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JAPANESE WARSHIPS MAY USE OUR HARBORS IN ORIENT

Friendly Assurance Reported to Have Been Conveyed at Meeting Held at Yokohama.

Governor Taft Said to Have Outlined Our Attitude to Marquis Ito in Event of Hostilities Ensuing Between the Two Countries.

London, Jan. 8.—The Daily Mail's Tokyo correspondent says: "Governor Taft had a secret conference with Marquis Ito at the United States consulate at Yokohama. It is understood that Governor Taft assured the Marquis that the United States would observe friendly neutrality toward Japan in the event of war and, that if necessary, it would grant the use of American ports in the far east to the Japanese fleet."

NOTE MAY BE UNDELIVERED.
Contents of Reply of Russia Not Yet Made Public.

London, Jan. 8.—None of the special cablegrams from Tokio, printed in this morning's papers, is able to give contents of Russia's reply, but all concur in believing it unsatisfactory. It appears that the note might be undelivered as Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister is suffering from ear affection, had not Baron Kemura, the Japanese foreign minister, visited the Russian legation to get it. According to the Standard's Tokyo correspondent, an increasing number of steamships are requisitioned daily as transports.

IN THE EVENT OF WAR.

English Officer Arrives at Peking to Look Over Situation.

Peking, Jan. 8.—Major Nathan, an officer of the British army, and second in command of railway transportation in the Transvaal during the Boer war has arrived here. He traveled over the Siberian railway with the special view of ascertaining the possibilities of road transportation of troops and supplies in event of war. His opinion,

based on observation, is that the railroad would break down and its administration find itself in hopeless confusion within a week under the stress of war emergencies.

INTERVENTION NOT WANTED.

Japan Believes That Outside Action Would Benefit Russia.

Tokio, Jan. 7.—The government is silent concerning the terms of the Russian rejoinder. A high authority here, however, says that the reply is unsatisfactory to Japan, especially in its feature bearing upon the question of Korea. He says that the Russian government in its communication expresses a desire for a peaceable settlement of the matters in dispute.

Japan has taken the reply under consideration and is convinced that Russia's protestations are honest and that there is a chance for peace, she will continue the negotiations. At the same time the ministry is unqualifiedly opposed to a long delay. It is becoming apparent that Japan would resent an intervention on the part of any of the outside powers in the extremity of the crisis. It is thought possible here that the United States might intervene. Such intervention, the Japanese say, would be unjust and only create delay which would be advantageous to Russia.

DIPLOMATS MAKE INQUIRIES.

France Has no Information on Russia's Reply.

Paris, Jan. 7.—Officials and diplomatic circles here claim to be with-

out information regarding the contents of the Russian reply to Japan, but the tone is distinctly pessimistic, and there are but slight hopes of a peaceful exit from the position in which Russia and Japan find themselves.

The diplomats are making inquiries as to the attitude of the powers in case of war; that to be adopted by the United States being regarded as particularly important. To the Associated Press the Japanese minister said:

"The attitude of the United States will mean much. She has negotiated a treaty with China for the opening of three ports in Manchuria to the commerce of the world. These ports have been occupied by Russians and thus her treaty rights have been violated."

"Japan is not guided by selfish motives, but is acting in the interest of all nations. I hope the United States will clearly understand our position and will favor us with her support."

HAD NOTHING TO GAIN.

Japanese Minister at London Discards Seoul Incident.

London, Jan. 7.—No further news from the far east has been received this morning at the Japanese legation. The Japanese minister, Baron Halashi, says he fails to see how the Japanese railroad could refuse to transport Russian troops from Chemulpo to Seoul, as reported, nor if it did, what object could be gained, for the Russians could easily get to Seoul on foot.

Consuls today touched \$3 13-16, another low record mark. The Rothschilds say this appears to be entirely due to apprehension of war between Russia and Japan, and not to fear that Great Britain would be involved in the fighting.

At their annual meetings all bankers are announcing that they have written down their holdings of consuls at \$5.

