

COMPLETED THE TREATY

Work of the Peace Commissioners Is Done.

RESULT OF WAR EMBODIED

The Spanish Members Are Exceedingly Bitter Over the Outcome—Would Not Sell One of the Carolines.

Paris, Dec. 10.—The United States and Spanish peace commissioners concluded their work today and finally settled the terms of the treaty of peace. They will meet once more in formal session, when the Spanish commissioners sorrowfully and the Americans, with feelings of relief, will write their signatures upon the document which embodies the result of the war and the preparation of which has consumed 11 weeks, a longer time than the war itself. In the meantime the treaty will be engrossed under the supervision of Mr. Moore and Senor Ojeda, the secretaries of the respective commissions.

The Spaniards are exceedingly bitter over the result, though observing the forms of friendliness and courtesy to the end. Senor Montero Rios, whose strong and persistent struggle to save for his country every possible asset from the wreck of her colonial empire, has commanded the respect and admiration of his opponents, went from the council chamber today to his bed in a state of complete collapse, as a result of the long strain and his chagrin over the small fruits of his efforts.

Senor Ojeda has been prostrated since yesterday, and was unable to attend the joint session today.

The Spaniards charge equal blame upon the European powers and the United States for their downfall. One of the Spanish commissioners said:

"The European nations have made a great mistake in deserting Spain and leaving her to spoliation by the brute force of a conscienceless giant. They all know that in the Philippines America has taken more than she can digest. She will ultimately sell the islands to England or Germany, and when the transfer is attempted it will precipitate general European strife."

"We have refused to sell any island in the Carolines. We never thought of considering an offer. Nor have we consented to negotiate upon any questions except those directly involved in the protocol signed at Washington."

The American commissioners entered the joint conference today in a nervous frame of mind. They evidently had reasons to believe that the possibility existed that even at this late hour there might be a rupture. This feeling of apprehension was based on the temper the Spaniards have displayed lately. This week the commissioners of Spain have not concealed the fact that, having failed to gain all important points, they were indifferent as to whether or not the conference resulted in the settlement of peace by the signing of the treaty by which Spain loses all her colonies. Miscarriage of the negotiations would leave political prestige at home no worse, if not in better condition than if they signed the treaty.

The Americans were anxious not to give the Spaniards any pretext to break off the negotiations, or take offense, so far as the exercise of patience and diplomacy could steer clear of protests. Madrid papers are disposed to revive the question of the Maine and to excite public opinion against the United States on account of the reference made to this in President McKinley's message. They report that Rios made an impassioned denunciation of McKinley at the last joint meeting of the commissions. Rios did refer to the Maine, but only in calmly worded sentences, expressing regret that the president had so spoken.

Diplomatic circles in Paris predict as one of the results of the treaty a diplomatic contest between France and the United States, which will make an important chapter in history. The French government is reported to have resolved to take up the case of the French holders of Cuban bonds, and it is believed France will declare for repudiation of the bonds as the result of the treaty which the victorious nation imposed on Spain. They argue that the treaty responsibility has been shifted upon America, and that therefore the French government will endeavor to exact some pledge for payment or guarantee of the bonds.

Members of the commission say the treaty contains little outside of the scope of the Washington protocol, and matters directly based thereon, like provisions for evacuation of ceded territory, transfer of public property therein and guarantees of safety of property and rights of Spanish citizens remaining there. Details of the last class of questions covered by the statement which the Americans handed to Rios at the last meeting were considered today, but all the commissioners refuse to divulge the details of the conference. Several points upon which they were unable to agree were left open for diplomatic negotiations.

The Spaniards refused to admit that they had failed to respect former treaties guaranteeing religious freedom in the Caroline islands, or that there was necessity for such guarantees.

ENGLAND WILL CONSENT.

To the Modification of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

New York, Dec. 12.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says: President McKinley is in favor of opening negotiations with Great Britain for the purpose of modifying the Clayton-Bulwer treaty so as to permit the construction and control of the Nicaragua canal by the United States.

Should congress during the present session fail to enact the pending Morgan bill the president also favors entering into negotiations with Nicaragua and Costa Rica looking to the construction of the canal under the auspices and control of the United States.

On the authority of a high official of the administration it is stated that there is absolutely no foundation for the report that Great Britain, through Sir Julian Pauncefote, has protested to the state department against that feature of the president's message dealing with the canal question. On the contrary, the authorities have every reason to believe that the British government will consent to any reasonable modification of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty that the president may desire, so as to remove the obstacles which it places in the way for the control of the canal by this government.

So satisfied are the officials on this point that negotiations will soon be under way which it is hoped will culminate in an agreement especially intended to give this government the right to construct and control the proposed waterway.

STILL REACHING OUT.

Russia, Germany and France in the Partitioning of China.

