

The Tillamook Headlight.

Fred C. Baker, Publisher.

The Meaning of Witte.

The selection of M. Witte as a member of the Russian peace commission to Washington, in place of M. Muraviev, is a change of considerable consequence. Witte was one of the original peace men. He was against the policy which goaded Japan into striking Russia. Muraviev, like Alexieff and others, was a warhawk in 1903-4. The displacement of Muraviev by Witte means that Nicholas II., despite the pressure brought on him by the grand dukes to continue the fighting, is really disposed to accept peace.

But Witte's selection means more than this. It means that at last Nicholas has come under the way of the liberal element of the Russian population. Witte would make some concession to the Russian populace's demand for a national assembly. He is in favor of the abolition of the bureaucracy. Nicholas, it used to be supposed, also leaned toward liberalism. He has been swinging from progress to reaction ever since the war began, and it is possible that an oscillation toward the maintenance of the oligarchy will take place to-day or to-morrow. For the time, at least, the liberal tendencies are in the ascendant, and Witte, who is president of the council, will probably be able to give some sort of expression to those aspirations.

What swift changes, however, come in the fortunes of Russian favorites these days! Alexieff, Kuropatkin, Stoessel, Alexis, Kruger, and now Muraviev! All have strutted and fretted their little hour on the stage, and will be heard of no more. Kuropatkin and Stoessel, it is probable, did all that anybody could have done with the materials at their hands. But they went down in obedience to the Russian populace's demand for victims in their calamities. Witte is the sort of a man that the United States will like to receive. His appointment gives satisfaction in this country, but, of course, our attitude will have to be neutral in any case. Any one whom Russia or Japan sends here to the peace conference will be sure of a cordial welcome. But the czar's mood in dictating the latest shake-up in the peace commission may change. It will be wise for Witte, as well as Muraviev, Alexieff and the rest of the deposed dignitaries, to remember Wolsey's words about the wretchedness of the poor men that hang on princes' favors.

A Golden Avalanche.

When Gov. Mickey of Nebraska told Tom Lawson to sell what he has and give to the poor, or, to be more literal, advised him to give away a large percentage of his personal fortune as Rockefeller is giving, he may have spoken words of a greater import than he knew. For Mr. Lawson is giving evidence of having taken the case under advisement. Mr. Lawson is reported to have said in an address at a banquet given by the commercial club of Minneapolis: "I have several millions myself, and wronged the American people in getting it. But I did not know it at the time. When the time comes I will give the money back to them."

This, of course, is rather indefinite. It leaves too much option in the hands of Lawson as to determining "when the time comes." Gov. Mickey might again quote Scripture to Lawson and advise him that "now is the accepted time"; but the governor may congratulate himself upon being the first to wring a public avowal from Lawson that he considers it necessary to trumpet the Rockefeller trick of giving away money. There are many men of large wealth in the country who are joining in the hue and cry against Rockefeller who have never given the least evidence of his desire to make restitution. If they wage any war with the money lust, it is the last which is always victor, since they never give the least evidence of having prevailed. Mr. Lawson's one of this class. He has for many years been accumulating wealth in speculations, his lines being sometimes those of the Standard oil company and sometimes opposite ones, but always and everywhere parallel with the interest of Lawson and expressing the idea of "the public be damned."

It is a part of the faith of all Christian lands that men can hear voices at noonday and be so overcome by a sense of their own unworthiness that they turn off from the road to Damascus and take the road to heaven. Wherefore, it is impossible to condemn Lawson utterly. He may have heard such a voice and seen such a light as came to Saul of Tarsus. If so, we shall soon be hearing of Lawson bequests, if he really values that public opinion to which he is appealing. If there are no Lawson bequests within a reasonable time, there will be no more Lawson audiences or rushes for Lawson editions of anybody's magazine. In vulgar parlance, Lawson must soon "put up or shut up." That he is reluctant to "put up" is shown in another part of his Minneapolis speech when, after admitting his possessions of millions won at stock jobbing he adds a little pathetically: "But I haven't any more than I am entitled to, the way the game is played." It is much to be doubted whether Mr. Lawson will ever be able to see "when the time comes" for him to let go. If he ever does, his action is likely to bring on an epidemic of be-

quests and benevolences among rich men who have never had a thought of fighting the dragon, but who will grow ashamed of acknowledging themselves whipped when other men of equal wealth can prevail against him. Gov. Mickey may have provoked a golden avalanche, but there are as yet no signs of educational or eleemosynary institutions getting ready to stand from under.

