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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 78; minimum, 54; fair.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Generally fair; west to north winds.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, AUGUST 23.

THE FOREIGN ELEMENT.

About one-eighth of the inhabitants of the United States are of foreign nativity. A much larger number, born in the country, are from ancestors who came within times very recent. That this great influx of new elements causes change in the composition and character of the population is undoubted; yet it is really one of the most remarkable things in human history to observe how rapid, and apparently how complete, is the absorption of so many great and various elements into the American commonwealth. The following is from "Impressions of America," by Frederic Harrison, the well-known English writer and traveler:

In spite of the vast proportions of immigrant population, the language, character, habits of native Americans rapidly absorb and incorporate all foreign elements. In the second or third generation all exotic differences are merged. In one sense the United States seemed to me more homogeneous than the United Kingdom. There is no state, city or large area which has a distinct race of its own, as Ireland, Wales and Scotland have, and of course there is nothing analogous to the diverse nationalities of the British Empire. From Long Island to San Francisco, from Florida Bay to Vancouver Island, there is one dominant race and civilization, one language, one type of law, one sense of nationality. That race, that nationality is the American to the core. And the consciousness of its vast expansion and collective force fills the mind of American citizens as nothing can do to this degree in the nations of Western Europe.

This is somewhat too sweeping; for so mighty an influx cannot but produce its effect, even as a great river in its lower courses is modified by the affluents it has received. Still, this absorption and assimilation of population by the United States is a phenomenon in history and ethnology. Races very diverse, brought together under the conditions that prevail in America, approach a common basis of thought and life with a rapidity that is astonishing. Political and social institutions; natural conditions, as climate, soil and productions; the organization of industry and its vast correlations; and, above all, a common language and the common school, are contributions to results which have no analogies elsewhere, on any comparable scale.

But it has been remarked that though the proportion of persons of foreign birth in the United States is and has always been high, comparatively few of foreign birth have become notable figures in our history. George McAdam sets forth in Scribner's Magazine for August that in order to discover to what extent foreign-born persons, in this country, have impressed themselves on its public affairs and have exerted special influence on its politics, or in literature, art, invention and war, he has examined the most recent and complete biographical cyclopedias, and has found that of 2605 persons who are held to have been distinguished in this country's affairs, only 283 were of foreign birth; and of these 57 were colonists who were here before the United Republic was established. This is an incidental sign of the ascendancy of the American spirit through the whole course of our National history. That spirit has been steadily dominant, while drawing all elements unto it. It has itself been modified, undoubtedly; every one can see that. But, in spite of the vast infiltration, it remains essentially American.

VICTIM OF POPULAR INSTABILITY.

Whatever may be said in criticism of the recent output of Rudyard Kipling, and it must be admitted that his latest "poem" allows considerable latitude in that direction, not all the jeers and sneers of his detractors can lure his hand back to cancel half a line of the Mulvaney stories or "The Jungle Book" and no end of scorn can wash out a word of "The Recessional." When Kipling lay in New York upon what was supposed to be his deathbed, it was suggested that he had reached the highest point of all his greatness, and that it might be better for his literary fame if fate decreed that he write no more. Such was the height of his popularity then that the suggestion was howled down as malicious envy, and the admirers of the stricken author protested that could his life only be spared he would give the world a novel that would endure as long as the language. How well this prophecy has been fulfilled has been shown by "Kim" and several other stories in prose, and by "The Bridge Guard on the Karoo," and this latest semi-metrical advice to his fellow-countrymen.

But whatever may be said of the Kipling of today, let it be remembered that it is he who gave us the "Soldiers Three"; that it is he whose "Jungle Books" are, or ought to be, in every child's collection of books, and that he is as nearly the Bobbie Burns old McAndrews prayed for to sing the song of steam as any living man can be. Admitting, as it must be admitted, that he soared to a fictitious valuation at the time his books were most read in America; acknowledging that he said things about America and Americans that were not only brutal, but untruthful, there still remains not only the memory but the presence in the volume of the good work he has done, and it is hardly in good taste for those who sang his praises most loudly when he was the fashion to stand in the front rank of his traducers now that he is so no longer. Time will fix the true value of his work, and no amount of praise nor blame, following each other in waves like the ebb and flow of public enthusiasm for reform, can add to or subtract from it. We should govern ourselves in matters of literary judgment more like reasoning beings, and less like the mob, which, once climbing the chimney tops to see great Pompey pass the streets of Rome, anon strewed flowers in the way of him who came triumphant over Pompey's blood.

