

KEEPING TAB ON THE WORLD

Agreement on Washington as Place For Peace Parley While the Dogs of War Grapple in Manchuria. Moroccan Wedge Cleaving France and Germany. Oscar Won't Recognize Independence of Norway. President to Abolish Red Tape and Extravagance. Chicago Strike Graft.

FOREIGN

To Make Peace at Washington.
The fact that Russia and Japan had agreed upon Washington as the meeting place for peace negotiations was made known in an official announcement from the White House June 15 as follows:

"When the two governments were unable to agree upon either Chefoo or Paris, the president suggested The Hague, but both governments have now requested that Washington may be chosen as the place of meeting, and the president accordingly formally notified both governments that Washington will be selected."

Russia first had suggested Paris and Japan Chefoo, but each objected to the place suggested by the other.

Oscar Won't Give Up Norway.

The Norwegian storting has received a letter from King Oscar in reference to the secession of Norway from the union. The king says that the oath he took prevents him from accepting in silence the action of Norway. He defends his action in vetoing the bill for separate consuls for Norway as being within the constitution. He insists that it is not in line with the principles of the Norwegian monarch for the king to become a mere puppet in the hands of the state council. In conclusion he says: "It remains for Sweden and me, as king of the union, to decide whether the attack made by Norway on the existing union shall lead to a legal dissolution of the union. Let the present generation and posterity judge between me and the Norwegian people."



King Oscar.

Premier of Greece Assassinated.
M. Delyannis, the prime minister of Greece, was stabbed as he was about to enter the parliament at Athens June 13 and died in half an hour. His assassin was a notorious professional gambler named Gherakaris, whose business the premier had destroyed. Gherakaris had come forward smiling and bowing to greet the minister as he alighted from his carriage, but no sooner was M. Delyannis on his feet than the man drew a dagger and plunged it into the abdomen of the premier. The crime caused intense grief and indignation, and a crowd of 20,000 persons followed the body as it was taken home. The assassin was protected from the fury of the people by prompt police action. M. Gonnarkaris succeeded Delyannis.

\$100,000 For General Gomez.

The Cuban house of representatives has appropriated \$100,000 for the benefit of General Maximo Gomez, whose physical condition was found to be extremely precarious owing to the spreading of gangrene.

Swedish Unions Against War.

The leaders of the labor unions in Sweden have notified Norway that no response will be given to a call to arms if any attempt is made to coerce Norway. At the same time the Social Democrats of Sweden have issued a proclamation declaring that the workmen will cause a national strike if the riksdag authorizes armed coercion.

Asphalt Trust Appeals.

The New York and Bermudez Asphalt company has taken an appeal from the recent decision by President Arnal of the Venezuelan federal court of cassation annulling the company's concession and granting damages to the government to the entire membership of the court of cassation.

Another Royal Wedding.

Princess Margaret of Connaught and Prince Gustavus Adolphus, son of the crown prince of Sweden, were married at Windsor, England, June 15, King Edward acting as host.

Morocco Favors Germany.

Several minor commercial concessions have been granted to German interests by the government at Fez, and this fact has caused considerable uneasiness in Europe owing to the sensitiveness of France as to its prestige

In Morocco, the sultan claims to be acting with his rightful independence, but the representative of Germany is believed to have given the sultan secret assurances of support as against France.

Another Great Battle On.

Notwithstanding the agreement to begin peace negotiations, the dogs of war have not been leashed. In northern Manchuria, to the north of Tie Pass, the Japanese army under Oyama was thought to have encircled the Russians under Linievitch completely, cutting off all channels of retreat.

POLITICAL

Philadelphia's Contract Graft.

At the beginning of last week the defeated and demoralized Durham ring began a desperate effort to reform its line of battle by using every inducement to prevent the repeal of four big trolley grabs which had been passed over the mayor's veto. All fight, however, was knocked out of the ringsters by the disclosure made in the hearing of charges against Councilman Frank H. Caven, accused of having unlawful interest in the filtration contracts with the McNichol firm. It was shown that Durham and the McNichols had a direct interest in the gigantic filtration works by means of which the city had been looted out of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The resignation of John W. Hill, chief of the bureau of filtration, which had been tendered, was made immediate by order of Mayor Weaver, and all filter work was stopped pending a full inquiry. Ex-Postmaster Thomas L. Hicks was placed in charge of the bureau. Another sensational feature of the week was the voluntary retirement of Samuel Salter, the acquitted ballot box stuffer, from his \$2,000 job in the commissioners' office. The civil service commission, by the president's order, has begun an investigation into the record of two federal employees, Deputy Revenue Collector Meeser and Mrs. Elenora Parks, a mint employee, who were connected with the acquittal of Salter.

Dunne and Johnson Confer.
Mayor Dunne returned to Chicago last week after a two days' conference with Mayor Johnson of Cleveland and several expert street railway men. Mayor Dunne told his friends that the next Democratic national platform would have a plank calling for government ownership of railways. It is thought that Dunne and Johnson, with the aid of Bryan, expect to control the Democratic convention on this issue.

