

CONFERENCE FAILS

Prevailing View That War in Far East Will Continue.

JAPAN ASKED TO MODIFY TERMS

Pressure Being Exerted at Tokio by President Roosevelt and the Powers.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 19.—Black pessimism reigns at Portsmouth. The prevailing view is that the fate of the peace conference is already settled, that it has ended in failure, and that all that now remains is for the plenipotentiaries to meet on Tuesday, to which day they adjourned yesterday afternoon upon completing the consideration of the Japanese terms, sign the final protocol, go through the conventions and bid each other farewell. In other words, that the meeting Tuesday will be what diplomacy calls the "seance d'adieu."

But there is still room for hope of a compromise. Neither President Roosevelt nor the powers will see the chance of peace shipwrecked without a final effort, and that pressure is being exerted, especially at Tokio, to induce Japan to moderate her terms, is beyond question. Just what is being done or is to be done has not transpired. King Edward is understood to be now lending a helping hand and the financiers of the world are known to be exerting all their energies. At Tokio and St. Petersburg the final issue will be decided.

FIRE DEALS DEATH.

State Room Inn Destroyed and Two Lives Lost.

Portland, Aug. 19.—Fire originating at 2:20 o'clock this morning in the State Room inn, on Thurman, between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh streets, one block from the main entrance to the Lewis and Clark exposition, completely destroyed the structure and the adjoining residence of Attorney Van Dusen, and incinerated two or more occupants of the inn.

Special Policeman J. H. Roy turned in the alarm and endeavored to arouse occupants of the building and bring assistance to them. The structure was frame, two stories in height, built to serve the purpose of a temporary hotel during the exposition period, and the fire gained such headway and fastened so greedily upon the timbers that the occupants had small chance of escape unless awakened about the time the flames were first seen breaking out of the roof and walls.

The dead: Unknown man, body badly charred; boy, having one leg amputated, also badly charred.

The injured: Mrs. Ida Harper, burned and bruised; Miss Anna Lubert, burned and bruised; Mrs. Van Zant, burned about face and injured by jumping from veranda; Miss Van Zant, burned about face; A. C. Collander, cut about head, burned and bruised; Joe Stubbs, severely burned.

CONGER TO CHINA.

Will Do What He Can to Stop Boycott on America.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 19.—Edwin H. Conger, of Iowa, formerly United States minister to China, and since last April the American ambassador to Mexico, will return to China in the near future, if present plans are carried into effect. His mission will be of a diplomatic nature, the specific purpose of which is to ally, if possible, the agitation aroused in parts of the Chinese empire against the use by Chinese of American products.

Mr. Conger, who has been scarcely more than three months at his new post in the City of Mexico, was summoned to the United States to confer with the president about the Chinese boycott of American goods. He had a long conference with the president today.

Corporations Own Water.

Salt Lake City, Aug. 19.—The decision of the Interior department that the control of the waters of the Uintah Indian reservation is vested in the state of Utah will have an important bearing upon the rights of settlers who will make homestead entries under the privileges acquired in the drawing now in progress at Provo. Practically all the water flowing over and upon these lands has been filed upon by private parties and corporations under the laws of Utah. Three corporations have made filings.

Forest Fires Near Dawson.

Dawson, Y. T., Aug. 19.—Forest fires are running riot in every direction near Dawson. On nearly every creek there are big fires. From the dome opposite Dawson seven big fires were visible yesterday in different directions. One of the most noticeable ones was on the big dome to the south of the city. The fire has been raging several days, and has swept from the opposite side of the divide to this side and is now playing down the hill side.

Seven Children at a Birth.

Honolulu, Aug. 19.—A dispatch by wireless telegraph from Hilo says that Hans, the Hawaiian wife of Kallus, a Chinese, gave birth to one child on last Thursday, two on Sunday, one on Monday, two on Tuesday morning and one on Tuesday night. All are dead.

CRISIS IMMINENT.

Peace Conference Where It Was at Opening of Session.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 18.—The crisis in the peace conference has been reached and pessimism is again the note. But the darkest hour is just before the dawn, and there is still hope. Predictions of a final rupture today certainly will not be justified unless Baron Komura figuratively picks up his hat and announces that it is useless to proceed further. Mr. Witte, at least, will not be precipitate. At today's session, after article 2—the limitation of Russia's naval power in the Far East—and article 12—fishing rights on the Russian littoral—are disposed of, he will favor an adjournment until Monday to hear the last word from St. Petersburg.

