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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 45 degrees; minimum temperature, 34 degrees. Precipitation, .35 of an inch.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy with light showers; westerly winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 1904

DOWN HILL VERSUS UPHILL.

Lack of return cargoes and the attendant necessity for steamers crossing the Pacific practically in ballast in order to reach an outward cargo must be pronounced the most serious handicap under which trans-Pacific business out of Pacific Coast ports has hitherto labored. For years the prevalent theory has been that in this respect the trans-Pacific steamship traffic was unlike that of any other route of importance in the world. This belief is not substantiated by some important facts that are coming to light in the East since the inauguration of the rate war between the Eastern roads.

As has frequently been mentioned, an enormous amount of business that formerly found its way to the high seas through the port of New York has been diverted to the Southern ports, notably to Galveston and New Orleans. The New York roads, being cut out of the land haul of this traffic, were inclined to blame the steamship lines for permitting the vessels sailing to the Southern ports to get away with the business. Now come the steamship men and state that the import business has not kept pace with the increased number of steamers on the route sailing between New York and Europe, and as a result return cargoes for all of the vessels are an impossibility, so that outward rates must be sufficiently high to cover the expense of ballast trips inward for some of the steamers.

A reason advanced for this comparative decrease in the incoming freight is that as the United States continues to expand in manufacturing lines there is a corresponding decrease in the amount of manufactured goods needed from abroad. On the surface it might appear that the steamships which have been co-operating with roads leading to the Gulf and to New Orleans would suffer the same disadvantage, and undoubtedly they are handicapped to a certain extent by their inability to secure full cargoes.

Being on even terms so far as a mutual disadvantage would place them, their gain in business over the lines plying to New York is undoubtedly due to their location at the foot of a downhill grade. For years there has been a steadily increasing drift of heavy traffic toward the lines which encounter the least natural resistance and where the bulk of the freight reaches tidewater by a water-level grade there is an advantage that is of much importance when a large volume of traffic is involved. Railroads that are bucking the downhill haul afforded by the Columbia River have an uphill job in more senses than one.

GROWTH OF LUMBER TRADE.

More lumber was cut in the City of Portland last year than in any other city on earth, and, despite a temporary dullness in the market, the new year has started off with a volume of business that promises to leave last year's record far in the rear. Water shipments alone in February, the shortest month in the year, exceeded those of any previous month in the history of the port. Simultaneously with these statements of February's record-breaking shipments comes the news that Eastern capital will build in this city the largest sawmill on the Pacific Coast. The phenomenal growth of the lumber trade in this port began less than ten years ago, and the export trade of any consequence is of only about six years' standing, and yet in that short period it has reached proportions which were considered far beyond our reach at that time.

The magnitude of the trade at the present time is small, however, in comparison with what we may expect in the future, and for many years Portland and Oregon will stand in the front rank in the production of lumber. The development of our great timber resources has been much slower than those of Washington, but this slowness has been merely a husbanding of resources which are now more valuable than ever. Portland mills not only have an immense area of Oregon timber on which to draw for supplies of raw material, but they are also in close proximity to and the natural outlet for immense bodies of the best timber in the State of Washington. The presence of these greater reserves in this territory than are tributary to Puget Sound milling ports is due to the neglect of the Columbia River territory so long as supplies were so plentiful and easy of access on Puget Sound. Now that the days of the hand logger are practically over, and much of the timber must be hauled to the water by rail, there is increasing activity in the districts which have remained untouched.

It is easily apparent that in point of supply Portland and Oregon are well equipped for doing an unlimited amount of business, and from now on the only factor to be considered is the demand. That the demand is growing faster than ever before is a self-evident fact that cannot be dispelled by a temporary period of depression like that which is now being experienced along the Pacific Coast. The present generation has witnessed the fall from its highest pinnacle of commercial greatness of the lumber manufacturing business of Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin to proportions so small as to be inconsequential in comparison with its former greatness. The generation now coming on will see practically the extinction of the industry in those states. It is not so very long ago that the Southern hemisphere, an enormous consumer of lumber, depended almost exclusively on lumber from "the deer-haunted forests of Maine." Today the Maine shipbuilders are "stepping" masts of Oregon pine in the best craft which are now leaving their shipyards, and their export lumber trade is falling away just as the trade of the Middle West is increasing.

Meanwhile the world's consumption of lumber is increasing and the best of this demand will seek supplies where they are the most plentiful. No other place in the world has superior inducements to offer over those of the Pacific Northwest, and in this trade Portland and Oregon are specially well equipped. Portland shipped an average of 500,000 feet of lumber per day during February. Five years hence this amount will look as insignificant as now appear the February shipments of five years ago. As a wealth producer the lumber business of the state ten years hence will outclass all others.

