

NO TIME LIMIT

Japanese Reply to Russian Note Not an Ultimatum

LITTLE CHANGE

In the Situation—It is Certain That Russia Cannot Accede to all of the Propositions Submitted in the Last Reply—The Way is Open for Further Negotiation—The Status of the Situation Remains About as it Was a Week Ago.

St. Petersburg, January 16.—It is already practically certain that Russia will not accept Japan's last propositions as an entirety. Russia is ready to agree to certain points, but on others the foreign office believes, Russia cannot yield. The officials are of the opinion that the way is open for continuing the negotiations and there is no indication that Russia will seek to delay her answer, which probably will be ready in a few days.

The Czar continues to talk peace, and the dowager zarina, in conversation remarked:

"War is a horrible thing. There will not be war."

In the meanwhile Viceroy Alexieff and Baron de Rosen, as well as the foreign office, are studying the Japanese document, Army and navy circles continue pessimistic.

The best feature of the situation is the fact that the Japanese reply has in no sense the character of an ultimatum. It is couched in pacific terms, does not fix a time limit and the acceptance by Russia of certain of the propositions therein mark an advance toward a settlement. Many rumors are afloat, including a report that an actual naval fight has occurred at Vladivostok.

London, January 16.—In peculiarly frank language, Baron Hayashi after consultation with the foreign office today, summed up the situation for The Associated Press as follows:

"I only hope the Czar will give us peace; but my hopes are not strong. If we go to war it will be for issues whereon both America and England have insisted diplomatically. We have received no pledges from any country that in the event of defeat it will step in and save us from being absorbed by Russia. We cannot count even in extremities on the armed support of any nation in the world. It would be a struggle to the diplomatic. Perhaps we are not strong enough to fight Russia. There are two opinions about that."

Baron Hayashi intimated that he thought Japan was bound to be beaten in the end.

"If we were beaten," the minister resumed, "the minister would take Korea and Manchuria by right of conquest, and possibly Japan. No power on earth could then dislodge her from central China and all the far east. I am sure it is better to go to war when you know you are right, even if defeat is possible, than to see your independence submerged under a continual aggression that is bound to absorb you eventually. Nothing can avert war between Russia and Japan in future years, even if peace is procured now, so long as Russia pursues her present far eastern policy."

The American action in enforcing the opening of the Manchurian ports was a splendid example of honest diplomacy. It was a straightforward step which contrasts favorably with Russian methods. No other nation, except Great Britain, when the British admiral bought the two Chilean warships, has taken any practical step to live up to its diplomatic demands upon Russia, and the far east. We believe we are now fighting a diplomatic battle in behalf of America and Great Britain, but if only war can settle it we know we shall receive assistance from neither. We are prepared to fight out our own battles and take the consequences.

Port Said, January 16.—The Russian battleship Oslabya has left this port for Suez. The remainder of the Russian squadron is awaiting orders.

London, January 16.—In the opinion of the British government, the end of this week does not mark any change in the far eastern crisis which more than ever keeps diplomatic circles in London in a state of anxiety.

The latest, and if it had been true, the most serious statement, namely that Russia intended to risk sending her Black Sea fleet through the Dardanelles, received today a positive denial from the foreign office. Baron Hayashi, the Japanese minister, visited Downing street and was told that after making inquiries, the British authorities were convinced that the report was unfounded.

Regarding the main issue, Baron Hayashi and the foreign office had no information. Neither at the Japanese legation nor at the foreign office is it expected that any trustworthy indication of the Russian action would be obtained for several days.

Paris, January 16.—Official sentiment concerning the Russo-Japanese situation is rather less buoyant today. Although no information is given as to the grounds for the present feeling, it probably is due to the receipt of full information regarding the nature of Japan's latest demands. One of the foremost members of the diplomatic corps, who has been in communication with French Government concerning the situation said today

that a strong feeling existed in the highest official quarters that Japan had gradually enlarged her demands until those of today were considerably beyond those at first presented. Moreover, it is the belief of the officials here that Japan's steady augmentation of her demands is due largely to her belief that Russia is desirous of avoiding war and that therefore it is safe to push her demands to the furthest limit.

