

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 newspapers, who urged the conserving of the 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."

Prepare Uniform Pharmacopoeia.

Washington, Oct. 13.—To bring about greater uniformity in the different pharmacopoeias of the principal countries of the world, an international commission has been established which is to be a means of communication among the commissions engaged in the proposed revision, according to a report made to Surgeon-General Wyman, of the public health and marine services, by Dr. Reid Hunt, chief of the division of pharmacology.

Appeals to Grand Jury.

Annapolis, Oct. 16.—It is said that the mother of young Lieutenant James N. Sutton, Jr., of Oregon, who met his death at the Naval academy during a fight with brother officers, will lay charges against certain of the marine officers before the federal grand jury at Baltimore.

At the second investigation of the death of Lieutenant Sutton last August, Mrs. Sutton charged that her son had been murdered.

City Fathers Must Fight.

Washington, Oct. 12.—Indian Commissioner Valentine asserted today that his bureau would lend all possible administrative support in the prosecution of several officers of Marshalltown, Ia., indicted for conspiring to interfere with a special officer of the Indian service while the latter was investigating alleged sales of liquor to Indians from the Tama reservation.

Postal Receipts Grow.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The percentage of increase of postal receipts at Portland for September, as compared to September last year, was greater than at any other postoffice in the United States except Seattle and New Haven. Seattle's big increase was due to the exposition.

Dominican Order Elects.

Washington, Oct. 14.—The Very Rev. Lawrence L. Kearney, O. P., of Zaner-ville, 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 socius to the provincial.

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 General 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 "seances" check full of information from the spirit world, for through the "medium" he is supposed to have consulted 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 spiritualism. 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 railways. 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 of the part of Japan.

The proposed railroad through Mongolia will be about 400 miles in length to Tsitsihar, and, if extended to Manchuria, its total length will approximate 600 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 Haimintun-Fakumen line as retarding the development by China of a portion of her territory, and as in direct violation of articles 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."

Great Northern Exhibit at Billings.

Billings, Oct. 15.—G. J. Ryan, general industrial agent of the Great Northern, has applied for space 80 feet long in the exhibit hall of the international dry farming exposition which will be held at Billings in connection with the fourth dry farming congress, October 28-29. The Great Northern is expected to have one of the largest collective exhibits of dry farmed products displayed. It will be representative of the crops that are being produced on the non-irrigated lands along the line of the railroad.

Recount Sustains Heney.

San Francisco, Oct. 15.—Francis J. Heney 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 Heney'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 Heney's majority to 24.

Standard Oil Is Gobbling.

Coalinga, 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.

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CHINESE RAILWAY LOAN AND AMERICAN INTERESTS

SINCE the announcement of the desire of financiers of the United States, supported by President Taft, to participate in the proposed loan of \$27,500,000 for the financing of the Hankow-Szechuan Railroad line in China, much interest has been manifested by the banking and business world in the questions involved in this international relation of the oldest and newest of the world's great nations. From the beginning of railroad construction in China the aid of American financiers has been anxiously sought, and for some obvious reasons very decidedly preferred to that coming from less disinterested quarters. About six weeks before the opening of the line of railway between Canton and Fatsuan, constructed by the American-China Development Company, was characterized by the Colonial Secretary of Hongkong as an event of national and international significance. Prince Ching concluded with Sir Ernest Satow an agreement containing the following provision: "If China desires to construct a Hankow-Szechuan line, and her capital is insufficient, she will obtain all necessary foreign capital from Great Britain and the United States." This was on Oct. 1, 1903, and the understanding appears to have been formally renewed with Minister Conger in the following year.

The death of the controlling spirit of the America-China Development Company, Calvin E. Brice, stopped negotiations for its proposed investments, and Belgian influences began to assert itself with the beginning of actual construction of the Hankow-Canton road. The Belgian and French interests purchased from American holders a sufficient majority of the shares of the America-China Development Company to give them control of the company, which was reorganized, with Charles A. Whittier at the head. The Chinese government did not like the change and served on the Department of State formal notice of revocation of the concession to build the Hankow-Canton Railroad. This move was met by the Secretary of State with verbal and written assurances from J. F. Morgan that 1,200 shares of the company had been acquired from their Belgian holders and that these, together with some 2,400 shares in securely American hands, had been placed in a voting trust calculated to guarantee the maintenance of American control of the road.

It is, moreover, very much in the interests of China herself that a power so deeply concerned in maintaining the integrity of the empire, and so absolutely destitute of any desire for territorial aggrandizement at its expense, as the United States should be a party to negotiations which may have an important bearing on the future control of Chinese finances.

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

Writes Plays on Tops of Buses and Has Other Eccentricities.

A well-known actor-manager tells of a visit he once had from George Bernard Shaw, who was anxious to read him a play, says an exchange. "G. B. S." put his hand into his breast pocket and produced a small notebook, which he placed carefully on the table. Then he dived into another pocket and brought out another notebook. He proceeded to ransack his pockets, in fact, until he had brought to light no less than seven small notebooks, which he placed in a row upon the table. "That's the play," he said complacently. "I always write my plays on the top of buses, so I have to use notebooks."

"G. B. S." has a dislike for the conventional that must make his life hardly worth living. He has even expressed his hatred for the harmless white collar. The sight of himself in the hideous combination of a white collar against his flesh would give him greater pain than the utter contempt of the English public as it passed by him. Among "G. B. S.'s" other dislikes are tobacco and doctors.

