

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.—Robert Louis Stevenson's estate will probably prove to be worth between \$100,000 and \$150,000. Most of this will be from profits from his books, but a share of it will be from the estate of his father, the famous lighthouse keeper.

DENVER, Colo., April 12.—It is now understood here that the prisoner at Pocatello, Idaho, for whom requisition has been obtained, is not James McDonald, said to be the murderer of Detective Al Moore, but Bob Lansing, one of the other two prisoners who escaped at the time of the shooting.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 12.—The President made these appointments today:

Interior—Geo. W. Meyers, register of the land office at Miles City, Mont.; mineral land commissioners for Helena land district, Montana—Edward H. Movius, of Buffalo; Miles Cavannah, of Helena, and Lyman E. Barnes, of Appleton, Wis.

Mineral land commissioners for Missoula land district in Montana—Wm. Harrison, Georgetown, Ga.; Frank M. Leonard, Libbey, Mont.; Wm. V. Hopkins, Prescott, Ark.

Mineral land commissioners for Roseman land district in Montana—James A. Johnson, Roseman, Mont.; Bishop P. Blackwell, Florida.

Mineral land commissioners for the Couer D'Alene district, Idaho; Addison A. Crane, Harrison, Idaho; Wallace McLaurine, Jackson, Miss.; Albert J. Pearson, Woods Field, O.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 12.—Official advices received at the Japanese legation today from Japan indicate that an understanding has been reached between the Japanese and Chinese plenipotentiaries and news of a definite conclusion of peace may be expected any time. The exact terms of peace cannot be ascertained, but it is understood that in response to the repeated requests of the Chinese plenipotentiaries for an abatement of the demands originally made by them, the Japanese plenipotentiaries have granted some concessions.

Briefs the foregoing official message is, it marks the close of the Japan-China war, harring the possibility, of course, of some unexpected hitch at the last moment. The announcement of the exact terms of peace is yet to come, but from what is known of the negotiations thus far the general nature of the peace terms is evident.

The two conditions which have caused trouble are the permanent occupation of Port Arthur and the payment of 300,000,000 taels. While no official information is available and no statement whatever regarding the terms of peace can be obtained, it is probable that it is on these conditions the Japanese plenipotentiaries have yielded. Just how much they have yielded on the occupation of Port Arthur may have a vital consequence. If they have yielded entirely, it removes Japan from all occupancy of the mainland and from a strategic command of the Gulf of Pechili leading to Peking. At one time Japan was willing to occupy Port Arthur for a term of years, and this may be the middle ground of agreement, although

it is necessarily conjectural at present. The purpose of a temporary occupation, it is said, would be to prevent China from re-arming and retaliating against Japan for a term of years at least. If the money demanded has been reduced, little significance will attach to that fact except that it will lighten China's burden.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 13.—Dr. W. O. Wilcox, the demonstrator of anatomy, of the California Medical College had a narrow escape from death Friday at the hands of a maddened morphine eater.

Dr. Wilcox returned from the college of the faculty about 12 o'clock. In the patients' sitting room stood a young man of about 28 years of age with that sallowness of complexion which betokens the excessive use of some deadly drug. His eyes glared fiercely, and he trembled with suppressed excitement.

"He told me he desired to see me urgently," said Dr. Wilcox in speaking of the affair. "I detected that he was a morphine fiend, and, as I do not care to treat such patients, I told him he would have to go elsewhere. I entered the consulting room, and, despite my protest, he followed me. I threatened to remove him, whereupon he burst into tears and begged I would give him only one 'shot' of the drug. I hesitated, and his manner became threatening. In the next moment I was in the presence of a madman.

"The morphine fiend now commanded that the request be complied with. On the operating table lay a keen surgeon's knife, with a blade six inches in length. The madman's attention was directed toward it, and in another moment he had possessed himself of it. 'Give me morphine, or I will cut your heart out,' he hissed."

Dr. Wilcox did not lose his presence of mind or evince fear. He laughed at the fellow's threat.

"I thought of calling for help," said he, "but I feared that would precipitate matters. The fellow showed by his conduct that he thought only of wreaking vengeance on me, and in fact, he had forgotten all about morphine. I stood near my drug case, and the first object that my eye rested upon was a six-ounce bottle of chloroform. I quickly grabbed it, and had hardly done so when the fiend made a lunge at me with the knife. I removed the cork, and as he followed me I dashed some of the liquid into his face. It stopped him for a moment, and in the interval I soaked my handkerchief with the fluid. He sprang at me again, and the next instant I grabbed his right arm with my left hand and with the other held the saturated handkerchief over his mouth and nostrils. He struggled furiously, but as he was physically weak I succeeded in holding him long enough to give the chloroform a chance to do its work. He sank to the floor completely anesthetized. I then gave him a 'shot' of morphine and when he became conscious he disclaimed all knowledge of his attack upon me and left the office. I never saw him before, and hope never to see him again."

Dr. Wilcox escaped without a scratch, but his coat was badly cut.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13.—An ominous lull has occurred since the first brief dispatch came from Japan that an understanding had been reached. The concessions leading to the agreement have not been reported, and it is stated they will not be made known for a week or ten days. There is no doubt China has appealed to Russia and other European nations against the terms Japan originally proposed.

An interesting question arises as to whether the unmistakable threats of Russia and the appeal of that nation for intervention by the powers, was antecedent or subsequent to the peace understanding reported yesterday between China and Japan. The view of the state department officials is that the advices from Russia are really based upon the status of the peace negotiations several days ago, and that since then the Japanese conditions have been materially modified, and are now assuming such shape as to make them more agreeable to Russia or to other great European powers.

SHANGHAI, April 13.—The *Mercury* today reports that the Japanese have presented an ultimatum to Viceroy Li Hung Chang, the Chinese peace commissioner, demanding that China accept or refuse the terms offered by Japan no later than tomorrow. The paper says: The Japanese reduced her claim for money indemnity by 100,000,000 yen and is also satisfied with the cession of the Shing King peninsula on which Port Arthur stands and will not demand additional territory. It is reported the peace party is willing to accept these terms but the Hunan party is holding out.

QUINCY, Ill., April 13.—Judge Epler, Adams county court, has practically disfranchised nearly all of the 1,100 men at the Soldiers Home. The Robbins-Roth election contest was on trial and the legality of the ballots of soldiers at the home was being investigated. A veteran named John Oakley testified that he had a wife living in Peoria to whose support he contributed from his pension, and Judge Epler decided that the special act of the legislature permitting the soldiers to vote here applied only to such of them as had no wives or had abandoned them.

He held that the residence of the wife was the legal home of the husband, and that the old soldier could not vote here when he had a wife living in another city. Most of the veterans have wives in other cities of the state.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 13.—The Illinois magnificent \$5,000,000 state house caught fire in the senate wing shortly after noon today and in a few minutes it looked as if that portion would be gutted. The fire in supposed to have originated in one of the committee rooms, but from what cause is not known. The fire spread rapidly, and soon the whole immense building filled with smoke so it was with great difficulty the firemen found their way through the labyrinth of hallways and rooms of the upper part of the capitol. In the wing of the building where the fire was raging the auditor's office, state treasury and the offices of the insurance commissioner and agricultural board are located. Wild con-