

## Great Powers United In Effort To Bring About Peace in China

### Negotiations Between Wu Ting Fang and Tang Shao Yi Open With Surprising Smoothness—Fight Between Imperials and Republicans.

### Neither Side Considers Continuation of Manchu Rule Likely—Revolutionary Delegates Believe They Will Be Victorious in Their Demands.

Shanghai, China, Dec. 19.—Promise of peace in China became more definite today with the announcement that all six of the great powers—Japan, Great Britain, the United States, Russia, France and Germany—are united in a co-operative effort to assist Dr. Wu Ting Fang and Tang Shao Yi in their negotiations.

The four parliaments of Wu Ting Fang and Tang Shao Yi opened with surprising smoothness. It is unmistakably evident, however, that the continuation of Manchu rule, even as concerns the imperial throne at Peking, is considered unlikely by either side.

Even though the present dynasty is ousted, the premier evidently hopes to retain the imperial form of government, possibly with the present emperor designated as the first ruler of a new Chinese dynasty and with Yuan Shi Kai as regent.

The personality of Yuan Shi Kai dominates the convention. The great fight among the delegates will be as to whether the form of government is to be imperial or republican. If an empire, Yuan will be regent. If a republic Yuan will be the first president. The revolutionary delegates believe that they will be victorious in their demands for a republic. Even the staunchest of imperial delegates admit that Manchu rule is doomed.

The meeting has brought from the north a large body of bureaucratic Chinese who after 24 hours in Shanghai express unbounded astonishment in conditions south of the Yang Tse. Chinese and foreigners coming from the north alike admit that within the past six days an astounding political change has come over the south. Tang Shao Yi's delegates evidently are deeply impressed with the widespread demand for a republic but they still hope that the combined authority of Tang Shao Yi and Yuan Shi Kai will prevail. The action of the powers undoubtedly will have considerable weight in pressing to a satisfactory outcome the negotiations of the present conference.

Such comment has been aroused by the announcement of persons of British nationality, both official and others in connection with the conference and the journey from Peking to the south of Tang Shao Yi.

Both at Shanghai and at Hankow the British consuls, acting presumably under instructions from higher quarters, met the boat on which Tang Shao Yi was traveling down the Yang Tse. Notwithstanding that Tang Shao Yi landed at the French settlement, the British consul here took a leading part in his reception and persuaded him to take up his residence in his private house.

### JOHN BIGELOW IS DEAD

By Associated Press. New York, Dec. 19.—John Bigelow, the venerable diplomat and author, died at his home here today.

Mr. Bigelow died on the 95th year of his age in the old fashioned house in Grammercy Park that had long been his residence. Three days ago he suffered a return of an ailment incident to advanced age. For more than two days he suffered intense pain but eight or ten hours before death there came a partial paralysis of the senses and for several hours he lay smiling at those about him but unable to speak.

"He had been facing death for several days and he realized it," said his son, Major John Bigelow, Jr., today. At the bedside were two of his four children, Major Bigelow and Miss Grace Bigelow, and his granddaughter, Miss Charlotte Harding.

One of the first to be informed of Mr. Bigelow's death was Andrew Carnegie whose birthday, Nov. 25 coincides with that of the aged diplomat. The two were close friends and they spent part of their last birthday together at Mr. Bigelow's residence as had been their custom for several years.

### Officers Charged With Murder

Lancaster, S. C., Dec. 19.—Charged with the murder of "Doc" Welborn, a young mountaineer, the night of September 23, 1910, H. V. Holcomb, chief of police of Townville; J. E. Woolbright, an assistant and Baskin Sears and James Baldwin, were placed in the county jail here last night. Sears and Baldwin, it is said were called in at the time to aid in arresting Welborn on a charge of being intoxicated.

The charge will be made, it is said, that Welborn was killed before being placed in the guardhouse and that the house was burned to hide the crime. The arrests today are the result of the work of detectives who have been on the case for several months.

### How Poor Newsboy Made a Fortune

Chicago, Dec. 19.—George Bonnett, Chicago's oldest "newsboy" died wealthy because the romance of his life ended 35 years ago when he was poor.

