

KEEPING TAB ON THE WORLD

Gloomily the Peace Conference Begins at Portsmouth, the Envoys of Japan and Russia Having Been Introduced by the President at Oyster Bay—Jerome Defies All Party Machines. Edison Perfects His Auto Truck Battery—New Orleans Asks Uncle Sam to Handle Fever Quarantine.

POLITICAL

Jerome as an Independent.
A most interesting declaration of independence has been given out by District Attorney Jerome of New York, in which he announces his candidacy for re-election, providing he is nominated by popular petition, which, under the election law, requires 2,000 signatures and not by any party machine. Although he is a Democrat in national politics, Mr. Jerome says that national issues have no real application to state or local affairs, and he declares it to be one of the greatest evils of our time "that small groups of men have, and not infrequently a single man, obtained control of the executive machinery of party organization and nominating conventions and stand between the public servants and the voters." He says that a man who works with such a group comes under obligations which cannot be disregarded and that he cannot take office for their favor and still be free.



District Attorney Jerome.

He does not propose to remain in office by the grace of any man or group of men such as he indicates. In other words, Mr. Jerome is evidently trying to find out whether or not the people of New York will elect a man to office who has not first obtained permission from the Tammany chief or the Republican chairman to be a candidate. Thus a fundamental political issue is raised entirely aside from the question of Mr. Jerome's personal equation. It strikes at the system of machine domination, to which much of our municipal corruption is attributed.

Mr. Jerome said that it was the sense of degradation resulting from the conscientiousness of being ruled by crooks that was going to start the fight he thought was approaching, and all that was needed was a man capable of moral leadership. He spoke of the spirit of unrest throughout the country and the vast literature of graft which had sprung up in the last few years.

Wilson at Oyster Bay.
Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has called on the president and had a talk with him about the programme of reforms which has been devised. He told the president that leaks from the bureau of statistics were no longer possible. He said it was no longer a one man affair, but would be run by four well trained scientists, two of whom are southerners. The secretary denied the report that he was about to resign and said he would stick to his post until the department was purged. He said all of the trouble originated in the quarrel of two gamblers over a woman.

Weaver Drafts Employees.
A new and powerful weapon in the campaign for a pure ballot in the city of Philadelphia was forged by Mayor Weaver's order requiring all municipal employees to report not later than Aug. 9 the cases of illegal registration in their respective election divisions. This will test the loyalty of each official to the cause of good government. The reports of fraudulent registration have continued, and in several precincts the entire election board was said to be mythical.

Depew Promises to Explain.
On his return from Europe Senator Depew told the reporters that he had nothing to say except that he was coming home to stay in the storm center and that in a short time he would make public a full statement of his connection with the Depew Improvement company and the Equitable loan. He admitted that he had subscribed \$1,500 for a copy of "Fads and Fancies," but denies that he did so under pressure. He said that it is his custom to devote each year at least \$1,000 to help "the boys."

A Negro Dominates Wilmington.
By a curious situation in the municipal government of Wilmington, Del., Thomas E. Postles, a negro supporter of Addicks, has become the virtual ruler of the city. In the council are thirteen members, seven being Republicans and six Democrats. Postles by making a deal with the Democrats has elected five of his friends to city office, two of whom are negroes, in return for which he prevents the election

of Republican successors to two Democratic officials. He holds the balance of power and is the first negro to be elected by popular vote in Delaware, being supported by white Democrats and opposed by those of his own race. When an appeal was made for a majority rule, Postles replied, "But I am the majority." One interesting feature is the election of Joseph Postles to be city treasurer's clerk, in which capacity he will make out checks for 400 white schoolteachers of the city.

Insurance Legislation Demanded.
Insurance Commissioner Cutting of Massachusetts in his annual report handles the insurance irregularities without gloves and asserts that the legislature must act to safeguard future investments. His table shows the lack of conservatism not only in the management of the Equitable, but of the Mutual and New York Life. He refers to the Equitable as the great "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Insurance company." In general Mr. Cutting thinks that these disclosures show the spirit of the times to be a mad rush for wealth in which the moral vision of business men is blurred. He says that it is an indictment of the business and commercial practices which have developed in the last quarter of a century.

