

Russia has again demonstrated how far she is as a nation behind the spirit of the nineteenth century. In 1882 an edict was issued denying to Jews the right to own or lease land, to own mines, to enter the army or engage in any of the professions, practically making them social outcasts and closing the door of industrial progress. The execution of the decree was suspended, but now, to satisfy the clamorings of ignorance, prejudice and mediæval barbarism and intolerance, the czar has ordered the decree to be enforced. It is said the result will be that a million of these persecuted people will leave Russia, the majority of whom will seek homes in the United States. Do we want them? Have we not already more European ignorance, degradation, immorality and un-American ideas than we can well manage? That these people are Jews is no ground of objection to them, for, as Americans, we have learned well the value of the Hebrew as a citizen, but that they, as a whole, represent a mass of humanity such as will materially affect the condition of the nation. Were these only to be considered, even though there be a million of them, the case would not be so serious, but they have been preceded by even greater numbers of various nationalities, the harmful effects of which have already manifested themselves in a most alarming manner. It will take us years to assimilate the constituents of our nationality as they exist to-day. Self-preservation demands that we be not a catch basin for the scourgings of other nations.

Good republican papers published in localities that would feel the effects of withdrawing from the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk the special privileges enjoyed by them, protest against such action on the ground that freights would not be so cheap as now. These low freights are secured by the competition of foreign roads with domestic roads. If it be a good thing to secure cheap freights in this way, why not cheap goods? The railroad industry is the largest in the United States and is entitled to protection as much as woolen mills, rolling mills and cotton factories. Every argument that is brought forward to support the tariff, applies equally well to the question of granting foreign railroads privileges that render them competitors of our own roads in the transportation of our own products. Advocates and apostles of high tariff stultify themselves by insisting upon free foreign railroads on the ground of cheapness. If we are to have cheap freights at the expense of our railroads, let us also have cheap goods at the expense of our other industries.

In an excess of outraged virtue and moral indignation a Portland gentleman has caused the arrest of

two Chinese for conducting a lottery. Such action was scarcely looked for from the gentleman in question, and an investigation of the circumstance reveals the fact that he is a regular patron of Chinese lottery and a few days ago had a ticket supposed to draw a large prize, but which, when presented to the Mongolian proprietors of the game, simply drew an exclamation of "No sabbe!" Aroused to a high pitch of moral enthusiasm by such heathen ignorance he lodged complaint against the lottery dealers for illegal practices, and is entitled to the thanks of the community. There is nothing specially noteworthy about this except the fact that it explodes the common notion that high moral ideas are not to be looked for among the habitual patrons of Chinese lotteries.

A few months ago President Barrillos, of Guatemala, sent delegates to the Pan American congress where the principle of arbitration of American differences was discussed and adopted. Hardly had the congress adjourned when President Barrillos violated the spirit of that resolution in the most flagrant manner, and to further his personal ambition needlessly precipitated war between his country and San Salvador. Poetic justice seems certain to overtake him. His army is suffering defeat, his capital is in imminent danger of being captured, treachery and rebellion confront him, and there seems a certainty that he must lose his life or become an exile from his native land. The lovers of peace can not paint this picture in too vivid colors for the nations of America.

The violent methods now being resorted to by the union iron moulders of San Francisco must alienate from them the sympathy of the public, whose good will and approbation they should endeavor to retain. Disclaimers of responsibility for the violence of individuals can not be made with good grace by the leaders of the union so long as they come to the aid and defense of every man who gets himself into trouble because of lawless conduct. To "hate the sin and love the sinner" is an attribute of the Almighty only.

Although it is rather late in the season to begin a campaign, the czar has given way to his anger and threatens dire things to Turkey. Behind the Porte stands the tripple alliance and as the czar knows that wrath comes easy and money comes hard and that it takes far more money than wrath to carry on such a war as he would have on his hands if he attacked Turkey or Bulgaria, he will probably cool off.

The editors of Oregon are cordially invited to call at the WEST SHORE office when attending the annual session and at all other times when in Portland.