

ENVOYS AGREE ON A POSTPONEMENT

Takahira Calls on Witte at Late Hour and Holds Long Conference.

WAIT ON WORD FROM TOKIO

Peace Negotiations Have Reached Such a Stage That Matters Are Referred to Japanese and Russian Rulers.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Aug. 27.—The life of the peace conference today seems to hang by a thread, but the thread will not be broken tomorrow. At 10 o'clock tonight, after a conference lasting three-quarters of an hour between Mr. Takahira and Mr. Witte in the latter's room in the hotel annex, the announcement of a postponement was made.

Mr. Witte explained to the Associated Press that Mr. Takahira had told him that no new instructions had reached him from Tokio, and fearing none might be received before the meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, he had suggested the propriety of postponing the meeting until Tuesday. To this, Mr. Witte said he had readily assented. Mr. Takahira made the following statement to the Associated Press:

"Inasmuch as this conference was initiated by the friendly office of your President, after consultation we felt that it should be cautious about terminating its labors."

Pressed as to whether he regarded the situation as hopeless, Mr. Takahira said: "No, not hopeless; but almost hopeless."

This in itself, from one who has spoken always in the most guarded fashion, is sufficient to show the desperation of the situation. The real crisis in negotiations is at hand. If it can be held over a few days without rupture a basis of peace acceptable to both sides may come very suddenly. But to save the situation now Japan must speak. If on Tuesday she has nothing to offer all is over.

Witte's Hands Are Tied.

Mr. Witte, even if he would, is powerless to take a new step. His hands are tied. He now occupies the role of an imperial messenger, who transmits his master's orders to Baron Komura, and Baron Komura turns them over to Tokio for the response. The conference-room has ceased to be a place for negotiations. It is simply the room where the Emperor's of the warring countries exchange their communications by the hands of the envoys.

Upon the principle of indemnity or reimbursement of "fruits de guerre" under any disguise, Emperor Nicholas has given the Japanese Emperor his last word. Mr. Witte accepts it as final, and in writing yesterday informed the Japanese plenipotentiaries that Russia would have nothing further to say upon the subject. Russia would cede half of Sakhalin and pay the cost of the maintenance of the Russian prisoners, but that was all. Emperor Nicholas had given the same response to the President through Ambassador Meyer.

The Russian generally seemed not displeased with the situation. They believe Japan has been diplomatically maneuvered into a corner from which if she now persists in her attempt to exact tribute with the alternative of a continuance of the war, she cannot extricate herself before the public opinion of the world. Japan here and in Europe, they say, appealed for sympathy, on the ground that Russia had compelled her to take up arms to protect her life.

Willing to Cede All Points.

The fortune of war had gone in her favor and Russia, recognizing that she had been beaten and preferring peace to the continuation of a war, had agreed to cede on every point involved in the quarrel. She was willing to allow Japan full swing in Korea, she was willing to get out of Manchuria bag and baggage, and commit herself to the recognition of China's integrity and the policy of the open door. But Japan insisting on tribute, because Russia refused prolonging the carnage. In that act they contended Japan would change the purpose and character of the war, which would cease to be longer one of principle, but degenerate into a war for the exaction of money.

There is no doubt that the Japanese are worried over the aspect of the situation and they do not propose to be placed in this position if it can be helped. With the sentiment existing in Japan demanding reimbursement for the expenses of the war, a money payment beyond what would be obtained for the maintenance of the Russian prisoners and the Chinese Eastern Railroad could not be foregone. But if redemption by Russia could be upon purely a commercial basis, Russia might agree to it. Logic points in this direction for the ultimate compromise, if there is to be one.

Appeal of the President.

Whether the President has renewed his efforts cannot be ascertained here. His former suggestion for a compromise failed. He made his appeal simultaneously to both the Czar and the Emperor of Japan. He proposed the "indemnity-Sakhalin" combination, but not in the form in which it was presented by Baron Komura at Wednesday's meeting.

Instead of setting the price at 1,200,000,000 yen, the estimated cost of the war, the President suggested that if an agreement could not be reached, the fixing of the price should be left to a board of commission. The Japanese insisted on inserting the sum, and thus made it impossible, in view of the Russian declaration, not to accept it.

Emperor Nicholas refused to go further in addition to the concessions already made, than to agree to the cession of half of Sakhalin. According to a high Russian authority, who has been in a position to see, President Roosevelt's communication proposing a compromise, quite clearly showed that the President considered that Japan's victories gave her the right to ask for an indemnity, in fact if not in name, and was also entitled to Sakhalin, and that her military occupation of Sakhalin gave her the right to the island. The President's friends, however, say that when the full text of his proposal as before the world, all criticism must cease. It is well, therefore, again to repeat the statement, telegraphed last night, which comes from one in full possession of the entire action taken by President Roosevelt.

