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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum perature, 42 degrees; minimum temperature, 3 degrees. Precipitation, 0.52 inches. TODAY'S WEATHER-Showers, westerly

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1984.

#### SYMPATHY AND NEUTRALITY. One whom we know to be a constan

reader and friend of The Oregonian sends us this pertinent if caustic query I observe with perturbation not unmixe with solicitude that you divide your editorial attention to the Russo-Japanese war le-tween demonstrating the treconcilibality of Russian with American civilization and reprobating the manifestation of America sympathy with Japan. As I suppose is would be impertinent to suggest that ther is any inconsistency here, I will merely as that you enlighten us, if possible, to I proper harmonization of these two modes expression. For my benighted understand-ing, at least, the problem needs a little clu-cidation. What would you have us do-shout for Russia but pray in the closet for Or is there an irreconcilat flict in the sanctum Itself?

The friendly tone of the inquiry forbids anything but a friendly answer; and let us own at the outset that the correspondent's position is a natural which must have occurred to many. As to his closing intimation, however, we can reassure him that the sanctum is safe from domestic strife; articles referred to were all written by the same pen, and out of the same trusty ink bottle where still abide. Deo volens, many more of the same persuasion. But to the question of consistency.

Between the Russian order of things and the English and American order of things there is eternal war; but between the Russian government and the United States government there may be, and as we believe should be, peace and even good-fellowship; and between the Russian people and the American people there must be, if we are manly men, a mutual recognition of each other's rights, duties and privileges. Many nt and in argu Illustration unnecessary to repeat, the basal and comprehensive antagonism between autocracy and democracy, represented by Russia on the one hand and the United States on the other, triumph of Russia in this war, therefore, becomes a thing of foreboding to every man who apprehends the progress and happiness of mankind as bound up with the success or failure of popular government. No one who truly understands and believes the principles of democracy can view the ascenden of Russia in the world and the spread of unlimited monarchy without a fear for the permanence of republican institutions, as developed and cherished in Great Britain and the United States.

nor the merits of the combatants; nor their respective claims upon our friendship or our self-interest. As a nation we can have no possible grievance against Russia because of her form of government; or the rigors of her criminal code; or the backwardness of her civilization; or the lightness of the steel on her Siberian Railway; or the policies she adopts in regulation of trade, so long as she does not make invidious discrimination against us in favor of other powers, unless, of course, such discrimination is a fair answer to some overt act of our own. Germany, Austria and France sympathized with Spain in the war of 1898, but they had sense enough to restrain it so that our friendly relations with them all were unim ired. The memory of Admiral Dietrich's insolence at Manila has long rankled in American hearts, and was a powerful promoter of the efforts anxously put forth by Emperor William to appease us.

But this is not the issue in the war;

We are friendly with Japan; we are friendly with Russia. It is to our interest to continue friendly with each. It is our duty as an honorable people to accord Russia the friendly treatment she has always accorded us. If we do not keep this trust, if we do not have regard to our self-interest, we shall speedily suffer in the alienation of a great people's esteem, and in the cessation of Russian purchases of our wares. We are afraid of Russia's administraof Manchuria; is it then our cue to make that administration a certain discrimination against us, or by careful conduct to deserve well of it? Our historic policy has been "friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with We follow this course, because it is right, and also because our commercial necessities require us to be on good terms with every country where we may find markets for our goods or To pick a desirable things to buy. quarrel with Russia would be to injure

our own producers. The Russians are a proud and a sensitive people. No nation on the globe has put forth so tremendous efforts in

The Oregoniam of its serfs, benefactions to the poor and development of its immense resources. Russia is it is true, ambitious. She covets an ocean frontage in open waters; she lays railroads she, hopes will pay, she builds cities she hopes will become great; she founds ionies she hopes may prosper. These are ambitions and performances that are not yet accounted crimes in other lands and they are not in Russia.

Let us forbear to assume the air of the swashbuckler, who plumes himself upon his own prowess, but reprobates prowess and pluming in any other. Remember that the Russian has the same sentiments of national loyalty and pride that we venerate so passionately in ourselves. Remember that the true man gives no affront without cause. We hope that every act of Secretary Hay. so far, however much some may savo of a desire to aid Japan and humiliate Russia, can be explained to Russia's satisfaction; but if not, and if they are repeated and added to, The Oregonian hopes never to be found among those who resent affronts to themselves bu reserve the right to inflict affronts at will upon others and grow angry when called to account. It will be perfectly idle for us to alienate the friendship of Russia and then expect either wheedling or bravado to escape the logical consequences of our own act.

