

The Oregonian.

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fairness. If all these struggles serve to make her stronger, if the loss of friends only causes her to set her back more firmly to the wall and nerve herself more stubbornly for the task she is to fulfill in the destiny of the race, they may not have been in vain or for ill. Largely because of aggression that threatened the extinction of a smaller power, Russia is without a friend in the world. Thereby she has less to lose by perdition, fewer broken reeds to lean upon in the hour of extremity. She knows in time that she must depend on herself; and this is knowledge whose possession would have averted some of the grandest failures of time.

THE DIFFICULTY ABOUT PEACE. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the Far Eastern diplomatic situation is the persistent contention of European capitals and of the powers concerned that hostilities will be averted. The Czarina remarked to a caller the other day: "There will be no war," each of the contending powers protests its own safety.

This is exactly the situation we were in six years ago concerning Cuba. Every one had strong hope and expectation up to the very last moment. The modern fishing ship that a conflict between up-to-date vessels, manned by capable sailors, would be an invaluable aid to designers. The wars between Japan and China and between this country and Spain, with the exception of a few isolated engagements, offer the only examples. In both cases the defeated side offered such a futile resistance that it was little to be feared.

It is the unproved and inestimable power of the torpedo-boat, or destroyer, that makes it so valuable. Blockading will become a terrible strain if the blockaded force has torpedo-boats and knows how to use them. It is doubtful if the Russian sailor has the dexterity to handle the modern torpedo-boat. The Russian sailor has the dexterity to handle the modern torpedo-boat.

Nothing whatever is known of these in action, and little in maneuvers. A French submarine is said to have successfully approached the British fleet off Brest in dirty weather. Admiral Fisher, who will undoubtedly command the British fleet if it engages in war, when representing his country at the Hague made no secret of saying that he would hang the crews of every submarine he could capture in time of war.

These are such irreconcilable forces that a trial by the supreme test of arms is the only settlement, for a defeat in war is the only thing powerful enough to avert the danger of a world-wide war. What Japan believes is necessary for her existence cannot happen simultaneously with what is inevitable for Russia unless checked by force.

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English support by creeping paralysis. Gladstone in 1886 adopted a home-rule programme, and he did in 1892, but Balfour says distinctly through Secretary Wyndham he is not ready to pay the price of the home-rule programme of the Irish Nationalists.

With Gladstone the advocacy of home rule was a matter of conscience; while with Balfour it is purely a matter of politics, and he will not pay the price to avoid possible defeat or dissolution in the near future.

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Still Time to Escape. North Yakima Republic. Governor McBride says his candidacy has been forced upon the party. The Governor is not altogether felicitous in his choice of words. What he meant to say, doubtless, is that a habit of many years standing impels him irresistibly at this juncture to be a candidate. His candidacy has not been forced upon the party yet.

Hofer Making Friends. Salem Journal. The Monmouth Normal School basketball team of young ladies play rough ball. If they only had the ball, they would be a good crowd to hustle the primary or bulldoze election judges. As the appropriation for these schools is clearly unconstitutional, why should we have any regard for other people's constitutions?

Error Frankly Acknowledged. Browns Valley Times. A peculiar error crept into the Times last week in announcing the arrival of a baby—the first born—at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jess Moss, of Holly. The statement was made that a son was born to the young couple in defiance of an announcement by different parties, one announcing the new arrival to be a boy and the other a girl. The statement was a boy and he was born on Tuesday. To adjust matters properly, however, here's hoping the next one is a girl.

Success Is Expected. Dallas Chronicle. The Lewis and Clark Fair has gained many friends in the Senate, and in the discussion of the \$1,000,000 loan to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, Senator Fry, of Oregon, has been successful in expressing himself in favor of the Portland Fair in 1906, and said he expected to vote for the Northwest Exposition. In the Senate, while there are strong antagonisms, and it will require hard and earnest work on the part of Representatives Williamson and Hermann to overcome the opposition, we are confident that the success of their endeavors in this line, and Oregon will have occasion to feel proud of those who represent them in the lower house of Congress.

