

STORM KILLS FIFTY

Sweeps Over Four States, Wrecks Many Towns.

HISTORIC BATTLEFIELD VISITED

Fire Completes Work of Devastation in One Town—Millions Loss

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 16.—At least 37 persons were killed in the storm that swept portions of Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas and South Carolina yesterday. From reports received to night, the death list likely will reach 50. The property loss is estimated at \$1,000,000.

The devastation was widespread, whole towns being razed.

An unconfirmed report has 13 dead at Stantonville, Tenn.

The situation at Denmark, Tenn., was greatly aggravated by fire, which consumed the few dwellings and storehouses left standing after the storm.

At Russellville, Ala., it is reported that four were seriously injured.

Property damage of at least \$50,000 is estimated at Cartersville, Ga., while that at Atlanta will run between \$70,000 and \$100,000.

At Buford station the Louisville & Nashville depot and freight house were destroyed, and several other structures badly damaged.

Near Mulberry the dwelling and farmhouses on the plantation of Robert Morrow were demolished.

At Wartrace a negro settlement was leveled. Gibson, Stanton, Dyersburg and Mercer are other towns in Tennessee reporting minor damage.

The storm played havoc with plantation property, the wind tearing the frail frame buildings to pieces.

Atlanta Suffers Big Loss.
Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 16.—Unroofed houses and leveled trees and shrubbery mark the wake of the terrible wind and hail storm which swept over Atlanta and surrounding country early last night. So far as known no lives were lost. The property damage is variously estimated at from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

At the height of the storm street car traffic was stopped throughout the city, and live wires broken by the hail were stretched across many streets, rendering travel dangerous.

At Riverdale, 16 miles south of Atlanta, Mrs. Olga Grey was probably fatally injured, and her two children, and Mrs. Joseph Stubbs seriously hurt, by falling trees.

The most serious damage done the National cemetery was the wrecking of the Iowa state monument, which was blown from its pedestal. The superintendent's quarters were destroyed.

VIVIANO CHILDREN FOUND
On Vacant Lot, Battered by Storm and Hungry.

Chicago, Oct. 16.—Tommaso Viviano, aged 5, and his sister, Gracie Viviano, aged 2 1/2 years, abducted from their home in St. Louis August 2 by the Black Hand society, and for whose discovery a reward of \$5000 was offered, were today found wandering the streets here, nearly starved and evidently recovering from some powerful drug.

As nearly as they can remember, they have had no food for two days and nights, and found themselves sleeping in a vacant lot, where they had evidently been placed after being drugged by their abductors.

For a week Chicago and St. Louis detectives have been raiding Italian colonies here. All loopholes for escape had been closed, and the chase had been so hot that it is believed the abductors drugged the children and turned them loose, fearing to kill them with the officers close to their heels. There is absolutely no trace of the abductors.

Lipton Wants Another Try.
London, Oct. 16.—Sir Thomas Lipton, who will sail for New York tomorrow, talked rather encouragingly today of his prospect for securing another race for the America's cup. "I am going to New York," he said, "in the hope of arranging another race. I realize that there are many difficulties in the way, but I am convinced that they can be overcome, because I know that the New York Yacht club is composed of good sportsmen, who, rather than have the race die a natural death, will do their utmost to meet me."

McCarren Is Dying.
New York, Oct. 16.—State Senator Patrick H. McCarren, Democratic leader of Brooklyn, was near death tonight in St. Catherine's hospital, in Brooklyn, his physicians hoping for the best, but prepared for the worst. This afternoon he took a turn for the worse, and he made his will. Later a Catholic priest administered the last rites. Despite his condition, Mr. McCarren insisted on talking about the campaign with a few who have been permitted to see him.

Union Depot for Seattle.
Seattle, Oct. 16.—The Oregon & Washington Railroad company, which is the Union Pacific corporation in this state, today let the contract for construction of its passenger station in this city, which will house Union Pacific and Milwaukee trains. The building, which will cost \$450,000, must be completed by January 1, 1911.

GREAT FAIR IS CLOSED.

Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Ends With Many Ceremonies.

Seattle, Wash., Oct. 18.—At midnight Saturday the 150,000 electric lights of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition were extinguished, closing the prosperous life of the world's fair of 1909, which, from every standpoint, was more successful than its most zealous friends had dared to hope.

