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NO. 13

PEACE IS NOT YET ASSURED

M. Witte Will Act in Strict Accordance With Instructions From the Home Government

DOESN'T FAVOR GREAT CONCESSION

The Senior Russian Peace Plenipotentiary Declares That Russia is Not Willing to Make Peace at Any Price, and That the Ultimate Decision Remains with the Emperor—The Mission of the Plenipotentiaries Is to Ascertain Whether It Is Possible to Conclude a Treaty of Peace—Russia is Not Crushed, and the Russian People Would Be Willing to Continue the War Indefinitely if Necessary.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—M. Witte, the senior Russian peace plenipotentiary, received the correspondent of the Associated Press at his villa on Yelagin Island. M. Witte spoke in French. After greetings, which were cordial, the conversation gravitated quickly to the high mission with which the Russian statesman is charged, and the disposition of the foreign press to interpret his appointment as an indication that Russia has decided to make peace at any price.

"No, no," said he, straightening up in his chair and speaking slowly and distinctly, as if weighing the value of each word. "In the first place, I have been designated by the Emperor as his ambassador extraordinary for our parleys with the Japanese plenipotentiaries to ascertain whether it is possible to conclude a treaty of peace. My personal views are of secondary importance, but my ideas are in entire accord with those of my friend, Count Lamsdorf. In serving my Emperor I have received precise instructions from his majesty and shall follow them.

"The ultimate decision remains in the hands of the Emperor, and it is for him to decide the destinies of Russia. The Emperor is a friend of peace, and desires peace, but I very much fear that the Japanese terms will be such that we will be unable to reach an accord.

"Secondly, the world should disabuse its mind of the idea that Russia wants peace at any price. There are two parties in Russia. One favors the continuation of the war—a outright—this is a large and influential party. The other, to whom I belong, favors peace. I avow it frankly, because telling the truth has always been my rule in politics. I was for peace before hostilities broke out. When the war began, the situation changed. Even though there are these two parties as to the advisability of ending the war in the present circumstances, both would be united if these Japanese demands wounded the amour propre of the Russian people or jeopardized our future as a nation. I am sure that if I report that the conditions of Japan cannot be accepted, the Russian people will be ready to continue the war for years if necessary.

"Thirdly, Russia is not crushed, as the foreign press has led the world to believe. The interior situation is very serious, I do not deny, but in Europe and America the true significance of what is happening is not understood. Correspondents come here and talk with a few hundred people in St. Petersburg and Moscow, misinterpret what is happening and fill the world with false impressions as to Russia's future. Russia is not on the verge of dissolution as a great power and is not obliged to accept any conditions offered in spite of the military reverses she has sustained.

"We are passing through an internal crisis which has been marked by many grave events, and which may have others still in store, but the crisis will pass, and in a few years Russia will again take her place as a preponderant power in the European concert."

Body To Be Exhumed.
New York, Special.—The body of Mrs. Mary Gorman Carlton, the second wife of Frederick E. Carlton, of Brooklyn, to die of lockjaw, is to be exhumed and subjected to minute examination for traces of poison. An order to this effect was signed by Supreme Court Justice Sewell, in Brooklyn, upon request of District Attorney Clark, of King's county. Carlton is now in Raymond street jail, held on a technical charge of grand larceny.

Charges Against a Woman.
Washington, Special.—Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, has begun an investigation of a report that a certain female employe of his Department has sold questions to be asked in civil service examinations prior to the holding of such examinations. A complaint has been made that this woman for several years has been aiding applicants for positions in this manner, and that in a number of cases the applicants have paid liberally for the service. The examinations alleged to have been thus manipulated were for positions requiring technical knowledge and the questions were prepared in the Department.

His Instructions Are Full.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—M. Witte spent an hour with Mr. Meyer, the American ambassador, at the Kleonmichel Palace, discussing the forthcoming peace conference. Before leaving for Paris next Wednesday, M. Witte will have still another audience with the Emperor. In the meantime he must pay a round of official visits to all the imperial ministers. M. Witte is expected to be the bearer of a personal message from the Emperor to President Roosevelt.

