

KEEPING TAB ON THE WORLD

Roosevelt Asks Czar and Mikado to Talk Up Peace. Norway Cuts Loose From Scandinavian Union—German Crown Prince Weds. Morton to Clean House For the Equitable—Investigating Cotton Report Charges—A Pennsylvania-Central Speed War—Alton's Wireless Service.

POLITICAL

The President as Peacemaker.

"Why not get together and arrange peace terms for yourselves?" Such in substance is the identical note sent to the czar of Russia and the mikado of Japan by the president of the United States after a week of diplomatic inquiries. Russia had indicated her willingness to hear Japan's terms, but Japan first desired assurances of dealing with a responsible element of the disturbed Russian realm.

Impeaching Cotton Report.

Secretary Richard Chatham of the Southern Cotton Growers' association has called President Roosevelt's attention to what he regards as gross irregularities in the preparation and publication of the government cotton report issued June 2. For several months the statistics gathered by the association have varied noticeably from those issued by the department. It is asserted that employees of the department of agriculture make frequent visits to New York and that they have improper relations with cotton brokers, with the object of affecting the market. It is reported that a month in advance of the last report plans were made to secure a bearish report. The difference between the last report of the government and that of the association was about 7 per cent. An investigation was ordered, pending which Associate Statistician Edwin H. Holmes was suspended.

Socialists Won't Fuse.

The Social Democratic party of New York city has declined the invitation of the Citizens' Union to fuse in the coming municipal campaign on a nonpartisan basis, as this would be contrary to the Socialist aims. The Socialists declare the Citizens' Union offers little hope to the working classes.

Former Ambassador Choate Back.

Joseph H. Choate, recently ambassador to the court of St. James, arrived at New York with his family on the Caronia, June 7, and went at once to his country home at Woodstock, in the Berkshires. He denied various rumors about his prospective activities including those connecting him with the management of the Equitable and the succession to Mr. Hay as secretary of state.

Socialists Call College Men.

A call signed by such prominent Socialists as J. G. Phelps Stokes, Thomas W. Higgins, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, O. L. Triggs, C. S. Darrow, B. O. Flower, Leonard D. Abbott, Jack London and Upton Sinclair has just been issued to college men and women urging them to form a body for the purpose of studying socialism. In it these leaders say that the recent remarkable increase in the Socialist vote in America indicates that socialism is not a thing to be neglected. They propose to organize an association to be known as the Intercollegiate society to promote interest in socialism among college graduates and undergraduates.

Demolishing Corrupt Machines.

Mayor Weaver has served notice on Philadelphia's city employees that they may and should refuse to pay further political assessments to any partisan organization, and thus has struck another vital blow at the power of the ring. The city has also seen a practical illustration of the changed administration in the dismissal of several policemen and the ordering of many others to trial. In the hope of retrieving something of the public confidence the managers of the smashed machine have prevailed upon Governor Pennypacker to appoint Judge John Stewart, an independent, to the state supreme court. The mayor has named a committee of prominent citizens to act as his advisers without pay.

COMMERCIAL

Morton Head of Equitable.

A new broom at last has been secured for the much besmirched insurance colossus. It has been placed in the hands of Paul Morton, the retiring secretary of the navy, who was chosen June 9 as chairman of the board of

directors with supreme authority and without obligations to any clique or faction. At the same time by prearrangement President Alexander, First Vice President Hyde and the other chief officers tendered their resignations, while Hyde sold his inherited controlling stock interest to a group of policy holders headed by Thomas F. Ryan, vice president of the Morton Trust company, to be placed in the hands of trustees with power to elect the twenty-eight directors on the original Hyde plan of mutualization. Prior to this action many prominent directors had resigned and the executive committee had been reorganized on a reform basis.

Most Costly Piece of Land.

A new record price for real estate was agreed on last week when a lot about 30 by 39 feet square on the corner of Broadway and Wall street, New York city, was sold by the Stillman estate to Lorenzo E. Anderson, first vice president of the Mercantile Trust company of St. Louis, for \$700,000. This is about \$600 a square foot. The sale was made subject to the lease of the building on the premises to the United Cigar Stores company, which does not expire until May 1, 1908. The rental and taxes of this property amount to \$33,000 a year. It is expected that when the lease expires a skyscraper will be erected at that point. The first recorded transfer of this property, nearly 200 years ago, shows that the price was about \$500. The present four-story building was erected in 1839.

