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PORTLAND, . IDAY, PERSONNY 11

THE INTERNATIONAL CHESS-BOARD Germany is taking measures to increase greatly ber naval armament,

The plane are said to require the expenditure of \$200,000,000. This would bring the strength of her navy up to that of France, at least, if not in excess of it. Probably the real object is to make Germany equal or superior to the same time there is thought of Rusmia. Situated between Russia and France, two powers that may unite, Germany has the instinct of preservation against them, and wishes to intrease her strength upon the sea. Bemoes, Germany has growing colonial Interests—though she never has been successful colonizing power. It is most unlikely that Germany has much thought of the need of naval armament against Great Britain or the United States. These three great nations of Teutonic stock have the instinot of peace with each other, as they have the instinct of apprehen of trouble with Russia, supported by France. Our own interest in this rivalry seems, indeed, very remote. We are so far from the scene of the conflict that it looks to us as though susequences never could reach us. But if the great Eastern world, containing almost the whole population of the globe, should become subjected to the from poke of military rule would it stop there? Would there be any limit to the aggressions of despotism? No nation can disarm while its neighbors remain great military powers. The military power of France on one side and of Russia on the other is a bar to the complete industrial development of Germany. The converse is just as true as to Russia, for the vastness of legal proceedings, to restore the pref-the Russian empire and the character erence. of its population except it from the rules that control higher civilization.

the coming struggle for supremacy of the world will lie between the Teutonic races and the Slav races. These are terms of the most general characally affined to either group, but with cline her to act with Russia. Austria is scarcely to be taken into account, for there is probably no great nation thread. Composed of a number of together, and the very existence of the monarchy is continually threatened congruous elements. Possessing, like France and Germany, a territory easily fin aded, the most that can be expected of it is that it will retain, for a limited break-up its German elements would ritate to Germany; its Slav elements to Russia. As to Italy, though the great problem of Italian unity has been solved, that kingdom shows no signs of life. It is not a first-class power, and there is no indication that its vitality will extend much beyond the peninsula it occupies. France, Austria, Italy, important as they are, contest is whether the civilization of the Slav or that of the Saxon shall be the leading civilization of the world.

This struggle is coming sooner than It would seem, if we compare it with the slow development of races and nations in the past. Not that we shall live to see it; it may be generations absend of us, but the rapidity of social changes today is as much greater than that of like changes in past ages, as the speed of the locomotive is greater than that of the coach or caravan. We of a man's hand, but the air is pregmust with a storm that will darken the whole sky. The events of the present time may be only the faintest prea dozen conflicts at as many points. followed by as many reconcillations. struggle is the massing of ethnic, growing freedom, for commerce as sinually growing larger by conquest folly, and she died. and colonization. Her possessions are

this instinct, rather than on thought of conflict with Great Britain or the United States.

### A MENACE TO BUSINESS.

A decision that touches the very core of the credit system in trade is that by Judge Hanford, of the United States district court of Washington, in the Conhaim bankruptcy proceeding, Conhaim was indebted to the Washington National bank on four promissory notes. Within four months of bankruptcy he had made payments which extinguished two of the notes, leaving a small balance due on the third and leaving the fourth wholly unpaid. When Conhaim went into voluntary bankruptcy the bank filed a claim for the unpaid balance of its account. In disallowing the bank's claim, Judge Hanford ruled that a payment made by a debtor within four months of his insolvency is a preference; that a preference "given" and a preference "re-ceived" are identical terms; that it is the benefit which one creditor obta over the others that constitutes the act a preference, and that it is no defense for the creditor receiving the preference to say that he was innocent of the advantage he had gained; and that a creditor shall not share in the distribution of the bankrupt estate unless he surrender his preferences. The logical deduction from Judge Han-ford's decision is that the estate of a debtor within four months of his in solvency is a trust fund for the benefit of all his creditors, and that if creditors who receive preferences do not surrender them, the trustee in bankruptcy may bring an action to compel the restoration of the payments or transfers constituting the preference, to the bankrupt's estate. While Judge Hanford's decision is