The press is authorized by Mr. Hartwig, director of the first department of the Foreign Office, to deny in the most categorical fashion, the report of the alleged contents of the instructions to M. Witte, published in Paris by The Echo de Paris and elsewhere abroad.

"Reports pretending to reveal the character of the instructions to the Russian plenipotentiaries are mere guess work," said M. Hartwig. "These instructions have been seen by only four persons, the Emperor, M. Witte, Foreign Minister Lamsdorf and myself. The Echo de Paris' report says they consist of five pages, whereas the fact is that they cover over twenty pages. The paper says the instructions are very vague, while on the contrary they are very detailed. On one point only, according to the Echo de Paris, are they absolutely specific, namely, as to the leveling of the fortifications of Vladivostok; but I can say to you that there are many others."

M. Hartwig also pronounces the stories that M. Muraviev's displacement was the result of intrigues by Foreign Minister Lamsdorf to be pure inventions. The Novosti says it believes that the desires of the anti-German coalition, which Great Britain is trying to engineer, to restore Russia as a threat against German aggression, should be a powerful diplomatic weapon in the hands of the Russian plenipotentiaries.

"Europe wants to end the war," says the paper, "as Russia's preoccupation in the Far East destroys the equilibrium. Austria is in danger from Germany, which seeks a thoroughfare to the Asiatic, in exchange for the compensation in the Balkan peninsula. Germany has pretensions of which she would not have dreamed of before the Russo-Japanese war. It is evident from the Morocco incident that Europe wants peace in order that Russia may safeguard her against German aggression."

Grand Army Commander Dead.

Boise, Idaho, Special.—Gen. W. W. Blackmar, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., died Sunday of intestinal nephritis.

His wife was with him during his illness. The body will be embalmed and taken to the home of the family in Boston. General Blackmar arrived here on July 10 on an inspection tour of Grand Army posts throughout the Northwest. He was ill when he arrived, and he gradually failed. The seriousness of his condition was kept from the public at the request of his wife.

General Blackmar was born July 25, 1841, at Bristol, Pa. He enlisted in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry and subsequently joined the First West Virginia Cavalry. He served with distinction throughout the war and at Five Forks was promoted on the field by General Custer to the rank of captain.

Splendid Horseback Feat.

Meeteetse, Wyoming, Special.—Three men were killed and four were injured here by an explosion in the Kirwin gold mine. There was no doctor nearer than Thermopolis, 100 miles to the southeast, but Dr. Richards, at that place, covered the mountainous distance in a little less than eleven hours. Four relays were used by him in making the trip, ranchmen along the route supplying the horses.

Prisoners Reach Birmingham.

Birmingham, Ala., Special.—Sheriff William Chandler, of Etowah county, accompanied by deputies, arrived in Birmingham Monday night with Vance Garner, Burke Richardson and Will Johnson, three of the negro assassins of Mrs. S. K. Smith, near Gadsden, Saturday night. The prisoners were placed in the Jefferson county jail for safekeeping.

Jap Victory on Sakhalin.

Tokio, By Cable.—It is officially announced that the Russian center, holding Darline and vicinity, was attacked July 11 and offered stubborn resistance. The attack was renewed at dawn of July 12, when the Japanese dislodged the Russians, driving them in the direction of Mauka. This victory assures the complete occupation of South Sakhalin by the Japanese. Eighty prisoners were taken by the Japanese, among whom was Lieutenant Maximta. Four field pieces, one machine gun and the ammunition warehouses were captured. The Japanese loss was about seventy men killed and wounded. The Russians lost about 180 men.

TAR HEEL CROP CONDITIONS

Weather Conditions Given Out by the Department Observer.

