

POWERS SEIZED PRIVATE PROPERTY

Sir Robert Hart Protests Against Confiscation of His House.

CONGRER RETURNING HOME

Rockhill Will Take Charge of American Embassy - Visitors May Now Visit Forbidden City at Certain Hours.

PEKIN, Feb. 23.—Sir Robert Hart, chief of the Chinese imperial customs, has sent the ministers of the powers a strongly worded letter to protest against the seizure of his property to increase the size of the legation area, which has been taken by Austria, Germany, France and Italy.

It is generally understood in the service that whoever has lived that long in a house owned it, having purchased it in rental allowances. He says Italy especially had suitable grounds, and that she had no reason to share in the general gratis distribution of lands for the various legations.

General Yamaguchi, the Japanese commander, and Gen. Chaffee have issued orders permitting visitors, properly accredited, to visit the Forbidden City on certain days, during certain hours, and that foreign generals and their personal friends can visit at any time.

The principal topic—the court edict regarding the punishment—discussed at yesterday's meeting, was short, owing to the Chinese court's edicts as absolutely satisfactory require official confirmation.

CONGRER COMING HOME.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Minister Conger returns of his own initiative from Pekin. For some time past he has been anxious to get back to Iowa but an opportunity has not offered itself until this moment.

CONGRER WANTS TO LEAVE.

DES MOINES, Ia., Feb. 23.—Another cable message has been received from Minister Conger, in which he explains that his wife and daughter and niece, Miss Pierce, are in such a nervous condition that he fears to have them remain longer in Pekin.

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

Main Issue in Campaign Preceding General Election of Australian Commonwealth Is Tariff.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 23.—The

campaign preceding the first general election of the Australian commonwealth is now in progress. The main issue is the tariff. Edmond Barron, the provisional premier is a protectionist.

The government proposes to extend the franchise to women, but will not admit the eligibility of women to seats in parliament. Regarding "a white Australia" the government has announced that while it will not legislate for the oppression of Polynesians or Kanakas already in Australia, the importation of others will be greatly restricted.

The selection of a capital site is being urged. The federal government is without adequate quarters and is minus many of the necessary conveniences for the transaction of government business.

Through the death of Sir Charles Dickson, federal minister of defence, Sir John Forrest succeeds to that portfolio and J. G. Drake takes Sir John Forrest's place as postmaster-general.

Premier Seddon, of New England, is accused of attempting to form a Pacific federation in opposition to the Australian Federation by the annexation of the Fiji islands to New Zealand.

The two surviving Breelong murderers have been hanged. Jimmy Governor, the leader of the trio, was executed at Darlinghurst jail on January 18.

Thursday island has been the scene of savage warfare between Kanakas and Manila men. On January 2, one hundred Kanakas, armed with clubs and stones, stormed the Manila quarter.

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HAY-PAUNCEFOTE TREATY.

English Cabinet's Decision as to Senate Amendments Is Being Drawn Up.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—A draft of the cabinet's decision as to the senate's amendments to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty is in process of being drawn up in the foreign office.

APPOINTED COMMISSIONER.

D. D. Bogart, of Dawson, Goes to Kuskokwim District.

SEATTLE, Feb. 23.—A special dispatch to the Post-Intelligencer from Dawson says that some letters announce the appointment of D. D. Bogart, formerly of Dawson, as United States commissioner of the Kuskokwim district.

RIO'S PASSENGER LIST FOUND

(Continued from page one.)

damaged. This occurred in Hong Kong harbor.

December, 1895, she went ashore at South Kagoshima, Japan, and was so badly damaged that her cargo had to be discharged and the vessel docked for repairs.

March, 1896, she started from Honolulu to Yokohama. Continuous heavy head weather was encountered and when the Japanese coast was still 1200 miles away it was found that there was only 250 tons of coal in the bunkers.

May, 1898, she collided with an unknown Japanese steamer of Honomoko, Japan, but was not seriously damaged.

During the past fifty years the Pacific Mail Steamship Company has lost nineteen of its fleet. The list includes the Southerner, Salvador, Golden Gate, Golden City, America, Guatemala, Sacramento, Honduras, Japan, City of San Francisco, Georgia, City of Tokio, San Pablo, Nicaragua, City of New York, Colima, Columbia, and the City of Rio de Janeiro.

The foundering of the Rio de Janeiro did not result in the greatest loss of life, as 200 of the 300 passengers on the Golden Gate were lost off the coast of Mexico in 1862. Four hundred Chinese were lost in the wreck off the Japan coast early in the 70's. Only forty souls

were saved out of the crew of 121 passengers of the Colima, which went down in 1895.

