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NEW YORK SUN IS MIGHTY SORRY MR. HAY IS SICK

The Sun is for Panama Canal but Thinks an Enemy of President Got him to Send That Fatal Message to the Senate.

Senator Overman has his Say About the Message--To Press the Hoar Resolution--The Nicaraguan Alternative Yet Before us.

(A. W. Hughes.) Washington, Jan. 6.—Those who heard or have read the speech delivered in the Senate yesterday by Senator Lodge, the President's own personal friend and counselor, will hardly agree with the opinion expressed by the New York Sun in its exceeding brief but pertinent editorial. After predicting that President Roosevelt's special message on Panama will be read all over the world with universal interest, the Sun continues:

"We wish we could add that it will be read with profound satisfaction as a convincing document by those who agree in the main with the Administration in its Panama policy. Mr. Hay is away, sick, but the President is not bereft of safe and sane counsellors in Washington. The message need not have been written at this time. It need not have been sent to the Congress at this time. What enemy of the President persuaded him to write it and send it?"

Senator Overman, who was a most attentive listener both to the President's message and Senator Lodge's speech, said this afternoon that he regarded Mr. Roosevelt's message as nothing more than a stump speech. "Why is he keeping such a naval force on both sides of the Isthmus," said the Senator, "if the President's only purpose is to get the decision to protect the Isthmian Railway? His message may be satisfactory to his own party, but it does not give the minority the desired information by any manner of means."

Mr. Overman further asserted that while they may not succeed in getting the resolution presented by Mr. Gorman yesterday through the Senate, the Democratic Senators intend to use every possible means to encompass it, as it is this resolution which covers the situation fully. As to the President's statement that the question is now whether we will build a canal at all, implying that it must be the Panama canal or none, Mr. Overman regards that as a mere bluff, for he said, if the Senate fails to ratify the Panama route, the President is compelled by the decision to turn to Nicaragua, so that it appears at present to be a question of whether we shall fall in with the plans of the French Panama Canal Company to obtain that \$4,000,000 of good American money and possibly never get a canal by the Panama route after all the expensive schemes of the administration or turn to what is declared a much more feasible route through Nicaragua territory and certainly one which so far has not been shadowed by any cloud of dishonoring suspicion.

Washington, Jan. 6.—The North Carolinians residing and visiting in Washington were delighted by and felt themselves honored in the honors accorded Mrs. Lee S. Overman, the popular young wife of the junior Senator from the Old North State at the reception to natives of the Southern States held the evening before New Year's at Mt. Vernon Place M. E. church.

It was estimated that at least a thousand former residents of the Sunny Southland were present during the evening.

Around the sides of the room were arranged small booths, which were designed as headquarters for the various States. These booths were tastefully decorated with flags and bunting and foliage, and above the curtain doorway was placed the name of the State in large letters and a large shield containing a representation of the coat-of-arms of the State. Booths were arranged for the following States: Mississippi, Alabama, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri and Arkansas.

Mrs. Overman had been earnestly requested by the North Carolina contingent to preside over the booth for that State as "Matron of Honor," which she did with her usual cordial and hearty yet dignified manner, making friends of every one present who had the pleasure of being introduced to her.

With Mrs. Latimer, wife of Senator Latimer, of South Carolina, Mrs. Overman occupied a seat on the platform during the brief addresses of

Bishop Hoss, of Dallas, Texas; Dr. Dubose, of Nashville, Tenn.; and other Southerners.

It was hoped that Senator Overman might be induced to address the company but he was absent in North Carolina on a business trip. By the way, Senator Overman is one of the few men whose coming to Washington in an official capacity with the consequent demands upon their time and thought makes little change in their method of living. He does not believe in following too closely the adage, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do," especially not in religious matters, and those who know him best at home will not be surprised to learn that although living in a hotel, he assembles his family in his apartments every evening before retiring to bow the knee at the altar of family prayer.