SALARIES OF AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Senator Gallinger's bill introduced yesterday increasing the salaries of the President, Vice-President, Speaker of the House, members of the Cabinet, Senators and members of the House will probably become a law, if for no other reason than that Congress is not likely to vote down any measure that increases the annual salary of members of the House and Senate by $3000. It is said that the United States pays its leading statesmen smaller salaries than any other great nation and has fewer great executive officers. The salary of the President is $50,000, exclusive of the expenses of the White House, which the Nation pays. The salary of the Vice-President is $8000 a year, without household expenses, and that is the salary of each member of the Cabinet. The English Cabinet of nineteen statesmen, including the Premier, has a payroll of nearly $400,000, while the nine members of our Cabinet represent a payroll of but $72,000. The salary of the Lord Chancellor of England is $50,000 a year, and his chief duty is to preside over the sessions of the House of Lords.

The nineteen English Cabinet Ministers get from $10,000 to $25,000 a year. The English Premier as such has no salary, but takes another office and the salary attached, usually the Foreign Secretaryship or the office of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sometimes he takes a sinecure office and its salary, as that of the Lord Privy Seal, whose duties are nominal. The members of the British House of Parliament receive no salary. No poor man can afford to become a member of the British Parliament; that is, a man of small income solely derived from his personal labor cannot afford to become a member of Parliament. There are a few workingmen in Parliament, but the labor unions contribute to their support, and the time has been when some members of the Irish home rule party, who sacrificed their business to the cause of Ireland by service in Parliament, were supported by the fund of the Land League collected in Ireland and America.

The American method is better; we mean to pay our public servants good, living wages; we do not want a poor man kept out of Congress unless he is sent there as the hired representative of a faction. The effect of the English method is to exclude poor men from Parliament unless they are practically the paid representatives of some patron or patrons or the salaried tool of some faction. Disraeli, when he first went to Parliament, had his expenses paid by the rich wife of an intimate political friend. Her money helped her husband to Parliament, and then she helped to elect Disraeli to please her husband, and then when her husband died she married Disraeli to please herself, and he married her from a deep sense of gratitude for her generosity in using her money to help him up in the world.

ABUSE OF ATHLETICS.

Athletics, properly directed and kept within bounds—athletics engaged in for the promotion of health and physical development instead of the distinction which physical prowess is supposed to bring to an individual or a college—is not open to adverse criticism. Pursued in this way, it is wisely held that athletics promotes mental as well as physical vigor and is distinctly a part of education. It is the tendency to overdo in athletics that has aroused the grave concern of parents and the protest from time to time of college professors against the time and energy that is given to football and rowing.

It is with athletics as with smoking. No young man ever smokes too much according to his own estimate, and no young man who becomes an enthusiast in college games ever, in his own opinion, overtaxes his strength in athletics. Yet no man can walk the streets with his eyes open and not see the baleful effects of too much smoking in the nervous movements, pale faces and arrested physical development of many young men and boys whom he meets, while the record of physical breakdown and death due to overexertion in athletics does not lack verification in college communities and even in the business world.

It is recalled in this connection that a New York lawyer died not long since from the effects of overexertion in a bowling game in which he had made a high score on the previous night. More recently a well-known billiard player of St. Louis died from the effects of "too much golf." The records of Thanksgiving football contain each year proof that overexertion on these occasions shortens the college career and not infrequently ends the lives of a number of young athletes who went into the game full of the determination to win at all hazards.

Sometimes the Thanksgiving dinner is blamed for the collapse of members of the opposing teams, who were feasted after the game. A number of the Michigan University team were sick after a combined excess at football and feast last year, and in defending athletics a professor of the University of Chicago placed the blame for this entirely upon the dinner. This, if it proves anything, proves too much. The drunkard who incautiously took a lighted candle in his hand and fell a victim to spontaneous combustion would probably, if he could have found voice, blamed the candle; a man who ate heartily of roast pork, fresh doughnuts and hot mince pie and finished up on a baked apple, declared between his subsequent groanings and retchings that he would never eat a baked apple again, but he probably did not convince the doctor who came to his relief with an emetic that the apple was the first cause of the revolt of his patient's stomach.

In like manner the statement that came from Michigan that at least 9 per cent of the best-trained athletes there were incapacitated by sickness when they should have been at their best, all owing to a dinner of which they partook, is at least suggestive of a first cause. The schoolboys of former years were accredited with being able to digest anything they could masticate and swallow. But those were the days when boys did chores for their board, chopped wood on Saturdays and took supplementary athletics in coasting and skating with the girls on such evenings as they could spare from their wrestlings with Euclid and Thucydides.

