# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

## President Notifies Russia That Treaty Is Abrogated

**Such Was the Unofficial Announcement Made Early To-day—No Statement From White House—Congress to be Asked to Confirm.**

**Senate Was Expected to Take Final Action To-day—Great Interest Taken in Matter—Special Cabinet Meeting Last Night.**

By Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 18.—With the definite, though unofficial statement that President Taft formally had notified Russia that the treaty of 1832 with that country would be abrogated, the senate committee on foreign relations today considered what form the abrogation should take.

There were two propositions:

The first was that the President should officially proclaim the abrogation and ratification by the senate. The second was that the abrogation should be ordered in a joint resolution as proposed by the house. There was no thought, however, of adopting the language of the house document.

Most members of the committee thought the president should act with the senate alone, without regard to the house.

The committee discussed whether the abrogation should be considered in open session, as it was in the house, or in executive session.

A resolution satisfactory to the administration is said to have been framed by Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts. This draft would briefly and simply declare the treaty abrogated on the ground that it had become obsolete.

Secretary of State Knox declared that there had been a great deal of misapprehension about the attitude of Russia in the recent negotiations.

He asserted anew that Russia had not protested to the United States against the abrogation of the treaty or against the language of the Sulzer resolution. The secretary said that neither formally nor informally had Russia entered any sort of complaint. It was intimated that later in the day clarifying correspondence might be made public.

Washington, Dec. 18.—It is unofficially announced that President Taft yesterday served notice on Russia that the treaty of 1832 was abrogated. It was said that the president's message to the senate today would ask confirmation of his action.

All attempts to get an official statement from the White House were fruitless. At the executive offices it was stated that nothing was known of the situation. From the first the White House refused all information. As a result many conflicting reports were spread.

A member of the senate foreign relations committee was authority for the statement today that the president had formally served the notice of abrogation through American Ambassador Guild at St. Petersburg.

**Senate to Act.**

Before today's session is ended the senate is expected to take such action as will result in the abrogation of the treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia. The greatest interest is manifested at the capitol and long before the doors to the senate galleries opened crowds were waiting admission, drawn there by the expectation of a lengthy and spirited debate.

Members of the senate committee on foreign relations appeared in their offices early, to be in readiness for the executive meeting of the committee set for 11 o'clock. It was generally believed that President Taft had written a personal letter to Senator Cullom, chairman of the committee, but none of the members would admit the fact. A special message on the subject addressed to the senate also was expected.

**Special Cabinet Meeting.**

The gravity of the situation was emphasized last night by the holding of a special cabinet meeting lasting from ten o'clock to discuss the administration's plan of action. President Taft has made his position clear to the members of the foreign relations committee and while he is said to be in favor of abrogating the treaty with Russia because of that country's refusal to recognize the properly accredited passports of certain American citizens, he is insistent that it be accomplished without affront. It is generally conceded that under no circumstances will the Sulzer resolution, passed by the house, be accepted by the senate.

Only one set speech was scheduled for today, that of Senator Rayner, of Maryland, urging the adoption of some resolution breaking the international understanding. Because of the great interest taken in the subject, it is expected that so many others will desire to be heard that the session may run far into the evening.

**Chairman Sulzer Talks.**

Chairman Sulzer of the house committee on foreign affairs, author of the original resolution to abrogate the treaty, declared today that he would not oppose any modification of the resolution that the Senate might desire to make.

Russia has objected strongly to the terms employed in the Sulzer resolution, which flatly charged that country with having violated her treaty pledges.

Members of the senate foreign relations committee last night said they expected to hear today that the president had served notice of abrogation upon the St. Petersburg government.

**Letter From Taft.**

Although the White House declined to confirm it, a letter from President Taft explaining his views on the Russian situation is said to have gone to Chairman Cullom of the senate foreign relations committee. The president is believed to have dwelt upon the long friendship between Russia and the United States and to have indicated he would not countenance action by congress which would be regarded as offensive.