#### BUSSIA'S CONTRABAND ANNOUNCE-MENT.

Foodstuffs and coal are the principa terns in Russia's list of articles that will be considered contraband of war. Had the Russian fleet command of the sea, greater interest would be taken in "rules of war" fust issued by the Czar, but as matters now stand it is of no importance to the Oregon shippe what Russia thinks about wheat or flour? The Japanese vessels will in all probability have the Viadivostok crulsers "bottled" or forced into an action within a short time, and with these four vessels out of the way the ports of Japan will be as open to American vessels, whether carrying foodstuffs or not, as are the ports of Mexico. not the duty of the United States Government to prevent food supplies from being shipped to Japan, and indeed nothing short of an "effective" blockade by Russian ships could prevent grain-laden neutral vessels from entering Japanese ports.

The trend of that wider form of pubic opinion we call international law is oward restricting the hardships and danger of war to the combatant forces o far as possible. Jurists, viewing this tendency with approval, and most of them do so view it, are of the belief that foodstuffs may be seized as con-traband only when destined for the use of the enemy's fighting forces. Foodstuffs for general consumption are held to be exempt from selzure and confiscation. It is obvious that the enforcement of this principle would lead to endless complications, and it is safe to say that belligerents will proclaim all food supplies contraband, selze all they can, and confiscate all they seize, if they consider themselves strong enough. The present interests of the United States cause Washington to look with approval upon all efforts to have food supplies removed from the list of con traband articles.

With our great exports of wheat a big naval war would seriously dislocate our ommerce, if wheat were to be made contraband Great Britain is even more disposed to favor any movement the exclusion of food supplies from the list of contraband articles. The existence of the United Kingdom in time of war depends upon the success with which her navy maintains free commu nication for ships with food supplies. British naval experts have expres their belief that, in the event of waf between the United Kingdom and a strong Continental power this country would not agree to have foodstuffs regarded as contraband. It is therefore evident that the inability of the Russian fleet to take even a comm ce-destroying part in the Orient has pre-

As to Japan, she has no necessity for declaring foodstuffs contraband, at east not just now. She can maintain a blockade of all the Russian ports where supplies might be landed. Her occupa tion of Corea renders it unnecessary to blockade Corean ports. So Oregonians have no reason for taking other than an academic interest in the rules of war as drawn up by the Czar.

# A GLOOMY OUTLOOK.

Secretary Taft's appearance in the discussion of the Frye bill restricting Philippine trade to American vessels is distinctly in the direction of justice. He has induced Representative Cooper to frame a bill postponing the operation of the bill until July, 1905, and canceling tariffs on Philippine imports at that time. He hopes that in eighteen months enough American shipping will be ready to serve the trade concerned, and ne understands now, as he always has, the depressing effect of unnecessary tariffs upon the prosperity and contentment of dependencies.

Inasmuch as this House bill meets the views already contended for in the Sen-ate by Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon, it goes without saying that it will have his sup port, both on general and on specific grounds. He has always stood for tariff reductions to the Philippines and he understands the peculiar relation of Portland shipping to the Frye bill. This is, as we understand it, substantially as follows: There are but seventeer American steamships on the Pacific Coast. These are owned by four different companies-the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, which owns and controls even; the Boston Steamship Company, which owns and controls five; the Northern Steamship Company, owns and controls two, and the Great Northern Steamship Company, which owns and controls three. All of these have their home ports either at Puget ound or San Francisco. Not one them has ever been to Portland, and

in all probability never will be The adverse bearing of this situation on the Columbia River, in case the Frye bill should become law, is obvious If we should be compelled to ship all the Government supplies purchased here in American bottoms, where is the tonnage to come from? Last mo award was secured from the War Department for 1,250,000 feet of lumber and 1200 tons of oats, provided transportation can be had, and the only ton nage available, as we showed the other day, was under the British flag. If we had been restricted to American bottoms, the award could hardly have

failed to be forfeited. Under the circumstances there some ground for hope that the Frye recent years to improve itself, to follow the example of other nations in sound finance, enterprising industries, freedom

Senator Mitchell's amendment extend
The engineers of the recision are engaged in investigations at on Saturday are not reasoning. On Senator Mitchell's amendment extendistration's influence is evidently to be

ing the present arrangement to July 1, 1905, there were 34 noes to 25 ayes. The Cooper bill, if passed by the House. will doubtiess be substituted there for the Frye bill, which we must expect will be passed by the Senate today; but the Cooper bill will contain the tariff abolishment clause, which is likely to stir up fresh opposition in the Senate from the "standpatters," who hate tariff reform never so cordially as when it is doing some such manifestly good work as lifting burdens from the unfortunate and oppressed. Advocates of the Frye bill and kindred measures are very potent in the National Capitol