NO FEAR OF A GENERAL WAR.

Military critics in Europe agree in believing that the present struggle in Manchuria and Corea will be left to settle its own fate, without interference by other powers, and this belief springs from the knowledge that no power can assist Russia without rousing into activity the Anglo-Japanese alliance, which pledges England to fight the moment Japan has to face more than one power in the East. The British navy alone is strong enough to prevent any reinforcement of Russia from her allies reaching her by sea. So long as England has complete control of the Suez route to Asia, Russia's allies could send nothing to the seat of war save by the Siberian Railroad, which is barely adequate today to meet Russia's own needs in military transportation. This situation forbids on the ground of military common sense that either Germany or France should revive the triple alliance of Russia, France and Germany, which was so successful in 1895 in forcing Japan to surrender her conquest of lower Manchuria from China. The British navy forbids the Continental powers of Europe from interference for Russia's benefit in the Russo-Japanese struggle, just as it did intervention in England's war for the conquest of the Boers.

In 1895 Great Britain gave Japan no support when the three Western powers intervened under Russian leadership; but today, under the Anglo-Japanese alliance, Japan is able to fight Russia alone without fear of the old combination against her. These facts justify the assertion of Russia that Japan would not have made war had she not been encouraged to do so by England. It is reported that England will not intervene so long as the struggle is limited to a conflict between Russia and Japan; that she will not intervene even if the Japanese should be so badly beaten that Russia's arms would threaten to dominate not only Manchuria, but Corea. The utmost that Japanese expect is the use of the Anglo-Japanese alliance to protect them from attack in Russia's behalf by France and Germany. It is predicted that England would not fight to maintain the entity of the Chinese Empire in case Russian military success should threaten its disruption. England is so nonsentimental in her statesmanship that she would be content to maintain her present sphere of influence in the Yangtse Valley.

It is believed by the friends of Russia that Japan has become the cat's paw for Great Britain; that Great Britain today is inciting Bulgaria to attack Turkey so that when Russia is seriously entangled in the Far East and the Turkish troops are concentrated in the Balkan Peninsula, England will occupy the Persian Gulf littoral and obtain the conquest of Thibet. Of course, Great Britain is selfish in her designs, but not more so than Russia was when, believing England's difficulty of the Boer War was Russia's opportunity, she planted herself in Manchuria, opened friendly negotiations with Thibet, sent emissaries to Cabul, obtained preponderating influence in Persia and thus became dominant throughout Asia. It is clear that England and the other powers of Europe are as coldblooded in their attitude toward Japan and Russia in the present struggle as they were in 1854-56, when Russia was at war with Turkey and her allies, England and France. Neither England nor France cared a button then for the Turk, but they sided with him because they held that in fighting his battle they were really fighting their own. So today Great Britain limits her sympathies for Japan to warning all the spectators of the fight against intervention and shouting: "Go it, Jap; go it, Bear!"

IRRECONCILABLE HOME RULERS.

The Balfour Ministry and the Irish Nationalists are at variance again. The Irish party recently voted against the government on Mr. Morley's free-trade motion. The government declined to pledge itself to establish a Catholic university for teaching functions on a scale that would place it on a level with Trinity College, but even if such a pledge had been given, Mr. John Redmond said it would not have sufficed to gain the support of the Irish Nationalists; that no government, whether Unionist or Liberal, could expect the aid of his party so long as it denied the demand of Ireland for home rule. Mr. Balfour cannot afford to accept this condition of the home rule party.

The Wyndham land-purchase bill, which was passed at the last session of Parliament, is not fulfilling the expectations of its promoters. Many Irish landlords are declining to sell and many others are holding back for better terms. After the next general elections the Liberals and Tories are likely to be more evenly balanced in strength, and in a new Parliament the Irish party expects to be in a better position to exact terms from whichever party controls the government. But in our judgment the Irish home rule party will have nothing but its fun for its pains. The Tories will never grant home rule, and while the Liberals may grant it to purchase the support of the Irish group, the Tory House of Lords will throw out the home rule bill, just as they did when Gladstone forced it through Parliament.

A man like Gladstone would have force of character enough to proceed to extreme measures after repeated rejection of the will of the Commons by the House of Lords, but no probable leader of the Liberal party of today would have the moral courage to undertake what Gladstone would have dared. Home Rule for Ireland was buried when Gladstone retired from office, and it will not rise in resurrection until a man of Gladstone's extraordinary brain and exceptional conscience leads the House of Commons.

