

# TO EXTEND SEALING ZONE

## What Russia Will Propose at the Conference.

### MAY BE CAUSE OF TROUBLE

#### Her System of Preserving the Herds—Only Bachelor Seals Killed—Regulations Rigidly Enforced.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Although the formal conference on the Behring sea question will not open until the arrival of the Japanese delegates, yet the presence here of two of the Russian delegates has permitted the authorities to inform themselves quite thoroughly as to the attitude of Russia on the protection of the seals.

It has brought out the fact that Russia takes an advanced position in preserving her herds, and has more stringent laws and regulations in that direction than any of the other countries interested. By the Russian system, a zone of 30 miles is established around the seal islands belonging to the empire. The seals found within these zones are regarded as exclusively Russian, and no one other than the inhabitants of the islands can take a seal within these limits. This gives the Russian citizens exclusive rights over the seals, not only on the islands, but extending 30 miles westward. British or Japanese sealers cannot operate within the zone, except to buy skins of the Russian inhabitants of the islands. The Russians themselves are permitted to kill only bachelor seals, there being strict regulations against killing females and pups. The females are guarded with special care, as the killing of one female is regarded as equivalent to the killing of three seals, namely, the female herself, her pup on land and her unborn pup.

The Russians see that these regulations are enforced. A fleet of government ships patrols the 30-mile zone, and any foreign sealers who attempt to operate within these limits are seized. As a rule, seized sealers are taken to Vladivostok, their catch confiscated and punishment inflicted. This has led to many protests, but Russia has maintained her rigid regulations within the 30-mile zone. A notable case was that of the ship Dahlia, cleared by a United States consular officer, but manned by a Japanese crew, which attempted to take seals on the Russian islands. The sealers were met with armed resistance, and several of the Japanese were killed. Claims for indemnity were made against Russia, but never paid, as the imperial authorities maintained their right to protect their property against invasion.

It is understood to be the wish of Russia in the forthcoming conference not to stop at the protective regulations already made, but to carry them further by increasing the width of the zone considerably beyond 30 miles. The Russian authorities have found by experience that many of the female seals go more than 30 miles to sea in search of food. The wish is to make the zone so wide that it will extend to the furthest point to which the females go for food.

## THE LAW A FARCE.

#### Customs Officials Making Fortunes Out of Importation of Chinese.

New York, Oct. 18.—Colonel J. Thomas Scharf, Chinese inspector for the southern district of New York, has sent to the secretary of the treasury his resignation. He says that in his opinion, based on four years of practical experience and close observation, the Chinese exclusion act is a farce, and has resulted in the corruption of the treasury department.

Colonel Scharf is an ex-officer of the Confederate army. He was appointed inspector in 1893 under the Cleveland administration, and immediately after his arrival here preferred charges against customs officers, whom he accused of assisting in the smuggling of Chinese. He has never succeeded in bringing about the dismissal of any of the men he accused. He says his failure in that direction was caused by the influence of the Canadian Pacific railway in high quarters.

Colonel Scharf talked on the subject last night. He said frauds existed, and he believed men in the employ and confidence of the government are making \$15,000 a year each from the illegal importation of Chinese. The corruption, he believes, from evidence in his possession, girdles the continent. Chinamen who have no right to come are admitted all along the Canadian border, at the port of New York, at Seattle and other points along the Pacific coast. He expects to see some revelations which will startle the country. The investigation committee of congress, already provided for, begins its work this winter.

## Pardon for Cuban Exiles.

Madrid, Oct. 18.—At the cabinet council today, it was decided to pardon all Cuban exiles not included in previous amnesties, and to suspend the decree of September 21, relating to the legislative reforms in the Philippine Islands. The decree ordered a vigorous suppression of political associations and the secret pact of blood societies.