New York Life to Distribute.

Heeding the demands of public opinion and the report of the Frick committee respecting the abuses in the management of the Equitable Life Assurance society, the New York Life Insurance company began on June 6 making a radical change in the conduct of its business. Orders were issued to offer a policy based on the annual distribution of surplus instead of the deferred dividend policy which has been so popular for many years. For several months past the business of this and other life insurance companies has had a marked falling off owing to the Equitable exposures. The New York Life has also been put more upon a mutual basis by preventing any officer, employee or agent from casting a proxy vote for a policy holder.

Annual Report of the P. R. R.

At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania railroad stockholders at Pittsburgh the report was submitted covering the operations of 14,000 miles of lines. It shows gross earnings of \$36,390,582 and net earnings of \$10,347,220, an increase of \$80,968 as compared with 1903. The tonnage has increased 5.8 per cent and passenger traffic 4 per cent. The old board of directors was re-elected.

Copper Trust's First Report.

For the first time since its formation in 1899 the Amalgamated Copper company, against which Mr. Lawson of Boston has been tilting so vigorously, made public an annual report on June 5 at the meeting of its shareholders in Jersey City. This report indicates a more satisfactory status of the company's affairs than at any time since 1901. A son of H. H. Rogers of the Standard Oil company was elected to the directorate. The report also recapitulates the difficulties of the management soon after the company was formed. It says that 12,000 men are employed in Montana and receive \$14,000,000 in wages. This report is regarded as Mr. Rogers' answer to the attacks of Mr. Lawson.

Wabash to Get the Business.

Chicago hears that the Wabash railroad has come to an understanding with the steel trust officers by virtue of which one-quarter of the Pittsburgh steel tonnage will go to that system. This report is confirmed by Vice President Delano of the Wabash. To this end the Union railway, connecting all the steel trust companies, will be connected with the belt line recently purchased by the Goulds.

FOREIGN

Delcasse's Resignation.

The French foreign minister, whose Moroccan policy has been opposed by Emperor William of Germany, tendered his resignation to Premier Rouvier on June 6. This was a matter of great satisfaction in Berlin, and it was freely predicted that Germany would be considered in any future arrangement in Morocco.

The text of Morocco's reply to the French government declares that no civil or military reform will be accepted by that country unless previously discussed by an international conference at Tangier.

Zemstvos Defy Authority.

Despite the prohibition of the Russian government, the national congress of Russian zemstvos met secretly at Moscow last week, 300 members being present. They were unanimous in demanding that a representative assembly be convoked. The order of prohibition, which only came at the last moment, aroused much indignation. On the same day the union of Russian journalists chartered a steamer and cruised in the Neva for six hours so as to hold a meeting without police interference. The journalists hailed a constituent assembly and a Russian revolution.

Trepoff a Dictator.

Great popular feeling has been created at St. Petersburg by the announced re-establishment of the Third section of police, with General Trepoff at its head as virtual director over the lives and liberties of the Russian people. Trepoff, as assistant secretary of the interior, became in reality the head of that department. Minister Boulgine promptly resigned. His resignation was not accepted, however. From all over Russia come reports of a revival of the strike situation.

Edward Entertains Alfonso.

Since June 5 King Alfonso of Spain has been the guest of King Edward of England. The ceremonies of welcome were of the most elaborate description, although the effect of the spectacle was marred by the heavy rain. The young king wore the uniform of a British general. King Edward wore the uniform of a Spanish admiral. Extraordinary precautions were taken to guard the royal visitor from any possible injury during his stay in England.

Speaker Gully Retires.

William C. Gully, who for ten years has been speaker of the British house of commons, tendered his resignation June 6 on the ground of ill health. Premier Balfour moved the request that Mr. Gully be raised to the peerage. Gully is succeeded by James William Lowther, a Conservative.

Ambassador Reid Received.

Whitelaw Reid, the new ambassador to England, had his first audience with the king at Buckingham June 5. The ambassador was taken thither in one of the royal carriages, a mark of distinction.

German Royal Wedding.