Secretary Hay Returns.

Secretary of State John Hay returned from Europe on June 15, much improved in strength and health. In answer to a question he said he had no intention of resigning from the cabinet.

Dalrymple's Verdict.

James Dalrymple, the Glasgow (Scotland) street railway manager who has been in Chicago on invitation of Mayor Dunne to advise regarding the application of municipal ownership, has left for home, promising to send his opinion in writing. Reports differ as to his attitude, some quoting him as being skeptical of public ownership of American street railways on account of existing political corruption.

Bryan's Latest Platform.

The platform on which Mayor Brown of Lincoln, Neb., was nominated for congress on June 15 is believed to have been prepared with the advice and consent of W. J. Bryan. It demands enforcement of the criminal clause of the Sherman antitrust law and pledges relief from co-operative imposition. President Roosevelt is commended for his Panama supply order and his plan for doing away with the railroad.

Harmon and Judson Resign.

The special counsel in the Santa Fe cases, ex-Attorney General Harmon of Cincinnati and Frederick N. Judson of St. Louis, have announced their determination of resigning because of differences with Attorney General Moody as to the advisability of prosecuting officers of the Atchison system, including Secretary Paul Morton.

New York's Extra Session.

An extra session of the New York legislature became certain when it was announced that the accused Warren B. Hooker would not resign his office as justice of the state supreme court. After conference with Chairman Odell and other Republican leaders he issued a personal statement in which he asserted that he had done nothing to justify his removal, and he would, therefore, prefer to answer any charges the legislature might serve him with. It will require a two-thirds vote of each house to remove the justice.

Governor Higgins issued a call for a special session of the legislature on June 21.

Wants Railroad Trust Sued.

A delegation representing the Receivers and Shippers' association of Cincinnati has asked President Roosevelt to proceed against all railroads and traffic associations operating in the territory south of the Ohio river and east to the Mississippi river on the ground of a conspiracy to restrain trade. The president is asked to instruct the attorney general to begin proceedings specifically to prevent the Southern railway and the Atlantic Coast line from acquiring further

stock of other railroads, to dissolve the Southern Mississippi association, to prevent both of these companies from carrying into effect certain joint agreements and finally to prevent these companies from carrying into effect agreements entered into at a meeting in December, 1904. It is alleged that a combination similar to the Joint Traffic association exists in all of the southern roads and that undue charges are exacted.

Must Treat Chinese Better.

President Roosevelt has written a letter to Secretary Metcalf of the department of commerce and labor directing that inspectors in the immigration service exercise greater care in the treatment of high class Chinese immigrants. The recent anti-American agitation among merchants in China seems to have aroused fears that our export trade to that country will be endangered by too strict enforcement of the exclusion act.

LEGAL-CRIMINAL

Ten Year Term For Bigelow.
Former President Frank G. Bigelow of the First National bank of Milwaukee, who misappropriated \$1,500,000 of the bank's funds, after pleading guilty to ten indictments was sentenced to serve ten years in prison at hard labor. The sentence was imposed by Judge Quarles of the federal court, who had been Bigelow's friend for many years.

Labor Grafting in Chicago.
John C. Driscoll, the man who has acted as go-between for the employers and labor leaders of Chicago, went, June 15, before the grand jury with his checkbook and showed the names of the men to whom he had paid about \$50,000 to settle or avert 400 strikes within two years. Driscoll was secretary of the Associated Teaming interests, and he says that the fees paid to the labor leaders range from \$100 to thousands of dollars.

Anticigarette Law Interpreted.
Judge Leathers of Marion county, Ind., in deciding the case of a man indicted for smoking cigarettes held that the new anticigarette law was constitutional except where it conflicted with interstate commerce law. Consequently smokers might import cigarettes from other states and smoke them, while it would be unlawful to sell or give them away. The case will be appealed to a higher court to further test the law.

California Land Frauds.
Francis G. Heney, the government attorney, has made serious charges against the California land officials, saying that conditions are worse there than in Oregon. He says the officials have been in league with speculators so that two-thirds of the state's timber lands have been virtually stolen. He is the man who was so successful in pursuing the land sharks in Oregon.

EXECUTIVE

To Probe All Departments.
A sweeping investigation of the methods of conducting government business in all departments has been begun by order of President Roosevelt under the direction of a committee of five, as follows: Charles H. Keep, assistant secretary of the treasury, chairman; Frank H. Hitchcock, first assistant postmaster general; Lawrence O. Murray, assistant secretary of commerce and labor; James R. Garfield, commissioner of corporations, and Gifford Pinchot, forester, department of agriculture. In a letter to Mr. Keep the president outlines the elaborate scope of the inquiry which is to bring order, uniformity and utmost economy into the conduct of public business and to do away with red tape.