Bonnett's death came a few years ago at the age of seventy years and after he had accumulated a fortune of more than \$30,000 by selling newspapers and relentlessly saving his pennies.

A love affair at Wooster, O., three and a half decades ago caused him to abandon that town the day after his sweetheart's father had told her that she could not marry a poor man like Bonnett.

There and then, according to his half brother, C. M. Lovett, who arrived in Chicago last night from Wooster, Bonnett declared that he would accumulate a fortune and he vowed at the same time that no other woman would ever help him enjoy it.

Bonnett lived in a room for which he paid three a month and ate where he could get his meals cheap.

When he died none of his relatives could be found. He had signified to W. G. Austin, a business man, his intention of leaving his money to the newsboy's home. He had also told him the story of his love affair.

Bonnett left no will so far as known.

### NEBRASKANS ARE WORKING FOR TAFT.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 19.—A movement looking to the organization of Nebraska for President Taft whereby he may be assured of the delegation from this state to the national republican convention, will be launched here at meetings to be held this afternoon and evening.

The American plan which now gives promise of success, found its inception in an identical note addressed by the state department to the various powers concerned in China several weeks ago. This note actually invited an expression of opinion from the recipients as to the best method for the protection of American interests in China during the revolutionary disturbances, with a decided implication that joint action, which would relieve any individual power of the temptation to seize opportunity for its own advantage would be wise and prudent.

The suggestion met with a happy reception and it appears that the diplomatic representatives of all of the powers at Peking tomorrow are working with a common purpose to terminate the present conflict upon terms that will safeguard the rights of all concerned.



ROYALTY IN SHIPWRECK.

From left to right are Princess Maud, Princess Louise Victoria, the Duchess of Fife and Princess Alexandra, who, with the Duke of Fife, the Princess Louise Victoria's husband, and father of the two princesses were shipwrecked when the steamship Delhi, on which they were voyaging to Egypt, struck the reefs off Cape Sparte, the northwest extremity of Africa. While being taken ashore by the long boat of a British armored cruiser that came to the rescue, they were thrown into the water by the capsizing of the boat, one of the daughters having a narrow escape from drowning. The Princess Louise Victoria is a sister of King George of Great Britain.

### Judicial Leniency For A "Steady Suitor" — One Judge who Showed Mercy

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 19.—Because he was speeding his automobile in order to keep a Sunday evening engagement with his sweetheart, W. E. Cronenwett escaped yesterday in Judge Connelly's court without a fine.

"I was very late, your honor," he said, "and I had to keep an engagement with my girl. I hope you'll take that into consideration."

"We have to take care of these young men who are calling steadily," said the court, "so you can go this time but don't come in here again."

### Georgia Drainage Congress Meets

Waycross, Ga., Dec. 19.—Conservation of the lands of Georgia, Florida and the Carolinas with special reference to the drainage of swamps was discussed at the annual meeting of the Georgia drainage congress here today. Many experts from the states and national government departments were present.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt, state geologist of North Carolina, was on the program for a paper on the reclamation of the wet lands of that state. The public geologist of Georgia, Prof. S. W. McCallie, talked on the wet lands of this state.

Others on the program were J. V. Phillips, United States engineer; Congressman W. G. Brantley, E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture of South Carolina; Col. A. R. Lawton, of Savannah, vice-president of the Central of Georgia Railroad; and Wade H. Leahy, of Atlanta.

### Jury Selected to Try Packers

Chicago, Dec. 19.—The jury which will try the Chicago packers indicted, charged with violation of the Sherman anti-trust law, was completed and sworn in at noon. The taking of testimony will begin today.

### Longshoremen Strike

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 19.—Eighty negroes were brought to Mobile over the Mobile & Ohio Railroad last night to unload vessels of the Mallory steamship line because of the walkout of 150 negro longshoremen on Sunday. The negroes came from points north of this city. It was reported early this morning that more than half of them shortly after their arrival joined the strikers.

### PLATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLISION OF STEAMERS.

London, Dec. 19.—The admiralty court today found that the White Star line steamer Olympic was responsible for the collision with the British protected cruiser Hawke near Osborne Bay on the north side of the Isle of Wight on September 20 last.