The pessimism last night is based on the fact that no progress was made yesterday. The exchange of views at the morning session on article 9—remuneration for the cost of the war—showed at once that the plenipotentiaries were as far apart as the poles, and it was passed over. Article 10—the surrender of the interned Russian warships—was also passed, not, in the opinion of one of the plenipotentiaries when the Associated Press saw him last night, because it could not have been arranged, but because, with the shadow of the two main points in dispute hanging over the conference, both sides were cautious and preferred to postpone it to the end. Article 2—limitation of sea power—is also adjustable after modification, and article 12 will present no difficulties. So that now the situation is practically where it was when Mr. Witte last Saturday presented the Russian reply with its non-consensus to articles 5 and 8—indemnity and Sakhalin.

FOR DEEPER COLUMBIA.

Trans-Mississippi Congress Realizes Needs of Coast.

Portland, Aug. 18.—Need of liberal appropriations from congress for the Columbia river is obvious to the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress, and when Major W. C. Langfitt, United States engineer, spoke yesterday before that body on the benefits which adequate appropriations would bring and pointed out the results the United States engineers could attain, the congress manifested its approval with hearty applause. A resolution, calling on the national government to hasten improvement of the waterway will be urged by the Washington, Oregon and Idaho delegations in the congress and no doubt will be adopted.

Leaders of the congress in the last two days have frequently remarked that the further improvement of the Columbia river is the most important river and harbor work before the government on the Pacific coast, and one of the most important in the United States, and they say this whether they come from Texas, where Galveston and Houston need appropriations, or from Louisiana, where New Orleans requires a deeper Mississippi and a more extensive levee system is needed, or from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas, where the Missouri river is in need of better channel, or from the Upper Mississippi region, which desires a better waterway to St. Louis.

TARIFF ON WHEAT REDUCED

Biggest Cut is On the Rate to the Port of Shanghai.

Tacoma, Wash., Aug. 18.—Effective at once the tariff on wheat between Puget Sound ports and the regular ports in the Orient has been reduced by the Oriental line steamship companies from \$5 to \$4 per ton of 2,000 pounds, and to Shanghai the rate has been reduced from \$7.50 to \$4.50 per ton.

The announcement of the reduction was made at the local offices of the Great Northern railway company today and it is understood that the rate has been agreed upon by all of the wheat carrying lines plying between Puget Sound and the Orient. The ports to which the \$4 rate applies are Yokohama, Kobe, Nagasaki and Hongkong. The higher rate of \$4.50 is applied to Shanghai because of the difficulty experienced in reaching that port.

Bounty Frauds in Montana.

Helena, Mont., Aug. 18.—County Attorney Lyndes, of Roseburg county, is here conferring with state officials about alleged bounty frauds preferred against ex-County Clerk C. W. Bailey, L. R. Terrett, J. W. Selvidge and Harry Wright, all of Forsythe, who have been arrested and released on bail pending a preliminary hearing, September 4, on the charge of defrauding the state out of a large sum of money, said to be about \$5,000. It is alleged they marketed fraudulent bounty warrants for wild animals in 1901.

Nearly 300,000 Miles.

Washington, Aug. 18.—The annual report of the Interstate Commerce commission, giving the railroad statistics for the year 1904, shows that there were at the end of that year 297,073 miles of railroad in the United States. The number of railway corporations included in the report was 2,104. In the course of the year railway companies owning over 500 miles were reorganized, merged, etc. The mileage operated by receivers was 1312 miles.

Soldiers Desert by Wholesale.

St. Paul, Aug. 18.—A wholesale desertion of privates from Fort Snelling was reported today, when it was announced that about 50 privates had quietly left the post without permission, because they did not wish to work on the new rifle range.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

FIRE WARDEN IS WIDE AWAKE

Arrests Farmers for Burning Slashing Without a License.

