

NEWS

The full text of the American treaty with Denmark for the purchase of the Danish West Indies, the terms of which had not been officially disclosed at the time of our last report (p. 681), was made public by the Senate on the 6th after receiving a favorable report from the Senate committee. In conveying sovereignty over the islands the treaty includes—

the absolute fee and ownership of all public, government or crown lands, public buildings, ports, harbors, fortifications, barracks and all other public property of every kind and description belonging to the government of Denmark, together with every right and appurtenance thereunto appertaining.

From this conveyance are excepted the arms and military stores of Denmark, which are to be removed unless purchased by the United States; also individual debts owing to Denmark, which are reserved to the crown; also property of the state church, which is to go to the congregations. As to the status of the inhabitants of the islands, the treaty provisions are as follows:

Danish subjects residing in said islands may remain therein or remove therefrom at will, retaining in either event all their rights of property, including the right to sell or dispose of such property or its proceeds, and in case they remain in the islands they shall continue, until otherwise provided, to enjoy all the private, municipal rights and liberties secured to them by the laws now in force. If the present laws are altered, the said inhabitants shall not thereby be placed in a less favorable position in respect to the above-mentioned rights and liberties than they now enjoy. Those who remain in the islands may reserve their allegiance to the crown of Denmark by making, before a court of record, within two years from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this convention, a declaration of their decision to preserve such allegiance, in default of which declaration they shall be held to have renounced it and to have accepted allegiance to the United States; but such election of Danish allegiance shall not, after the lapse of said term of two years, be a bar to their renunciation of their preserved Danish allegiance and their election of allegiance to the United States and admission to the nationality thereof on the same terms as may be provided according to the laws of the United States for other inhabitants of the islands. The civil rights and the political status of the inhabitants of the islands shall be determined by the

congress, subject to the stipulations contained in the present convention.

In respect of the political status of these people, therefore, the treaty follows that with Spain, in its cession of Porto Rico and the Philippines, which leaves the question of citizenship to Congress. It departs in this respect from all our previous treaties of cession. For these treaties not only transferred the allegiance of the inhabitants to the United States; they also required the United States to invest the inhabitants with the reciprocal right of American citizenship. The amount agreed upon in this treaty as purchase price is \$5,000,000, and the transaction is to be completed at Washington within six months after ratification. The treaty bears date at Washington the 24th day of January, 1902, and is signed by John Hay for the United States and C. Brun for Denmark.

Another treaty, recently made but just disclosed, is of extraordinary importance in world politics. It is nothing less than a treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan with reference to the far eastern question or "open door" in China. While its terms are friendly to all nations, this treaty is manifestly intended to check Russia. The circumstances out of which it has evolved date back to the war between Japan and China in 1894 and 1895.

At the close of that war, Japan, seeking to acquire as one of the results of her victory, a foothold on the mainland of Asia, insisted upon retaining possession of the Korean peninsula, over which China had until then exercised dominion as suzerain. To prevent this, Russia interfered, and in 1896 the Japanese withdrew. By agreement between Russia and Japan, Korea was acknowledged by both countries in 1898 as an independent power; but Japan has never abandoned her ambition to expand to the mainland, nor has Russia receded from her policy of exclusive control in northern China.

Pursuant to the Russian policy a Russian fleet occupied Port Arthur, at the southern extremity of Manchuria and commanding the entrance to the gulfs of Laiotung and Pechili from the north; and, in accordance with concessions secured from the Chinese government, a Russian military force took formal possession (vol. i, No. 1, p. 10) on the 28th of

March, 1898. As an offset to this move the British, fearing that Russia contemplated securing a monopoly of Chinese exploitation, secured the concession, July 1, 1898, of Wei-Hai-Wei, which also commands, but from the south, the entrance to the gulfs of Laiotung and Pechili. Disturbing incidents in Russo-British relations followed (see vol. i, No. 19, p. 10; No. 20, p. 9; No. 25, p. 9; No. 50, p. 10; vol. ii, No. 57, p. 10; No. 59, p. 10); until the Boxer troubles in China united all the powers in efforts to restore order. While these activities were in progress in the region of Peking, Russia, participating there with the rest, carried on in addition a little order-restoring war of her own in the province of Manchuria. This was upon pretense of protecting her southern frontiers, upon which Manchuria borders. At the close of the Boxer troubles, and while settlement negotiations with the Chinese government were proceeding, Russia assumed a protectorate over Manchuria (vol. iii, p. 617), which she has never since renounced. Objections made by Great Britain, the United States and Japan, evoked from Russia about a year ago a diplomatic note (vol. iii, pp. 769, 775) containing the following assurance:

As soon as lasting order shall have been established in Manchuria and indispensable measures taken for the protection of railway construction, which, according to formal agreement, China assured, Russia will not fail to recall her troops from these territories of the neighbor empire, provided the action of other powers does not place any obstacle in the way of such a measure.

Notwithstanding this assurance, Russia appears to have been trying even then to force from China a treaty making concessions, for China appealed to the powers (vol. iii, p. 823) to support her in refusing to sign some treaty which Russia demanded. Later an explanation was given out by Russia (vol. iv, p. 9), in which she asserted that her intention to restore Manchuria to China could manifestly—

only be carried out when the normal situation is completely restored to the empire, and the central government established at the capital independent and strong enough to guarantee Russia against a recurrence of the events of last year.

This note concluded with the intimation that—

while the Russian government maintains its present organization in Manchuria, to preserve order in the vicinity of the broad frontiers of Russia,