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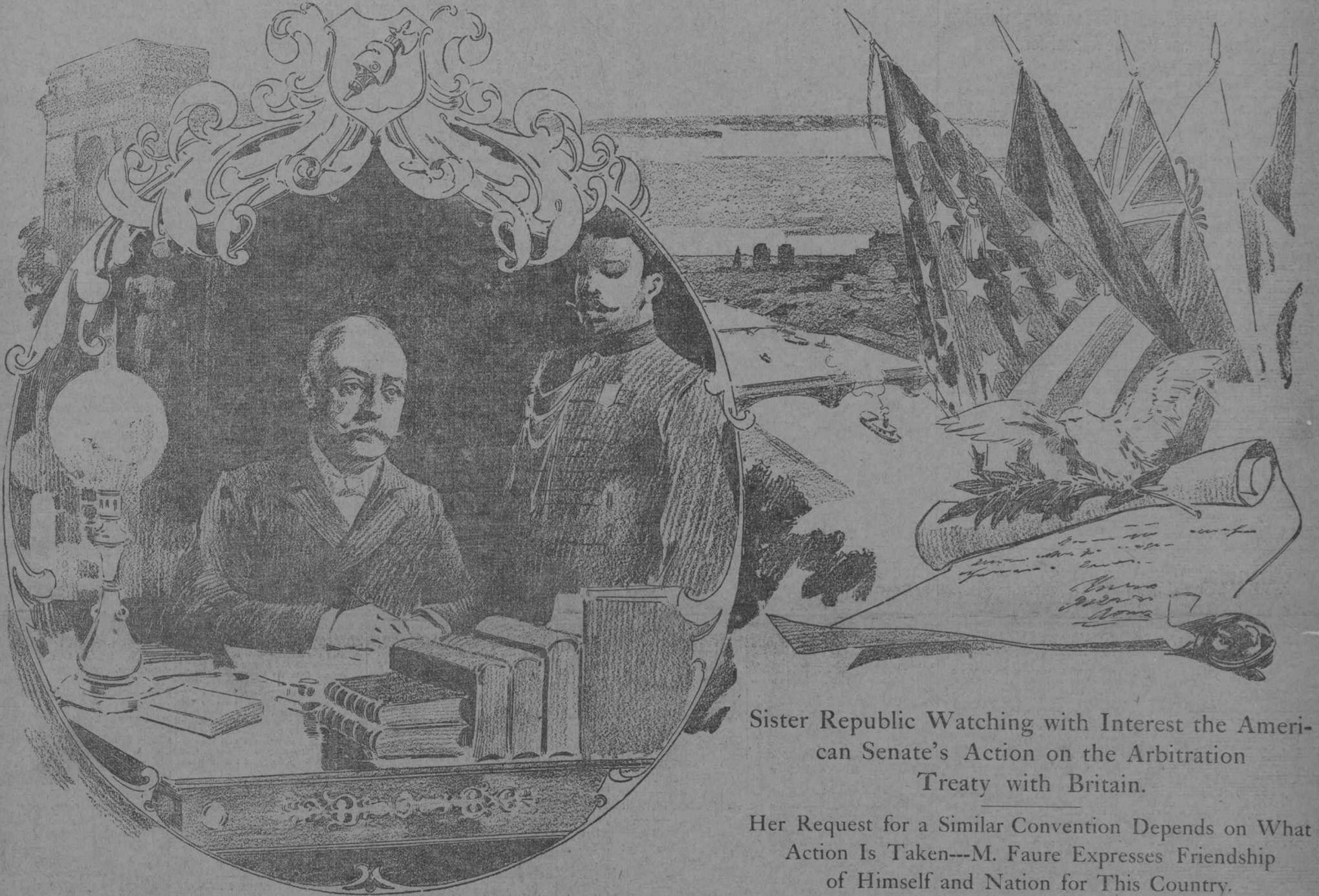
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PRESIDENT FAURE OF FRANCE TO THE JOURNAL.

Good Queen Lil, Who recently ceased queneing and is now looking after what is left of her royal fences, would like her old job back again. Can you blame her? Read what she says Sunday in the American Woman's Home Journal.



Sister Republic Watching with Interest the American Senate's Action on the Arbitration Treaty with Britain. Her Request for a Similar Convention Depends on What Action Is Taken---M. Faure Expresses Friendship of Himself and Nation for This Country.

By James Creelman.

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PARIS, Feb. 23.—The President of France received me to-day at the Elysee Palace and talked for half an hour on the subject of the pending arbitration between the United States and Great Britain. His guarded declarations indicate how vast and world-wide are the interests hanging upon the action of the American Senate, and how pregnant with good or evil influences the final decision of America may be.

These words, spoken by the head of the great nation which has proved to be the staunchest and sincerest friend we have in Europe, come from a man who knows not only the sentiments of his own people, but can speak with authority for most of Europe.

A Man of Great Ability.