## TENDER OF MEDIATION.

#### Substance of the President's Recent Note to Spain.

New York, Oct. 18.—The Herald publishes the following, based on high authority, which it claims is substantially the instructions issued by President McKinley to Minister Woodford to be presented to the Spanish queen: None but the most kindly relations exist between the present administration and Spain, and as far as lies in the power of the administration they will continue. The belligerency resolution which passed the senate at the last session of congress merely bore evidence of the tremendous popular feeling throughout this country in favor of Cuba. The house, to be sure, voted down the resolution passed by the senate; but this was with a view to postponing the issue and not doing anything for the moment that could be construed as hostile to Spain.

The house, like the senate, is strongly in sympathy with Cuba. This feeling of sympathy throughout the United States will undoubtedly take shape as soon as congress convenes, and it is necessary for the president to communicate to congress such recommendations as he deems best to make in regard to Cuban affairs. Under the circumstances, the government of the United States tenders its best offices to mediate between Spain and Cuba, and it offers to mediate so as to bring the war to an end on such terms as will be honorable to both parties. This government expresses the hope that Spain will reply by the end of October, so as to give the president a chance to report to congress by the time it convenes.

The Herald also publishes the following, which it claims details the real circumstances which led to the downfall of the old cabinet:

Nearly all of the Spanish bonds had been floated in France, and the recent loans were placed there, but the latest application for further loans had not been favorably responded to. The only means, therefore, of raising money was through the Bank of Spain, through which application was made at the rate of 50,000 pesetas, or \$12,000,000 a month, in order to carry on the war in Cuba and the Philippine islands. The Bank of Spain declined to make further advances to the government several weeks ago, and the cabinet thereupon removed the governor of the bank. The recently appointed governor of the bank thereupon tried to force upon the bank committee, or board of directors the application of the government for additional loans, but his efforts failed.

This was followed by the determination of the cabinet to take steps to reduce the interest rate on the government bonds of 5 to 6 per cent to 3½ and 4 per cent respectively. Immediately the cabinet was deluged with protests. Some of the objections came from persons high in authority and in a position to dictate terms to Spain.

The combined weight of conservatives in Spain, which embraced, as indicated, the bulk of the holders of Spanish bonds, whose interest would be cut in two, immediately answered this proposition with the suggestion that it would be far better to stop all war expenses than to adopt such a radical course. In fact many of the conservatives said it would be better to gain anything in the way of indemnity which Spain could obtain by the sacrifice of sovereignty and accepting an offer to grant liberty to Cuba, if it could be brought about in a way that would not be dishonorable to Spain. The queen yielded to this, and the result was the resignation of the old cabinet and the calling upon Sagasta to form a new one.

## Their Aim Was True.

Delta, Oct. 18.—William Harald and Under-Sheriff Radford, of Siskiyou county, were shot and killed and Deputy Sheriff Stewart seriously wounded this morning while the latter two were attempting to arrest Harald for complicity in the robbery of the Yreka and Fort Jones stage on September 26 last.

This morning Radford and Stewart presented themselves at Harald's house and asked for Harald. The latter replied by opening fire upon the officers with a big revolver. The first shot took effect in Stewart's leg, while the second bullet struck Radford in the left breast, killing him almost instantly. Stewart then emptied his gun at Harald, who fell mortally wounded. He died shortly afterwards.

## Clever Capture at Chicago.

Chicago, Oct. 18.—Chief Detective Coleran and his assistants captured four of the most successful and daring burglars of the United States and Canada, and \$25,000 worth of stolen property, which awaits identification at the central station. The prisoners are: "Sheeney Joe" Rubenstein, the leader, and brains of the gang; James Williams, Harry Rogers and James Flaherty. Letters in the men's possession showed that they had been taking a flying trip from coast to coast, robbing right and left. The police of the entire country have been searching for the men for the past six months.

## A New Russian Port.

Vladivostok, Oct. 18.—The foundation stone of what is intended to be a great commercial port of Russia in this part of the world was laid today with considerable ceremony.

