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Russia Afloat of England.

If Russian diplomacy persists to the point of war in the far East, it will be in defiance of the most mature counsel submitted to the czar by the ablest politicians and soldiers in the service of the government...

Action by Britain in the event of hostilities is also represented to his majesty as a possibility that must be taken into consideration. A member of the peace party so active at present in Russian government circles said Monday.

"Observe the terms of the Anglo-Japanese treaty. They erect into a principle of first-class importance the political and territorial integrity of China and Korea. Would Great Britain suffer that principle to be overborne without going to extremes?"

"Witness also the appearance of Sir Claude MacDonald, the British minister, at a belated meeting of Japanese graduates from the Cambridge and Oxford universities at Tokio, together with his astonishing speech, wherein he lauded the military traditions of the yellow islanders, and spoke of the momentous crisis which might move Japan to add further lustre to its warlike record."

"Consider, too, the attitude of the commercial magnates of England, who are striving to render nugatory Russian enterprise in Asia. Go further and ask why the British commissioners and soldiers are exposed to the wintry desolation of the Jeylepla pass, on the pretext of settling trade accounts with Tibet. Have we not here abundant evidence of Britain's association with Japan for purposes sufficiently close to give us pause?"

Despairs of China's Future. Wu Ting Fang, the well-known ex-minister to the United States, despairs of China's future. "I see no hope," he says, "for China. The partition of the empire sooner or later is inevitable." He is disgusted with official life at Peking, and proposes to resign his present position at the first opportunity.

The younger officials discuss the possibilities of an alliance between China and Japan, but the only available Chinese troops are the 15,000 Japanese-trained men of Yuan Shi Kai (who was recently appointed commander of the imperial army and navy), who might fight under foreign leaders, but whose present officers are incompetent and of doubtful courage.

Amendments to Land Laws.

Important amendments to the public land laws of the United States are expected to follow the report to Congress of the commission recently appointed by President Roosevelt, which began consideration of the subject last week. In connection with the public lands evidence will be collected relative to the administration of the government forest reserves, and there is a prospect that with the amendments of the laws relating to the public domain will come a more definite and comprehensive policy relative to the government forests.

The commission desires to ascertain conditions as they exist in each section and will endeavor, as far as possible, to comply with public sentiment in this connection. The purpose of the administration in creating the commission was to secure the enactment of laws which would prevent such frauds as have recently been given publicity and to prevent the exploitation of the timbered lands that still remain in the hands of the government.

While it is not possible to predict, with any degree of accuracy, what the conclusions of the commission will be, there is a belief that a middle ground will be taken between the views of those who favor the repeal of the public lands and those who favor only minor amendatory legislation.

A Foolish Action.

The building of a Canadian armored cruiser for the Great Lakes has caused comment on the treaty supposed to restrict such a movement. Under-Secretary of State Pope points out that no treaty exists between Great Britain and the United States limiting the number and armament of vessels to be maintained by the United States and Canada on the Great Lakes. There is an agreement to cease placing them after six months notice by either country. Mr. Pope doubts if it is binding.

FEARFUL LOSS OF LIFE

FIRE IN THE IRQUOIS THEATRE CHICAGO

FIVE HUNDRED PERSONS IT IS ESTAMATED LOST THEIR LIVES THERE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30—Fire in the Iroquois Theater this afternoon caused appalling loss of life. At 5 o'clock 60 bodies had been recovered and 200 persons inside had not been accounted for.

Firemen and policemen say that inside the building bodies were piled five deep. In nearly every instance the bodies were fearfully burned and the hair singed to the scalp.

At 4:45 p. m. the fire was out. At 4:45 p. m. Chief Musham, of the Fire Department, said that from personal investigation he believed that there were fully 300 to 500 dead bodies in the first balcony of the theater.

The firemen found at the head of the stairs leading to the balcony a large number of people piled up six or eight feet high, so tangled together that the policemen and firemen had to drag them out by main force.

(Continued on the second page)

The Chinese Treaty.

Special and urgent instructions have been sent to Minister Conger at Peking to bend every effort in the direction of securing an early approval by the Chinese government of the commerce treaty ratified by the United States Senate. The treaty, now in the archives of the government, has the signatures of the special commissioners attached to it, and has full effect apparently. The administration, however, does not relish the idea of a technical evasion being resorted to in an effort to postpone the application of the treaty's terms.

By its provisions time is given until October 8 next in which the final ratification may be secured. The most recent instructions to Minister Conger are designed to close the very last avenue to the Chinese government, so that it will be impossible to attack the treaty on any grounds. Avowedly it is the purpose of the United States to have the treaty in effect before hostilities can break out between Japan and Russia, and look to the victor for a preservation of treaty rights.

