WORLD IS WATCHING JAPANESE SITUATION

State Department Proceeds With Utmost Caution, Giving Out Few if Any Details of Important Diplomatic Correspondence.

By John E. Lathrop.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

Washington, Jan. 13.—The world is watching with intense interest the progress of negotiations between this country and Japan, and to a less degree of the Canadian-Japanese negotiations. While the United States and Japan have been constantly proclaiming officially their warm friendship for each other, there has been virtually no actual progress toward a happy diplomatic solution of the immigration question, which is practically the only one at issue. This country has long taken an altruistic stand in diplomatic matters. It has felt that it was too big to take advantages which other countries have seemed to consider their right even though they might not be in accordance with the Golden Rule. Especially was this noticeable in the settlement of the claims growing out of the Boxer outbreak in China, when the general disposition seemed to be to strip China as clean as possible. There was even talk of dismembering the empire and dividing the country up among the various powers.

Treatment of Spain.

Again the United States showed a spirit of magnanimity in treating with Spain when that country was vanquished and helpless. And now, when it could take summary action with Japan as once it did with China when the nation became convinced that unrestricted immigration of Mongolians was a bad thing economically, sociologically and every other way, it prefers to gain an honorable solution of the problem at issue in such a way that Japan shall feel entirely satisfied and the tender sensibilities of the people of that country shall not be wounded. Even if Japan should consider that it had triumphed in a diplomatic way over the United States, this country would probably be able to look with indulgence on the self-glorification of that nation.

What the outcome of the negotiations in progress will be is something that at the present writing no man can predict. This country has been persistently, quietly, unremittingly working for more than a year past, to accomplish in a friendly and satisfactory way, the exclusion of Japanese laborers. The officials intrusted with these negotiations have proved to be marvels of patience and discretion. They have kept to their task in the face of discouragements which would stop most people. Every proposal advanced by this country, some of them so liberal that no doubt the public would not approve did it know of them, was coldly rejected, and last summer Japan even went so far as to say that it would not be advisable at that time on account of the sentiment prevailing in the mikado's realm to pursue the negotiations further.

Japan Takes Action.

All the time Japanese were swarming across the borders of the United States, most of them surreptitiously and illegally, while the number "legally" entering as ostensible members of the exempt callings grew so fast as to call forth comment all over the country. At length Japan found a way to diminish the stream of immigrants supposed to represent only exempt classes, but whether or not the march of the army of Japanese across the Mexican and Canadian boundaries has been stopped or even retarded is not known because the department of commerce and labor refuses to give out any information on that point. For that matter, it is significantly silent on the entire subject of Japanese immigration.

Since the negotiations with Japan opened, two important events have occurred. One was the sending of the battleship fleet on a voyage to San Francisco. The other was an anti-Japanese riot in Vancouver, followed by other race riots. Almost coincident with these events came a more pacific attitude on the part of Japan and her people. The yellow press of the empire ceased its abuse of the United States and the utterances of Count Okuma, who seems to be the Herr Most of Japan, became less inflammatory. Japan announced that it was glad to see the Atlantic fleet head for Pacific waters and that it would like to see it call at Japanese ports, that it would limit the emigration of its people to America, and that it entertained feelings of the most distinguished consideration for the United States. It gave assurances also that it could and would meet the emigration question in a manner satisfactory to this country and honorable to itself, but that it would not consent to any legislation on the subject by this country, insisting that it would feel obliged to consider such action unfriendly.

Negotiations Secret.

What the state department has had to say to Japan can not be known, of course, because no one in authority will tell about the details of the negotiations. Some day they may be published and in that event they should make interesting reading. This much can be said and if it be contradicted, the denials must be taken in a diplomatic sense: Japan has preserved an unimpassioned, unresponsive, sphinxlike mein throughout the entire negotiations and this country is practically no nearer the solution of the question than it was a year ago. It is probable, as this paper hinted last spring, that Japan believes it can drive a very hard bargain with the United States and profit largely in securing trade concessions. The story has been printed, possibly with the idea of feeling out public sentiment on that subject, that the United States is willing to grant Japan free trade with the Philippines as a return for exclusion of laborers. Why this country should do that when it has the most absolute right to govern the admission of foreigners within its boundaries, a right sanctioned and admitted in the treaty in force with Japan, is beyond the comprehension of ordinary persons. This government is also aware that Japan has spies in all our possessions as well as in the United States, and that they are making daily reports in great detail. What this means cannot be told. It may mean nothing. But Japan has some game she is playing and only time will reveal it.