### WOULD EXPEDITE THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Atlanta, Dec. 19.—The superior court judges of Georgia met in the state capitol this morning to discuss changes in the procedure in criminal cases in order to expedite the wheels of justice. Important changes in the criminal code are expected to be recommended to the next legislature. The meeting is the result of an invitation from the last legislature. The judges are guests of the Atlanta Bar association.

### RECEIVERS FOR GREAT WABASH RAILROAD SYSTEM

St. Louis, Dec. 19.—Receivers will take charge of the Wabash Railroad as soon as they appear in the United States circuit court and qualify by giving \$300,000 bond each. These bonds must be given in ten days.

Henry Miller, vice president and general manager of the road says the receivership in no way will affect the operation of the road, which has 16,000 employees.

Frederick A. Delano, of Chicago, president of the road; Edward B. Pryor, of St. Louis, vice president, and W. K. Bixby, of St. Louis are the receivers appointed late yesterday on the application of the Westinghouse Air Brake Company, of Pittsburgh, which filed a claim of \$13,000 and alleged the road was insolvent and unable to meet unpaid vouchers of \$1,800,000 and had bonded obligations due January 1, 1912, which will be defaulted.

Mr. Bixby is president of the Laclede Gas Light Company, of St. Louis and chairman of the board of directors of the American Car and Foundry Company besides being a director of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad. Mr. Pryor had experience in a receivership capacity when the road was involved in similar trouble in 1885.

Mr. Delano has been president of the system since 1905 when Joseph Ramsey, Jr., was retired following a disagreement with the Goulds.

The Wabash's extensive general offices here occupy several floors of the Title Guaranty building, adjoining the Missouri Pacific building, where are the general offices of the Missouri Pacific-Iron Mountain system, the center of the Gould properties. A third Gould railroad, the St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt), radiates from St. Louis.

These roads have attracted attention in the financial world recently. First the Missouri Pacific re-organization resulted in bringing Benjamin F. Bush here from the Western Maryland Railroad—a president who, as George Gould's predecessor said, would "sleep and eat on the job." Then Frank J. Gould lost in a contest with his brother Edwin for a greater voice in the affairs of the Cotton Belt.

With the Wabash the Goulds have almost a trans-continental system as the Missouri Pacific meets the Denver & Rio Grande at Pueblo and the latter joins the Western Pacific at Salt Lake. (Continued on Page Ten.)

### EARLY FIRE IN CHICAGO HOTEL CAUSES PANIC

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Nearly 1,000 hotel guests were routed in panic early today by a fire which totally destroyed the Open Board of Trade building, a five story landmark, at 323 South LaSalle street.

Within 15 minutes after the first alarm was sounded at 2:30 o'clock the flames had the building at their mercy. The roof fell in a few minutes after the arrival of the first fire companies.

Three furnace stokers who were in the basement are missing and it is not known if they are safe.

Alarm was immediately felt for the guests in the Kaiserhof, New Victoria and Stafford hotels, all of which were near enough to be touched by the flames from the burning structure.

Bell boys, elevator men and city firemen did heroic work in the hotel. Every room was visited in the hosteleries and the guest awakened. The sight of the flames threw men and women into panic and there was a hurried scramble for clothing and valuables.

Scores of persons appeared half clad in the hotel lobbies and many dragged trunks or carried suit cases. Although the window sashes of the Kaiserhof were burning on the three upper floors at one time, a steady play of water on the building always kept it out of danger. No person was injured in any of the hotels.

Directly across from the Open Board of Trade in LaSalle street stands the Chicago board of trade and with which the Open Board has no connection.

Fire Chief Seyferlich estimated the total loss at \$200,000. His only comment as to the cause was that there would be a rigid investigation, hinting that the fire may have been of incendiary origin.

Within the building many labor unions had their headquarters. The books and records of many of these are said to have been destroyed.

## Senate Disposed To Approve Taft's Action On Treaty

Majority of Members of Committee on Foreign Relations Were So Inclined — Some Think Taft Encroached on Prerogatives of Senate.

