The Morning Astorian.

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EFFORTS OF JAPAN ARE DIRECTED TOWARD PEACE IN AFFAIRS IN THE ORIENT

Statement Given Out by Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg Tends to Put Quietus on Wild Rumors.

The Report That Government Had Sent Troops to Corea Is Without Foundation, According to Minister---Negotiations Again Taken Up and It Is Authoritively Stated Good Progress Is Already Being Shown.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 8.—M. Kurino, the Japanese minister, tonight authorized the Associated Press to say that the Japanese government was still doing everything in its power in the interest of peace and that the reports about sending trops to Corea were without foundation. Minister Kurino said he thought that negotiations had made some progress.

MAY APPEAL TO UNITED STATES

Corea Has Great Faith in America as Peace Maker.

Paris, Jan. 8.—Min Yueng Tchan, the Corean minister, said to the Associated Press today that he would not be surprised should Corea appeal to the United States for good offices in her behalf in case of invasion of Corean territory by one or other of the powers. Under the treaty between the United States and Corea this is permissable. Moreover, continued the minister, the people of Corea regard the United States in a most friendly way, because of its faithful policy and owing to the fact that the first country to sign a treaty with the "hermit kingdom" was the United States.

"Russia does not want war," added the minister, "and the Japanese government does not want war, but the Japanese people, I fear, will force a conflict."

REGARDED AS FOOLISH.

Russia's Press Laughs at Conduct of Japan.

New York, Jan. 8.—Nearly all persons here take the view that Japan's conduct toward Russia is that of a naughty child, cables the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Herald. She is being constantly told in the press not to be so foolish, not to waste money in the impossible task of fighting Russia, and so on. In a long article upon the alleged folly of Japan's pretensions, the Gazette says:

"What can she do to hurt Russia? She must take one of her strong fortresses, say Port Arthur; but she would require ten times more military force than she could ever bring to bear, to accomplish such a feat.

"We think, however, England and America will intervene to prevent Japan from taking any such mad step as that of making war upon us."

WAR MAY BE EVADED.

The French Government Believes So Gives Reasons.

Paris, Jan. 8.—The Associated Press learns that in the opinion of the French government there is a chance of avoiding a conflict between Russia and Japan as a result of a concession made by Russia in her latest note. The dispatches which have come to Paris from all quarters today have been most pessimistic and the hopefulness of the government is in strong contrast with them.

It appears that Russia's concession relates to the recognition of the preponderance of the interests of Japan in Corea. This has been the crux of the question between the two powers up to the present moment. Just how far the concession goes it is impossible to learn, but the effect in Tokio, according to information obtained has been more satisfactory than the press dispatches show, and it is believed the negotiations will continue.

The French government denies the sensational reports to the effect that it has ordered a division of warships and troops to China. Only one French ship is under instructions to proceed to the far east. Recognising the situation as dangerous, there is talk in official and diplomatic circles of the advisability of separate or joint mediation by the powers who desire peace in the far east.

It is said this could properly be done in accordance with The Hague convention without giving offense to either Russia or Japan.

JAPAN'S GOOD INFANTRY.

Interesting Account of Men Who Defend Country.

London, Jan. 8.—Bennet Burleigh, the special correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, gives interesting details in his cablegram from Tokio. He says there is a total force of 10,000 men and 96 guns included in the imperial guards and the first division, and he adds:

"The infantry greatly impressed me with its solid, vigorous and trenchant appearance. The artillery is excellent but the cavalry horses are poor, being merely ponies."

Referring to the general situation Mr. Burleigh says:

"You may discredit reports that Japan intends to present an ultimatum. The Chinese government declares it will certainly help Japan."

St. Petersburg, Jan. 8.—An imperial rescript to the governor-general of Finland directs the governor to dismiss all Finns employed in the state or municipal government service who have not fulfilled their military service in the Finnish Rifle Battalion during 1903, and not to issue foreign passport to them for five years. When granting loans or assistance from state funds to communes or individuals, or dealing with petitions for the remission of fines, the governor is ordered to take into consideration the extent of the opposition to levying recruits offered by the applicants.

