

PEACE IS NEAR

Secret Agents Meet in Stockholm.

CZAR HAS YIELDED

All Nations of Europe Urged Him On

DIPLOMATS SAY NOTHING

All Those in Secret Profess Total Ignorance.

CRIME TO BETRAY TRUTH

Preliminary Pourparlers Held in the Northern Capital, Believed to Be Stockholm—One Great Obstacle Seen.

PARIS, March 25.—(1:30 A. M.)—Inquiry late last night tends to strongly confirm the statement in last evening's dispatch that approaches toward peace between Russia and Japan have already begun at a private conference in a Northern European capital.

The foregoing statements by Count Neldoff and Dr. Motono, while indicating that negotiations are not proceeding here, do not alter the main statement that peace preliminaries are actually progressing elsewhere.

The personage acting for Russia in the preliminary stage of the negotiations is described as a "leading general." The personage acting for Japan is not disclosed, but he is believed to be one who has heretofore taken no prominent part in Japanese affairs.

Concerning the final result of peace efforts, they seem to hinge less upon the actual terms than upon Japanese willingness to pause during the successful culmination of her military campaigns.

HAD PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE

Russia and Japan Learned Basis—Europe Brought United Pressure.

PARIS, March 25.—It is said in quarters having means of information, that Russia's steps toward peace have already taken a tentative form at a private conference held within recent days at one of the small capitals of Northern Europe.

There is reason to believe that both St. Petersburg and Tokio know the results of this conversation, and that it is the basis of the renewed St. Petersburg reports that peace is imminent.

and Tokio will be able to treat directly while the usual channels of communication are severed.

SECRET AGENTS MEET IN STOCKHOLM.

EXTREME SECRECY IN LONDON

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ALL EARLY BIRDS

Candidates for President Already Out.

NO SHORTAGE OF MATERIAL

Fairbanks Has the Lead for Next Nomination.

FORAKER AND SHAW IN LINE

Republicans Have Long Roll of Able Men, Tried by Much Service, for Succession to President Roosevelt.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—Although three years will elapse before a delegate is elected to the next National convention, an active campaign is already in progress for the Republican nomination for President.

Four years ago it was known that President McKinley would not be a candidate for re-election at the end of his term and in a quiet way a campaign for the succession began at that time.

Then, as now, some members of the Cabinet, as well as a number of Senators, were possibilities, if not actually and openly in the field for the nomination.

The cheer of the multitude which greeted Roosevelt when he took the oath of office March 4 had scarcely died away when the activity of the campaign for the succession began in earnest.

Peace negotiations already begun with great secrecy. Page 1.

THE WEATHER.

TODAY'S—Showers; southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 52 deg.; minimum, 46. Precipitation, 0.78 inch.

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

Peace negotiations already begun with great secrecy. Page 1.

Hostilities suspended in Manchuria while armistice negotiations are in progress. Page 1.

Resolutions passed for unknown destination. Page 1.

Thousands of lost workmen in St. Louis threatened outbreak. Page 11.

American financiers saved Rouvier's government from defeat. Page 5.

Philippine rule in American rule in Philippines. Page 5.

National.

Hittoch declares policy regarding Rosenberg land office. Page 3.

Contracts for stone for Columbia Jetty. Page 3.

Arrangements for Congressional trip to Philippines. Page 5.

Greatly reduced projects adopted in Idaho and Montana. Page 3.

Mexican Ambassador will have state funeral. Page 3.

Santo Domingo asks for American receiver to stand off foreign claimants. Page 2.

Politics.

Many able men already working for next in Republican nomination for President. Page 1.

Domestic.

Government secures much evidence that beef trust has violated injunctions. Page 1.

TESS IS FOUND

Tragedy of Fiction in Real Life.

GIRL-WIFE'S SAD TALE

Innocence and Love Combine for Her Undoing.

CONFESSES TO HER HUSBAND

With Simple Eloquence, She Tells of Temptation and Fall and Pleads With Husband for a Divorce.

CHICAGO, March 25.—(Special.)—A modern Tess of the D'Urbervilles, a young girl placed in an environment that caused her to sin, is revealed in a court document introduced by John H. Crokin in his suit for divorce today before Judge Healy.

The document referred to was a letter he said his wife wrote him. He was granted a decree.

Like her of the English romance, this young girl, more innocent than that stunner, told all in a letter to her husband, holding naught in reserve, and he used the letter as his principal evidence in the suit for divorce.

An amazing story this letter tells, laying bare the tragedy of a child-wife's ruined hopes, of the tempter and of the anguish of remorse. Mrs. Edna Crokin, the wife, is now living in poverty in Kalamazoo, Mich. John H. Crokin, the husband, lives in Chicago. Crokin was a prosperous man of the world in 1888, when he married the woman now separated from him.

Here is her story in part, told in the letter read amid breathless silence to the court, and everybody in court wept as the soul of the child was laid bare:

"Please get a divorce for me, please do, Harry. I would not ask it, but I am in terrible trouble. I have been so wicked I can never expect to speak to you again. Take this letter as proof against me. When I went to Lansing, Mich., in February, 1899, and you stopped writing to me, I met a young man. I thought I loved him, Harry. He did love me and asked me to be his wife. You know how innocent and good I then was. I know nothing of the world. You also know how little I understood work or the value of money. I had a situation as companion to an elderly lady, whom I loved very dearly, but I worked so

COURT IS DEFIED

Beef Trust Has Ignored Injunction.

PLENTY OF EVIDENCE

Many Witnesses Among Chicago Retail Dealers.

WILL PROSECUTE BIG FIVE

Employees of Trust Have Winked at Warnings and Continued Illegal Combination—Many Eastern Witnesses

CHICAGO, March 25.—(Special.)—Eastern representatives of Chicago packing firms and allied industries are due to arrive in the city Monday in response to subpoenas commanding them to appear before the Federal grand jury which is investigating the alleged violations of the interstate commerce law and the Sherman anti-trust law by the packers.

