

WILL ACT FAIR

Russia Makes Great Concessions to Japan

DESIRES PEACE

It is said that the greatest difference is over the proposal that a neutral zone shall be established. Elsewhere, except in this zone, in Corea Russia will recognize the preponderating influence of Japan. Both agree respecting the principle of integrity of China and of Corea.

St. Petersburg, January 5.—In her reply to Japan, Russia made great concessions and hopes her proposals will prove acceptable to Japan.

The foreign office informed the Associated Press today that instructions had been sent to Viceroy Alexiff on which the reply was based. The latter was drawn up in the most conciliatory spirit. Some of the Japanese proposals were accepted while others were made the subject of extended observations and were met by counter proposals.

There are strong hopes in many circles that on Thursday next the Russian Christmas, the Czar may be able to announce that peace is assured.

Paris, January 5.—It developed today that the greatest difference between Russia and Japan arises from the proposal made by Russia that a neutral zone shall be established, extending from Ping-Yang in Corea on the south to the Russian frontier on the north. The Russian government has expressed a willingness to recognize the preponderating influence of Japan in the remainder of Corea and the two powers are agreed respecting the principle of the integrity of China and of Corea. Japan, however, saw no reason why the proposed neutral zone should be established, holding that the entire peninsula should be subject to her preponderating influence.

The attitude of Russia is believed to be due to the fact that if Japan controls Corea she will thereby be able to more easily menace Port Arthur as well as Vladivostok.

The diplomat which gave to the Associated Press the foregoing information expressed himself as confident that Russia in her reply to Japan will give way on this vital point.

Paris, January 6.—The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Paris edition of The New York Herald says he is advised that Admiral Evans has been instructed not to allow the movements of his warships to be such as to encourage the construction that the United States is supporting Japan. The correspondent says that the action of the Washington government is sincerely appreciated, the conviction in high quarters being that Japan if unsupported will not declare war.

Paris, January 5.—The Che Foo correspondent of the Paris edition of The New York Herald cables as follows: Eight thousand Japanese troops are ready to land at Masanpho and the landing probably will mean war. Reserves are being moved from Blagovyeschensk, (the capital of the Amur Province in eastern Sideria, Tsitsihar) in Manchuria.

Tokio January 5.—The Russian reply to Japan has not yet been received. It is reported from Vladivostok that the Russian squadron there is preparing for action.

According to another report, a Russian cruiser has left Port Arthur with a small military force on board. Its destination is unknown, but is probably Chemulpo, Corea.

An extra edition of the Official Gazette has been issued containing army and navy orders prohibiting the publication of any reports of the movements of troops or war vessels from this time on. Otherwise the Japanese authorities are not interfering with press messages.

St. Petersburg, January 5.—A semi-official dispatch to a news agency from Vladivostok and private information from Mulden, state that, owing to disturbances between the Koreans and the Japanese in Corea, the Russian second rifle regiment, at its full strength, has been dispatched to Corea in order to protect Russian interests there.

Bizerta, January 5.—The Russian cruiser Dimitri Donskoi, accompanied by two torpedo boats, left here today for Suda Bay.

Washington, January 5.—The Navy department has received two cablesgrams from the commanding officer of

the United States ship Vicksburg at Chamulpo, dated the fourth and fifth instants, respectively, as follows:

"After consultation with American minister, we are of the same opinion. Aspect of the affairs very grave at Seoul. There is much fear of riot by Korean soldiers. I have completed arrangements to send the company of marines over land by railroad at the critical moment; also about 35 men and field guns from this vessel at Chemulpo if deemed necessary."

The second message is as follows: "Two officers, 36 men left at 10 a. m. The remainder of guard is prepared if any demand. There is little change in the situation."

WRECK ON THE SOUTHERN

FREIGHT TRAIN IN A MISHAP NEAR GREENSBORO.

Eleven Cars Were Telescoped and Traffic Was Blocked Several Hours. Two Tramps Injured.