Fairness of the Proposal.

"If the civilized world could know at this time the precise nature of the proposals made to Russia and Japan by President Roosevelt, it would seem that the force of public opinion of the great neutral portion of the world would induce the plenipotentiaries and their governments of pause and consider seriously the results before breaking up finally the present conference without an agreement. Indeed, they might scarcely dare, in the face of the world's opinion, refuse to believe in principle, the suggestions offered by the President."

Assistant Secretary Pearce, after the announcement of the decision to adjourn until Tuesday, saw both Mr. Witte and Mr. Takahira and then sent a long cipher message to the President. Although the public tonight was led to believe that the meeting was definitely adjourned until Tuesday, the Associated Press learned late tonight that, according to the joint understanding between Mr. Witte and Mr. Takahira, it was agreed that there would be no meeting until Japan's response to what may be regarded as Russia's ultimatum arrived. The meeting, therefore, may not be held until Wednesday or Thursday.

Tokio must now decide, and judging from the tone of the Japanese press, the government must face a great deal of opposition at home if it yields further. Mr. Platon acted as interpreter for Mr. Witte and Mr. Takahira at this interview tonight.

Interview Excites Everybody.

After the interview Mr. Witte called Mr. De Martens and Mr. Pokotloff in conference. The interview between Mr. Witte and Mr. Takahira was the sensation of the day. Everybody had been at high tension. On all sides the report was spread that tomorrow would witness the final break-up and that tomorrow night the hotel would be deserted.

The Russian attaché, who knows Mr. Witte's position, talked of making their four parents come calls and were discussing the date of the steamer sailings, etc. Then suddenly at 9 o'clock the rumor spread that Mr. Witte and Mr. Takahira were in actual conversation. Fifty correspondents beleaguered the door of Mr. Witte's room.

MEANS PREACHERS ARE TOO CRANKY

Indiana Grocer Fails With Restaurant Conducted "As Christ Would Run It."

TINWARE AND NO CHICKEN

Wesleyan Conference Delegates Do Not Take Kindly to Plan of Paying What They Thought Meals Were Worth.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Aug. 27.—(Special.)—"Christ would not run a restaurant satisfactory to a lot of cranky preachers," says A. N. Norton, the famous Marion grocer, who operates stores "as Christ would run them." He essayed to run a lunch counter at the Wesleyan conference at Marlow "as Christ would run it," but has abandoned the project, because the preachers were such persistent and constant kickers.

Between the preachers and the labor unions, Mr. Norton, who is sincere in his efforts, doubts very much whether the Son of Man could continue in business in this degenerate age.

Norton has been in business in Marion for several years, and is known throughout the state as the man who "runs his business as Christ would do," and in the grocery business he has been very successful. He opened a store several years ago, sold goods for cash on credit and delivered to the homes of his customers, paid his employees every night, and "cut prices on everything he handled."

Norton was so successful that he opened another grocery on the same plan, and this was followed in less than a year by another, making three under his management, all doing a good business.

Merchants Combine Against Him.

Norton then attempted to branch out into other towns, but the merchants combined against him, and he was unable to rent a store in which to carry on his business. In one place he purchased the stock of goods of a merchant, but the lease on the building expired in a few months, and the owner, under pressure from other merchants, refused to lease the building to him. He was forced to take his stock away from the town.

At another place the labor unions started a boycott against him, on the ground that he was disorganizing trade, and they, with the aid of the local merchants, soon destroyed his business. In Marion, however, where he first put his peculiar ideas into practice, he secured a firm hold, and is still carrying on the grocery business as he believed "Christ would conduct it."

Just before the Wesleyan annual meeting opened he secured the privileges for the dining-hall and opened the place four days ago. He refused to make any charge for the meals served in the hall, but left it to each individual's conscience as to what he should pay, or whether he should pay anything at all. He paid the waiters good salaries and served everything beautifully, but the tableware was all of tin, even to the cups in which coffee and tea were served, and after the first day it began to show the result of wear.

Tinware Causes Complaint.

The people who patronized the hall complained more of the tinware than of the meals, and some of them went to hotels and other eating-places after the second day. The ministers in attendance at the conference were among those who registered the loudest and longest complaints, the most grievous thing of which they complained being the absence of fried chicken.

