

Little Doubt That Peace Conference Will Be a Failure

Prevails That Revolutionaries are Preparing to Advance to The North--Premier Yuan Shi Kai Opposed to Foreign Interference.

Present Temper of Rebel Forces Gives Ground For Fear That Present Armistice May Be Broken--Imperial Troops Heavily Reinforced.

By Associated Press.
Peking, Dec. 23.—In government circles here there seems to be little doubt that the conference at Shanghai between the representatives of the imperial government and the revolutionary party will prove a failure. The belief prevails that the revolutionaries are preparing to advance to the north by way of Pu Kow which is their possession.
Premier Yuan Shi Kai Buys.
Premier Yuan Shi Kai continues to exchange frequent telegrams. It is understood here that he desires to have all the differences settled in advance of the formal sittings of the conference so that the sole business of the delegates of the imperial government and of the revolutionary party will be to sanction the decision already arrived at.
Government officials here insist that the throne will be retained but there is a difference of opinion as to what the monarchy will take in the future.
Yuan Shi Kai has been endeavoring to propagate the view that foreign interference will be detrimental to both parties, evidently hoping that his opinion will bear weight during the negotiations at Shanghai.

Fear Break of Armistice.
Nanking, China, Dec. 23.—The present temper of the revolutionary troops in this vicinity gives ground for the belief that the armistice now existing between the two forces may be broken when a serious encounter may occur over the territory to the north of the town of Pu Kow.
Within the last two weeks Chang Hsin who was formerly in command of the imperial government troops at Nanking and who was incorrectly reported to have been killed, has received heavy reinforcements both of men and guns.

These troops he has advanced to the south as far as Su Ching An, making many towns and living upon the country as he marches.
Rebel Forces Moving.
In the meanwhile the revolutionary forces have advanced northward to Su Wei Kwan with strong supporting columns of troops to the left and right, occupying the best positions.

Chang Hsin has commanded the northern section of the Tien Pu Kow Railway, including the line of the rolling stock. The revolutionary forces, on the other hand, occupy the southern section of the railway.
The Chang Hsin force is about 10,000 strong while the army of the revolutionaries numbers about 15,000. A distance of less than 100 miles separates the opposing forces.
Chang Hsin declares that he will remain Nanking while the southern, or revolutionary, forces are keen to advance upon Peking.

The revolutionaries, both officers and men, are fully convinced that the conference between the delegates of the two parties is merely a ruse to afford Chang Hsin the time to concentrate his reinforcements and to enable the imperial government forces to strengthen their positions.
Sharp Fighting Reported.
Petersburg, Dec. 23.—A dispatch received here from Tazir, Persia, says that sharp fighting occurred again today near the river Atch, in the vicinity of Lake Urum.
A detachment of Russian Cossacks are protecting the government buildings at Tazir and the road leading to the town. There have been several casualties among the guard defending the Russian consulate at Tazir during the recent fighting.

Handling Big Honduran Loan.
By Associated Press.
New Orleans, Dec. 23.—Since the announcement that the Whitney Central Bank and the United Fruit company in this city had negotiated a \$1,000,000 loan to the government of Honduras, to meet pressing interest, it is rumored in local financial circles that these two concerns will handle the entire loan of \$6,000,000 to Honduras, co-operating with the Boston and Chicago banks. It is said the state department will have placed before the state department with a good chance of having approval.

May Be Missing Girl.
By Associated Press.
St. Louis, Dec. 23.—A girl who registered as Miss Beulah Baker, and Austin were arrested early today at the police station where they were awaiting orders from the police, who believe Miss Baker to be a missing girl from Chicago, who was missing from her home in Chicago nearly a month.
At the central police station the girl said her right name was Beulah Baker and that her home was in Chicago. She said she was Violet Buehler.

Chas. W. Morse In Bad Shape
By Associated Press.
Atlanta, Dec. 23.—Charles W. Morse, the New York banker, must regain his freedom within a very short time or he will die, according to a report prepared and sent to Washington after a conference yesterday of local physicians and military surgeons at Fort McPherson, where Morse was removed from the Federal penitentiary for treatment.
Morse is not holding his own, according to the medical men. His condition this morning was not so good as it was yesterday afternoon after the detailed examination. The fact that the army surgeons called several well known civilian practitioners into the case is looked upon as being an indication that the banker is considerably worse than when taken from the prison.
The post surgeons sent a report to the adjutant general at Washington last Saturday for transmission to the department of justice in which it was asserted that the prisoner had made no improvement under treatment. On Monday advice from the capital said that the president and Attorney General Wickersham would take no action on Morse's application for commutation. His friends expected he would be set free during the holidays. Mr. Wickersham is on his way to Panama.

