

# KEEPING TAB ON THE WORLD

## Russia's Sending of Witte as Envoy Believed to Mean That Peace Party Is Ascendant—Naval Mutiny's Collapse Followed by Assassination and Army Revolts—President, Angered by Crop Report Scandals, Orders Investigation—Plan to Import Canal Labor. Depew In Equitable Graft.

### FOREIGN

#### Witte to Be Peace Envoy.

Ambassador Meyer at St. Petersburg cabled Washington that M. Witte had been selected to head the Russian peace commission instead of M. Muraviev, and this was interpreted as a harbinger of peace, as Witte has been known all along as the head of the peace party in Russia. The reported retirement of Muraviev on account of ill health was thought to be a diplomatic fiction. The czar is said to have accepted the change under the greatest political pressure. The capture of Sakhalin island by the Japs is expected to make the peace terms harder.

Moscow's Prefect Assassinated. Count Shuvaloff, the prefect of police at Moscow, Russia, was shot in his office July 11 by a man who was waiting for an audience. The prefect died within thirty minutes. The assassin was arrested and later was identified as a revolutionist. The motive for the crime was not so apparent as in the case of the Grand Duke Sergius, for Count Shuvaloff was easy of access and his attitude was in contrast to the ordinary bureaucrat. A possible motive lay in the fact that the prefect, by order of Trepoff, had raided the recent gatherings of zemstvos at Moscow.

Russia Gets the Rebel Ship. Admiral Kruger of the Black sea fleet arrived at Kustendje, Roumania, July 9 to arrange for the transfer of the Kiaz Potemkin, which had been abandoned by her mutinous crew the day before on demand of the Roumanian authorities. Later it was found that before they left the mutineers had opened the ship's sea cocks. Before the leak could be stopped the vessel had sunk eighteen inches and rested on the bottom of the harbor. The water was pumped out, and a Russian crew took possession. The crew of the torpedo boat refused to surrender on the ground that they were not rebels, but had been coerced into supporting the mutineers. They gave themselves up to Russian officials. The leader of the mutineers was named Matuschenski. He and his followers went to Bucharest. Their claim to the treasure of the battleship was not recognized by Roumania. The collapse of the mutiny was due in part to the fact that no officers of ability were disaffected and partly because of failure of other crews to join in the revolt.

French Amnesty Defeated. The amnesty bill failed of passage in the French chamber of deputies, July 13, on account of the violent attack on the Republican party and its sponsors. Later, however, President Loubet decided to pardon those who would have been benefited by the bill.

Germany Supports Sweden. The report was current at Stockholm that Emperor William in a secret conference had promised to support King Oscar in his policy of coercion for Norway. Germany is expected to make a great demonstration in Swedish waters within a week or so and war on Norway seems more probable.

Hungary Defies Austria. Emulating the policy of Norway, Hungary has taken steps toward freeing herself from the Austrian yoke by refusing to raise taxes or to furnish troops for the dual empire. The order of the emperor adjourning parliament has been ignored.

The Moroccan Agreement. The official agreement between France and Germany for a conference on the status of Morocco was regarded as a distinct triumph for Germany.

Panama Railroad Report. The investigation of the status of the Panama railroad by Special Commissioner Bristow reached the president July 19. Mr. Bristow finds that the complaint as to high local rates has been remedied by new schedules, adopted Feb. 1 last. He also finds that the rates charged and facilities furnished by the Pacific Mail are reasonable and that the complaints are not well founded. He recommends that

the Panama railroad be continued as a commercial line, with improved facilities, with a double track, modern rolling stock and all modern port facilities. He urges retaining the steamship line between New York and Colon, that contracts with the Pacific Mail and South American lines be canceled and that the ports of Colon and Panama should be opened to all lines on equal terms. Thus he thinks American trade will be greatly benefited long before the canal is completed.