(Special to The Messenger.) Greensboro, N. C., January 5.—On account of the wreck of a freight train two miles north of here at two o'clock this afternoon, all northbound through trains are held up here, to clear the track. There is a probability of not getting through before seven o'clock in the morning. Nos. 30 and 36 for Lynchburg, Richmond and Washington, were behind time and failed to pass, while No. 7 going south passed ten minutes ahead of the freight. 97, the special fast mail is held one mile north of the wreck and a new mail crew at Greensboro is being transferred at the usual hour on the street car to work the mail.

While hurrying at the rate of fifty miles to clear passage for No. 30, the passenger train going to Danville, a wheel on the box car next to the tender broke, in a ten foot cut, telescoping eleven cars in inextinguishable conflagration across the track, filling the cut with broken and piled up cars and destroying seventy yards of track. The tender was wrenched from the track, bumping fifty yards on the cross ties, and turning over and the engine was derailed.

Wrecking crews from Spencer on the south; Monroe, Va., on the north are busily at work clearing the obstruction. Officials say the track will be clear by midnight, but seven o'clock is more probable.

The scene of wreckage is on the street car line and thousands of people from this city have gone out. Two tramps were hurt, but were able to walk to the city, where they spread the report that two companions were in the next car to them which was smashed and they were dead under the debris. No dead men have been found. Dugan was conductor and Holton engineer of the train.

The distinguished officials of the Southern who are at the scene giving aid are General Superintendent McManus, Division Superintendent Coapman, Master of Track and Road Master Fry, Master Mechanic Lea and Assistant Superintendent Lake.

(Later.) Assurance has been received that all trains can go through at twelve o'clock tonight.

BUSINESS FALLING OFF.

Report Shows That Receipts of Steel Corporation Show a Decline.

New York, January 5.—The dividend on United States Steel common was passed at the quarterly meeting of the directors today, but the regular one and three quarters per cent. was declared on the preferred stock. This was practically what Wall Street expected. At the previous quarterly meeting the common dividend was cut from a four to a two per cent. basis.

Chairman Gary made the formal statement after the meeting that the action of the directors was unanimous.

The statement of earnings for 1903 shows a great shrinkage in the business of the corporation. Net earnings (December estimated) aggregate \$108,979,012, as against \$132,308,763 in 1902, and \$105,974,190 in the first nine months of the corporation history in 1901. Briefly business for the 12 months of 1903 was only about \$3,000,000, in excess of that for the first nine months of the corporation's existence.

For the last quarter of 1903, net earnings were \$14,845,042, as against \$31,485,759 for the same quarter of 1902, and \$29,760,912 for the corresponding quarter of 1901. Thus earnings for the last quarter were decidedly less than last of those in 1902.

The balance is \$60,824,380 as against \$30,306,541 in 1902. The undivided profit, or surplus for 1903 aggregates \$11,962,645, which is less by \$22,291,012 than the previous year. This is partly accounted for, however, by the charging off for depreciation of \$5,570,069 as against nothing in 1902. On December 31st last the company's unfilled orders aggregated \$3,215,123 tons as against 5,347,253 on the same day of 1902.

Dr. Dabney Accepts Presidency of University of Cincinnati.

Knoxville, Tenn., January 5.—Dr. Charles W. Dabney today resigned as president of the University of Tennessee to accept the presidency of the University of Cincinnati. The resignation is effective September 1st next, when he will take charge at Cincinnati. His acceptance, it is stated, was conditioned on an income of \$250,000 per annum for the Cincinnati Institution.

WAR ON WOOD

Nomination to be Major General Will be Hard Fought

MINORITY VIEWS

The Minority Takes Up the Different Charges Made Against General Wood and Establishes the Ground on Which the Charges Were Based. There are Seven Counts in the Brief and It Will be Used by the Opponents of the Nomination in the Fight to be Brought Up in the Senate.