Officials regard this as one of the most dangerous features of the situation, as Russia's desire to avoid war has encouraged Japan to develop her claims until they are far beyond those Russia at first was ready to concede. In particular it is the official view that Japan's present demands for the integrity of China and full recognition of Chinese authority over Manchuria represent a considerable and important advance over the early representations. It is pointed out that at the outset Japan and practically all the powers recognized Russia's special interests in Manchuria, but the view now prevails among the officials and diplomats here that Japan's demands seek to minimize and restrict those special interests within impossible limits.

WORKED AT LEISURE

Yet Burglars Opened the Safe and Secured its Contents.

New York, January 16.—Burglars entered a cafe on Mercer street, one block from a police station early today and cut the bottom out of a safe weighing 1,700 pounds, after moving it into a laboratory twenty feet from where it had formerly stood, and took the money it contained, securing about \$500.

In the adjoining buildings, into which the burglars first broke in, in order to effect an entrance to the saloon from the rear, were found sectional "jimmies," drills, and chisels of the finest steel, and tools of which the police say they have never seen the equal.

The moving and opening of the safe, it is said, must have taken the burglars at least three hours.

SITUATION AT SEOUL

American Guard Increased and Danger to Foreigners is About Over

Seoul, January 16.—The American guard at the United States embassy has been increased. Sixty additional marines arrived here last night and are quartered in the city at the electric power company's building. The native press is slightly offensive to foreign residents and it is quite possible there will be yet trouble with Korea. Troops now guard all the foreign residences, probably in sufficient numbers to keep the natives in check, should they begin to make trouble. Foreigners can not be considered in danger. A German man-of-war has just arrived at Champo.

A change in the personnel of the government has begun in favor of the Japanese and as the people have been more angry with the government than the foreigners, it is likely that this change will completely pacify them. The American authorities have taken the precaution to provide male escorts for women and children of that nationality while on the street.

POPULAR PASTOR RESIGNS

Rev. J. J. Douglass Will Go to Baltimore—Handsome New Banking House Completed.

(Special to the Messenger.)
Wilson, N. C., January 16.—Rev. J. J. Douglass, the popular and efficient pastor of the Baptist church, will, on Sunday tender his resignation to that body. Mr. Douglass has served this church for several years, during which time he has placed himself very high in the affections of, not only his people, but the general public as well. Every effort has been made to induce him to reconsider the matter but without avail. His health is not the best, and after a short rest, it is understood he will accept a very flattering call to a large prosperous church in Baltimore.

The Branch Banking Company have just moved into their new building, which has been completed. This is the handsomest and best equipped building in Wilson and the stockholders and patrons have just cause to be proud.

Davis & Woodard who prior to the decision of the county commissioners, conducted a saloon at Black Creek, have through their attorney Mr. John E. Woodard entered suit to test the legality of the action of the commissioners in their decision to license the township held an election some time since and the vote was in favor of open saloons, and it is upon this ground that they will protest. The decision is looked forward to with interest, as the point at issue is a very much disputed one among the people.

The young ladies of Wilson will give a leap year ball on next Wednesday night, to be followed by a supper. Each girl will invite a gentleman friend. Extensive preparations are being made to make this unique affair a great success.

Missionaries Ordered Away from Korea

Jackson, Miss., Jan. 16.—Bishop C. B. Galloway of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, today called all missionaries in Korea, to move into Seoul immediately or go at once to Japan. The bishop received advice that the missionaries are in great danger of losing their lives.

JAS. L. BLAIR

Well Known St. Lou's Citizen Dies in Florida

CAUSE OF DEATH

Mr. Blair Was General Counsel of the St. Louis Exposition Until a Short Time Ago When Charges of Official Misconduct Were Made Against Him, When He Resigned, His Health Became Bad and the Trip to Florida Was Taken in Search of Relief.

Eustis, Fla., January 16.—James L. Blair of St. Louis, Mo., died here this morning. Mr. Blair came here about five weeks ago in search of health and it was thought that he was improving until last week when his condition changed so alarmingly for the worse that the physicians advised that his wife should be telegraphed for and she and her son Percy Blair arrived this morning, a short time before his death.

Mr. Blair just before coming to Eustis held the position of general counsel for the St. Louis exposition and Mrs. Blair that of president of the board of lady managers, which positions they resigned owing to certain charges of official misconduct on the part of the deceased. Mr. Blair had sustained a severe injury to his ankle before he came here and this with his mental condition is believed to have hastened his death. The cause of death given in the physician's certificate is cerebral congestion. The body was embalmed today and will be shipped to St. Louis by this evening's train, accompanied by Mrs. Blair and her son.