HORRIBLE EXPLOSION

On Board the U.S. Gunboat Bennington.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., July 22.—The Bennington horror, which yesterday shocked an entire nation by its long roster of casualties, grew with each passing hour of the day. Even the wildest early estimates of the terrible results of the exploding boilers upon the gunboat have not been exaggerated and, instead of lessening the extent of the catastrophe, later and complete details have ended to it. The death list may be swelled to the appalling total of four score before the last word shall have been written and one of the darkest pages in America's naval history.

These figures, which at first glance appear exaggerated, are made up of the known dead, the probable victims among the injured now in the various hospitals and the total number missing, and are summarized as follows:

Dead at morgues, 53; dead in the flooded fireroom of the ill-fated warship 7; injured who may die, 19; missing, 15. Total 81.

The total of probable deaths of injured men is based upon the opinion of Dr. M. H. Foster, of the United States Marine Hospital service, in charge of the medical staff, and the number missing upon the statement of Commander Young. The commander believes the missing men were drowned and that the waters of the bay will give up the number of dead.

Goodrich will investigate.
The day brought other developments and news of the most intense interest and importance to naval officers. From Washington came information that Rear-Admiral Goodrich, commanding the Pacific squadron, had been ordered to San Diego forthwith. This is taken to mean a naval investigation into the causes of the explosion aboard the Bennington and the fixing of the blame therefor.

Captain Drake and Surgeon Smith, both from Mare Island Navy-yard, are upon the scene, the former to direct operations on the wrecked vessel, and the latter to assist in caring for the injured and direct the burying of the dead. With Surgeon Smith came four hospital stewards, whose assistance will be welcomed by the overworked medical corps now in charge.

The Bennington tonight lies deeper than ever in the mud and shallow water on the shore of the bay and no apparent progress was made in the work of pumping out her flooded compartments. Until this is accomplished, the secrets of her horror chambers will not be discovered. This much is known however: Seven bodies are wedged beneath collapsed crown sheets and burst bulkheads of the fireroom. How many more may be found in the compartments, now forbidden ground, is entirely conjecture.

Boiler, Not Explosives, the Cause.

Commander Lucien Young was seen in his quarters aboard the Bennington this afternoon. He was asked to make a statement as to the cause of the explosion and its effects upon the machinery. He said:

"As to the cause of the explosion, I cannot say anything, because I do not know. What I do know is that the damage was caused by exploding boiler or boilers. The crown-sheet of boiler B collapsed and the boiler head blew out, breaking through the steel bulkhead separating it from boiler D, the other main port boiler immediately aft. Boiler D was forced back, the crown-sheet collapsed and breaking down the steel bulkhead separating it from the fireroom. Every one in the fireroom at the time was killed. Three bodies are now pinioned down by the collapsed crown-sheet of boiler D, and four more by the burst bulkhead. These bodies we are now trying to release. In order to do this it will be necessary to cut the steel bulkhead in two places. One of the bodies is wedged in such shape that it may be necessary to dismember it in order to take it out. We are hindered, of course, by the water in the boiler and firerooms and are taking measures to pump this out as rapidly as possible. I cannot express an opinion as to when we will recover the bodies."

"The Associated Press has a dispatch from Washington, quoting Rear-Admiral C. W. Rae, chief engineer of the Navy, to the effect that he can only account for the damage to the Bennington by the explosion of high explosives," was suggested.

"That is entirely wrong. There were no high explosives in the part of the ship where the explosion occurred, and I am positive that it will be found that all the damage was caused by the boilers."

"What was the condition of the boilers, Captain?" was asked.

