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END OF THE GREAT WAR.

The virtual end of the most gigantic and sanguinary conflict of modern times—a conflict that, in its bearing upon the destinies of races, its influence upon the vaster currents of world affairs, ranks certainly among the two or three greatest wars of history—is obviously an event of the very first magnitude. The conference that will result in the return to their plows and pruning hooks of nearly a million men who, for many long and desolate months, have lain facing each other on Manchurian plains, certainly is comparable in importance, if not exactly in nature, with such memorable events as the meeting of John and his barons at Runnymede; the council of the Athenian generals on the heights that overlooked the Persian army of Darius; or the audience between Attila and Theodosius the Second that cost the Roman empire so dear. In the long perspective of history it may well dwarf into pettiness all other events in the world during a decade—nay, even during a half century. As a great mountain only reveals its magnitude to him who gazes upon it from a shoudering itself up hugely among the hills as you advance into the plain, so the pact between the greatest of white races and the proved strongest of the yellow may not doubtfully loom more tremendous to a far posterity than to us.

Nothing could have been more dramatic than the way of this war's ending. The world had fixedly concluded that the conference of the envoys of the two powers would be a futile one. Statesmen, diplomats, kings, princes, ministers, financiers, journalists, men of weight and discernment in all lands—all were of the opinion that the war would continue. It was an amazed, astounded, incredulous world to which the news came on Tuesday, August 20th, that the Empire of Japan had waived all the demands to which the government of Russia had objected. We suppose not one well-informed man in any Occidental country heard the news but with unbelief, listened but with incredulity, and was convinced but with bewilderment.

And here, again, the Western world has impressed upon it the enduring fact of the unfathomable Oriental mind. Though the eyes of all the Occident were intent upon the protagonists in the struggle at Poytsmouth, none fathomed the secret hid within those close-cropped skulls. None knew or knows the mental processes by which the Japanese reached their conclusions. We all of us were baffled, beaten, astray completely. The salt estranging sea is not more impassable to the swimmer than the ocean of mystery that divides East from West.

And Theodore Roosevelt has set his name ineffaceable upon the page of history! We may have thought him a man of destiny; the world may have thought him an enticingly romantic figure; a nation may have done him honor unprecedented; his acts may have seemed to change the currents of national life, but none of these things are even remotely comparable to the achievement of, first, inducing two nations at war to consent to a conference of envoys, and then having by sheer genius of persistence made that conference to accomplish the greatly desired thing. As the man who brought to an end a great war, Theodore Roosevelt's place among great historic figures is absolute and secure. The world of today praises him; the world two hundred years hence will yet know well his name.—The Argonaut.

THE CONGRESSMEN IN THE PHILIPPINES.

If the dispatches from Manila correctly represent the attitude of the congressmen who have accompanied Secretary Taft in his visit to the islands, and if those congressmen will labor next winter to convert their fellows in Washington to their new way of thinking, there will be reason to raise a lasting song of praise that the visit to the Philippines was made. The need of the islands for a great reduction in our tariff duties on sugar and tobacco, if not for the abrogation of those duties entirely, so far as Philippine products are concerned, was the first thing that became evident to the congressmen. Some of the strongest protectionists on the delegation are said to have become convinced of this, and the change of heart is not unanimous in the delegation it is said to be nearly so.

praise, and is considered worth all that it is costing. If more money can be found for it, so much the better. There have been intimations from many quarters in the past that the Philippine administration had become too costly. The fact is not necessarily to the discredit of the United States, as it arises in part out of a desire to do too much for the islands. But it would be discredit should such a condition be allowed to continue. When the financial burden on the Philippines reaches the point at which discontent is general, then the evil is greater than the good, and that whether the money is economically expended or not.

PRIMARIES AND FEDERAL SENATORS.

The result of the first direct Democratic primaries ever held in the State of Virginia have attracted wide attention and been made the subject of some peculiar comment.

Virginia will elect a state ticket next November, and her next legislature will have to choose a successor to United States Senator Martin whose present term will expire in March, 1907. Senator Martin has been a rather obscure and silent man in that august body in which the ratio of oratory and eloquence to actual business has from early times been the hallowed one of 16 to 1. He is a candidate to succeed himself, and he is also the choice of the Democratic "machine" of the state. Governor Montague, whose election to his present office was a severe blow to the "organization," offered himself to the Democratic voters as a candidate for Senator Martin's seat, and the new primary act of Virginia allows the voter to declare his preference with regard not only to state officers, but to the federal senatorship as well.

The preprimary campaign was spirited and exciting, chiefly because of the fight between Governor Montague and Senator Martin, and the great majority of the Democratic voters attended the primaries and registered their preferences. The result was a decisive victory for the machine, and Martin will succeed himself, though it is plain that Montague would have been far more acceptable to the progressive and independent elements of the party. Martin, who is not brilliant, has had the backing of powerful "interests," while Montague was classed with the "reformers."

Why the majority of the Democratic voters prefer the former their ballots do not tell us, but it is not easy to see how their verdict tends to discredit, as some think it does, the demand for popular election of federal senators.

