

# The Polk County News.

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NO. 47.

## 100 MEN RULE NATION, SAYS LA FOLLETTE

### Wisconsin Senator Declares Recent Panic Was Planned.

## AMENDMENTS TO ALDRICH BILL

### Railroad Bonds Dropped — Senate Committee Votes to Eliminate This Feature of Currency Measure—Synopsis of Speech.

Washington, D. C.—Congress was electrified by the sudden elimination of the railroad bond feature from the Aldrich Currency bill, and later by a bitter attack on the measure by Senator Robert M. La Follette, of Wisconsin, in which he charged that it was the legislation most desired by the comparatively small clique which has succeeded in dominating the finances of the country. The business of the Nation, he declared, has gradually been centralized until it is directed by the men who control the New York banks, and these men number less than 100.

Aldrich's renunciation of the clause of his measure admitting railroad bonds as a basis for the issuance of emergency currency occasioned astonishment. This renunciation was made in committee just before the Senate met. Other minor concessions were made, but the railroad bond feature overshadowed everything else. At first it was believed that the action was taken to embarrass La Follette, whose address was understood to be leveled principally at this phase of the measure.

La Follette was late in rising to address the Senate. He declared that the recent panic originated through the centralization of business in the hands of a few men. These men, he charged later, had plotted to bring about the panic to satisfy business, legislative and political grudges, and to advance their own selfish interests.

"I have here a list of about 100 men," he said, waving a paper at the Senate, "who control the industrial, financial and commercial life of the American people. In the grasp of these 100 men is the destiny of the Republic. The country does not seem to realize how closely allied are the great banking houses of the money centers to this centralization."

Senator La Follette here read a list of the names of the men who control the industrial and transportation enterprises and the banks of the country. Continuing, he said:

"No student of the economic changes in recent years can escape the conclusion that the ownership and control of railroads, telegraph, shipping, cable, telephone, traction, express, mining, iron, steel, coal, oil, gas, electric light, cotton, copper, sugar, tobacco, agricultural implements and the food products are completely controlled and mainly owned by these men."

## Less Than 100 Men Who Control Nation's Wealth.

Washington, D. C.—The list of less than 100 men (including those who have died since the data was compiled) who control all the financial, industrial and commercial business of the country, and whose names appear in from 1600 to 1800 directories, prominently mentioned by Senator La Follette in his speech, follows: E. S. Martin, P. D. Cravath, Jas. Stillman, J. M. C. Vreeland, Samuel Sloan, John J. Astor, E. H. Harriman, A. N. Brady, Moses Taylor, August Belmont, C. M. Dodge, C. M. Depew, J. H. Post, H. M. Flagler, H. A. C. Taylor, Jas. C. Fargo, Wm. Rockefeller, Jas. J. Hill, Henry C. Frick, Edwin Hawley, P. A. Valentine, J. B. Hegeman, C. H. McCormick, J. H. Hyde, G. W. Perkins, W. H. Moore, M. Taylor Payne, D. O. Mills, Wm. D. Sloan, C. H. Mackay, C. S. Fairchild, C. W. Morse, J. W. Sterling, A. E. Orr, H. O. Havemeyer, Oliver H. Payne, S. Palmer, C. A. Peabody, J. H. Schiff, D. G. Reid, S. H. Hubbard, J. D. Rockefeller, A. Iselin, Jr., H. H. Rogers, James Speyer, Charles Steele, L. P. Morton, C. M. Schwab, W. G. Oaktan, H. McK. Twombly, T. F. Ryan, F. W. Vanderbilt, G. F. Baker, W. K. Vanderbilt, C. T. Barney, Henry Walters, E. J. Berwind, J. I. Waterbury, C. L. Blair, W. S. Webb, J. F. Dryden, E. F. C. Young, J. B. Duke, G. F. Armour, G. J. Gould, Charles Dawes, D. G. Hughes, Jas. B. Forgan, V. P. Snyder, J. J. Mitchell, H. H. Vreeland, N. B. Ream, John Claflin, L. F. Swift, Chas. Lanier, Oliver Ames, W. Langdon, T. J. Coolidge, J. P. Morgan, H. L. Higginson, A. D. Julliard, Nat'l Thayer, G. G. Haven, Thos. Dolan, James H. Jarvis, P. A. Widener, Fred. Creswell, E. H. Gary, G. P. Whitney, Samuel R. Converse, C. A. Peabody, S. R. Shipley, V. Morawetz, E. B. Morris, C. W. Allen, A. W. Brach.

