

concerning the peace negotiations. At a mass meeting at Osaka on the 11th the following resolution was adopted:

The peace that has just been concluded between Russia and Japan forfeits the fruits of victory and sows seeds of future complications and danger. The Government's high-handed and unconstitutional measure has resulted in unexpected disturbance to the peace of the city in which the Mikado resides. The Empire's honor has been soiled and the spirit of the constitution lost. Never has our country been brought to face greater dangers. Therefore, be it resolved, that we hope that the humiliating peace agreement will be broken and the government will resign.

In response to a request the cabinet ministers were advised by the Mikado on the 11th not to resign.

#### New Japanese-British treaty.

The substance of a new treaty between Japan and Great Britain (vol. v, p. 267) has been communicated to the other Powers. As described by the Paris correspondent of the Associated Press on the 7th, though unauthoritatively, its principal features are as follows:

1. The provision in the old treaty making the alliance applicable only to the Chinese littoral is changed so that the new provision makes the alliance applicable to all Asia up to the line crossing Persia from north to south indicated by the fifty-first degree of east longitude. The significance of this change is the inclusion of India, and also Indo-China, where France has suspected Japan of having designs. The effect of the change tends to preserve the present status quo in India.

2. The provision in the old treaty making the alliance operative if either ally is attacked by two powers is changed so that the alliance becomes effective when either is attacked by one power.

3. The primary underlying principle of the treaty is defensive and the maintenance of existing conditions.

#### Reason of terror in southern Russia.

Terrible conditions are reported from Baku, a city of 112,000 inhabitants in the Caucasus, at the point where the Caucasus Mountains terminate on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, and near the northern border of the Turkish province of Armenia. The original cause of this terror is said to be Moslem hatred of the Armenians. The Armenians have been detested as parasites and exploiters of the Mohammedan and

other populations in the Caucasus, and for several years the Russian authorities have had much difficulty in restraining the Tartars from cruel and bloody reprisals. According to the dispatches, on the afternoon of the 2d reports began running from mouth to mouth at Baku that the Tartars and Armenians were butchering each other. Immediately there was great alarm, and a panic prevailed. Stores were closed, and windows and doors were barricaded. Twenty minutes later sounds of rifle firing were heard from the various quarters of the city, and everybody wished to flee, but no one could tell whether safety lay within or without the city. Two hours later patrols of Cossacks and other Russian soldiers armed with rifles began to arrive from the barracks, and these troops immediately engaged the rioters. The firing between the warring factions continued all night on the 2d, and on the 3d the situation showed no improvement. Firing was in progress all that day, the streets being deserted except for the combatants. No one dared to leave the house of the Governor (General). At 8 o'clock in the evening of the 3d the first reflection on the sky of fire in the "black town" quarter was noticed, and it was learned that the Nobel oil reservoirs were burning. That night was more fearful than the preceding one. Fires broke out in several quarters and shooting by the troops was uninterrupted. Fires also broke out in the suburbs of Balakhan and Sabunto. Telephonic communication between Baku and these points was destroyed, and it was impossible on the morning of the 4th to ascertain what was burning. Many of the inhabitants decided to brave the dangers in an effort to leave the city. They went in cabs, surrounded by Cossacks, to the railroad station, and the flight from the city soon became general. On the 8th there was reported to be little left unburned above the ground in the outlying oil fields of Balakan, Romani, Sabunto and Bibiebat, from which the crude oil supply for the Baku oil industry is drawn. The breaking of the reservoirs unloosed a flood of burning oil, which it was impossible to extinguish. A large portion of the "black town" quarter, in which

most of the refineries were located, was also burned. The financial loss will run into the millions and the bloodshed also has been appalling, as the troops in their efforts to restore order had to defend the approaches to the town of Baku, and were forced to fight a regular battle with well-armed natives in which artillery was employed. The Tartars and Armenians in their fury turned their weapons against each other. The dispatches speak of several thousand killed or wounded in the fighting at Balakhan, where the Tartars were entrenched in force and more than held their own for a time against the troops; and the latest reports indicate that conditions are growing worse. The authorities of the Caucasus seem to have been taken completely by surprise by the magnitude of the Tartar rising. There is believed at St. Petersburg to be no doubt that it had long been planned and carefully organized and was connected with a separatist movement. The officials of Tiflis say they have unmistakable proof that the revolt has been fanned by Turkish emissaries and agitators, and that the green standard of the prophet has been raised, while the mullahs at Baku are preaching a holy war.

#### NEWS NOTES

—The American Civic association is to meet at Cleveland on the 4th of October.

—Baron Fegervary, the Hungarian premier (vol. vii, p. 7371) resigned on the 12th.

—The yellow fever epidemic in New Orleans (p. 359), is reported to be rapidly subsiding.

—James Tanner, of New York, was elected chief commander of the Grand Army of the Republic (p. 358) at Denver on the 8th.

—At Havana on the 9th, President Palma was unanimously nominated by the conservatives for reelection (vol. v, p. 104) as President of Cuba.

—The constitutional convention of the Indian Territory (p. 329) proposing a new State to be called Sequoyah, completed its work at Muskogee on the 8th and adjourned.

—An earthquake in Italy on the 8th convulsed the entire province of Calabria, destroying 25 villages and killing hundreds of persons—probably more than a thousand.

—Philip Cullman, whose name is familiar to readers of Chicago newspapers as a frequent contributor in defense of