

THE CRISIS IN EASTERN ASIA

Great Britain and the United States Alarmed at the Recent Action of Russia.

PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE

The Nicaraguan Canal Affair of Minor Importance Compared with the Problem that Confronts the Civilized Powers in the Far East. Russia's Course in Manchuria Has Aroused the Gravest Apprehensions—England, the United States and Japan Expected to Act in Concert in the Endeavor to Thwart Russia's Evident Purpose to Camp on the Richest Tracts in the Chinese Empire.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. London, March 8.—A crisis has arisen in the eastern Asia which is the opinion of the British government, is giving almost the troubles which occasionally turned the eyes of the world toward the continent. In this crisis secret negotiations are going on between the United States and Great Britain with a view to thwarting what both governments appear to consider a determined attempt by Russia to plant herself permanently in one of the richest tracts of the Chinese empire.

The conference held Wednesday between United States Ambassador Choate and Lord Lansdowne, the foreign secretary, had nothing to do with the Nicaraguan canal affair. To quote from a British official: "The Nicaraguan controversy is a minor matter compared with the present situation." What Mr. Choate did was to receive from Lord Lansdowne an important message declaring that Great Britain was not satisfied as to Russia's decision regarding Manchuria, as delivered by Sir Charles Stewart Scott, British ambassador at St. Petersburg, by Count Lamdorff, and asking the United States government to take joint action with Britain to prevent Russia from taking such a step.

The significance of the present phase can only be appreciated by those conversant with the lethargic attitude of the British government hitherto regarding Russian action in China. Within the last few days, however, such a change has occurred that a week or two ago was pronounced only in line with Russia's usual policy is now termed "a grave and serious state of affairs."

Lord Lansdowne is using every effort to bring the powers in line, in order to prevent in Russia any menacing from that, without any ambiguity regarding temporary orders, she may give up all designs upon Manchuria.

Nothing to Prevent Partition. Count Lamdorff's reply to Sir Charles Scott is considered quite unsatisfactory. "If such excuses are accepted by the powers," said a British official last evening to a representative of the Associated Press, "there will be nothing to prevent the immediate partition of China, for with almost exactly the same verbiage, any power could justify the occupation of the other provinces."

Upon the degree of support afforded the movement by London, however, depends the result of what is understood to be almost the synchronous action of Washington and London. The whole affair is guarded with the greatest secrecy, and it was not apparently without motive that a special dispatch was allowed to go from London erroneously announcing that the negotiations going on between Mr. Choate and Lord Lansdowne related to the Nicaragua canal.

There is much activity in Japan's naval, military and political circles regarding Russia's action in Manchuria. A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Kobe, dated March 8, "It is understood that 400 Russian marines, with ten guns, have landed at Masampo, Korea."

Our Position.
Washington, March 8.—Just what ex-

LIGHT UPON PARIS AFFAIR

Statements of Sixto Lopez Neutralized by Correspondence of Whitelaw Reid.

FILIPINOS AT PARIS

The Only One Who Was Heard by the Commission Wished the Hearing Kept Secret—Agoncillo Spent His Time at the Headquarters of the Spanish Commissioners and the Spanish Embassy—Hearings Will Be Given Whenever Asked.

DELAWARE WITHOUT U. S. SENATORS

State Legislature Adjourns Without Making a Selection—Addicks Threat Carried Out.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Dover, Del., March 8.—The last day of the present session of the legislature brought a large crowd to Dover. Promptly at 12 o'clock the senate convened the house chamber, where the joint session of the two houses was held. There was intense excitement when the presiding officer called for the ballot for United States senator.

The regular Republicans stood out firm against Addicks. The regular Democrats and a few members of the Republican party voted for Addicks. The regular Republicans stood out firm against Addicks. The regular Democrats and a few members of the Republican party voted for Addicks.

Mr. Harrison Ill.
The Ex-Senator's Closest Friends Are Alarmed at His Condition.

VICTORIAN ORDERS ARE CONFERRED.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. London, March 8.—Sir Thomas Lipton has been granted a knight command of the Victorian Order. Lieutenant Colonel Scott, of Strathmore's Horse, has been appointed to the fourth rank of the Victorian Order. The King of Greece and the Crown Prince of Denmark have received the honorary grand cross of the Victorian Order.

Has Not Given a Million.
By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Detroit, Pa., March 8.—John E. Dulais stated to the Associated Press correspondent this evening that there is no truth in the statement that he has given a million dollars to the Dunham Medical College of Chicago.