The process of eliminating the unfit by means of alcohol, self-administered, is slow. Unfortunately, it is also painful to others besides the immediate instrument of the process. While it is not necessary to offer proof in substantiation of these statements, the example recently reported from Colfax, Wash., is strikingly in point. Here is a great hulking fellow of 26 years, who manifestly never should have been born, in jail for having beaten into insensibility a man who interfered when the "unfit," duly primed with the eliminating force, was beating or otherwise abusing his mother and sister. He had just been released from the city jail, where he had been incarcerated thirty days for stealing money from a minister, and, after extorting 50 cents from his sister and a like sum from other relatives, he filled up with whisky and committed the misdemeanor and crime that landed him again in jail. Examples of this kind make the humanitarian long not for prohibition, since sneaks and poltroons of this type will get whisky if they have to distil it themselves from rotten potatoes, but for a beverage that will work out the behest of evolution less slowly and with equal certainty. No doubt this creature was sinned against by his more or less remote ancestors—a suggestion that indicates that the elimination of the "unfit" by their own mischievous devices and depraved appetites is all too slow for the purposes of an enlightened age. Nature should be assisted in this laborious and tedious process by means that are within the reach of medical science if not of legislation. The trouble arises in permitting the palpably and notoriously "unfit" to become parents.

Captain England, of the British bark Thistle, has certainly been guilty of a very serious breach of maritime etiquette. Coming up off the Columbia Bar last Saturday afternoon, and not wishing to spoil a good passage by beating around outside waiting for a pilot or towboat, this bold, bad son of the sea cracked on full sail and raced in over the bar to safe anchorage inside. The serious nature of this departure from the time-honored custom of the Astoria pilot service can be understood by the statement that the pilot schooner signaled him to "stand off." Even this was not the worst feature of the impatient captain's performance, for later advices bring the news that he not only declined to wait until the pilots were ready to bring him in, but he actually came in through a channel which the pilots do not use. While this individual escapade might be overlooked, it is fearful to contemplate what it may lead to. Supposing, for example, that the master of the Dix had been as familiar with the bar as was Captain England, and that last week, when the bar was smooth at high water half an hour after daylight, he had awakened from his morning nap and taken his ship to sea while the overworked pilots still lingered with Morpheus. This indeed would have been an offense so grievous that it could not well be overlooked. The precedent established by Captain England is a serious matter.

The Government transport Buford got away for San Francisco yesterday with about 500,000 feet of lumber, equivalent to about one small schooner load. At the Bay City she will take aboard several hundred soldiers for Manila. It is not clear why the soldiers could not have embarked from this port, thus saving the expense of the return trip to San Francisco. The Buford received as quick dispatch here as she could have received anywhere on the Pacific Coast, and the price at which the lumber was secured was lower than that offered elsewhere. At the same time the cost of transportation of this lumber from Portland to San Francisco will amount to more than $10 per thousand, while the commercial rate is about $3 per thousand. Portland would probably have derived very little benefit, even had the troops been sent from here, but what the Government gains by sending the vessel to Portland for a few thousand feet of lumber and then returning her to San Francisco for the greater part of her cargo is quite indistinct and is a transaction that would not occur in commercial business.

The paper profits of the Chicago wheat speculators are vanishing like mist before the sunshine. The May option has declined over 11 cents per bushel in the past five days, and July has followed it fairly closely. The country newspapers who protested so strongly because the Portland market failed to follow the Chicago market in its skyrockety flight will now have further cause for wonder—this time because the local market did not show a decline of 11 cents per bushel. Meanwhile the statistical position of wheat is strong in this country, and if supplies continue to decrease, the decline may be arrested and prices advance irrespective of the foreign market, which just at present is showing more of a disposition to follow the American declines than the advances.

A Mohammedan of distinction, Mohammed Barakatullah, comments on the fact that thirty years ago the Ottoman Empire had a powerful navy and Constantinople was the center of the Orient. Then Japan had no navy and Tokio no celebrity. Today Japan has a fine navy and is a formidable military power, while the Turkish navy is rotting at the wharves of the Bosphorus, and Bulgaria, a mere province, is ready to challenge the Sultan to battle. This is all true, but Turkey is hardly more decadent as a military and naval power than Spain, which in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was a first-class military power.

The suicide of Colonel Charles Kahlo, representative of the Manufacturers' Association of which D. M. Parry is the head, comes as a surprise to all who knew the man. A cheerful, affable man of affairs, there was not the slightest reason to suppose that he was tired of life or dissatisfied with what it had brought him. His death by his own hand is one of the mysteries that are inexplicable.