The final moments of the fair were as dramatic as its beginning on June 1, when 40,000 people gathered at the natural amphitheater and waited for President Taft's signal. The last day had been devoted to saying good-bye. The sun shone bright, the flowers were never more beautiful, and the whole exposition looked as new and fresh as on the day of the opening.

The attendance was large, and, while the carnival spirit possessed the young, there was sorrow for the passing of the brilliant show.

The exercises of the closing hours began at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon with a display of Japanese fireworks. The exhibition band paraded from building to building, serenading each. The United States Government building was reached at 5:30 o'clock, its daily closing hour. A coronet sounded "taps" and the band played "Auld Lang Syne." The flag was hauled down, the life-saving crew on Lake Union fired 21 guns, and the buildings' doors were locked.

At night a great throng of people assembled at the natural amphitheater, beside Lake Washington, and listened to a classical concert by a band which played waltzes for the frivolous and Chopin's funeral march and other somber pieces for the sorrowing. At 11:30 o'clock the exposition officials and employees marched from the Administration building to the amphitheater to await the stroke of midnight.

On the stage, Josiah Collins, chairman of the committee on ceremonies, presided, and spoke briefly. President J. E. Chilberg made an address of thanks and farewell, and exactly at 12 o'clock opened a switch that darkened the whole fair. A single bugler blew "taps," and then in darkness, but for the stars overhead, the vast audience sang "Auld Lang Syne," accompanied by the band. The street lamps were lighted and the people went home.

On the Pay Streak the celebration was noisy, but orderly, and closed with fireworks, the last pieces being "Good Night," "Good-Bye."

FERRER WAS ONLY AN EDUCATOR
Sought Revolution Only in Education, Say His Friends.

London, Oct. 18.—"Francisco Ferrer was my personal friend," said W. Tchekosoff, Russian liberal and newspaper writer, today. "He was the modern Pestalozzi of Spain. He was ardent with enthusiasm, yet regular and a hard worker. This was the secret of his success in creating in Spain, especially in Barcelona and Catalonia, a great popular movement for free national day schools."

"I first met him and his beautiful young wife four years ago at Brussels, in the home of the great geographer, Elisee Reclus. Professor Ferrer then said:

"It is evident that I shall not be allowed to conduct our national schools in Spain, but here in Brussels or in Paris I shall continue my pedagogic work. Capable and devoted friends will take my place in Spain."

"Professor Ferrer hastened back to Spain, owing to illness there of a little niece."

MAN IS TOSSED BY RHINO.
Adventure of Roosevelt's Porter—Much Big Game Killed.

Nairobi, R. E. A., Oct. 17.—The Roosevelt party arrived here this afternoon from the north of Guaso Nyiro. All are well. A porter accompanying the party was tossed by a rhinoceros, but he is recovering.

Colonel Roosevelt has killed three more elephants completing the group intended for the Smithsonian Institution at Washington. He has also killed a bull elephant for the American Museum of Natural History, in New York.

Other game bagged included a rhinoceros with excellent horns, a buffalo, a giraffe, an eland, a zebra, an ostrich and an oryx.

Some skins have been preserved for the Washington museum. Kermit Roosevelt killed two elephants and an exceptionally large rhinoceros.

Mulai Hafid Goads Spain.
Paris, Oct. 18.—The Matin's correspondent at Oran, Algeria, telegraphs that Mulai Hafid, the sultan of Morocco, has sold the Rif mines, which were the cause of the trouble between Spain and the Moors on the Rif coast, to a German company. The correspondent explains that such a transaction was now perfectly feasible, as the Spanish held the mines by reason only of a payment of \$15,000 to Roghi, the pretender, who was recently put to death by the sultan. Consequences of the gravest character would appear inevitable.

Presidents Meet.
El Paso, Tex., Oct. 18.—The long-expected meeting between President Taft and President Diaz, of the Republic of Mexico, occurred here today. Outwardly it was attended with a display of soldiery, a flare of trumpets, a boom of cannon and a pomp of ceremony suggesting supreme authority, but in the actual handslap of the two executives and in the exchange of courteous words that passed from lip to lip there was simple but cordial informality.