FIRST LESSON IN RANGE LAW.

Congress will never consent to a lease law for Oregon's ranges that does not fully protect the interests of the settlers, whose cause is eloquently championed by the anti-Lusk letters we have printed within recent weeks. It might be well for these contributors, most of whom do their feeding and farming on the curbstones of the City of Portland, to get this idea into their not superabundantly populated craniums, where it may irrigate and fructify vast tracts of deforested and overcropped matter. If anybody supposes the few cattle kings or sheep kings are going to have their way with Congress over the vastly preponderant vote of the small growers and actual settlers, dear to the heart of patriot and demagogue alike, he is sadly astray in his calculations. This is something neither Administration nor Congress will "stand for."

There's a good deal in a name, and the word "lease" has acquired such measure of opprobrium as to disqualify it for further usefulness. We do not mean by this that the way is open now for astute land-grabbers to accomplish their nefarious purposes through the subterfuge of leases under a more felicitous name, but this rather: that the interests of all participants in Eastern Oregon development, as well as public peace and progress, require some formal and adequate undertaking by the Federal Government for protection and regulation of the public domain now left to oligarchs on the one hand and anarchy on the other. There is no more sense in seeking the annihilation of flocks and herds than of the settler. The Government will primarily recognize the certain conquest of these great areas eventually for homes and settled industry; but it must also deal justly by the stock interests. It will be controlled neither by the oily arguments of Mr. Lusk nor the insane ravings of his enemies.

The fact is that the welfare of the settler as well as the existence of the herds demands some definite and positive action at Washington in the direction of control and management of the public domain in Eastern Oregon, both within and without the reserves. For the settler's protection we must have delimitation of the areas over which stock may roam, and for the use of such areas the stockmen may very properly be required to pay to the Government, in the form of acreage or per capita, charges sufficient to recoup the Government somewhat for the outlay thus put upon it. Once let the settler overcome his hallucination that the stock kings are about to hog the whole country, an end to which Representative Moody's trip with Messrs. Newell and Pinchot is useful, and the situation will rapidly get in shape to make progress.

SOUTH AMERICA'S TEMPTATION.

German ebullitions, now joined to French protests at our prospective activity in the neighborhood of the isthmus, afford the first real evidence in support of the hitherto incredible stories of European designs on South America. It has been generally known that Continental powers, notably Germany, France and Italy, look longingly toward the undeveloped resources of South America, whither attention is also drawn through emigration thither of large numbers of their subjects; but the sensible view has seemed to be that Europe would not court the hostility of the United States by overt steps toward exercise of quasi-sovereignty, especially in view of the readiness with which Old World citizens drop their nationality in the New and transplant their loyalty to their new home.

Nevertheless, it would be idle to blink the great temptation South American opportunities constantly set before industrial and official Europe. We know how vast accumulations of capital, impossible of lucrative employment at home, have set on foot and urged forward and defrayed the expenses of vast colonial undertakings in India, China, Oceanica and all over Africa. Perhaps a more inviting field than any of these is offered in the vast pastures, fertile tillable lands, varied mines and rich tropical resources of all kinds in South America, where there is the additional attraction of a considerable population groaning under inefficient government. Whatever we think of Continental purposes, the fact of South America's perpetual temptation to Continental capital and diplomacy cannot be denied.

This must be taken into account, as well as the Panama possibilities that disturb France, in explaining European jealousy of American activity in the present difficulties. Europe is alert, more so, perhaps, than we are ourselves, to the advantages secured for trade by maintenance of National prestige. Everybody understands that but the antis. European traders have assiduously cultivated South American trade, while we have measurably despised it. Yet the beginnings of trade for us are there, and are worth cultivating. For the fiscal year ended June 30 last the amount of imports to this country from Colombia was $3,230,652, and the exports from the United States to Colombia were $3,142,052. With Venezuela the trade last year was $3,271,877 of exports into that country, and $6,745,848 imports from Venezuela. If Costa Rica and Nicaragua should be drawn into the present squabble, the trade with them would also be endangered. During the last year the imports from Costa Rica to the United States amounted to $2,990,550, and the exports to that country were $1,946,725. With Nicaragua the trade was: Imports, $2,035,636; and exports, $1,482,194.

If we had no isthmian canal purposes, this trade showing supplies ample incentive to the United States to strive for speedy peace in our Latin-American neighbors, rather than to promote the dubious conflicts with which Europe charges us. We should say it is far more probable that Europeans, either officials or private citizens, have connived at the assault on Colombian sovereignty, than that any plans of territorial aggrandizement are entertained by the Government at Washington.