Washington, January 5.—Views of the minority of the Senate committee on military affairs, protesting against the confirmation of General Leonard Wood to be major general, have been prepared in the form of a brief to be used by the opponents of this nomination when the reports of the committee are presented for action of the Senate in executive session.

First submitted in the brief is the argument that it is not denied that the orders to the courts, which were introduced by Major E. G. Rathbone, were actually issued by General Wood as military governor. In Secretary Root's order the prosecution is instructed that if it has any intention of using as evidence in the trial of the postal cases testimony applied for in the United States "steps should be taken to immediately inform the proper judicial authorities that this cannot be allowed." The minority says that it is the opinion of the committee that General Wood used his authority as military governor to change the entire judicial system of the island.

The second count in the brief of the minority relates to the pardon of W. H. Reeves, and his testimony in the postal cases. General Wood said that in pardoning Reeves he believed he had the right to constitute him a witness for the state. The brief then refers to the testimony of Charles R. Fisher, formerly managing editor of the Havana Post and representative of the Associated Press to prove that General Wood had promised Reeves immunity from prosecution if he would give testimony in the postal cases. "Of the character to help the government's cause."

General Wood is charged in the third count with having violated a promise to Major James E. Runcie and to cause the arrest of Corydon M. Rich, who had been an assistant to Mr. Nevil in the finance department of the department of posts.

The Runcie magazine article is the subject of the fourth count. This statement is made: "Runcie swears that arrangements were made between himself, Ray Stannard Baker and General Wood, for Runcie to write an article covering Cuba and General Wood understood that the article would be a criticism of General Brooke's administration. He also swears that after it was written, General Wood asked if it had been written and sent to Baker."

Concerning the testimony of Mr. Baker this statement is made by the minority: "Baker states that he knew that he was to receive an article from Runcie and that he was aware of the tenor of the article. He states that General Wood was very frank in his expressions of criticism of the Brooke administration and that as a general result of his visit to Cuba he found that General Wood was antagonistic to General Brooke's administration."

The Jai Alai concession forms the fifth count in the minority's brief and the following summing up is made: "The President of the company states that the documents relating to the concession were submitted to General Wood, and approved by General Wood in full information for the action of the war department. Wallis Clearman with Tiffany and Company, testifies that about the 10th or 12th of that month an order was cable to Tiffany by Mr. Zarasqueta for a silver service valued at about \$5,000 and that he took such a service to Havana which was accepted and paid for Zarasqueta. That this was a gift to General Wood from the Jai Alai company is admitted."

The sixth count says: "General Brooke testifies to the insubordination of General Wood and that he (Brooke) refrained from it court martial process because of the feeling that such a step would not be sanctioned by the war department."

The seventh and last count in the brief refers entirely to testimony regarding General Wood's veracity.

Bunau-Varilla to Resign as Panama's Minister.

Washington, January 5.—M. Philippe Bunau-Varilla, the minister from Panama and the joint signor with Secretary Hay of the Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty will resign his office after the exchange of ratifications of the treaty between the Washington and Panama governments. It is said his successor will be Mr. Arosemena, a prominent lawyer of Panama. Mr. Bunau-Varilla will probably go to Paris after his resignation.

ACTED RIGHT

Senator Lodge Defends the President's Panama Course

IN THE SENATE

Practically the Entire Session of the Senate Was Devoted to Mr. Lodge's Speech—He Defended the Administration's Course and Said It Was in the Interest of Peace—Mr. Lodge Referred to the Democratic Dinner in New York and Criticized Cleveland and His Administration—Proceedings of the House.

Washington, January 5.—Practically the entire session of the Senate today was devoted to a speech by Mr. Lodge on the situation on the isthmus of Panama. He discussed the abstract question of the right of the President to recognize the independence of a new nation and concluded that such a prerogative pertains exclusively to the office of the chief executive. He also contended that there had been a general expectation of an uprising in Panama in case of the failure of the Hay-Herrera treaty, and declared that the President could not have done less than inform himself of the prospect. Mr. Lodge argued that our intervention in Panama had been only in the interest of peace, and contended that the President had not gone a step beyond what the proprieties called for.