## Railway Fines Upheld.

The United States Supreme Court, at Washington, D. C., upheld the validity of the fines imposed on the Kansas City meat packers and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad for accepting and giving rebates.

## RESTORES MOTTO TO COINS

### House Passes Bill Putting Back "In God We Trust"

Change Made by Vote of 255 to 5—Debate on Subject Excited Lively Interest.

Washington, D. C.—Under suspension of the rules the House of Representatives passed the bill providing for the restoration of the motto "In God We Trust" on the gold and silver coins of the United States.

The bill was passed by a vote of 255 to 5. The debate on the subject excited the liveliest interest. Mr. Carlin, of Virginia, said that in the issuance of the order abolishing the motto President Roosevelt had acted unwisely and in violation of the spirit of the law.

Ollie James, of Kentucky, declared that in the judgment of the Christian people of the United States, the President had made a great mistake.

In opposing the bill, Mr. Kuster, of Wisconsin, said that the motto smacked of irreverence which went dangerously close to sacrilege.

"It's a piece of farcical hypocrisy," ejaculated Mr. Gordon, of Georgia.

## RUBBER TRUST CUTS PAY.

### Slackening Business Causes Salesmen to Suffer Reduction.

New York City.—That the financial panic has not failed to affect what are known as the big business interests is shown by the fact that the rubber goods industry of this country is facing a falling off in trade. The Rubber Trust is feeling the stress to such an extent that a reduction of wages has been planned.

Recently orders were sent forth to the hundred or more of the Trust's retail and wholesale companies that expenses must be cut.

Owing to the union rules and agreements, wages to mechanics could not be cut, and the higher priced men alone will have their salaries reduced.

On April 1 the salesmen and clerks of the rubber business in the East and the majority of those employed by firms in the West affiliated with the Trust will be forced to stand a reduction in salaries. The reduction will not be less than ten per cent., and in some cases will amount to twenty-five per cent.

The men affected by the economical regime are indignant.

## SPERRY TO HEAD FLEET.

### Evans Requests Appointment of Successor For World Encircling Voyage.

Washington, D. C.—Rear-Admiral Charles S. Sperry will be commander-in-chief of the Atlantic battleship fleet when it leaves San Francisco in July to encircle the globe. This was decided by President Roosevelt and his Cabinet.

Rear-Admiral Evans, on his personal request, will be relieved of the command at the conclusion of the naval review at San Francisco on May 31. The Admiral considers this the completion of the work he was assigned to do, that of taking the Atlantic fleet to the Pacific Coast. He will retire in August.

The honor of commanding the fleet on its visit to Puget Sound and fleet on its visit to Puget Sound and until the homeward journey begins. He has been second in command during the voyage, and will retire in October.

## SENATOR W. P. WHITE DEAD.

### Maryland's Representative in Upper House Was Eighty-three Years Old.

Baltimore, Md.—Senator William Pinkney White, for many years the idol of the Democrats of this city and State, died suddenly of heart failure following an attack of erysipelas.

Senator White filled with distinction almost all the important offices in the State—Governor, Mayor, Attorney-General. Senator White celebrated his eighty-third birthday in August last.