EUROPEAN INVASION IMPOSSIBLE.

Brooks Adams, in the current number of the Atlantic Monthly, argues at great length that the only alternative, if we refuse reciprocity to Europe, will be war with Europe; that international competition carried to the extreme of a struggle for subsistence must end in war. America can undersell Europe today in agricultural products, in minerals or raw materials, in most branches of manufactured iron and steel. The prospect before Europe is that America will drive her from neutral markets and ultimately flood Europe herself with goods at prices with which Europe cannot compete. When this day arrives, Mr. Adams says, Europe, brought face to face with ruin, will, failing to induce the United States to ameliorate the situation by commercial reciprocity, make war on the United States and attempt to break her down by arms. There must be compromise or war. There will be compromise, in our judgment, because the United States, in satisfaction of sound international policy, could afford to compromise. There will not be war, because America is so strong that war against her could not hope to be successful, unless Great Britain could be persuaded to join the crusade of Continental Europe against the United States.

Great Britain would never join such a coalition, because she knows that if the coalition proved strong enough to crush and loot America it would then be strong enough to crush and loot Great Britain. Great Britain knows that she has not a sincere friend among the powers of Continental Europe, and that in event of a coalition against her the only power from whom she could expect any sympathy or aid would be the United States, which could not afford to have her enormous export trade with Britain interrupted. From the point of view of far-reaching national policy, the British not only would refuse to help crush America, but would probably help America resist attack. Furthermore, to unite all Europe against America would be impossible. Europe is rent today by so many internal quarrels and rivalries that a coalition as perfect as that which crushed Napoleon the Great is not possible today, and if it were possible it could not hope to be successful under the changed methods of modern warfare against the United States, which is separated from Europe by 3000 miles of ocean and is inhabited by 75,000,000 of people, young, rich, intelligent, self-reliant and patriotic beyond any nation of the earth today.

The changed conditions of modern warfare would make the invasion of the United States by Europe as hopeless of success as would be the invasion of all Continental Europe by America. The cost of such a war would be so enormous that six months of it would bankrupt Europe. Meanwhile, beyond the possible bombardment of a few seacoast cities, a European army of invasion could do as little damage. Every mile of our country would be occupied by thousands of mounted riflemen, expert shots, supplemented by trained field artillery. Measured by the obstinate resistance that untrained Boers were able to make to the progress of highly trained British regulars, an army of 500,000 American mounted riflemen, supplemented by trained field artillery, fighting behind intrenched positions, could wear out any army that Europe could afford to send against us. Beyond our seacoast a foreign army could not hope to advance far, and maintain its communications, and the capture of our great Atlantic seacoast cities would be a task of extraordinary difficulty. Within three months after declaration of war the United States would have at least a million of formidable fighting men in arms. These men would not be able to meet trained troops in pitched battle, but they would be brave men, who could ride and shoot and fight well enough to spoil the success of any campaign of invasion.

If we were a country like France, with only the River Rhine and a mountain frontier between it and Germany, we should be, of course, at more disadvantage, but even France today does not doubt her ability with the modern military rifle easily to repel invasion. When we remember that Europe would be obliged to send every man and every gun over 3000 miles of water to reach America, to capture and maintain a naval base upon our coast, and to inflict severe distress upon our country before it could compel us to make a humiliating peace, it is preposterous to talk about war with Europe as the alternative to reciprocity. Doubtless as a matter of international policy we will grant reciprocity, but it will not be yielded under the duress of a threat of war. Not even a Napoleon could conquer America, armed with modern rifles and cannon.

In the name of humanity some means should be devised to restrain lawyers of the power to prolong the misery of men palpably and often confessedly guilty of heinous crimes by delaying the execution of just penalty. Take, for example, this man Nordstrom, of Seattle, who has been again and again convicted of a murder committed nearly ten years ago. Justice and chicane have been playing at battledore and shuttlecock with the miserable man for years, the taxpayers of King County reluctantly paying for the game from which the vast majority of them have long since turned away in disgust if not in horror. The man, stolid under the pressure of all these years, evidently placing implicit confidence in his lawyers and their devices, at length faces the day of his doom with sobs and weeping which tell the story of his long-sustained mental torture. For the sake of humanity, of justice, of law, of the public safety, the curtain should have been rung down upon this cruel farce long ago. According to the evidence often adduced, the man deserves to be hanged. But it can hardly be held that he has deserved the long-drawn-out cruelty that abides in ten years of alternate hope and despair shadowed by the gallows and reduced to blank monotony by the dull routine of prison life. Today, it is said, the long-delayed final scene will be enacted in the garret of the King County Courthouse. Truly, it may be hoped that there will be no further delay.