Shanghai, Dec. 12.—John Barrett, formerly United States minister to Siam, has returned here after visiting Peking and the principal cities and ports. He says the situation in China is one of a most critical nature, and Manchuria is no longer Chinese, but Russian territory. He asserts that New Chwang, the chief northern port for the movement of American products, is also practically Russian, and is liable to be closed any day.

The only permanent safeguard to paramount American and British interests, Barrett says, is immediate and united action by the interested governments to defend their territory in the Chinese empire, to force reforms in the government, to prevent further cessions of ports and provinces, and to insist upon an "open-door" policy in all the ports of China, including the spheres of influence of Russia, Germany and France. Otherwise, Barrett contends, the impending partition of the Chinese empire will seriously curtail the field of trade by disastrously affecting American and British influence in Asia.

WATERSON FOR EXPANSION.

Where England Has Succeeded, America May Experiment.

New York, Dec. 12.—The Patria Club held its first meeting of the winter tonight, and entertained and listened to Colonel Henry Waterson, of Louisville, the speaker of the evening. Colonel Waterson spoke on "Our Country; Its Dangers and Its Hopes, Past, Present and to Come." He declared himself in favor of the policy of national expansion.

"I am not disposed," he said, "to agree with the optimistic young American who believes that the United States is bounded on the north by the aurora borealis, on the south by the equator, on the east by the rising sun, and on the west by eternity, but still I think somewhat that way."

"As for expansion, I think that what England has done with safety, America may attempt. If Dewey had only sailed away—but he did not, and where he nailed the Stars and Stripes, there they must stay. We must either go forward or backward, and we cannot go backward without loss of self-respect."

"The anti-expansionists ask how we can take these new responsibilities when our own government at home is so admittedly corrupt. On the other hand, we are a nation of producers hindered by overproduction. We must have a greater market. Also, the Philippine islands are not further from the Golden Gate today than was San Francisco from Washington when California was annexed. The centralized power of modern civilization annihilated space and knits all together. All national expansion for us is but America, the boy, grown to manhood and naturally reaching out."

SEVERE WIND STORM.

Gale Blew Ninety-Six Miles an Hour at Point Reyes.

San Francisco, Dec. 12.—The storm which raged all over the Pacific coast last night and today was one of the most severe ever recorded by the weather bureau. It extended from the northern border down to Texas and from the Pacific as far east as Nebraska. In this city the wind attained a velocity of 45 miles an hour, but at Point Reyes, right in the teeth of the gale, the wind swept along at 96 miles an hour. Considering the great velocity of the wind, the damage done to shipping was slight, and \$10,000 will pay for everything, including the charges of towmen for extricating vessels from dangerous positions.

A traveler can now go around the world in 50 days.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Tomatoes, 50@85c per box.
Onions, 85@90c per 100 pounds.
Potatoes, \$10@12.
Beets, per sack, \$1.
Turnips, per sack, 60@65c.
Carrots, per sack, 65c.
Parsnips, per sack, \$1.
Beans, green, 2@3c.
Cauliflower, 50@75c per doz.
Celery, 40@50c.
Cabbage, native and California \$1.00@1.50 per 100 pounds.
Apples, 50c@65c per box.
Pears, 75c@81c per box.
Prunes, 50c per box.
Peaches, 75c.
Plums, 50c.
Butter—Creamery, 27c per pound; dairy and ranch, 18@20c per pound.
Eggs, 35c.
Cheese—Native, 12@12½c.
Poultry—Old hens, 15c per pound; spring chickens, 15c; turkeys, 16c.
Fresh meats—Choice dressed beef steers, prime, 6½@7c; cows, prime, 6½c; mutton, 7½c; pork, 6@7c; veal, 6@8c.
Wheat—Feed wheat, \$21.
Oats—Choice, per ton, \$23.
Hay—Puget Sound mixed, \$9.50@10; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$12.
Corn—Whole, \$23.50; cracked, \$24; feed meal, \$23.50.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$24@25; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.60; straight, \$3.25; California brands, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$3.75; graham, per barrel, \$3.70; whole wheat flour, \$3.75; rye flour, \$4.
Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14; shorts, per ton, \$16.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$17@21 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$17; oil cake meal, per ton, \$35.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 58@60c; Valley and Bluestem, 63c per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.30; graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, 42@43c; choice gray, 40@41c per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$22@23; brewing, \$24 per ton.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$16 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$16; chop, \$15.50 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9@10; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, 6½c per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 45@50c; dairy, 35@45c store, 27@32c.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 11@13c; Young America, 15c; new cheese, 10c per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.75@3 per dozen; hens, \$3.50@4.00; springs, \$1.25@3; geese, \$5.00@6.00 for old, \$1.50@5 for young; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11@12c per pound.
Potatoes—50@60c per sack; sweets, 2c per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, 90c; turnips, 75c per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, \$1@1.25 per 100 pounds; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, 75c per sack; beans, 3c per pound; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 3@3½c per pound.
Onions—Oregon, 75c@81c per sack.
Hops—15@18c; 1897 crop, 4@6c.
Wool—Valley, 10@12c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@12c; mohair, 25c per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 7c; spring lambs, 7½c per lb.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.75; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$5.50@6.50 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, 3.50@3.75; cows, \$2.50@3.00; dressed beef, 5@6½c per pound.
Veal—Large, 5½@6c; small, 6½@7½c per pound.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Nevada, 10@12c per pound; Oregon, Eastern, 10@12c; Valley, 15@17c; Northern, 9@11c.
Millstuffs—Middlings, \$19@21.00; bran, \$14.50@15.50 per ton.
Onions—Silver skin, 50@60c per sack.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 26c; do seconds, 22@24c; fancy dairy, 21@22c; do seconds, 17@21c per pound.
Eggs—Store, 18@22c; fancy ranch, 35@37½c.
Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$2@2.50; Mexican limes, \$6@6.50; California lemons, \$2.00@3.00; do choice \$3.50@4.50; per box.