## TO CUT UP ALASKA.

#### A Proposition Under Way to Establish a New Territory.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—The United States revenue cutter Corwin, Captain W. J. Herring commanding, 10 days from Behring sea, dropped anchor in the bay this evening. She brought down from the north, Dr. Sheldon Jackson, United States general agent of education in Alaska; Lieutenant D. H. Jarvis, from the cutter Bear; Whaler J. A. Peters, of the wrecked whaler Nevarch, and Richard and Rollo Camden, who went up on the Eliza Anderson, but who returned to wait until spring before going to Dawson. Dr. Jackson spent the summer in the Yukon river valley in the interest of the government. He reports the reindeer herds as doing finely, 150 trained deer being ready for freighting.

The cutter Corwin, after carrying dispatches to the cutter Bear, sailed from St. Michaels on Friday, September 24. On the 26th, the Corwin called at St. Lawrence island. Dutch harbor was reached on the 30th, where she met the steamship Portland. After taking on coal and leaving her cargo of shipbuilding material, the Portland sailed on the 20th for St. Michaels. The original purpose of the North American Transportation & Trading Company to build additional steamers for the Yukon trade this summer at St. Michaels has been changed, and the steamers will be built at Dutch harbor.

Special correspondence from Alaska, brought by the Corwin, conveys the news that it is proposed to establish a new territory known as Lincoln, out of the northwest portion of Alaska. Its boundaries have not yet been fully decided upon, but it will include the Yukon river country and extend north to the Arctic ocean. The scheme meets with the approval of the North American Transportation & Trading Company, the officers of which recently held a conference on the matter with Senator Carter and several other United States officials. The new town of Weare, situated on the Yukon river, about half way between Dawson City and St. Michaels, has been chosen for the capital of the proposed territory. It is understood that Eli Gage, son of the secretary of the treasury, is a candidate for the governorship, as soon as the territorial organization is effected.

Captain Herring, of the Corwin, states that many of the steamers going up the Yukon are unseaworthy, and he strongly advises prospectors, especially those from the East, not to buy tickets on any vessels until satisfied they will be able to make the trip. When the Corwin left St. Michaels, September 24, the Hamilton started up the Yukon, expecting to winter wherever timber could be found. The Seattle No. 1 also was going on with Mayor Wood and party. She will also winter on the river. The Merwin, an old side-wheeler, carrying 140 passengers, and the Mare Island have started from Dutch harbor for winter quarters, but it is doubtful whether they will get further than St. Michaels, as they have 60 miles of rough water to cross, and both are cranky river boats.

The steamer Eliza Anderson still remains at Dutch harbor, but her passengers have gone on to St. Michaels in the schooner Baranoff. They wanted to board the Merwin but the captain declared he could not accommodate them. They were persistent, and wanted to draw lots with those already on the vessel for the use of sleeping quarters. Upon the captain refusing this request, some of the Anderson's passengers became aggressive, and bloodshed was only averted by the action of Captain Herring, who advised all parties against any breach of the peace. There is intense feeling against the promoters of these winter expeditions to the Klondike, and serious trouble may yet occur. The statements by Captain Herring regarding the unseaworthiness of the old river boats sent to the Yukon are corroborated by Dr. Sheldon Jackson.

There is plenty of coal at Dutch harbor and in Alaska, a supply having been recently landed by the steamer Bristol. At Dutch harbor, 75 men are engaged in putting two steamers together, which will be taken north in sections. About 1,000 miners will winter at St. Michaels, coming from north and south. There are two hotels already built, and another in course of construction, and food is said to be plentiful.

While at Unalaska, the Corwin pulled the sealing schooner Pearl off the rocks, where she had stranded. The sealer was not seriously damaged. The steamer Portland may be expected at Seattle about October 22, though the Cleveland may come in her stead. The steamer will bring the last of the miners who will leave the Klondike for the winter with the result of their season's work. It is possible that a large amount of treasure may be brought, and the Bear has been ordered to act as convoy to the departing treasure-laden vessel from the mines.