While the report sent in today is confidential, as far as the military physicians are concerned, its contents became known.
SLAYER OF MISS PRITCHARD NOT KNOWN.
By Associated Press.
Hyde Park, Mass., Dec. 23.—Efforts of the police today to locate the slayer of Miss Bridget Pritchard, 18 years old, who was stabbed to death last night under mysterious circumstances have been without result.
Because of the girl's dying statement that it was an Italian who attacked her the police visited the Italian section of Boston and Hyde Park but their search failed to reveal any clue to the identity of the slayer.
Less than five minutes after being stabbed in the back on the West Glenwood avenue bridge the girl died in the arms of her aunt, Mrs. Thomas Pritchard, to whose house she had feebly walked after being attacked. Near the spot where the murder was committed the handle of a knife which apparently was used by the assailant was found.
The police say that robbery could not have furnished a motive for the murder.



TROY (N. Y.) MURDER
The photograph at the top shows Jesse Morden the only surviving member of the family of Mrs. Conrad Morden of Troy N. Y., who together with her three children, Arthur, aged twenty-nine, Blanche, aged twenty-one and Edith, aged eighteen, were slain in their homes and their bodies buried in refuse in the barn. At the bottom is shown the crowd outside the Morden home, following the discovery of the bodies. The police are looking for a farm hand, an Italian by the name of Eduardo Donato, who has disappeared.



Turkeys, Ducks, and Geese Vanishing From Face Of The Earth--Hens Increasing

By Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 23.—Unless something is done to rehabilitate Turkey growing there will be no such thing as Christmas or Thanksgiving turkeys in the United States within ten years.
The census bureau has issued a bulletin showing that in 1910 there were only 3,668,708 turkeys on farms in this country while in 1900 there were 6,594,095.
At this rate the turkey will be in the dodo class by 1920.
There was also a reduction of about 50 per cent in ducks during the ten years and the number of geese dropped considerably.
Chickens increased, however, the total for the country going from 233,566,121 in 1900 to 230,345,133 in 1910.

Entombed Miners Saved.
Shenandoah, Pa., Dec. 23.—Joseph Reed and Thomas Levan, two miners, who were entombed in the Packer colliery of the Lehigh Valley Coal Company early last night, will spend Christmas at home with their families. They were rescued uninjured early today.

The Church Santa Claus Abandoned

By Associated Press.
Bellevue, O., Dec. 23.—Bellevue is Santa Clausless this year and probably is the only city in the country that will have no Christmas exercises in any of its churches or institutions.
The small boys who had attended Sunday school regularly the last few weeks, expecting the usual Christmas tree and festivities were disappointed today when the ministers of the city announced through the newspapers that they had decided to abandon the church Santa Claus, the Christmas tree and exercises of any character.
Sentiment against the Christmas myth, the high cost of living and the theory that the money should be expended among the poor were among the reasons given by the ministers and others for their actions.
Several of the pastors hired conveyances and made houses to house visits to their Sunday school pupils, leaving sacks of candy.

Condition of Sir Charles Tupper.
By Associated Press.
London, Dec. 23.—The physicians in charge of Sir Charles Tupper, formerly prime minister of the Dominion of Canada, who is lying seriously ill with bronchitis at his country home at Bexley Heath, Kent, still express considerable anxiety as to his condition. He improved slightly yesterday but today's report says that his condition is unchanged.

Charles Rowland Missing.
Chicago, Dec. 23.—Police here today were asked to search for Charles W. Rowland, of Oberlin, O., who has been missing since December 12. On December 6 he left home for Elroy, Kas., carrying a large sum of money and intending to purchase a drug store. Six days later he wrote his family from Chicago. When he left Oberlin it was not his intention to come here, his wife says. She fears he has been killed.

SAVANNAH RIVER REACHES THE 30-FOOT STAGE

By Associated Press.
Augusta, Ga., Dec. 23.—At 11 o'clock Saturday morning the stage of the Savannah river at Augusta was 30 feet and it was rising at the rate of about six inches an hour. The local weather forecaster received reports from the various stations in the watershed Saturday morning showing that an average of about a quarter of an inch fell during the night. No rain is falling in the watershed Saturday morning and Calhoun Falls, S. C., one of the reporting stations, wires that the weather there is clearing up.

Forecaster Emight says that rain may fall in the vicinity of Augusta Saturday night and Sunday, although the indications now are that the weather will clear up. The sun is shining intermittently for the first time in several days.

