled to stop for a few hours. The anchor was dropped, the location being determined by sounding as no light was visible in any direction as the ship approached the coast. It was 10 o'clock Tuesday night that the Nicomedia anchored. Half an hour after midnight the lightship became visible and as soon as it was daylight the steamer left anchor and secured a pilot, crossing in early in the morning. At noon she left port from Astoria.

Except the captain and second engineer, all the officers are new to the vessel. Captain Wageman was chief