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NEWS FROM AMERICA.

THE U. S. AND JAPAN.

The Franco-Japanese Treaty, which bears the character of an alliance, is regarded in Washington political circles as being completely outside the sphere of American diplomacy. The only negotiations between America and Japan of which it may be said they are pending or will probably soon become the object of diplomatic relations, bear on the clauses of a possible immigration treaty. From a diplomatic point of view the San Francisco incident, when the mob attacked Japanese subjects, is settled. The offer of the French Government to act as mediators in bringing about an enduring understanding between the United States and Japan has been received with the same cordiality with which it was made, and is regarded as an eminently fortunate contribution to the cordial understanding between France and the United States; it is not probable, however, that America will avail herself of it.

THE IDAHO MURDER TRIAL.

In the latter part of his evidence, Orchard said that before the Gregory murder Parker and Davis told him of a plot to wreck the Florence and Cripple Creek train near a curve in the mountains, where the train would plunge into a gulch far below. Parker said something must be done to scare off the "scabs," who were taken to the mines and home again over that line.

At the time Orchard said he had not been paid for the Vindicator job, the wrecking by dynamite of the Vindicator Mine in November, 1903, when two men were killed, and he was without resources. He accordingly decided to tell the railway authorities about the plot, because he wanted his money. He did tell one railroad man, thus preventing a disaster.

Moyer, he said, attended the trials of Parker and Davis, who were charged with causing the explosion in the Vindicator Mine, and with attempting train-wrecking. The witness stated that he frequently saw Moyer at that time, and that the latter told him that he thought it better not to do anything while the trials were in progress.

The most important piece of evidence supplied by Orchard, however, was his account of how he blew up the railway station at Independence, Colorado, by the direction of Haywood, Pettibone, Simpkins, and Parker.

Almost from the moment when Orchard took up his position on the witness stand he told his story in soft easy tones. Twice the eyes of Orchard and Haywood met, and they gazed fixedly at each other; neither gave way.

Before the adjournment, Orchard, without displaying the slightest feeling, related the story of how he blew up the railway station at Independence, Colorado. He said that Haywood and others anticipated a split up in the Convention, and if something were done at Cripple Creek they thought that the excitement aroused there would make everything go all right, and the delegates would go home. He gave Steve Adam the money to purchase the powder to be used. On the following night he was informed by Sherman Parker that several members of the Convention were coming to Independence to investigate the conditions there, and was told to hold off until they had left.

"They left on the Sunday morning," continued Orchard, "and on Sunday evening we placed a hundred pounds of powder beneath the platform. We attached a wire, and awaited the train's arrival. The train brought non-unionists. Steve Adams and I both pulled a string, upsetting several bottles of sulphuric acid, which ran over into a box of giant caps. These exploded the powder. The station was wrecked, and 12 or 14 persons killed."

Orchard said that after camping for several days he went to Denver, and met Haywood, Pettibone and Kirwin, who was now acting as secretary of

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the Western Federation of Miners. They spoke of the Independence explosion, and Pettibone declared that he was well pleased with the job. Haywood said it was a good thing, and everything had gone well in the convention.

Orchard told Haywood that he wanted 300 dollars. He said he would send them by Pettibone, and on the following day Pettibone gave Orchard that amount. Adams said that he had received 200 dollars. Orchard next related how when he learned that he was "wanted" for blowing up Independence station, he went to Dakota.

While there he received a letter from Pettibone saying that he (Orchard) was accused of the Independence affair. He then returned to Denver, demanded and received a sum of money, and was sent to San Francisco with instructions to locate Fred Bradley, formerly manager of the Sullivan and Bunker's Hill mine, in Idaho. He went to Bradley's home one morning when the milk was delivered, and placed strychnine in the can. The poison falling, he purchased ten pounds of gelatine and powder, of which he made a bomb. He arranged it so that when Bradley opened the door it would explode.

Asked as to the result, Orchard said when Bradley opened the door next morning the explosion blew out the front of the House and blew him into the street.

After this Pettibone sent 450 dollars to Orchard, who made no further attempts on Bradley, as the latter was badly injured.

CHEAP RAILWAY FARES.