susceptible of interpretation as within the spirit and letter of the bankruptcy act, it will work hardship in many cases. Suppose, for example, that A France on sea, as she is on land. At goes into bankruptcy owing B a balance of \$1500 on an account of \$400 and C \$2500, no part of which has been paid. A, within four months of his insolvency, had paid B \$2500 on account. According to the decision in the Conhaim case, B has no claim for the balance of \$1500 until he shall surrender to the trustee in bankruptcy the \$2500 which he received from A within the four months' limit. B 'may not plend that he received the \$2500 in the ordinary course of his business and in payment of a just debt. No matter Henry and Richard Henry Lee, by the what was the intent of A and B when small majority of ten votes. Had not the payment or payments were made whether they were in collusion or out of collusion, the benefit or advantage which accrued to B determined the effect and constituted the transaction a preference. A is clearly estopped from pleading that in paying B he was clearing off his debt and that he intended to create no preference, for the natural answer would be, "Why did he not pay C also?" Under the Conhaim ision. B has the option of retaining the \$2500 in full settlement of A's acunt, or of surrendering the money to the bankrupt's estate and participating in the general distribution. Besides, B. is face to face with the fact that the trustee in bankruptcy may, if a correct deduction has been made from the Conhaim decision, compel him, through

There are thinkers who believe that the privilege which the insolvent had of naming preferred creditors, and Hamilton. which he invariably exercised to the benefit of some local bank or loan agency. The bankruptcy law was enter, yet the main line of distinction and acted to cure this evil. Judge Hansition is clear enough. Russia is ford's decision completely cures the at the head of the Slav races: the Ten- preference evil and goes farther. Its Virginia by the mouths of two of its tonic, branching from Germany, is the effect is that all moneys received by larger element size in Great Britain credit men are, until the expiration of Hamiltonian theory of our government, and the United States. The affinities four months, trust funds for possible It is true that Madison originally stood cases in bankruptcy; inasmuch as the remains the leading nation not natur- merchant has no means of knowing which of his customers may become insolvent or at what moment he may be called upon to cover considerable amounts into the bankruptcy court. The effect would be to deprive the who power hangs on a slenderer merchant, for four months, of the free use of large sums, and if he were in widely different races, there is mani- straitened circumstances, a sudden defest lack of the power of welding them | mand for surrender of considerable preferences might seriously cripple his resources. This would seem to be rewith the possible disruption of its in- straint of trade and contrary to public

Information concerning the practical working of the bankruptcy act is being collected by an association of natime only, its present status. Upon a tional scope, with a view to recommendation of necessary amendments. One change should be that a person is insolvent when he is unable, in the rdinary course of his business, to meet maturing obligations; and the other, that no preference shall be created unless the debtor shall pay any one creditor more than a specified percentage of that particular obligation within specified time previous to insolvency. are not principal factors. The real These amendments would simplify the law and make its operation less harsh and incongruous.

#### ANOTHER VICTIM OF A POPULAR DELUSION.

Occasionally a so-called "healer" in so-called "science" presses his claim to knowledge and power beyond the limit of the physical endurance of his patient, and merciful death supervenes. Such an instance has just occurred at Gladstone, a suburb of Oregon City. see nothing now but a cloud the size the victim dying, as is probable, from neglect-certainly without such assistance and attention as the sick are entitled to receive in an enlightened community. Perhaps the "heafer" in this monitory murmurs, and there may be instance was as intelligent as such operators usually are, but he continued to assure the family of the dying The real evidence of the nature of the woman that she would recover; to read from Mary Baker Eddy's book in support of the contention that disease and wither side. It is not difficult to see on | death are mere figments of "mortal what side of this conflict lie the prog- mind," and that all that was necessary rese of civilization, and the hope of a in treating the case of the suffering woman was to deny the suffering and well as for men. In the matter of land, cast out fear. There could, of course Russia possesses nearly one-sixth of (since the woman was really sick), be the entire world, and her territory is but one result of this assumption and

This is not an isolated case, even in this community. Nor is the delusion to tion that has ever existed. Her pop-ulation exceeds one hundred and twen-fined to the ignorant, nor are its victy millions, and her territory is free time always among the lowly of the from the possibility of conquest. Her earth. The death of Harold Frederic. system is the negation of modern civ- the distinguished journalist, under cir-Hirstion, and if it do not break up by cumstances similar to those in which explosion from within it will force a this woman's life was ended at Glad- He had to do in law what Hamilton structie with its opposite in the outer stone, and the stir that it caused world. Our own country is so situated among intelligent people, are matters untion without the help of precedent, that it may not have to take any part; and yet, where our sympathies should be, where our sympathies should be, where our inherents lie, must be apparent to every one who takes a comprehensive view. We think Germany's naval armament is hased on the crime of jugging with human life. that it may not have to take any part; of common knowledge. Numerous at- discussion and experiment. Measured it? Likewise if Cuba, from her geo-