Senator Overman is a man who will most assuredly give North Carolina a place of honor among the statesmen of the nation if her people are wise enough to keep him here several terms in succession. For while length of service does not take the place of brains in the Senate, a study of the history of the men now prominent members of that body and leaders in their party's councils whether Democrats or Republicans, will show that they have not only intellects but have had long experience in the handling of public affairs at United States Representative and Senators.

Two well-known Washington sportsmen, Fred Rupertus and C. L. Duke, have returned from a ten days hunting trip to Salisbury, N. C., where they were the guests of Mr. J. C. Duke. They bagged over two hundred quail and more than thirty rabbits. They report game in that part of North Carolina as very plentiful.

INDIANS UNFRIENDLY.

The Panama Indians Do Not Seem to Share in the Panama Unanimity.

(By Associated Press.) Colon, Jan. 7.—The U. S. Gunboat Bancroft returned from a cruise along the coast of Caledonia, which was made to investigate the circumstances of the alleged abduction of an Indian Chief Inanaquina, reported from San Blas. The Indians were found to be most unfriendly. They objected to the landing of the Bancroft's officers and their remaining ashore. They also refused to sell fruit or fresh water. Chief Inanaquina appeared in the distance wearing a fine new Colombian uniform.

FRANK BELL A CRIPPLE.

The Hero of the Rock Island Wreck Yesterday is Himself a Cripple.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 7.—Frank Bell, mentioned in the dispatches from Topeka as having saved from death many of the injured Rock Island passengers in the wreck at Willard, Kans., received injuries which made him a cripple in a railroad wreck nine months ago. Bell is said to be an electrician and inventor, having studied hospital work as a pastime. He is a native of Alabama.

DEATH OF MAJOR McTEER.

The Mayor of Knoxville Dies of Stomach Trouble at Hoffman House, N. J.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 7.—Major McTeer, Mayor of Knoxville, Tenn., is dead at the Hoffman House of stomach trouble. Last summer the Major came to this city under the care of specialists and a short time after was able to return home. About two months ago he came back in such serious condition it was considered best to operate upon him. A chill contracted a week ago proved fatal. The body will be shipped to Knoxville today.

Palma Vetoes Lottery Bill.

(By Associated Press.) Havana, Jan. 7.—President Palma today signed his veto of the lottery bill as announced. He had prepared it last month in expectation of the passage of the bill. The President in stating his reasons for his veto holds that a lottery is a lowering and corrupting device and that the government would be culpable in taking money out of the people obtained through such a scheme. President Palma has been assured that the bill cannot be re-passed over his veto.

COLLISION ON ELEVATED.

Three Trainsmen Were Killed in a Collision on the Brooklyn Elevated.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 7.—Three trainmen were killed in a collision on the Brooklyn Elevated this morning. No passengers were seriously hurt. A crowded train dished into a line of empty cars in the last car of which were the employees who were killed.

ERUPTIONS IN MEXICO.

Mount Colima in Eruption and Earthquakes Add to the Terror of People.

(By Associated Press.) Guanajuato, Mexico, Jan. 7.—Violent eruptions of Mount Colima have caused the inhabitants of the immediate surroundings great alarm. Many left their homes. The terrifying feature was earthquakes accompanying the eruptions. Russians Marching on Seoul. (By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 7.—Minister Allen at Seoul has cabled the State Department, dated the seventh, that the Russian marines who landed at Chemulpo and were refused transportation to Seoul over the railway are marching overland.

CORONER'S INQUEST ON IROQUOIS VICTIMS CONTINUED TODAY

Technically the Inquest is Held Over the Body of Miss Mary Edna Torney and Five Hundred and Sixty Four Others.

Evidence of Locked Door That Cut Off the Escape of Hundreds of People--Separate Verdict in the Case of Each Victim.