Oregon City — F. Hendricks, deputy fire warden, discovered J. R. Hunt, A. M. Lull and D. O. Leavens, of Willamette, burning slashing for which no permit had been procured from the county clerk. The men appeared before the acting deputy district attorney and pleaded ignorance of the amended law with the provisions of which the people of this county are not acquainted. Agreeing to immediately obtain the required permit the men were not prosecuted.

Mr. Hendricks is patrolling the entire county and posting notices warning settlers against the miscellaneous starting of fires. In order to get around the objectionable feature of the law which requires a permit to be obtained ten days prior to the time the fire is to be started, the same to be burned only three days, a great many farmers are renewing their applications for permits every three days, thus giving them practically indefinite time in which to wait for favorable weather. Otherwise, the weather during the three days covered in the original application on which the permit is granted being unfavorable, the settler must experience a further delay of at least ten days intervening between the issuance of the permit and the starting of the fire authorized thereby.

Sugar Beets Don't Hurt Land.

La Grande—Al Good, a farmer who lives two miles north of La Grande, has threshed two acres of oats which yielded 202 bushels. The seed for this ground was less than a sack of oats. It was also sown in alfalfa this spring, and Mr. Good expects to get a couple of tons of hay from this same ground besides the crop of oats. Previous to this season the ground was planted in sugar beets, and the above result shows how much beet raising injures the soil for other crops.

Union Forests Aflame.

La Grande—Word comes from Elgin that forest fires are raging in that vicinity, and that a large force of men is at work trying to check the fire and to protect and save property. The most damaging fires are in the neighborhood north of Elgin. The sawmills belonging to the First National bank, Galloway Bros. and the Elgin Lumber company are in danger and the mill hands are working night and day to protect the mills and to arrest the progress of the flames. Every available man has been pressed into service.

Farmers Fight Fire.

Grants Pass — Forest fires have reached the farming districts of Western Josephine county, and are doing much damage in the vicinity of the Rymer farm and the big apple orchard of Eisman Bros. In order to keep the flames from the orchards, fields and buildings, the people of that district, men and women, are fighting fire day and night. For the past three days and nights entire families have been working heroically all hours to subdue the flames.

Weston Normal Closed.

Pendleton—It is now definitely settled that there will be no normal school at Weston during the coming winter, as it has been found impossible to raise money sufficient to defray the expenses until an appropriation bill can be voted next June. President French has been very hopeful of being able to secure sufficient money to pay the running expenses of the institution until that time, but he has now abandoned the undertaking.

State Loses Grain by Fire.

Salem—The state of Oregon lost 1,600 bushels of new grain in a threshing machine fire at the penitentiary farm the first of the week. The Morris threshing outfit, from Albany, had just finished threshing the grain when a spark from the engine caught in the separator and the flames spread so rapidly that no grain could be saved. The loss to the state is about \$1,200 and to Morris about \$900.

One Woman Hunter in Union.

La Grande—Two hundred hunters' licenses have been issued by the county clerk. The only woman to take out a license is Mrs. George Ackles, of this city. The oldest applicant for a license is L. M. Fulton, of Elgin, aged 78 years, and the youngest licensed hunter is Miles Borth, of Union, who is 13 years old.

Vote for Long School Term.

Cottage Grove—A special school meeting was held here last week for the purpose of voting on a 10-month tax to run the school nine months, and other incidental expenses. A large crowd was present and many spirited arguments were presented. The tax was voted by ten majority.

Crop Turning Out Well.

La Grande—Threshing is well under way and the yield is far better than was expected. The hot weather cut the spring grain some, but notwithstanding the crop in general will be better than for the past two seasons.

New Oregon Postmasters.

Washington—These Oregon postmasters have been appointed: Mayville, F. J. Parson, vice Ella N. Angell, resigned; McKee, Harry L. Shaner, vice G. D. Ebnor, resigned.

MACHINERY FOR ST. HELENS

European Capital Secured to Explore Promising Property.

R. C. Lange, who recently returned from Europe, where he disposed of a large block of stock for the St. Helens Mining company, has gone to Denver to purchase machinery for the St. Helens mines. The machinery will be thoroughly modern in all details, and will be installed just as soon as it arrives.