The president is also believed to have detailed the view that he could act without waiting for congressional initiative. The president protects treaties and Mr. Taft is understood to have declared that the executive also is clothed with power to initiate the abrogation of treaties, asking in each event the approval of the senate.

**Treaty "Not Yet" Abrogated.**

At the state department at 11 a. m. it was declared that the treaty with Russia had "not yet" been abrogated. This statement was interpreted in some quarters as meaning that President Taft's notification may have been an informal one, to be followed later by a more explicit announcement of the abrogation. In any event the United States has until January 1 to notify St. Petersburg of the termination of the treaty, effective January 1, 1913. The treaty provides that notice shall be given on January 1 of any calendar year and that the treaty shall continue in effect twelve months thereafter.

All of the members of the senate foreign relations committee attended today's sitting. Several of them announced that they would take the attitude that there should be some conciliation toward Russia because of the acts of that government in favor of the union during the civil war.

While so disposed members did not favor anything that would in any way recognize discrimination against any class of American citizens.

There was no doubt expressed by members that the committee would favor a resolution declaring simply "that for reasons satisfactory to this government" the United States conceived itself to have the right to abrogate the treaty.

Mr. Sulzer announced he would not oppose a change in the phraseology of the house resolution declaring the

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### PEACE CONFERENCE OPENED TO-DAY IN SHANGHAI

By Associated Press.

Shanghai, Dec. 18.—The peace conference between Wu Ting Fang, the foreign secretary in the revolutionary cabinet, and Tang Shao Yi, representing Premier Yuan Shi Kai and five delegates selected by each side opened in the town hall here at 2:30 this afternoon.

The delegates arrived at the town hall at 2 o'clock. They immediately proceeded to business. All except the delegates were excluded from the building which is guarded by armed British police. The public is not even allowed on the same side of the street as the town hall.

One of the notable facts in connection with the peace conference is that both of the principal personages are natives of Canton and old friends. On their first entrance into the room the greeting of the delegates was most friendly.

Tan Shao Yi this morning said that he does not represent the throne but is a personal representative of Premier Yuan Shi Kai. This declaration may be regarded as a significant one. Both Wu Ting Fang and Tan Shao Yi privately expressed the hope, before the conference opened, that some agreement might reached.

Amos P. Wilder, United States consul general here, formally called on Tang Shao Yi this morning and talked with him on subjects of general interest without, however, touching on the question of the revolution. The strictest precautions have been taken by city authorities for the purpose of protection of Tang Shao Yi, as an intimation has reached the police that some among the more hotheaded students have been advocating his assassination on the ground that he is supporting the Manchus.

There is reason to believe that this idea is absolutely without foundation. Tang Shao Yi is an advocate of a constitutional monarchy but does not support the retention of the Manchu dynasty. His sympathies are with the Cantonese reformers but he does not believe in a republic.

**British and Japanese Action.**

London, Dec. 18.—The action which it has been decided shall be initiated by the British and Japanese governments in China is more a matter of mediation than of intervention. In any case the governments await the results of the peace conference, or at least some indication of what the outcome of the discussions is likely to be before proceeding further.

Thus far the conversations that have taken place on the subject of mediation have been solely between the British and Japanese governments. Before any definite decision is taken or the discussions is likely to be notified as to their proposed action.



TRIANGLE FIRE TRIAL

Lock and part of charred door admitted in evidence against the firm of Harris and Blanck, on trial for man-slaughter in New York for the deaths of more than a hundred of their employes. The hand points to the shot bolt, which it is claimed could not have been moved since the fire because of its warped condition, proving that the door, that would have afforded escape to many of the girls penned in, was locked. The defense made a stubborn fight to keep out this damaging bit of evidence, but the prosecution finally had it admitted and placed before the jury.

### NEW YORK WILL USE HALF-MILLION CHRISTMAS TREES

By Associated Press.

New York, Dec. 18.—New York city will use nearly half a million Christmas trees this year and the "ultimate" consumer will pay for them $250,000 or an average of fifty cents a tree. West street, where the steamers from England dock, smells like a balsam forest these days, for the Christmas tree season is at its height and thousands of the small firs are piled up beside the boat landings waiting for distribution to the retail trade.