The expected has happened in the election of Hon. Charles Dick, of Akron, to the vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the death of Senator Hanna. His election can hardly be said to have happened. It was a foregone conclusion from the time that it became apparent there would be a vacancy to fill.

SAD CASE OF MR. HOAR.

Benedick His Prototype.

New York Times.

It would be interesting to know, if it were possible, what value Senator Hoar attaches to his own opinions. It is only too plain that he cannot get other people to attach much value to them, for the simple reason that he so often destroys one with another, or follows the expression of an opinion by action utterly inconsistent.

When Mr. Hoar put in his resolution of inquiry as to the Panama business, every opponent of the course of the Administration in this matter recognized that the inquiry was distinctly "leading." It implied what the reply would be, and the implication was extremely severe upon the President. No one, unless it may have been Mr. Hoar himself, doubted that if he should afterward vote against the treaty which secured what had been wrongfully taken, his course would be amply justified by an honest and correct answer to his questions. That he was providing such justification for himself in advance was the general and inevitable inference.

But he has made up his mind to vote for the treaty, and his resolution, with his other previous utterances, becomes awkward for him. He now seeks justification, not for following the logical line of the inquiry, but for going contrary to it. Naturally he is embarrassed, and is driven to explain that he did not mean what he plainly said in the beginning.

He had precisely the same experience in the treaty of Paris which closed the Spanish War. He had parted company with his party, and he found it necessary to his peace of mind to get back. He made all sorts of explanations in that case, as he is making them in the current case. He would better be frank as Benedick: "Shall quips and sentences and these paper bullets of the brain awe a man from the career of his humor? When I said I would die a bachelor I did not think I should live till I was married."

Calls It Cruel Treatment.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

It was very heartless of Senator Foraker on Monday when Senator Hoar was executing with the facile grace of life-long practice his right-about-face on the Panama question, to embarrass the movement by citations from the Massachusetts Senator's speech of a few months ago. Mr. Hoar has been through this performance many times, but never before has he been nagged and annoyed by a member of his own party while engaged in it. What he did in the Panama case he did in the Philippine controversy. He started out in both instances in flat antagonism to his own party and its President. His conduct filled the Democrats with unbounded delight, and they fell in behind him with whoops of joy, the "antis" doing the same.

Well, when he got the procession started and the momentum toward disaster had become irresistible, Senator Hoar slid down a side street, kept very quiet, and let the poor creatures he had deluded go unimpeded into the pit he had digged for them. When he got up in the Senate on Monday with his child-like and bland face and manner to explain that he had never been in any other position than that of hearty support of the treaty and unbounded devotion to the President, it did not lie in the mouth of a Republican Senator to contradict him. A Democratic Senator, if one had succeeded in getting out of the pit, might have done so, for he had a grievance, but every Republican Senator should have recognized the valuable party service Mr. Hoar had performed and sat quiet and grateful and happy. Other Republican leaders content themselves with leading their own party. Mr. Hoar not only seeks to lead the opposite party, but does it and lands it invariably "in a hole." Why hamper this useful work by calling attention unnecessarily to the way in which it is done?

The Deadly Parallel.

New York Evening Post.

It would be unkind to dwell upon the lamentable figure cut by Senator Hoar. Senator Foraker only began to exhibit the deadly parallel between the Massachusetts Senator's Panama speech of December 17 and that of February 2. The whole constitutes a moral eclipse visible all over the United States. Mr. Hoar's supreme illustration of the duty of "staying in the party," shows him staying at the cost of making himself universally ridiculous—as ridiculous as Jefferson Davis said he should have been had he attempted to fight for disunion in the Union. In this connection, another disappearance has to be noted. It is that of our amusing friend, M. Bunau-Varilla. He resigns as Minister of Panama, and is shortly to withdraw to Paris—there, of course, to press with great vigor his libel suit against the Evening Post. We shall all miss him. Who will furnish us with eloquent and gushing ineptitudes after he is gone? "Almost killed by falsehood and calumny," he declares himself; but, as we have shown, it is the official records, as read out by Senator Carmack in the Senate on Monday, which the delightful Bunau-Varilla has most reason to be angry about. Yet we are glad he was in the Panama game. Without him it would not have worn so complete a Jonathan Wild air.

Russia and the Alabama Claim.

Chicago Chronicle.

For the benefit of those who have been perverting the facts of history in an attempt to disprove the long-existing friendship of Russia for the United States and the services that the Muscovite government has rendered this country at various times, it may be stated, both as a matter of information and interest, that Russia was directly responsible for the settlement of the Alabama claims.