The holdings of the company are considered valuable, and workings on a much larger scale than heretofore will be begun at once. Two shafts will be maintained, and water power in plenty can be obtained close to the mine. Surface work has shown a strong vein which yields high copper values in all the adits and shallow shafts sunk. Some of these copper samples run from 12 to 20 per cent in the red metal and carry some gold.

The vein has been established as a permanent fissure and will no doubt be found with high grade ore at greater depth. Tunneling will begin at once to get at the ore at great depth.

Fined for Illegal Liquor Selling.

Oregon City—Mr. and Mrs. A. Corrigan and Mr. Cunningham, proprietors of a saloon at Estacada, were found guilty of selling liquor without a municipal license and were fined \$30 each. Cunningham paid his fine, but Corrigan and wife will appeal. The defendants contend that under the provisions of a license obtained from the County court last April they were regularly licensed to sell liquors, but the Estacada city charter provides that the state law shall not apply in the licensing of saloons and the traffic in liquor. This provision of the charter became operative January 31, and the city's attorneys held that the license granted by Clackamas county was void.

Fire Loss Is Heavy.

Grants Pass—Property losses by fire in Southern Oregon have been very heavy the past ten days, due to the excessive dryness of the season. The rainfall for last winter and this summer has been less than for several years past, and the least spark at once starts a fire. In almost every valley of the Rogue river basin forest fires are raging and much timber is being destroyed. The farmers are losing much fencing and several buildings have burned.

Fires Near Mount Jefferson.

Albany — Fires in the timber east of Detroit, at the foot of Mount Jefferson, are spreading and doing great damage. A considerable tract of timber is already burned and the flames are spreading eastward. A large force of men is fighting the fire, but making little headway against it, owing to the high wind usually blowing off the Santiam canyon.

Get Bridge Contract.

Astoria—The board of commissioners of Wahiakum county, Washington, at its recent meeting awarded a contract to Ferguson & Houston, of this city, for the construction of a bridge across Gray's river, near the Bergman place. The cost of the structure will be about \$5,000.

New Rural Carriers.

Washington — Rural carriers have been appointed as follows: Carlton route 2, Thomas E. Merchant, carrier; Solon K. Hoffman, substitute.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat — New club, 70¢@71¢ per bushel; new bluestem, 74¢@75¢ per bushel; new valley, 75¢.

Barley—Old feed, \$21.50@22 per ton; new feed, \$20@21; rolled, \$23@24.

Oats—No. 1 white feed, \$28 per ton; gray, \$22.

Hay—Timothy, old, \$13@15 per ton; new, \$11@12.50; clover, \$8@9.

Fruits—Apples, new, 90¢@1.75 per box; apricots, 90¢ per crate; peaches, 65¢@85¢ per crate; plums, 75¢@1 per crate; blackberries, 5¢@6¢ per pound; cherries, 50¢@55¢ per box; pears, \$2 per box; prunes, 85¢@1.10; raspberries, \$1.25 per crate; watermelons, 1@1½¢ per pound; crabapples, 50¢ per box.

Vegetables—Beans, 1¢@4¢ per pound; cabbage, 1@1½¢ per pound; cauliflower, 75¢@90¢ per dozen; celery, 75¢@85¢ per dozen; corn, 80¢@90¢ per doz; cucumbers, 10¢@15¢ per box; lettuce, head, 10¢ per dozen; parsley, 25¢ per dozen; peas, 2@2.50 per pound; tomatoes, 50¢@60¢ per crate; squash, 5¢ per pound; turnips, \$1.25@1.40 per sack; carrots, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; beets, \$1@1.25 per sack.

Onions—Red, \$1.25 per hundred; yellow, \$1.25.

Potatoes—Oregon new, 75¢@80¢.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25¢@30¢.

Eggs—Oregon ranch, 22¢@22½¢ per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 12½¢@13; mixed chickens, 12¢@12½¢; old roosters, 9¢@10¢; young roosters, 11¢@11½¢; springs, 1½¢ to 2 pounds, 14¢; 1 to 1½ pounds, 15¢; turkeys, live, 18¢@19¢; geese, live, per pound, 6¢@7¢; ducks, old, 13¢; ducks, young, 10¢@14¢.