The New York Sun has persuaded itself that the Virginia primaries destroy "a cherished notion of politics, the delight of many professional reformers, the popular election of United States Senators." A curious, jumped at conclusion! Because the rank and file of the Virginia Democrats endorsed the candidate of the organization at their first direct primary, therefore there is no reason or rhyme in the movement for the direct election of senators. Wonderful logic, this. Why not apply it to the election of mayors, governors, congressmen and so on? The voters very often elect candidates nominated by the organizations against independents running for the same office, yet it has not occurred to anyone to make this the basis of an argument for abolishing popular elections.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The indications are strong that the amount of butter made in the Pacific Coast states is not increasing as fast as the population. It is practically certain that the number of people on the Pacific Coast has increased much faster than the number of milk cows. On the other hand, through the energetic efforts of creameries and sellers of cream separators, a great many farmers are now selling two or three times as much butter or butter fat as formerly. Calves get less whole milk and cows are better cared for. Until recently the increase in available butter fat per cow brought about a total increase in butter production which paralleled the growth in demand. Within a year or two this does not appear to be longer the case. The great increase in city population and the increased use per person of whole milk, of cream and ice cream have materially retarded the rate of increase in the production of butter. Milk condensaries have also had some effect in this direction and driven a number of creameries out of business.

Natural conditions on the Pacific Coast are such that the population of the cities will continue to increase more rapidly than that of the farming districts. A few years ago it appeared probable that the time was almost at hand when the Pacific Coast would produce more butter than the requirements of the Coast markets. It still appears probable that it may be found advantageous to ship Coast butter East in the early spring of many years, but the outlook now is that for many years to come, if not always, the price of butter in the Pacific Coast markets throughout the greater part of the year will be governed by the cost of bringing butter here from the states east of the Rocky Mountains and that for that reason the price of butter will average higher on the Pacific Coast than in the East.—Oregon Agriculturist.

TWELVE REASONS.

Twelve reasons for the coming supremacy of the Pacific Coast and ocean as given by a clever writer in a local publication are as follows: "Climatic advantages; extraordinary fertility of soil; unusual diversity of products; influence of the completed Panama Canal; energy and high grade quality of the population; attractiveness to immigration, and peculiarly fine character of it; general adoption of the finest modern system of irrigation; favorable flow and great volume of navigable rivers; existing railroad facilities and their extension;

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proximity to that ocean which during the present century will become the main artery of internal trade and the seat of naval power; twofold markets, consisting of the Eastern states and the extreme Orient, thus doubling both the sources of income and guarding against the effects of panics and commercial depression; matchless scenic attractions, guaranteeing an overincreasing tourist revenue.—Oregon Booster.

Saturday's startling accident at one of the dangerous railroad crossings in this city serves but to emphasize the need for either gate crossings or a responsible flagman to be stationed at these points. The wonder is that the three occupants of the wagon were not instantly killed. Innumerable narrow escapes from similar accidents have occurred and it would appear that the latest incident would expedite the securing of this service and protection to those who must necessarily at times cross railroad tracks where it is possible to observe danger only when it is too late to avoid the results.

This week witnessed the annual exodus of hundreds of citizens to the hop fields. The harvesting and marketing of this crop means a great deal to Oregon. In the picking of the crop profitable employment is provided many people who employ this means of taking a vacation and at the same time provide the necessary means for the clothing of the little ones and the purchase of books for another school year. The compensation for this sort of labor remains good and the hop picking season is looked forward to with not little interest by those who regularly participate in this work.

Unless something now unexpected happens, Superintendent of Public Instruction J. H. Ackerman and Chief Justice Charles E. Wolverton, of Supreme Court, will be candidates for renomination to succeed themselves in their respective offices. No opposition has developed to either of them, nor has there been any talk of other men as probable aspirants for the nominations against them.—Myrtle Point Enterprise.

A Willamette Valley exchange last week published an extended editorial endorsement of Walter L. Toozee as a candidate for Congress from the First Congressional district. Following the flattering notice came an obituary mention of a pioneer resident of the town.

ENTRYMEN MUST SHOW GOOD FAITH

Not So Easy in Future to Prove Up on Homesteads.

The passing of the old regime in the land service of this state and the doing away with the old methods of securing public lands is marked by the present land fraud investigations, says the Evening Telegram.

Hereafter the easy means by which homesteads and timber claims have been acquired in this state will not prevail and entrymen must exhibit entire good faith in making their selections and in completing their final proofs. Actual residence, not occasional "stay over-nights" will be required. The cases being uncovered now in connection with the grand jury investigations mean a shaking up in the land offices of this state and will result in making frauds in connection with the public lands less possible.

A former official of the land office was before the grand jury Monday and it is said that, although he merely conducted his office as had his predecessors, there was considerable looseness in the way matters were carried on. Although land officials may have had an inkling that all was not in thorough accord with the spirit of the land laws, when the investigations were ordered and made, the special agents in charge of the investigations are said to have proved recalcitrant to their trust and some of them are also said to have been amendable to bribes.

The interpretation of the land laws has been far different than is now to obtain. The custom in the Northwest has been to permit too much latitude in compliance with the law and the present investigations mean that the easy acquisition of the public domain must stop. It is believed that half the land office officials who have served in this state could be indicted for their slipshod methods of taking proofs and the readiness with which they issued receipts. However, they were guided by precedent, it is claimed, and former trustees of the public domain in similar positions are said to have left behind them no strict interpretation of the land laws by which to guide incoming officials.

As a proof of the looseness of the requirements of land officials in this state is a batch of 140 contests, hearing of which began this week in the local land office, lately moved from Oregon City to Portland, and which will extend through a large part of the winter. These contests cover claims in all parts of the

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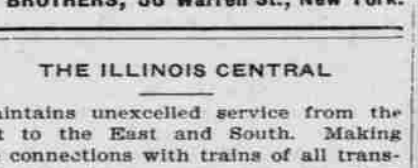
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