Nearly six years after the close of the Civil War the claims of the American Government against Great Britain for the destruction and capture of merchant ships by the English-built Confederate warship Alabama not only remained unsettled but without prospect of settlement. The quibbling policy of the British government had severely tried the patience of the American people, and popular indignation was aroused to a pitch that threatened serious consequences, when, at the end of the Franco-Prussian war, the London Foreign Office was alarmed by the receipt of a note from the Russian Prime Minister that the clause in the treaty of Paris limiting Russia's power in the Black Sea was abrogated. It was for this that the Crimean War had been fought, and by destroying the only clause in the treaty of peace that Great Britain valued Russia practically invited another conflict.

Thus placed between a hostile Russia on one side and a hostile America on the other, Great Britain took immediate action to placate American sentiment. A commission was appointed to decide the Alabama question, which, as all know, resulted in the award that upheld the principle for which America was contending, however unsatisfactory it may have been in the matter of dollars and cents. The eagerness of Great Britain to repair the long-standing injustice was shown by the fact that the British commission was named and on its way to Washington before the fact was known at the American Legation in London, according to a historian of that period.

It may be argued that Russia simply seized an opportune moment to remove obnoxious treaty restrictions, but her action nevertheless was of inestimable service to the United States in maintaining their just claims against Great Britain and possibly in averting another war between the two nations.

Von Sternberg as a Jollier.

Indianapolis News.

In an address at Philadelphia Baron von Sternberg, the German Ambassador, gave this country the credit of preventing the dismemberment of China during the Boxer troubles. Every time the German Ambassador rises to speak he adds to his laurels as a jollier.

ALCOHOL NOT A BLESSING.

San Francisco Bulletin.

Total abstainers have been shocked and, perhaps, rather troubled by an argument put forth by Dr. Woods Hutchinson, secretary of the State Board of Health of Oregon, in defense of the Demon Rum. Dr. Hutchinson argues that alcohol, being an eliminator of the unfit, tends to improve the average quality of the race by killing off the inferior members. After a time, he asserts, through continued use of alcohol by a race, free reaction ceases, an equilibrium is obtained and the race becomes relatively sober. The rest of the argument, in Dr. Hutchinson's language, is:

"The nations of Southern Europe, the Greeks, the Spaniards and the Italians, for example, through the continued consumption of alcohol, have gradually attained a level of comparative sobriety. Today those races which are in the van of progress and are dominant factors in the world's work—the American, the English, including the Irish and Scotch, and the North German—are those in whom drunkenness is most rampant.

"Those races which are contributing little to the advance, the modern Greeks, the South Italians and the Spaniards, are practically sober, while those which are absolutely stagnant—the Arabs, the Hindoos and the Chinese—are entirely so. Alcoholism is an index of racial instability, and its chief action is that of eliminator of the unfit."

This is an ingenious and plausible sophistry, the fallacy of which, however, appears upon its face. In the first place, the argument concedes that alcohol is bad for the individual, however beneficial it may be to the race. It destroys the consumer, who is thereby proved to be unfit, and—according to Dr. Hutchinson—improves the race by pruning it of all the weaklings. The abstainers survive. Thus, by a strange paradox, Dr. Hutchinson's argument comes to this, that the use of alcohol, by killing off the users of it, tends to evolve a race of total abstainers who are, by virtue of their abstaining, fitter for surviving in the struggle for existence than are races addicted to intoxicants. So far the Woman's Christian Temperance Association could go hand in hand with Dr. Hutchinson, were it not for the fact that the elimination of the unfittest by alcohol is not a short, direct process, but a complicated operation, extending through generations, passing down a curse from fathers to sons, and bringing suffering collaterally on wives and other innocent persons. Not only alcohol, but also smallpox, cholera, every ill to which mankind is heir, are eliminators of the unfit according to the Darwinian theory. Must we then cease ministering to diseased bodies lest we hamper the operation of the law of the survival of the fittest? Instead of permitting the weaklings to be killed off by alcohol or diseases, is it not a wiser policy to take the weaklings in hand, shelter them from destructive forces, build them up, morally, mentally and physically, and render them fit to survive in the struggle of existence? A new born infant, left to sustain itself, would soon perish; but the mother nourishes it until it is strong and capable. According to Dr. Hutchinson's theory, it would be well to expose infants on the doorsteps so that they might be quickly eliminated; but by the elimination of the unfit the race would be bettered.

