

KEEPING TAB ON THE WORLD

Nicholas Grants Russia Consultative Assembly Just as Failure of the Peace Conference Seems Inevitable Owing to Disagreement on Four Points --- Norway Votes 1000 to 1 For Independence --- The Western Reciprocity Republicans Start Fight For the Dual Tariff --- Shaw's Successor.

POLITICAL

Frick to Succeed Penrose.

It was the open political secret of the week that the corporate influences of the Keystone State had decided upon Henry C. Frick, the Pittsburg coke and steel multimillionaire, as the man to succeed Boies Penrose in the United States senate. These influences were known to be the same as those which brought about the election of Senator Knox. Mr. Frick himself having helped in the choice of Knox. It was understood that Senator Penrose would make no fight against this arrangement. Standard Oil and the Pennsylvania railroad are the dominant interests involved.

Weaver For Governor.

The spontaneous reception accorded to Mayor Weaver of Philadelphia when he spoke at Wilkesbarre, together with the friendly approval expressed by the president, has set afloat a Weaver boom for the Republican governorship nomination. The mayor himself told those who suggested the idea that his only ambition was to carry out his programme of reform for Philadelphia.

Democrats Name Independent.

The special Democratic state convention at Harrisburg, Pa., unanimously nominated Justice John Stewart, a lifelong independent Republican, for the state supreme court, thus placing themselves side by side with the Republican reformers as against the Penrose-Durham machine. In this action the convention laid aside all partisanship.

Federal Control of Insurance.

At the close of a conference between Senator Dryden of New Jersey, James M. Beck and President Roosevelt at Oyster Bay it was made known that the president had pledged his support for the enactment of a law providing for federal supervision of life insurance.

Socialist Speakers Arrested.

The Socialists of New York city were greatly wrought up over the arrest of their candidate for mayor, Algernon Lee, National Organizer Wilkins and several other speakers for having persisted in addressing street corner meetings on the east side, where the police authorities had forbidden public gatherings without permit drying the bakers' strike. Lee and his companions paid fines under protest. When Wilkins was told to stop speaking, he refused and said, "I stand on my constitutional right to address a lawful gathering of the people." When he was hustled into the patrol wagon he continued his speech on the way to the police station, the dense crowd making the wagon's progress very slow. The cases were to be carried to the higher courts. Later the ban on street speaking was removed.

Cry For a Dual Tariff.

The reciprocity conference which was held at Chicago Aug. 16 and 17 brought forth a new political slogan by advocating the "dual tariff," which principle was outlined by Senator Culom of Illinois thus: "A minimum tariff, applicable to all nations which give our products the most favored nation treatment, and a maximum tariff, say 25 per cent higher, to apply to nations which discriminate against our products." The conference was attended by 600 delegates from all parts of the country, including several governors and ex-governors.

A virtual declaration of war on the stand patters was made in the resolutions adopted. A permanent organization was started, to be known as the American Reciprocal Tariff League. The feature of the conference was the speech of Governor Cummins of Iowa, who said that reciprocity had been "damned with faint praise and with false friends long enough." He would abide by the decision of the people. He said the protective tariff was not originally intended to exclude competition, but rather to create it.

Cortelyou For the Treasury.

The opinion prevailed in official circles at Washington that the president had offered the treasury portfolio to Postmaster General Cortelyou in anticipation of Secretary Shaw's retire-

ment next February. This report was strengthened when Mr. and Mrs. Cortelyou were the guests of the president at Sagamore Hill.

Conger to Go to China.

It was generally understood that the president had decided to send Edwin H. Conger as secret commissioner to China to aid in adjusting the questions growing out of the boycott of American goods and to settle the Hankow railroad dispute. Mr. Conger has been serving as ambassador to Mexico since he was replaced by Mr. Rockhill at Peking.

Governor Hanly Closes Taggart's.

The notorious casino, a gambling resort of the wealthy at French Lick Springs, Ind., owned by Thomas Taggart, chairman of the Democratic national committee, was closed voluntarily in anticipation of Governor Hanly's intended order. Heretofore this resort had been free from official interference, no matter which party was in power.

Philadelphia's Mythical Voters.

The policemen's canvass of thirty-one Philadelphia wards was completed Aug. 15 and shows a total of 60,083 names on the voting lists that have no right to be there. These lists are to be checked by Director Potter's agents.

War on Weaver Renewed.

The select branch of the Philadelphia council renewed the fight on Mayor Weaver by adopting a resolution, 32 to 5, to create a committee of seven empowered to investigate the removal of all officers and employees of the city in the last three months. The sponsors for this move, representing the Durham machine, would have it inferred that Mayor Weaver's numerous dismissals were made for political causes. The mayor said he would welcome any investigation that the council might authorize.