SENT TO INTERCEPT JAPS.

Squadron May Find Difficulty in Stopping Coal Vessels.

Port Arthur, Jan. 8.—(via Chefoo)—Several warships left at midnight to reinforce the cruisers sent out for the purpose of intercepting the Japanese squadron of four ironclads which, it is said, is now approaching Corea to stop six Japanese coal laden ships from Japan destined for Port Arthur and to cancel their charter to a Russian firm.

There is an abnormal number of government troops coming in both directions on the railway. Lake Baikal is frozen.

Port Arthur defenses are complete and authorities are confident.

PUBLIC DEMANDS WAR.

Rank and File of Japan Wish That Negotiations Be Dropped.

Tokio, Jan. 8.—The attitude of Japan toward the response of Russia is still undefined. Premier Katsura, the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of war, the minister of finance and the minister of naval affairs held a council yesterday afternoon. It was decided that a cabinet conference with the older statesmen would be held before deciding on the course of procedure.

It is manifest that Russia will make concessions in one direction and impose new conditions in another. The Japanese nation is deeply stirred. Public sentiment favors abandonment of negotiations, believing them to be useless, and urges a resort to arms.

MARCHED OVERLAND.

Japanese Railroad. Refuses Russians Transportation to Seoul.

Washington, Jan. 7.—United States Minister Allen, at Seoul, Corea, has today's date, that the Russian marines who were landed at Chemulpo and who were refused transportation over the Japanese railway, have reached the capital, marching overland.

Europe Looks For Peace.

London, Jan. 7.—The expected meeting of the British cabinet on Saturday has been postponed. This is interpreted in business circles to an amelioration in the far eastern crisis, coupled with the better reports from Paris

through the Exchange Telegraph Co., saying that the French foreign office had received advices favorable to a peaceful settlement. This led to an improvement on the stock exchange, consuls going up 1/2 and Japanese and other securities following suit.

Can Not Be Averted.

Peking, Jan. 7.—Gen. Yuan Shih, commander in chief of the Chinese army and navy sent his foreign adviser Chas. Denby, Jr., to Peking, to investigate the report as to the probability of war. Denby has reported according to the best opinions obtainable, based on diplomatic information, that war cannot be averted.

War Is Inevitable.

San Francisco, Jan. 7.—Prominent insurance companies have received cablegrams stating that war is inevitable and in consequence the war risks on immediate sailings have been advanced to four per cent and on sailings during the latter part of this month to 10 per cent.

Russia Makes New Demands.

London, Jan. 8.—The Daily Mail's Tokio correspondent learns that Russia has made new demands which will be impossible for Japan to entertain. The correspondent says all the powers are landing troops at Corea and that British blue jackets at Chemulpo expected to go to Seoul immediately.

Wants to Release Fleet.

Paris, Jan. 7.—A dispatch to the Patrie from Constantinople says that Russia is negotiating with Turkey to permit her Black sea fleet, said to consist of 27 ships, to pass through the straits of the Dardanelles.

To Strengthen British Fleet.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 7.—It is rumored at Esquimalt that the flagship Grafton, second-class cruiser, has been ordered to proceed to the China station to strengthen the British fleet in the far east.

Was Presented Yesterday.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 7.—The war minister has received a dispatch from Tokio saying that Baron de Rosen, the Russian minister, presented Russia's reply to the Japanese cabinet yesterday.

RUTH CLEVELAND IS DEAD.

Daughter of Ex-President Passes Suddenly Away.

Princeton, N. J., Jan. 7.—Ruth Cleveland, the eldest child of ex-President Cleveland, died at the Cleveland home today very unexpectedly, the immediate cause of death being a weakening of the heart action during a mild attack of diphtheria.

Dr. Wickoff, the attending physician, said that Miss Cleveland had been ill with a mild form of diphtheria for four days and that the heart affection was not anticipated. She was 15 years old.

The Cleveland household is grief-stricken over the death, and many messages of condolence are being received. The funeral will be held tomorrow.

IN INTEREST OF COLOMBIA.