"There appears to be no falling off in the demand for trees," said a dealer who handles thirty or forty thousand of them here every winter.

On the contrary their popularity is increasing so that already there is a shortage in the supply. It takes from ten to fifteen years to raise a tree big enough to use and those in the more accessible forests are fast being cut out."

**ENGLAND NOT THOUGHT TO HAVE GERMANY' PLANS.**

London, Dec. 18.—The story that the British Admiralty has secured plans of the locks and water supply in the mountains of this state, west of the city of Chihuahua are said to be deplorable. These Indians, who were active in the revolutionary cause, planted no crops and it is reported are now on the verge of actual starvation. A delegation of two hundred of the tribe is in Chihuahua making the second appeal to the government for immediate aid.

### FLORIDA PRESENTS SILVER SERVICE TO BATTLESHIP

By Associated Press.

Pensacola, Fla., Dec. 18.—Preceded by a parade of American and German bluejackets, regular army soldiers and militiamen, the silver service from the people of Florida was presented today to the battleship bearing the name of the peninsula state.

Governor Albert W. Gilchrist presented the service to Rear Admiral Lucien Young, representing the navy, and to Captain Harry W. Knapp, commander of the Dreadnought. A silver tablet in memory of U. S. Senator W. J. Bryan who got the vessel named after his state, and a loving cup and two flags from the Daughters of the Confederacy also were turned over to the officers of the big fighting ship. Mayor Amos E. Lewis, of Marianna, Fla., presented the tablet.

The silver service consists of 25 pieces and cost more than $10,000.

*Mexican Indians Are Starving*

By Associated Press.

Juarez, Mexico, Dec. 18.—Conditions of the Tamahura Indians located in the mountains of this state, west of the city of Chihuahua are said to be deplorable. These Indians, who were active in the revolutionary cause, planted no crops and it is reported are now on the verge of actual starvation. A delegation of two hundred of the tribe is in Chihuahua making the second appeal to the government for immediate aid.



MISS TAFT'S ADMIRER BANISHED
Washington, Dec. 18.—The fact that Miss Helen Taft's name was linked with that of Captain Grahame Johnson, U. S. A., military aid to the president, in that an engagement was to be announced, has resulted, it is said, in Miss Taft's military admirer being "banished" to the Philippines. Captain Johnson had been with the president two years. Despite denials that an engagement existed, the young people were seen together and were apparently engrossed in each other's society.

*War On The "Middleman"*

By Associated Press.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 18.—Mayor Shank's personality conducted sale of potatoes and turkeys at cut prices has inspired the formation of an association to reinforce the mayor in his "war on the middle man."

The two thousand shares of stock in the Wage Earners Co-Operative Association were put on sale today at $5 a share. Its organizers plan to open a depot where the ultimate consumer of foodstuffs shall meet the producer, thereby eliminating the jobbers profits. The campaign for extended membership will be made largely through the central labor union.

*Mrs. Vermilya Too Ill to Attend Father's Funeral*

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Mrs. Louise Vermilya, alleged poisoner of Arthur Bissonnette, a policeman, remained in jail yesterday while her father, John Wolf, who died on Wednesday, was being buried. Although she had been given permission to attend, Mrs. Vermilya said she felt too ill to venture out of the jail hospital.

**LOADED PISTOL AND FALSE HAIR WAS DEADLY COMBINATION.**

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 18.—Keeping a loaded pistol in a bureau drawer with her false hair proved to be a fatal mistake last night for Mrs. Celim Manlan, of this city. The weapon became entangled with her switch and while trying to disengage the revolver it was discharged. She was shot in the head and almost instantly killed.

**PUGILIST SMITH HAS GOOD CHANCES FOR RECOVERY.**

By Associated Press.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 18.—Mysterious "Billy" Smith, formerly a well known pugilist who was shot last night by Captain A. B. Loomis, husband of Smith's divorced wife, was thought to have a fair chance of recovery. Loomis surrendered himself to the police several hours after the shooting and claimed that he had fired in self defense.