llowed these efforts. The stumblingblock in the course of justice in such cases seems to be the clearly proven collusion of the victim with the quack, the defense resting upon the right of every individual when sick to employ a physician or experiment with a the

ory, as he or she may elect. Such cases belong to the class that cannot be reached by law, and, since they are without the domain of common sense, the first tenet in their creed being, "deny the evidence of the senses," nothing remains but to allow folly to reap its harvest in this field, unchallenged except by popular indig-nation and the protests of intelligence, neither of which is likely to do any sort of good. Like all fads, this one of "Christian Science," so-called, will run its course, playing upon the credullty of its dupes by the way, now and then, to their death.

### A GREAT HISTORIC AMERICAN.

The National Bar Association's purose to celebrate the centenary of Marshall's appointment to the supreme court is a gratifying tribute to a very great American, whose high qualities have never received the popular ap-probation that is their due. On the 4th day of February, 1901, a hundred years will have elapsed since John Marshall was named by President Adams for chief justice of the United States, a position he held for more than thirty-four years, and through which the federalist ideal of government was impressed upon our institutions, perhaps even more firmly than could have been achieved solely through retention of the presidency, which was lost in the retirement of Adams the month following Marshall's appointment. John Marshall, by the unanimous confession of all intelligent readers of the history of our country, belongs to that first rank of great historic Americans which includes Franklin, Washington, Hamfiton, Webster and Lincoln; men who were creative, constructive, conservative minds, instead of being men of destructively critical political genius, like Jefferson and Calhoun.

Franklin's rare political genius furmished the "germ theory" of the federal constitution; Washington, through the weight of his enormous public in-fluence, and Marshall, through the power of his logic, secured the ratification of the federal constitution by Virginia against the opposition of Patrick small majority of ten votes. Had not Thomas Jefferson been fortunately absent from the country, Virginia would doubtless have rejected the constitution, for Jefferson on his return bitterly denounced the provision which made the supreme court independent of congress, appointive, with practically life tenure in office. Jefferson held the supreme court should be creatures of the will of the dominant party in congress, dependent for their election and tenure of office upon the will of the transient party majority. Jefferson saw that his party triumph in 1801 was a barren victory, because the last and greatest act of President Adams had been to place at the head of the United States supreme court the ablest federalist in the country and its greatest jurist. Jefferson saw that with John Marshall on the supreme bench the federal constitution would not be One of the worst inequities under the interpreted according to the views of old state systems of bankruptcy was Jefferson, but according to the antagomistic views held by Washington and

It is an interesting historical fact

that the great saviors of the constitu-

tion. Washington and Marshall were

Virginia born and bred. It was singularly fortunate that the great state of greatest men originally espoused the of Jefferson from France Madison seemed to fall away from the idea of indestructible nationality which originally upheld, for he wrote the Virginia resolutions of 1798, which are in line with the state supremacy doctrines of Jefferson's famous Kentucky resoutions of 1798. Not only were Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Jefferson and Madison more or less anti-Hamilton, but the ablest Massachusetts statesman of the revolution, Sam. Adams, was to all intents and purposes a Jeffersonian. The political heresy of "state supremacy" set forth by Jefferson with the acquiescence of Madison in 1798 bad greatly alarmed Washington, who saw in its growth the ceds of future disunion and civil war. It was exceedingly fortunate for the scurity of the Union that just at this time of growing danger so great a lawyer and so inflexible a believer in the doctrine of national supremacy as John Marshall should have been placed at the head of the United States supreme court, just when Jefferson, the author of the dangerous policy of state supremacy, had been declared elected president. Great sacrifices had been nade to secure the adoption of the constitution. Virginia reluctantly adopted it only because of the influence of Washington and Marshall and the absence of Jefferson. New York only adopted it through the joint influence of Hamilton and the fortunate outside presence and counsel of Madison, South Carolina was only persuaded to adopt it because of the concession that she should have representation for her slaves, and Rufus King, the ablest leader of the anti-slavery men of New England, confessed that he consented to accept this feature because they all saw that without serious compromises of some sort or other on both sides there would not be any federal Union. The pains and the brains it cost to create the constitution and the Union would have been expended in vain if when Jefferson was inaugurated in March, 1801, he had not found that great Virginia jurist and patriotic apostle of sational supremacy at the head of the