### WELL-EARNED SALVAGE.

A good, fat salvage fee was earned by Captain Reed and his tug Wallula when they picked up the disabled steamer Grace Dollar off the mouth of the Coimbia Sunday, Driving straight for North Beach in the grasp of a gale of inusual violence, the destruction of the steamer seemed inevitable, and in such storm it is very doubtful if a single survivor would have reached the beach n safety had she struck. The pre-eminent factor in determining the value of services rendered at such a time is the sentiment and gratitude are the points of absorbing interest to the public, and it does not detract in the slightest degree from the heroism of a rescuing tugboatman and crew if they immediately file salvage claim against the vessel they have saved from destruction. The fact that not one out of a dozen of these cases ever reaches court shows to what an extent-the right and justice of a uer's claim are recognized among the owners of unfortunate craft, shipowners and underwriters.

spects stand the test of time much better than the regulations provided for settlement of disputes and awarding of damages on shore, and the salvage law has remained practically unchanged for generations. The rescuing vessel always assumes a certain amount of risk in taking hold of a craft in distress, and in cases like that of the Grace Dollar, where human life is at stake, there is no time nor inclination on the part of the master of either vessel to figure out the financial value of that risk. It is a case of do the work at once and present your bill afterwards, and even were there no prospects for reward for the risk incurred rare indeed would be occasions when ald would be withheld or delayed. The men who are intrusted with valuable steamers or tugboats do not reach their positions with out incurring some of the dangers which are ever around the scataring man, and the rescuer of today may be

the victim of tomorrow. With a full understanding of these ssibilities, financial rewards are secondary considerations when a distress signal is sighted. And yet this voluntary bravery which places in jeopardy the lives of one crew of men in order that an attempt be made to save another crew is certainly entitled to remunerative recognition in keeping with the risk assumed. Captain Reed and his brave men are entitled to all praise for their herolam, and the recognized laws covering the salvage question will undoubtedly give them something more substantial than the gratitude of the saved and the approbation of the gen-

CLIMATE IN THE PHILIPPINES. When the treaty with Spain by which we acquired the Philippines was under debate in 1898, ex-United States Senator Edmunds in public speech affirmed that the climate of those Islands was so fatal to a white man that no American could expect to live there and bring up a fam-At that time The Oregonian quoted the fact that Englishmen had many years in a worse climate, that of tropical India; that Macaulay was able to do hard legal work even in Calcutts when the mercury stood at 96 degrees: above zero; that Thackeray was born in d lived for many years, and that Lord Roberts had ampaigned over forty years in India.

Secretary of War Taft is over six feet and weighs 820 pounds good subject to endure a tropical cllmate, and yet he returned from the Philippines in perfect health and he suggests that the newspapers can "help the American Government by denying the lies circulated about the terrible climate there." Of course, no man of common sense fails to adjust himself and his habits to his environment. No man wears the same clothing in Winter or Summer in Western Oregon that he would wear in Western Massachusetts. There are vast areas of country in the United States where no white man can live long because of maiaria. Neither the bottom lands of the Mississippi nor the swamps of South Carolina, where negroes can, live, are bealthful for a white man. There are doubtless such lands in Cuba, in Porto Rico, in Africa in India, and in the Philippines; but it is not necessary that a white man should pick out a patch of malarial

untry for a homestead. The Northern Army campaigned for three years through Louislana, Mississippl and Arkansas, and endured the Southern Summers about as well as the native whites. More English soldiers died of fever in the marshes of the island of Walcheren than died in the swamps of Louisiana or the swamps of Luzon. White men have resided in tropical or subtropical regions for many years and reached old age. Of course they cannot labor as they do in temperate climates; they need to be spar ing of alcoholic stimulants; they need to boil their drinking water and suit their diet and clothing to the environ-ment, and when they do, white men can do hard mental work and white men as soldiers have done hard physical work. Lord Clyde at 67 in the Summer heat made the Lucknow campaign; Sir Charles Napler was over 50 when he won Meanee; Sir Hugh Rose was a veteran in the Indian Mutiny, marching and fighting in heat and dust every

day.

SLOW BUT SURE. Of the five great irrigation schemes ended for further investigation at the beginning of 1903 by F. H. Newell chief engineer of the United States reclamation service, two are reported as turning out well, two as dubious, and the fifth neutral. The projects were exploited on the Truckee River, Nerada; on Salt River, Arizona; on Milk River, Montana; on Sweetwater River, Wyoming, and on Gunnison River, Col orado. In reviewing the progress of these more important irrigation enter-prises undertaken by the Government

Mr. Newell says:

med in other work, that the projects pularly urged are frequently found, wen full study, to be least worthy. O her hand, careful reconnaissance wor developed unexpected and favorable opputities for irrigation works.

