

PROTEST TO FRANCE

Broken Neutrality May Involve Her in War with Japan.

WOULD MEAN AID OF ENGLAND

Russian Fleet Must Either Leave Kamranh Bay or Fight Battle in the Harbor.

Tokio, April 20. — Japan is contemplating declaring war on France and calling on Great Britain for support. This action follows the sending of a formal protest to France against the use by the Russian Baltic fleet of Kamranh bay as a rendezvous and the coupling therewith of a statement that if France refrained from acting Japan will send a fleet of war vessels to attack the Russians in the shelter of a neutral port.

A conference of elders was held last night at which the entire situation was discussed. Immediately afterward the nikado was notified that the elders believed that the time had come when France should be forced to live up to her declarations of neutrality, and the note of protest was drafted and forwarded.

It is felt here that the situation is extremely grave, and there is no doubt that if France does not act quickly the consequences will be far-reaching.

A dispatch from Sasebo states that a Japanese squadron is getting in readiness there to sail for Kamranh bay and attack the Russians there, while Admiral Togo continues to hold the passage toward the Pacific.

It is reported that an American and a British squadron is in touch with the Russians, watching for violations of neutrality or the endangering of British and American shipping. The belief is growing here that the stay of the Russian fleet in Kamranh bay was prearranged.

THEY RESIGN UNDER FIRE.

Accused Examiners Who Gave Pensions to Carpet Soldiers.

Washington, April 20. — Nine of the ten pension examiners constituting the board of review were separated from the government service today. Commissioner of Pensions Warner transmitted the nine resignations to Secretary Hitchcock, with the recommendation that they be accepted, and Mr. Hitchcock took the desired action without delay.

The resigned examiners assert that representations were made to them, purporting to come from the commissioner, that should they hand in their resignations, the matter would be relieved and restorations would be made at some date in the near future. Mr. Warner, however, made no such representation to the secretary of the board of review as its approval of several pensions to applicants whose only claim was enlistment in a Pennsylvania and a New Jersey regiment of volunteers for service in the Civil war, but the services of whom were never availed of by the government.

MORE FIRMS ARE INVOLVED.

Chicago Strike is Spreading and All Efforts at Conciliation Fail.

Chicago, April 20. — Although influences are still at work in the hope that an amicable adjustment of the difficulty existing between the teamsters and Montgomery, Ward & Co., can be reached, the indications tonight are that the strike of the teamsters will spread to other concerns. Today 150 drivers employed by the E. M. Forbes Teaming company were ordered on strike because the firm insisted on making deliveries to Montgomery, Ward & Co. President Spear, of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, declared tonight that he would order out all drivers engaged by firms that insist on delivering supplies to the big store.

Barrett Has Resigned.

Washington, April 20. — John Barrett, of Portland, Or., United States minister to Panama, has saved the State department the embarrassment of ordering his recall. He has asked that he be relieved of his post, so that he may retire from the diplomatic corps. The government has been dissatisfied with some of Mr. Barrett's acts, and it was decided months ago that he should be succeeded at Panama by Judge Charles Magoon, of the Insular bureau, but it was the intention to assign him to another post.

Great Snowstorm in Wyoming.

Denver, April 20. — At midnight it was announced that all telegraph and telephone wires leading into Cheyenne were down as result of a heavy fall of wet snow. Previous to this, however, the Postal Telegraph company had one wire working and information came that trains were running behind the schedule. It is impossible to learn any details, but it is known that the storm was unusually heavy over Southern Wyoming.

British Engineer Named.

Washington, April 20. — Sir Mortimer Durand, the British ambassador, today informed Secretary Taft that the British government had, at the secretary's invitation, selected Chief Engineer Hunter, the builder of the Manchester ship canal, to act as one of the consulting engineers of the Panama canal board.

WILL USE HIS TORPEDO FLEET.

Togo Will Not Risk His Big Vessels Against the Russians.