## Russian Prisons Too Small.

The Duma has been asked for \$1,000,000 to enlarge Russian prisons, which are overcrowded. The number of prisoners has increased 111 per cent. since 1906. In January, 1908, the total number was 159,537, and in February 165,588, of whom 13,000 were political prisoners. A large number of death sentences were pronounced in various parts of Russia. The doomed men include ten robbers at Kremenchug, four robbers at Kiev, three men who attacked the postoffice at Proskuroff and three brigands at Lodz.

## Women Make Mayor Eat Crow.

Mayor Leopold Markbreit, of Cincinnati, Ohio extricated himself from an embarrassing predicament by surrendering under a shower of protests from women. He instructed the Chief of Police to keep women from acting as chauffeurs. This incensed the Susan B. Anthony Club, and they started up an agitation, as a result of which every woman who owns an automobile, and a great many who do not, personally and by mail protested against the Mayor's attitude. "I eat crow," he said, "I was all wrong."

## Strike on Gould Roads Begun.

At Denver, Col., 1500 machinists, boiler-makers and members of kindred trades working in the Denver and Rio Grande Railway's shops went on a strike.

## GREAT LABOR CONFERENCE

### Leaders in Washington Consider Proposed Legislation.

Executive Officers of Trades Unions Discuss Supreme Court Decisions With President Gompers.

Washington, D. C.—A conference of far-reaching importance to labor occurred here. Participating were President Gompers and the members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, together with the executive officers of the International Trades Unions of America, who met pursuant to a call issued by President Gompers to consider the consequences of the recent injunction decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States affecting labor organizations, with particular reference to the Danbury hatmakers' case, in which that court substantially held that labor organizations were to be considered trusts, as such as organizations of capital.

After calling attention to the significance of these decisions, Mr. Gompers stated that the conference was for the purpose of "taking such action as the importance and merits of the subject dealt with may be considered and determined as setting forth the position and demands of labor." The court's rulings, he pointed out, were binding upon all labor organizations until changed or modified by Congressional action.

The object of the conference, therefore, was to consider the proposed amendments to the Sherman Anti-Trust act which are being drafted, with a view, not of exempting labor organizations from their obligations to the public, but rather to prevent any injustice being done through the operation of law to organizations of laboring men, particularly through injunction. It is desired so to frame the proposed changes in the Sherman law as to meet the requirements of the Supreme Court's decisions. The proposed amendments are the result of recent conferences at the White House between President Roosevelt and others, and it is hoped to secure remedial legislation along these lines at this session of Congress.

There are 117 national and international trade unions in America, and practically all of them were represented by one or more delegates.

## LAUNCH DERELICT DESTROYER.

### The Seneca, at Newport News, the First of Her Type Ever Constructed.

Newport News, Va.—The United States steel derelict destroyer Seneca was successfully launched here. Miss Edith Hepburn, granddaughter of Congressman W. P. Hepburn, of Iowa, named the vessel.

The Seneca is the first craft of her type ever constructed in the world. Her mission will be to patrol the North Atlantic coast and to destroy wrecks and other wreckage.

No lives were lost. She was one of the old unserviceable wooden vessels of the navy, having been constructed at Philadelphia during the Civil War. She was used as a station and store ship.

## OLD MONONGAHELA BURNS.

### Was of Wood, Built in Civil War, and Stationed at Guantanamo.

Washington, D. C.—The Navy Department received word that the old warship Monongahela had been burned to the water's edge at her station in Guantanamo Bay.

No lives were lost. She was one of the old unserviceable wooden vessels of the navy, having been constructed at Philadelphia during the Civil War. She was used as a station and store ship.

## KENTUCKY CURES POOLROOMS.

### Will Permit Pool Selling Only During the Race Meetings.

Frankfort, Ky.—Governor Willson signed the Withelm Anti-Poolroom bill, which was passed by the General Assembly just before it adjourned.

The new law permits pool selling on race tracks only during race meetings, but not otherwise. The penalty for failure of officers to enforce its provisions is a fine and imprisonment and forfeiture of office.