Storm's Fatalities Grow.
Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 18.—The total death list of the destructive wind storm of Thursday was increased today by the belated reports to 46. Eleven more dead were discovered.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WHOLE WORLD TO TOAST.

Taft Writes Sentiment for Portola Festival Day.

San Francisco, Oct. 16.—The toast composed by President Taft, which will be drunk all over the world at the hour when the Portola festival opens here next Tuesday, has been received by the committee in charge of the celebration. The toast follows:

"Since Portola looked through the Golden Gate, San Francisco has twice become the imperial city of the Pacific, first by the energy of a pioneer race and steady growth into the Western metropolis; second, after complete destruction by the great flames and in the face of insurmountable obstacles by a regeneration so rapid and complete as to be the wonder of the world. May her future growth be as remarkable as her past, and may her civic righteousness and the individual happiness of her citizens keep pace with it."

Arrangements have been made for the drinking of this toast in all foreign countries where Americans gather, and by official and civic organizations throughout the United States. With the drinking of the toast the school children will arise and cheer the rebuilt city. Everywhere the drinking of the toast and the cheering of the children will be timed to agree with the hour of the opening of the festival, which begins at noon (Pacific time), October 19.

IMMIGRANTS ARE HELD UP.

Forced to Mortgage Homes to Purchase Tickets.

Washington, Oct. 14.—"These poor people on the other side are made by the steamship agents to mortgage their property in order to procure their tickets to come here. The matter has gone to such a length that it has been taken up by the state department with the Greek foreign department."

This statement was made by Assistant Commissioner-General of Immigration Larned in the course of the recent hearing of the representatives of newspaper writers who urged the conserving of immigrants' rights of appeal and the placing of men representing the various nationalities that supply the large number of immigrants on the special boards of inquiry.

Secretary McHarg asked questions to bring out details.

"Is it not well known," he asked, "that this business is stimulated by steamship companies and tickets sold at exorbitant rates?"

"The business doesn't exist among the Christian people. I have no knowledge of it," replied Louis N. Hammerling, of counsel for the complainants.

"But it was brought to your attention?"

"Yes."

"The immigrant finds that he has to pay 6 per cent on twice the amount of money it should have cost for tickets," interjected Mr. Larned.

"Is not the person with the prepaid ticket more or less likely to become a public charge?" continued Mr. McHarg.

"He is confronted with the debt which is usurious and a great burden. He is confronted with two or three times the normal cost of transportation, though if he had paid his fare out of his own pocket he could buy his own ticket at a normal cost."

Decide if Lara Is Anarchist.

Washington, Oct. 20.—The warrant for the arrest of Gutierrez de Lara, a Mexican attorney and author, in Los Angeles today, on the charge of uttering threats against the United States government and of being an undesirable citizen, was signed by Assistant Secretary McHarg, of the department of commerce and labor. The accused man will be given a trial to determine whether he is an anarchist. Under the law a person found guilty of such an offense as giving expression to threats against this government can be deported within three years after his arrival.

Revenues Take Big Jump.

Washington, Oct. 20.—The big boost in income from internal revenue continues, and reports indicate that internal revenue collections during the current fiscal year will exceed last year's by between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000. Since July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year, the collections have aggregated \$76,000,987, which is a jump of \$3,873,062 over the similar period of a year ago. So far this month the aggregate revenue has been \$12,577,384, which beats last year by \$913,799.

Car Shortage Not Found.

Washington, Oct. 20.—Interstate Commerce Commissioner Prouty, who was called away from the Pacific coast on important business, said while here today that although railroads of the Northwest had all the business they could handle, he had not on his recent trip observed any signs of car shortage in that part of the country.

Dominican Order Elects.

Washington, Oct. 14.—The Very Rev. Lawrence L. Kearney, O. P., of Zanesville, O., was yesterday for the fourth time elected provincial of the Dominican order in the United States. The Very Rev. T. P. O'Rourke, O. P., of this city, was elected coadjutor to the provincial.

DEATH THINS GRAND ARMY.

Net Decrease in Number of Pensioners, Sum Paid Increases.

Washington, Oct. 20.—Death's invasion of the fast-thinning ranks of the war veterans caused 45,312 names to be dropped from the pension rolls of the United States last year. Of this number, 32,831 were survivors of the Civil war. The total loss to the pension roll from all causes was 51,581.