Cloudy threatening weather with showers nearly every day prevailing over the entire State during the week ending Monday, July 17th, until Sunday, July 16th. Conditions were generally detrimental to crops and caused a complete suspension of all farm work. While mostly in the form of light showers, heavy downpours occurred at many places on the 12th, 13th and 14th, which caused a rapid rise in the rivers, with flooding of low lands. This was the case especially in the west, where all streams were out of their banks, and the French Broad was very high; thousands of acres of lowlands were under water, and the crops growing thereon were badly damaged. Hill-sides were badly washed in places, and generally the ground is soggy that work in the fields is quite impossible. The average rainfall for the week for twenty selected stations was 3.00 or more than double the normal amount. Very little, hail, however, was reported. The temperature conditions were not unfavorable; the mean was slightly above normal, but without extremes; no maximum above 90 degrees occurred until the close of the week. The sultry, damp weather caused rapid and rank growth of many crops, as well as of grass and weeds, which are again becoming very troublesome in many fields. More sunshine is needed, and opportunity to finish laying by crops.

Cotton is reported quite generally to be making rank growth, and in the central-eastern portion is not fruiting well; considerable damage by shedding of forms and young bolls has also occurred; some rust is reported; in the western portion of the State the crops are fruiting well. While cotton at present appears to have been considerably damaged, the crop was generally in such good condition as regards tillage just before the rains began that probably a few days dry weather will show less injury than anticipated. Upland corn was benefitted by rain, except where pollen was washed off from plants just in bloom, but young lowland corn was damaged nearly everywhere; the true extent of the damage, however, cannot yet be ascertained. Tobacco did fairly well on well drained land, but suffered a little on low ground, where some is taking on second growth; cutting and curing are now well under way in a number of counties, but conditions were not favorable for making good cures during the past week. Some wheat and oats still in shock in the west were damaged by sprouting, and some uncut oats were lodged. Peanuts and sweet potatoes were slightly injured more for want of work than otherwise. Field peas grown for hay are sown. Melons have suffered from excessive moisture and are poor in quality. The wet weather has favored the rapid development of those fungus growths which cause the decay of fruit, and much rotting of peaches, apples and grapes is reported. Early grapes are ripening.

Rains reported: Goldsboro, 0.30; Lumberton, 1.22; Newbern, 1.43; Weldon, 2.06; Wilmington, 1.30; Hatteras, 0.60; Davis L. 1.50; Nashville, 3.74; Southport, 3.61; Greensboro, 3.96; Raleigh, 2.23; Moncure, 3.24; Lexington, 1.89; Pomona, 5.50; Angier, 2.25; Charlotte, 2.10; Asheville, 4.20; Hendersonville, 8.50 and Morganton, 8.75.

North State News.

Insurance Commissioner Young is issuing a warning against the International Registry Company, of New York, saying that some time ago he gave warning against it, and now finds that it is trying to do an underground business, and is now endeavoring to issue policies of the United Casualty and Surety Company, of St. Louis, though the latter has not been doing business since January 1, 1904. The method of the International Company seems to be to flood North Carolina with offers to agents, proposing to pay them heavy commissions for securing business. It seems that a good many men are inclined to jump at the offer the company makes. Not only will they be swindled if they take this course, but they will also be prosecuted by the commissioner for unlawfully doing business for a blacklisted company.

Fayetteville, Special.—Mr. and Mrs. R. B. King and little son, Ralph, residing on Maymont, were taken violently ill after dinner Sunday, and a physician was hurriedly called, who pronounced tyrotoxic poisoning from eating ice cream. The whole family had a close call, but they are now all out of danger.

A charter is granted the Citizens' Bank of Creedmore, Granville county, to do a commercial and savings business, capital stock \$25,000. B. G. Rogers and others being the stockholders.

Wilmington, Special.—The local police have arrested Sampson Cooper, a negro wanted in Sumter, S. C., since September, 1888, for highway robbery and for an assault with intent to kill. Sheriff Gilliard came, identified the prisoner, and returned with him to Sumter, where he will answer for the offense named.