Large quantities of drift wood are coming down the river although the current is not so strong as it was in 1908, when the big freshet occurred.

The local weather man says that the maximum stage will probably be reached between 12 noon and 6 p. m. Saturday and that the river will not go higher than 32 feet, which does not name in the city.

The sewer gates opening into the river were closed Friday night to prevent the backwater from entering the city by this method and the sewers are emptying into Beaver Ditch, which carries the sewage matter into the river by another route. There is no alarm felt here because it is firmly believed that the water will begin to fall after 6 o'clock Saturday and possibly before.

Robbers Carried off Near Million

By Associated Press.
Harbin, Manchuria, Dec. 23.—A band of Chinese brigands today attacked an imperial convoy which was on the way to Kirin with a large amount of bullion. The robbers carried off a sum of \$500,000.
The number of brigands in the province of Kirin has increased rapidly since the beginning of the political disturbances and the consequent unsettled condition of all parts of the country. Many soldiers have deserted from the army and have joined the ranks of the brigands and now live openly by plunder. Murders occur frequently along the high roads and the brigands even attack settlements of considerable size, in which they loot the stores and do not hesitate to murder the inhabitants if they offer any resistance.

Coal Pit Flooded—No Lives Lost

By Associated Press.
Wigan, England, Dec. 23.—The Cross Tettey coal pit near here was flooded today by a sudden inrush of water. Two hundred miners were below in the workings at the time and it was feared that many of them would lose their lives but all were brought safely to the surface.

OFFICERS OF SUGAR CO. SUBPONEAED.

By Associated Press.
San Francisco, Dec. 23.—Subpoenas have been received here demanding the presence of officers of the Western Sugar Company to testify in the federal court at New York, John D. Spreckles, Claus A. Spreckles and a half dozen of the minor officers of the company must in consequence spend their Christmas season enroute to the East in response to the government summons.

Colonel Thos. S. Kenan Dead

Special to The News.
Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 23.—Col. Thos. S. Kenan, clerk of the North Carolina supreme court since 1886, died this morning at his home in Raleigh at the age of 77 years, after an illness lasting several months. He was born at Kenansville; educated at the State University. He was colonel of the forty-third Confederate regiment and served gallantly in the war until wounded and captured. He was attorney general for eight years, and with Vance and others, helped to put the republicans out of office. He was undoubtedly one of the most beloved men in the state.

Bout for Cleveland.
Chicago, Dec. 23.—Packer McFarland and Phil Brock were matched yesterday for a ten-round fight to take place at Cleveland next Friday. The boxers will weigh 135 pounds at 3 o'clock.

THE WEATHER.
For North Carolina.
Forecast for North Carolina: Unsettled, local rain tonight or Sunday; colder tonight in extreme west portion; slightly colder Sunday. Moderate west-early winds.



M'GRAW HAS POOR OPINION OF CUBAN PLAYERS

New York, Dec. 23.—John J. McGraw, manager of the New York National League baseball club, which is just back from its invasion of Cuba has no extravagant opinion of the Cuban ball player. He is a dull thinker, says McGraw, but a fast runner.

"These Cubans are only fair ball players," is the way McGraw puts it. "They are as fast as lightning on the bases and they can throw to beat the band. They have picked up all the knacks of fielding but they cannot bat."

"Not only that but they do not play what we call brainy baseball. Very little attention is given to brain work on the diamond. They perform the manual part of the game very well but the keen, crafty head work we see in the game here is missing. They know nothing about 'inside ball' and we were able to outthink them most of the time. In an opposing pitcher they look for speed and usually they hit a fast ball but when they try to solve the mysteries of a curve they churn the air."

VERDICT OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER, MRS. GARRAMONE

By Associated Press.
Golden, Col., Dec. 23.—Guilt of murder in the first degree with a recommendation of life imprisonment was the verdict returned today by the jury in the case of Mrs. Angeline Garramone, charged with killing Mrs. Maria Laguardia, August 20, 1910.

Golden, Col., Dec. 23.—When the jury in the case of Mrs. Angeline Garramone, charged with having murdered Mrs. Maria Laguardia on August 20, 1910, retired to deliberate last night it was generally believed there was no hope of a verdict being reached before morning. One and one-half hours later a report issued from the jury room that there was no hope of reaching a verdict. The jury was taken to a hotel where it retired for the night.

