

THE CRISIS IS EXPECTED SOON

QUESTION OF PEACE TO BE SETTLED WITHIN FEW DAYS.

THE PRESIDENT IS ACTIVE.

And Hopes to Gain Favorable Recognition of Entreaties to Emperor Nicholas.

Important Developments Said to Have Resulted from Ambassador Meyer's Conference With the Czar—England and Other Powers Joining Heartily.

OYSTER BAY, Aug. 24.—The crisis in the peace negotiations is approaching rapidly. Whether peace between Russia and Japan or continuous war will be determined very likely within a few days.

Since he made a direct appeal to Emperor Nicholas, President Roosevelt has been awaiting developments. Today the developments began to appear. Report from Ambassador Meyer at St. Petersburg of the audience with the emperor was received and important advice from Portsmouth reached the president. The utmost secrecy is maintained regarding the communications and not the slightest intimation of the nature of their contents is being permitted to become public.

It is quite certain in addition to making a direct appeal to the Russian emperor the president has communicated with the Japanese government along similar lines. Whether the appeal was made directly to the emperor of Japan cannot be ascertained.

IS NOT UNDER THE BAN.

Portsmouth, Aug. 24.—Alexandre H. Brianchaninoff, the special correspondent of the St. Petersburg Slove, telegraphing to his paper tonight says: "After the extreme optimism caused by the news of President Roosevelt's active intervention reaction was natural. However, its importance must not be exaggerated, and whoever knows the tenacious character of the head of the great American republic will not doubt that the president, once entered into the game, will not surrender, as often do the reasonable but always too humble advisers of the czar."

Money Should Make no Difference.

London, Aug. 24.—It is felt impossible that two nations should be plunged again into the horrors of war on account of the mere difference of a few millions in money, which would speedily be expended in the continuation of hostilities. The London papers in commenting on the situation, therefore, do not despair of a peaceful settlement in view of the fact that all the differences except indemnity are virtually arranged.

Portsmouth, Aug. 24.—Up to 11 o'clock tonight six cablegrams have been received by Witte from St. Petersburg. All came from Count Lamsdorf, and all were opposed to the Japanese compromise proposition. However, it is positively stated that the cablegrams announce that direct pour parlers are now in progress between Emperor Nicholas and President Roosevelt.

Would Not Waive Points.

Portsmouth, Aug. 24.—According to Japanese information Komura and Takahira are opposed to the waiving of the demand for war expenditures. This authority said:

"In the conference the Japanese contention was that in conceding ante bellum, as demands of Japan, Russia admitted either that she was beaten, or that her attitude prior to the war was unjustified, and in either case Japan holds that Russia's talk of 'saving her face' is hardly reasonable, claiming that her face was lost when she conceded the ante-bellum demands which constituted the real cause belli."

GAMBLING IS STOPPED.

"Knights of the Green" are Now Idle at the Town of Newport.

NEWPORT, Aug. 24.—No longer can the knight of the green cloth wax fat off the earnings of the unwary and the unsophisticated who take their outing at the beaches. District Attorney, Gen. M. Brown's ukase, which traveled from

Roseburg last Saturday and reached the proprietors of the various establishments through the medium of Deputy District Attorney Swope was to the effect that all gambling devices of whatever nature should be immediately closed. No time was lost by Deputy Swope in issuing the mandate of his chief. Even the nickel-in-the-slot machines were turned to the wall. The demand of the District Attorney was not so sweeping as to include "boozie" emporiums. It is yet possible to "get what you want" in the various resorts on Sunday, the same as on other days. But the hum of the roulette wheel can no longer be heard in the back room and the poker chips have been relegated to the back room.

GIANT POWDER DOES IT.

BAKERSFIELD, Cal., Aug. 24.—A terrific explosion of giant powder occurred at Paris, fifty-one miles from Bakersfield, today. Mrs. A. W. McRae, her son, George, and Oscar Ducloux, were instantly killed. Mr. McRae received injuries from which it is feared he will die, and three others were badly hurt.

IS SAVED AGAIN

HOCH GAINS ANOTHER REPRIEVE FROM SHADOW OF THE GALLOWS.

Hanging of "Bluebeard" Set for Today Stayed by Justice MacGruder Pending Appeal to Supreme Court to Escape for Third Time.

CHICAGO, Aug. 24.—Johan Hoch, the man of many wives, convicted for the murder of one of them, and under sentence of death, has escaped the gallows a third time. He was to be hanged here tomorrow, but a supersedeas was issued today on an order of Justice MacGruder of the Supreme Court.

The Justice said that he had carefully examined the records presented by Hoch's attorneys, and his study of them satisfied him that there was sufficient doubt to justify a review of the entire case by the Supreme Court. The case will come up at the October term of the supreme court at Springfield, Ill.