(By Associated Press.) Chicago, Jan. 7.—The coroner's inquest over the remains of victims of the Iroquois theatre fire began at the city council chambers today. The coroner's list of dead—for use of inquest—contains just 565 names. Previous police reports indicating 591 dead are declared now to be inaccurate, and due to shifting of bodies from one morgue to another. Coroner Traeger presided over the investigation. It is estimated it will require at least six days for the jury to hear the testimony of two hundred witnesses. A provision of the law says the jury shall view the bodies over which inquest is held, having already been complied with, Coroner Traeger entered at once upon the examination of witnesses to determine the cause of the fire and the responsibility for the loss of life. Technically the inquest was held over "the body of Miss Mary Edna Torney and 564 others." Deputy Coroner Buckley knew Miss Torney and arrived at the scene of the fire a few minutes after the body had been carried out. He was able to locate two policemen, who had handled the body. Precise evidence can therefore be deduced from the circumstances of death and these circumstances will be interpreted to apply in general to the 564 others. The jury will find that the death of each of the 565 cases resulted from "shocks and injury."

The jury will sign a separate verdict for each victim. State's Attorney Dineon instructed Coroner Traeger to

establish the identity of some person or persons found at end of passage leading South from entrance of second balcony. There was a locked door which cut off the escape of hundreds whose bodies were found against the barricaded door. The coroner succeeded in gathering this evidence. Mrs. Strong, of Chicago, and her niece, Vera Strong, of Americus, Ga., died at the foot of the stairway. The story of their death before the locked exit has been told the coroner by James Strong, son of the elder victim. Mr. Strong, who is a board of trade clerk, consented to testify.

RUTH CLEVELAND DIES SUDDENLY OF DIPHTHERIA

The Eldest Child of Ex-President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland Succumbs to a Mild Attack of Diphtheria at the Princeton Home.

The Physician States That a Heart Affect; on That was not Anticipated was the Immediate Cause of Her Death.

(By Associated Press.) Princeton, N. J., Jan. 7.—Ruth Cleveland, eldest child of former President Cleveland, died at the Cleveland home today unexpectedly, the immediate cause of death being the weakening of the heart action during a mild attack of diphtheria. Dr. Wycoff, the attending physician, said that Miss Cleveland had been ill with a mild form of diphtheria four days, and heart affection was not anticipated. She was 15 years old.

Gas Explosion. (By Associated Press.) Oliver Springs, Tenn., Jan. 7.—Explosion of gas in Big Mountain Mine of Poplar Creek Coal Company this morning, killed three men. The mine was idle several days and the men entered today to resume work. Supposed accumulation of gas ignited.

General Gordon Ill. (By Associated Press.) Miami, Fla., Jan. 7.—Gen. John B. Gordon was taken suddenly ill yesterday, and his condition is regarded as critical. He is at his plantation several miles from this city, and definite particulars are not available until late this afternoon, on return of his physician.

ARSON IS CHARGED AGAINST THIS NEGRO

A Bold Attempt to Burn the Home of Mr. Amos Leitch in Dilworth--The Presence of a Negro Butler Probably Saved the Home.

One of the boldest attempts at arson that has ever been made here was discovered last night when Robert McNeely, a colored boy about 16 years of age, went to the home of Mr. Amos Leitch in Dilworth, and set fire to a barrel of excelsior in the basement and then went to a negro church to attend prayer meeting.

The negro was discharged yesterday morning on a charge of stealing money. McNeely, in the Recorder's court this morning, was contradicted by two witnesses who swore that they knew nothing whatever of the story as he told it in court today. The boy claimed that Mary Hawfield, the cook, met him on South Tryon street and asked him to go to the house and bring in some stove wood for her, after she had left the house for the day. The woman swears that this is not true, and this story was also denied by her man, Chas. Wright today. The story of McNeely is thus sworn to be false by three witnesses. The boy was locked up in default of a bond of \$200 today.