Conflicting stories are told by the survivors of the wreck of the Islander in northern waters, of the behavior of the officers, crew and passengers of the ill-fated vessel. This is not strange. In the midst of the alarm and consternation that follow the first intimation of disaster in a case of this kind, no man can reasonably be expected to view the scene calmly and no two men to see it through the same vision—physical or mental. The public may, therefore, charitably believe that all tell the truth as it appeared to them; that the officers behaved like men, anxious to discharge faithfully the fearful responsibilities that confronted them; that the passengers were as calm and reasonable as could be expected of human beings with a ship rapidly settling under them into the black waters, and that the striking of the vessel was not due to the intoxication of its navigators. Upon one point all accounts agree. The women, of whom there was quite a number among the passengers, showed true heroism. In the expressive words of one of the ship's officers who was rescued, they "acted splendidly, and those who reached shore worked hard to restore those who were brought in later." That this praise is deserved cannot be doubted, especially by those who have seen delicate women sometimes become hysterical under conditions of possible danger rise to meet an appalling emergency with the self-forgetfulness of true courage.

The death of Hon. J. L. Ferguson at La Fayette on the 20th inst. closed an upright and useful life that ran the even tenor of its way in a single community for nearly half a century. Going to La Fayette, then a more important town than Portland, in 1852, Mr. Ferguson opened a shop and plied industriously his trade as a saddle and harness-maker for some years, laying in his industry the foundation for a modest competence which in his later years he has quietly enjoyed. He was not unknown to the political life of the community, having in his prime been active in the ranks of the Democratic party of "Old Yamhill." As its representative he served in the State Legislature during one or more sessions of that body acceptably to that portion of his constituents that elected him, but without special distinction. The phase of his life which may be regarded as a worthy example to young men is that which represents the untiring industry of his early manhood and middle life, and the correct habits which made him a dependable and respected citizen in the community of his choice, for a period covering two-thirds of his long life. In these respects he was well worthy the emulation of young men who are about to set out, trusting to their own guidance, upon the journey that he has but now completed.

To wear out a war by the process of attrition is serious business. Such a job the British have on their hands in South Africa. The number of Boers in arms at the present time is estimated at 10,000 to 12,000—not more. But these have a vast country to operate in. Broken up into parties of 1000 or less, they range here and there, avoiding battle with any force approaching to equality with their own, yet striking small detached bodies of British troops, looting the magazines and doing immense damage. Of the Boer forces remaining in the field, it is believed that more than one-half are Cape Colony rebels. Against them and their property, and against their kindred who sympathize with and assist them, the British Government is beginning to take very severe measures. On both sides the war is rapidly degenerating into a system of bloody reprisals. It tends now to a single end—the Boers are to be worn out. They cannot recruit their numbers further, and the English Nation, exasperated by what it deems an irrational resistance, will not give up the job.

A correspondent of the Troy Times, writing from Buffalo, says the gold exhibits from Oregon are a surprise to a great many people. But, so he adds, are those from the Carolinas and from Georgia. A nugget from North Carolina is shown which weighs more than ten pounds, and there are unnumbered smaller specimens. One mine in South Carolina, the Haile, has produced the bulk of the gold found in the East in recent years. The output of this mine for the last three years has a value of $2,000,000.

A mistake was made yesterday in the figures in the Washington dispatch saying Portland is the second healthiest city in the United States. The statement was made that the death rate was 9.5 per cent. On the basis of a population of 90,426 in June, 1900, this would have given 8590 deaths last year, whereas there were only 856 deaths. Correctly put, the figures should have read 9.5 deaths per 1000 population.

Will any one say, after noting the operations of the salt trust, and the advance of 300 per cent in the price of salt effected by its greed, why the protective duty on salt should not be abolished? These trusts are making free traders on the one hand and socialists on the other, with a rapidity never witnessed before.

A world-wide copper trust, announced as formed, will be a useful aid in the direction of tariff reform. The copper men have free copper and protected wares.

The Iowa Democrats are as devoid of hope as lost souls, but no power on earth can prevent them from going through the motions every election year.

Now that the American teachers have reached Manila, we may expect to hear that the youth of Luzon are adopting the great American game of hookey.

Dr. Caldas, of Havana, is going to prove that his serum will prevent yellow fever as long as a single native is left to experiment on.

OUR MILLION PENSIONERS.