supreme bench. Marshall was one of the few men who are born great lawyers; that is, men of original genius for the application of a few great fundamental legal principles to an utterly new and untried experiment. The legal expounders of the American constitution could find no precedents for guidance, for there was no parallel in the governments of Europe of that day. So the greatness of Marshall lay in the original power of his legal genius, which was obliged to solve a new situation. had to do in fimmee, solve a new sit-

one years old; he had been six years an officer of the Revolutionary army, and was the son of a distinguished colonel of the Continental army, a schoolmate and life-long friend of Washington, and Marshall himself was the intimate friend of Washington, who seemed to have an eye like that of a hawk to discover young men of precocious intellect like Marshall and Hamilton. Marshall was firmly trusted as a great Virginian by the South; as a great patriot by the North, and his legal interpretation of the constitution on the side of national supremacy was a wall of legal defense against the doctrine of nullification and secession.

Webster's eloquence gave the doctrine schoolbook circulation, but without Marshall and Hamilton to lean on. Webster's eloquence would not have counted for much with the thoughtful. intelligent leaders of opinion of both sections. If Webster, the pupil of Marshall, is worthy of honor, surely the great legal master and teacher of Webster was a greater man and worthy of greater honor.

#### MILITARY MOBILITY.

We are 12,000 miles from Cape Town, but the Boer war had hardly broken out when our experienced soldiers pointed out that Great Britain's trouble would not be lack of men, but lack of mobility; that the English could not hope for success until they had made their army as mobile as that of the Boer. That is, the British must put into the field as large and as well-armed a force of mounted riflemen as the Boers possess. This is exactly the conclusion that Lieutemant-General Owen, of the British army, reaches in Yankee mind grasped the situation quickly, viz., that, given equal arms, rifles and cannon and trained soldiers for leaders, mounted riflemen entrenched in a difficult country could not be dislodged by infantry. The surprising thing is that General Owen's onclusion should not have been reached by the English field command-

ers before the outbreak of the war. It is now said that it is only the want of a sufficient mounted force and transport that has prevented a movement for the capture of Norval's Pont on the Orange river, before now by the British. This excuse is plausible but not profound. It is said that from the Basutos, a Kaffir tribe, under British protectorate, plenty of ponies as good as those ridden by the Boers could have been purchased long ago, and that 25,000 colonial-born British could have been mounted on these pontes and formed a force quite equal to the same number of Boers.

The trouble with the British army

is that, though brave and steady, it is slow and heavy in motion. To illustrate: Lord Roberts, in his excellent book, "Forty-three Years in India," describing his famous forced march with 10,000 men from Cabul to Candahar, states that among other things carried on the train as part of the rations of the English soldier was ale and spirits. What would Grant, whose field shelter during the Wilderness campaign was nothing but a fly tent, have thought of undertaking a forced march with a train loaded down with ale and spirits rations? What would Sherman have thought of such a cum brous train when he started with 100,-000 men from Dalton for Atlanta in such a state of mobility that, as he humorously expressed it, every officer's baggage was cut down "to a tooth-brush"? Sherman, whenever he left the railroad, took no tents or baggage; but he took five days' bacon, twenty days' bread, thirty days' salt, sugar and coffee; nothing else but arms and ammunition. When Sherman started with 62,000 men from Atlanta for the sea he took but one wagon to a regiment, and, of course lived off the country to a considerable extent. Behindeach brigade followed a due proportion and provision wagons.

ammunition wagons, ambulances Superior mobility made Grant's Vicksburg campaign a brilliant sucess. Superior mobility enabled Grant to cross the Rapidan with 100,000 men and 4000 wagons; superior mobility enabled him to lift up his army of 100,000 men from under Lee's nose at Cold Harbor, carry it over the James river and plant it immovably before the de fenses of Petersburg; superior mobility enabled him in his pursuit of Lee to outmarch him and compel his surrender. Superior mobility enabled Stone. wall Jackson to whip in detail Banks, Shields, Fremont and McDowell; superior mobility enabled Napoleon to win the great victory of Friedland, enabled Frederick to win Leuthen. Until the British mount at least 25,000 riflemen they will not easily out-maneuver the Boers.