But it is when he attempts to make his second point that Dr. Hutchinson exhibits the weakness of his argument, for his two propositions are inconsistent and contradict each other. According to his argument, alcohol strengthens the race by eliminating the drunkards. Hence a race which, through continued consumption of alcohol, has gradually attained a level of comparative sobriety—that is, a state of relative perfection—should be superior to a race which is in the state of transition from drunkenness to sobriety. How, then, does it happen that the Greeks, the Spaniards and the Italians, the Arabs, the Hindoos and the Chinese, who, according to Dr. Hutchinson, have attained this level of sobriety, are not in the van of progress, but are behind the nations in which drunkenness is most rampant? Supposedly all the unfit in Greece, Spain, Italy, Arabia, India and China have been eliminated by the use of alcohol. Why then are not the peoples of those countries dominant on the earth?

Dr. Hutchinson reasons in a circle. He first maintains that alcohol is an agent for good, because it removes the unfit; and then proves the beneficent character of alcohol by asserting that the nations from which all the drunkards have been eliminated by the use of alcohol are backward and inferior because they are practically sober.

But, he might reply, the reason of the inferiority of the nations of Southern Europe is not that they do not drink, but that they do not get drunk; in other words, they use enough alcohol to increase their unfitness, but not enough to eliminate their unfit. This, also, is reasoning in a circle, for, according to Dr. Hutchinson' argument, these nations, having used alcohol for centuries, must long ago have been purged of their alcohol-users; and yet it is notorious that a great deal of alcohol is consumed in Southern Europe.

The backwardness of the Greeks, the Spaniards, the Italians, the Arabs, the Hindoos and the Chinese is not rightly attributable either to the use or the disuse of alcohol, but to many causes, nor is the forwardness of the Americans, English and North Germans due to their drinking.

Drastic Measures Necessary.

Albany Democrat.

Down at Coquille the girls have had all their leap-year proposals refused, and are irate. They have asked the City Council to pass an ordinance making it a misdemeanor punishable by fine and imprisonment for a man in that city to refuse a proposal made to him during this year. The young women have decided to drape their clubroom in mourning until at least one proposal is accepted.

Service Pensions.

New York Sun.

Weary Willie—What's your idee on pensions?

Dusty Rhodes—Well, I think every man who hasn't worked for 20 years orter have one.

Roll Call in Corea.

Milwaukee Sentinel.

Slowly died the last red sunbeam, slowly came
the hush of night,
Where the moon-illumined stronghold of the
bearded Muscovite
Broke the landscape's rolling contour in a fair
Corean vale;
Many a warrior's heart was heavy, many a
warrior's cheek was pale,
For the bloody fight was o'er,
Silenced was the cannon's roar,
All was quiet as a form without a soul;
And, before the call of taps,
Several uncommissioned chaps
Volunteered half-heartedly to call the roll.

Major Hitthedopesky, present;
Major Fourflushoffsky, here;
Brave old Spikethegunsky, absent;
Bugler Blowsky standing near.
Punkeroff is here, and Sniffsky,
Up spake Quartermaster Biffsky:
"Can't lose me, boys, never fear!"

Present, too, were Bobtailstraightsky,
Acesupsky, Blufferoff,
Cushioncaromsky, Pingpongsky,
Vladimir Onetungeroff;
Butterinsky, Malteseatsky,
Lageroff and Antifatsky,
Ivan Caseyatthebatsky,
And the selfish Feetintroff.

Not to mention many more with appellations
much the same,
Who retorted, "Here" and "Present" when
the time to answer came.

Slowly spread the crimson sunrise, and the
birdies in the trees
Sang a song that sounded bully to the Muscovite
main squeeze.
"By my beardsky!" muttered he,
"'Twas a glorious victorse!
Valiant Spikethegunsky had to go, poor soul;
But the only other chap
Was the uncommissioned yap
Who succumbed to hysteria when he called
the roll!"

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Aha, Paha!

Last Saturday, while in Ritzville, we noticed one of Paha's young men in a jewelry store. Being a little bit interested, we stopped to see why he was there. He was very red in the face, and reminded us of a schoolboy in his first love, as he edged along the showcase to a tray of rings. We have been looking for the lucky maiden, but have not discovered her yet.—Paha Hub.

It was a blear-eyed lion that made his entrance yesterday.

February 29 did not pass without a letter from M. S. Griswold.

Stock in the Sacramento Valley can sympathise with Steel Common.

The rockpile unconstitutional? Nothing of the kind. Pleasant recreation agrees with any constitution.

The following advertisement appeared recently in The Oregonian:

WANTED—A boy to sell oysters that can ride a bicycle.

Luther Burbank has grown a variety of rhubarb that tastes like strawberries. Now it's up to him to grow strawberries that taste like rhubarb.

The Japanese ships, we are told, did not remain off Port Arthur long enough for the gunners in the fort to get their range. How very unkind of the Japanese officers!