Because it was known to be a love match all Germany thought of little else last week but the splendid wedding of Crown Prince Frederick William and the Grand Duchess Cecilia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which took place on June 6 in the palace chapel under the auspices of the Lutheran church. More than sixty members of royal families were present from German and foreign states, and the ceremony was also attended by the members of the foreign embassies and many high officials of the army and navy. First the civil ceremony was performed in the Hall of Electors at



THE FUTURE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF GERMANY.

the palace. Many ancient customs marked the ceremonies. The German empress assisted the bride in dressing and in putting up her hair. An ancient Prussian crown was then brought to the door of the chamber by an officer of the guard and a procession was formed to go to the chapel. After the reception and supper all joined in the torchlight dance. Then the newly wedded couple went away in their private car to a hunting lodge in a royal Prussian forest. Their honeymoon will be spent in Italy.

President Castro's Message.

President Castro's message to the Venezuelan congress deals largely with the prosperity of the country in his administration. His proclamation of amnesty applies to all citizens and exiles and sets free prisoners of war from colonels down. He refers to the situation with the United States as "a slight difference" and adds that the request of Mr. Bowen for a new arbitration of the asphalt trust dispute threatened the independence of the country.

Norway Quits Sweden.

The long expected break between Norway and Sweden came on June 7 when the Norwegian storting at Christiania unanimously declared the union between the two countries dissolved and that the king of Sweden was no longer the king of Norway. The state council was authorized to exercise full power as the government of Norway, and an address to King Oscar was adopted declaring that no ill feeling was entertained toward him personally or toward the Swedish nation. King Oscar was asked to co-operate in selecting a prince of his own house, that of Bernadotte, to become the king of Norway. The people of both countries remained calm. King Oscar immediately sent word protesting against the action of the storting. The council took steps to secure the allegiance of the army, to alter the prayer books of the Norwegian church and to cut the emblems of union from the flag, a new flag being substituted everywhere. Sweden has firmly stood by King Oscar. King Oscar has summoned the riksdag of Sweden in extra session June 30 to consider the action of Norway.

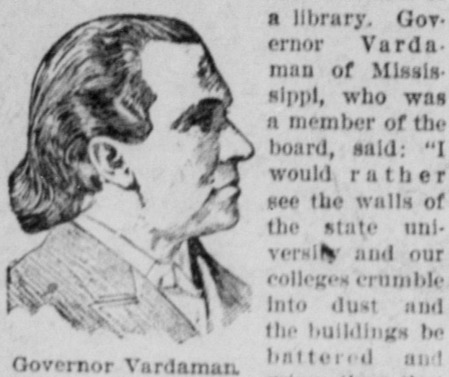
Russian Ships Interned.

Rear Admiral Enquist, in command of the Russian protected cruisers Aurora, Oleg and Jemtech, which fled during the battle of the Sea of Japan and took refuge in the port of Manila, received orders from St. Petersburg on June 8 to abide by the decision of the American authorities, which was to leave the port within twenty-four hours from the time of notice or have his ships interned. Governor Wright, acting under the instruction of President Roosevelt, had taken the ground that since the ships were injured in battle they were not entitled to time for repairs beyond the twenty-four hour limit. The Russian officers and men were notified that they would be paroled and that their ships would be rendered ineffective pending the continuance of the war.

SOCIOLOGICAL

Carnegie's Money Tainted.

The board of trustees of the University of Mississippi has decided to reject the offer of Andrew Carnegie to furnish \$25,000 toward the erection of a library.



Governor Vardaman.

Governor Vardaman of Mississippi, who was a member of the board, said: "I would rather see the walls of the state university and our colleges crumble into dust and the buildings be battered and grimy than that they should be built up and handsomely painted and furnished by this money, which has been coined from the blood and tears of the toiling masses, demanding the usury of self respect, which we cannot afford to pay."

The Education of Convicts.

The New York state prison authorities have decided that the education of the prisoners in state institutions shall be turned over to the department of education, the prison schools being under the supervision of the prison chaplain, with convict teachers as far as possible. It is intended to make the attendance in the prison schools compulsory for those convicts who are notably illiterate.

EXECUTIVE

Increase in Money Stock.