In some respects the situation recalls that existing between Russia and Japan prior to the outbreak of the war which brought Japan to the front as a power to be reckoned with by all the rest of the world. It will be remembered that for a long time negotiations were in progress between Russia and Japan. Foreign Minister Hayashi, who still holds that portfolio, received the Russian ambassador as often as he called in an office where the caller had to sit facing the light, while the minister sat with his face in the shadow. The caller, moreover, had to sit on a long, uncomfortable bench with no back, unles he wanted to lean back in an uncomfortable position. He poured his message into the ears of the silent, mystical man in front of him, and with the light almost blinding him he was unable to study the countenance of the minister of foreign affairs, and, had he been able to do so, it is not probable that he would have read there anything to enlighten him.

The only comment he got when he had finished was, "The matter will be carefully considered." Russian diplomacy, polished, deep, subtle as it was, made no headway against this unfathomable, impenetrable reticence. When finally the answer was given, it was not at Tokio, but at Port Arthur, that it was delivered. Minister O'Brien is said to be experiencing some of the exasperating features of Japanese diplomacy which the Russian ambassador met with. He has recently sent home a 5,000-word dispatch telling of his negotiations.

Mysterious Dispatch.

The state department has not revealed just what the dispatch contains, but it states that there is excellent hope that the two countries will reach an agreement soon. But there is no agreement yet. Japan is playing for certain stakes. What they are only the state department knows, if, indeed, it does know. Whether Japan will win or whether the contest will end in a draw not even the state department can tell. Possibly the answer of this government can be read in the strengthening of the Pacific coast defenses, in the shipment of great stores of ammunition to the Philippines, in the hastening of the fleet to the Pacific coast. Whatever happens, and it is earnestly hoped that it may be peace with honor, the administration wishes to be ready for it. Meanwhile the negotiations go on for peace, and congress is considering measures which may or may not insure against war.

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SOME GRANGERS HAE THEIR DOOTS

Fossilized Initiative Acts Might Have Drackbacks Even if Legal.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Salem, Jan. 13.—There is opposition among members of the grange to signing the initiative petitions for the amendment to the constitution, which is sought to be proposed for adoption, that prohibits the legislature from amending or repealing any act adopted by the people on an initiative petition. Some say there is no such restriction possible, as the measure attempts to enact, and others declare it would be unwise, as an appeal to the supreme court might result in declaring the whole system of direct legislation contrary to the provision of the federal constitution, which guarantees to each state a republican form of government.

The more conservative grangers are afraid it is going too far, and say there might be times when it would be desirable to have a law enacted by the people amended without calling a special election for that purpose. It is also pointed out that there might be emergencies when it would be even desirable to get quick action through the legislature, and this amendment would make that impossible.

BALLASTING TRACK OF OREGON ELECTRIC

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Salem, Jan. 13.—The ballasting of the track of the Oregon Electric line between this city and Portland was begun today, when 30 ballast cars were received here. A gravel pit has been opened just north of the city and a steam shovel installed. The work will be rushed. Eighteen inches of heavy gravel is to be put on the tracks and the roadbed is to be made heavier than the Southern Pacific roadbed on the main line. This work will take at least 60 days, with a large force of men under the direction of Superintendent Coolidge. The operation of through cars is to begin in a few days, or as soon as the tracks can be constructed at each terminus of the line, as the heavy Pullman cars that are to be operated have to be turned around at each end of the run.

ROBBERS BLOW UP SAFE AT RENO

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Reno, Nev., Jan. 13.—While five scantily clad residents of the neighborhood, frightened from their beds by a preliminary explosion looked on in fear, robbers early yesterday morning worked the office of the Nevada Engineering Works and departed with booty amounting to $1,000. William Koenig, his daughters, Tachello and Frances, and Mr. and Mrs. John McCarthy watched the work of the thugs, but when they recovered from their scare a police call was futile.