He is not a political doctrinaire, but a hard-headed, self-made leader, whose moderation, intelligence and high character have lifted him to his great office. He is a plain man of the people, and, like several of the American Presidents, has earned his living by manual labor.

I was accompanied to the palace and presented to the President by Henry Vignaud, who, in the absence of Ambassador Eustis, is Charge d'Affaires of the United States in France.

When the question of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain came up in the conversation, the President showed the keenest interest.

"At a time like this," I said, "when the whole of Europe seems to be threatened by the danger of an armed conflict, the people of the United States are anxious to know what France thinks about

the American policy of arbitration as a partial substitute for war." "All Europe interested," says M. Faure.

At this the President half closed his keen blue eyes and drummed with his fingers on the big square desk before him. There was a moment of silence; no man in Europe is more careful of words than M. Faure, and the fact that the Anglo-American treaty is not pleasing to Russia, the formal ally of France, makes this particular question a difficult subject for frank utterance.

"This treaty is a very important step," he said. "France—all Europe—is watching the progress of the movement and awaiting the result with deep interest. It is a very important step. Do you think the treaty will be confirmed by the American Senate? What are the probabilities?"

"There is much opposition to the treaty now," I replied, "but it is likely that the Senate may be differently disposed toward the subject when President McKinley takes his seat. The Senate is to some extent morbidly opposed to Mr. Cleveland personally, and it is sometimes hard to tell when the Senators are opposing any project on its actual merits, or when the opposition is due simply to political antagonism to a President whose relations with Congress have been maladroit and unhappy. Arbitration has come to be a national sentiment in America, and most Americans entertain the hope that France will join earnestly with the United States in this effort to limit the chances of war by enlarging the processes of peace."

France Will Bide Her Time.

M. Faure folded his arms over his splendid chest and threw his head back. There is not a better face nor a stronger one in France. He is the incarnation of self-reliance. "We must first wait to see

what the fate of the treaty will be in the United States, and if it is confirmed we must wait to see how it will operate. All Europe is waiting for that. The principle of arbitration seems to be strongly supported in America, and there is every reason why it should appeal to Europe."

"Yes," I said, "it is largely a sentiment with us, for we have a vast ocean on either side of our continent, and are practically safe from attempts at military invasion, but Europe has more substantial reasons for wishing a change. The maintenance of peace by a mere force of arms is a costly and clumsy arrangement. The American advocates of the treaty of arbitration desire to find out by actual experiment to what extent it is possible to limit the number of disputes which can only be settled by force."

Friendship Between the Two Republics.

"We are waiting for the result with very deep interest," repeated the President slowly. "The future will depend on that. We in France watch the course of America as friends. It is only natural that the two great republics should work together in all projects that affect the welfare of humanity. It is impossible just now to say how the enactment of this treaty will be received generally. I is a grave step.

"I desire you to say to the American people from me personally that I study their affairs and read their newspapers constantly. I have many friends in the United States, and there is nothing which affects the interests and happiness of Americans which does not appeal to me. Nothing pleases me more than to hear of their success."

We May Rely on France.

And so I left the palace with the feeling that France will prove

to be in the future a stronghold for the United States in the event of danger. It was not only what the President said, but the sincere manner in which he said it, that indicated the strong attachment which France has for her sister Republic.

President Faures statement to-day describes the situation exactly as it is. If the United States rejects the treaty with England it is likely that the whole scheme of arbitration will be damned for a generation.

The American continent is an unrivalled theatre, where the political salvation of man may be worked out unembarrassed by vested aristocracies and feudal tendencies. If the great American Republic cannot afford to adopt arbitration as a policy of dealing with the nation most nearly related to it by blood, speech, literature, laws and a common history, what nation in this dread continental camp of armed ambition and jealousy is likely to take the initiative?

Much Depends on the Senate.

The whole course of history may hinge upon the action of the American Senate within the next few days.

Several weeks ago I had a long talk with Cardinal Rampolla, the Secretary of State of the Vatican, and he told me in the frankest and most definite manner that the Holy See was anxious to witness the progress of the programme of international arbitration, but that he did not desire to make any declaration on the subject of the pending treaty because it was a matter between two non-Catholic nations, neither of which had asked for his assistance or advice.

I know that in every European capital the progress of the Anglo-American treaty is regarded with the keenest anxiety, and I have strong reason for saying that I believe the enactment of the treaty would be immediately followed by proposals for similar treaties from France and Russia, the two moral allies of the United States.

RUDINI'S TITLE IN DOUBT.

He is Plain Citizen Starabba, Then the Real Marquis Was Elected Deputy and Made Italy's Premier.

Rome, Feb. 23.—The Heraldic Committee of Italy, which has to adjudicate on the claims of all persons of noble birth, and which is always presided over by the Premier in power, has caused much astonishment by its latest decision. This consists in solemnly stating that the Premier himself has not sufficient documentary evidence to prove his right to his title of Marquis di Rudini. Thus he remains in the eyes of the committee the simple citizen, Antonio Starabba.