Mr. Shaw's unconventionality is no new thing, and even as a young man he was known for his originality. When he first began to write theatrical criticisms he had a great objection to dress clothes, and turned up one night at a fashionable theater in day attire. At the entrance to the boxes he was politely stopped by an attendant. "What do you object to?" asked Mr. Shaw; "the velvet jacket?" The attendant nodded. "Very well," exclaimed "G. B. S.," "not in the least abashed, 'I will remove it,' and he took a step forward in his shirt sleeves. "Here, that won't do!" exclaimed the usher in great alarm. "Won't do?" said Shaw. "Do you think I am going to take off any more?" Whereupon he replaced his coat and promptly left the theater.

Some years ago, before he was as famous as he is to-day, Mr. Shaw met a young lady at a dinner party who said that she could read character

from writing. Mr. Shaw denied belief in her powers, and said that at any rate she could not read characters from typewriting. Now it happened that the host had just got a typewriter, and the young lady offered to be put to the test. The machine was brought and Mr. Shaw, picking out the letters one by one, wrote his first name. Then he discovered that he had used only capital letters; so, shifting to the lower case, he wrote his last name. Then he handed the result to his companion. This was what she read: "BERNARD SHAW." "It's as plain as anything," she said with a smile. "It is your idea that though there are a good many Shaws in the world they are an undistinguished lot. You alone are Bernard Shaw and your name is great."

Not long since Mr. Shaw found that he was unable to fulfill an engagement to speak in public, and it was announced from the platform that the doctor had forbidden him to venture out of doors and that therefore he could not leave his bed. A press agency immediately wired to Mr. Shaw for more information on the subject and received the following reply: "Kindly inform the public that I am dead. It will save me a great deal of trouble."

"BERNARD SHAW."

Told by the Features.

Men who succeed in commerce have alert faces, but no particular features. Clergymen who go up the ladder of preferment have faces that tell of self-repression—tight lips, eyes which look straight ahead. Artists, on the other hand, have eyes which are all over the place and small, well formed chins. Politicians who succeed by their influence over men have always prominent noses.

Density of the Atmosphere.

Meteors prove that the air is still dense enough to make those little bodies incandescent through friction at a height of 100 miles; but up to the present man has succeeded in exploring the atmosphere to a height of only sixteen miles.

TITIAN'S BIRTHPLACE.

A Visit to Pieve di Cadore, the Artist's Native Village.

We interviewed the padrone about going to Pieve di Cadore—a quaint little village, on the top of a hill, famous as Titian's birthplace, about ten miles from Udine, by a very steep road, says Mrs. Waddington in Scribner's. If it had been fine, but the road was transformed into a running stream, and it seemed wiser to take a carriage. A drive of fifteen minutes brought us to Pieve. The carriage stopped in the middle of the "Piazza Titiano," under Titian's statue, and the driver asked what we wanted to do. It had begun to rain again hard, but we scrambled out from under the dirty, smelly hood and, armed with umbrellas, started for Titian's house, telling the driver to wait for us at the Hotel al Progresso. The village is small. Some rather large stone houses, which are dignified with the name of "palazzi." Titian's house didn't say much to us. Two small, low, dark rooms. One can't imagine how the boy could have had any inspiration or visions of his splendid coloring in such surroundings—but one of the rooms, they told us, was his studio. However, he was taken to Venice, to study, when he was only 10 years old, so it was only his first childish years that were spent in Pieve. Some people live in the house—a barber, I think. They showed us all over the rooms and said a great many people came to see them—principally English. We went on to the church—the oldest in Cadore. There were several interesting paintings—two by Titian—a Madonna and Saints—and others by members of his family, the Vecellios. There are still Vecellios in the village—one sees the name quite often. The butcher, cobbler, and grocer are all Vecellios. There is, of course, too, an Albergo and a Cafe Titiano. All the pictures had the gorgeous coloring of Titian and the Venetian school of that time. The museum is next to the church, with various interesting relics of Titian. Some sketches and some letters written to him by great personages—also many of his own. He always remained in touch with his native place, and came back to it very often—wanted to come home to die when he was 99 years old and the plague was raging in Venice. He tried to get away, but no one was allowed to leave the doomed city. He was seized with the dreadful malady and died practically alone, his servants having already succumbed to the plague. There must be a magnificent view from the terrace, but that we shall only know from postal card descriptions.

She Obeyed Orders.

Carelessness in the use of language is quite as reprehensible as carelessness in cookery, and with a literal-minded servant in the case, it may accomplish the same results. A writer in the Philadelphia Ledger tells of a Southern woman who was leaving her home in a great hurry and wanted to remind her negro maid of some apples baking in the oven.

"Watch when the apples burn, Chloe!" she called, as she was leaving the house.

When she returned there was a pan of burnt and charred apples on the kitchen table, but Chloe was placid and happy.

"Dem apples burned at just 11 o'clock this morning, ma'am," said Chloe, complacently, "for I noticed the time particular."

Probably Not.

She—"I suppose some people would say that we do just as wrong in chloroforming butterflies as those savage hunters do who kill lions?"

He—"I don't know about that. I'm sure I shouldn't have the heart to kill a lion.—Puck."

A firecracker after the Fourth sounds as innocuous as the losing politician after election.

Many a so-called orator is merely a human phonograph.