Farmers, mechanics, railroaders, laborers rely on Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil. Takes the sting out of cuts, burns or bruises at once. Pain cannot stay where it is used.

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The heart may be weak just the same as the eyes, stomach or other organs. It often happens that a person is born with a weak heart. Then again disease, fevers, over-exertion, anxiety, nervousness, rheumatism, etc. weaken the heart. The result is shortness of breath, palpitation, pain in the heart, or in some of the nerves of the chest or abdomen. The heart should be strengthened with a tonic, and for this nothing equals Dr. Miles' Heart Cure.

"I had LaGrippe last fall as I thought in a mild form. I was weak, tired feeling, and short of breath; could hardly go about, and a good deal of the time sort of an asthmatic breathing and extremely nervous. I began taking Dr. Miles' Heart Cure and Nervine and now I feel so much better in every way. I am so thankful that I began taking this medicine, and shall not hesitate to tell others how much good it has done me."

MRS. F. J. NORTON, Freeville, New York.

Your druggist sells Dr. Miles' Heart Cure, and we authorize him to return price of first bottle (only) if it fails to benefit you.

Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind

LA FOLLETTE OUT FOR NOMINATION

Senator Pleased That Story Is Making His Campaign in Oregon.

(Washington Bureau of The Journal.)

Washington, Jan 13.—Senator La Follette, when shown the dispatch in The Journal from Madison, Wisconsin, saying that James O. Story had assumed leadership of the La Follette campaign in the far west said:

"I know that Mr. Story, who is an old friend of mine, is in close touch with my friends at Madison, and that he will do anything that lies in his power to advance my interests. He is a live man, and competent to do anything he undertakes within the reasonable limits of any man's possible accomplishments."

Senator La Follette would not further discuss his candidacy. It is known, however, that his supporters are active in many states. Strong fights are put up in Kansas and several middle west states, and it may be that in Oregon and Washington and other Pacific states the same will be done.

The La Follette boomers have known all along that their chief has possessed a well diffused support throughout the west and south, with prospects in the northwest. A close friend of Senator La Follette, who, however, insists that he is in no sense speaking authoritatively, but merely from his knowledge of the situation, said:

"We regard the prospects good for control in Nebraska, with 16 delegates, Minnesota with 22, Oklahoma with 14, and of course will have Wisconsin solid with 26, we regard the prospects by no means discouraging in Oregon with 8, and Washington with 10 delegates. And we look for votes in Iowa, which has 26 delegates, a liberal division of votes in Kansas, which has 20 delegates, perhaps a full delegation from North Dakota 8, and South Dakota 8, with scattering delegates all over the west and some in New England, and even in New York."

over the west and some in New England, and even in New York."

This assembles a debatable territory 158 votes, with some additional in the northwest Atlantic region.

Senator La Follette has made a touring campaign much like that which W. J. Bryan has made, and politicians do not disguise their knowledge that he has positive strength in many quarters. While his opponents—and they include most of the machine men everywhere—do not concede that he has a chance for the nomination, they admit that he will be a very powerful factor in the 1908 convention.

His friends regard his prospect as flattering. They cite that he would hold the radical Republicans, and cut into the Democratic following materially. From this time on the La Follette campaign will assume an organized aspect, and some spirited fights may be looked for, which may include Oregon and Washington, in direct attempts to bring La Follette delegates to the Chicago convention.

The recent reports of contemplated invasion of Wisconsin by the Taft leaders are laughed at here. It is commonly regarded as mere campaign matter to break down the La Follette boom, as Foraker is striving to break down the Taft boom in Ohio, by presenting an apparently divided state. But Ohio is looked on here as just as certainly for Taft as Wisconsin is certain for La Follette, neither being in any sense really debatable ground. The opposition to La Follette in Wisconsin is believed to be nothing more than an echo of the old Spooner-La Follette fight, with ex-Senator Spooner now a resident of New York City and out of the fighting, and La Follette undisputably in control in his home state.

The 158 debatable delegates from the La Follette viewpoint bring his claimed potential strength to within 26 of the strength now claimed by the statisticians for Hughes, and these latter figures are by no means antagonistic to the New York governor.