Report of Public Lands. The preliminary report of the public lands commissioner appointed in 1903 shows that our public lands still comprise nearly one-third of the entire extent of the country, including every variety of topography and climate. Exclusive of Alaska there are twenty-three states and territories containing public lands, of which 173,836,403 acres remain.

Chaffee Acting Secretary. By order of the president, Adna R. Chaffee, chief of the staff of the army, will act as secretary of war in the absence of Secretary Taft, who has gone on his trip to the Philippines.

Plans for Peace Talk. The state department announced that Portsmouth, N. H., had been chosen as the meeting place of the Japanese and Russian peace plenipotentiaries, but that the meeting will be known officially as the Washington conference. The conferees will meet in the equipment building of the United States navy yard at Portsmouth, situated on an island connected with the mainland by a bridge. This insures exclusiveness. The request of the Chinese government that it might have a representative at the peace conference on the ground that China is vitally interested was not favored by Japan.

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Federal Trial For Caleb Powers. Judge Cochran of the United States circuit court has decided that his court has jurisdiction over the case of Caleb Powers, convicted in the Kentucky courts of complicity in the murder of Governor Goebel. Judge Cochran says that in the state courts the defendant has been and is denied the equal protection of the laws. An appeal will be taken to the United States supreme court.

Society Blackmail Charge. Charles E. Ahle was arrested at New York on the charge of attempted blackmail of Edwin M. Post, a stockbroker. Ahle was said to have approached Post as a solicitor for a new society book called "Fads and Fancies" and accepted from Post in the presence of a detective \$500 in marked bills. Mr. Post charges that the money was extorted from him in order to prevent Town Topics from publishing a certain article affecting his personal reputation. In protesting his innocence Ahle told of having secured subscriptions from many well known New York smart set women. This led the district attorney to subpoena a number of the said subscribers so as to disclose the extent of the alleged blackmailing plot.

A New York Race War. Two persons were killed and another wounded dangerously in a fight between mobs of white and negro residents of the lower west side of New York city, July 9. More disturbances occurred July 14, when 300 police battled with the mobs.

Head Holy Ghoster Held. The Maine supreme court has decided against the appeal of Frank W. Sanford, head of the Holy Ghost and Us society, from conviction on the charge of cruelty to his son John, in having caused fasting and whipping. The maximum penalty is one year imprisonment or \$500 fine.

Crop Report Scandals. The secret service report on the premature disclosure of the cotton crop estimates made by the department of agriculture sustained charges made by Secretary Cheatham of the Southern Cotton association, and Edwin S. Holmes, Jr., the assistant statistician, was immediately dismissed and was succeeded by Victor L. Olmsted. Secretary Wilson in giving out the report told how New York brokers had been in the habit of securing advanced reports, mentioning the names of L. C. Van Ripper and Theodore Price. Letters implicating Holmes were given as evidence.

Mr. Price at once took the ground that the report was libelous so far as he was concerned. Through his counsel he requested Secretary Wilson formally to retract. This the secretary refused to do, and now the investigation is to proceed by order of President Roosevelt, with a prospect of criminal prosecutions following. Evidence appeared to show Holmes had accepted in one case a direct bribe of \$73,000 to betray the government's secret figures concerning the cotton crop. It is estimated that Holmes and others had thus secured \$1,000,000 or more. There were rumors of irregularities in other sections of the crop reports, and a general overhauling was ordered similar to that which was given to the post-office department last year.

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### POLITICAL

#### To Import Canal Laborers.

The Panama canal commission is said to have decided to import 2,000 Chinese and a like number of Japanese and Italians for a 500 day contract in order to compare the relative efficiency and stamina of the different nationalities for canal work. This class of laborers will not be entitled to enter the United States. Chairman Shonts and the engineer, John F. Stevens, have been in conference on this and other phases of the great undertaking, and they are preparing to leave Washington for Panama July 18. The family of Stevens expect to follow him and take up their residence on the isthmus next fall.