Mr. Lodge made reply to those who contend that the fact that the United States had prevented the secession of the Southern States in the civil war debars this country from recognizing any nation which has come into existence through secession as has Panama. This argument, he declared, is unworthy. Really under present circumstances there could now be no formation of a new nation except by secession. The right of secession is the right of revolution and has nothing to do with law.

Of the character in which recognition had been purely executive were cited and the Senator asserted that President Taylor had prepared to recognize the independence of Hungary before a government had been established. In reply to a question by Mr. Morgan, Mr. Lodge said he had voted for the resolution declaring that "The people of Cuba are of right ought to be free and independent." But, he said, that as there was then no government in Cuba, his vote then had not been inconsistent with his present attitude. His contention was that the recognition of a government is a purely executive function.

Replying to the objection that the President had gone beyond his authority in nominating a minister to Panama, Mr. Lodge quoted a number of instances to show that the early Presidents made nominations to other countries for which Congress had made no provision.

Mr. Lodge read from a speech made by Mr. Morgan in the 57th Congress protesting against the ratification of the treaty with Colombia. Mr. Morgan contended Mr. Lodge's action to be interference that he (Mr. Morgan) had altered his views concerning the rights of Panama to the proceeds of the sale of the canal concessions.

Explaining that he had not changed in any particular his views on the matter, Mr. Morgan said: "Nevertheless the speech had been brought into debate for the purpose of reproaching him. He then asked Mr. Lodge: 'In the absence of any agreement with condemned felons in France, constituting the Panama Canal Company would you be willing now to take this \$40,000,000 to be held by the United States and give it to the republic of Panama?'"

Mr. Lodge answered that he would not be willing to so divert money which he believed to belong rightfully to the Panama Canal Company.

Mr. Lodge declared the question involved to be an American question and one in which the whole American people are deeply interested. The question is neither partisan or sectional, and the Senator thought all should unite in sustaining the course that had been pursued. Nevertheless there had been some partisanship manifested. For the life of him he could not see the wisdom of the course of some of the Democrats in this instance. As a Republican he would like no better issue in the pending Presidential campaign than the Panama canal, but as an American he would regret a division on this important question.

In this connection Mr. Lodge referred to last night's Democratic banquet in New York, quoting Mr. Olney's reference to the "needless war in Cuba." Mr. Lodge said he believed the adjective had been well chosen, because if Mr. Cleveland's administration had taken the proper course with reference to Cuba, he might have been saved that war. Mr. Lodge said that Mr. Cleveland's nomination would afford him great pleasure, for Mr. Cleveland's administration had never been discussed. "Say what you like of the silver issue," he declared, "it was a better issue than what had gone before."

Mr. Gorman introduced a resolution asking the President to supply the Senate with information as to the various instances of intervention on the part of the United States in the isthmus of Panama, saying that the information requested would be in the line of Mr. Lodge's speech. He asked for immediate consideration of the resolution, but Mr. Allison objection was postponed.

ARE NOT SAFE

Many of the Chicago Theatres Will be Condemned

FACTS OF FIRE

Will be Determined by the Coroner's Jury, But the Blame Will Not be Fixed—Fully 35 Per Cent. of the Chicago Theatres Cannot be Made to Conform to the City Building Laws and They Will Not Agree to Be Opened to the Public—Coroner's Inquest Will Commence Thursday.

Chicago, January 5.—The special committee composed of members in the city council, appointed last night to investigate the condition of local theatres and to agree upon what alterations are necessary to make them conform to the building ordinances, held its first meeting today. According to the statement of Alderman Priestart, one of the members of the committee it is doubtful if thirty-five per cent. of the theatres ever again open their doors. Strict adherence to the building laws would require that every one of the playhouses in the city be of fire proof construction and this would require the demolition and re-building of the majority of the theatres.