Hoch has been confident that the sentence of hanging would not be inflicted. He had very little to say when informed of the action of the Justice. Justice MacGruder said it was the first time in his experience that a prisoner has exhibited no concern about his fate the day previous to the execution.

Hoch was smoking a cigar when told of the issuance of the writ.

"I am not guilty of this horrible murder," he said, "and now I will have the opportunity of proving my innocence before the highest court in the state. I never felt that I would go to the gallows. I may be guilty of other crimes, but never of that murder."

MAY CAUSE DEATH.

Discharged Employee Stabbed Manager of Columbia and Nehalem Railway at Columbia City.

PORTLAND, Aug. 23.—A discharged employe, whose name was not brought to Portland, but who is in custody at Columbia City, stabbed and seriously wounded, at 6:30 this morning, D. N. Miller, general manager of the Columbia and Nehalem Valley railway. Miller had discharged the employe last night, and the man intercepted him this morning and began a quarrel. Mr. Miller received two stab wounds, one penetrating the lung, the other entering the left arm. A physician was summoned from Portland, and had Mr. Miller brought to this city late this afternoon. He is at the Good Samaritan hospital. He has been operated on, is gradually sinking from loss of blood, and is said to have practically no chance to recover.

ENDORSED BY THE 'PROHIBS.'

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., Aug. 23.—William H. Berry, mayor of Chester, Pa., was today nominated state treasurer by the Prohibition convention. He is also the Democratic candidate for state treasurer.

AND IN PORTLAND ALSO?

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 23.—The United States government building at the Louisiana Purchase exposition, erected at a cost of \$500,000, has been sold to the wrecking company for \$10,500. The steel trusses in the structure alone cost \$100,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 23.—The announcement was made today that William McMurray has been appointed assistant general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific.

THEY INVITE CRITICISM.

Commission on Revision of Immigration Regulations Sends Out Letter to all Agents.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22.—The commission appointed by Secretary Metzolf of the department of commerce and labor, to revise the present rules and regulations under which the immigration laws and the Chinese exclusion laws are administered, today sent a letter to all the officials of the immigration bureau in the field, asking for an expression of opinion on each of the rules now in operation. The letter to the immigration agents practically is the first step taken by the commission.

The most important steps proposed by the commission are public hearings at which criticisms of the service may be

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IRA WADE MAY YET GO FREE

NOT LIKELY HE WILL BE INDICTED FOR LAND FRAUDS.

THE LINCOLN COUNTY CASES

These Are the Ones Before the United States Grand Jury at Portland Now.

Attempt to Mix Wade up in Fraudulent Affairs Proves Abortive—Jones Before Jury Yesterday—Others Were Interrogated.

PORTLAND, Aug. 24.—The Evening Telegram says: It is believed that Ira Wade, county clerk of Lincoln county, will be freed from federal indictment at the present session of the grand jury. In investigating the Siletz reserve claims with the supposed object of bringing a new indictment against Willard N. Jones, Thaddeus rotter et al., the jury is expected to return the finding that Wade was innocent of complicity in the alleged frauds, and he will go unscathed. In the former indictment it was charged that he was equally guilty with Jones, Potter and others, and when that indictment was withdrawn at the suggestion of the court that the document was faulty and the demurrer offered by the defendants would be sustained, it was thought that the list of defendants would be re-indicted at the present session. Recent developments are thought to have convinced District Attorney Heney that Wade is either entirely innocent or sufficient proof to convict him is lacking.

Wade arrived in Portland this morning in response to a subpoena and will appear as a witness before the grand jury. This is regarded as significant, and indicates that his testimony will be used against the principal defendants and as well, be allowed to go free. Evidence of witnesses, however, is believed to show that Wade was not possessed of the information that the homesteaders whose affidavits he took were fraudulent, and is claimed by the prosecution, and that Wade was not acting in collusion with the claimants. In his capacity as county clerk, he took affidavits of final proof, and this is said to be his whole connection with the case.

The former indictment was a singular document in that it charged Wade with an offense against the government, committed, it was alleged, in April, 1902. The fact was that in April, 1902, Wade was plowing on his Lincoln county farm and had not yet been elected county clerk, and could not possibly have committed the offense before he became county clerk, as prior to that time he could not take affidavits of entrymen.

It is hinted that this phase of the case may involve his predecessor in office, who was county clerk in April, 1902, Wade not being elected until June of that year. The official serving before Wade was J. H. Lutz. In that event, too, the government would have to establish a guilty knowledge on the part of Lutz in taking the affidavits of fraudulent entrymen, and it may not be possible to do this.

Backing at Home.

Lincoln county people assert that Wade is entirely innocent of any wrong in this connection, and the indictment is so far as it touches him, should be dropped. It is said that the people of the county almost swear by him, and that he has the confidence of the section to such a marked degree that he was elected to a second term as clerk in June, 1904, and that he stands a good chance of being returned for a third term.