To this it is added that the attitude of the people in some of the proposes irrigation districts has become some what lukewarm, and their promises to co-operate have not been entirely ful-One of the lessons learned by the engineers of the reclamation service is that popular clamor or enthusiasi cannot be depended upon to forward great and enduring enterprises. Great works, such as the irrigation scheme under contemplation and investigation which are destined to last for a hundred years, cannot be thought out in every detail in a few months. In regard to those already passed upon, or partly so the engineering difficulties in some cases have been found to be very great In others the amount of arid land that is reclaimable is not sufficient to fus tify the enormous outlay.

In the meantime, examinations have been extended over a wide area, covering sections in every semiarid state and territory. A number of opportunities of great merit have been found which are being worked out quietly. Experidegree of danger experienced by the are being worked out quietly. Experi-craft at the time of the rescue. This is | since has shown that it is prudent to the business side of a matter in which avoid publicity in these matters until the feasibility of the schemes contem plated is passed upon by competent men. In the words of Mr. Newell, "public reaction is sure to follow th emotional exploiting of such enter prises. Disappointments are inevitable and unforeseen difficulties are sure to

It must be plain to any thoughtful person that any large irrigation work must necessarily progress slowly. The advancement of the work is governed arbitrarily by physical conditions, even though all of the money asked for is available. For example, in the case of a long tunnel only a certain number of men can work at the point where effort tells and the rate of progress is fixed by the available space for the workmen The same is true as to putting in the foundations for dams. This work can only be done at a suitable stage of water, even though a million dollars are awaiting disbursement for its completion. The fact that the work can only be taken up as conditions permit is overlooked by settlers and others, who

want water right now.' It is easy to understand this feeling of impatience, but quite another thing to dispel it. However, it is believed that when the situation is fully made known the public at large cannot fail to appreciate the value of the systematic usinesslike methods which are being pursued by the engineers of the recla-mation service. These engineers are or trial before the whole country, and for a period far beyond the present. They annot afford to make a single great failure, since thereby the whole scheme of Government reclamation would suffer. The public, understanding the sit-

uation, should be satisfied with the assurance that every step is being care fully taken and that the work is progressing on broad lines of safety, permanence and substantiality.

The waste of war is already exemplified in the ruin of the commerce that followed the opening of the Siberian Railway. Military needs must first be met, and these are now so great that the traffic of peace has been practically wiped out or completely blocked, and the hopes and labor of years paralyzed. so far as the commercial interests of a vast section are concerned. The commercial prosperity of Japan, so wonderful in its development in recent years, has also been checked to an extent that: will require years of restored peace to make good. It is the contemplation of this thevitable result of war, even more than considerations of humanity, that makes rulers hesitate and diplomats parley when war is threatened. When the actual conflict is on, however, these considerations are reversed and enlightened humanity deplores the waste of human life and the terrible suffering imposed by the stress, not of battle but of war-stress which nothing can soldiers, and in the bitter, hopeless misery that Russian troops suffer in the passage of Lake Baikal. These are but faint whisperings of the beginnings of outrage and suffering the end of which no one can foresee, examples of the events that make war war and a thing to be averted if possible by diplomacy.

A powerful tug, good seamanship and heroism saved the steamer Grace lar, lumber-laden, from Gray's Harbor to San Pedro, from being cast upon North Beach, with the probable loss of the lives of all on board. Either of these forces would have been powerless without the others in the rough battle with wind, waves and incoming tide with day and keeping it holy in Genesis. lar, lumber-laden, from Gray's Harbor with wind, waves and incoming tide that combined against the safety of the disabled vessel. The bar of the Columbia, scourged by the gale into a white, resisting and apparently resistless fury, broke clear across in great white break-ers that threatened destruction to the mariners that dared to breast them. But far worse threatened them on the Washington coast a few miles to the north, toward which the Grace Dollar was steadily drifting. The tug Wallula is a stanch and powerful craft; her captain is a brave man, and the harbor inside the Columbia River bar a safe one. It is thus that the Washington ast was robbed of another attraction for Summer visitors by the close proximity of a safe harbor on the Oregon coast.

-For once the memory of the "oldest inhabitant" in regard to the "worst weather ever" has been verified by the records of the Weather Bureau. February, 1904, went out with a downpour

## SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS One Way to Look at It.

Eugene Guard. in may be in better luck the thinks she is by having one fleet frozen up in the Baitic and another shut up in the Black Sea by the closed Durdanejles. If she had them in Asiatic waters the Japa might get them.