The boy, who had been working around the place for about a week, had learned the ways of the house. Mr. Leitch was away on business and Mrs. Leitch and her mother, Mrs. Richardson, were left alone in the house. Shortly after the cook had left they went up stairs to one of the front rooms looking out upon the porch. Mrs. Leitch says that a good while afterward she thought she heard the gate click but believed that it was the dog. About twenty minutes after that she heard some one ringing the door bell as if in a hurry and upon opening the door she found it to be Mr. C. B. Bryant's colored butler. He showed great presence of mind in telling the ladies that he did not think that it was anything serious but he believed he saw a light in the basement. Ruming through the hall he seized a bucket and filling it with water ran into the basement and threw it upon the blaze. In the meantime several of the neighbors had arrived and after some trouble the fire was extinguished. Chief Irwin was telephoned for and arrived in a very few minutes. When the cause of the blaze was investigated it was found that an orange box had been placed upon a barrel of excelsior which had been used as a dog box and the two had been ignited. If the fire had burned for a few minutes longer the house would probably have been lost. Had not the fire been found when it was the ladies would have been placed in a very great danger for the fire had been started directly beneath the only stairway which is in the back part of the hall and as the ladies were in the front part of the house they would have known nothing about it until it had reached their very doors.

TWO WOMEN KILLED NEAR GASTONIA

Train No. 11 That Left Charlotte This Afternoon Ploughs Through a Buggy Killing Two Negro Women and a Mule.

No 11, the local passenger train on the Southern that left Charlotte today at noon, ran over and killed two negro woman and their mule one mile north of Bessemer City. The unfortunate women were named Pressley.

They were driving a mule to a buggy and as the train emerged from a deep cut, they attempted to cross the track. The pilot of the engine struck the buggy and both women were thrown with terrible violence against the head of the engine. Both were instantly killed, one of the bodies was horribly mangled.

The bodies of the two women were left in charge of section hands, who were working on the track close to where the accident occurred. The mule that was attached to the buggy was killed instantly and its body was thrown some distance from the track.

So far as can be learned no one but the engineer of No. 11 saw the horrible accident. His statement is to the effect that he saw the buggy moving ahead of him and he felt sure the occupants heard the approach of the train. When the engine was a short space from the crossing, the woman who was driving, pulled the mule directly across the track. Before the air brakes could be applied the pilot of the engine struck the buggy, killing the occupants and the mule.

One report is to the effect that the woman who was driving, was hard of hearing and did not realize that the engine was so close. A telephone message to The News this afternoon states that one of the bodies was literally mashed to pulp. The head, arms and legs were severed from the body and the track for some distance was strewn with the mangled remains of the unfortunates.

A DARING ROBBERY.

Negro Held Up by Masked Men and Robbed of \$200.

Parties from Columbia this morning informed The News of a daring robbery that was committed at Society Hill, S. C., last night. Two masked men entered the store of J. S. Dickson, a well-known colored man, and at the point of pistols forced him to unlock his safe and hand over to them about \$250 in cash, all of the contents of the safe.

The occurrence took place at about eight o'clock last night. As soon as the masked men disappeared Dickson telephoned for some blood hounds, and a number joined in the chase after the robbers. Dickson is a highly respected negro, and owns considerable property near Society Hill.

READ OWN OBITUARY.

Mr. Neely Carries it Around With Him These Days.

Mr. G. W. Neely, of Belk Bros., who has been so ill at his home in Steel Creek, is unable to be out. He came to the city today and received a hearty and cordial welcome by his many friends.

It will be remembered that a Charlotte paper published that Mr. Neely was dead, and that his friends had purchased beautiful flowers for the funeral, that according to the Charlotte paper, would be held several Sabbaths ago. Mr. Neely's friends out the notice out of the paper and sent it to him. He now carries it with him, and remarks that he is among the very few who are permitted to read their own obituary.

To Organize Tonight.

This evening in the Wilkinson building the Mecklenburg Camp of Confederate Veterans will hold an important meeting for the purpose of organizing a camp of Sons of Veterans, which will be formally launched this evening after the veterans adjourn.