## WANTED FOR PARIS CRIME.

### Kid McManus Extradited at Montreal For Express Robbery.

Montreal, Quebec.—"Kid" McManus, well known to the American police, after serving a ten-year sentence in the Kingston Penitentiary for safebreaking in Ottawa in 1902, has been transferred to Montreal on the expiration of his sentence to be extradited to France as one of the robbers of the American Express Company in Paris in April, 1901.

## MARRIN GETS FOUR YEARS.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Fraak C. Marlin, alias Franklin Stone, convicted of using the mails to defraud in connection with the Storey Cotton Company, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and to a fine of \$5000.

He was later released in \$10,000 bail pending an appeal.

## Also Fined \$5000 For Storey Cotton Company Mail Frauds.

Philadelphia, Pa.—Fraak C. Marlin, alias Franklin Stone, convicted of using the mails to defraud in connection with the Storey Cotton Company, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment and to a fine of \$5000.

He was later released in \$10,000 bail pending an appeal.

## TWO RAILROADS CUT WAGES

### Reduction of 10 Per Cent. to Be Made by Penn. and Reading.

Fall River Mills Operated by M. C. D. Borden Shut Down—Order Affects 6750 Workers in Cotton and Iron.

Philadelphia.—Having exhausted practically every other means of reducing their operating expenses somewhere near a parity with the heavy falling off in gross earnings as the result of the heavy depression in industrial and commercial circles without accomplishing the desired results, officials of both the Pennsylvania and the Reading roads reluctantly admitted that the next move would be a general reduction of wages.

When the cut comes, which may be in April, and certainly not later than May 1, unless a material change for the better suddenly develops, a cut of ten per cent. in the wages of employees making full time will likely be made.

The complete reversal in policy within the last few days on the part of the Pennsylvania and the Reading in retaining in the service only such employees as are actually required and putting them on full time, from the one established about four weeks ago of giving partial employment to all, indicates plainly the direction in which the straws are drifting.

The plan contemplated will not appear nearly so drastic as a similar cut with only half time. In other words, employees working fifty-five hours a week and having their wages cut ten per cent., would still have left practically fifty hours of service at full pay, as against twenty-seven hours under partial employment.

Furthermore, with their employees on full time, a less number would be affected by such a cut than if it were put in effect with an increased force on one-half time, and the chances for rebellion against such a cut would be materially lessened. Again, the chances of a vigorous protest against such a reduction and a possible strike are still further lessened by the large increase in the number of idle men that the present plans of the railroads entail.

## BORDEN'S MILLS CURTAIL.

### Nearly 6000 Hands Affected by Four Weeks' Shutdown.

Fall River, Mass.—Simultaneously with a drop of a quarter of a cent in the price of print cloth notices were posted in the seven mills of the Fall River Iron Works Company and the works of the American Printing Company, all owned by M. C. D. Borden, of New York, announcing that those plants would be closed all next week and alternate weeks until four weeks' curtailment has been completed.

The Iron Works mills have not been shut down for curtailment of production for ten years. The immense plant produces 80,000 pieces of print cloth a week, employs 5000 operatives and has a weekly payroll of \$35,000. The American Print Works has 750 hands and a capacity of 120,000 pieces weekly. They are the largest producers of printed fabrics in the United States.

The print cloth market is in a demoralized condition, the seventy-five mills of Fall River combined selling only 20,000 pieces in the last week. Their capacity is about 250,000 pieces weekly.

## SAYS 200,000 FACE STARVATION

New York City.—Robert Hunter, formerly head worker of the University Settlement, who married a sister of J. G. Phelps Stokes, said at a meeting of unemployed in Bohemian Hall, in East Seventy-third street:

"The Legislature has no more thought of the starving and the unemployed than you have of a fly or worm crushed under foot. To combat gambling now appears to be the greatest problem of the age. The lobbies at Albany are filled with gamblers on the qui vive for every aggressive move on the part of the reformers. All this is going on while 200,000 men are facing poverty, eviction and starvation, and not a voice in the Legislature is uplifted on their behalf."