Southern Senators Congratulate Gorman and Associates.

Bogota, Sunday.—Senators Caro, Velez, Quintero, Marroquin and 15 other senators have addressed the following dispatch to United States Senator Gorman:

"The undersigned Colombian senators heartily congratulate you and those who support you in defending the ideas of justice and respect for the rights proclaimed by General Washington and sustained by all your great statesmen.

"The secession of Panama did not take place as a result of general impulse, but through the treacherous plan of bribing the public forces, and it simply subsists by the intervention of President Roosevelt, who, occupying adjacent seas with a powerful navy, impedes Colombia access to the integral part of its territory."

Jury Being Selected.

San Francisco, Jan. 7.—The task of impaneling a jury to try Mrs. Martha Bowers, charged with the murder of her husband, Martin L. Bowers, was commenced in Judge Cook's court today. When the court adjourned nine jurors had been accepted and as the venire was exhausted a new venire was ordered and the case will be continued Monday morning.

DOZEN PERSONS SUBMIT EVIDENCE BEFORE JURY IN FIRE INVESTIGATION

Coroner's Inquest Opens Behind Closed Doors, Not Even Members of City Council Being Admitted.

Representative of Company Furnishing Asbestos Curtain Goes to Show That Upon Occasions Such a Curtain May Lose Necessary Resisting Strength to Fires—Comedian Sustains His Former Testimony.

Chicago, Jan. 7.—A dozen persons today testified before the coroner's jury inquest over the victims of the Iroquois theater fire on Wednesday, December 30.

No person was admitted to the council chamber without an order or a subpoena from Coroner Traeger. Even members of the city council who applied for admission were turned away, though the inquisition was held in the chamber of the city council.

Among the witnesses were Eddie Foy comedian of the "Mr. Bluebeard" company and George W. Stetson, representative of the company which manufactured the asbestos curtain. The evidence of Foy did not differ greatly from the statements which have been published heretofore concerning his action on the day of the fire.

Mr. Stetson and Coroner Traeger became involved in a long discussion as to the merits of asbestos curtains, during which Mr. Stetson admitted that asbestos curtains, if subjected to an extremely high heat, would lose their life and crumble. Building Commissioner Williams today rescinded the order closing the Coliseum, declaring it safe from fire. Fifteen additional halls were ordered closed.

WANTS A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

Salvation Army Man Confesses to Free Penitentiary Prisoner.

St. Louis, Jan. 7.—William Wilson, a member of the Salvation Army, surrendered to the police confessing to having set fire to the Occidental hotel at Forsythe, Mont., July, 1901, in which one man was killed and 20 injured. Wilson stated that another man was in the penitentiary for the deed and to clear his own conscience, Wilson

surrendered to the police. He said he did not fire the hotel intentionally but accidentally dropped a match in the hallway and the flames bursting forth he ran away instead of raising an alarm. Wilson is held pending an investigation.

FALSE ALARM SAVES PRISONER.

Mob Storms Jail Bent Upon Lynching Alleged Murderer.

Salt Lake, Jan. 7.—One hundred street car men, infuriated by the murder of Motorman Gleason, and Conductor Brighton, by a highwayman Tuesday morning, made an ineffectual attempt tonight to storm the city jail and lynch John Shockleigh, the man arrested during the afternoon on the information of his room mate, Bert Brotherton, who told the police that Shockleigh had confessed to the murder. Shockleigh denied all knowledge of the crime, but was unable to give a satisfactory explanation of his whereabouts.

A false fire alarm was turned in which diverted the attention of the crowd. During its absence Shockleigh was removed to the penitentiary.

Little Danger of War.

Washington, Jan. 7.—Arthur Beaupre, United States minister to Bogota, arrived in Washington today and called on Secretary Hay. Beaupre said in his opinion there was little danger of war on the isthmus. The minister does not attempt to minimize the high feeling that prevails in Colombia regarding isthmian affairs, but he believes the people of the republic are beginning to realize the situation and know what war would mean.

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