## A Mitigating Circumstance.

West Side Enterprise.
Captalo Sam White, chairman of the
Democratic State Central Committee, dewered a telling shock to Jeffersonian simdicity by appearing at the meeting of the
Committee on Washington's birthday in a silk tile hat and a Prince Albert coat. But otherwise the chairman set Democracy a good example by subscribing for the West Side Enterprise.

## Mentioning No Names.

Yakima Republic. Representative Shafroth, who gave up his seat in the House because, as he said. he was satisfied upon investigation that his election was accomplished by fraud, is a pretty good man. There are mem-bers of both houses who do not need an investigation to convince them that they were elected by fraudulent methods who are in no danger of following Mr. Shafroth's example.

## Take Your Exequatur.

Dayton Courier.,
Perry Heath, secretary of the Republican National Committee, has resigned, which resignation, as stated in his stateent, is due to the death of Senator Han na. The late Senator from Ohio has had laid at his door many delinquencies, but this is too much. If Heath appreciated the fitness of things he would take a boat to the middle of the deep blue sea and take a header, but it would be a wise precaution to attach a pile driver weight to his heels before doing so. The past which he claims and the country which he dishonors would both be well rid of

## Salt Wells in Polk County.

Brownsville Times Charles O'Brien, who owns a farm near Monmouth, says the neighborhood where he now lives is excited over the suit well which was recently dug on the Whiteaker place. This well is on the same farm as the one dug by Banker Hirschberg, of Independence, and gives promise of produc-ing enough sait of fine quality to supply the entire state. The water in the well has been analyzed and contains 75 per cent of salt. Machinery for an immense plant has been ordered for some weeks and is expected to arrive in the course of about two weeks when the work of purifying salt will co

## Might Do Worse.

Aurora Borealis, It is to be regretted that the Lewis and Clark Fair will not be open Sundays. If the straight-laced element want to enforce the blue laws to such an extent, street-car service, police and fire protec-tion might as well be suspended on Sundays also. days also. The Fair, as we see it, is supposed to be of public benefit—an educational feature—and Sunday is the only day when laborers and people living near Portland can attend without losing time. Those who like to attend church can and will do so anyway, and the nonchurch goers are apt to spend Sundays in much worse places than on the Fair grounds.

## Ignores the Photograph.

. Deschutes Echo. Binger Hermann has recommended t he President two men for one office. The President nominated the one that Hernn really didn't want and refuses hdraw it. Hermann is the same shifty, tricky, boneless Binger. The President showed a friendly attitude towards his discharged servant during the time that Binger was running for Congress, but that exhibition of good feeling was made for the benefit of the multitude and the President takes this opportunity to show the ex-Commissioner that be likes neither hide nor hair of him, and will not stand any dog tricks from the Oregon man.

# May Be It Belongs to Depositors.

Ellensburg Capital. It has been the boast of the Seattle sankers that there is \$35,000,000 lying idle in the vaults of the banks of that city, yet when a hig building is to be ered or an enterprise of importance is under-taken, it is a noteworthy fact that San-Francisco, Boston and New York are always called upon to supply the money. Not long since. avert or lessen. Examples of this are given in the outrages which Japanese women are reported to have suffered in of the city. They were ambitious and Port Arthur at the hands of Russian have accumulated \$2,000,000 in that counon their realty, and after sounding the Seattle moneyed men and bank, they dis-covered the tales of wealth were shadowy fiction. San Francisco was finally prevalled upon to furnish the money, a pairry \$500,000. Meantime, the inquisitive public wants to know where the harks wants to knaw where the banks are hiding the \$34,000,000

#### Some Advantage in Variety. Winston's Weekly.

The Oregonian is growing eloquent the subject of Sabbath observance. In its enth day and keeping it holy in Genesis and a different reason in Deuteronomy.

Provided high reasons are good, we see
no ground for criticism of the Deity, even
if they are inconsistent, which they are

If we were to apply The Oregonian's logic to itself, where, in the language of the gentleman from Georgia, would it be at? It is a notorious fact that there are often as many as three different editorials in the same issue of The Oregonian, all on the same subject, all different in style, each inconsistent with the other, and yet all perfectly logical and convincing. This, so far from detracting from the influence and reputation of our highly esteemed ontemporary, is precisely what has given t the widespread power and general credit t possesses, and so richly deserves. Meantime, if it comes to a show-down, we are ready to be counted with The Ore nian and against Moses.