## MEN DECIDE TO ACCEPT REDUCTION

Boston.—By unanimous vote station men on the Boston and Maine system have decided to accept the cut of five per cent. in their wages until July 1, as proposed by President Tuttle.

It is said unofficially that several of the railroad brotherhoods are in favor of accepting the cut.

## REDUCTION FOR 60,000 HANDS.

Boston.—Thus far cotton mills in New England employing about 60,000 hands have posted notices announcing a wage reduction in April.

## Man and Woman Drowned.

Mrs. Eli Palmer, aged forty-five, and Joseph Rosenblum, aged fifty-three, were drowned in the Shenango River, at Sharon, Pa. Rosenblum was driving and Mrs. Palmer asked him for a ride. The horse, frightened at a pile of ashes, plunged over an embankment into the swift current.

## Green Bugs Appear.

Green bugs are reported to be spreading through Kansas and Oklahoma even more alarmingly than last year for the wheat crop.

## THE MARKETS

### Wholesale Prices Quoted in New York

The Milk Exchange price for standard quality is 3 1/2c. per quart.

**MILK.**  
The Milk Exchange price for standard quality is 3 1/2c. per quart.  
**BUTTER.**  
Creamery—Western, extra. \$ 28 @ 29  
Firsts. . . . . 26 1/2 @ 27 1/2  
Seconds. . . . . 25 @ 26  
State dairy, fair. . . . . 24 @ 25  
Factory, seconds to firsts. . . . . 20 @ 21

**BEANS.**  
Marrow, choice. . . . . @ 2 20  
Medium, choice. . . . . 2 25 @ 2 30  
Red kidney, choice. . . . . @ 2 00  
Pea. . . . . 2 32 1/2 @ 2 35  
Yellow eye. . . . . 2 05 @ 2 10  
White kidney. . . . . 2 40 @ 2 45  
Black turtle soup. . . . . 1 75 @ 1 80  
Lima, Cal. . . . . 3 25 @ 3 30

**CHEESE.**  
State, full cream. . . . . 15 1/2 @ 16 1/4  
Small. . . . . 15 1/2 @ 16  
Part skims, common. . . . . 3 1/2 @ 4  
Full skims. . . . . 1 1/2 @ 2

**EGGS.**  
Jersey—Fancy. . . . . 19 @ 20  
State—Good to choice. . . . . 17 1/2 @ 18 1/2  
Western—Firsts. . . . . 28 @ 30  
Duck eggs. . . . . 28 @ 33

**FRUIT AND VEGETABLES—FRESH.**  
Apples—King, per bbl. . . . . 2 50 @ 3 00  
Greening, per bbl. . . . . 1 50 @ 2 00  
Cranberries, C. Cod, per bbl. 6 00 @ 6 50  
Jersey, per bbl. . . . . 9 50 @ 10 50  
Strawberries, per qt. . . . . 20 @ 45

**DRESSED POULTRY.**  
Turkeys, per lb. . . . . 12 @ 17  
Broilers, Phila., per lb. . . . . 25 @ 28  
Fowls, per lb. . . . . 10 @ 13 1/2  
Cocks, per lb. . . . . 8 @ 10  
Ducks, per lb. . . . . 8 @ 10  
Geese, per lb. . . . . 8 @ 10  
Squabs, per dozen. . . . . 1 25 @ 4 00

**HAY AND STRAW.**  
Hay, prime, per 100 lb. . . . . @ 1 05  
Nos. 3 to 1, per 100 lb. . . . . 85 @ 1 00  
Clover mixed, per 100 lb. . . . . 70 @ 80  
Straw, long rye. . . . . 60 @ 70