Correspondents at Turner ask The Oregonian to "give the law of succesion of the president of the United States," and to "state who is the vice president at the present time." Chapter 4, of the laws of the forty-ninth congress, first session, fixes the presiential succession. In case of the death, removal, resignation or inability of both the president and vicepresident, the secretary of state becomes acting president until the disability of the president or vice-president is removed or a president is elected. If there be no secretary of state, the secretary of the treasury shall act. After him, the order of succession is as follows: The secretary of war, the attorney-general, the postmaster-general, the secretary of the navy and the secretary of the interior. Upon taking office, the acting president must, if congress be not then in session, convene it in extraordinary meeting, giv-ing twenty days' notice. These regulations for the succession apply, course, only to such cabinet officers as have been "appointed by the advice and consent of the senate, and are eligible, under the constitution, to the presidency." The office of vice-president has been vacant since the death of Mr. Hobart. The president of the ate is not vice-president of the United States.

Products of the Hawaiian islands are idmitted free of duty into the United States, and that policy is to be contin-Why should not the products of Puerto Rico and the Philippine islands likewise be admitted free? What priate "graft" should be allowed to stop

in its hour of sore need has not yet his profession when he was but forty- an indissoluble bond? Is this country to be governed by a large general pol icy, or by local and private grafts?

> In answer to an inquiry The Oregonian will say that the expression, "bor-rowed the livery of heaven to serve the levil in," is not Shakespeare's. Moreover, in this form it is erroneously quoted. The source of this oft-quoted thing is Pollok's "Course of Time," a long and very solemn "orthodox" poem, which nobody nowadays reads. It is therein written: "He was a man who stole the livery of the court of neaven to serve the devil in." 'This is one of two or three passages of a poem once famous (written about seventyfive years ago by a young Scotch Presbyterian), which are still remembered,

> The Edward M. Shepard dinner Saturday night seems to have passed off harmoniously. Silver was ignored, and thus the chief object of the gath-ering was achieved, namely, to cement the sundered wings of the New York democracy. An incidental purpose is believed to have been the launch of Mr. Shepard's boom for governor,

> The Transvaal war is the source of infinite hilarity now to Boer sympathizers, who fairly gloat over the British losses of 10,000 men. But wait till the imperial forces begin to close in on the burghers and the ratio of losses is reversed. What walls and groans we shall hear of the flendishness of war and the criminality of slaughter.

It has taken the British a long time to get ready; but unless all signs are worthless, the Boers during the next two or three months will get some of the current number of the North that stuff calculated to "stagger hu-American Review. In other words, the manity." It has been against the British thus far. But a British force is now getting to the front, and business is likely to ensue.

> The protectionists of the East nov loin hands with the free-traders, and the free-traders join haffds with the protectionists, to fence the United States of America in. The cry of "anti-imperialism" is their common bond.

Mr. Beckham issues a proclamation n which he says he has been "legally elected governor of Kentucky." honestly elected, however.

Dewey is hitting Aguinaldo's sensation-mongers and liars some hard blows, these days.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Had there been any winter, we might hink that spring had come.

If there is any money in fuel, it will probably stay there this winter,

Molineux may be a bad man, but he has been a steadfast friend of the handwrit-ing experts. One of these days the senate will wake-

up to find that it has passed a resolu abolishing itself.

extraordinary privilege in having Ruskin as a profesor of fine arts. Some of his most brilliant lectures were given to an audience of four persons, three of whom, as Ruskin bluntily told them, ought not to have been at Oxford at all.

A newly-married couple, not long ago, a newsy-married couple, not song ago, engaged board at a house where there were stoppling a sad-faced widow and her 10-year-old son. The boy was bright, but very fresh, and often insolent. One day Benedick startled his bride by declaring Benedick startled his price by that he wished he were single. Tears came instantly, and then there was in-dignation, followed by a demand to know what was the matter, "Matter!" replied the groom; "why, I'd like to marry the what was the matter, "Matter!" replied the groom; "why, I'd like to marry the widow to get the right to lick that boy,"

"Ah, general," said Dr. Conan Doyle, as he lighted his cigar on a red-hot fragment of a shell which had just landed near him, "this is a rather difficult problem, but handled analytically, I think we may be able to reach a solution. Now, in the first place, the river is going to rise."
"How do you know?" inquired Buller,
"Well, I don't mind telling you," asid

the author of Sheriock Holmes, sld ping to avoid a charge of lyddite, duced it from the circumstance of hearing one of your subalterns damning it as I rode up. But, to continue, the Boers have been shelling again. How do I know it? Why I have seen no less than I recoincis around here within the least five minutes. However, that is betther here nor there. We must wait till nightfall to recoincider the Boer position. Why wait till night? My dear Builer, your Way want of perception surprises me. We can locate the kops only by the stars, and as every one knows, there is a gun on every kop. Now none of these Boers have ever had a close shave, so we must not think we can frighten them. On the other hand, we will proceed scientifically to get

hand, we will proceed scientifically to get them out of the way.