The two days that Norton was in charge there was plenty of ham, beef and mutton, but not once was chicken on the bill of fare. When the objections were urged Norton positively refused to serve chicken, giving as a reason that it was so high that he could not afford to take what would be voluntarily paid for it by those who ate at the hall. He was urged to change his methods by charging a stipulated price for meals, but this he refused to do, saying that the people in attendance were religious people, and that it would be unbecoming in him to abandon the plan which he had begun.

Many of his boarders, who took their meals at the hall, and yesterday Norton closed the hall and dismissed the waiters and cooks, and retired from the task of running the hall as Christ would do.

FRONT GREATLY EXTENDED

Made Possible by the Use of the Wireless Telegraph.

GINSHU PASS, Manchuria, Aug. 27.—Intelligence of the construction of a railway by the government has been received by the army, and general information relating to Portgouth affairs continue to reach here from day to day.

Since the Japanese reconquered the Russian center about 25 or 30 miles, Aug. 19, which resulted in retaliatory skirmishes as well as the checkmating of a wide movement of considerable bodies of troops throughout three days, nothing important has occurred. During the long quiet there have been reinforcements to both sides, giving the theater of war a much-changed appearance. The front has been greatly extended, made possible by the use of wireless telegraph, and because of the unexampled size of the armies of the character of the third stage of the war, whether it be active hostilities, demoralization or the partitioning of contested territory, will be complicated.

The relative positions of the two armies is comparable to that of a year ago, the country facing the Japanese is almost identical with that which confronted them at Liao Yang.

The acquisition of the railway and the return by the Japanese at Mukden, together with their Fengwangchang communications and General Kamimura's new line of communication and defense.

Runner of New Appeal.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Aug. 28.—(Special.)—There is a persistent report that President Roosevelt has made a new appeal to the Emperor of Japan.

MEXICAN LABORERS KILLED

Blown Up by the Premature Discharge of Dynamite.

MAZATLAN, Mex., Aug. 27.—Twenty Mexican laborers were killed and a number injured by the premature explosion of a quantity of dynamite at the port works at Mazatlan. While it is said that the explosion was the result of carelessness on the part of some of the laborers, the families of those killed have been indemnified by Colonel Edgar K. Smoot, the contractor in chief of the Mazatlan

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There are, in round numbers, 8000 pushcart men in New York City. Seven thousand belong to the United Citizens' Peddlers' Association. The membership is composed principally, in fact almost entirely, of Hebrews, Greeks and Italians. The bulk of the members are not naturalized, and in consequence they are not treated with much respect by the ruling authorities, because they cannot vote.

Police Always Bother Them.

They complain that the police help themselves to fruit and never pay for it, compel them to "move on" without reason, that they are arrested continually, and if they stand in the street, the proprietor of the store demands \$10 a month rent, under penalty of a clubbing by the policeman on the beat.

The peerless leader and president of the United Citizens' Peddlers' Association is Sigmund Schwartz, who is an undertaker at 307 Forsyth street, and the great wave of indignation that would follow would show Mr. Murphy that Tammany Hall could not trifle with public sentiment. Murphy is shrewd. He knows the signs of the times.

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And that would never do, for New York without a strike would not be the New York one is used to.

Come With Regularity.

We have certain strikes which occur with a fixed regularity as Fourth of July and New Year, and if they were not pulled off with regularity, people would undoubtedly complain.

The last week in March and the first in April is dedicated to the Italian laborers working on great public improvements such as the subway, the Pennsylvania tunnel and the like.

Their pay is \$1.5 a day, and regularly each March they strike for \$1.50. After two weeks they return at the old figures, and contentedly labor until March rolls around again.

Round the 15th of April the sweat-shop tallores go out. No human being has ever been able to discover exactly what they want.

Vast meetings are held on the East Side and orators, amid thunderous cheers, tell the workers they are the victims of most horrible oppression. There are demonstrations on the streets, "scabs" are beaten by zealous union men, who in turn are thrashed by the police, and it is one long round of joys glittering excitement for every one.

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Public interest in the slaves of the needle is thoroughly aroused, and the newspapers are full of the day's happenings. About May 20 all mention of the tallores ceases. If you are interested enough to inquire, you will find that the tallores and women, have gone back to work.

At the old scale? Of course. The strike was really only an annual holiday. It's a way they have of amusing themselves on the East Side.

A good part of May and all of June is dedicated to two other clothing organizations—the capmakers and the kneapsntmakers. All of those workers sign contracts for a year, but religiously riot annually for a few weeks, see the pictures of their "leaders" in the papers, and go back to work under the old scale.

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