**HOPS.**  
State, 1907. . . . . 12 @ 13  
Medium, 1907. . . . . 8 @ 8  
Pacific Coast, 1907, choice. . . . . 7 @ 8  
Choice, 1906. . . . . 3 @ 5

**VEGETABLES.**  
Potatoes, Jersey, per bbl. . . . . 2 15 @ 2 25  
Long Island, per bbl. . . . . 2 50 @ 2 75  
Sweets, per basket. . . . . 75 @ 2 25  
Tomatoes, per carrier. . . . . 1 00 @ 2 75  
Egg plant, per box. . . . . 1 00 @ 2 00  
Squash, per bbl. . . . . 2 00 @ 3 00  
Peas, per basket. . . . . 1 50 @ 8 00  
Peppers, per carrier. . . . . 1 00 @ 1 50  
Lettuce, per basket. . . . . 1 00 @ 2 25  
Cabbages, per bbl. . . . . 60 @ 1 25  
String beans, per basket. . . . . 2 00 @ 5 30  
Onions, Conn., white, per bbl. 5 00 @ 6 00  
Yellow, per bbl. . . . . 2 00 @ 2 50  
Orange Co., red, per bag. . . . . 2 00 @ 2 25  
Carrots, per 100 bunches. . . . . 2 00 @ 3 00  
Beets, per 100 bunches. . . . . 2 00 @ 3 00  
Turnips, per bbl. . . . . 75 @ 1 25  
Okra, per carrier. . . . . 2 50 @ 5 00  
Cauliflower, per crate. . . . . 2 25 @ 3 00  
Cucumbers, per basket. . . . . 2 00 @ 4 00  
Parsley, per basket. . . . . 1 25 @ 1 50  
No. 1 Northern Dutch. . . . . 1 00 @ 1 45  
Shallots, per 100 bunches. . . . . 3 00 @ 4 00  
Celery, per case. . . . . 1 50 @ 2 50  
Watercress, per 100 bunches 1 00 @ 2 00  
Spinach, per bbl. . . . . 75 @ 1 25  
Sage, per bbl. . . . . 25 @ 50  
Dried plants, 100 bunches. 1 00 @ 5 00  
Horseshoe, per 100 lbs. . . . . 2 00 @ 4 50  
Brussels sprouts, per qt. . . . . 8 @ 16  
Parsnips, per bbl. . . . . @ 75

**GRAIN, ETC.**  
Flour—Winter patents. . . . . 4 60 @ 5 00  
Spring patents. . . . . 5 25 @ 6 25  
Wheat, No. 2 red. . . . . 1 01 1/2 @ 1 14 1/2  
No. 1 Northern Dutch. . . . . @ 1 45  
Corn, No. 2. . . . . 60 @ 72 1/2  
No. 2 white. . . . . 65 @ 69 1/2  
Oats, mixed. . . . . @ 57  
Rye, No. 2 Western. . . . . 87 @ 88  
Lard, city. . . . . @ 7 1/2

**LIVE STOCK.**  
Beeves, city dressed. . . . . 7 @ 9  
Calves, city dressed. . . . . 8 1/2 @ 13  
Country dressed. . . . . 8 @ 11  
Sheep, per 100 lb. . . . . @ 4 50  
Lamb, per 100 lb. . . . . 7 50 @ 8 15  
Hogs, live, per 100 lb. . . . . 4 80 @ 5 20  
Country dressed, per lb. . . . . 5 @ 7 1/2

## FOOD GROWS A SHADE CHEAPER

### Not All Staples Down, But Several Price Declines Are Shown.

New York City.—A general tendency toward a decline in prices for necessities is shown in the report of Bradstreet's, with indications of a further "softening." The report shows that ten out of thirteen groups of staples moved lower, while two moved higher, with textiles showing the most weakness on March 1. Provisions were weakening, and there was a marked decline in hides, leather, oils and miscellaneous products.