In striking contrast to these figures, comprised in the annual report of Vespaasian Warner, commissioner of pensions, is the statement that the government paid out in pensions in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1909, \$161,930,703, which the commissioner declares is the largest amount ever disbursed for pensions in one year.

Summarized, the report shows these facts: Number of pensioners at the beginning of the year, 951,687; number of new pensioners added to the roll, 46,088; pensioners on roll at close of the year, 948,194, a net decrease of 5,493; survivors of the Civil war on the roll now number 193,961.

TIN SOLDIERS ARE PAST.

All Members of Militia Must Hereafter Be Real Fighters.

Washington, Oct. 19.—January 21 next will be a critical date in the history of the national guard, it was announced today, for thereafter no portion of the money appropriated by congress for the support of the militia can be paid to any organization that fails to conform to the standards of the regular army.

Next year, for the first time in its history, the militia, or so much of it as remains under the caption, "The National Guard," will be found a changed body, with the latest pattern of military rifle; clothed from head to foot in regular army gear; supplied with all regular equipment, and with ranks filled to the requirements of the law.

In Nevada, it is said, there is not a single company of the national guard able to establish a claim to a dollar of the large appropriations made by congress.

Horses Supplant Dogs.

Washington, Oct. 19.—Horses are superseding dogs in the transportation of mails in Alaska. A load of mail weighing not less than 3000 pounds is often drawn over the frozen roads of Alaska by one horse attached to a sled. In a short time, it was said today, the post-office department expects to make announcement of the awards of contracts for the transportation of mails in Alaska for the four years' period from July 1, 1910, to July 30, 1914.

Minister to China Is Deposed.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Charles R. Crane, of Chicago, minister to China, today was practically deposed by a demand from Secretary Knox for his resignation. Thus a new chapter in American diplomacy was written. A citizen chosen with special regard for his qualifications for the post was recalled before he had embarked from San Francisco, and was discharged from his high office because of alleged indiscreet disclosures through the press.

4345 Desert in Ten Months.

Portland, Oct. 15.—That there have been 4345 desertions from the United States army since the beginning of the year is shown by circulars received by United States Marshal Reed yesterday. The army follows the plan of police departments in combing the Union for deserters, and sends broadcast a full-face and profile view of every deserter. A special file of the army circulars is kept by Marshal Reed, the number stamped on the latest one received showing the runaways from January 1, 1909, to date exceed 4000.

Forgeries Wreck Bank.

Washington, Oct. 14.—The controller of the currency today announced that the First National bank of Mineral Point, Wis., had closed its doors, and that a receiver had been appointed. The bank has a capital of \$100,000 and deposits of \$505,979. The discovery of alleged forgeries and defalcations aggregating, according to unofficial advice, approximately \$210,000, resulted in closing the doors of the bank. Arrests are expected to follow.

Taft Will Leave It to Knox.

Prescott, Ariz., Oct. 15.—President Taft evinced great interest today in the press dispatches from Washington concerning the Crane case, but gave out no statement regarding it, the intimation being that there will be no statement from Mr. Taft at any time. Secretary Knox is in full control of the state department, and it is presumed that he has been authorized by the president to accept Mr. Crane's resignation forthwith.

Hear Klamath's Plein.

Washington, Oct. 15.—According to the revised schedule, the senate irrigation committee, which will reassemble at Denver November 1, will spend November 10 inspecting the Klamath irrigation project and listening to settlers who have suggestions or complaints to offer. This will be the only stop in Oregon. At least seven members of the committee will be present.

Tobacco Trust Case Postponed.

Washington, Oct. 16.—On motion of Attorney-General Wickersham before the supreme court today, the government's suit against the American Tobacco company and allied corporations under the anti-trust law, was reassigned for argument on December 12. Arguments were to have been heard this week.

Dominican Revolt Suppressed.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The American legation at San Domingo has telegraphed the state department that a slight local uprising near Monte Christi under the leadership of Generals Navarro and Rodriguez, has been suppressed.

WU TALKS WITH SPIRITS.

Eminent Chinese Minister Attends Seances in Washington.