"Lyddite, you say? My dear general, you talk like a child. Listen to me. You must procure from the commissary a quantity of beets. Assign a best to every kop, and throw them out. You may then proceed in safety, for you will find that not a single kop is within a thousand wiles of a best.

"I must leave you now, for I deduce from the tremule in the note of the can-non in the rear that Roberts and Kitchener are shaking for the drinks, and as they will not do any business till they can consult with me I must be off. Fol-low my directions, and the next time I ener are shaking for the drinks, and as they will not do any business till they can consult with me I must be off. Follow my directions, and the next time I see you I will know from the funereal expression on your countenance that you have been eating connect beef for that where the state of the seed to see the seed expression on your countenance that you have been eating canned beef for that Christmas dinner you were going to enjoy in Pretoria."

Many kinds of flowers blooming in the Many kinds of flowers blooming into be open air and new varieties coming into bloom daily indicate that spring is at hand. The delightful weather resterday which caused thousands to be abroad was enough to make one believe that spring was already here, but though bursting buds and blooming flowers are to be seen on every hand, the swallows have not arrived, and there is still a possibility that the weather may go back on us. However, with snowdrops, crocus, primroses, Carries off a lead of shot. ever, with snowdrops, crocus, primroses, wallfowers, violets and many other flowers blooming in the gardens, and the florists' windows filled with hyacinths, tulips, lilles of the valley, Chinese prim-

Sying; Miles on the water lying; welcome, GOSSIP OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL Sying; slies on the water lying; welcome, welcome, springtide, home." The singer was a little, just a little, previous, for although it is possible to find a peach tree in bloom, the blessoms are not yet flying in the breeze, and the statement about the little is hardly warranted by the facts. February is almost haif gone, and the chances are good that the spring-like weather will continue to last through the month, and that March will come in like a lamb and so out like a dove. a lamb and go out like a dove.

FORTIFICATION AN EMPTY THING, Sen Power Must Defend Our Commerce and the Canal.

New York Commercial Advertiser. The making of a new treaty to establish the international relations of an Ameri-oan canal between the Atlantic and the Pacific was too large a matter to pass without close examination. It was to be expected that the senate would approach it in a critical spirit, and that points of possible objection would be raised for discussion. It is probable that these will disappear with consideration of the full text of the treaty in the light of general international law and historical practice. If not, they can be removed easily by amendment. Agreement as to the spirit of the treaty is too clear for disagreement as to its language. Only two points appear to Paoific was too large a matter to pass most. Agreement as to the spirit of the treaty is too clear for disagreement as to this winter. Many of the leading functions of the season so far have found its language. Only two points appear to be under suspicion: The guaranty of the neutrality of the canal and the piedge not to fortify its terminals, though we are to police the whole routs. It is feared that these would impair our power of national

not hamper us, as treaties are suspended by war. As against neutral trade when we were at war, we should have the sume right to stop contraband that we have on right to stop contraband that we have on the high seas, with the essermous ad-vantage that pone could escape our vigi-lance. As against beligorents when we were neutral, the practice if the treaty be reported correctly, would be precisely that in our own ports. Either could use it for peaceful passage, but neither could stay more than 24 hours or use R as a base of heattle operation. As to fortifying the terminals, this would be a barren right. Defense of the canal in war would depend absolutely upon sea power: It would be useless, however im-

power; it would be useless, however im-pregnable. If it could be blockaded and cut off from this country. There is nothing in the treaty to prevent our establishing strong naval bases as far from the terstrong nava cases as far from the ter-minals as Alexandria and Aden in the Mediterranean and Red some are from Port Said and Sues, from which our fleets could operate for their defense, Indeed, all that is said here is illustrated and confirmed in the history of the Suez canal in war and peace. It is neutral and unfor-tified, but as absolutely under English con-trol for autropose of patients of the Suez and the total a decorately index longitude for purposes of national defense as the Solent, Cumara used it in the Spanish war, and Transvaal trade not contraband uses it in this war. No right of world commerce suffers under British confroi through sea power and local police, no more complete than ours would be in Mearagus or Parama. no more complete than Nicaragua or Panama.