Marble Cut by Diamonds.

Many of the stonecutters formerly at work at the shops of the Paris exposition, between the Champs Elysees and the Seine, have lost their jobs. Not, perhaps, on account of a strike or the lack of work, for both the Grand Palais and the new Bridge Alexander III require an immense amount of hewn stone, but because of a new stone saw, constructed by a mechanical engineer, Felix Fromholt, of Paris. It is the largest diamond saw ever built on the continent, and the diamonds are set into the metal in a novel manner, after the inventor carefully studied the effect of high temperatures upon the crystallized and the powdered diamond.

The saw is of the circular kind, seven feet six inches in diameter, and set with 200 diamonds let into the metal and disposed of in such a way that 80 stones are set into the points of the saw teeth, 80 more into the faces of the teeth near their points and 40 more into the side of the teeth.

YEAR'S WORK IN ALASKA

Progress Made in Mining Development—Value of the Salmon Industry—Agriculture in the Far North—Necessary Legislation—Interesting Report of Governor Brady, of Alaska.

One of the most interesting documents recently received at the interior department is the annual report of John G. Brady, governor of Alaska. The report is very elaborate in its treatment of subjects relative to the great Northwest territory, covering everything from mission stations to the mining industries. Probably more space is devoted to gold mining than any other subject, that being the predominating industry at the present time. Of this, Mr. Brady says:

"The past year has been one of wonderful progress. During the winter and spring all sorts of vessels were put into the Alaska trade, and were filled with passengers and cargo to the very limit. Before long, thousands of tons of freight could be seen piled upon and under the snow upon the summits of the Alaskan mountains. The United States contributed by far the largest number of prospectors, who came from all quarters, a large number from every state in the Union, California, Oregon and Washington sending the largest contingents. These prospectors, as a class, were fine specimens of manhood."

"It is calculated that 3,200 outfitted for Copper river, several hundred went over the divide at Yakutat, and some parties went over the Dalton trail and worked their way up the White river, one of the largest branches of the Yukon. Cook Inlet, Resurrection bay, Golovin bay, Kotzebue sound, Koyukuk river and many other places have all been visited by prospectors this season. The declaration of war against Spain checked the tide. Most of the Americans who proceeded to Dawson complained of the mining rules and regulations, and the manner in which they were carried out. This had the effect to drive many upon the Alaska side, and the claims which were abandoned for the first onrush to the Klondike were relocated, and much other valuable ground discovered, which will keep large numbers of men there this winter."

"There is no way of ascertaining the amount of dust washed out upon the Alaska side. The amounts given for the Klondike and its tributaries vary very much. Several reasons are given why the output is smaller than was anticipated—the scarcity of supplies, especially lights, the high price of labor, and the 10 per cent royalty exacted. Many claims are being held with the expectation that supplies will be more abundant and not so dear, and consequently cheaper labor, and that the loud complaint against the royalty will cause the Ottawa government to abolish it. There will be no lack of supplies this winter, but there appears to be a determination among the miners to keep up wages, and the royalty is still demanded. So we can expect the product for the coming year to be much curtailed."

Speaking of quartz mining, he says: "Very rich ore was discovered in the vicinity of Ketchikan, and many locations have been made and developed. Quartz locations have also been made at various places around the coast and upon the islands, as far as Ugalaska. The greater number of these are held by poor men who are not able to make developments of any considerable extent. Alaska is a splendid field for a class of men who can command capital and who can examine these discoveries and come to terms with the owners for the purpose of development and sale. While important discoveries of gold have been made on Pine creek, flowing into Lake Atlin, the fields in the vicinity of Bald Eagle and Sum Dum Chief, as well as Sheep creek, near Juneau, have made even better showings in the past year than previously."