# Be Moral Seven Days.

Chewaucan Post.

Again the Sunday closing of the Lewis and Clark Fair is being agitated, and some of the churches are taking it up. It ruary, 1904, went out with a downpour of rain driven by a cold wind, thus completing the story of the most stormy, rainy, chilly and generally disagreeable February in Western Oregon for the past twenty-two years. Not only this, but the mouth left a record of the heaviest rainfall of any correspond! ing month in thirty-four years, or since any official record of precipitation has been kept. Well, what of it? It is past, and it has left the promise of an early Spring and the certainty of an abundant harvest. And, so kindly do the people of Western Oregon take to even an excess of precipitation (when it does not take the form of snow) that the health of the public has been generally good and the degree of discomfort induced by wind and rain small.

Geography Made Easy.

Port Townsend Leader.

From the composing-room standpoint of the newspaper there is one easy thing about the Rueso-Japanese War. No one knows how to speil any of the names, and all that is becausery is to tons in a lot of fs. k's. Is and v's and end it up with the, vitch or ski and they have it.

## THE PERSONAL EQUATION.

New York Sun. Most of the observers and the writers who have tried to work out the personal equation involved in the meeting of the Russian and the Jap, which seems inevitable sooner or later, have figured out that, take him for all in all, the little yellow man is as good a fighter as his stalwart for

stalwart foe.

They have seen him overwheim and rout the Chinese, they have seen him march side by side with his white brothers on the way to Pekin, nimble, resolut farriess, untiring, cheerful, and have said among themselves: "Here, at last, is the model Asiatic, the equal of the European." That is the majority opinion. But the is growing up a contrary belief, which cannot be ignored, because it is advanced by men whose intelligense and experience and opportunities for observation entitle their views to respect.

These dissenters point out in the first place, that the Japanese have never yet locked horns with a white people. What-ever they have won has been won from their own kind. Their wars have been with Chiammen. their own kind. Their wars have been with Chinamen or among themselves. Moreover, they are not a scafaring people. They have not yet had time to abquire the habit of the sea, which counts wonderfully when the big guns begin to speak. For more than 200 years they closed their ports and held aloof from maritime traffic, and their critics say that they are as yet indifferent sallors.

"I don't know whether the Japanese have had more than their abure of manye had more than their shure of manyers. have had more than their share of ma-rine disasters since they began to build up an ocean commerce," said a naval officer who has served long in Eastern waters, "but I do know that the insurance ompanies will not insure a big steamship ommanded by Japanese. It wasn't so in he beginning, but now all the Japanese liners are captained by Europeans Americans. Isn't that fact rather significant?

This same officer is one of the compara-ively few who reject the prevailing optim ism as to Japanese military potentiality.
"I base my opinion." said he to a Sun
reporter, "on a considerable knowledge of
Japanese history and a long and intimate
study of Japanese character and customs. To sum it all up, I believe that the Jap anese has not the stamina of the Euro

pean and the American.
"He is brave, patriotic, ardent, absolute-iy fearless of death, a splendid soldier. ut I think that in the wreck and strain and carnage of a naval battle with white men there will come a time when he will lie down and refuse to fight.

"I could give you instances from Japnese history which tend to bear me out. For example, in 1867, 84 perty knights of the Chosiu clan formed a conspiracy to assassinate the present Emperor, who

was then living at Kloto and was ruler in name only. The plot miscarried. "What would any similar band of white conspirators have done? Why, try to get away, of course, fight to the last ditch "What did the 84 Japs do? They went out on a neighboring hill and every man of them committed harl-kirl without an fort to save himself. That was the reult of custom, fatalism, the habit of nind which leads a people to go just so far with a desperate enterprise and the fit miscarries, surrender to destiny. "To give another and perhaps a mor easily appreciable illustration, every white who understands how to with an Oriental knows that the Japanese.
If you press him and corner him, will
throw up his hands just as he seems to
be most insistent on his demand, and ex-

laim 'Skatagani,' which mean's 'It-can't 'It's the same with every other difficulty that can't be overcome-'Skatagani!' can't be helped.

se of us believe that if the Japane and Russians meet in naval battle, the Japs will fight bravely at the beginning and then their fatalism will assert itself and 'Skatagani' will give the victory to the unyielding Slav."

That's a minority opinion, but it's a good one to meditate and ponder.