San Francisco Call.

Pension Commissioner Evans has been subjected to almost constant attacks, due to the charge that his administration of his bureau is illiberal. He is himself an old soldier and a member of the G. A. R., but the most persistent demands for his removal have come from that organization. The charges have been numerous, and it has appeared that his position has been rendered intolerable, unless he is a philosopher or the owner of a resistant nerve as big as the center pole of a circus tent.

To inform his fellow-veterans and the country as to the facts, General Evans has prepared an advance copy of his annual report for use at the coming National encampment of the G. A. R. A synopsis has been published, which contains facts and statistics that may be commented upon. It appears that the annual pension payment in round numbers in Grant's first term was $29,000,000; in his second, $28,000,000; Hayes' term, $38,000,000, when Garfield said it had reached high-water mark; but in Garfield's term it rose to $59,000,000, and in Cleveland's first term was $76,000,000, when Cleveland made a determined stand against further increase, but was met by a powerful reaction which carried the appropriation up to $129,000,000 per year during Harrison's term, and $139,000,000 during Cleveland's second term; during McKinley's first term it was $140,000,000.

Comparing the payment with the cost of maintaining their standing armies by the military nations, it exceeds some of them and approaches the highest. The annual cost of the Austrian Army is $123,000,000; of the French, $127,000,000; the German, $159,000,000; the British $197,000,000; Russian, $165,000,000; and of our own, $134,000,000. The cost of the British Navy is $145,000,000; the French, $60,000,000; the German, $36,000,000; the Russian, $42,000,000; the United States $55,000,000.

Putting pensions and cost of Army and Navy into the annual military budget, we are paying annually for military purposes the sum of $330,727,878, or more than any of the military nations pay for their combined army and navy, except Great Britain, and she exceeds us by only $13,000,000.

For non-military folks we seem to be indulging martial expense rather freely. Of course we omit the pension payments by other countries, but they are so small that if counted it would leave our relative position the same, with Great Britain alone leading us.

General Evans reports 997,737 pensioners on the roll, an increase of 4206 over last year, although it lost by death 38,153. It is interesting to notice that two of the deaths were pensioners of the Revolutionary War, which closed 113 years ago. We may expect, therefore, that under existing laws, for wars now past, pensioners will be on the roll in the year 2019. Of pensioners of the War of 1812 there died 215, and that war ended 86 years ago. The Spanish War has already added nearly 6000 pensioners to the roll, not including the claimants from the Philipines, who are believed to number many thousands, whose claims will occupy the attention of the bureau during the coming year, with the result of increasing the appropriation by several millions, and making the pension roll more than 1,000,000 of persons. Last year 13,334 widows of the Civil War went upon the rolls.

Perhaps it will never be done, but if a commission of independent men could be appointed to review and revise our whole pension system, pensions might be limited to actual disability and the amount saved be added to the pensions of widows and those whose capacity was really and permanently impaired in their country's service.

Any proposition to change our pension policy is met with stubborn opposition, in the fear that it will be made less liberal. A reform might be effected, however, that would make it far more liberal to those who are deserving.

The country would be in sympathy with action by the G. A. R. looking toward such a reform, but it is doubtful whether it will ever be taken.

The action of that organization upon General Evans' report will be awaited with great interest.

ADMIRAL HOWISON EMBARRASSED.

His Pay Did Not Permit Him to Keep Pace With British Officer.

Washington Post.

"Admiral Henry L. Howison, U. S. N., retired, who has been selected as a member of the board of inquiry to try the Schley case, was the principal in a very embarrassing incident several years ago," said Mr. Rupert Meyer, of New Orleans, at the Shoreham. "Admiral Howison was a Captain at the time, and his vessel came into port at New Orleans. A British man-o'-war had been lying in the harbor for some days, and her commander immediately extended the courtesies of the service to the new arrival. Anchor had hardly been dropped from Captain Howison's ship when a boat from the British cruiser pulled alongside and an officer came aboard with an invitation to the American commander to dine with the British Captain. The invitation was for that night, and was accepted. Captain Howison invited the British Captain to dine with him on the following night. The British commander, who seemed to have taken a great fancy to the Yankee sailor, again invited him to dinner for the third night after his arrival, and again the invitation was accepted and returned. On the third invitation of the Briton, Captain Howison declined and was obliged to exhibit one of the great disadvantages under which the commanders of American men-o'-war labor in giving his reason. He told the hospitable British sailor that American Naval commanders are compelled to pay the expenses of all entertainment out of their own pockets, and he was not able to afford continued dinner-giving. The British Captain immediately called upon Captain Howison and announced his ignorance of the conditions prevailing in our Navy, saying he felt that he should apologize.