Greensboro, Special.—A meeting of the board of aldermen will be held Wednesday night to consider the question of requiring the telegraph companies here to put their wires underground in the business part of the city. An ordinance has already been passed requiring telephone companies to place their wires underground in the business streets of the city.

TOBACCO STATISTICS NEXT

The Government Will Withhold Them Pending Investigation

TRUST AGENTS IN DEPARTMENTS

Numerous Charges From Southern Sources Lead Secretary Wilson to Begin an Investigation in Deference to the Sentiment That the Department's Figures Were Wholly Incorrect—Special Agents Sent to Kentucky and Tennessee—Statistics Partly Held Up Pending the Inquiry.

Washington, Special.—Through the receipt of numerous communications from the South and statements in the press at various times that the statistics of the Department of Agriculture on tobacco were being manipulated in the interest of the so-called tobacco trust, Secretary Wilson has begun an inquiry into the subject. Pending the investigation, the publication of the tobacco statistics of the several districts will be held up, although the regular monthly figures by States will be given out Monday next.

It was stated at the Department that special agents have been sent to the dark tobacco districts of Tennessee and Kentucky for the purpose of verifying or correcting the Department's figures. This action Mr. Hyde, the chief statistician, said, was in deference to the sentiment which had been engendered that the Department's figures were wholly incorrect. Mr. Hyde has been given direct charge of the investigation, which, it is expected, will be concluded within two or three weeks.

New Directors.

New York, Special.—Twelve new directors were chosen, and the resignations of two old directors and one recently elected were accepted by the board of directors of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. The directors who resigned were: General Louis Fitzgerald, former president of the Mercantile Trust Company; Horace C. Deming, who is now president of that institution, and Frederick G. Bourne, who was chosen at the last meeting of the board. The Mercantile Trust Company is controlled by the Equitable Society. The full list of the newly-elected directors follows:

To fill vacancies in the term expiring December 31, 1905, Wallace L. Pierce, of Boston; Daniel A. Tompkins, of Charlotte; Thomas S. Spratt, of Ogdensburg, N. Y.; Louis Stern, of New York; Frank S. Witherbee, of New York; James McMahon, of New York; For term to expire December 31, 1906; William F. McCook, of Philadelphia; Congressman Charles E. Littlefield, of Rockland, Me. For term to expire December 31, 1907; Nevada N. Stranahan, collector of the port of New York; D. Cady Herrick of Albany. For the term to expire December 31, 1908; Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University; Charles H. Zehnder, of Philadelphia.

No Grudge Against Wilson.

New York, Special.—President Walter C. Hubbard, of the New York Cotton Exchange sent the following communication to the Associated Press: "Permit me to ask you very kindly to correct a misapprehension of the press in regard to my letter to President Roosevelt concerning the disclosures in the Department of Agriculture."

"I have never written to Secretary Wilson and my letter was not the sequel of any correspondence with him conducted by my brother, Samuel T. Hubbard, when president of the New York Cotton Exchange.

"My note was prompted simply by the recent revelations and had for its purpose solely to make a clear statement of the attitude of our exchange."

Will Aid Investigation.

Washington, Special.—Richard Cheatham, secretary of the Southern Cotton Association, was in lengthy conference with District Attorney Beach and Mr. Moran, acting chief of the secret service division, regarding the recent cotton investigation. Mr. Cheatham proposes to remain here for some time, and will assist in the preparation of evidence upon which possible criminal prosecutions will be based.

Telegraphic Briefs.

M. Sergius Witte has been appointed chief peace plenipotentiary for Russia.

It is stated a German Swedish alliance is probable.

In the House of Commons Premier Balfour stated no further negotiations had been had regarding President Roosevelt's call for a second peace conference at The Hague.

Twenty-four leaders of the Odessa riots were hanged.

A violent scene occurred in the French Chamber of Deputies during a debate on the Amnesty bill, which was killed.