Students of the higher schools who have not performed military service are to be expelled for periods not exceeding a year. The governor is also empowered to release Finns who have joined the colors and to replace them by evaders of military service, and he is directed to issue a proclamation announcing that all Finns not presenting themselves for service in 1904 will be drafted into regiments outside of Finland.

Emperor Inspects Guards.

Tokio, Jan. 8.—The emperor inspected and reviewed the imperial guards constituting the first division of the army, together with some independent cavalry regiments and brigades of artillery, numbering in all 26,000 men on the Aoyama field today. It is expected that these troops will constitute the third contingent in the event of war being declared. The occasion was regarded as a possible leave taking between the emperor and his soldiers, the scene being most impressive. Enormous crowds lined the route from the palace and surrounded the grounds. The emperor rode to the Aoyama field in the state coach, but was on horseback when inspecting and reviewing the troops. His staff included all the foreign attaches.

Rumor is Disregarded.

London, Jan. 9.—The Kobe correspondent of the Daily Express sends a scare rumor to the effect that a collision between the Russian and Japanese fleets has taken place near the island of Taushima in the strait of Corea. This rumor is not mentioned in any other source, and, in view of the fact that the government is exercising a censorship over all news concerning naval matters, it may safely be disregarded.

Peace Very Probable.

Tokio, Jan. 8.—The Japanese government has practically agreed to continue negotiations. It is dissatisfied with Russia's latest terms but does not feel justified in issuing an ultimatum, or of breaking off negotiations and will make another effort to secure their modification before resorting to force.

It is anticipated the discussion will continue a few weeks, during which interim, peace may be restored.

Army Is Excited.

New York, Jan. 8.—The army is excited, says a Herald dispatch from Port Arthur. However, the higher officers are remarkably calm, believing that the Japanese are only demonstrating.

Ship Returns Disabled.

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—The British ship Eurasia, after a month at sea on her way to England, is coming back to port disabled.

HILL DOES NOT FANCY THE CANAL

Regards the Waterway Only as a Good Thing for a Man With an Acute Appetite for Bananas.

Expresses the Belief It Will Not Much Help the People of the North.

HOWARD ELLIOTT WELCOMED

New President of Northern Pacific Tendered Great Ovation By Commercial Interests of St Paul and Minneapolis.

St. Paul, Jan. 8.—Howard Elliott, president of the Northern Pacific railyay, was tendered a reception in th parlors of the Comercial Club tonight, thus marking his formal entry into the business life of St. Paul. About 200 business men were present and a large delegation from the Minneapolis Commercial Club joined in the welcome.

For half an hour Mr. Elliott and President Smith, of the club, were kept busy shaking hands, and later Mr. Eliott was the central object of a number of speeches of welcome from prominent business men. To all of these he responded in an earnest manner by a carefully prepared address. Probably the most important address was that of President J. J. Hill, of the Great Northern. Restraint of trade was the keynote of Mr. Hill's talk.

"A great many people," said he "think that the business of a railroad is to restrain trade. I want to assure you that the railroad that restrains trade will go broke. A railroad, to be sucessful, must make it possible for the people to develop the natural resources of the country with profit or that railroad will be wiped off the face of the arth. If a man does not prosper he can move, but the railroad is there and must stay."

Mr. Hill referred to the Panama canal as a good thing for a man who had an appetite for bananas. He would like to see it built, and it might be of some good, but it would not help the people of the north much, even though they did pay part of the expense of building it.

Archbishop Ireland also extended a welcome to Mr. Elliott.

ENGINEERS LAID OFF.

Crews of Eight Trains Fail to Measure up to Test.

Chicago, Jan. 8.—Without noticing that the light in the semaphore above a suburban station of a railroad entering Chicago was not burning, eight train crews have passed the danger signal while a high official secretly marked down the number of the trains. Eight conductors, eight firemen and eight engineers are now on an enforced vacation of 60 days. The remarkable test was suggested by the wreck that occurred on the Pere Marquette rail- December 26 and by a desire of the company to throw the utmost safety precautions about its patrons.