Hops—Choice, 1904, 17¢@19¢ per pound.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 19¢@21¢; lower grades, down to 15¢, according to shrinkage; valley, 25¢@27¢ per pound; mohair, choice, 31¢ per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 1@2¢ per pound; cows, 3½¢@4¼¢.

Mutton — Dressed, fancy, 6¢ per pound; ordinary, 4@5¢.

Veal—Dressed, 5@7½¢ per pound.

Pork—Dressed, 6@7½¢ per pound.

CONFERENCE DELAYS BREAK

Discussion of Sakhalin Postponed by Peace Envoys.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 16.—The crisis in the peace negotiations upon which the eyes of the world are fastened is approaching rapidly, and the end of this week or the first of next, at the latest, should witness the deadlock and the end, if the conference is to go to pieces. Two more of the 12 articles, Nos. 4 and 6, were disposed of yesterday. Article 4 consists of mutual pledges to observe the integrity of China and the policy of the "open door" for the commerce of all nations, and article 6 covers the surrender of the Russian leases of the Liao Tung peninsula, Port Arthur, Dalny and the Blond and Elli-t islands.

To article 4 both parties gave ready assent and the official statement of the adoption of that article took care to state that it was agreed to "unanimously." Article 5, the consideration of which was passed until later, provides for the cession of the island of Sakhalin. Discussion appearing just at this stage on account of the firm negative given in the Russian reply, it was decided upon the motion of the Japanese to defer its discussion, thus revealing the Japanese intention of postponing to the end the life and death struggle.

This is the usual procedure followed in diplomatic negotiations, enabling the negotiators to come to an accord upon all possible points before tackling the crucial issues, and the fact that the Russians acquiesced in the proposition shows that they too are as careful and as anxious as are the Japanese that the world should not accuse them of being responsible for precipitating the break, if break there is to be, and wrecking the conference.

GAME IS FREEZE-OUT.

Charge Made Against Private Refrigerator Car Lines.

Washington, Aug. 16.—The Interstate Commerce commission, on its own initiative and as a result of complaints against private car lines, today unexpectedly began an investigation of the relations of railroads and refrigerator lines, both of which, it is charged, are violating the act regulating interstate commerce in several specified particulars. The complaint is directed against the Armour car line, the American Refrigerator Transportation company, the Santa Fe Refrigerator Dispatch, and 11 railroads, including the Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe and the Southern Pacific.

The railroads and refrigerator lines are made respondents in proceedings which require that specific answer to allegations be made to the Interstate Commerce commission by September 5. It is charged that by way of rebate or other devices, the refrigerator lines are acting for the railroads as authorized agents, and the railroads, acting through the refrigerator lines, are collecting and receiving for the refrigeration of fruit and vegetables lower rates for some shipments than they are contemporaneously receiving for similar service rendered to other shippers.

GIVES AMERICA WORST OF IT

Tower Objects to German Discrimination in Railroad Rates.

Washington, Aug. 16.—Although the subject has figured for several years past in the diplomatic exchanges between America and Germany, renewed interest is being taken by the State department in the representations made to the German government in behalf of the American lumber exporting trade relative to alleged discrimination by the government controlled German railroads against American lumber.

Ambassador Tower has been instructed to inform the German government that, as the United States makes no discrimination between countries in the imposition of customs duties, American imports into Germany should be treated in the same manner. The Germans are stated to have drawn what the lumber exporters regard as a purely fanciful line of difference between standard American and European hardwoods as a basis for imposing much higher railroad rates on the former.

Expert on Ground.

New Orleans, Aug. 16.—The arrival of Dr. John Guiteras, the Cuban yellow fever expert, and his tour of the seat of the worst infection, was the most interesting feature of the yellow fever situation today. Dr. Guiteras left Havana to make an inspection of the Gulf cities in connection with the Cuban quarantine, and to offer his assistance to the campaign in progress here. His previous important visit to New Orleans was in 1897, when there was also an appearance of yellow fever before the mosquito theory had been determined.

Decisive Result Soon.

Paris, Aug. 16.—M. Witte has received final instructions relative to the extreme limit of the Russian concessions, according to information received this afternoon from its St. Petersburg correspondent, who says he learns in governmental circles that, should Japan insist on the payment of an indemnity, the negotiations will be broken off. The decisive result, the correspondent says, may be expected this week.