London, April 19. — Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister to Great Britain, expressed the opinion to the Associated Press today that Admiral Togo would not give battle to Admiral Rojestvensky with his entire squadron, but would continue the cautious tactics which has characterized his attacks on the Port Arthur squadron, not because he feared defeat, but owing to his desire to inflict the greatest amount of damage on the Russians with the least possible loss to himself.

While confident of his ability to accomplish the total destruction of the Russian squadron in a big battle, there is danger of Togo losing one or two of his big ships. Therefore, Baron Hayashi believes, Togo will employ his torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers, which number more than 100 and are vastly superior to the Russian torpedo boat flotilla, in harassing the Russians while gradually picking off the Russian warships.

He said the coasts of Japan, Korea and Formosa lend themselves to night work with torpedo boats, while the narrow channels will make the maneuvering of large war ships difficult and dangerous.

BREAKS ALL RECORDS.

Steamer Minnesota Crosses Pacific in Very Fast Time.

Seattle, April 19. — The steamship Minnesota, of the Great Northern Steamship company's Seattle-Oriental fleet, and the largest freighter carrier afloat, reached port last night, on her return voyage from the Orient, having broken all trans-Pacific records on her trip across. The Minnesota's time from Yokohama was 13 days, 21 hours and five minutes.

Among her passengers were a number of Russian officers and their wives being sent home on parole from Shanghai, whether they were taken at the time of the capture of Port Arthur. There were also a number of American army officers coming from Manila, either on leave or under orders to report at Washington, D. C. Altogether the Minnesota brought 162 passengers, 47 of whom were first-class, and a little more than 7,000 tons of general freight, of which hemp formed the bulk.

MUST HAVE TRIBAL TIES.

What Indian Children Can Have Share in Lands.

Washington, April 19. — Indian Commissioner Leupp today promulgated the order defining what children of Indian parentage are entitled to share in lands and annuities of various Western tribes. Under his instructions all children whose parents are both Indians may share in these benefits, as may all children whose mothers married white men, provided the mother is still a recognized member of the tribes and affiliates with its members.

Whenever an Indian woman, after marriage to a white man, has withdrawn and is no longer identified with her tribe, her children are not entitled to lands or annuities allowed that tribe.

NEUTRALITY IN PHILIPPINES.

Admiral Train is Having All Waters Well Patrolled.

Manila, April 19. — Admiral Train, determined to maintain the neutrality of the Philippine waters, will immediately dispatch additional vessels to patrol the Basilan straits, as a result of the reports that both Russian and Japanese vessels have been sighted there. Saturday the United States gunboat Quibos was sent to inspect six Russian colliers which are reported to be lying in the gulf of Lingayen. A gunboat is also scouting for Japanese vessels.

A report has reached here that 16 Japanese cruisers have been sighted off Sampalok point. The cruisers are said to be scouting in force for stray scouts, ships and colliers of the Russian fleet.

Judge Upholds the Law.

Denver, April 19. — Judge N. Walter Dixon, in the District court today, upheld the constitutionality of the law of 1897 relating to building and loan associations, under which President E. M. Johnson and other officers of the defunct Fidelity Savings association have been indicted on charges of making false reports. The law was attacked by Johnson's attorneys on the ground that the legislative records concerning its passage were incomplete, a leaf apparently having been torn from the journal of the house.

Fifty Boys Were Injured.

Indianapolis, April 19. — No deaths have been added to the list of four boys that lost their lives in the crush of newboys in the stairway of the Masonic building last night, eager to obtain free theater tickets for a performance at the theater. The revised list of the injured shows that no fewer than 50 were more or less injured. Of this number, fully 25 were seriously crushed and the death list may be increased.

Fifty Hurt in Strike Riot.

Wheeling, W. Va., April 19. — Fifty men were hurt in a fight between 60 nonunion men from Pittsburgh and 150 strikers from the Whitaker mill. Clubs, stones, knives and pistols were used, but the nonunion men finally scored in getting into the mill.