Investigation of the entries on Siletz homesteads, said to have been engineered by Jones and Potter, continues today, and the witnesses are entrymen who, it is alleged, were procured by the above two to file on the claims and later transfer them to their employers.

Willard N. Jones, the leading defendant in the indictment, was the star witness before the grand jury today, and was supposedly quizzed as to his Siletz transactions. He was in the room for some time, and it is to be inferred that he spent a bad day.

Addison Longnecker, another of the entrymen on the Siletz claims, was interrogated by the jury this forenoon.

NEW OFFICIAL IS NAMED.

William McMurray Appointed Assistant General Passenger Agent of Southern Pacific.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 23.—The announcement was made today that William McMurray has been appointed assistant general passenger agent of the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon with headquarters in Portland.

A SENSIBLE JUDGE.

Refuses to Be Party to Marriage of Extreme Youth and Old Age.

SEATTLE, Aug. 23.—Announcing he did not believe it right for an old man to marry a mere child, Justice Davis today refused absolutely to perform a ceremony to make O. L. Lanier, aged 63, and Elizabeth Alexander, aged 16, husband and wife.

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BUTTER EXAMINATION.

Showing Something of Results of Adulteration in Various Countries.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 24.—(Special).—One wonders if a recent analysis of butter made in Germany will not account in a large measure for the falling off in the export of American butter to Great Britain in the last ten years. Consul Hamm sends from Hull, England, to the state department an interesting report on the adulteration of butter shipped to Great Britain.

There were sixty-nine samples of American butter examined, of which fifty-four contained borax, or boracic acid, and forty-three samples contained coloring matter. However, the United States is not the only country hurting its trade by sending to England adulterated butter, and Holland, Denmark, Australia, France, Sweden, Russia, Norway, Canada and other countries all make a bad record, the samples showing boracic acid and coloring matter in greater or less amounts.

GIVES RISE TO SPECULATION

AMBASSADOR CONGER, OF MEXICO, TENDERS RESIGNATION.

IS ACCEPTED BY THE PRESIDENT

Thought to Have Been Selected as Special Commissioner to China on Boycott.

Later Developments Indicate that He Will Not Go Upon This Mission—May Be Succeeded by Ambassador Thompson of Brazil.

OYSTER BAY, Aug. 22.—Edwin H. Conger of Iowa, has resigned his post as ambassador to Mexico, to take effect October 18, and President Roosevelt has accepted the resignation.

Mr. Conger's retirement from the diplomatic service was foreshadowed last week. It was indicated then he might be sent to Peking as a special commissioner to the president to adjust the differences between this country and China over the boycott of American goods by some Chinese commercial guilds. While no official statement is obtainable regarding the mission, there are reasons for the statement that it has either been abandoned by the president or has been declined by Conger.

At any rate, it is believed Conger will not go to China.

It has not been determined definitely who will succeed Mr. Conger as ambassador to Mexico, but it will probably be David E. Thompson of Nebraska, now ambassador to Brazil. It is known that Ambassador Thompson desires the Mexico post.

Many Complaints Are Filed.

Washington, Aug. 22.—Protests against the Chinese boycott of American goods continue to be received by the state department. No further reports indicating the progress of the boycott have been received at the department and it is not believed there is any progress of the boycott outside of Shanghai.

OFFER REWARD

GOVERNOR CHAMBERLAIN WANTS TO AID IN CATCHING MAN WHO FIRED FLAX MILL.

If Law Authorizes It, Price Will Be Set on Capture of Dastardly Criminal Who, Governor Believes, Is Trying to Destroy Flax Industry in Oregon.

Believing that the burning of Eugene Rosse's flax and flax mill was with deliberate intent to destroy the flax industry in Oregon, Governor Chamberlain has under consideration the offering of a substantial reward for the arrest of the perpetrator of the crime. The governor is in some doubt whether he has authority under the appropriation made by the last legislature to offer a reward in a case of this kind and this question he is now investigating. The appropriation was for the express purpose of paying the salaries of special agents to be appointed by the governor to apprehend criminals and collect evidence of crime, but no mention is made of rewards.

The governor says, however, that he may offer a reward even if this appropriation does not authorize it, but in that case he would make the payment conditional upon an appropriation by the next legislature.

RUSSIA WILL NOT PAY IT

REFUSES ABSOLUTELY TO PAY INDEMNITY TO JAPAN.

THE INFORMATION IS OFFICIAL

Reuter's Correspondent Is Informed by Count Lamsdorf to This Effect.

HE IS RECONCILED.

King Oscar No Longer Feels Inclined to Oppose Son's Claim Upon Throne.

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 24.—The feeling in government circles regarding the accession by the Bernadotte prince to the Norwegian throne has undergone a change. King Oscar no longer opposes the acceptance of the crown by his son Charles. As soon as the union between Norway and Sweden is dissolved his answer will be given and will probably be in the affirmative.

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