I. O. O. F. FESTIVAL AT SILVERTON

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Salem, Jan. 13.—The Odd Fellows' excursion to Silverton Saturday night was a great success, over 100 attending from this city and nearly as many more from towns on the line, Brooks, Gervais and Woodburn. Degree work was put on by Salem and Silverton teams and a banquet was served by the ladies at the Christian church at which covers were laid for 200 and all plates taken. John Q. Wilson of this city was the installing member of Silverton lodge No. 21, September 5, 1868, and another visitor, L. B. Geer of Corvallis, was the only living charter member present.

A. B. Coe of Evenson, Dead.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Astoria, Or., Jan. 13.—A. B. Coe, a well-known pioneer of this county, is dead at his home at Svensen. He was 65 years old and came to Oregon in 1873. He had resided at Svensen for 15 years. He leaves a son, A. E. Coe, of this city, and two daughters, Mrs. N. J. Knapp of Knappa and Miss Birdie Coe of Gobel.

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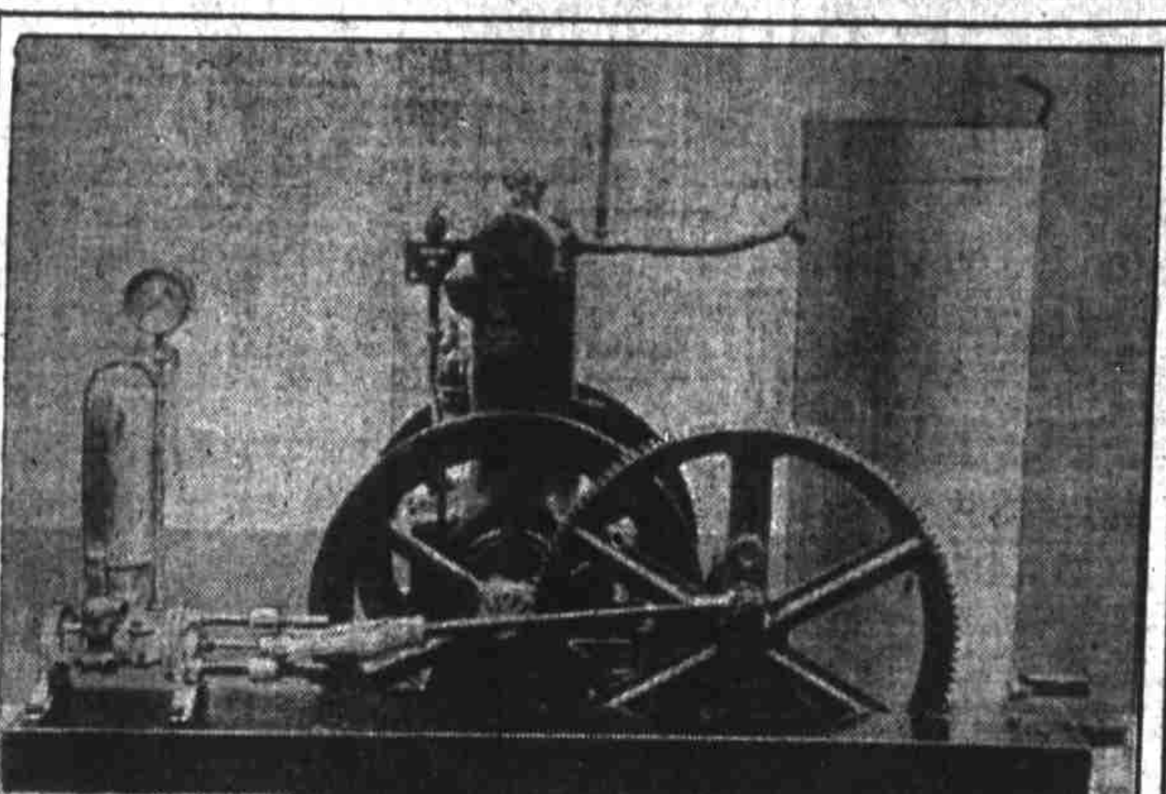