Ellis H. Roberts, treasurer of the United States, in an address at Topeka, Kan., said the grand total of money in circulation in this country had advanced within five years from \$2,999,525,463 to \$2,578,006,686, or at the rate of over \$103,000,000 a year. Thus the per capita ratio has been carried up from \$29.58 to \$31.95. In this great increase the most significant feature is the addition of \$83,500,000 a year to our gold stock. Mr. Roberts said that notwithstanding the existing deficit the government could go on paying every obligation without stringency for two or three years.

Postal Employees Warned.

The postoffice department has issued a formal warning to all employees that associations for political purposes, with a view to securing privileges at the hands of congress, will not be tolerated. Attention is called to the recent address of Postmaster General Cortelyou, when he said that organizations must have for their object improvements in the service or must be purely fraternal.

A 900,000 Acre Preserve.

A new forest preserve, to be known as the Lassen Peak, covering part of the northern Sierra Nevada range in California, containing 900,000 acres, has been set aside by order of President Roosevelt. About 84 per cent of its area is forest with 3,250,000,000 feet of merchantable timber. About 125,000 sheep and 10,000 cattle have been grazed annually over this area, and they will be allowed to continue there.

Bates to Head Army.

The war department issued orders June 6 relieving Major General Bates from duty in command of the northern military division and directing him to report to the department at Washington. This was ordered in spite of the expected retirement of Major General Greene and other members of the staff. Bates will be assigned to duty as assistant chief of staff. He will retire Aug. 16.

INDUSTRIAL

World Agricultural Institute.

Delegates to the international agricultural conference at Rome signed an

agreement on June 7 for the establishment of an international agricultural institute with headquarters in the Italian capital. There are to be representatives from each country, having a number of votes according to the amount contributed for the support of the institute. The representatives of the powers are to form an assembly, and this in turn will elect a president. The work of the institute will be to study and publish statistics concerning the cultivation of animal and vegetable products, the commerce in agricultural produce, the prices prevailing in different markets, the wages of agricultural laborers, agricultural diseases and their remedies, questions concerning co-operation, insurance and credit and also seek the approbation of the governments interested for a measure of protection of the common interests of agriculturists and the betterment of their condition.

A Railroad Speed War.

A speed war between the New York Central and Pennsylvania railroads which was begun a week or two ago, when the Central announced a nineteen hour train service between New York and Chicago, has already resulted in a new record for that distance. Preparatory to putting on, after June 11, an eighteen hour train between New York and Chicago the Pennsylvania on June 5 broke all records by making the run in sixteen hours three minutes. This was done by having two special trains, one from New York to Pittsburg in eight hours fifty minutes and the other from Pittsburg to Chicago in seven hours thirteen minutes. The advertisement of this new Pennsylvania service describes it as "the fastest long distance train in the world." It is to leave Twenty-third street, New York, at 3:55 p. m., and reach Chicago at 8:55 a. m., thus permitting "a business day in either city."

The Central is 978 miles and the Pennsylvania is 800. In order to make the trip in seventeen hours on the Central a train would have to run at the rate of seventy-five miles an hour, not counting stops, and the actual running time would have to be sixty-seven miles an hour. The Central officials have decided to cut the time of the Twentieth Century Limited from twenty hours to eighteen hours after June 18.

Coal Found in Panama.

Yardmaster F. A. Chubb of the Panama canal commission has brought to Washington samples of an immense coal deposit discovered in Panama. He says that the deposit is ten miles long, twenty-seven miles wide and of unknown depth. He believes the coal to be superior to Pennsylvania anthracite. If true, this will add vastly to the value of the canal zone as a coal-mining station.

Beef Trust Puts Up Prices.

A general raise of a cent a pound for all meats has been ordered by the controlling powers in the meat business, and this is reflected in the retail market.

SCIENTIFIC

Half Million Volts Harmless.

Professor Elhu Thompson, the noted electrician, by means of an apparatus which he has designed, demonstrates that he can let 500,000 volts of electrical forces pass through his body without the slightest sign of physical discomfort or danger. There was a flash from his finger tips and great sparks flew into the air, lighting electrical lamps held two feet from his fingers.

Wireless on Moving Trains.

The Chicago and Alton railway announced at Chicago on June 8 that all arrangements had been made for the establishment of a wireless telegraph system on all trains running between Chicago and St. Louis, and that this would be extended gradually to the entire system. That wireless telegraphy could be so used was shown experimentally by sending messages from

(Continued on page 3.)



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