"This matter of entertaining I have heard Naval officers make the subject of frequent complaint. There is no allowance for such purpose, even when one of our ships is in a foreign port, and the expense of entertaining foreign Naval officers, all of whom have a large allowance for such purposes, falls upon the officers of the American ships personally. It is divided up among the officers and makes serious inroads upon their by no means large pay."

Beating the Civil Service Law.

Indianapolis News.

The McKinley Administration is certainly making a record in respect of the civil service law. Its appointees have discovered unnumbered ways of "beating" the law and not one of them has been dismissed or rebuked for his "pernicious activity." And Mr. McKinley solemnly promised that there should be no "backward step."

Not Dependent on Babcock.

Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mr. Babcock is shrewd to forge to the front, but the demand for tariff revision and reform is so widespread that it would be a feature of the times if Mr. Babcock were not alive. The movement for overhauling the tariff is not a gust that will soon blow over.

August Forbearance.

Washington Star.

We execrate the weather
With all our might and main;
We speak of it in language
Far less elegant than plain.
'Tis true, it has its failings,
While its benefits seem small;
But, prythee say, what would we do
If there were none at all?

What would we do for sunshine
To ripen fruit and grain?
If it were not for weather
What would we do for rain?
So let us all be patient,
As the mercury we scan.
The weather has its failings,
But it does the best it can.

UNCOUTHNESS IN THE ARMY.

Chicago Tribune.

General Miles has acted wisely in issuing a general order intended to promote a more trim and soldierly appearance on the part of the men in the United States Army. All the American as well as all the foreign critics of our regiments in the Chinese expedition agreed that the American soldiers, while second to none in courage and efficiency, were deficient in drill and slouchy in appearance. General Chaffee recently has found it necessary to issue an order on this subject to his men in the Philippines. Now General Miles calls the attention of the whole Army to "a certain uncouthness of exterior and laxity of manners," which seem to be affected intentionally by some of the troops under the mistaken idea that these are soldierly characteristics. The commanding General says offenses of this kind must stop.

This carelessness in dress and discipline appears to have crept into the Army at the time of the Civil War. Up to that time the regulars were models of punctilious propriety. No European officers were more insistent in matters of discipline and pipeclay than those of our Army before the '60s. The Civil War called into the field vast bodies of untrained volunteers, who in time became as efficient fighters as the regulars, but who never acquired the perfection of drill or the rigid habit of keeping their uniforms in spotless condition. These volunteer regiments, with their splendid fighting and their careless dressing, set an example whose effect upon the regulars remains noticeable to the present day.

The same thing happened on a smaller scale in the case of the Rough Riders in the Spanish War. The general tendency in Army circles has been to undervalue looks and to think only of success on the battlefield. Undoubtedly this fault has reached a point where, as General Miles says, it begins to be subversive of discipline and effectiveness. The attention of the Nation was called to the matter for the first time when our regiments were placed side by side with the faultless dress and technic of the German, Russian, and British soldiers in China. The contrast was an unpleasant shock. The utter disregard of appearances of the Americans could not fail to become an object of criticism even among the most friendly onlookers. The international relief expedition to Pekin has had at least one good result if it has caused our soldiers to see themselves as others see them and created a reaction in favor of a more soldierly bearing.

Japan to Use English.

Boston Herald.

Paris papers have found a new ground for complaint against the English. It is well known that French has long been the official language of diplomacy, but now it seems to be seriously threatened. The Japanese Government has declared that in the future all its communications with foreign powers will be made in the English language. The French are trying to find political significance in this new rule of the Government of the Mikado, though it is announced from Pekin that there is no politics in the change. They have simply studied their own convenience and that of their most powerful correspondents. It was further stated that official telegrams from Tokio to foreign agents had been written and ciphered in English for some time, so that the change is simply the following out of a long-established policy. As the United States and Great Britain enjoy a large part of Japan's foreign intercourse, the change can easily be understood from an English-speaking point of view.

Mexico's Silver Problem.

Mexican Herald.

Here in Mexico we have, with all the mines, an inadequate supply of silver coin. When silver rises the money urgently required by the country's growing business is exported, and then comes a tight money market, not justified by the crops or the state of trade, internal or foreign. Silver, as it is at present, is for Mexico not a satisfactory money. There being no agreed-on international ratio, the white metal is subject to continual fluctuations, so that no importing merchant, no banker, knows on what to calculate. It is the lack of a world-wide agreement regarding the value of silver which makes it so very undesirable for a country like Mexico, expanding in every department of her industry and commerce.