CRUSHED TO DEATH

Four Boys Killed and Many Injured by Alarm of Fire.

AFTER FREE THEATER TICKETS

Hundreds Were Waiting at Indianapolis Masonic Temple When Panic Started.

Indianapolis, Ind., April 18. — Frenzied by a false alarm of fire, several hundred eager newboys, struggling to obtain their share of free tickets to a local theater, which were being distributed by a traveling representative of a patent medicine company, stampeded in a narrow stairway in the Masonic Temple tonight, crushing the life out of four boys and seriously injuring several others.

Long before the time approached for the distribution of the tickets, the stairs of the Masonic Temple, at the southwest corner of Washington street and Capitol avenue, were crowded with a pushing, yelling crowd of newboys, each anxious to be first to receive his pass. When the distribution began, the excitement became more intense, and the efforts of several policemen who had been detailed to prevent trouble were unavailing.

It is alleged that one of the boys, in the endeavor to hasten the exit of those who had received their passes, shouted "Fire!" Immediately those at the top faced about and almost with superhuman strength began to force their way to the bottom of the stairs.

Shrieks and physical encounters followed for a few seconds, when from some cause those near the top fell headlong on the struggling mass at the bottom. Immediately policemen from the central station, who responded to a riot call, began the work of rescue.

Four of the boys were dead when extricated from their position at the bottom of the stairs. Others, believed to have been fatally crushed, were taken out as fast as they could be disentangled from their frenzied companions, who fought and clung to each other in desperation.

CANNOT LIMIT HOURS.

Supreme Court Declares New York Bakers' Law Unconstitutional.

Washington, April 18. — In an opinion by Justice Peckham, the Supreme court of the United States held to be unconstitutional the New York state law making ten hours a day's work and 60 hours a week's work in bakeries in that state. Justices Harlan, White, Day and Holmes dissented and Justice Harlan declared that no more important decision had been rendered in the last century.

The opinion was handed down in the case of Lockner vs. the state of New York, and was based on the ground that the law interferes with the free exercise of the rights of contract between individuals. The court of Appeals of the state upheld the law and affirmed the judgment of the trial court, holding Lockner guilty.

The law involved in the case is section 110 of the New York state labor law, prescribing the hours of labor in bakeries in the state. Lockner is a baker in the city of Utica and was found guilty of permitting an employe to work in his bakery more than 60 hours in a week, and fined \$50. The judgment was affirmed by the New York Appellate courts.

Senator Thurston is Retained.

Sioux City, Ia., April 18. — John M. Thurston, ex-United States senator from Nebraska, has been retained to press claims for indemnity on account of the massacre of several Americans by Yaqui Indians in Sonora, Mex., January 19. The claims will aggregate \$450,000, \$100,000 each for the four men killed, J. K. McKenzie and Dr. Robert McCoy, of Chicago; Walter Stalinger, of Kewanee, Ill.; and M. H. Call, of Sioux City, and \$25,000 each for the terrible experience of the two survivors.

Hoodoo Boat May Be Accepted.

Washington, April 18. — The report of the naval board which conducted the recent trial of the Goldsborough in Paget sound has been received at the Navy department. In substance it shows that although the speed is not altogether satisfactory, due probably to the natural deterioration of the machinery since its installation, about five years ago, the vessel is structurally sound and otherwise in good condition. The disposition of the naval authorities is to accept her.

Death Rate is Decreasing.

Chicago, April 18. — In closing his 10 years of service as commissioner of health for the city of Chicago, Dr. Arthur R. Reynolds presents in his annual report significant data showing the decrease of the death rate in the city. During the 10 years from 1885 to 1894, inclusive, the yearly average of death rate was 20.02 in every 1,000 of population. During the succeeding 10 years the rate decreased to 15.1 in every 1,000 of population.

American Missionary Slain.