WITTE WILL SERVE

Czar Became Convinced That Negotiations Might Fall If His Appointee as Chief Plenipotentiary Went to Washington and Now Consents to Replace Him by Russia's Great Constructive Statesman, Long Out of Favor.

St. Petersburg, Special.—M. Muraviev has resigned his position as chief peace plenipotentiary. It may be regarded as practically certain that he will be replaced by M. Witte, president of the committee of ministers, who all along has been considered the Russian statesman pre-eminently qualified to undertake the difficult task of negotiating peace with Japan.

Though the Emperor on two previous occasions has flatly declined to accept M. Witte, he has now indicated his readiness to make the appointment. The commission, however, will not be actually signed until Foreign Minister Lamsdorf, who throughout has been Mr. Witte's warm supporter, has had an audience with the Emperor.

M. Witte's selection will undoubtedly be hailed as a practical assurance of peace. While it would be a mistake to denominate him as a "peace-at-any-price" man, M. Witte earnestly believes that the struggle should be ended and should be succeeded by an understanding between Russia and Japan which would insure peace in the Far East for half a century. Indeed, he is personally believed to be in favor of a Russo-Japanese alliance.

M. Muraviev's retirement, ostensibly owing to reasons of ill health, is in reality due to the fact that the Emperor became convinced of the fact that the negotiations might be jeopardized if he went to Washington. M. Muraviev himself, upon consideration, quite frankly recognized his lack of diplomatic training and his want of acquaintance with the questions involved, and with equal frankness expressed satisfaction that he had been relieved.

Train Stalled in Tunnel.

Asheville, Special.—A special from Andrews, on the Murphy branch, says: Heavy rain, practically a cloudburst, caused numerous washouts, flooding the track over two feet for a half mile near Topton. A number of trestle supports were carried away, paralyzing traffic. Train No. 19 stalled in a tunnel five miles east of Andrews. Over a hundred were on board all night. The trestle at the east entrance of the tunnel gave way on the passing of the rear coach, and ditching was narrowly avoided. The train was brought to a stop in the tunnel. Investigation ahead revealed another washout bridge 50 feet from the west end of the tunnel. The train is still unable to proceed either way. The coaches were packed with people, two in a seat, some standing all night. Many women and children attending the Topton barbecue were aboard. A majority of the passengers walked to Andrews over the flooded tracks for breakfast. The wires are crippled.

Growers Sue Tobacco Trust.

Clarksville, Tenn., Special.—Suit was entered by a committee from the executive committee of the Dark Tobacco Growers' Association against the American Tobacco Company and buyers, who are alleged to have boycotted the association, for \$250,000 alleged damages. The suit is brought on behalf of 7,000 planters who are members of the association, and is based on an alleged action of the defendants in trying to break up and destroy the association, in restraining competition, and also for the alleged boycotting of the association's tobacco in the Clarksville market, in Bremen and in other foreign markets.

Other Disclosures Likely.

Oyster bay, Special.—It is regarded here as probable that other sensational developments may grow out of the leak in the cotton crop report, which Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, is investigating. Nothing definite has reached the President regarding possible future disclosures. In fact, by direction of the President, Secretary Wilson is conducting the inquiry along his own lines with a determination to sift the matter to the bottom. Attorney General Moody will determine finally whether criminal prosecutions are to be instituted by the government against any one of the alleged conspirators.

Lawson Leaves Omaha.

Omaha, Neb., Special.—Thomas W. Lawson, after a five hours' stay in the city, left for Missouri Valley, Ia., where he is to address the Chautauqua Assembly on the "System." His coming has been extensively heralded, and a large number of persons gathered at the station to see the famous antagonist of the Standard Oil Company and the Copper Trust.

TAR HEEL NEWS IN BRIEFS

Many Newsy Items Gathered From all Sections.

Charlotte Cotton Market.