FOREIGN

Czar Summons Assembly.

Just at the critical stage of the peace conference the czar of Russia issued the long anticipated call for a national consultative "duma" or assembly, fixing its date for mid-January next. The members are to discuss measures and examine the state budget, but their acts are to be subject to the czar's absolute authority. The suffrage, though wide, is not universal. It is based on property qualification, the peasantry having a vote through membership in communal organizations. A considerable portion of the residents of the cities possessing no lands, together with women, soldiers, civil functionaries, etc., are without suffrage.

Waiting on Czar and Mikado.

After a week of daily conferences the peace envoys at Portsmouth, with the eyes of all the world on them, were compelled to report to their respective sovereigns that they had been unable to agree on four of Japan's twelve conditions of peace. The Russians would not think of paying Japan's war expenses, of surrendering Sakhalin, of giving over the interned warships or having their naval power in the east limited. The conference adjourned to await further instructions from St. Petersburg and Tokyo.

Norway's Independence Vote.

By the overwhelming majority of 1,000 to 1 the electorate of Norway in the recent referendum voted in favor of the dissolution of the union with Sweden. The day of voting was treated as a national holiday, and transportation for voters from remote districts to the voting places was free. The movement proceeded without signs of hatred or violence, but with the utmost patriotic feeling, as shown by the display of flags and the singing of national songs by orderly crowds. Returns showed that 398,500 votes were for and 184 against separation. A republic is now likely to be established.

Spanish Famine Spreads.

The famine riots in the Andalusia district of Spain have extended to many cities and are practically unchecked. The hunger driven peasants have driven out the wealthier residents, confiscated their property and are looting all towns not protected by troops. It is estimated that over 1,000,000 are desperately hungry and that one-tenth of these are actually starving. A march has been started to appeal to the king for aid.

What Venezuela Owes France.

Referee Frank Plumley of Northfield, Vt., has awarded claims of the French government against Venezuela for damages to French merchants in the revolution of 1901 amounting to slightly over \$650,000.

A Congress of Russian Peasants.

In spite of the orders of General Treppoff to prevent it over 200 delegates, representing organizations of peasants in different parts of Russia, have met secretly at Moscow and passed resolutions demanding universal suffrage for the coming national assembly and a system of land proprietorship by handing over to the people all lands now belonging to the state and to the religious institutions. They demanded also that free education be obligatory, that the schools be secularized and that the assembly have power to initiate legislation. This was the first peasants' congress in Russian history.

EXECUTIVE

Shonts on Canal Condition.

Chairman Shonts of the Panama canal commission on his return from Panama gave out a full statement concerning the conditions on the isthmus. He admitted that a mistake had been made at the outset in trying to push the work before arranging to care for

the employees. It was true also that the laborers had not been promptly paid and that prices of food had risen, owing to congestion of traffic. Mr. Shonts said he had made an arrangement with the president of Panama to feed the laborers, through commissary stations, until prices become normal. Each laborer's camp has such a station. Refrigerating plants are to be placed in both of the company's steamers and at Colon, so that all American employees will be able to obtain the same fare as they would at home. He admits that there are many undesirable conditions, but said that these would be reformed. On the day that he sailed there were only thirty cases of fever throughout the entire district. Work has been stopped in the Culebra cut pending sanitary improvements and the construction of better quarters for the laborers.

Canal Funds Not All Spent.

After Chairman Shonts got back to Washington the canal commission issued a statement showing that out of the \$10,000,000 appropriated by congress for the construction of the canal there remained on April 1, when the present commission took hold, a balance of \$7,426,568. Large expenditures for ships and supplies, as well as wages, left a balance of \$2,810,713 on Aug. 15.

Extra Session Unnecessary.

A cable message from President Roosevelt to Secretary Taft while the latter was at Lillolo expressed the opinion that an extra session of congress would be unnecessary. This particularly pleased the congressmen in the Taft party, as it would enable them to prolong their tour of the orient.

More Officials Under Probe.

A pension office investigation has been started as a result of an official's carelessness in allowing a widow's pension for eleven years instead of one.

The internal revenue service is also doing a little house cleaning. Commissioner Yerkes having dismissed four special agents.

Director Walcott of the geological survey denies the published charges that officers of the survey have used their official knowledge to benefit the Mining World. He admits that a fraction of the stock of this paper was subscribed by some members of the survey.

The report of the investigation of the Lanston monotype machine contract in the government printing office, on charges brought by the Mergenthaler company, was believed to be favorable to Public Printer Palmer, who made the contract.