Calls Canal a Humbug. Former Interstate Commerce Commissioner Yeomans has caused a lot of talk by his statement that no Panama canal would ever be built and that no American engineer ever said the project was even feasible. "Who was not paid for his statement," he explained this by charging that the railroads controlled the situation and that the Nicaragua project was killed because it was feasible. He says no engineer has ever found a rock or clay bank in the Culebra cut, and he calls attention to the fact that every man selected to do the work so far has been picked from a transcontinental railroad, asking, "Would you select a competitor to do business for you?"

Russell Succeeds Bowen. William W. Russell of Maryland, formerly secretary of legation at Caracas and more recently minister to Colombia, has been appointed minister to Venezuela.

Hooker Trial Begun. Warren B. Hooker, the accused justice of the New York supreme court, was brought before the legislature on July 19 and made the plea of not guilty. His counsel announced that witnesses would be called and that Mr. Hooker himself would take the stand. A sensational incident occurred when Editor Wardman of the New York Press was summoned forthwith because of an article charging that powerful influences and hoodlums were at work to keep Hooker on the bench and that a cloud of scandal was hanging over the legislature. Wardman said he didn't know who wrote the article and refused to find out.

Bell Blocks Prosecution. John C. Bell, Philadelphia's district attorney, refused Mayor Weaver's request that indictments be presented against the chief criminals in the filtration contract conspiracy upon a great mass of evidence furnished. Later Mr. Bell also refused to take action before a magistrate, a course which he had previously advocated, and admitted that he had been all along the attorney to James P. McNichol and counsel for the firm in which the McNichols and Israel W. Durham were interested. The city council refused to authorize the mayor to employ additional counsel, thus keeping the civil arm of the law in control of the conspirators. A great wave of public indignation was started by the district attorney's course of action and meetings were held to demand his resignation. The arrest of Durham and McNichol was advised by the mayor's counsel.

The canvasses of policemen and the investigation of 100 cheap lodging houses gave evidence of more than 50,000 bogus voters which the Durham ring had made use of in past campaigns. Six indictments were returned against Select Councilman Caven, charging him with misdemeanor in being interested in city contracts.

### SCIENTIFIC

#### A New Anaesthetic.

According to an article translated for the Literary Digest from the Paris Cosmos, the hospitals of Paris are now experimenting with a substance known as scopolamin, an alkaloid extracted from a plant of the nightshade family, which when used as an anaesthetic has none of the disagreeable after effects which appear to be inseparable from chloroform, ether and cocaine. This new agent enables the patient to go to sleep pleasantly before an operation, to go on sleeping peacefully after it and to awaken as from natural sleep; with health and appetite unimpaired. The substance is used mixed with morphine, and three hypodermic injections are required. While under the influence if the patient be shaken or spoken to loudly or if a noise is made near him he will awake at once, but if he is pricked or pinched there is no sign of sensitiveness. The duration of the sleep averages four or five hours after the operation.

A Boat That Skims the Water. M. de Lambert, the French inventor, has achieved some success with a new-fangled boat which skims along the surface of the water, thus avoiding the resistance caused by water in front of the ordinary boat. The trial boat has a total length of twenty feet and a width of ten feet. It has two inclined planes made of wood and a twelve horsepower motor. When the boat is at rest the planes are immersed and the weight of the boat is supported by parallel floats united by crosspieces. When the motor is started the boat begins to move forward horizontally, but as soon as the speed increases the inclined planes lift the boat to the surface, whereupon the speed at once increases because of the immense diminution of resistance, and the boat begins to glide on a layer of air resting between the planes and the water up to a speed of fourteen, fifteen or twenty-five miles an hour.

Peary's Departure Delayed. Just as Commander Peary was about to sail from New York on the Roosevelt, as announced, his plans were interfered with by the resignation of his surgeon and by the need of more funds. His appeal for at least \$40,000 more to provide the expedition with what was needed met with prompt response from Morris K. Jesup, Thomas H. Hubbard, John D. Rockefeller, George Crocker and others. A fund of \$25,000 was also started, to be given to the men of the expedition if they succeed in reaching the pole.