These figures represent prices paid to Wagons:

Strict good middling	10-10-10
Good middling	10-10-10
Strict middling	10-10-10
Middling	10-10-10
Tinges	5% to 9%
Stains	74 to 800

General Cotton Market.

Galveston, steady	10%
New Orleans, steady	10%
Mobile, easy	10%
Savannah, dull	10%
Norfolk, nominal	10%
Baltimore, quiet	11.00
New York, quiet	10.80
Boston, quiet	11.36
Philadelphia, quiet	11.05
Houston, easy	11.00
Augusta, quiet	10%
Memphis, quiet	10 13-16
St. Louis, quiet	10 13-16
Louisville, firm	10 10%

Solicitor Attacked.

Mob Composed of Men Under Indictment For Operating Blind Tiggers Attacked Room at Hotel Occupied By Solicitor Ward—Also Attack Mayor's House With Rifles and Pistols—No One Hurt—Several Arrests Made.

Elizabeth City, Special.—Meagre details of an assault committed at Columbia, the county seat of Tyrrell county, when a crowd of illicit whiskey distillers, operating blind tiggers in that section, made an attack on a room in the hotel occupied by Solicitor Ward and William Bond, reached here, the news being brought by a party which has just arrived at Edenton from Columbia. They state that the mob also attacked the residence of Mayor Woodley about 2 o'clock, rifles and pistols being used in both instances. A number of window lights were broken out, but fortunately, no one was injured. It is commonly reported that the attack was made by some whiskey men who were bent on wreaking vengeance for something they claimed Solicitor Ward and Mayor Woodley had done against them. It is very probable that the crowd was composed of some men recently run down and prosecuted by the solicitor, for operating blind tiggers, and who are now out on bond. Seven or eight of them, some white men and some negroes, have been arrested, but it is impossible to obtain their names at this time.

Rogers and Sorrell Convicted.

Raleigh, Special.—In the Superior Court Thursday ex-Sheriff Rowan Rogers and J. P. Sorrell were arraigned on the charge of embezzery. Two bills had been sent in to the grand jury, one of which was returned yesterday and another, a more complete one, this morning. Both defendants pleaded not guilty.

It has been expected that there would be a fight in the embezzery case against Rogers and Sorrell, but really no defense was made. After the men had pleaded not guilty, the jury was empanelled and then the State introduced its evidence, among the witnesses being Marcom and King, who were on the jury in the Gattis-Kilgo case. Some other witnesses were examined, and then counsel for Rogers and Sorrell told the judge they had no objection to his instructing the jury to return a verdict of guilty. The jury was then charged by the judge that, if it believed the evidence it had nothing to do but to return a verdict of guilty, and this the jury did, after having retired for a few minutes. The cases against the two men were taken separately.

The judge suspended sentence for the time being at the request of counsel for the defendant, who said they desired to be heard upon a motion. This will probably be a motion in arrest of judgment. Judge Allen called in the grand jury and said it had issued subpoenas for all the grand jurors except Marcom and King, who had already been summoned.

Judge Allen, in response to pleas for mercy for Rogers and Sorrell, imposed a sentence of six months in jail. Their attorneys made a fresh appeal for reduction of their sentence, and the judge said he would take this under advisement.

North State News.

The State charters the Swannanoa Chemical Company, of Marion, capital stock \$10,000, to make all sorts of fruit extracts, the charter grants a remarkably wide variety of other powers. Another charter is granted the Durham Photograph Supply Company, capital stock \$10,000.

Two car loads of equipment for the encampment of the Second and Third Regiments of the National Guard at Wrightsville have been shipped from the arsenal here, including 390 canteens, 90 wall 7 hospital and 50 conical, 1,200 blankets and 32 camp stoves.

Market News For Tobacco.

Tarboro, Special.—The question of a market house, so long agitated, seems now practically settled and the establishment is assured. The town commissioners have purchased a handsome two story brick building, situated in the heart of the town and will expend \$1,000 or more if necessary to convert what is now a carriage factory into an up-to-date market house.