It seems that the title of Marquis di Rudini belongs exclusively to another branch of the family. If this decision is confirmed, the consequences will be much graver than appear at first sight, as the

FRANKO GETS LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.

Saragines Fitzerald yesterday granted letters of administration to Nathan Franko, the violinist, on the estate of his wife, Cornelia, who was the daughter of Jacob Ruppert, the brewer, and who died on December 3, 1896, after a married life of sixteen months. After the decease of Mrs. Franko, Peter Lankford, a furniture dealer of Brooklyn, applied for letters of administration on the estate of Mrs. Franko, claiming that it was worth \$5,000, and that there was due to him for furnishing the Franko flat at ninety-second street and Park avenue, the sum of \$4,000. This position, it is claimed by Julia Lankford, widow of the husband, forced Mr. Franko to take action and apply for letters.

CROKER GOES TO EUROPE.

With His Son Frank He Sails for Bremen and Distinguished Men Bid Him Farewell.

Richard Croker and his son Frank sailed yesterday morning on the North German-Lloyd steamer Sprea for Bremen. Among the crowd of friends that gathered at the pier to wish him a pleasant voyage and a safe return home were Nathan Straus, ex-Police Justice Ryan, Thomas L. Feitner, L. Friedman, J. J. Coogan, John C. Sullivan, Jefferson M. Levy, J. J. Ryan, Michael T. Daly and William Dalton. Mrs. Croker and Richard Croker, Jr., were the last to leave the ship when the call came "All aboard." Just before sailing Mr. Croker presented to the Journal two of his photographs. One of them is the counterfeit presentment of Alderman Richard Croker taken in 1878, at the time he was legislator out of office by Boss Tweed, the other he sat for two weeks ago.

LIVES LOST IN FLOODS.

Many Persons Swept Away and Vast Damage Done in the River Valleys.

Louisville, Ky., Feb. 23.—The Ohio River has risen eight and a half feet here since yesterday morning, and is still rising at the rate of three inches an hour. Two-thirds of the town of Corbin is under water. The damage is estimated at \$25,000. The flood damage in Southeastern Kentucky is estimated at \$200,000. News comes from Pineville, Ky., that two white men, while crossing a raging stream, were drowned, and also a revenue officer, who was in the mountains looking for moonshiners. At Harrodsburg, near Dixville, the water ran over the bridge. F. Patterson and his wife attempted to cross. Mrs. Patterson and the mule she was riding were carried away. The woman caught the limbs of a

HANNA IS FOR TARIFF.

The Republican Chairman Says His Chief Aim in the Senate Will Be to Revive the Issue.

Canton, Ohio, Feb. 23.—Chairman Hanna when asked to-day what would be his chief work in Washington, said: "As chairman of the National Committee I shall have a great many political matters to look after. In Congress, as I am a business man, expect to devote a good deal of time to the consideration of the tariff question. I think I am pretty well in touch with the commercial and business interests of the country, and know what these interests want and have a right to expect. All business men and all persons interested in the return of prosperity agree, I take it, that we must have a tariff law that will produce enough revenue to pay the current expenses of the government. I want to see such a law constructed on protective tariff lines passed a title perfect possible moment, and I think a great necessity of the members of Congress are of the same mind."

MCKINLEY SLIGHTLY BETTER.

The President-Elect Able to Hold a Final Conference with Mr. Hanna.

Canton, Ohio, Feb. 23.—President-elect McKinley showed slight signs of improvement to-day. He still complains of a sore throat. He was able, however, to take a short drive. Chairman Hanna arrived this afternoon for a final conference with the President-elect, before the inauguration. Mr. Hanna will return to Cleveland to-morrow morning. According to present plans he will go to Washington on Thursday to give his personal attention to arrangements for the inaugural ceremonies.

REPORTS FROM JACKSON AND OTHER PLACES UP THE NORTH PARK SAY THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. MRS. HUTZELL AND HER LITTLE DAUGHTER AND TWO MEN WERE DROWNED.

Reports from Jackson and other places up the North Park say there has been considerable loss of life and property. Mrs. Hutzell and her little daughter and two men were drowned.

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 23.—The greatest rise in the river here since 1861 was that of to-day, and the river now shows 42 feet and rising. All the low lands and more than half of the city is under water. Members of the Legislature went to the State House in boats this morning, but no session was held, since the basement is flooded and the fires put out. The citizens met to-day and raised \$10,000 for flood sufferers in the city. Baltimore, Feb. 23.—Dispatches from Cumberland, Hagerstown, and other Maryland points report that the heavy rains of the last three days have caused floods and great damage to property. All traffic has ceased on the second dividers of the B. & O. road, from Brunswick to Cumberland, on account of the alarming rise of the Potomac River. Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 23.—Two railway trestles near this city were washed away last night. Clinch River at Clinton registers forty feet and residents are leaving their homes. There is fear of great damage and loss of life.