### Condition of Chas. W. Morse Improved

Washington, Dec. 19.—President Taft and Attorney General Wickerson made it plain today that for the present no further action would be taken by the government in the case of Charles W. Morse. Mr. Wickerson, following a meeting of the cabinet, said that Morse was not in a critical condition and would remain in the army hospital at Fort McPherson near Atlanta, where he was removed from the Atlanta penitentiary several weeks ago.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 19.—The condition of Charles W. Morse, the former New York banker, was slightly improved this morning, according to information given out by army officers at Fort McPherson, where he is undergoing treatment. The fact that the military surgeons report on his condition has been forwarded to Washington and the hope that the president will parole him within the next few days are thought to have been partly responsible for his rally.

No application for a commutation of sentence will be considered by the president of Mr. Wickerson unless the condition of Morse grows materially worse. A parole has never been under consideration. Officials here say that Morse's friends cannot expect further action at this time.

They point out that the department of justice has been most lenient in its handling of Morse since it became known that he was seriously ill.

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Senator Smith, of Maryland, then spoke, urging immediate action.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—The senate today apparently was disposed to accept gracefully the action of President Taft in forestalling it in abrogating the Russian treaty of 1832. At least that was the attitude of a majority of the members of the committee on foreign relations. Others, however, advanced the argument that the president in taking the matter out of the hands of congress, encroached upon the prerogatives of the senate. As a result of this it was expected that today's session of the upper house of congress not only would be a lengthy one but that there would be much bitter exchange in debate.

Senator Rayner to Speak. Senator Rayner, of Maryland, is expected to deliver before the day is over a speech sharply arraiging Russia and charging that country with having violated its treaty obligations. Senator Heyburn, of Idaho, also is expected to indulge in some sharp criticism, but his effort is to be directed to condemnation of the senate for its tendency, as the Idaho member puts it, toward "undue haste" in acting on the Russian situation. A number of other speeches also are expected.

It is not doubted that before adjournment the wodge resolution endorsing the president will be adopted. It avoids the charged fault of the house resolution in that the phraseology is carefully couched and calculated to give no offense to Russia. The Sulzer resolution as it passed the house was regarded as a deliberate affront to Russia on the ground that it charged Russia with violation of its treaty obligations.

Politics Plays Large Part. Politics is playing a large part in the senate deliberations. Leaders of both parties are striving to reap from the situation as much political advantage as they can, and the rivalry is keen. The democrats are charging that the republicans are seeking to "steal democratic thunder" while the republicans are maintaining that a republican president and senate pulled the democratic house out of an international muddle that might have caused serious complications.

Both parties, however, are awake to the probable effect the abrogation of the treaty may have on American commerce. While they are battling for political advantage they are together on the campaign to devise some means of protecting the important trade relations existing between Russia and the United States.

Agreement Expected Before Night. Agreement between the two houses is expected before adjournment tonight. Representative Sulzer, author of the house resolution, has expressed his willingness to accept the senate resolution and with this spirit of concession the matter will be definitely settled after certain senators have had opportunity to air their views.

Senate Chamber Crowded. The senate chamber both on the floor and in the galleries was crowded when that body convened at noon today to act on the Russian treaty.

The house will approve the senate resolution as soon as it is received, according to present plans instead of sending it to conference.

Senator Lodge moved for immediate consideration of his resolution introduced yesterday ratifying President Taft's notification to Russia that this government desires the treaty to end January 1, 1913. Mr. Lodge yielded to Senator Rayner, of Maryland.

### Martin Privett Fined In Court

Special to The News. Monroe, Dec. 19.—Martin Privett, who assaulted Mr. J. W. Smith here a few days ago, cutting him severely in several places, was found guilty of assault and battery in the recorder's court here yesterday. He was taxed with \$35 and costs in the case this morning. Costs will aggregate about \$60.

### THE WEATHER.

North Carolina: Fair tonight; Wednesday, increasing cloudiness. Moderate northeast winds.



REPRESENTATIVE SULZER.

Representative William Sulzer, of New York, whose bill to end the passport pact between the United States and Russia was passed by the house of representatives by a vote of 300 to 1. Quick, favorable action on the resolution is expected in the senate.