Washington, Oct. 15.—Taking his first nibble at the mysteries of spiritism last Sunday night, Minister Wu Tingfang, the best educated Chinaman in the world, returned to the "mediums" last night for a full bite. He left the "seance" chock full of information from the spirit world, for through the "medium" he is supposed to have contacted the spirits of the late President McKinley and his own dead mother. And the latter talked in real Chinese language.

Minister Wu doesn't say he is a convert to spiritism. In fact, he tries to avoid the subject entirely while talking with newspaper men. He admits, however, that he is interested, and that he may attend other "seances" before retiring from his post in the near future.

His first experience occurred last Sunday night at a public meeting, where anonymous Chinese spirits were described to Dr. Wu by a "trance medium," as hovering in the distinguished diplomat's immediate vicinity.

Dr. Wu exhibited great interest. Last night he went again, this time to a smaller seance at a private house. Dr. Wu refused last night to discuss his experience or impressions, and even showed solicitude lest his presence at the seance should be the subject of newspaper mention. The woman medium who officiated—a different one this time—brought to him messages purporting to come from the late President McKinley, who was an intimate friend of Dr. Wu, and also from the minister's own mother. The latter was the more startling because, apparently, delivered in the Chinese language.

These messages are claimed by the spiritualists to be brought to the medium in trance by the spirit of a 16-year old American Indian girl, under whose "control" she speaks in broken English; yet the conversation between Dr. Wu and the medium, while ostensibly under this "control," was somewhat extensive, lasting fully five minutes, and seemed to be in the Chinese vernacular, question and answer, unintelligible to the auditors, passing back and forth with considerable freedom. There was every evidence that the diplomat perfectly understood the communication which apparently appeared to come from the spirit of Dr. Wu's own mother. It was asserted that the medium and her "control" are both absolutely ignorant of the Chinese language.

JAPAN MUCH DISTURBED.

Americans and British to Build Railroad in China.

Washington, Oct. 15.—American and British capitalists have about completed arrangements with the Chinese government to build a railroad from Chin Chow Fu through Mongolian territory to Tsitsihar, a distance of about 400 miles. This fact seems to have disturbed the equanimity of Japan.

Published reports from Peking indicate that Japan has given China notice that it will maintain its right under the two treaties concluded last month to be consulted with respect to Manchurian railroads. Japan says it reserves decision with regard to subsequent action.

Among officials here it is regarded as doubtful if Japan will be permitted to interfere, without objection, in this or other enterprises in Chian or Manchuria in which Americans are interested. The fact that an objection to the construction of the proposed Chin Chow Fu-Tsitsihar road is hinted at by Japan is regarded here as tending to support allegations of monopolistic inclinations on the part of Japan.

The proposed railroad through Mongolia will be about 400 miles in length to Tsitsihar, and, if extended on the Amur, its total length will approximate 500 miles. The fact that it will tap the Russian Trans-Siberian road at Tsitsihar is thought to explain the supposed uneasiness of Japan, and, inasmuch as the Chinese Eastern and South Manchurian line, because of its more direct route and shorter distance to the south, would be likely to become a strong competitor to the latter road, which is now controlled by Japan.

Government officials here regard Japan's opposition to the Hsinmintun-Fakuman line as retarding the development by China of a portion of her territory, and as in direct violation of article 4 of the treaty of Portsmouth, which states that "Japan and Russia reciprocally engage not to obstruct any general measures common to all, or steps which China may take for the development of commerce and industry in Manchuria."

Fickert Gains on Henny.

San Francisco, Oct. 14.—The recount of votes cast at the recent Democratic primary for district attorney was completed today. Three precincts completed showed a net gain of 34 votes for Charles Fickert, Union Labor candidate, nominated against Francis J. Henny. Only 13 precincts are involved in the contest, and the majority claimed for Henny on the count of all precincts is 88. Fickert showed a decided gain in each of the precincts counted today, while Henny was also given more votes, though his gains did not equal those of his opponent.

Billings Prepares to Entertain.

Billings, Oct. 15.—In preparation for the entertainment of the delegates and visitors to the fourth dry farming congress, which will meet here October 26-28, the accommodations committee of the Montana board of control is listing all the available rooms in the city. There are six large hotels, and many rooming houses, and the citizens are arranging to throw their homes open to the delegates during the week of the congress. In addition to these, arrangements have been made for the parking of Pullman cars.