All Oppose Feeding Law.

Chicago, Aug. 16.—Secretary of Agriculture Wilson held a conference today with about 50 cattlemen at the stockyards exchange on the subject of livestock transportation. The cattlemen made it plain that they were opposed to the law which requires shippers to feed and rest cattle every 24 hours. They wanted it extended to 36 hours.

LARGE GATHERING

Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress in Portland.

FLOODS OF ORATORY LET LOOSE

Oriental Trade, Immigration, and Exclusion of Chinese Discussed by Prominent Speakers.

Portland, Aug. 17.—Representing all states and territories west of the Mississippi river, including Hawaii and the Philippines, the Trans-Mississippi Commercial congress met yesterday morning in sixteenth annual assembly for a session of four days, in the auditorium at the fair, presided over by President Theodore B. Wilcox, of Portland, and after a number of welcoming speeches and responses, adjourned at noon, to meet again this morning.

The congress contains captains of industry and masters of commerce from the entire western two-thirds area of the United States—men of brains and fame and force—gathered to deliberate on topics of national and commonwealth concern, and to bring results of their discussions to the doors of the national congress at Washington, or other departments of government, or wherever else they may serve the public interest.

Prominent speakers will treat of such subjects as Oriental trade, immigration and Chinese exclusion; the merchant marine; rivers and harbors, irrigation and government reclamation projects; government regulation of railroads and rates, creation of a mining department of the national government.

The Chinese immigration question will bring forth differences of opinion. As to irrigation, Oregon and Washington are very impatient with the slow progress of immigration work by the national government, and inclined to ensure the Reclamation service for the delay, while other states, notably California, Idaho and Colorado, where projects are under way, will be disposed to squelch such a movement. A determined effort will be made by mining states calling on congress to establish a Department of mining. Enlarged powers for the Interstate Commerce commission will be urged by a strong element, for government control of the railroads and interstate commerce rates. The Columbia will adopt vigorous resolutions in behalf of large congressional appropriations.

LIKELY TO COMPROMISE.

Envoys Laboring Hard to Agree on Basis for Peace.

Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 17.—The prospects of peace are distinctly brighter. The plenipotentiaries are laboring with a seriousness and earnestness which leave not the slightest doubt that both are anxious to conclude a treaty. Though the main points remain to be contested and the plenipotentiaries speak as though the conference would go to pieces unless the other side gave way, the spirit of compromise is in the air. When he returned to the hotel last night, Mr. Witte, who was tired out with his hard day's work, said:

"I am doing all I can do for peace. Of the eight articles we have already considered, I have yielded seven. No other statesman in Russia would have dared to do so much and I have done what I have done on my own responsibility."

From an authoritative source it is now possible to forecast with a fair degree of accuracy that the crisis will come on next Monday. Articles 7 and 8, dealing with the fate of the Chinese Eastern railway, having been disposed of yesterday, there remain in addition to the cession of Sakhalin, which was passed over, the question of indemnity, which comes up today as article 9, the limitation of Russia's sea power in the Far East, the surrender of the interned ships and the grant to Japan of fishing rights on the coast north of Vladivostok.

Settles Down to Long Fight.

New Orleans, Aug. 17.—The campaign against yellow fever has now resolved itself into dry routine. The fact that the deaths have not risen in number is considered an important sign, and that, with the disappearance of foci and the gradual perfection of the system under which the Federal authorities are battling to prevent a rapid multiplication of infected squares, was considered by Dr. White today to be sufficient to warrant him in saying that the situation was bright and the outlook hopeful.

Plans to Protect Submarines.

Washington, Aug. 17.—The Navy department has approved recommendations made by the naval board with a view to safeguarding the crews of the submarine torpedo boats. The board recommends that submarine maneuver in waters not more than eight fathoms deep, and that they be provided with lifting shackles and be accompanied by a vessel, so that the submarine may be promptly brought to the surface should any accident occur.

Will Be No Extra Session.

Washington, Aug. 17.—A cable dispatch today to the New York papers from the Philippines says that Secretary Taft yesterday read at Luncheon a dispatch from President Roosevelt announcing that there would be no extra session of congress.