Too Much Silver Coin on Hand.
On account of the large amount of silver coin in the treasury and the consequent discontinuance of silver coinage consignments to the mint at Philadelphia, Superintendent Landis has suspended work in all departments of the mint until further notice.

Line Drawn Against Prize Contests.
The postoffice department has ordered that prize contests cannot be operated by newspapers or periodicals through the mails if such contests require the payment of a consideration in order to become a contestant. Such payments are believed to show that the contests are designed to bolster up or stimulate some other line of business. In the latest rulings this payment, of a consideration may be construed as a sum of money, the purchase of an article, the cutting of a coupon from an advertisement or any publication, securing a slip or label or a subscription to a publication. All publications conducting such a contest or carrying advertisements of such schemes conducted by others are unmailable. It is also held that all contests in which the winners are to be selected upon the decision of some person or persons as to the quality of the answers are lotteries within the meaning of the law, because the award is dependent upon chance.

Philippine Railway Specifications.
Plans and specifications of the system of railways which the government of the Philippines proposes to construct in the archipelago, covering a trackage of 1,235 miles, have been made public by Secretary of War Taft through the bureau of insular affairs. Bids will be received only from citizens of the United States or of the Philippines. The motive may be either steam or electricity, as the local government may decide. All bids must be in the hands of the government at Manila on or before Nov. 1. Proposals must be accompanied by a check for \$500,000 on the whole system or half that amount on any section thereof.

COMMERCIAL

A Farmers' Packing Company.
For the purpose of competing with the Chicago packing industry the Farmers' Packing company has been organized at Sterling, Ill., with a capital stock of \$1,500,000. It is composed of farmers, stock raisers and retail meat dealers. It has an option of ten acres of land and a packing house.

Ryan's Trustees in Control.
Former President Grover Cleveland, George Westinghouse and Justice Morgan J. O'Brien of the New York supreme court, having accepted the invitation of Thomas F. Ryan to act as trustees of the 502 shares of the Equitable Assurance society which he bought from James H. Hyde for \$2,500,000, a deed of trust was signed by Mr. Ryan and the trustees on June 15 and Mr. Cleveland was elected chairman. The deed trustees the stock in perpetuity and requires the trustees to elect twenty-eight directors as designated by the policy holders, the other twenty-four directors being named at the discretion of the trustees.

Chinese Refusing Our Goods.
The boycott of American goods by Chinese merchants and guilds is reported to be making rapid headway. The latest movement is for native newspapers to refuse advertisements of American goods.

Gun Contract For Midvale.
The navy department has decided to award contracts for guns and mounts for the battleship New Hampshire and the armored cruisers North Carolina and Montana, giving the contract for some of the smaller guns to the Midvale Steel company and the larger ones to the Bethlehem Steel company.

Cheaper Gas For Boston.
The Boston Consolidated Gas company has accepted the provisions of the enabling act of 1903, by virtue of which the company agrees to reduce the maximum price of gas to 90 cents per 1,000 cubic feet within twelve months from the date of acquiring the property and franchises of the several gas corporations.

\$100,000,000 Mortgage.
The stockholders of the Colorado and Southern have ratified the plans for a \$100,000,000 bond issue and mortgage to carry out the extension and improvement plans.

LABOR

Gompers Charges Treason.
President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has issued a final manifesto against the coming convention of independent labor groups and Socialists at Chicago, June 27, called for the purpose of organizing the workers on a new basis as the Industrial union. He says that Socialists in drawing members of the A. F. L. into the movement are guilty of high treason against the cause of labor.

Strike in Foundry Trade.
All the shops of the New York and New Jersey Foundrymen's association were tied up June 12 by order of President Frank McArdle of the International Brotherhood of Foundry Employees. The iron molders and machinists were thrown out of work incidentally. The foundry employees demand an advance of wages averaging 25 per cent and an agreement for a year providing that only members of the brotherhood be employed. The foundrymen claim that higher wages would only result in driving all trade

Smaller Cotton Crops Predicted.
The Farmers' union, with headquarters at Austin, Tex., has received reports from 150,000 members throughout the south indicating the reduction in the cotton acreage of over 30 per cent. The union estimates the year's crop at 8,000,000 bales.

New Train Speed Records.
Both of the new special trains on the Pennsylvania railroad which were started from New York and Chicago on the eighteen hour schedule June 11 made the trip in less than scheduled time, and the westbound flier was said to have broken all records, according to an unofficial account. Experts say the fastest mile was done in forty-four seconds, or at the hourly speed of eighty-two miles. This train reached Chicago two minutes inside the eighteen hour schedule in spite of a fifteen minute delay caused by a hot box on the engine. To do this, however, a freight engine had to be pressed into service between Mansfield and

Thomas F. Ryan.

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INDUSTRIAL

Attorney General Moody has decided that the alien contract labor law does not apply to the isthmus of Panama, but he urges that great care be used in making and executing contracts with foreign laborers in order not to violate the thirteenth amendment of the constitution by excluding all conditions that might be described as involuntary servitude.

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