Smith and Mrs. Loomis were talking on a street when Loomis approached and shots were exchanged by the men. Four bullets lodged in Smith's body but Loomis was not shot.

*Coffin Security For Board Bill*

By Associated Press.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 18.—The hotel Pulaska of this city probably has the most gruesome security for a board bill that has been left on the hands of a landlord in some time. It is a coffin which was left there by a drummer for undertakers supplies two weeks ago. The proprietors of the hotel have tried to get the negro waiters to take chances on the exhibit in a raffle but they will not do it. Neither will they touch it to move it out of the store room where it now is. The proprietors are puzzled to know what to do with it.

**GOOD CHANCE TO PROVE MERITS OF ARBITRATION.**

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Dec. 18.—"This is a good opportunity for the United States and Russia to prove the merits of arbitration," said Bishop Thomas F. Lillis in speaking on the passport question here last night.

"In place of the threat of the Russian ambassador to demand his papers," continued the bishop, "there should be an attempt by both parties to decide the case accordingly to justice."

## Twelve Persons Killed In Double Railroad Wreck

### Cummins Released Today on Bail

By Associated Press.

New York, Dec. 18.—William J. Cummins, the convicted banker, furnished $60,000 bail today through a surety company and was released pending appeal. He had been in the Tombs since November 20.

Cummins was served with a subpoena to appear as a witness in the case of Charles H. Hyde, former city chamberlain, who will not be placed on trial.

**HOW TO AVOID LOSSES ON "TARE" CHARGES.**

By Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 18.—Secretary of State Knox has addressed a letter to Representative Brantley, of Georgia, suggesting that American producers can best protect themselves against losses resulting from excessive "tare" charges abroad by exercising greater care in preparing their product for transportation in the export trade.

The letter was in answer to communications to the president from the house and senate committees on agriculture, and Representative Brantley accompanied by a resolution adopted by the Georgia assembly asking that some means be devised for eliminating the loss of about $12,000,000 sustained annually through "tare" charges.

The secretary said if precautions were taken in baling and packing cotton for export trade so as to prevent waste, foreign dealers would no have an excuse for excessive charges.

**AGED MAN ACQUITTED OF MURDER CHARGE.**

Alburque, N. M., Dec. 18.—White haired and bent, Donaccio Espalin, 80 years old, was today on trial in the district court of Don Ana county at Las Cruces. Two witnesses of the alleged killing, men who then were boys, were among those who testified.

Espalin after killing went to Old Mexico, where he remained until a few months ago when he went to Ysleta, Texas, where he was arrested.

The evidence, the court declared, was at this late date too incomplete and vague to incriminate Espalin.

**WAITRESS SAVED ONE THOUSAND DIMES.**

By Associated Press.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 18.—Deluged with letters and with Christmas gifts, Miss Ivy Cole, a waitress in a local cafe who saved up 1,000 dimes received in tips within one year to buy a fur coat is amazed at the attention her frugality has attracted.

She has received letters and postal cards from many parts of the country and proposals of marriage from East, West, North and South.

Miss Cole began saving all the dime tips she received a year ago last Thanksgiving. One day before Thanksgiving of the present year she has saved exactly $100, or 1,000 dimes.

**FRANK CHANCE TO BE PLAYING MANAGER AGAIN.**

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Frank Chance, veteran first baseman of the Chicago National baseball club, is to be a playing manager next season.

This was announced last night by President Murphy who said he had received a letter from the club leader to that effect.

*Teheran Situation More Hopeful*

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 18.—The information from Teheran which has reached the British minister at the Persian capital is, it is understood, making progress towards devising a method of settlement which will prove satisfactory both to Russia and Persia.

**ASSAULTER OF LLOYD GEORGE SENTENCED TO HARD LABOR.**

By Associated Press.

London, Dec. 18.—Allan Ross McDougall, who hurled a missile at Chancellor David Lloyd George as he was leaving a woman's liberal meeting on Saturday evening, was sentenced today to two months at hard labor. Lloyd George received the missile in the face.

