

THE OBSERVER

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Editor and Owner.

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A WORLD GLIMPSE.

The December sun sets this week-end on a world whose turbulent people have done some things meritorious. All the nations have been standing on tip-toe peering over the great wall of China to see who is to be the actual master charge d' affairs in the land of Sinim. It seems that Yuan Shih Kai, while a strong man in things governmental is not quite content to agree to the immediate formation of a republic; such is the core of the hopes of the militant, undisciplined and everywhere victorious rebels. Yuan, it appears, wants a little royalty of his own and would set up a new monarchy, limited, doubtless, but a monarchical form of government. If he is so blind as to lose his head to that idea, he will most likely lose it in fact where he cannot find it. The conquerors of the mighty Manchus will not be stopped in their plans by Mr. Yuan.

Aside from being the king and the queen of Great Britain and Ireland, George V and Mary are also emperor and empress of India. They were duly coronated for the royal English office recently; but now have been accorded the gorgeous and dazzling honors of the Durbar, at the ancient capital, Delhi, a fete conducted by the governor general of India. It means the event of the crowning of the great rajah-princes of that land of dark-skinned Caucasians. This foreign dependency consists of 294 millions of people, mainly Buddhists and Mohammedans, and contains more than half as much territory as does the United States.

King George's brother, Duke of Connaught, is the new governor-general of our sister nation to the north from whence come so many good Canadian

people and are such excellent citizens. The most irreverent, money-making rascal of the age (Rev.?) Mr. Sanford has been found guilty of the death of six people. He some months ago took his followers, "The Holy Ghost and Us Society," on board a ship and sailed and sailed and sailed till the scurvy killed a lot of them. He was posing as a second Messiah and arrogated all power to himself. He will possibly be justly hanged as he was not convicted in the state of Oregon.

The McNamara are in San Quentin. Let us close the public peep-hole and let them be forgotten. But as fitting requiem over the living grave of these bloody men let it be said: Any man or coterie of men who would say as did Jim McNamara when caught: "I would blow up the whole d— country if it would get us our rights," has few rights human beings ought to respect. They are neither laborers nor the friends of labor. They are murderers.

The most interesting national event has been the unspeakable and apparently inexcusable mine horror in Tennessee. There should be a national law requiring that the laboring man ought not to be subject to every limitation and be obliged to bear the brunt of every accident or disaster. The fact of his being employed in any public works should be a life or accident insurance or both. Yet, likely, dozens of the families of these latest victims are to suffer through the long winters of want because the capitalist employer can snuff out the lives of the defenders of the fireside when he pleases and leave the bereaved to fight the wolf from the door or be decoured by things worse than wolves.

It is now up to President Taft whether or not he will sign the bill authorizing all veterans of the civil war to receive a pension of \$1 a day or \$30 a month hereafter so long as they live.

In La Grande there have been two important functions "pulled off." One was the city election in which the socialists were shown the door, and a man who stands for law-and-order regulations given the chief seat in the municipality. The other was the annual meeting of the Commercial club in which the lay sermons and fervent exhortations were of such character as would waken municipal patriotism. If this is done, there will be for La Grande and the vicinage—the Grande Ronde valley—such impetus given to legitimate business as will make her more and more the cynosure of investors.

The entirely unforeseeable and therefore unavoidable railway wreck of Thursday morning whereby life was instantly snuffed out, cast a gloom over the community. Those not fatally injured are on the rapid highway to recovery.

MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH H. CHOATE.

N. Y., to visit a young lady for whom the friend had a liking. Mr. Choate said he went and on his return to New York concluded that when he again visited the young woman it would be for himself and not on account of his friend. He said he had been invited to visit friends the Fourth of July, 1901, but declined because he had determined to know his fate on that day. "It was on Independence day that I surrendered my independence," said he. They were married the following October.

One of the incidents of the occasion was the distribution of gold to the employees of the Choates. The adults received \$10 and the children \$5.

Mr. Choate is one of the leaders of the American bar, and his reputation as lawyer and diplomatist is world-wide. He was United States ambassador to Great Britain from 1899 to 1905. He has been honored with degrees by a large number of educational institutions, including Harvard, Yale, Cambridge, St. Andrews, Oxford, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Williams, Amherst, Union and the University of Pennsylvania. As a lawyer he has been identified with many famous cases. He was one of the committee of seventy which broke up the Tweed ring in New York in 1871, and he obtained the reinstatement of General Fitz-John Porter to his army rank. In 1907 he was the United States delegate to the international peace conference at The Hague. He is noted as a public and after dinner speaker. He is seventy-nine years old.

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