Favorable reports are made of the operations of the large American mining companies at work in Alaska, their efforts seeming to be more abundantly rewarded than are those of foreign corporations.

Land Laws.

So much of the land laws as relates to mineral lands and mining claims, inasmuch as they are the same as are now in force in the United States proper, have given perfect satisfaction throughout Alaska, but in the matter of homestead laws, quite a different state of affairs exists. The idea that a man may dig out ore upon lands and obtain patent for the same but cannot build a house and improve land for a home, nor obtain title to it, is regarded as highly unjust and imprudent by the residents of that country. As a matter of fact, the land office has issued but one patent under the law of March 3, 1898, for trade and manufacture, and the amount of land an applicant receives depends not on any law, but entirely on the will of the land officer.

Even the law which passed last May, extending the homestead rights to Alaska, is found to be practically valueless.

"There are no surveyed lands in Alaska, nor has any system of survey been provided. It is impossible, therefore, for a poor settler to acquire a homestead. If he were able and willing to stand the expense of a survey,

he would have no assurance that it would be accepted by the government. If he settles as a squatter and makes improvements, he cannot tell how future surveys may affect him. In consequence of this condition of affairs, not a single homesteader has attempted to make entry under the new law in the land office at Sitka."

In the matter of wagon roads, railroads, etc., a different condition exists. As soon as the right of way bill had passed, numbers of filings were made, and several roads of various character are now in progress of construction. At Unga, Berner's bay and Douglass island there are railways in operation, although solely for use in connection with the mines. The Pacific & Arctic Railway & Navigation Company has probably made more progress than any of the other large companies, having completed 14 miles of road over almost impassable country. Moreover, so much of the road as is completed is constructed of the best material, by the best of workmen, and is in every way first-class. Money has not been spared, and as a result the road stands without a peer. It might be mentioned, in this connection, that, owing to the limitations of the timber laws, it was found best to import a great deal of timber, and nearly all the timber and lumber used in building Dyea and Skagway, their railroads and mills, was shipped from Puget sound.

The governor expresses the hope that congress, during the short session, will pass upon a code of civil procedure for the district of Alaska.

Salmon Industry.

Of the salmon industry, a great deal is said. There can be no doubt that this industry is one of great importance, for from figures given it is seen that the Alaskan output in the last year marketed at \$2,977,019. The red salmon seems to far outnumber all others, although the pink and silver salmon are found in large numbers. Comparatively few king salmon were taken last year. To pack these salmon for shipment, over 5,000 laborers are employed, and, strange to say, the most of them are Chinese. It has been found almost impossible to educate the native Alaskan Indian to American canning methods, and this, together with the fact that Chinese labor is exceedingly cheap, may account, in a measure, for the large number of Chinese in the canneries. This salmon trade during the past year was of sufficient proportions to keep in constant use, during the season, 53 steamers, in addition to the 712 lighters and small boats.

In the opinion of the governor, Alaska should be well supplied with inspectors, the present force of two being decidedly inadequate.

Agricultural Possibilities.

As an agricultural country, Alaska is still in its infancy, little being known of its possibilities. Enough can be learned, however, from experiments made in the past year, to satisfy those interested that such crops as potatoes, cabbage, beets, peas and other market vegetables can, with proper attention and care, be raised in parts of the country without difficulty. But grass, beyond everything else, promises to be the agricultural wealth of Alaska. This is but little appreciated at present. The native grasses are nutritious, and grow luxuriantly. Timothy, clover and other cultivated varieties do well, one acre of ground in grass there, for pasturage, being worth several acres in a drier climate. There are many varieties of native berries, such as currants, huckleberries, etc., but berries from the States, as a rule, do well under cultivation.

"Of stockraising," says the report, "but little can be said. Reindeer will soon be reared in vast herds. In the near future we expect to have the mail transported by reindeer all over Northern Alaska during the winter, and at much less cost than at present."

The Governor's Recommendations.

Before closing the report, a number of recommendations are made. Among them is the suggestion that Japaneky island be built up as a naval station. Attention is also called to the fact that at Kadiak, Unga, St. Michaels, Circle City and Dyea there is a great lack of proper courthouses and jails, as well as at Sitka, where the buildings are in miserable condition.

The appropriation for Alaskan schools has been found quite insufficient, being but \$30,000 per year. An appropriation of twice that size could easily be utilized to good advantage.

A further recommendation is made to the effect that lighthouses and other beacons be placed at conspicuous points along the coast, as the commerce has greatly multiplied of late and demands such protection.

Governor Brady closes his report with an appeal to the Republican party to live up to its pledge and extend to Alaska the privilege of sending a delegate to the national congress.