A Public Ownership Sweep.
In his address at Boston at the outing of the Tammany club Mayor Dunne of Chicago said that he had found it to be the rule that where utilities are furnished by private companies they cost from 50 to 100 per cent more than when furnished by public companies. After telling how the city of Chicago was planning a municipal street railway line, the mayor said that a wave of public sentiment in favor of public ownership of public utilities was sweeping over the land. He thought that Chicago would have achieved its purpose within a few months and have the proud distinction of being the first city in the United States to be in actual ownership of its street car system, and when that is an assured success he thought it would mean that hundreds of other cities would follow her example.

FOREIGN

Arrival of Russia's Envoy.
Serge Witte arrived at New York Aug. 2 with his suit and lodged at the St. Regis hotel. He denied the report that he had said anything about the Japanese conditions being intolerable and gave out a statement full of friendly feeling for the American people and pleasant words for his gallant adversary, Japan. M. Witte is a large bodied, good natured man who gives the impression of great strength and self possession. After a day spent in sight seeing about New York he went to Oyster Bay to call on the president, and next day both the Russian and Japanese envoys were taken from New York to Oyster Bay on the cruisers Tacoma and Chattanooga, respectively.

Third Assistant Secretary of State Peirce on board the yacht Sylph preceded the cruisers, and on arriving at Oyster Bay an ambassadorial salute of nineteen guns was fired by the Galveston, Mayflower and Dolphin waiting there. Mr. Peirce then went from the Sylph to the Mayflower and was followed by the president, after which the Japanese came aboard to be presented, and then the Russians. The president in turn introduced the Japanese and Russians, and a luncheon followed in the cabin of the Mayflower. Then the Japanese mission went on board the Dolphin and the Russian mission on board the Mayflower, and these ships, conveyed by the cruiser Galveston, sailed for Portsmouth, where the peace conference is now in progress.

The determination of Japan to retain her hold on Manchuria was indicated by the hasty and secret preparations for the construction of the railway which now runs from Fusan to Seoul, in Korea, across the Yulu to a junction with the Chinese Eastern railway at Liaoyang. It is reported that rush orders have been placed with American firms in the last few days for 250 steel bridges, 150 locomotives and 2,000 cars. The road is to be known as the Seoul-Wiji line.

Japs Claim All Sakhalin.
Official proclamation has been made by Lieutenant Hariguchi extending the military jurisdiction of Japan over the entire island of Sakhalin. The possession of this island places the whole Amur region of Siberia under Japanese influence. It is learned that on July 26 a Japanese force seized the port of Castries, on the Siberian coast, about 100 miles south of the mouth of the Amur. It is a terminus of the Sakhalin cable.

Famine Faces Russia.
The central statistical committee at St. Petersburg reports that the harvests in forty-one of the sixty provinces of European Russia are a complete failure. In the other provinces the condition of crops is far below the average. This indicates the imminence of a serious famine.

Wants to Close the Baltic.
Emperor William's recent cruise in the Baltic and his calls on Russia, Denmark and Sweden is interpreted as a preliminary move toward the closing of the Baltic sea so far as the warships of other countries are concerned. The announcement of the coming cruise of the British squadron in that sea is believed to have caused the emperor much annoyance.

Czar Against Peace Concessions.
In the St. Petersburg Official Messenger appeared an imperial telegram sent by the czar in reply to an address from Khabarovka expressing his purpose to continue the war until the ene-

my is crushed and not to think of the concession of territory or the payment of any indemnity. This coming immediately after the secret interview with Emperor William caused it to be taken seriously, and the conclusion was that if the Japanese make such demands at the peace conference M. Witte would break off negotiations. At the same time General Lnevitch has telegraphed the czar that the army is ready for any task. The general denies the published report that his army has been surrounded by the Japanese.