## Died in a Spanish Prison.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The acting United States consul-general at Havana has informed the state department that George S. Newton, a young American, formerly a watchmaker in Havana, who was wounded and captured by Spanish troops in August last, died in Havana September 30, from the effects of his wounds and fever. His mother was in Ogden, Utah, at last accounts.

## REPLY TO SALISBURY.

#### Sherman Suggests Separate Sealing Conferences.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Secretary Sherman has written a reply to the note of Lord Salisbury, expressing Great Britain's declination to take part in a Behring sea conference in which Russia and Japan will participate. The essential features of Mr. Sherman's reply have been sent by cable to the British government, and the reply in full is on its way to the British authorities. Lord Salisbury's note of declination, it can be now stated, bears date of October 6, so that the response is made with promptness.

The answer states that the United States government views with astonishment the determination of Great Britain not to participate in a conference including Russia and Japan, and the statement is made that up to the 23d of last month, the United States authorities had fully expected that the conference would proceed with Russia as well as Great Britain present. It is pointed out that, aside from the written conference which Lord Salisbury has called attention to, there were verbal negotiations between Ambassador Hay and his lordship, in which a special reference was made to the participation of Russia and Japan. At one of these verbal exchanges, it is stated, Lord Salisbury said he would advise with the officials of the foreign office concerning the subjects discussed, which included the participation of Russia and Japan. Subsequently, on July 29, Ambassador Hay wrote to Lord Salisbury saying the president hoped to have Russia and Japan participate in the conference. In view of these circumstances, the United States had confidently expected that Great Britain would take part in the conference, and that Russia and Japan would be represented, with the approval of Great Britain.

Besides the foregoing reply, and in view of the differences which have arisen, the state department suggests a conference in accordance with the terms of Lord Salisbury's agreement, as he construes it, namely, between experts of Great Britain, the United States and Canada. This last feature is now under consideration by the British government, its substance having been transmitted by cable, but it is not expected that an answer will be made until Mr. Sherman's answer in detail reaches London.

In the meantime, preparations for the conference between the United States, Russia and Japan are proceeding.

## YELLOW JACK RAGING.

#### Disease Is Spreading Rapidly in the South.

New Orleans, Oct. 14.—From the reports there is little hope in the yellow fever situation. The board of health is daily demonstrating that with a fair show it is possible for modern science to restrict and stamp out the disease. But the people who must suffer from a strict application of scientific methods rebel, the result being that the pathway of the board is beset with difficulty. If there was strict compliance with the health laws, if prompt report was made of cases, the fever germs would be quickly wiped out. But it begins to look now as if from 30 to 40 new cases and from four to six deaths would be daily reported until Jack Frost puts in an appearance. Today, as on nearly every day since the fever first appeared here, about 50 per cent of the fatalities were traced to neglect and a disposition to hide cases until it was too late to save life.

The official bulletin issued by the board of health tonight shows 37 new cases and four deaths.

Galveston was one of the first cities to raise the bars. Dr. Guiteras on Saturday pronounced several cases of yellow fever as existing in Galveston, but not a line has reached Dr. Oliphant relative to these from the Texas health officials. The only information which Dr. Oliphant had received was from Surgeon-General Wyman.

About 50 Italians reached the city this morning, coming, it is said, from New York. Orders were given by the board of health to prevent their locating themselves in the city limits, and the health officers were instructed to have them sent to one of the camps of detention.

At Biloxi there were 12 new cases; at Edwards, five, and two deaths.

## Wants to Retire.

New York, Oct. 14.—A Washington dispatch to the Herald says: Associate Justice Field, of the supreme court, has made formal application to President McKinley to be retired from the bench under the law allowing members of that court to be retired when 70 years of age. This statement is made on high authority, and also that Attorney-General McKenna will be nominated to succeed him on December 16, when congress convenes, five days after the retirement of Justice Field takes effect.