The Ship Subsidy Raid.

Indianapolis Sentinel.

The Republican leaders are now preparing to engineer the ship-subsidy steal through the next session of Congress in spite of the protestations of the people. When first submitted to Congress a Presidential campaign was pending and the leaders did not dare invite the verdict of the public. Their decision to hold the steal over until after the election was a sign of cowardice. Now another effort will be made to push it through. There is no doubt of its passage. It will be hurried through early in the session in the hope that the indignation of the people may cool off before the beginning of the campaign of 1902. The Democrats are ready for the issue.

Obnoxious Enforcement.

Chicago Chronicle.

On his latest return to the land of the free General Fred Grant found cause for indignation in the fact that the customs officers at New York not only taxed him $33 on $63 worth of dutiable goods, but "went through" his trunks from top to bottom looking for more stuff that was contraband of this sacred Republican protective tariff. Secretary Gage's vigorous enforcement of the tariff laws at the New York steamship docks may yet make free traders out of Carnegie and Morgan.

That Lesson of Rudyard Kipling's.

Why not admit it frankly, as a soldier-poet ought?—
You wrote a de'il of a poem, it has made us a deal of sport;

You have learned a lesson of us amateur poets, that poems have feet to go on,
And a ten-foot verse must have ten feet at least, or else it will make a bad showin';
And, too—though Whitman could never learn it—we trust you will take it home,
That to have some of your verses with a dozen or fifteen feet too many don't make a very smooth poem.

You have learned that cockney slang doesn't measure quite up to Virgil's lore,
For the average Englishman "in the Strand" doesn't always use classic metaphor;
And, though you can make a jolly good jingle from a lot of off-hand "guff,"
You can't choke it down us Yankees' throats, and claim it's the "red-hot stuff."

You have had your "lesson" from near and far, in rhyme and scintillating witticism,
For the subject was such a weighty one as to command our most erudite criticism;
All the cross-roads editors, and garret hack writers, from Tillamook to Cape St. Ann,
Have given your "poem" their lucid criticism with an unction accorded to no other man.

For remember (those of next year shall know: you ought by now to know it)
That it wasn't the war with Kruger's men that "made" you our hero poet;
But this little "break" won't kill you dead, if you won't again try to "do" us,
For we haven't forgot that Jubilee poem, nor the "white man's burden" you threw us.

You have "swiped" Alf. Austin's laureate job, and are twisting the "Lion's tail,"
And we must confess that we like your rhymes better than that old stale;
But, "doncher know," that he, poor fellow, has to scribble for a hundred a year, and flatter,
And we ought to expect, at four "bob" the line—which you charge—some writin' one grade better.

So the less you write trash, and the more you write sense, the better your copy'll set;
You have had a jolly good lesson, which we hope you "will not forget."

—WALLACE BRAINARD CONANT.

Portland, Or., Aug. 21, 1901.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Billboards may be eyesores, but are not in it with Summer boardbills.

Let us make the free bath not only free, but compulsory, and forever solve the hobo problem.

Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown, even though the crown be built of ears of corn.

It has remained for the Democrats of several Middle West States to invent issueless platforms.

All things come to him who waits. After 11 years Murderer Nordstrom at last is going to be hanged.

Schley seems to forget that he is running a very grave risk by allowing himself to be made a popular hero.

There is but one healthier city than Portland in the United States, and that is handicapped by being in Missouri.

When a thief enters a wine house in spite of the vigilance of four watchmen, it begins to look as if prohibition is vanity.

The rise in salt makes the problem of existence still more difficult for the people who have never been able to earn theirs.

Dr. E. Benjamin Andrews announces that he believes the world is truthful. Where was Dr. E. Benjamin when the war news came out of China?

A French scientist believes that people will soon live in glass houses. This seems to indicate that he does not regard Mrs. Nation as a permanent institution.

They will all be soon returning from the sea,
Coming home to live in town like you and me,
And, when they shall rest a spell,
They will look as strong and well,
Almost, as the folks who stayed in town could be.

The gentleman who rises to inquire the meaning of a paragraph in this column yesterday concerning the led striker is referred to the collected works of Rudyard Kipling.

Let us lift our happy voices in a long and joyous shout,
Let us tell the world around us what we feel so gay about,
For through all the air above us, overhead in yonder sky,
In the stars that shine but dimly in the firmament on high,
We can read a golden promise writ to cheer us as we go,
It's a cinch that for the present there's no likelihood of snow.