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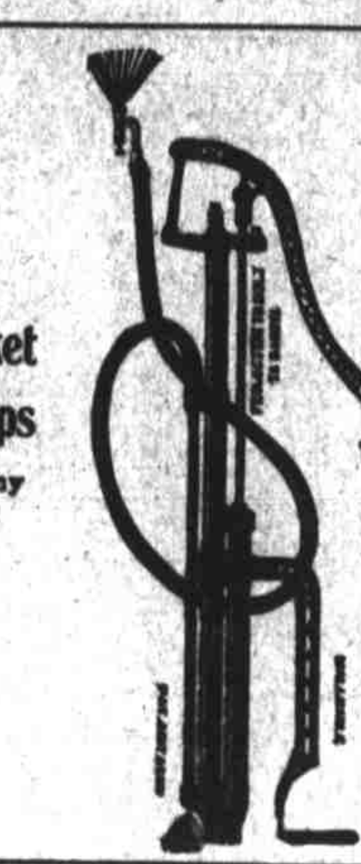

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KAISER'S HEALTH FAILS RAPIDLY

Contemplates Sea Voyage to Give Him Rest and Strength.

(United Press Leased Wire.)

By Malcolm Clark.

Berlin, Jan. 13.—It is now practically admitted by the government that it is necessary for the kaiser to leave Berlin in search of health and strength, although it is said nothing more serious than the necessity of taking a complete rest ails him.

On February 27 the imperial yacht Hohenzollern will leave Kiel and start for the Mediterranean, but it has not yet been decided whether the kaiser and the imperial family will be on board or whether they will be picked up in some southern port. At any rate they will spend about three weeks cruising in the Mediterranean and toward the end of March they will take up their residence in the beautiful villa Achilleon on the Island of Corfu which will be ready to receive them.

How long the kaiser will stay abroad no one knows, but he will not be allowed to take any active part in government affairs during his absence as he did when he was at Highcliffe castle.

Edison's cement cottages may be built on a large scale in the suburbs of Berlin and other large German cities if they prove practical and cheap.

Emperor William, who has always been opposed to the housing of workingmen's families in large tenements, came back from England full of enthusiasm at the many workingmen's cottages he had seen there, and to the burgomaster of Munich, who had an audience with him, he said he did not see why the English system could not be transplanted in Germany.

The burgomaster saw a chance to win the kaiser's favor, and got several Munich millionaires to start a company, whose object shall be to build workingmen's cottages by the thousands near all German industrial centers.

The czar, who had been assured that prisoners in Russia or Siberia were no longer subjected to any violence, is furious at the officials responsible for the facts brought to light in a letter from a political prisoner which has just been printed in a St. Petersburg paper. The writer says:

"We landed from our barge at 6 in the evening and passed our first night in the open on the shores of the Amur. We were ordered by the escort not to talk, not to lie down to sleep, not to stir. No supper must be cooked. It rained in torrents, and we were all speedily wet through. When at last morning came, our fetters were knocked off and we set off for the "camp," 32 versts distant, dragging after us the bags containing our luggage, as no carts were provided for baggage transport. The first verst was covered without incident, but as soon as the village was out of sight the escort got to work with the butt ends of their rifles, urging the party on with blows and curses.

"One single day's rest was then allowed us, but on the following day we were aroused at 4 a. m. and driven to work. It was raining fast, and for a whole verst our way lay across submerged land. Every day for a fortnight we had to cross this same flooded ground, stripped to the skin, and carrying our shovels on our shoulders. This was our life of torment. Up every morning at 4, working until 5 or 6 in the evening and returning then utterly worn out for rollcall, prayers and sleep.

"The spot where we are working is about 40 miles from the camp. We have thus to walk some 20 miles daily, besides performing our hard task. The work is hard, but hardest of all is the beating. You are beaten on the way to work, at work, and on the way home—beaten always and everywhere.

"A prisoner named Abdicheff, aged 43, had two ribs broken by a cossack's rifle. A state prisoner named Cutkin, refusing to give up his pillow to the escort, had two ribs broken. Another state prisoner who complained of feeling ill was kicked out of his tent by the inspector, who afterward threw him to the ground and battered his face with his revolver."

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