Shanghai, April 18. — A native Christian who has arrived here reports that a band of Chunches have murdered an American missionary named Kennedy at Kungshang, near Hangchow. He could give no particulars of the alleged crime.

SHORTS IS TO BE CHIEF.

Secretary Taft Says He Will Work With Panama Commission.

New York, April 18. — Secretary of War Taft, who is here to attend the annual meeting of the directors of the Panama railroad company in this city tomorrow, had this to say tonight on the affairs of the railroad company:

"The meeting will result in a complete reorganization of the company. The government is now in control of the stock. It is absolutely essential for the United States to control the affairs of the company in the work of constructing the canal. We desire the affairs of the road conducted in harmony with the commission which will have charge of the general construction work."

"With this end in view, the directors of the Panama railroad company at the meeting will elect Theodore P. Shorts, the new chairman of the Panama canal commission, president of the Panama railroad company."

"With Mr. Shorts at the head of the company it is certain that its affairs will be conducted most satisfactorily. His experience as a practical railroad man will enable him to operate the railroad just as the Panama canal commission may desire while the work of the construction is in progress. The entire official board of the company will be comprised of either members of the commission or men who are interested in the work of constructing the canal."

"By official board I mean the officers and directors of the company."

"We expect to have this road in readiness at the time the work of the canal construction begins and managed in a manner so as to facilitate this great work."

RUMORS WITHOUT REAL NEWS.

Correspondents Guess at Many Things Beyond Their Vision.

London, April 18. — There is as yet no news of a great naval battle in the Far East, or of the whereabouts of the rival fleets. The Hongkong correspondent of the Daily Mail sends a rumor of a small engagement, but there is no confirmation of this report.

Details regarding the Russian ships in Kamranh bay, Cochin China, are too meagre to be instructive. According to the Daily Mail's Singapore correspondent, the North German Lloyd steamer Prinz Heinrich saw several battleships and six cruisers in the bay, but the dispatches to other newspapers are not so precise. The Daily Telegraph's Singapore correspondent, like the Associated Press, merely reports "eighteen vessels," and adds that the captain of the Prinz Heinrich states that possibly more warships were inside the harbor, but that they were invisible from the offing.

The presence of the Russian squadron off the Annam coast is raising keen interest here, in view of the possibility of their infringing Chinese neutrality and of the likelihood of Rojestvensky having had to split his squadron. The Morning Post's correspondent at Shanghai telegraphs that China has instructed the governor of the southern provinces to maintain strict neutrality in view of the possibility of Russian ships sheltering there.

WHEELS BLOCKED IN ITALY.

Railway Strike May Extend to Other Forms of Industry.

Rome, April 18. — Every railway line throughout Italy is tied up this morning as a result of the strike among the employes, who are dissatisfied with wages and hours of labor. The strike is expected to spread to all of the large industries in the several cities, and before it is ended bloodshed is likely to result.

The strike started in Naples, and a few minutes afterward the heads of labor unions wired to every subordinate organization telling them to notify their members to stop work at midnight. The order was literally obeyed and not a wheel is turning this morning, although the officials of the roads allege they will have them in operation before the end of the day.

All the station clerks and office employes have been ordered to report to the station masters to aid in moving trains.

Burned Stores Too Soon.

London, April 18. — A dispatch from St. Petersburg to a news agency reports that General Linievitch has issued an order forbidding officials of the commissariat to burn stores here prematurely and reproving officials in cases that have already occurred. The order directs that storehouses be destroyed hereafter only by permission of the commanders of army corps and divisions. The Telegraph's correspondent at Tokio reports that the Japanese recovered 200 of the 500 Russian guns abandoned in the retreat from Mukden.

Tunnel Secure from Strikers.

Chicago, April 18. — Labor leaders will hold a conference tomorrow with Mayor Edward F. Dunne, who said tonight that he had hopes of an early settlement of the teamsters' strike against Montgomery, Ward & Co. The coal teamsters today decided to refuse to haul coal to the Montgomery Ward building. It is learned tonight that the Chicago Tunnel company is rushing work on a connection with Montgomery Ward & Co.'s basement.