On March 1, 1907, prices reached the high-water mark for sixteen years, whereas the decrease on March 1 last was 12.5 per cent. Less important decreases were shown in chemicals, building materials, naval stores, coal and coke and breadstuffs.

Only two groups, live stocks and metals, advanced, while fruits remained steady. The average decline from the high-water prices of a year ago is figured at one per cent. a month since March 1, 1907. In February last the commodities that increased in price included wheat, corn, live sheep, live hogs, mutton, horses, beef, rice, potatoes, cranberries, tar and tobacco. The foodstuffs that decreased include barley, rye, flour, milk, eggs, pork, bacon, hams, lard, butter, molasses, peas.

Field beans are selling at the old level of prices, with the feeling firm because of the apparent tendency of prices at shipping points. The control of the field bean market seems to be in strong hands, and an advance may be brought about.

## Larger Pay Rolls Helpful.

Retail trade is quiet, as usual at this time, although the better feeling extends to those branches of business also because of the larger pay rolls.

## FLEET GOING TO JAPAN

### AT MIKADO'S WISH

### Invitation Through Ambassador Accepted by Cabinet.

### TO STAY A WEEK AT YOKOHAMA

### Trip Lets Down Bars, and Entire Itinerary Must Be Recast—Believed That It Marks End of Friction and Will Silence "Jingoes."

Washington, D. C.—The announcement was made at the Navy Department that the President had accepted the friendly invitation from Japan to have the battleship fleet visit Japanese waters on its way around the world.

The invitation was delivered to the Secretary of State by Ambassador Takahira.

The Japanese note follows:

"Japanese Embassy.

"Washington, March 18, 1908.

"Sir.—Under instruction from His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs I have the honor to communicate to you that the Imperial Government, having learned of the contemplated cruise of the United States battleship fleet from San Francisco to the Philippine Islands, are sincerely anxious to be afforded an opportunity to cordially welcome that magnificent fleet and to give an enthusiastic expression to the sentiment of friendship and admiration invariably entertained by the people of Japan toward the people of the United States.

"I am further instructed to inform you that the Imperial Government is firmly convinced of the reassuring effect which the visit of the American fleet to the shores of Japan will produce upon the traditional relations of good understanding and mutual sympathy which so happily exist between the two nations, and to express to you the hope of the Imperial Government that the fleet may be instructed to call at the principal ports of Japan in its extended cruise in the Pacific.

"Accept, Sir, the renewed assurance of my highest consideration.

"K. TAKAHIRA.  
"Hon. Eihiu Root, Secretary of State."

It was the subject of considerable discussion at the Cabinet meeting, and the decision was in favor of acceptance.

The official acceptance of the Japanese invitation was contained in a letter delivered to Ambassador Takahira. The letter was signed by Robert Bacon as Acting Secretary of State and was as follows:

"Excellency—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your valued note of the 18th instant by which you are so good as to convey on behalf of the Imperial Government an invitation for the American fleet now on the Pacific Coast to visit the principal ports of Japan.

"I have the honor and pleasure to say in reply that the President, to whom I have communicated this courteous and friendly action on the part of your Government, highly appreciating this evidence of the hearty good will of the Japanese nation, has charged me to request you to inform your Government that the United States is most happy to accept the invitation. It gives this Government peculiar pleasure to accept because of the long existing and unbroken friendship between the two countries and the sincere regard of the American people for the people of Japan.

"I regret to add, however, that the limits of time imposed by the arrangements for the return of the fleet to the Atlantic Coast of the United States will not permit a visit to more than one of the ports of Japan.

"Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

"ROBERT BACON,  
"Acting Secretary."

Acceptance of the invitation broke up the itinerary previously announced and the Bureau of Navigation is busy drafting a new one. The fleet will sail from San Francisco July 6 for Hawaii. The next port visited will be Melbourne or Sydney, Australia. It had been intended that the fleet should