A press dispatch from Missouri states that a county which has 1000 Democratic majority has no saloons. That ex-Shanghai correspondent seems utterly unable to conceal his whereabouts.

Our gifted friend, Miss Matilda Johnson, of the Santiam, has sent us the following:

On the plains of North Dakoty dwelt a ridge-ribbed coyote
With a tenor voice melodious and sweet,
And he spent his nights in growling 'round the lonely range and howling
In a fashion that was very hard to beat.
With his predatory habits, he much terrorized the rabbits,
Who, though seldom in when formally he called,
All were soon or later fated to be soon assimilated
By him till the country 'round was bald.

Oh, he loved to howl and he loved to growl,
And his favorite key was G
And a minor strain that suggested pain
He used unceasingly.
And every hare that roamed out there
Had so short time to live
That the country's got to have a hot-
Tie of restorative.

And when we think of it, making teachers attend institute is a good deal like making doctors take their own medicine, which is forbidden by the inhibition against cruel and unusual punishment.

The Lament of Mr. Hedward Wettin.

Hi'm a-needin' rest an' needin' of it bad,
Hi'm a-weary an' a faintin' by the way,
When hi thinks o' what I was it makes me sad,
For hi'm just a hard-worked bloomin' King today.

There is things to do that can't be let to go,
There is documents that must be signed an' sealed;
There is functions to be given, don't yer know,
An' there's always that there scepter for to wield.

Hi'm a gettin' old and growin' mighty fat,
An' the rheumatism's grindin' of my bones,
An' it never makes no difference where hi'm at,
Hall hi see around is crowns an' robes an' thrones.

I would give a lot to quit an' sneak off where
Hi could see the brooks an' hear the wood-birds sing;
Hi'd be 'appy as a costermonger there
An' forget hi ever was a bloomin' King.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Its Volubility.—Prospective Purchaser—Can that parrot talk? Salesman—Talk? Why, ma'am, we call that bird "William Jennings Bryan."—Puck.

Generous.—"He has married a fortune, but he is too generous to keep it long." "Yes?" "Why, even his wife has only to ask him for money and she gets it!"—Detroit Free Press.

"The man who has learned how to make love has a big advantage over the one who hasn't." "In what way?" "Well, no girl will ever trust him enough to marry him."—Life.

"Why is the Isle of Wight a fraud?" "Because it has Needles you cannot thread, Freshwater you cannot drink, Cowes you cannot milk, and Newport you cannot bottle."—Tit-Bits.

All He Had.—Callow—When a fellow shaves himself is it necessary to shave up against the grain? Callow—What do you want to know for? You'll only have to shave down.—Philadelphia Press.

The Important Point.—"But I'm satisfied," protested the workman, who had been asked to strike. The labor leader looked at him in surprise. "What of it," he asked, "if I am not?"—Chicago Post.

Easy.—"How do you manage to get ahead of all your colleagues in securing important facts in a case?" "Oh," answered the great detective, "that is easily managed. I subscribe to a newspaper."—Washington Star.

Hungry Higgins—What do you think? A woman called me an animated scarecrow this mornin'. Weary Waltkins—I've known you since the early 80's, but I never seen no animation about you yet.—Tit-Bits.

Bacon—What was the trouble between you and your wife? Egbert—Oh, only a little difference about some repairs to a hole in my trousers. "Well, how did it come out?" "Oh, it's all patched up now."—Yonkers Statesman.

Sage Advice.—First Prisoner—Now, cully, when you goes before de judge, tell him your name is Shamrock II. Second Prisoner—What fur? First Prisoner—'Cause he's one o' dese yachtin' sharps, an' he'll give you a time allowance.—Baltimore American.

Genial Doctor (after laughing heartily at a joke of his patient's)—Ha! Ha! Ha! There's not much the matter with you! Though I do believe if you were on your deathbed you'd make a joke! Irrepressible Patient—Why, of course I should. It would be my last chance!—Punch.

Trouble Ahead.—"Mr. Bunker looks worried these days." "Yes, another addition to his family arrived last week." "But he's enormously wealthy. Why should he worry over another mouth to feed?" "It isn't that, but the thought that it's another one to buy golf balls for eventually."—Philadelphia Press.

An Old Sailor's Opinion.—"Did you know," said the newly arrived shade, "that a number of people are discussing your career during the deluge with some skepticism?" "Well," answered Noah, "I suppose that is to be expected. A man can't expect to mix in naval affairs and not have books written about him."—Washington Star.