Good Man for Vice-President. The Dallas Chronicle. Some of our Democratic contemporaries have mentioned the name of Hon. George E. Chamberlain, our present honored Executive, as a competent man for the second place on the National ticket. We are not a Democrat, nor the son of a Democrat, and while we believe him a worthy man in every particular, and one who would go down in defeat with as good grace as any one, yet if we were to state our preference for an Oregonian, who, if the miraculous should occur, would occupy the position of President of the Senate, and add dignity and credit to the second highest position in the gift of the people, as well as honor to Oregon, we should name Hon. C. W. Sells of Portland. Even his enemies admire his ripe intellectuality, and his patriotic, consistent course on all great National politics, however much as Republicans may differ from him on some questions.

The Great Majority. Davenport Times. The question of whether the Lewis and Clark Fair should be opened on Sundays, is now being fought over between those who would strictly enforce Sunday observance, and those who deny all religious claims of the day. The closing question is always up to the fair, and the same old arguments are threshed over and over again. The Oregonian, whose editor is president of the Lewis and Clark Fair, takes the position that the gates to the Fair should be open, but that the machinery need not be operated, or any unnecessary business conducted that would detract from the honor of his day of rest. This is the view the great majority will take of it. There are a great many who will attend the Fair that will not observe the day of rest, and those who, if denied admission to the Fair grounds, are quite likely to spend the day in much worse places.

Cheer Up, Cherries Are Ripe. Corvallis Gazette. Corvallis is gaining a reputation as an "easy mark" town, through the erratic sale of some of her indiscreet scribes. Whenever a faker visits this town, he has been good for a few dollars, and the impression is given out that he carries away all the floating wealth of the town. This puts all the other fakers in the country on the place, and the town is flooded with get-rich-quick schemes and schemes. This idea of our town is not the correct one. Our citizens are not more gullible than the average. Times have been good for the last year, and nearly everybody has spare change in his pocket. This makes the crowd good-natured, and a little humbug is appreciated, when some one else gets it. The same crowd would enter with equal enthusiasm into the sport of giving a swindler a ride on a rail, and by the way, it is about time for some one to take a ride.

On Religious Grounds. Arlington Record. The question of opening or closing the Fair Grounds at Portland in 1906 on Sunday is being discussed by people generally, and while there are some strong arguments in favor of a closed Sunday the general trend favors the opening on that day. The working man who puts in six days out of the seven at labor is almost universally in favor of rest day on the seventh, but his rest day is not to be confined to sitting in the house or attending church; what is rest and recreation, and he may be laboring for another man with his family could as religiously worship by attending the Fair on Sunday as in any other way. No one would think it wrong to go into the fields and gardens and work on an orchard or flower garden or art gallery on Sunday and view and commune on the beauties of Nature and art. The Fair will be a reproduction of the works of the great I Am and of his creatures and can certainly be seen and studied in a profitable way not only six days in the week, but seven as well.

Looks Like a Reasonable Request. Portland Labor Press. One of the greatest evils that result from lack of discipline in drunkenness at union meetings. No member should be allowed to remain in the meeting while the influence of liquor is in his system. It should be imposed on him for appearing there in such condition, and he should be ejected from the hall. Then the fine should be paid, and he should be required to attend his union meeting drunk than he has to go to work in that condition. A union meeting is purely a business proposition, and a man looks after his own affairs, in conjunction with that of others. It needs the best brain energy sometimes to pass upon questions that involve community rights and unlimited capital. How can a whiskey-soaked member do this? Again there are members who are opposed to the use of liquor and it is anything but interesting for them to be harassed by some irresponsible fellow in his cups who contends for the privilege of the floor to explain, and when he has been allowed the courtesy he imposes upon his audience in a belabored, disconnected effort to make himself understood. There are also lady members in some unions who are so disgusted by scenes of this kind that they prefer to be away from the union meetings and pay their fines if there are any.

