CHINA FINALLY WAKING UP.

Realizes That a Great Peril Will Confront Her in Event of a Russo-Japanese War.

SITUATION GROWING GRAVER.

Japan Rejects the Fundamental Points At Issue Between the Two Governments.

Pekin, Dec. 22.—The Chinese officials are awakening to the peril confronting China in the event of a Russo-Japanese war, and they are greatly distressed. Wu Ting Fang has been urging the United States legation on his own responsibility, to seek a special audience of the dowager empress and impress on her China's perilous position and the need of a strong army.

China will attempt to remain neutral though doubtless she will be subjected to strong Japanese pressure to participate in a conflict for the preservation of her integrity. The officials here recognize that the remnant of China's sovereignty in Manchuria is lost if Russia succeeds, and see the difficulty of China avoiding becoming entagled in a war on her own territory.

SITUATION GROWS WORSE.

Tokio, Dec. 22.—It is asserted in official circles here that the Japanese reply to Russia rejects the fundamental points at issue which are understood to include mutual guarantees for the preservation of Chinese and Korean sovereignty while securing their individual interests.

The situation is graver than since the commencement of the negotiations, but is still susceptible of a pacific solution if Russia will quickly reconsider her reply.

The fact that Foreign Minister Komura called on Baron de Roseh, the Russian minister, yesterday, instead of Baron Rosen calling on Komura, is explained by the fact that the baron is suffering from an ear affection. But the explanation has obvious diplomatic significance, and is interpreted that Japan is determined not to afford Russia possible ground for claiming Japanese impetuosity as an excuse. Komura's communication is not believed officially to necessarily be tantamount to an ultimatum, as rumored.

War preparations continue apace. The troops and the warships can sail at five minutes' notice. The Japanese government proposes immediately to undertake the completion of the Seoul-Fusan railroad under the direct supervision of Japan.

Popular sentiment and the press are eagerly urging the government to set a limit to the "Russian tactics of aggression and insolent negligence."

A STRANGE DEATH.

Fear of Death Kills an Old Lady In Chicago.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—"Dead because she thought she had been poisoned," was the singular verdict pronounced by Coroner's Physician Springer today after performing an autopsy on the body of Virginia Jackson, an aged colored woman. The autopsy was performed in the belief that the strange circumstances of the woman's death were indicative of murder.

"This old woman thought she had been poisoned," said Springer, "and it affected her heart to such an extent that it killed her. The heart actually burst." A neighbor gave her medicine and she concluded on feeling ill immediately afterward that she had been poisoned. The fear of death killed her.

P. GIRARD ARRESTED.

He is Wanted for the Murder of Deputy Sheriff McKinnon.

Red Bluff, Cal., Dec. 22.—P. Girard, who is wanted in Sonoma county for the murder of Deputy Sheriff McKinnon of Hardy county, Or., whom he killed while resisting arrest, near Gurnesville a few months ago, was arrested today. He had been working on the ranch of Mrs. M. E. Wilcox as a wood chopper and was identified by R. Brower, who chanced to see a photograph of McKinnon's murderer. Sheriff Boyd and City Marshall Ward went to the Wilcox ranch at 3 o'clock this morning but found that Girard had fled to the hills. They followed him and after several shots had been exchanged Girard called out that he had been wounded and would surrender, stating that he was the man wanted. He was brought here and lodged in jail, pending the arrival of officers from Sonoma county. His wounds are not serious.

Fell Through Ice and Drowned.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 22.—The bodies of John Ryan and Miss Leonora Zornig were found this afternoon in Berkeley lake. They went skating Saturday evening and fell through the ice. Ryan's parents live at Grand Junction, Ia. He was about 19 years of age and came here a short time ago for his health. Miss Zornig also came here from Iowa, but she has a sister living in California.

Contract for Carriers Bundles.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The postmaster-general has awarded the contract for leather straps for letter carriers' bundles to Headley & Farmer of Newark, N. J., the prices for the three sizes used being 4, 5 and 6 cents each, or about one-third, it is stated at the postoffice department, the amount paid for the straps by A. W. Machen, former superintendent of the free delivery system.

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BEST SELLING BOOKS.

Record for November.

According to the records of all booksellers, the six books which have sold best in the order of demand during the month are:

1. The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come. Fox..... ....$1.50
2. The Call of the Wild. London.. 1.50
3. Rebecca. Wiggin 1.25
4. The One Woman. Dixon..... 1.50
5. The Adventures of Gerard. Doyle... .... 1.50
6. The Sherrods. McCutcheon 1.50

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PANAMA IS NOW A CLOSED INCIDENT

United States' Refusal to Submit It to Hague Tribunal Will be Approved by Powers.