Freight Clerk C. J. Englehardt, of the Rio de Janeiro, who was saved, said: "The report that Captain Ward locked himself in his cabin must be untrue. The last I saw of Captain Ward he was standing on the bridge and was tying the rope of the whistle to the rail. This was done to keep the whistle blowing all the time. I am sure that the ship sank so quickly that Captain Ward did not have time to reach the cabin."

RIO FAVORITE STEAMER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Friends of U. S. Consul-General Wildman, who left his post at Hong Kong on a leave of absence and embarked on the City of Rio de Janeiro January 22, have little hope of his having escaped.

His brother, Edwin Wildman, who is now in this city and who was formerly vice-consul under Rounseville Wildman in Hong Kong, is still cherishing the belief that the consul-general and his family may have taken to a lifeboat which has blown out of the harbor and that they may yet be heard from.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wildman, who are now at the Everett House, communicated with San Francisco after the news of the disaster reached this city and spent an anxious day in the vain hope that some definite news of the missing family might arrive.

"There can be no doubt," said he, "that my brother was on the vessel. Besides the fact that his name is mentioned in the stories of the disaster I received only a short while ago a letter from him saying that he and his family were to sail on the Rio de Janeiro January 22. The other evening I dined with Third Assistant Secretary of State Cridler and he also had a letter from my brother saying he would sail on January 22."

"It is a remarkable thing that this steamship was my brother's pet, and he always made it a point to sail on her when crossing the Pacific. When I was last in Hong Kong he wanted me to sail on her too—he was so fond of her. I sailed, however, last November on the Coptic. The Rio de Janeiro was the oldest and smallest vessel of the line and I preferred to sail on a large and more modern ship. My brother would take the trouble to miss a steamer in order to go on that ship."

"Captain Wm. Ward, the commander of the ship, was reputed to be about the most popular officer in the employ of the line. The fact that he was in charge of the vessel induced a good many to sail on her. My brother was a great friend of Captain Ward. "On this trip he took the entire family, consisting of his wife, his two children, Rounseville Wildman, Jr., 9 years old and Dorothy, 2 years old. They also had with them Katie O'Brien, the children's nurse, whom they took out from San Francisco several years ago. "My brother has worked very hard and he and his family have been under a strain since those troublesome times in China. He was much in need of a leave of absence, and thought that the health of the children would be benefited by a change. I understand he was to have returned to Hong Kong in about three months. I expected to get a telegram from him upon the arrival of the vessel telling me whether he would come on to New York or whether I should go to Washington, which was his real destination, to meet him."

Mr. Wildman said that his brother had left Vice-Consul Wm. Aldrich, a brother-in-law, in charge of affairs while he sailed for this country.

Mr. Wildman said that Mrs. Rounseville Wildman was a granddaughter of the late Lucius Foote, the war governor of Missouri who had to leave the state because of his strong Unionist sympathy and went to San Francisco, where he afterwards became United States senator. His son, W. W. Foote, States senator. His son, W. W. Foote, Mrs. Wildman's uncle, is now in that city.

FRIENDS AWAITED WILDMAN.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Feb. 23.—College friends of Consul Wildman were planning to welcome him upon his expected visit here next month. He was a graduate of Syracuse University and had many friends here.

MR. AND MRS. WOODWORTH.

DENVER, Feb. 23.—Mr. and Mrs. William A. Woodworth, of Denver, who are mentioned as among the missing passengers of the wrecked Rio de Janeiro, left here in January last for a visit to Honolulu, and were returning home on the Rio. Mr. Woodworth was one of Denver's best known business men and was local manager for C. Sidney Shepard & Co., manufacturers of stamped ware, and of the Crilben & Sexton Company, stove manufacturers.

THREE MURDEROUS ASSAULTS.

Denver Mad Man Has Now Seriously Injured Score of Women.

DENVER, Feb. 23.—The mysterious assassin who has for several months terrorized the people of Denver by murderous assaults upon women walking alone at night has added three more to his long list of victims.

All were assaulted within a few blocks of the same place and within an hour. Each was struck from behind on the right side of the head with a club and all were unconscious when found.

The victims are Mrs. Mary Short, colored, who will die, Mrs. Josephine Unterhager, not seriously injured, and Miss Emma Johnson, who may die. There is no apparent reason for the assaults and the police are without the slightest clue to the perpetrators.

It is believed to be the work of a mad man. These assaults have occurred at brief intervals for about a year and fully a score of women have been assaulted two or three of whom died.

WHEAT MARKET.

PORTLAND, Feb. 23.—Wheat, Walla Walla, 55¢; bluestem, 57¢.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23.—Wheat, May, 100¢; cash, 95¢.

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Wheat, May opening, 76¢; closing, 76¢.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 23.—Wheat, May, 5s. 3d.

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