### The Words of Benton.

"There is the East, there is India," is the legend by which is known a great speech made by a great Missourian, which may be read with profit at this time by those Americans who are troubled with gloomy fears about the dangers of "Imparialism." These were Benton's words at St. Louis in 1849, appealing for West-

abolishing itself.

Judging by the number of times Builer has retired lately, a whole battalion of buglers must be kept busy blowing taps.

If Kentucky colonels would equip themselves with Gatling guns, differences of opinion among them might be settled more speedily.

A Linnton man has been arrested on charges of polygamy and horse-stealing. There are worse men in the world, it appears, than Brigham H. Roberts.

It now looks as if the high-minded Washington of the Philippines had flown the coop and left his noble band of putriots to hunt cover on their own account.

It is curious that the students of Oxford showed so little appreciation of their extraordinary privilege in having Ruskin is constant to counce, the colossal statue of the coverage with ground statue of the coverage on the precision of their extraordinary privilege in having Ruskin as the other, and which spain so secrets with its crowing bonor, the colosest statue of the great Columbus, whose design it accomplishes, here from a granite mass of a peak of the Rocky mountains, the mountain itself the pedestal, and the statue a part of the mountain, pointing with constructed arm to the Western borisin, and saying to the flying pas-sengers: "There is Elast; There is India."

# Useless and Foolish Policy.

Boston Herald.

President McKinley has submitted to the effect of a boycott in the South upon one of his postmaster appointments. He put a negro in the office at Hogansville, put a negro in the office at Hogansville, Ga. The people did not personally attack him, and they showed their wisdom in taking this course. They protested against the appointment, and then they boycosted the office. The postmaster was sustained by the president until it was found that it was of no advantage to himself to be continued in office, when he was transferred to a place is Washington. No one seems to have besided by this experiment. The president had, in effect, to revoke the appointment; the colored man could not afford to keep it; the people lost the use of the office for a considerable time, and perhaps they are to be punished by its being made vacant longer. If the principle of appointing colored men to poetmasterships could have been sustained continuous could have been austained something might have been gained, but, it seems, it could not. Aside from the race question, it would appear to be only fair that, in such appointments, there should be a reasonable acquiecesnee in the wishes of the people among whom incumbents of office are placed.

Buden-Powell's Idea of Tactics.

London Dally News.

Private letters received in London from Colonel Baden-Powell express that gallant officer's conviction that the Boers will have to be beaten as much by strategy and wariness as by bravery and hard fighting. He seems especially to lay emphasis on the importance of encountering them with the unexpected and unusual and on the necessity of receiving great caution any abnormal position generosity on the part of the enemy.

# Plaint of the "Innocent Bystander."

Baltimore American She was bred in old Kentucky, And the sweetest songs are sung, And the innecent bystander, Gets a bullet in his long. Where the ladies all are pretty. Carries off a load of shot Where the breeze is ever sighing,
Through the leaves a screnade;
And you see the constant fashing,
Of the bowle's gleanting blade!
Oh, she's down there in Kentucky
Waiting till I come for her.
The tax home at this we will be a But as long as things are this way WASHINGTON, Feb. IL-Senator St-

WASHINGTON, Feb. II.—Senator Simon has favorably reported to the senate
his bill appropriating \$150,000 for enlarging the Portland postoffles building. With
the report is an estimate from the secretary of the treasury showing that the
necessary extensions and enlargements
will cost \$150,000, but Senator Simon thinks
there will be no difficulty in securing the
\$5000 additional if the present bill shall
pass, and he fully expects it will.

Oregon is Society.

No one in Washington enlives the enclars

No one in Washington enjoys the society of the capital city more, or is more warmly welcomed within its circles, than is like Mary Tongue, daughter of Representative Tongue, of Oregon. This is Miss Tongue's second winter here, and, with her many charms and wisning manner, has established herself firmly in the hearts of her Washington friends. When she first came to Washington, at the beginning of the last session of congress, Miss Tongue formed a large number of friends, with whom she became a favorits, and, while Washington changes suddenly and often, she experienced no difficulty in re-newing old acquaintances and making scores of new ones when she returned these would impair our power of national defense in the event of war by permitting neutral commerce and hostile navies to use it to our hurt.

This overlooks the necessary interpretation by international law and practice. As against an enemy, the treaty would not harmer us as treating are supercised.