Some of the Eastern contingent reached the city today and reported to United States Marshal Ames. The majority of them are salesmen and branch house managers.

Before the Eastern men are called to the witness-stand it is understood that District Attorney Morrison will call a number of local wholesalers and retail dealers in meats before the jury and endeavor to obtain from them the facts concerning the alleged combination in restraint of trade in Chicago. The Government experts, who spent nearly eight months looking into the books of the packing firms at the stockyards, have compiled a mass of figures which are considered evidence that there have been repeated violations of the Grosscup injunction.

A Federal official who has been here ever since the grand jury convened dropped the significant remark today that it was unnecessary for the purpose of an investigation to go outside of Chicago for witnesses.

Injunction Has Been Disobeyed.

"If the Government simply wishes to indict the packers," he said, "it can get all the evidence it wants right here in town. I have seen statements coming from representatives of the packing firms that they had nothing to fear, because they had warned all of their employees to observe the Grosscup injunction. But it will be shown that the employees have winked at the warnings and that the injunction has been disregarded by nearly all of the packers. I believe I am right in surmising that the object of the Government in subpoenaing so many witnesses is to gather evidence to be used in the actual prosecution. It is not going to be a whitewash proceeding."

It was announced by one of Marshal Ames' assistants today that no more witnesses would be subpoenaed in Chicago unless developments should arise making it necessary. The statement came after two additional Chicago witnesses had been summoned to appear. One was H. M. Tanner, a member of the firm of McCausland, Hoag & Tanner, commission merchants at the stockyards. The other was L. M. Byles, advertising manager for Morris & Co., a former newspaper man. They are to appear before the grand jury early next week.

Witnesses Chafe at Delay.

The slow progress being made by the grand jury in the examination is causing much inconvenience to the witnesses, and is almost causing the witnesses to next week. The District Attorney planned to dispose of ten or fifteen witnesses each day when the subpoenas were made out, but has been unable to examine more than six a day. As a consequence the out-of-town witnesses have accumulated and it is estimated that at least 30 are now in the city, chafing under the delay and expense imposed on them by the slow-going methods of the Government.

Among the out-of-town witnesses who are hoping they will be called to testify Monday are R. Beedatz, manager for Armour & Co. at Omaha; Edward Welch, of the Hammond Packing Company at Omaha; Fred Shorley, department manager for Swift & Co. at Omaha; William Callan, of the Dubay Packing Company, Omaha; and J. I. Dormalny, a wholesale meat dealer in Boston.

CUBA LOVES HER GREAT FRIEND

Outburst of Enthusiasm Marks Departure of American Squadron.

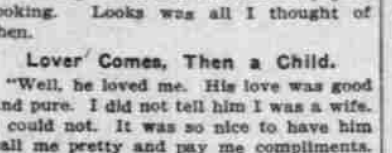
HAVANA, March 25.—The friendly demonstration between Cuba and the United States, ending with the departure of the American squadron today, is everywhere favorably commented upon. Everywhere there are expressions of satisfaction and pleasure over the uniform heartiness in the entertainment of the representatives of the United States and the evident sincerity of American friendship for Cuba. The government newspaper organs are particularly enthusiastic regarding the generosity of the United States toward Cuba. Minister Squiers today thanked Mayor O'Hara and the municipality of Havana for their entertainment of the American squadron.

The American squadron departed today, amid mingled expressions of patriotic pride from the bands of the warships, the band of the Olympia playing the Cuban national hymn and those of the other American warships playing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

World's Electric Conference Is Off.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The German government has indefinitely postponed the International World's Electrical Conference, which was to have been held in Berlin next month.

HORACE G. BURT, WHO PROBABLY WILL BE THE PANAMA CANAL \$100,000 MAN



Horace G. Burt, who is reported, will be selected by President Roosevelt to take charge of the construction of the Panama Canal at a salary of \$100,000 a year, is generally regarded as one of the most able railroad men in the country.

He was for five years president of the Union Pacific, and resigned that position about a year ago, when he made a trip around the world and was a passenger on the steamer Korea when she was seized by the Japanese at Nagasaki at the outbreak of the war. Mr. Burt was born in Terre Haute, Ind., in January, 1849, and was educated at the University of Michigan. He spent several years with the Northwestern Railroad as division superintendent, chief engineer and third vice-president, and later was for a short time general manager of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad Company.

DR. JOHN WATSON (IAN MACLAREN), WHO HAS RE-SIGNED HIS LIVERPOOL PULPIT



Dr. John Watson, widely known under the pen name of "Ian MacLaren," who has resigned the pastorate of St. John Park Presbyterian Church at Liverpool, is famous as the author of "The Bonnie Brier Bush," "The Mind of the Master," "The Life of the Master" and other notable works. He was born at Mannington, England, November 3, 1850, but was taken to Scotland while a child. After studying at Edinburgh University, New College and at Tubingen, he was licensed to preach by the Free Church of Scotland in 1874, and for a time was pastor at Leamington, Perthshire, which he has made famous as Drumochter. Then he occupied a Glasgow pulpit for three years, and in 1880 went to the St. John Park Church. His sermons are remarkable for clearness, eloquence and force.

Commercial and Marine.

Light trading in local hop market. Page 23.

Hull campaign in May may resume. Page 23.

Tendency to depression in stock market. Page 23.

New York bank statement more favorable than expected. Page 23.

St. Clara Clara prunepackers organize. Page 23.

Crew of C. A. Klose may have been rescued by passing vessel. Page 23.

German ship Heerliche chartered for lumber loading. Page 4.