Throughout the night Mrs. Garramone in her cell in the county jail in Denver took her situation as calmly as she had throughout the trial.
Mrs. Garramone has long been known as the "Cassie Chadwick of Little Italy" because of the many financial deals of which she was a principal promoter and in which it is said she induced the people of her native country here to become interested. No returns on their money, it is said, were ever seen by the investors.

It was said that a superstition fear of the woman had kept her fellow countrymen and women of the Italian district here from resorting to the courts for the recovery of money they claimed to have trusted to Mrs. Garramone.
It was said that a superstition fear by the belief that the woman was a necromancer that kept the two Forgone women who claimed to have witnessed the murder of Mrs. Laguardia from informing the police of the murdered until after the woman finally was arrested and sent to the penitentiary for forgery.

Mrs. Concetta Forgone and her daughter Stella testified that Mrs. Garramone through a ruse that she would take Mrs. Laguardia to a mine near Golden where her husband was employed, escorted all three women to a lonely spot in the mountains and there rushed upon Mrs. Laguardia, causing her to tear off a fascinator by telling the woman that a bug was crawling on her neck and as the fascinator was thrown off, drew a butcher knife across her throat.

While this was being done, the woman said Stella Forgone held the infant child of Mrs. Garramone in her arms. The murder was committed, the Forgone woman said, for about \$380 that Mrs. Laguardia carried in her dress.

Aged Man Charged With Robbery

By Associated Press.
Chicago, Dec. 23.—The oldest man ever arrested here and the police believe, in the world charged with highway robbery was taken into custody last night. He is William R. Ely, 83 year old.

President Taft Plays Santa Claus

By Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 23.—President Taft played Santa Claus today to two score policemen, more than twenty clerks, the secret service men who are on guard at the executive offices and dozens of other employees of the White House.

To each policeman and married man employed at the White House outside the office force the steward presented a fat turkey with the compliments of the president and Mrs. Taft. Each clerk today found an envelope with a five dollar gold piece in it on his desk. The president himself acted as Santa Claus for the secret service men who have traveled with him from Boston to Seattle, from Washington to Panama and many other journeys. Each guard was given a gold stick pin.

One present for Mr. Taft himself that had reached the White House came from Postmaster Douglas at Tuscaloosa, Ala. It was a 45-pound turkey, one of the biggest ever sent to grace the presidential Christmas dinner.

Peace Conferers Take a Rest

By Associated Press.
Shanghai, Dec. 23.—The peace conference between the delegates of the imperial government and the revolutionaries will not resume its session for several days. Tang Shao Yi, who came to the conference as the representative of Premier Yuan Shi Kai, is occupied in exchanging dispatches with Peking and in receiving callers. He has not received Premier Yuan Shi Kai's constitutional answer.
Tang Shao Yi says that the armistice is now almost perfect.
Within the past few days the economic situation in the interior of the country has greatly improved. Telegrams and letters from all points show that while lawlessness continues in the outlying country districts the local government officials have succeeded in making a decided improvement in the general conditions.

REV. RICHESON MARKEDLY IMPROVED.

By Associated Press.
Boston, Dec. 23.—"There has been a marked improvement in the condition of Rev. Mr. Richeson," said counsel for the accused clergyman today.
That there will be some Christmas cheer for the imprisoned clergyman was shown today by the arrival of a large box of flowers and Christmas delicacies from Miss Violet Edmonds, who Mr. Richeson would have married had it not been for his arrest. Two of his parishioners from the Emmanuel Baptist church in Cambridge also visited the jail today to arrange a Christmas dinner for him.

Durham Sun Will Continue.

Durham, Dec. 23.—Thomas M. Gorman was this afternoon appointed co-receiver of the Durham Sun, which went into liquidation nearly a week ago. This move was made by creditors of the institution, among them some of the most interested men in the circulation of the paper. Business Manager Sibley was the choice of one element of creditors. Danger of the paper being thrown into bankruptcy is passed and it will continue as usual. Complete confidence is expressed in its ability to pull through.
James A. Robinson, former editor of the Durham Daily Sun, today announced his candidacy for the position of clerk of the city recorder's court. He will oppose A. R. Harris, the created clerk by the act making the court.

FOLLOWS PRECEDENT IN COMMUTING SENTENCE

Atlanta, Dec. 23.—In commuting the sentence of J. C. Hunter, at Savannah, to life imprisonment, Governor John M. Slaton has followed an unbroken precedent in Georgia.
No governor has ever turned down the recommendation of the prison board when it was unanimous and involved life and death. It is a frequent thing for governors to disregard recommendations for parole or pardon. That is a different matter. And the precedent does not govern in life and death cases unless the board's decision is unanimous.