As the Gregori delegation is composed almost wholly of hackelors, Representative Tongue being the only married man, it does not cut very much of a figure in so-cial life this winter. Were it not for Miss Tongue, they would not be heard of very much, although Representative takes great interest in the different social functions, and has been invited to many during the season, and attends whenever he has the time. Neither of the senators takes much interest in these social func-tions, and the absence of Mrs. Tongue from the city prevents Mr. Tongue from going out very much. The senators and representatives, however, go to the White House receptions, as it is really necessary on account of their official positions. The sepatory also altend state dinners at the White House, Mr. Moody derives a great deal of enjoyment from the social side of the Washington life, much more than any other member of the Oregon delegation. When the others go out it is more a mat-ter of duty than pleasure.

The Soldler's Hat.

Some of the correspondents have been snearing at the order issued by the war department which prohibits the wearing of the private soldiers but in any other form than that in which it is originally shaped, which is of the Alpins style, that has long been considered the most becom-ing for the average soldier's head. Now, as a matter of fact, this order is a proper thing, and was made necessary by the manner in which soldiers twisted the brown hats that are issued to them. They have been worn in peaked shape, inflant territory style, dested in at the top, sulin-ble for a Georgia style, and then again they have had the brim pinned up on one or more sides, to give them a rakish appearance. Some soldless also have the opinion that it is a fine thing to decorate their hats with all kinds of pictures and ink drawings. It is well enough for these men to be taught that uniformity is the best feature of a soldier's life, and wearing apparel is made into uniforms to be worn according to the design for the best interests of the army. General Miles was one of the first to call attention to the fact that the wearing of the bats in all sorts of shapes by the volunteers gave them an unsoldierly appearance which should be corrected. That was more than six months ago, and finally the order has been tweed by the department in con-formity with his recommendations.

Effort for Metric System. An earnest effort is being made by the ouse committee on coinage, weights and measures to secure the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures in the United States. For many years past this question has been agitated, and as many times failed. But the committee has now gone into the matter with a determination, and the members of the committee are almost ununimous in favor of adopting the new system—that is, new to this country.

Among those prominent in public life who have advocated this system is Secretary Gage, of the treasury department The secretary told the committee that the metric system was really the universal system of measurement throughout the world, and that if it were once adopted by the United States, Great Britain, the only other great nation not now recogniz-ing it, would fall in line, and make its use absolutely universit. A number of prominent government scientists, men who have given much time to the subject of weights and measures, also advocate the change, and with such a general sentiment in its favor, while its passage cannot be safely predicted, it can be said that it never had a brighter outlook. One of the great points made in favor

One of the great points made in favor of the system is that it is founded on a decimal hasis. Some members of the committee asy that it was a great pity that when the decimal money system was adopted, that the same hasis was not assured in the matter of weights and measures. They resilte that to inaugurate a new seaton med as the matter or weight. new system such as the metric would inimportance have to undergo a period of severe attack, before the general public becomes educated up to the new and more advanced ideas.

When this bill is reported to the house,

as it undoubtedly will be, with a recom-mendation that it pass there will prob-ably be more or less discussion on the subject. Probably one of the points to be raised against the bill is that the present terms or names used in the metric system are not as absorbed or accessible as some are not as phonetic or agreeable as some of the terms we have become accustomed to, and to meet this opposition, some have suggested that while the system be changed, the old names be retained, and applied to the new units. For instance as the yard and metre are not very differ ent in length, it is suggested metre be known as a yard and the centi-metre-as the inch. And so with the weights: the gram might adopt the name of ounce, and the kilogram the pound, while a litre would mean as much under the name of quart.

The Wonderful Doctors.

Chloago Times-Harald.

They have found out how consumption may be postavely dured;
This that need to warry people need no longer be endured.
They've discovered lymphs and serums, so we have been plainly told.
That will also the end hecessity of ever grow-

They are finding out the microbes, they're advancing day by day. But people heep on dying in the same old-fashloned way.

Word may come tomorrow morning that come

Word may come temperate marking that some horithe disease.

Has been mastered by some foctor here at home or o'er the seas;

They are stopping all the fevers and arresting all the ills. That the human form is held to with their secures and their pills;
They are causing man to somder at their triumphs every day.
But people been on dying in the same old-fashioned way.

What a wondrone thing is existed. They can take a germ from you and exploit its inclinations and exploit its febbs, too.
They have found out that the stomach is of

very little use, They can master all its functions with the gizaned of a good.
They are outling they are doping they're advancing day by day.
But people keep on dying in the mome old-fashioned way.