# An Overrated Accomplishment.

PORTLAND, Feb. 29 .- (To the Editor.)-Apropos of spelling, I seriously suggest to rou that spelling does not always and acurately indicate pronunciation, as wit-ess "to read" and "bave read," "to one who knows a language is helped to the meaning of a sentence by its spelling. Spelling at best is a mere triumph of memory, an overrated accomplishment. It is part of this mechanic and unindividual age. And with the modern tendency to prefer form to substance the man of solid information who misspells is succeed at by the instpid product of some dictionary ridden high school who will never pass beyond mediocrity. We value spelling too highly. Its prime object is to indicate sound. The makers of English spelled as they pleased and they understood each other and the world understands them. Newspapers have done much to exalt this parrot art by speering at mistakes in spelling. Shakespeare would be "illiter-ste" today. I spell well myself. W.

# THE DEMOCRATIC DILEMMA.

If Mr. Cleveland thinks the prospect is so bright for a Democrat to make the trip to the White House, why doesn't be consent to under-take the job? Lots of folks want him to.— Richmond Times (Dem.).

If Mr. Cleveland means to transfer his man-the he has taken a poor way to discourage these enthusiasts, who will be imprired by his description to exclaim: "Thou art the man." Chicago Becord-Herald (Ind.).

Evidently Lawyer Edward M. Shebard has away. thrown away political ambition-for the present at any rate. His resignation of a public a lam employment in order to have his time and scene. brains free for the service of the Pennsylvania Railroad and other corporations is eloquent proof of that.-Hartford Courant (Rep.). Ex-President Cleveland is not alone in think

ing that the time is near at hand for Demo-cratic success. But the great question is this: Will the Democrats who have been shaping the party's policy the wrong way now posit by their experience and make a start in the right direction?—Davemport Democrat (Dem.). When Mr. Bryan talks of a candidate being when Mr. Hypan tuttes of a canonicate being secretly mortgaged to Wall street he lowers the level of his remarks from discussion to nonsense. In short, Mr. Bryan's comments of Mr. Cleveland's utterances but lend weight to what the ex-President has said and emphasize

the importance of following his advice,--Utica Observer (Dem.). What shall be done? Mr. Clevela What shall be done? Mr. Cleveland, who has never before ventured to guide the National policy as to the Philippines, advises that we shall retrace our stops if a missiaken course has been entered upon, as he indicates is the fact. There is no good reason why we should not treat the Pilipinos as well as we have treated the Cubams. Both peoples have an undoubted right to govern themselves.—Hartford Times (Dem.).

Mr. Cleveland thus emphatically defines him-self on what the next Democratic platform should be: "Let that message be expressed should be: "Let that message be expressed in language easily understood, unconfused by evasion and untouched by the taint of Jugglery. Oxoclete issues and questions no longer challerating popular interest should be manfully abandoned." Does Mr. Cleveland really expect all that from the Democratic party, after his extended experience with it? Probably the platform will be the joint production of Gorman, Tillman and Stone, with a Bryan waiknut.—St. Louis Globe Democrat (Rep.).

Nothing in Mr. Cleveland's article in the Saturday Evening Poet is better than his attement that "this is no time for cusnings finesse, har for use of words that conceal intentions, or carry a double meaning." The party in power may "stand pat," uster an equivocal platform and hope to remain in power by simple inertia, but the opposition can never dislodge it unless it tell the country plainly what its purpose is in sessing the matrix of the government. It will be lifle to adopt a platform that may mean sound major, or "fail" mency, high tartif or low, according to the locality. The party must sind for some political principles and make it clear what these are.—Philadelphia Record (Dem.).

## " NOTE AND COMMENT,

Strange the devil has never protested against Sherman's definition of war,

Captain Reed, of the Wallula, appears know something about handling ng non-union whisky. All of us are warned against drinking any kind of whisky.

If Dowie went to Australia for his calth, he showed good sense. Exercise is good for everybody, and Dowie gets plenty of it sprinting from the

The Russian correspondent of the Assoclated Press at Port Arthur must be an excitable chap, if one may judge from his description of the "belching guns" and so forth,

"How to Sall a Ship When on Fire," is the title of a lecture to be given in Victoria this week. The listener should get Captain Cousins, of the Queen, to take his place.

The manager of the Deschutes Fine Vool Company's ranch, a few miles west of Prineville, wanted to subscribe for a good trade paper, so he forwarded a sub-scription to the Ram's Hern.

The Ram's Horn treats of sheep and goats, to be sure, but they are of the human kind those that will be separated on the Day of Judgment.