Prize Fighters Released.
By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Galveston, Texas, March 8.—The grand jury today released to defend a true bill against Chomovsk and a defender, the imprisoned prize fighters. They were released and immediately re-arrested on a new warrant. A habeas corpus writ was applied for.

MINISTER'S HEARING AT INKERMAN

Rev. J. J. Kilpin Fletcher Has a Narrow Escape from Justice as Administered by Squire Mulderig.

SEARCHLIGHT ON RIPPER

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Weather Indications Today. RAIN; CONTINUED WARM.

THE TRUCE IN AFRICA

General Botha Is Allowed Seven Days' Armistice in Which to Confer with Other Officers. THE TERMS OF PEACE

Lord Kitchener Meets the Boer Commanders and Negotiations for a Cessation of Hostilities Are Entered Into—The Surrender to Include De Wet or His Suppression and the Laying Down of Arms by All Burghers—Negotiations Begun Some Days Ago.

SENATOR MAGEE PASSES AWAY

The Well-Known Pittsburgh Statesman Dies at Harrisburg. Sketch of a Busy Life.

DUTIES ABOLISHED ON CUBAN TOBACCO

President Takes Action on the Earnest Recommendation of the Economic Commission.

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Rev. J. J. Kilpin Fletcher Has a Narrow Escape from Justice as Administered by Squire Mulderig.

Special to the Scranton Tribune. Pittston, March 8.—Rev. J. J. Kilpin Fletcher, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Pittston, had a hearing before Alderman Mulderig at Inkerman this evening on charges of disorderly conduct and inciting riot. John Kowalski appearing as prosecutor. The charges preferred were to the effect that at a meeting conducted by the Rev. Vincent Dillon, in Booth's hall, at that time mentioned by Fletcher, he was seen to flourish a revolver and behave in a belligerent manner calculated to arouse the populace to deeds of violence.

The defendant brought two witnesses to the trial at this time mentioned by Fletcher, but they were taken in charge by Alderman Mulderig and he was seen to flourish a revolver and behave in a belligerent manner calculated to arouse the populace to deeds of violence.

Fletcher refused to deliver the case and was committed. A telephone message was sent to Wilkes-Barre, and H. J. Mahon soon arrived with papers from Judge Haldy granting an appeal from the decision of the bench of Inkerman and allowing the defendant to enter bail in the sum of \$30.

After some hesitations, the sentence was annulled to honor the request of the Wilkes-Barre magistrate and released the prisoner. After the hearing a warrant was served upon Prosecutor Kowalski and his principal witness on a charge of perjury, and they were taken before Alderman Evans for hearing.

These suits are among the many that have resulted from the action of Mayor Corcoran, some time ago, in sending police officers to break up meetings held by Rev. Vincent Dillon.

DUTIES ABOLISHED ON CUBAN TOBACCO

President Takes Action on the Earnest Recommendation of the Economic Commission.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, March 8.—The president today issued an executive order abolishing the Cuban export duty on tobacco from April 1 next. This action was taken on the earnest recommendation of the Cuban economic commission, which recently visited Washington, and was endorsed by General Wood, the previous order had been issued fixing an export duty of 50 per cent on Cuban tobacco from April 1. Today's action removes the export duty entirely.

General Wood's approval of the removal of this export duty is practically an expression of his belief that the Cuban revenues from other sources are sufficient for the needs of the insular government. The original idea was that tobacco tax was necessary to defray the financial requirements of the government.

The abolition of duty affects cigars and cigarettes, as well as tobacco in bulk, filler or cut. All of the various tobaccos will be given the various rates of duty.

The loss of revenue will be more than offset by the encouragement to planters in Cuba to increase their production of tobacco. The extent of the trade affected by the order is very large; the tobacco exports amounting to about \$20,000,000 a year. Of this, by far the larger part goes to the United States. The total value of the manufactured tobacco exported within the seven months ended July 31 last was \$3,209,000, and the larger portion came to this country.

The total value of the sugar exports for the seven months was \$40,000,000.

BIG GUN JUMPS FROM CARRIAGE

Accident at the United States Ordnance Proving Ground at Fort Wadsworth.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, March 8.—While a firing squad from the United States ordnance department's proving ground at Sandy Hook was testing a six-inch Armstrong gun at Fort Wadsworth this afternoon, the gun jumped from the carriage and caused considerable damage to the carriage. The gun itself was not injured. No body was hurt. Captain Whidley, who was in command at Wadsworth tonight, said the accident was not an unusual one and that no harm had been done.