QUESTION OF COLOMBIA'S DEBT.

Assumption of Part of it by the New Republic Would be Considered Proper.

Washington, Dec. 22.—"Refusal by the United States to consent to a proposition from Colombia for a reference of the Panama question to The Hague tribunal is expected and will be fully approved by the European powers."

This statement was made to a representative of the Associated Press tonight by a European ambassador of high rank. It has already been made in substance, though in rather more diplomatic language, to Gen. Rafael Reyes, the Colombian minister, who is expected in his forthcoming note to the state department to suggest The Hague tribunal as the proper place for the settlement of the isthmian problem Whether the knowledge that the refusal of such a request, so far from prejudicing the European powers against the Washington government, will call forth their emphatic endorsement, will cause Gen. Reyes to modify his note, is not yet certain.

The ambassador quoted, in explaining the attitude of European powers, said:

"Panama is a closed chapter in the history of nations, and The Hague court is not the place for settled questions, but for pending problems which are referred to it with the approval of all the parties interested. When Russia, Germany and France recognized the independence of Panama they set their seal of approval on the prompt action of the Washington government in pledging itself to guarantee and maintain the independence of the republic it had previously recognized. Nations can hardly be expected to settle questions of sovereignty or national honor at The Hague. Moreover, in my opinion, it would not be within the province of the Washington government to grant such a request from Colombia. It is to Panama, not to Washington, that Colombia should take such a proposition.

"There is, however, a question between Colombia and Panama which with all propriety might be referred to The Hugue, and to which reference the United States will scarcely offer objection. It is the question of the assumption by Panama of a part of the Colombian debt. If Gen. Reyes should ask the United States to use its good offices to have this matter brought before The Hague, Panama might safely acquiesce in such a proposition. The difficulty in making this request would be that Colombia thereby would recognize the independence of the new republic, but this must come sooner or later."

At the navy department the statement is made tonight that the instructions to the naval commander in isthmian waters to "prevent the landing of forces with hostile intent," have not been modified. These instructions, it is believed, are sufficiently comprehensive to enable the commanders to maintain open transit across the isthmus and to protect the new republic from Colombian expeditions.

WITH AN INSANE MAN.

Brandishing a Knife He Made Gov. Mickey say Dietrich is Innocent.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 22.—Cyayton S. Deeter, an escaped inmate of the Grand Island Soldiers' Home, armed with a huge paper knife, succeeded in getting into Gov. Mickey's private office today. Brandishing his weapon he declared that Senator Deitrich, now under indictment for bribery, was innocent, and compelled the governor to express the same view. Gov. Mickey was agreeing to everything the insane man declared when capitol employes rushed in and overpowered the man.

Pope Grants a Dispensation.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The apsotolic delegation has received word from Rome that the pope has granted a dispensation from abstinence on New Year's day, which falls on Friday this year. The delegation has sent out circular letters to all the bishops, notifying them of this fact.

N. E. SOCIETY OF N. Y.

Holds a Grand Annual Dinner in The Waldorf-Astoria.

New York, Dec. 22.—The annual dinner of the New England Society of the City of New York, held tonight in the Waldorf-Astoria, was a more notable affair than any held during the 98 years since the incorporation of the society. There were 554 diners.

After a toast had been drunk to the "President of the United States," Whitelaw Reid spoke on "Forefathers' Day." Passing to a consideration of national expansion, he said:

"Shall we find that safe course by roaming the oceans to drag in semi-tropical and revolutionary communities, to be made states in the American Union, equal from the start to ourselves, with sometimes, perhaps a balance of power that may enable them to govern us and the land of our fathers? Such questions have burst upon us too suddenly out of our recent expansion to justify at the outset harsh criticism of any rash or ill-considered proposals that may rise to the surface in the first froth of public discussion. But I venture to predict that the time will come within the lives of many who now hear me when the man who shall propose the incorporation as a state into this government of the United States of America of any island of the sea, the Philippines, the Sandwich Islands, or Porto Rico or Cuba, will be hunted from political life as a political enemy, whether he be animated merely by lingering reminiscences of the filibusterers and the slavery propaganda or whether he represent a sugar trust in Wall street or a sagebrush trust in the United States senate."

E. P. Christie of Boise Bankrupt.

Boise, Ida., Dec. 22.—A petition for voluntary bankruptcy has been filed in the United States district court by E. P. Christie, proprietor of the Good Luck market. Mr. Christie schedules his liabilities at $13,356 and places his assets at $12,594. The latter item, however, includes a $5,000 residence property in Sacramento, which is covered by mortgage to nearly its full value, and about $2,500 in open accounts due him which are said to be of little value.

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