Recount Sustains Henny.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—Francis J. Henny was sustained today as the candidate of the Democratic party for district attorney at the coming municipal election, when the recount demanded by Charles Fickert, Republican and Union Labor nominee for the same office and Henny's only opponent, was completed. The vote in 11 precincts was contested by Fickert. The recount resulted in a gain of 64 votes for Fickert, reducing Henny's majority to 24.

Standard Oil Is Gobbling.

Coaling, Cal., Oct. 15.—A report is current here tonight that the Standard Oil company has purchased nine of the leading oil properties of this and the Kern river oil field for more than \$5,000,000. The price stated is greater than the sum involved in any previous oil transaction on the coast.

CRANE MADE VICTIM

Removal of Minister Due to Solicitations of Japan.

PURSUES AN AGGRESSIVE POLICY

Former American Official Was Very Active Against Japan Since War With Russia.

Peking, Oct. 14.—Japan has taken official cognizance of the reported efforts of British and American interests to arrange with China to build the Kin Chow-Tsitsihar railway, as it is considered that the proposed construction of the road has grown out of the defeat of the plan to build the Hsinmintun-Fakuman railroad.

Japan has formally notified China that, while it does not intend to obstruct that government yet it will maintain its right to be consulted with respect to Manchurian railways.

Recent events in connection with the recall of Charles R. Crane precipitated Japan's action. It is understood that the action of the American secretary of state followed Japan's solicitations, not only on account of Mr. Crane's alleged utterances, but because of American activities in Manchuria and of another former American official, whom the Japanese regarded as exceedingly active in the anti-Japanese movement in Manchuria following the war.

The Japanese appear to be alarmed at the American activities, which seem to bear the stamp of governmental direction.

JAPAN FORCED RESIGNATION.

Removal of Crane Believed Due to Her Demands.

Washington, Oct. 14.—It is the general opinion in Washington today that the real reason behind the resignation of Charles R. Crane, of Chicago, as minister to China has not yet been divulged. The question is being asked if Japan is strong enough to dictate what man in the United States shall send to the Orient.

Minister Crane has always been friendly with Russia, and contributed \$5000 to the young empress' fund during the war with Japan. He also has rigid ideas about Japanese encroachment in Manchuria as affecting American rights. The official statement given out by Philander C. Knox, secretary of state, which cited certain alleged indiscretions of Mr. Crane as a basis for accepting his resignation, has not entirely satisfied either official lay Washington that the whole story has been told.

The possible explanation of this dissatisfaction lies perhaps not in the fact that Mr. Crane's own statement is interpreted here as a confirmation of "canards" which he officially charged Mr. Crane with circulating with respect to the action of the state department toward the Japanese-Chinese treaty. It is the opinion here that if this was the real basis for the ousting of Mr. Crane, Mr. Knox, as secretary of state, would have followed the usual diplomatic method of burying the real issue as deeply as possible, especially when its confirmation officially tended to magnify the existing diplomatic conditions, and would have offered some other excuse.

It was apparent today that every effort will be made in administration circles to ignore further pursuit of the Crane incident, if possible. It was stated at the White House that, so far as known there, the incident was closed. In the absence of Mr. Knox, officials in charge at the state department exhibited a decided inclination to keep out of the whole affair. In the opinion of Washington, the Crane incident will not die so easily, partially owing to the standing of Mr. Crane, partially to the diplomatic questions directly involved and partially because of Mr. Crane's own statement in reply to Mr. Knox, which is interpreted here as reflecting on the administration of the state department.

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Taft to Hear Grievance.

Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 14.—When President Taft arrives at El Paso Saturday, he is to be asked to order an investigation into the case of James A. Cook, an American railroad conductor, who is imprisoned on a charge of neglect in connection with the robbery of freight trains of which he had charge. The matter will be presented to Mr. Taft by a committee of the American railroad conductors. Cook has been a prisoner since August 30.

Airship Fight Finds Paris.

Paris, Oct. 14.—The Compagnie Generale de Navigation Aeriennne, which controls the patents of the Wright brothers in France, today caused a theoretical seizure of practically every biplane on exhibition at the aeronautic salon on the ground that certain details of their construction were infringements of the Wright patents.