### LABOR

#### Many Garment Makers Out.

The strike of New York coat makers has been supplemented by strikes among the trousers makers and children's jacket makers, aggregating 13,000 in membership.

#### Editors Against Eight Hour Day.

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### COMMERCIAL

#### More Equitable Crookedness.

Still lower depths of financial degradation have been sounded by the disclosures contained in the evidence submitted to New York's insurance superintendent concerning the books of the Equitable Assurance society. One point which attracted special attention is the denial of Jacob H. Schiff that Kuhn, Loeb & Co. had ever sold Harriman railroad stocks to the Equitable, notwithstanding that the books of the latter recorded such sales, exceeding \$1,000,000. Thus falsification of records was added to the other charges of crookedness in the management of the great fiduciary trust. Another point which still more has called down vials of wrath from the policy holders and scorn from the public was the discovery that a loan of \$250,000 had been made to the Depeew Improvement company, in which Senator Depeew had a large interest, notwithstanding that the assessors had placed the value of the company at \$150,000. The particularly impressive feature of this transaction, however, was that Mr. Depeew himself voted for the loan as a director of the society at the same time that he was drawing a salary of \$20,000 as special counsel.

The fact came out that Senator Depeew, who is now in Europe, had tendered his resignation as a director of the Equitable before he left this country. Mr. Depeew protests that he had nothing to do with securing the loan and insists that the Depeew Improvement company is still perfectly sound. Chairman Morton announced a sweeping cut of from 10 to 20 per cent in the salaries of all officers and employees of the society who received \$2,500 or more. Mr. Tarbell is re-business for you?"

(Continued on page 3.)

## Sechler & Co.,

### PURE FOOD and Fine Groceries.

Baker's Steel Cut Coffee is above comparison with any goods on the market, and is well worth the attention of every good house-keeper.

Everybody wants good pure Vinegar; our Darby goods will please you sure.

Fine, large, fat, Salt Mackeral, boneless. They're beaut's.

If you are not altogether suited on Lard, try the goods we have. It is light in color, not from bleaching, but from care and cleanliness in rendering. It is good, pure and sweet Lard.

After a long search we have made a find in Dried Beef. It is properly cured and properly sliced; try it. Our Hams and Bacon are fine.

### SECHLER & CO., Pure Food and Fine Groceries.

#### INSURANCE AGENCIES.

W. H. MUSSER, General Insurance Agent, Notary Public and Pension Attorney. BELLEFONTE, PA.

S. E. GOSS, SUCCESSOR TO JOHN C. MILLER, FIRE, LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE. REPRESENTS SOME OF THE BEST STOCK COMPANIES. 2nd Floor Bush Arcade. Bellefonte, Pa.

HARRY FENLON, Successor to Frederick K. Foster and Wm Burnside, FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT AND TORNADO INSURANCE, BONDS of every description. TEMPLE COURT, BELLEFONTE, PA. 26-42 ly

Jno. F. Gray & Son, Successors to GRANT HOOVER, Insurance: This agency represents the largest Fire Insurance Companies in the world. We are prepared to write large lines at any time. —ALSO— Life and Accident Insurance, and Surety Bonds. Call on or address us at Crider's Stone Bldg, Bellefonte.

E. K. RHOADS, At his yard, opposite the P. R. R. Passenger station, sells only the best qualities ANTHRACITE and BITUMINOUS COALS. —Also all kinds of— Wood, Grain, Hay, Straw and Sand. Superior Screenings for lime burning, Builders and plasterers' Sand.

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The water was pumped out, and a Russian crew took possession. The crew of the torpedo boat refused to surrender on the ground that they were not rebels, but had been coerced into supporting the mutineers.

They gave themselves up to Russian officials. The leader of the mutineers was named Matuschenski. He and his followers went to Bucharest.

Their claim to the treasure of the battleship was not recognized by Roumania. The collapse of the