**Bowler Nelson Defeated Smith.**

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Ned Nelson, the one-armed bowler who recently won business fame of this city championship, defeated Jimmy Smith, of Buffalo, last night in an eleven game match, 2,279 to 2,266. Smith earlier in the day defeated Tony Karlick, in eight games, 1,690 to 1,589.

**Aged Manufacturers of Cannon Dead.**

By Associated Press.

New Orleans, Dec. 18.—Francis Martin, aged 72, one of the best known business men of this city, died herey yesterday. During the civil war he manufactured cannon and other munitions of war for the Confederacy.

**Ten Victims of Rear End Collision on Chicago, Milwaukee And St. Paul Road—Many Seriously Injured—Failed to Set Signals.**

*Two Killed in Head on Collision Between Trolley Cars on Line in Kansas--Fog Said to Have Caused The Accident.*

By Associated Press.

Odessa, Minn., Dec. 18.—Ten persons were killed in a wreck on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad here today and ten or more were seriously injured when the second section of train No. 18, the Columbia, from Seattle, crashed into the first section which had been stopped on signal.

The wreck occurred a short distance from the signal tower at Odessa. The first section of the train had been stopped by the tower man because of a freight train in the block ahead of it.

Railway officials attribute the accident to the failure of the operator to set the signals against the second section. They also believe that the brakeman of the first section failed to run back to flag the second section.

The rear car of the first section was telescoped and the car next to it was badly shattered.

The nine dead were occupants of the last car as were most of the injured.

The wreck tore down the telegraph wires and there was some delay in getting word of the disaster to the road's headquarters.

The seriously injured were taken to a hospital at Ortonville, Minn. Heroic work was done by those on board the train in assisting the wounded and in aiding others to escape from the wrecked cars.

**Kansas City Wreck.**

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 18.—In a collision between two trolley cars on the Kansas City-Leavenworth electric line, which met headon in a dense fog near Wolcott, Kas., today two persons were killed and nine seriously injured.

A misunderstanding of orders is believed to have caused the collision.

**BRITISH FLEET TO BLOW UP HARBOR CONSIDERED NONSENSE**

By Associated Press.

Berlin, Dec. 18.—The alleged discovery of a British plot to blow up the naval harbor at Wilhelmshaven published in the Rhenish Westphalian Gazette is regarded in official circles in the light of newspaper nonsense. While the story is not denied, it is considered as the product of the prevailing espionage mania in Germany and England. Espionage certainly existed but in less fanatical forms than that related in the Gazette.

**HENRY WATTERSON REACHES KANSAS CITY.**

By Associated Press.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 18.—Henry Watterson, editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, arrived here today. He is scheduled to deliver an address on "The General Arbitration Treaties with Great Britain and France" tonight under the auspices of the Kansas City Commercial Club.

**REV. T. W. SANFORD GETS TEN YEARS IN PRISON.**

By Associated Press.

Portland, Me., Dec. 18.—Ten years in the federal prison at Atlanta was the sentence imposed today upon the Rev. Frank W. Sanford, leader of the Holy Ghost and Us Society of Shiloh, for causing the deaths of six persons on the yacht Coronet.

**JOHN P. GRACE INSTALLED AS MAYOR.**

By Associated Press.

Charleston, S. C., Dec. 18.—John P. Grace was today installed as mayor of Charleston, city councilmen taking the oath at the same time. Half of the aldermen are incumbents. The city hall was thronged with spectators. The new mayor delivered his inaugural, outlining his policies.

**SIXTY-FIVE ROOMS RESERVED. N. Y. REPUBLICAN DELEGATION.**

By Associated Press.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Lafayette Gleason, member of the New York state republican committee, arrived in Chicago last night and reserved sixty-five rooms at a Michigan avenue hotel for delegates from his state to the republican national convention which will open June 28.

**THE WEATHER.**

North Carolina:

Fair tonight and Tuesday. Moderate northeasterly winds.