Grand Trunk Station Burned.

Durant, Mich., April 18. — Fire tonight destroyed the Grand Trunk union station here, in which are located the general offices of the road division west of Port Huron. The building was new and was valued at \$125,000.

Conquest of the Great American Desert

Great Irrigation Projects.

Surveys have been completed for thirteen great irrigation projects in as many different States, contemplating the reclamation of 1,131,000,000 acres of desert land, at a cost of \$31,305,000, or an average of \$27.26 per acre. The land thus improved will be sold to the public at that price in ten annual installments, and thus the entire amount of money expended will be refunded to the government. The President is greatly gratified at the rapid progress that is being made by the irrigation bureau. Contracts have been let and thousands of laborers are already employed in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, Nevada and New Mexico.

The law allows enough land to each settler to support a family. No cash payments are required; no commutations, but the settler must actually live on it and cultivate it for five years and pay \$2.50 an acre each year for ten years, when he will receive a title to the land and own the water rights without additional payments. Private land which receives the benefit of the water must pay at the same rate—\$2.50 per acre for ten years. After ten payments the owner of the land will have the water rights free of cost for all eternity. The land is good for alfalfa, sugar beets, potatoes and all the root crops and fruits of the temperate zone. It is only twelve hours from San Francisco by rail, fifty miles from the capital of Nevada, and is surrounded by mining settlements in every direction.

Part of the land reclaimed will be the old Forty-Mile Desert, or Carson's Sink, which was a horror of early emigrants—the worst spot on the overland trail; and was lined the entire distance with the bones of men and animals. Thousands of poor creatures died there from thirst and exhaustion. Farmers who plow there now turn up in almost every furrow gun barrels which were driven into the earth to mark graves and have since been buried deep in the drifting sands. As an illustration of the perversity of nature, the engineers who have been laying out the proposed irrigation system have found an abundance of cold, pure water a few feet below the surface wherever they have made borings. All of this desert will be redeemed, and when the present proposition is finished the works will be extended to the Humboldt and Walker rivers, which will bring several hundred thousand acres more under irrigation and make a paradise of what is now the most desolate spot in Nevada.

How One County Was Redeemed.

Thirty-two years ago there was only one house in the town of Fresno. In the central desert of California, says a writer in the World's Work. A hole was dug under it, forty feet deep, into which the inmates lowered themselves by a bucket and a windlass, to escape the heat of the day. Around it, as far as the eye could see, stretched the glaring desert, unbroken by any cultivated spot of green. The whole country seemed a hopeless waste—dead and profligate.

Today this spot is the center of a cheerful community of 8,000 homes, in a land made fertile by irrigation. Ten thousand children attend its public schools. The industries there yield \$14,000,000 annually. The raisin crop of 1902 put into the farmers' bank accounts \$2,500,000.

All the raisins imported into the United States in 1902 amounted in value to only \$400,000. In 1902 the oil wells of Fresno County yielded 570,000 barrels of crude petroleum, worth \$200,000 before refining. Eighty-nine thousand head of cattle graze on its rich alfalfa.

When the few straggling fortune-hunters came to the county late in the 60's they were welcomed by this sign hung over Fresno's one building: "Bring your horses. Water, one bit; water and feed, three bits." Fresno was a "watering station" only. In 1872, however, M. J. Church conceived the idea of bringing water in ditches from Kings river, twenty miles away, to irrigate the land. His proposal was laughed at as a dreamer's scheme. But persistence won; in 1876 he had water on land within three miles of the town of Fresno, and the first year's crop proved the soil to be fertile. The area of watered ground was rapidly extended. To-day there are 300,000 acres under irrigation.

CASTRO A REMARKABLE MAN.

Began Revolution with 23 Men and Fought His Way to Presidency.