Major F. S. Strong of the inspector general's department, who was sent to probe the system of graft said to exist at the Schuykill arsenal, Philadelphia, unearthed startling evidence in the testimony of Morris Busch, a councilman of the local political ring, who could not explain his secret agreement to secure a contract for making fur gloves and caps, up to the army standard, but at a figure below the actual cost to manufacture. It was shown that for several years a combine of fur contractors had existed secretly, to the destruction of competitive bidding and the defrauding of the government.

Wilson Inspects Cattle Trains.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has conferred with the live stock and railway committee at Chicago and observed the incoming stock trains. He said that the cattle appeared to be well cared for and that he was assured that the railways and shippers were anxious to co-operate with the government.

LEGAL-CRIMINAL

Railroads Called to Account.

Summonses have been issued at Washington by the interstate commerce commission to many of the important railroads and refrigerator companies to show cause why they should not be punished for giving rebates. This is the first public step in carrying out the administration's plan for suppressing the private car system. The defendants have until Sept. 5 to file their answers. The government expects to show that the public is robbed for nearly every article of food by reason of secret agreements between the railroad and the car lines, the latter acting as agents for the former. Commissioner Cockrell said he had no doubt this would be proved and that the car lines would be forced out of business.

To Try Beef Packers Oct. 2.

On the next day after President Roosevelt's address at Chautauqua, in which the trusts in general and the meat packers in particular were warned of punishment for violation of law, District Attorney Morrison of Chicago made a number of subpoenas for the trial of the twenty-four beef packers and others, returnable Oct. 2. Each case will be taken up separately.

Verdict on Mentor Wreck.

Coroner Siegelstein, at Cleveland, in his verdict on the wreck of the Lake Shore's Twentieth Century Limited at Mentor, O., June 21, recommends that Walter F. Minor, the telegraph operator at that station, be held for manslaughter. Minor is charged with having opened the switch, but whether he did so of his own volition or by telegraphic orders of a superior officer the coroner is not prepared to say. It was found to have been a physical impossibility for a strange person to have unlocked and turned the switch and locked it again within the thirty seconds that it takes the train to reach the station from the time its headlight is first seen.

LABOR

Hebrew Bakers Win Strike.

A large majority of the boss bakers of Local 23 in the Hebrew district of New York's east side have signed the union agreement with the striking bakers, notwithstanding that the Citizens' Industrial association, under the leadership of C. W. Post, had come to the aid of the proprietors. The employers had already conceded the strikers' demands as to wages, hours of work and better conditions, and the only question at issue was the open shop. The executive board of the international union had refused to sanction a general sympathetic strike, and the local sympathetic strikers were declared off.

One good result of this strike for the consuming public is the increased activity of the sanitary inspectors, who have refused to allow many of the shops to be reopened without radical improvements as to cleanliness, ventilation, etc.

Teamsters Re-elect Shea.

By the close vote of 129 to 121 Cornelius P. Shea of Boston was re-elected president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters at its convention in Philadelphia, thus sustaining his action in having called the Chicago strike. Similarly by a close vote the report of the strike committee criticizing him for his course at Chicago was rejected. More money was voted for the relief of several New York unions.

Debs on New Labor Body.

In a signed statement for the International Socialist Review E. V. Debs flatly contradicts the widely published report that he left the recent industrial convention at Chicago disgusted with its work in organizing the Industrial Workers of the World as a rival to the American Federation of Labor. He declares that the capitalist papers misrepresented the convention from the first and insists that its work is entirely satisfactory to him in uniting the working class in a revolutionary



Cornelius P. Shea.

organization. He calls attention to the fact that neither himself nor De Leon holds office in the new organization.

Against Printers' Demand.

Addressing the convention of the International Typographical union at Toronto, President George H. Ellis of the United Typothetae of America gave due warning that the proposed demand for an eight hour workday would be fought by the employing printers. Nevertheless the types decided to strike if necessary Jan. 1, 1906.

COMMERCIAL

A Floating Exposition.

The department of commerce and labor is informed that the Export Shipping company of New York is about to equip a steamer with representative American products to make a 6,000 mile trip around the world in the interests of American commerce. The idea was suggested by a magazine article written by an officer of the department.

Marshall Field's Wealth.

The Chicago board of tax review announces that Marshall Field will pay taxes on real estate valued at \$30,000,000 and on a personal valuation of \$10,000,000. It is said that Mr. Field pays without a murmur. Conservative estimates place his entire fortune in the neighborhood of \$150,000,000.

(Continued on page 3.)

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