St. Louis, Mo., January 16.—James Lawrence Blair, former general counsel for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition who died today at Eustis, Fla., was born in St. Louis April 12, 1854. He was the third son of General Francis Preston Blair of Washington, D. C., a friend of Lincoln and Jackson.

At the inception of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Mr. Blair was made general counsel for the enterprise and Mrs. Blair was made president of the board of lady managers. With their two sons they lived in a beautiful residence in the suburbs west of the city and were leaders in the social life of St. Louis.

Last October rumors were circulated connecting Mr. Blair's name with alleged fraudulent transactions in conducting the affairs of the Low estate of this city of which he was a trustee. The rumors finally were published as facts. Mr. Blair became ill from worry over the rumors and upon their publication denied them and threatened to sue for libel. The suit was never instituted, but instead the grand jury began an investigation.

His resignation as general counsel for the world's fair was tendered and accepted. The grand jury investigation resulted in indictments being returned against him on two charges of forgery and he was placed under a \$20,000 bond. During the investigation the family residence was relinquished and Mr. Blair was taken to the Mulhally hospital.

TO PROTECT THE PARTY

Bryan Will Issue the Commoner Daily During the Democratic Convention.

Lincoln, Neb., January 16.—William Jennings Bryan returned to Lincoln today and went immediately to his home at Fairview. He was in good health and spirits and said he had never enjoyed anything more than his quick trip to Europe. Mr. Bryan will remain at home until after next Monday, in order that he may attend the banquet to be given in his honor Monday night.

Mr. Bryan was asked this evening if the Daily Commoner which he proposes to publish at St. Louis during the Democratic convention would advocate the candidacy of any particular aspirant for the Presidential nomination. He said:

"It will not; it will simply advocate Democratic principles." "And," he continued, "I do not care to discuss anybody's candidacy. I have no favorites. All that I desire is that the candidate be a man whose democracy is so well known that he will not be a subject of inquiry or discussion during the campaign, and whose fidelity to the principles of democracy will not be questioned after the election. I simply want to do what I can to protect the party from any confidence game that may be attempted on the voters."

HAD A TOUGH VOYAGE

The Steamer Phonania Met Awful Experiences in Trip to Newfoundland.

CASE BEGINS

First Hearing Before Senate Committee in Smoot Case

TO BE THOROUGH

Attorneys Were Present for Those Who Protest Against Mr. Smoot Being Allowed to Take His Seat in the Senate and Also in Behalf of Mr. Smoot—Each Side Made its Presentations of the Facts That it Would Endeavor to Prove.

Washington, January 16.—The Senate committee on privileges and elections met today for the purpose of hearing the representations of the attorneys on both sides of the case involving the right of Senator Smoot, of Utah, to occupy his seat. Former Representative Taylor, of Ohio, appeared for some of the protestants and T. P. Stephenson for those who are represented by the National Reform Association. A. S. Worthington, and Waldemar van Cott were present on behalf of Senator Smoot, who was also in attendance.

S. A. L. TRAIN HELD UP

The Robbers Were Driven Off Before they Secured Any Booty

McClenny, Fla., January 16.—Passenger train No. 76 eastbound on the Seaboard Air Line was held up one mile east of Sanderson at 7:45 tonight by four white men. The door of the baggage car was blown open with dynamite, the robbers mistaking this car for the express car.

The engine was stopped by a volley of shots fired into the cab. The fireman and engineer were taken off the engine and escorted to the second class coach and the robbers ran the train ahead about a half mile, when they blew open the baggage car. The train conductor went forward, but was fired on and driven back to the coaches. Conductor L. S. Peck, who was deadheading over the line, called for fire arms and volunteers.

B. H. Harrison, claim agent of the road, B. E. McCaa, traveling auditor and J. C. Williamson, traveling freight agent responded and the four went forward, opened fire and drove the robbers off. Conductor Peck took the throttle and ran the train four miles down the road. The robbers secured no booty and made no attempt to rob the passengers, but there was great excitement in the passenger coaches while the firing was going on. The sheriffs of Duval and Baker counties are on the trail of the robbers with bloodhounds.

WINNING FAVOR FOR PANAMA

United States Naval Officers Show Courtesy to the Indian Commissioners.

Colon, January 16.—All the United States warships are cruising off the coast, except the flagship Olympia, the Dixie and the Topeka, and the torpedo boat destroyer Stewart.