The first trouble over the action of a number of State Legislatures in passing laws compelling railroads to issue tickets at two cents a mile has arisen at Pittsburg, where the Pennsylvania Company is at loggerheads with its commutatory or season ticket holders. The trouble is likely to extend all over the great Pennsylvania system, and doubtless in time to other lines.

The idea of the railway people evidently is that by conducting their business just within the exact limits of the law and their charters they will raise such an outcry as to lead to negotiations which shall bring about the repeal of the obnoxious two cent fare law. The companies are not legally bound to grant privilege ticket facilities to their customers; and this being so, the Pennsylvania Company announces that it will cease to issue them as existing contracts fall in; and they will also cease to issue books of tickets at reduced fares. The Pennsylvania Railway Company is a very powerful corporation, but its wisdom in taking the present line of action is gravely questioned, while its ability to carry its plans through successfully is challenged.

There is some talk of all the railway companies combining, but the lawyers say that such a proceeding might bring them within the grasp of the law. Business men unconnected with the railway interest are of opinion that the companies would have been much better advised to accept the two cent law cheerfully; and they maintain that in the long run the cheap fares could be made to pay well.

THE ATTEMPT ON PRESIDENT CABRERA.

Advices from Guatemala City state that the fate of the conspirators charged with having attempted the assassination of President Cabrera, in April last, was decided yesterday by the Guatemalan Revision Court.

Death sentences were passed in the cases of 12 of the accused, while two others, who were of Italian nationality, were sentenced to imprisonment for 15 years.

Of those condemned to death 11 are natives, and the twelfth a Spaniard.

The Government has received a petition for modification of the sentences on foreigners, and have expressed themselves ready to arrange this. The diplomatic representatives of the interested countries will await the result of the petition before they make representations in the name of their countries.

TERRIBLE MOTOR-CAR ACCIDENT.

During the New York-Albany durability contest a terrible accident occurred. A very powerful car belonging to the Director of the Standard Brake Company collided with a street-car. The motor-car was smashed to pieces; the Director was killed on the spot, the other occupants of the car being injured, two of them severely.

VENEZUELAN FINANCES.

President Castro on Friday read a Message to Congress. In it he stated that the relations with friendly Powers were cordial. Within a short time the claims of Great Britain, Germany and Italy would be satisfied and as soon as those were settled a suitable sum would be employed to pay off outstanding liabilities.

RAILWAY STRIKE IN CHILL.

It is announced from Santiago that the engine drivers and lower officials of the railway have gone on strike: they demand increased pay.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

THE CHAMBER.

M. Pressensé questioned the Government as to the instructions to be given to the French Delegates to the Hague Conference. He said that in the fact that Europe stood in arms lay the germ of conflicts and it would be a crime not to work for good results from the Conference. Since the French Government had not taken up the initiative given by Russia, this initiative in the matter of limitation of armaments had naturally been taken by England, and for the world that was a precious implement of peace.

M. Pressensé then gave an historical survey of the reduction of armaments and concluded by saying that French Democracy was passionately in favour of peace and would not pardon the French Government were it to conclude a Triple Alliance at the Hague Conference.

M. Pichon then spoke and alluded to the first Peace Conference at which the signatory Powers found themselves faced with the necessity of taking refuge in courts of arbitration under circumstances which made it more and more difficult for them to avoid such arbitration. At the coming conference 200 members would represent 47 Powers instead of 25 as at the first conference. He believed that this time the difficulty of making recourse to arbitration obligatory would be far greater than before, since the number of participating Powers would be greater. It would, however, be possible to establish a kind of international Peace-court, which could perform great services, by making mediation take the place of force more and more. As regards the disarmament question a concrete formula must be found which could lead to united action by the Powers; the formulae suggested hitherto were not adapted to that end. France would also play the rôle of mediator.

The House finally adopted an Order of the Day, approving of the Government statements.

The army committee has unanimously accepted a report relating to the reinstatement of Joseph Reinach in the Territorial Army and approved of the following Order of the Day: "In the opinion that the measures taken to compensate Dreyfus and Picquart and the proposals of the Government with reference to Reinach imply corresponding measures in favour of various officers who were dismissed from their posts in connection with l'affaire Dreyfus, the committee calls upon the Government to embody all these measures in a Bill."