There is at present no doubt in the minds of our government officials that there will be an outbreak between Japan and Russia, unless one of the nations recedes from the position it has taken, and there is no indication at this time of any such disposition. The efforts of the United States will be bent simply in the direction of maintaining and securing good trade privileges in Manchuria in the event of a war. It has been an open secret here for a long time that Russia has interfered in the negotiations toward this end. Minister Conger's instructions are so couched that he had been given to understand that he must insist upon immediate action by China.

Louisiana Asks Votes for Treaty.

The extra session of the Louisiana legislature last week adopted a concurrent resolution requesting United States Senators S. D. McEnery and M. J. Foster to support the Panama canal treaty as submitted by the President to the United States Senate.

New Forage Plant.

The Oregon Agriculturist says: Three years ago Prof. A. B. Leckebey saw growing in the made land near the Union Depot in Portland an unknown variety of clover. He secured the plant and cultivated it. From the color of its blossom he has named it "blue clover." The plant has now been tested in both Eastern and Western Oregon and gives promise of proving a forage plant of the highest value. It makes a heavy crop the year it is planted and the food value of the plant is about the same as alfalfa. Mr. Leckebey believes that it will fill the place in Western Oregon which alfalfa does in the irrigated districts. As it was growing upon land where ballast from incoming ships had been dumped, it was thought the seed might have come with the ballast from Chile or some other country. The United States

Meeting of Land Commission.

On Monday at Washington the public lands commission held a two hours' session, at which Representative Lacey, chairman of the committee on public lands, and Representative Mondell of Wyoming, chairman of the committee on delegation, was heard. Mr. Lacey presented the argument against the proposed repeal of the commutation clause of the homestead act, and supported it with data showing that there had been no decrease in that class of entries, or that the law was being violated so as to cause alarm. He argued further that the land department had ample authority under the present laws to prevent frauds if the laws were properly administered. Under the commutation clause a person entering land can pay for it at the expiration of two years, after which it is not necessary for him to reside upon it for the full term, as otherwise required. Mr. Lacey argued that if this feature of the law was repealed it would retard settlement of the country.

Representative Mondell also argued against repeal of this clause for the reason that funds for irrigation purposes are derived from the sale of public lands, and if settlement is retarded receipts from that source would be diminished, and consequently irrigation impeded.

Senator Clark of Montana and others who were in the building at the time on other business dropped in casually to listen to the talks of the representative. The commission will continue its daily hearings each morning, for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiment with regard to proposed changes in the land, stone and timber acts. It is acting under the direct personal supervision of President Roosevelt, and it is expected both the chief executive and the Congress will be guided more or less by the commission's conclusions.

A Soft Snap

To close saloons and gambling houses by making it more profitable for their proprietors to engage in legitimate business is the project to be undertaken by the New Commandment association of northern Indiana, as organized at Walkerton. The plan is to induce the owners of establishments to transfer their energies to other enterprises under a guaranty that the association will make up to them any loss of income incurred while they are establishing themselves, settlements to be made monthly. If any man making such change should be dissatisfied at the end of the first year, he may return to his former ways.

Some Good Play Com. of it.

It is unlikely that the Democrats may adopt "reciprocity" as a principle. It would be very queer and utterly illogical, but we expect such things from the Democracy. Regardless of the trumpet blast of our Democratic contemporary of this city, the Democratic party in the House is committed to "reciprocity" as a step to Free-Trade. It would not be surprising if the next Democratic national platform should "point with pride" to the record of their Congressmen in voting for reciprocity with Cuba, and "view with dismay" the acts of the Republicans in refusing to make similar trades with everybody else. Out of all this Cuban fight there will come a clarifying of thought in the public mind which shall more firmly establish the Republicans in their rightful position as the protectors of American industry and legate to the Democrats their natural office as its destroyers—San Francisco Chronicle.

RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S.

Ashburnham, Ontario, Testifies to the Good Qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

ASHBURNHAM, Ont., April 18, 1903.—I think it is only right that I should tell you what a wonderful effect Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has produced. The day before Easter I was so distressed with a cold and cough that I did not think to be able to take any duties the next day, as my voice was almost choked by the cough. The same day I received an order from you for a bottle of your Cough Remedy. I at once procured a sample bottle, and took about three doses of the medicine. To my great relief the cough and cold had completely disappeared and I was able to preach three times Easter day. I know that this rapid and effective cure was due to your cough remedy. I make this testimonial without solicitation, being thankful to have found such a Godsend remedy.

Respectfully yours, E. A. LANGFELDT, M. A., Rector of St. Luke's Church. To Chamberlain Medicine Co. This remedy is for sale by A. C. Martens & Co.

R. W. FENN, CIVIL ENGINEER

(Lately with the government geographical and geological survey of Brazil, South America.) United States Deputy Mineral Surveyor. Office over Postoffice. ROSEBURG, OREGON. Correspondence solicited

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