To Open Up Consulates at Moutken and Antung

Washington, January 16.—The men selected by the President to open up the United States consulates at Moutken and Antung when Congress shall make the necessary provisions for salaries and expenses are James T. Cheshire of New York and James W. Davidson of Minnesota. Mr. Cheshire has a record of thirty years' service in the state department and its legations, most of his time being spent in China. Mr. Cheshire becomes consul general at Moutken and Mr. Davidson consul at Antung. Edwin W. Morgan, of New York, will be sent to Dalny in the capacity of a commercial agent. It is understood that he is to have a roving commission, with Dalny as his base.

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TO MEET ON JUNE 21ST

Call for Republican National Convention Issued by Hanna

Washington, January 16.—Senator Hanna today issued the call for the Republican national convention to meet at Chicago at noon June 21, 1904, to select candidates for President and vice president. The call makes the usual provisions for the number of delegates, four at large from each state and two from each congressional district, together with alternates.

Delegates must be elected at least thirty days before the national convention meets. The delegates at large must be elected by state conventions and the district delegates by district conventions. Provision is made for the election of delegates from the District of Columbia. Republican electors and all other electors, without regard to past political affiliation, who believe in the principles of the Republican party are invited to take part in the selection of delegates.

The call is signed by M. A. Hanna as chairman and Perry S. Heath as secretary of the Republican national committee.

INSPECT THE IROQUOIS

Coroners Jury Views Interior of Theatre Where the Calamity Occurred.

Chicago, January 16.—But one witness was heard in the Iroquois theatre inquest today and the jury then adjourned to inspect the interior of the theatre.

A lively dispute took place when Deputy Coroner Buckley and the jurors entered the building. A force of detectives employed by the owners of the building followed them around and insisted upon listening to all that was said. They moved only when Mr. Buckley threatened to have all the detectives arrested.

Rev. Charles L. Roberts, pastor of the Hamlin Avenue Methodist church died today of injuries received in the fire. His death brings the total to 57.

As a result of orders issued by Building Commissioner George Williams, only eight of twenty-one churches closed for violations of the building law remain with closed doors tomorrow. The others will open with either no limit to their attendance or with capacity limited by Commissioner Williams to a degree considered safe.

Prussian Diet Opened by Emperor William

Berlin, January 16.—The newly elected Prussian diet was opened today by Emperor William, as King of Prussia, who read the speech from the throne in a full voice, which was heard clearly throughout the spacious white hall of the castle. The Emperor introduced a ceremonial not previously used by him or by his predecessors at the opening of the diet. He entered the hall preceded by two tall heralds, wearing tabards checked with the royal arms. The speech, which entirely concerned domestic affairs, was the king thanked providence for his speedy restoration to health, and expressed gratitude for the warm sympathy shown him by the people.

and believed that Joseph Smith, the president of the church was a polygamist. As for Messrs. Young and Winder, his information was that they were both monogamists.

With reference to the apostles Mr. Van Cott said that it was his information that six or seven of the twelve are polygamists, but he added that none of them are living in polygamous cohabitation. He said they had lived in obedience to the law since the issuance of the Woodruff manifesto.

Mr. Van Cott said that where the associates of Mr. Smoot had practiced polygamy or violated laws their acts would subject them to punishment, but that would in no manner unfit Mr. Smoot for qualifying as Senator.

Mr. Burrows asked Mr. Van Cott if his answer would be the same if it was shown that Mr. Smoot had knowledge of the violations of the laws by his associates.

"If he had knowledge of such violation and encouraged them, then it was to say Mr. Smoot was disqualified for service as a Senator," said Mr. Van Cott. "For then he would have been guilty of connivance at the disregarding of laws. But Mr. Smoot has urged over and over again that every law should be strictly observed."

Mr. Taylor replied that acts of a continuance character should be investigated even though committed before election. He added that it was impossible to know what Mr. Smoot stands for, unless it is known what the church teaches with reference to the charges against the Senator. For instance, Brigham Young had declared that the church should exercise control of temporal affairs. "We want to know what has become of that doctrine or canon," he said.

"Six of the apostles who signed the plea to the President for amnesty with vows of patriotism and repentance are today," he said, "living in polygamy," and he added in response to a question that this was undoubtedly within the knowledge of Mr. Smoot.

In an executive session held after the public hearing, it was made plain that the committee will prosecute a thorough inquiry into the charges against Mr. Smoot.

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