A PHILIPPINE SHIP MONOPOLY. Boston Transcript. We have yet to see determined in practice just what are the privileges that are to be enjoyed by the Porto Ricans under the Supreme Court decision that they are not aliens as they had been considered and treated hitherto. There has been an earlier decision of the Supreme Court that the Philippines are a dependency of the United States, and this has been set aside upon by Senator Fry to introduce a bill (which is referred to the committee on the Philippines) in the Senate. This bill provides that after July 1, 1904, no merchandise shall be transported between ports of the Philippines and those of the United States or vice versa, nor shall any vessels, under penalty of forfeiture of the goods; and that no foreign vessel shall transport passengers between these countries, except by the route of 1899 for each passenger so transported. This, in effect, the strict inclusion of the Philippines under our coastwise regulations, which have been reasonably inferred would not apply unless they were imposed by law. Aside from the dangers of premature lawmaking, to make use of our power over the Philippines when certain not for their physical benefit, but to put limitations upon their intertidal commerce or that with our ports, or for the general and uncertain end of expanding our maritime marine, the bill is certainly a step in the wrong direction. Although this bill is introduced by Senator Fry, the well-known champion of the shipbuilders, there have appeared other active influences for the measure, notably the Great Northern Railroad, as mentioned in J. J. Hill, who has been long preparing for its enactment to enable him to secure for his steamers plying from Tacoma and his system of coastwise continental railroad, the commerce of the Philippines. This has heretofore been nearly all conducted from Boston and New York by vessels under foreign flags, and there are none under the American flag engaged or available in the trade around the Cape or via Suez Canal. The Porto Ricans, who have been long chartering now all the ships of the Boston Steamship Company plying between Tacoma and China and Philippine ports, and has, we learn, already freighted by them considerable rates of freight. It would be great "harvest" companies of Chicago for manufacture of binder twine. Over 200 miles of land carriage over Mr. Hill's rails after this route is opened, will deprive the cordage companies in the vicinity of Boston, New York and Philadelphia of the customary and rational route by steamers via the Suez Canal. It is evident that they will have to pay such rate as may be charged by the Great Northern and its controlled steamers to bring the hemp across the Pacific and the continent. There are now no vessels in process of building and none shown to be on the way to be available at Manila for hemp to Manila ports after July 1 next. Should then the alternative of importing via Pacific ports be the necessary, all the Eastern mills will be handicapped by cost of transport more than have their competitors in the West. These Eastern manufacturers do not wish to hinder the Western mills from getting their hemp at the same freights as it now costs them via Manila ports, but they do not wish to be deprived of their present privilege of finding other means of communication. Even if by the Atlantic route they should pay the cost of freight, the cost of the twine when freighted to the Northwest would be equalized to that made in the West. As the letter issued by Augustus F. Loring, president of the Plymouth Cordage Company, says: "Under the cheap rates which have been fostered by competition, the Philippine hemp has begun to import quite freely from New York at Boston—\$4.000 worth per annum. If the rate of freight is raised, as it probably will be under Hill's monopoly, the Philippine will buy foreign goods, and go back to the East as customers." "The people benefited by this legislation will be the English merchants, the Western manufacturers, and the owners of the steamships that will derive the benefit from the Steamship Company and Great Northern Railroad. Undoubtedly, much hemp will be forced by this legislation, from its natural and normal course via the Suez Canal, to the Eastern ports to the Pacific Coast, and into Hill's steamers and railroads. Hill's boats, as he has frankly explained, will be American boats only in name, and will be controlled by the Porto Ricans. The many separate companies in the East are to be sacrificed to the Western manufacturer and any one can see the farmer's smile."

NOTE AND COMMENT. Latest on the War. Tokio, Feb. 7.—Baron Baresse, the Japanese Ambassador to Russia, has broken off diplomatic relations. He is criticized in the native press for not sticking it into Russia before breaking it off. St. Petersburg, Feb. 7.—The Russian Ambassador in Tokio asked for his passport yesterday. Owing to the Mikado's mistaken belief that Count Sillemonski was trying to hold him up for ransom to the theater of war, he was refused, as the free list had been entirely suspended. Dingtatofsky, Dec. 2.—(By Siberian R. R. express train service.)—It is believed here that hostilities will not break out before Christmas, January, 1904; is fixed for the arrival of the next mail train from St. Petersburg.