Kaiser Against Republic.
During his visit at Copenhagen Emperor William is reported to have said that he would support Prince Charles for the throne of Norway. He added that if Prince Charles does not become king Norway will be a republic. He preferred a monarchy. Christian Lundberg is head of the new coalition ministry at Stockholm, Sweden.

LEGAL-CRIMINAL

Equitable Restitution Suits.
Attorney General Mayer of New York has begun suits against the Equitable Life Assurance society and the fifty prominent men who composed its board of directors prior to the recent shakeup. The court is asked to require that the directors account for their management and disposition of funds and property, that they be compelled to pay back any money acquired by themselves or lost or wasted through violation of their duties, that those guilty of misconduct be removed and that the surplus be credited to and distributed solely among the policy holders. There is nothing in this that will disturb the Ryan management.

The legislative investigation committee met and organized at Albany and began its probing of the methods of the Equitable.

John Hyde Coming Back.
In response to urgent cable messages from Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, John Hyde, the former statistician of the department, telegraphed from England that he would return to this country as soon as possible. He is expected to assist materially in the grand jury investigation of the crop report scandal. The grand jury has adjourned to Aug. 15.

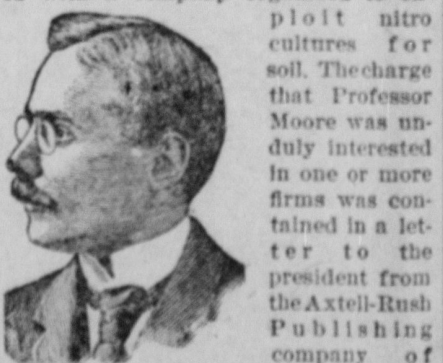
Paterson's Mayor a Forger.
William H. Belcher, Paterson's "reform" mayor, has been exposed as a perpetrator of forgeries aggregating \$50,000 or more. His favorite method of stealing appears to have been the palming off of fake mortgages. Mayor Belcher had been looked upon as a model of upright and pure life.

Editor Criswell a Suicide.
Robert W. Criswell, editor of the New Yorker, who was recently summoned on a libel charge by Congressman Blainock of Kentucky because of a stirring reference to Miss Alice Roosevelt in connection with her visit to Cincinnati, committed suicide by throwing himself in front of a subway train at New York. He was once connected with the organization known as the Social Editors' society, which had been securing subscriptions to a book known as "America's Foremost Families." This was under investigation by the district attorney.

EXECUTIVE

Treasury Deficit For July.
The first month of the new fiscal year which ended July 31 showed that the government had spent \$13,857,866 more than it took in. This is \$3,532,746 less than for the corresponding period of last year, but the deficit at that time was partly due to the purchase of the Panama canal and the fair loan. The receipts for the month were \$49,273,133.

Why Pathologist Moore Quit.
Correspondence given out by order of the president explains the sudden resignation of Professor George T. Moore, the department of agriculture's pathologist, whose name was connected with a company organized to exploit nitro cultures for soil. The charge that Professor Moore was unduly interested in one or more firms was contained in a letter to the president from the Axtell-Rush Publishing company of Pittsburg, publishers of the National Stockman and Farmer. The matter was promptly referred to Secretary Wilson, and Professor Moore's resignation followed shortly. In resigning, the professor said that he had returned the stock of the nitro culture company which had been reserved for him.



More Russian Immigration.
Commissioner of Immigration Sergeant reports that the total number of immigrants for the last fiscal year was 1,027,421 as compared with 812,870 in 1904, while 11,596 were deported. The Russian immigration shows an increase of 29 per cent, the total number being 184,897.

Filipino Agitators Warned.
Governor Wright in a conference with the leading Filipinos at Manila denounced the independence agitation at this time and said that the sympathy shown for the ladrones was delaying commercial and political development. The government has given \$50,000 to buy rice for the starving peasants in Cebu, where the drought has destroyed the crops, and the merchants of Manila have given \$5,000 for relief.