Most everything in Chicago University having been opened with Standard Oil money, it is reasonable to suppose that Rockefeller will pay President Harper's appendicitis expenses.

Japanese who took part in the unsuccessful attempt to block the channel at Port Arthur have shaved their heads as a token of disgrace. None of the Merrimac's men thought of shaving his head.

Luther Burbank is reported to have succeeded in producing a potato of a delicate red color and of delicious flavor:

Burbank, of thy new plan beware,
Lest thou produce a spud too fair;
A tuber far too bright and good
In human nature's daily food.

The University of Chicago is trying to get a corner on the world's supply of dioon, according to a dispatch in the Kansas City Star. The Star explains that dioon is a fern-like plant which grows near Jalapa, Mexico, and nowhere else in the world. It is an "exceedingly rare genus of cycads." What in the world are we to do for our cycads if the supply is cornered by Chicago?

The South Bend Journal gives a very exciting picture of a Finnish bath. It appears that the boys of the Nasel Valley settlements crowd into a hut filled with steam and then wallop one another with sticks to promote circulation. Having a bath of this kind would be a little too exciting for the ordinary American, and it is entirely probable that the hut would be demolished and several of the bathers badly done up in the free fight that would almost certainly ensue.

Two serious-looking gentlemen sat near me in a car bound for the Capital recently, and their conversation was devoted to the war in the Orient, says a writer in the Washington Post. Russia's chances looked very slim to them. The difficulties of safeguarding the railway appeared insurmountable.

"There are 1000 miles of it," said one gentleman, "that run through a perfectly uninhabited country."

"That's so," agreed the other.

"And the worst of it is," went on the first speaker, "that all the people in that country are unfriendly."

He wasn't from Ireland either. He was a United States Senator from a Far Western State.

St. Petersburg, March 1.—(By Orosky to Stockholm, thence by carrier pigeon.)—The Czar is anxious to go to the front. He wants a change from home cooking, he says. The Czarina is heartbroken.

Moscow, March 1.—(By samovar to London, thence by 'ansom cab.)—Russians are greatly incensed at the failure of the Japanese to give trading stamps with each shell.

Mandalay, March 1.—(By hodcarrier to Washington.)—There is little excitement here over the reported attack of the Japanese on Port Arthur. A prominent dacoit asked yesterday, "Who is Arthur?"

Timbuctoo, March 1.—(By cassowary to Lake Tchad, thence by automobile.)—Local politicians sneer at the "yellow peril." What they want is a blacker outlook.

Port Arthur, March 1.—(By submerged battleship.)—St. Petersburg and Tokio advices indicate that there was a battle of some kind in this vicinity a few days ago.

Alexieff, on being shown the dispatches, admitted that there had been a fight but assured the Asphyxiated Press that the Russians were not in it.

Seattle, March 1.—By Queen Anne cablecar.)—The Oriental war does not retard Seattle's progress. A new chicken coop is being erected in South Seattle.

WEX. J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

"To me Wagner is a religion." "Yes?" "Yes—that is to say, what I can't understand I take on trust."—Brooklyn Life.

Maude—I wonder if it is really so that Agnes is engaged? Anne—Well, I shan't believe it till I see it denied in the papers.—Judge.

At the Bursar's Office—'07 (paying his term bill)—Please, sir, mamma wanted me to ask if you give green trading stamps?"—Harvard Lampoon.

Gilbert—I went to the lunatic asylum yesterday. Noyes—And they let you come away? Perhaps the places were all taken?—Boston Transcript.

"Tut, tut, my boy! You must not beat that little dog so. Has he bitten you?" "No, 'e ain't. But 'e 's been an' swallered my fardin!"—Punch.

"Do you think Blank is going to be good timber for this campaign?" "Not exactly. He's what I'd call a political stick."—Detroit Free Press.

Angry Father—Look here, young man, it takes you longer and longer to say good night to my daughter. The Young Man—Well, sir, the nights are longer than they were.—Smart Set.

"'And his last end is worse than his first,'" quoted the Sunday-school teacher. "What does this refer to, children?" "A hornet," promptly answered the freckled boy, who had just joined the class.—Judge.

Scholar—Professor, your mnemonic system is wonderful, and I am sure that anyone, after mastering the rules, can learn to remember anything. But I am handicapped by one difficulty. Professor—What is it? Scholar—I can't remember the rules.—Town and Country.

"Hush! Lucy," said Mrs. Lushman, who was calling upon Mrs. Pupley. "Don't make so much noise." "Why?" demanded her little daughter. "Because you'll wake Mrs. Pupley's baby." "Gracious! does