A very elaborate program has been prepared, and several well-known speakers will take part in the exercises. The meeting is open to the public and all are invited to attend. Commander Harrison Watts will preside over the Veterans' meeting, and at the conclusion of the formal program the hall will be turned over to the Sons of Veterans for the purpose of organizing a camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Finance Committee.

The county finance committee met this morning in semi-annual session in the office of the county treasurer. The committee at once began the task of auditing and examining the books of the county treasurer and it will probably require several days to complete this work. The committee will also examine the financial reports submitted by the clerk of the court and the register of deeds covering all monies handled by these officers in the way of fees, etc.

Capt. J. H. McClintock is the chairman of the committee.

Presbyterian College Notes.

President Bridges is sick and was not able to attend lectures today. Miss Courtney Irvine, of Virginia, a last year's student, is back at the college.

Miss Poe regained her voice, which she had lost for eight days. Miss Kiddie, who has been sick for several days, is better.

There are two new students and fourteen are expected before the beginning of the next term.

Dr. Vines Declines Norfolk Call.

The Baptists of Charlotte will be interested in the news that Rev. W. M. Vines, of Asheville, has been called by the congregation of the Freeman Baptist church of Norfolk, Va. Dr. Vines states that he has declined the call and will remain with the church at Asheville.

To Apportion School Fund.

The January meeting of the county board of education will be held on next Monday in the office of the county superintendent of education. The meeting will be one of the most important held in some time and considerable business will be transacted that of most interest being the apportionment of the county school money among the various districts of the county.

Taken to Gastonia.

Officer Carroll, of Gastonia, came over this morning and returned today at noon, having in custody W. D. Deadman, the man who was arrested yesterday at Pineville by Officer Sumner.

Deadman is charged with running a "blind tiger" near Gastonia, and he stands indicted on about fifty different counts for retailing. Fireman Badly Injured. A gentleman who was a passenger on one of the late trains from the North last night states that the fireman, whose name was not learned, was badly injured by jumping from his engine. One of the rods in the locomotive, it seems, broke, and the fireman thinking that a wreck had occurred, leaped from the cab, sustaining serious injuries.

Sleet Fell Last Night.

Last night after midnight there was a brisk fall of sleet, lasting, however, only a few minutes. The weather cleared again before morning, and few signs of the sleet were visible except to the early risers.

RUSSIA TO MOVE BLACK SEA FLEET; MARCHING ON SEOUL

Negotiating to That End With Constantinople--War News From Various Points--A Little More Favorable Today.

Nevertheless Russia is Marching Troops on Seoul and the Situation is Strained Almost to the Breaking Point.

(By Associated Press.)

Tokio, Jan. 7.—The Government is still silent concerning the terms of the Russian rejoinder. High authority here, however, says reply is unsatisfactory to Japan especially in the features bearing upon the question of Korea. It says Russian Government in their communication expresses the desire for a peaceful settlement of the matter in dispute. Japan has taken the reply under consideration and is convinced that Russia's protestations are honest and that there is a chance for peace. She will continue negotiations. At the same time the military unqualifiedly opposed the long delay it is becoming apparent that Japan will resort any intervention on the part of any outside powers in the extremity of their crisis. It is thought possible that the United States might intervene. Such intervention, the Japanese say, will be unjust and only create a delay which will be advantageous to Russia.

No News in London.

London, Jan. 7.—No further news from the far east has been received this morning at the Japanese legation. The Japanese minister, Baron Hayashi, says that he fails to see how the Japanese railroad could refuse to transport Russian troops from Chemulpo to Seoul, as it is not reported what object could be gained for the Russians could easily go to Seoul on foot.

Russians Keeping Christmas.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 7.—Russian officials are invisible today on account of the Russian Christmas holiday. The situation remains unchanged. Diplomats declare that war with Japan is not likely. People generally are apathetic, except that merchants of all classes would welcome a peaceful solution.