Wjatscheslavo Konstantinovitsch von Plevhe! Have you ever heard of him? asks the Seattle Commonwealth. Well, in another sense than that occasioned by an attempt to pronounce his name. Wjatscheslavo is Minister of the Interior and Secretary of State of Russia, and among a people noted for inhuman crucities he is recognized as past master. His chief diversion is to invent new tortures for suspects; his favorite musement to send comparatively inoffensive people to the Siberian mines. He is now undoubtedly preparing on a large scale to boil the Japs in oil or flay them alive. Were I a Jap I should pray the gods to protect me from a genleman with such a name as Wjatsches lavo Konstantinovitsch. He must be a bad one.

The Chicago Journal compiles the following questions and answers: If 3000 Jana land on Corean soil, and the Cossacks defeat them, how many will be killed in 15 minutes fighting? Answer—47,803. If the Russian squadron at Port Arthur

tumbers 23 vessels, and the Japanese fleet makes three attacks, how many Russian ships will be lost in the three battles? Answer—129 sunk, 67 blown up, 55 dis-abled and 188 ceptured. If a yawl containing two drunken Re

sailors hits a mine and is blown to pieces what is the damage? Answer—A 450-foot transport is destroyed, and 655 men find watery graves. If a Russian guinner manages to clip a Jap warship on the armor-plate and thereby makes a half-inch dent, what is the destruc-

Answer-Pive battleships and two armored cruisers sunk, and over 8000 Japa hilated.

The writers for the funny papers have written jokes galore about the messen ger boy, likening his speed unto the gait of a turtle, but it remained for one of the subjects of these jokes to coin an unconscious jest far better than the majority of the printed witticisms, says the hlladelphia Press.

The incident occurred at Broad and hestnut streets, and the actors were missenger boys. One of the youngs or was running down Broad street at a speed that was hardly typical of the messenger boy. Another boy had just left the Western Union Telegraph "to fice at the corner of Chestnut atreat slough" and "the slough," nor derivation and was strolling slowly up Broad, as "lady" and "bosky.' Good spelling is his eyes glued on the last dime hot a mark of brains or knowledge. No novel of the "Terrible Terror's Tunovel of the "Terrible Terror's Tu-Times." When the slowgoing boy spotted the swift-speeding mesengeer, his eyes stood out with amazement and in tones of anxious inquiry, he

cried out: "Hully gee, Bill! Wat's de matter?

The favorite pastime of the "blackand-white" artist, responsible for so many comic sketches, is to read of some deadly disease, preferably a new one, go to bed imagining he has it, lie awake all night, seek his doctor in the morning and get assurance that he is in perfect health and then go back cheerfully to work, says the Saturday Evening

One morning not long ago he turned up at the doctor's just as the man of medicine was getting into his carriage. "I'm in a hurry," called the doctor, "and can't stop to see you; but it's all right-

rou baven't got it." "Haven't got what?" demanded the asonished artist. "Whatever you think you've got. Not a symptom of it. Good-bye," and he drove

"Well, now," said Levering, turning to a lamp-post as the only witness of the "that's the time he's mistakes know I've got it-ten dollars in my pocket to pay his last bill; but if he's sure I haven't, I'll try to get in line with his last diagnosis," and he went around to his club and sat in a little game of draw. which came out as he expected

# OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

Doctor-Your wife must keep out of excite-ment. Mr. Brisque-She can't, Doctor. She carries it sround with her.--Indianapolis

"He's worked hard all his life." "Why, I wonder?" "So he'll have something to live on when work wears him out."-Detroit Free Press.

She—I am not the only girl you have ever kissed. He—How do you know that? She— Well, I've had some experience myself.-De-"Last night, at the Tournine, I thought I

could see elx fingers on my left hand. "You must have one or two fingers for much!"—Harvard Lampson. "Has your flying machine ever been a tually used?" "Yes," answered the your inventor sadly, "The folks used it I kindling last week."—Washington Star.

"Some men," said the quoter, "are born great, some achieve greatness..." And the great majority." interrupted the cynic, "he-lieve they come under both of these heads." -Philadelphia Ledger.

"I have never borrowed a dollar in my life," said the man who had lived 50 years without having a wrinkle upon his brow, "Well, that may be commendable," replied the thoughtful-looking citizen, but it lea't likely to make you a historical character."—Chicago Becord-Herald.

"The new cook comes with fine rependations," said Mr. Bliggins. "Yes," menutions, and Mr. Singgins. Yes, an-avered his wife, Cher sound as if the peo-ple she was with thought a great deal of her, or else that they were willing to do or say almost anything in the hope of gei-ting rid of her."—Washington Star. "Mandy, d'ys rec'est how Henry Wiss mand to play murbles all the time when was a little feller". Tondness, ye "Well, he haint got over his hankerin af 'em yet; this place in the paper hout is lionalrus houses says he has one of a ment election of finish markles in the h world."—Brooklyn hife.