## Jagira Tribesmen Surrender.

Simla, Oct. 14.—A dispatch from Mohmund announces that the Jagira tribesmen has surrendered their Martini breech-loading rifles, and have solemnly sworn to maintain peace and drive out Umroa Khan. The troops forming the Mohmund punitive expedition have destroyed 26 fortified villages and have killed many of the insurgent natives.

## WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

#### Downing, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

There has not been much doing in the wheat-market during the past week. The visible supply decreased 1,600,000 bushels, and the exports from both coasts were equal to about 5,000,000 bushels. Crop reports from the Argentine are less favorable and the crop is reported damaged by frost. Should this report be confirmed, it will furnish a strong bull incentive to the market. Not the least important change in the situation is the decreasing receipts of winter wheat—sufficiently marked to offset the increased movement of the spring wheat crop. The export sales have not been large, but sufficiently so to show that our markets are on an export basis and that the demand continues constant. Local speculative conditions remain practically the same as during the previous week. The weakness in values is more apparent than real and results from lack of speculation and moderately increasing stocks. There is no sound argument for any decline in values at present. There are several arguments and many possibilities in favor of an advance. Should Russia prohibit exports or should any serious damage occur to the Argentine crop, extreme high values would obtain. Wheat is fully worth 90 to 95 cents under existing conditions, and as the speculative public become educated to the higher values now ruling renewed speculative support and increasing export sales will carry values higher.

Our corn market has been dull and uninteresting—devoid of any particular features or change in previous conditions, except that farmers' sales of corn to arrive have fallen off to the minimum. Local sentiment has been and continues extremely bearish. Short sellers have taken advantage of every opportunity to depress values, but the market has developed a strong undertone and values have ruled higher than at the close of the previous week. Export clearances continue large and the cash demand, while still inadequate, shows some improvement. The depressing influence in the market continues to be the large stocks.

## Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 79@80c; Valley and Bluestem, 82@83c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$4.50; graham, \$3.70; superfine, \$2.50 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 33@34c; choice gray, 31@32c per bushel.

Barley—Feed barley, \$19@20; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$14 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$15.50.

Hay—Timothy, \$12@13.50; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10 do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs—20c per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 45@50c; fair to good, 35@40c; dairy, 25@35c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon, 11½c; Young America, 12½c; California, 9@10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.00@2.50 per dozen; broilers, \$1.50@2; geese, \$5.50; ducks, \$3@4 per dozen; turkeys, live, 8@9c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 40@45c per sack; new potatoes, 50c per sack; sweets, \$1.40 per cental.

Onions—California, new, red, 90c; yellow, 80c per cental.

Hops—8@15c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 6@7c.

Wool—Valley, 14@15c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 10@12c; mohair, 20c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, \$2.50@2.60; dressed mutton, 50; spring lambs, 5½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.50; light and feeders, \$3@4; dressed, \$5.50@6 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3; cows \$2.25; dressed beef, 4@5½c per pound.

Veal—Large, 4½@5c; small, 5½@6c per pound.

## Seattle Markets.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 24@25c; ranch, 14@16c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 10@11c; California, 9½c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 22c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10c; spring chickens, \$2.50@3; ducks, \$3.50@3.75.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$28@29 per ton. Oats—Choice, per ton, \$22.

Corn—Whole, \$23; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$23 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$22.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5½c; mutton sheep, 5@5½c; pork, 7c; veal, small, 6.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 6c; salmon, 3½c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4; ling cod, 4@5; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2½@4c.

## San Francisco Markets.

Wool—Choice foothill, 8@12c; San Joaquin, 6 months' 5@7c; do year's staple, 7@9c; mountain, 10@12c; Oregon, 12@14c per pound.

Hops—11@14c per pound. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$20@22; California bran, \$14@15 per ton.

Onions—New red, 70@80c; do new silverskin, 90c@1 per cental.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 27@28c; do seconds, 25@26c; fancy dairy, 23@24c; good to choice, 20@22c per pound.