SOCIOLOGICAL

A Women's Serial Club.
A number of prominent literary and professional women in this country have undertaken to form a novel club for women at New York city as one of a series to be organized in all of the larger cities of Europe and America. It is to be known as the New York Lyceum, and already a similar organization known



as the London Lyceum has been founded at the British capital. The leading spirit in the American chapter is Mrs. Adelaide K. Johnson, the well known sculptor, the London club having been organized by Miss Smedley, the daughter of a banker. The new club will be the local home of any out of town members and will include in its membership those engaged in any kind of arts and literature. It will offer facilities for disposing of the work of its members in these various lines and will afford an opportunity for personal interchange and association. The London club has all the features of a man's club, a smoking room being added to the tea and sitting rooms. Such noted women as Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. Burnett, Miss Gilder, Mrs. Stuart, Alice Morse Earle, Laura D. Gill and President Hazard of Wellesley are said to be interested in the new club.

Miss Tarbell's Apology.
In her concluding sketch of the character of John D. Rockefeller for the August McClure's Miss Tarbell admits frankly that were he the only one of his kind "there certainly would be no justification of the brutality inherent in such a study as this." She finds him, however, "simply the type pre-eminent in the public mind of the militant business man of the day." The code which he has worked out so perfectly is in operation from banker to street vender until "success is the justification of any practice, until no price is too great to pay for winning." The Rockefeller practice of separating morals strictly from business has so saturated all forms of American life as to compel the analysis of Mr. Rockefeller. "History," she declares, "is but a museum of dissected heroes, warriors, kings and philosophers, their records stripped bare, their influences traced to their flowering." She says that the great public goes straight to the evident conclusion that "this man has for forty years lent all the power of his great ability to perpetuating and elaborating a system of illegal and unjust discrimination by common carriers." She thinks it doubtful if the interference with individual development thus fastened on the country can be thrown off without revolutionary methods. Referring to Mr. Rockefeller's vast charities, she says it is too much to hope that even he will see "that what we need in society is not charity, but fair play."

Big Co-operative Experiment.
A report from Portland, Ore., says that the Rev. H. S. Wallace has just returned from New York after making arrangements for financing the Co-operative Christian Federation with \$50,000,000 capital stock for the purpose of building a model city in the upper Willamette valley in Oregon and to establish factories, acquire land and build railroads. The federation is said to have the backing of the American Institute of Social Service, and its incorporators include a number of bank presidents and wealthy business men in different parts of the country. The members of the federation will acquire residences only through their earnings, and profits will be declared only after

providing for an operating expense, social advantages, relief of the sick and dependent ones. No idlers will be tolerated. Associated with Mr. Wallace are such men as Dr. J. M. Buckley, editor of the Christian Advocate; Dr. Josiah Strong and others.

Would Pension the Aged.
The annual report of the Massachusetts bureau of statistics for 1905 advocates old age pensions to be paid by the state to persons of more than sixty-five years of age who are in need of assistance. The argument supporting this proposition is that it will be as cheap to support the needy old by state pensions as it is to support them now in poorhouses, workhouses and by private charities. It is estimated that over \$10,000,000 is spent yearly for Massachusetts charities. There are in the state over 143,000 persons sixty-five years or more old. A pension of \$5 a week for each of them would amount to \$57,000,000 a year, and it is thought to be certain that not more than one-fourth of the old will apply for charity money, for it is known that in foreign countries only one-fifth apply.

COMMERCIAL

Britain's Big Bankrupt List.
The London board of trade finds that the bankruptcies in Great Britain during the year ended March 31, 1905, were 1,000 more than in the corresponding year of 1904.

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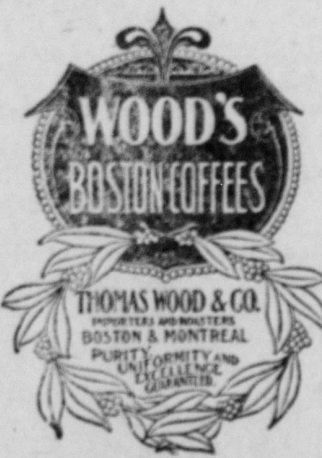
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