Spokane is growing as familiar as Skamokawa. It might as well have rained a little sleet with the ashes at Huntington. A burglar in New York recently shut the owner of the house he was robbing in the icebox and admonished him to keep cool. Always interested in the doings of the great, we are glad to learn that time is of such value to the fair beings composing society that they have abolished the word "debutante" and replaced it with "debutant." A girl not yet "coming out" is a "sub-deb."

Oregonian babies are invincible. Here is a Roseburg cherub taking a prize in a National competition. The way in which some of the state's famous fruit is packed is said to militate against its success, but there is no such handicap on the babies in their individual wrangles. The Century Magazine is to run a serial by Edwin Markham. The story will be told in verse, so people will hope that the Century's example in this respect will not be too widely followed. Serials in blank would be poor substitutes for good interesting pages of advertising matter.

There was a little girl, And she had a little cur— Her mother said she was a little bit of a cur, And when she was good, She was very, very good, And when she was bad she was arrested. —Cornell Woods. How much simpler to have "pulled" the girl.

The girls of the center class at the York High School, taking up the study of domestic chemistry under an experienced culinary artist, baked biscuits today. Biscuits were the first product of the school. Prof. Penneycook, principal of the school, immediately adopted two of the biscuits for use as paper weights—Philadelphia North American. What else could one do with a biscuit baked in a "domestic chemistry" class?

In Springfield, Mass., last week a girl died immediately after a dance, and the physician said that her stays were bound too tightly to allow her heart free play. Hence her death. It may be that some young men will take a lesson from this and clasp their partners in the dance more as if their arm encircled a delicate girl than as if they were at grips with a wrestler.

New York papers are much amused over the case of young Scot whose father had bought him a ranch near Winnipeg and had given him a ticket by way of New York. After a near view of New York's immensity and after learning that "Winnipeg was days away to the westward, the Scot shook his head. "Na, na," he declared, "this country's over big for me," and he returned to Scotland by the next steamer.

Representative Shepherd, of Texas, is again the free-seed business conducted by the Government. He thinks that seeds which can be obtained in the open market should not be distributed among the voters. The Government has established by acts of Congress in 1793 and 1792, and have since been changed by acts of Congress. Congress has power to modify them again if he will. The question of the seeds will be hurtful to the commerce of this country or to that of the distressed dependency for whose condition we are now wholly responsible. The United States Constitution forbids interstate duties and duties upon exports. If the Philippines are not alien and we must apply our coastwise regulations to trade with the Philippines, then, how in consistency can we continue to levy our tariff duties upon what we import from the Philippines and an export tax upon shipments from the Philippines to foreign countries?

MAYOR HARRISON'S IMPLICATION. The verdict of the jury is undoubtedly a just one.—Mississippi Press. The startling charge does not exaggerate the simple truth.—Kansas City Star. The jury has placed the responsibility where it belonged.—Philadelphia Press. Very interesting in the verdict, yet it is not too strong.—New York Mail and Express. The jury's verdict will be approved by every thoughtful person.—Des Moines Register-Leader. The Currier's jury has performed a public service of the highest possible value.—Pittsburgh Post. That the Mayor and other city officials were responsible for the loss of the money is a fact.—Cleveland Plain Dealer. It will be a most excellent object lesson if the grand jury shall follow the Currier's lead.—New York Evening Post. Great was the responsibility of the management, the responsibility of the city officials was greater.—Cincinnati Tribune. This is something new in the way of opportunity accountability, but there is nothing illegal in it.—Boston Transcript. Justice is sternest mood is seen in the verdict. The list is headed by Mayor Harrison, and properly so.—New York Press. There is something refreshing in the emphasis placed on the responsibility of the Mayor.—Buffalo Commercial. This is striking at the root of the evil. The jury has appropriated the responsibility by besting with the Mayor.—New York Times. The jury could not consistently have refused to hold Mayor Harrison. Having to enforce laws, he was convicted of having disregarded it.—Ohio State Journal.

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