"So far as I know, they were in first-class condition. They had been recently tested to 22.5 pounds pressure. At the time of the explosion we carried but 120 pounds."

"When were the boilers last inspected?"

"I cannot answer as to the exact date,

but it was within the past few months."

The arrival of Captain Drake, of Mare Island, was announced at this point, and the commander hastened to the gang-plank to greet him. He then declined to make any further statement.

Commander Young stated that 18 men are missing besides those accounted for at the morgues, hospitals and in the fire-room. He believed that these 18 men were drowned and that their bodies will be found on the shores of the bay from time to time.

"I am quite satisfied," he said, "that more men were blown into the water than were picked up by the rescue boats. These men, I believe, were so seriously injured to keep afloat any length of time and were drowned. No one could have been on the gundeck, especially amidships, and escaped death or injury."

There was lessening of the strain at the various hospitals where were witnessed such terrible scenes of suffering and death during the previous 24 hours. There was still work to do, however, but willing hands were always ready to take the burden off those who had borne it so nobly during the hours following the disaster. At Agnew sanitarium, where a large majority of the victims have been treated, there are still 34 sufferers, almost a dozen of whom are expected to die of their terrible injuries.

The Will of God.

TO THE EDITOR TILLAMOOK HEADLIGHT.

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve." "His servants ye are to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey."

"Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." We either subscribe to the will of God, or the adversary, there is no other alternate. After creation God blessed the man and the woman, and said unto them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth." The first thing after the flood "God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth."

Whenever a people have turned toward God, posterity has received the first consideration and just as they have left him they become sterile through the abuse of the sexual functions, or false ambitions. If the American people had always entertained our present ideas we would have been exterminated long ago. Every boy or girl is forming their mind and heart whether to serve God or mammon, when they come to maturity.

It is the work of a church to teach the ways of the world. God says "Be fruitful." Mammon says, "you must wait until you have wealth." "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." It is his by right of creation, and he has never failed to provide for those who recognize his will. The righteous are never forsaken, nor does his seed have to beg bread. The most insignificant man of all is the preacher who fails to set forth the sovereign will of God, how a man can stand before his congregation and palaver when his church is dying for want of the natural increase without saying one word against the infamous practices of prevention or fetside, a mere compromise for a paltry collection, is beyond my comprehension. No church, government, or neighborhood can survive without a natural birth rate, and there is no one who has more influence than the minister for God or for mammon.

The greatest question that confronts the American people is whether the youth are to be encouraged to serve God or to waste their seed in folly.

The days of grace are limited with a woman and it matters not whether she wastes her virtue in vice or masculine employment, she thwarts the purpose of God, just the same. The man of God and the woman of God have no more sacred obligations than to conceive and bring forth the images of God, and there are thousands of homes in our land that are suffering for want of wholesome advice. The prolific home that enjoys the blessing of God is the home of peace and plenty, the barren home never satisfies, it lacks the greatest treasures, and ever stands a monument of the curse of God. There is no property qualification required. God placed life first, and as we look to him the resources of the earth are for the home, but as we neglect his will they are absorbed by mammon. As we look to God there is a general equality, as mammon rules, few become extremely rich at the expense of the masses.

It is self evident that it is the will of God that men marry, raise natural families, build homes and trust his providence.

Bent Her Double.

"I knew none, for four weeks, when I was sick with typhoid and kidney trouble," writes Mrs. Annie Hunter, of Pittsburg, Pa., "and when I got better, although I had one of the best doctors I could get, I was bent double, and had to rest my hands on my knees when I walked. From this terrible affliction I was rescued by Electric Bitters, which restored my health and strength, and now I can walk as straight as ever. They are simply wonderful." Guaranteed to cure stomach, liver and kidney disorders; at Chas. I. Clough, drug store; price 50c.

Forced to Starve.

B. F. Leek, of Concord, Ky., says: "For 20 years I suffered agonies, with a sore on my upper lip, so painful, sometimes, that I could not eat. After vainly trying everything else, I cured it, with Bucklen's Arnica Salve." It's great for burns, cuts and wounds. At Chas. I. Clough, drug store; only 25c.

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