While a test of smokeless powder was being made at the ordnance proving ground today, the breechblock of a ten-inch rifle, which was being used, blew out. Considerable damage to the mechanism of the rifle itself was not done. The pieces of broken block were scattered about and some damage done.

Strike Against Negroes.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Allentown, Pa., March 8.—Because eight colored people were given employment in the striping department of Thoresen Brothers at the clear factory, the forty-eight white strippers struck this afternoon, compelling the entire loss of their hands, to shut down.

Ballot Reform Conference.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Harrisburg, March 8.—The conference of leading Pennsylvania Democrats to consider ballot reform, which was to have been held in this city, will be held on Monday at state headquarters.

Arousing the Boxers.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. London, March 8.—The Fin-Pin correspondent of the Standard asserts that panic-stricken and severely circulated villagers foreigners and visiting the Boxers to make renewed efforts.

SEARCHLIGHT ON RIPPER

The Constitutionality of the Muehlbronner Charter Will Be Determined in Thirty Days.

WILL BE TESTED IN LACKAWANNA COURTS

Ex-Senator McDonald Appears as Relator with a Petition Attacking the Alleged Deficiencies of the Measure—To Determine the Recorder's Position—Must Show by What Right He Has Assumed the Offices and Functions of Recorder Under the Provisions of the Muehlbronner Charter While There Are Doubts Expressed as to Its Constitutionality.

Special from a Staff Correspondent. Harrisburg, March 8.—The constitutionality of the Muehlbronner charter will probably be determined within the next thirty days.

It will be first passed upon by the court of Lackawanna county and, no matter what its decision may be, the case will be immediately taken to the Supreme court.

The question being one of great public importance it is probable that, at the suggestion of the attorney general, it will be given first place upon the calendar and finally disposed of at the next session of the Supreme court.

At Harrisburg, today, the initial step in the development of the constitutionality of the charter, and its ripper attachment, was taken. A petition, attacking the alleged weaknesses of the act, from a constitutional standpoint, was submitted to Attorney General John P. Eikin, the petitioner, or relator, is ex-Senator M. E. McDonald, a Democrat, a resident of Scranton and one of its most prominent business men.

The attorney general granted a suggestion, which embraces the points raised by Relator McDonald, also the objections filed by counsel for the recorder, defines the issue and furnishes a basis for a demand for writ of quo warrantu.

The Recorder's Position.

The counsel for the relator, who by virtue of the suggestion issued by the attorney general represent the commonwealth, will tomorrow morning submit the question to President Judge R. W. Archbald with a petition for a writ returnable at the earliest possible day.

The writ will force the recorder to appear and show by what right he has assumed the office and functions of recorder, under the provisions of the Muehlbronner charter, the same having been alleged to be unconstitutional. The writ will be issued and the matter argued before the full bench some day next week, it is expected.

Scene Has Shifted.

The scene has shifted, from a legal standpoint. It had been expected that the steps preliminary to a settlement of the constitutionality of the charter would have been taken in Allegheny county, and that they would be instituted immediately upon the announcement of today forestalling such action.

In fact, a legal issue could not be raised there until a recorder was appointed and it seems probable that none will be until after the Supreme court has passed upon the Scranton case.

The case will be tried in Allegheny county courts, the proceedings of today forestalling such action.

To Argue the Petition.

Attorney Joseph O'Brien, who, with ex-City Solicitor Ira H. Burns and District Attorney W. R. Lewis, representing Recorder Moe, and at noon presented themselves at Attorney General Eikin's office to argue the petition.

Ordinarily, the petition is first presented and a future time for hearing fixed at the convenience of the respondent's attorney, but the importance of the case and expediency of an early settlement of the dispute which threatens turmoil to three of the biggest cities of the commonwealth, have prompted the relator's attorneys to have the respondent's attorney present at the presentation of the petition.

The petition attacks the Muehlbronner bill in several, but particularly assails the feature of the "ripper" clause which attempts to continue a governor's appointment beyond an intervening municipal election. The Senator Veller contention, treated in yesterday's dispatches, is included among the grounds of assault and a specific attack is based on the ground that a recorder provided for by a second class city act cannot be appointed for Scranton, because as Scranton has not as yet organized as a second-class city.

Vosburg's Defense.

City Solicitor Vosburg was heard at length in defense of the act, but his

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

Weather Indications Today. RAIN; CONTINUED WARM.