Black Sea Fleet.

Constantinople, Jan. 7.—Russia is negotiating with Turkey to secure the passage through the Dardanelles for her Black Sea fleet of seventy-six vessels. The general basis of this communication is already complete, but details vessels being.

Cabinet Meeting Postponed.

London, Jan. 7.—The meeting of the British cabinet, set for Saturday, has been postponed. This is interpreted to mean the amelioration of the eastern crisis, coupled with better reports from Paris, saying that the foreign office there has received advices favorable to a peaceful settlement. This led to an improvement in prices in the stock exchange.

Reply Received.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 7.—The War ministry received a dispatch from Tokio that Baron Derosen, the Russian minister, presented Russia's reply to the Japanese cabinet meeting yesterday.

Slight Hopes of Peace.

Paris, Jan. 7.—Official and diplomatic circles here claim without information regarding contents of Russian reply to Japan but talk is distinctly pessimistic and but slight hopes of peace exist from position in which Russia and Japan find themselves.

Morgan on the Floor.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 7.—When the Senate convened this morning, Senator Morgan took the floor to answer the speech Mr. Lodge made Tuesday on Morgan's resolution declaring that neither the President nor the President and Senate as a treaty-power has lawful right to declare war against a foreign country without the consent of Congress when such country is at peace with the United States. He said the President is not justified in making facts to give him the right to recognize a government best suited for his purposes.

House in Session.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 7.—The House was in session but twenty minutes this morning. Mr. Hemenway, Chairman of Committee on Appropriations, obtained consent for one hour, opening tomorrow to be devoted to consideration of a bill to make available at once two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to meet emergency caused by the Mexican Boal Weevil.

BACKWARD AND FORTH.

That is the Way the Markets Went Today.

The rumors of wars today caused a decidedly unsettled market. In fact prices went backward and forth with the regularity of the clock's pendulum. At the opening this morning the cotton market went about 15 points above yesterday's close. This, however, was for only a few minutes as the downward flurry was again started and there was a drop of nearly 30 points. The early news from the Far East was considered encouraging in that everything tended to show no warlike spirit. As the day grew older additional war preparations were flashed over the wires and the prices of cotton and stocks continued to waver.

The wheat market continues about at last night's prices. Traders realize that should war be declared between Russia and Japan, all bread stuffs will go up with lightning-like rapidity. The wheat and corn market are simply waiting some war-cry when both will mount up in the scale of prices. Some Charlotte traders believe that wheat will go to \$1 a bushel and that corn will go to about 60 cents. If war is declared there would seem to be no trouble to realize these prices.

SECRETARY HAY ANSWERS REYES

The Answer is Couched in Diplomatic Terms but Positively Declines to Re-open the Panama Question--Violation of Treaty.

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 7.—Gen. Reyes, Colombian envoy, has received the answer of this Government to his note charging the United States with open violation of the Treaty of 1846. The answer was prepared by Secretary Hay and couched in the most diplomatic terms and expressing the wish of this government to deal justly with Colombia, is emphatic in refusal to re-open the Panama question. Prior to the receipt of the reply General Reyes requested the State Department that the correspondence be transmitted to the senate for its consideration. Pending answer to this request the correspondence he got will be made public.

SCHWAB ON STAND.

The Slick Manipulator of the Ship-building Shares Testifies Today.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 7.—Chas. M. Schwab, former President United States Steel Corporation is on the stand today in the hearing to make permanent the receivership of this company. His appearance attracted much attention and large crowds. He was examined concerning his connection with the sale of Bethlehem Steel Co.

Fire in Augusta, Maine. (By Associated Press.) Augusta, Maine, January 7.—Two large brick business blocks were burned here this morning. The loss is three hundred thousand dollars.

Harriman Elected. (By Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 7.—E. H. Harriman was elected President this morning of the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

THE WEATHER.

Rain Tonight, Fair Friday.