According to the rules of the company a light that is not burning has the same significance that a red light, or danger signal would have.

FIGHT FOR POST

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—The contest for the position of naval officer, port of San Francisco, is engaging the attention of the California congressional delegation. Senator Perkins has recommended William C. Ralston for the office and Senator Bard has declared in favor of William M. Cutter.

The activity of the aspirants and the interest displayed by the delegation do not disturb the equanimity of Colonel John P. Irish. Each of the aspiring republicans entertains the hope that Colonel Irish will be tempted to resign by the offer of a very lucrative salary in another field of enterprise. It is reported that the colonel has advised both Senators Cutter and Ralston to place their respective indorsements on file. According to the gossip in the political camps the advice has been accepted. Men eminent in financial and mercantile circles testify to the worth and capability of Senator Ralston. Others equally prominent in the business world indorse Senator Cutter as a man of high character and exceptional fitness. It is said that names of leading republicans in every county of the state may be found on the petitions.

The incident comes to light that Senator Ralston was recommended to the president before former Congressman Woods withdrew from the contest. Some of the politicans are circulating the report that one of the members of our delegation in congress openly supported one aspirant while he secretly espoused the cause of another. Other politicians insist that there was nothing more than a trivial mistake.

It is claimed that the entire delegation was solid for Woods and that the indorsement of another was filed with the understanding that it was not to be considered as long as Woods was in the field.

An old timer in the ranks of the party made this comment on the topic at the Union League Club yesterday:

"This story that a member of our delegation was supporting one candidate while holding out the glad hand of promise to another ought not to be accepted as a fact. Such political tactics may be countenanced by raw easterners, but our congressmen fight in the open. It is all right for a member of congress to send to the president all the recommendations he receives. The responsibility is thus passed up to the appointing power, where it belongs.

"Perhaps it was surmised that Woods was not acceptable to the president and another name was sent in for the convenience of the executive."

TO ERADICATE COTTON PEST.

Sum For Purpose to Be Diverter From Appropriation.

Washington, Jan. 8.—The house today made available the sum of $250,000 to be used to meet the emergency caused by the ravage of the cotton boll weevil and other insects affecting cotton. The measure was adopted without division. The sum is to be diverted from $500,000 appropriated last year to eradicate the foot and mouth disease among cattle.

Sir Thomas Lipton Sells.

Chicago, Jan. 8.—Sir Thomas Lipton has severed another of the bonds which linked him with Chicago. His membership on the board of trade has been sold at $3000. His packing plant was disposed of several months ago to the National Packing Company.

POSTOFFICE FRAUDS ARE THE THEME

Democratic Side Insists That Senate Should Take Up Investigation of the Alleged Scandals.

Republicans Contend That Postoffice Department Had Thoroughly Looked It Up.

PERRY S. HEATH IS ASSAILED

Stand Of Majority is That Opposition Presses Their Point For Partisan Purposes—No Attempt, says Platt to Cover up Wrong.

Washington, Jan. 8.—Alleged postoffice frauds were under discussion in the senate today, the subject being opened in a set speech by Simmons, of N. C., who insisted there should be an investigation by the senate. Platt, Conn., denied that the republicans were trying to cover up any wrongdoing and said they simply were contending that the postoffice committee should ascertain what was to be investigated. The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Burrows, Dolliver and Quarles on the republican side, and Carmack, Tillman and Teller on the democratic side.

The republican contention was that there had been a thorough investigation by the postoffice department and the senate investigation was now being pressed by democrats for partisan purposes. The democrats insisted they wanted facts and charged that the republicans were trying to smother them. Perry S. Heath was bitterly assailed and former Postmaster General Smith was criticised by a democratic senator. The senate adjourned until Monday.

Hanna to Come Out.

Kansas City, Jan. 8.—The Star yesterday printed a story to the effect that Senator Mark A. Hanna will announce his candidacy for the presidency on Tuesday next, and asserting that this information was imparted yesterday to Richard C. Kerens, of St. Louis, National committeeman for Missouri, in a long distance telephone conversation.

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