For a little South American dictator Cipriano Castro, President of Venezuela, is making a lot of trouble in the world of international politics. In many ways, writes William Thorp in the New York Times, he is a remarkable man. He first appeared in Caracas, the capital, several years ago as a legislator. He was sent to Congress as a deputy from the State of Los Andes, his native place. His fellow muleteers and cattle smugglers elected him, and at that time he knew practically nothing of life outside of the mountain village in which he was born. Only one memory of his brief career as a legislator is preserved. Day by day he went to the hall of Congress in a tight-fitting pair of very shiny patent leather shoes. As soon as he was comfortably seated he bent down and removed them from his cramped feet, and placed them on the desk in front of him. He sat patiently

through the long-winded debates which South American politicians love, never offering a word of his own, and at the end of each session he put on those tight boots again and went back to his cheap hotel. Of course he had never worn boots before. Nobody does wear them in Los Andes.

It goes without saying that the savage from the back of beyond was the butt of his colleagues in Congress. Most of them are now dead, slain on the battlefield, or rotting in the frightful dungeons beneath the old fort at Maracaibo, or in exile in Caracas, Paris, Bogota or New York.

Cipriano Castro came back to Caracas at the head of an army made up of his muleteer and smuggling friends. He started his revolution with precisely 23 men at his back. It was local at first, but he won small victories and then big ones, until in the course of three months he had drawn enough men to his standard to be able to advance on Caracas and fight for the presidency.

When he was in sight of the city an accident happened that would have ruined the chances of any other revolutionist. He was thrown from his horse and broke both his legs. The government army was facing his forces. From a horse litter he directed the battle, won a great victory, and subsequently bought over the government general. Then he marched into



PRESIDENT CASTRO.

Caracas, made himself President, and suppressed a revolution almost before he could manage to hobble around.

All the ministers slavishly imitate Castro in everything. He is not only President, but Lord High Everything Else in Venezuela. The heads of all departments, the members of the Legislature, and even the judges are merely his puppets.

Castro is supremely ignorant of the affairs of other nations. He has never seen but one battleship in his life, up to the time of the international episode of 1902 and he speaks with contempt of the power of Germany, Great Britain and other foreign nations.

Castro is very democratic. He never surrounds himself with guards or secret service men, though he has as many deadly enemies as a Russian grand duke. But he always carries a revolver in the top left-hand pocket of his frock coat. So far as is known, only one attempt has been made to assassinate him. It was when he was riding through the streets of Caracas, soon after he became President. The man's shot missed him, but he put a bullet through the man's leg before any of his staff realized what was happening. Then he not only magnanimously pardoned the fellow, but actually sent his own doctor to attend to him.

Castro is undoubtedly the strongest man in Venezuela to-day and there is no one as yet in sight who is powerful enough to oust him from the presidential chair.

Discovery of Peat Baths.

The discovery of the value of peat baths was made accidentally many years ago. On the coast of France there lived at one time a poor family. The father of the family eked out a scanty living by killing aged cattle and divesting them of their skins. The ghastly remains he sold to tanners and rediers.

Of the three children which belonged to this couple one was a poor creature, delicate and wretched and apparently half-witted. The mother was so ashamed of this boy that she could not bear to have the child in her sight. Consequently he spent most of his time half clothed and lndly fed, rolling about in the peat bogs which were behind the cottage. Little by little it was noticed that the child was improving in health, that his skin was becoming as fair and soft as a peach, his eyes bright and his spirits and actions those of a strong, healthy boy instead of a half-witted little animal.

The old country physician on one of his rounds noticed the improved condition of the boy and mentioned the fact and the cause at a medical conference in Paris. The result was the use of the peat bath, which leaves far behind any other kind of hydrotherapeutic cure known to this day and its success is becoming greater each season.

We don't know much, but we know too much to play a slot machine, and every man ought to have as much sense as we have. The cards are stacked against you when you play a slot machine.

Take care of your pennies while young and give some chap a chance to bunko you out of your dollars when you get old.