- 1 General—Scheme to Test Constitutionality of the Ripper.
- 2 Alarm Action of Russia, Armistice in South Africa, Sixto Lopez's Statements Neutralized.
- 3 General—Cathodode Department.
- 4 General—Scheme to Test Constitutionality of the Ripper (Continued).
- 5 Editorial, Note and Comment.
- 6 Local—Social and Personal, Scientific Salad.
- 7 Local—Banquet of Lafayette Alumni, Slot Machines Raised.
- 8 Local—Recorder Moe's Appointment, Street Car Men's Demands.
- 9 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
- 10 General—Northernmost Pennsylvania, Financial and Commercial.
- 11 General—London Letter, Fashions for the Coming Season.
- 12 Local—Religious News of the Week, Sunday School Lesson for Tomorrow.
- 13 Local—Live News of the Industrial World, Dunmore News Budget.

THE TRUCE IN AFRICA

General Botha Is Allowed Seven Days' Armistice in Which to Confer with Other Officers. THE TERMS OF PEACE

Lord Kitchener Meets the Boer Commanders and Negotiations for a Cessation of Hostilities Are Entered Into—The Surrender to Include De Wet or His Suppression and the Laying Down of Arms by All Burghers—Negotiations Begun Some Days Ago.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. London, March 8.—In a special dispatch from Pretoria, dated today (Friday), it is said that General Kitchener and General Botha had a long conference on the 11th inst., and that General Botha was alone. General Kitchener was accompanied by his secretary. Another dispatch from Pretoria, evidently delayed by the censor, contains the news that General Kitchener met General Botha and other Boer leaders at Middleburg, on the railroad between Pretoria and the frontier of Portuguese East Africa, on Feb. 27, when the question of the possibility of the termination of hostilities was discussed.

It is said that the meeting has awakened deep interest, and that there are favorable expectations as to the probable outcome.

According to the Sun, the surrender of General Botha would have been an accomplished fact before now had General Kitchener been in a position to conclude the terms of surrender. When the surrender is made, the Sun adds it will include the yielding of General De Wet or his suppression, and it will involve the termination of the war.

Kruger Wants War.

Amsterdam, March 8.—The news that General Botha is negotiating with Lord Kitchener has caused much excitement here in the Boer colony. The belief among the representative Boers in Holland is that Botha will probably give in to the English. President Kruger, however, remains obdurate in his determination that the war should be carried on, and it is believed that President Kruger will hold out to the end.

DUN'S REVIEW OF TRADE.

Little Change Developed During the Past Week in General Business. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, March 8.—D. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade Conditions. "Little change was developed this week in the condition of general business. Conditions in iron and steel begin to assume an appearance similar to that of 1900. Prices have moved upward rapidly since the turn was made, and bids at current rates for distant delivery are being received. Manufacturers are unanimous in regarding a great deal of business as being in prospect. While export contracts for finished forms were still taken in competition with declining foreign markets, it is at such a time when the outlook is bright and quotations advancing sharply, that the conservative man becomes conscious of the fact that there is always danger of inflation when optimism goes beyond bounds. Granting that there is no panic on the border, it is to be remembered that exports of iron and steel have been smaller of late, and yet the present production is far in excess of domestic consumption even allowing a moderate increase over previous years.

"Failures for the week were 203 in the United States against 235 last year, and 20 in Canada against 35 last year."

THE LARGEST OPAL.

King Edward Will Be Presented a Gem Two Inches Long.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. London, March 8.—Mr. Maurice Lyons, a lawyer of Bradford, intends to give King Edward what is believed to be the largest and finest opal in the world, within the opinion of London lapidaries. It is said to weigh two and a half ounces and is of a rich, fiery red color. It was discovered by Maurice Lyons in 1890, and he has since been endeavoring to secure a title for it.

Physical Culture Bill Signed.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Harrisburg, March 8.—Governor Stone today signed a bill relating to the study of physical culture in the public schools in cities. He also disapproved a bill to amend an act of April 15, 1900, relating to county and township officers. His reasons for the veto is that there is nothing in the laws a similar nature, but more general in its character.

Pan-American Commission.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Harrisburg, March 8.—The governor today appointed the following gentlemen to serve upon the Interstate state commission to the Pan-American exposition: Hon. Joseph B. Folger, of Allentown; Colonel James H. Wynn, of Philadelphia; James S. McAnulty, of Scranton; J. N. Pew, of Pittsburgh; and Joseph L. Ewing, of Philadelphia.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, March 8.—For Eastern Pennsylvania: Wind and continued warm. Saturday: ameliorated with fresh to brisk on the coast. Sunday: rain.