Late this afternoon the attorneys of the fire department caused the arrest of four employees of the Fuller Construction Company, David Jones, a masonry foreman and Angus McKay, Otta Rausch and John Kingston iron workers. Attorneys for the Fuller Company took Jones who had been sought by the police for several days, to the fire department. It had been charged that Jones and his men broke the skylights on the theatre after the fire in order to destroy possible evidence. It developed today after the arrest of Jones and his men that the skylights were blocked by scantlings and tied with wire, and that neither of them had been opened since the theatre was built.

Jones in making his statement to the fire committee said: "I took the three iron workers with me through an adjoining building and out upon the theatre roof over the stage. First I removed the wooden scantlings which blocked the skylights. Then I found the lights tied with wire inside and broke two panes of glass to get at the wires to untie them. I finally got the wires off and opened the lights."

Jones was asked why he went to the roof of the theatre and replied that he had been told that the north wall had been cracked in the fire and went to see if it was true. He declared he had looked at the skylights because he feared they might fall through and injure somebody on the stage.

"Why did you take three iron workers with you to inspect a brick wall?" asked Attorney Fulkerson of the fire department.

Jones was confused, but finally answered that the men went with him through curiosity. He admitted that the iron workers helped him open the skylight and worked with the roof for half an hour.

The coroner said tonight he was almost ready for the inquest which will commence Thursday morning. "I wish it understood," he said, "that this is not a trial, but simply an inquiry, to determine the facts of the fire as far as we can. The coroner's jury will not attempt to fix the blame of the fire upon anybody nor will it recommend the punishment of anybody. It will simply report on the facts as it has been able to gather them and the rest of the work will be left for the state's attorney, if it is found that there is anything for him to do."

Life insurance companies object to the statement of the coroner that no verdict will be rendered after the inquest, claiming that large sums of money insurance on the lives of those who perished in the theatre fire depend for their payment on the verdict of the coroner's jury.

Another Victim of the Fire.

Chicago, January 5.—The Iroquois theatre fire claimed a fresh victim today, making the number of deaths 591. Miss Josephine Spence was one of those severely burned during the fire. She was found by relatives taken to her home where she died today.

E. H. Harriman to Succeed H. G. Burt.

Omaha, Neb., January 5.—It was semi-officially stated today that E. H. Harriman will become president of the Union Pacific railroad to succeed Horace G. Burt, whose resignation was recently announced. A general manager will be named who will be the active head of the affairs of the road, with headquarters in Omaha. The road will be operated by a method similar to that in vogue on the Southern Pacific road. Mr. Harriman's incumbency, it is stated, will be one year, at the end of which period his permanent successor, if any, will be named.

ATTACK ALABAMA LAW.

Jackson Giles Begins Two Suits Against Board of Registrars.

Washington, January 5.—Argument was heard by the Supreme court of the United States today in the two cases of Jackson W. Giles, against Charles B. Teasley et al., of the board of registrars of Montgomery county, Alabama. One action is a suit for damages and the other an application for mandamus. The suits involve the refusal of the registrars, to permit the registration for voting of Giles, a colored man.

Argument for Giles was made by Wilfred H. Smith, a colored attorney of New York. The defendants were represented by W. A. Gunter. According to Smith, both actions involve the new Alabama law through which he said the people of the state had sought by what he termed a fraudulent scheme, to evade the constitution of the United States and deny the right to suffrage to the negro voter.

For the defense, Mr. Gunter contended that the action of the registrars was a judicial action and that under the laws of Alabama they were exempt from actions for damages. The only question properly before the Supreme court, he urged, was whether the constitution of Alabama was in conflict with that of the United States. He maintained that Giles had not gained a standing in the federal courts. He should have gone to the polls and demanded the right to vote, which, being denied his case might have then more properly been within the jurisdiction of the federal courts.