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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 22, 1904.

WASHINGTON: The National Railway Question. The subject that just now is getting more attention than any other at the capital is regulation of interstate rates and rebates, and how to do it.

It is reported that Russia will offer a portion of her proposed loan for subscription in this country. Half of the last Japanese loans were placed in the United States, and American banks and insurance companies financed a portion of a previous Russian loan.

Domestic science is one of the subjects recommended for study by the High School girls. It doesn't sound as if there was anything about washing dishes in it, although the likely to play an important part in the future life of the Domestic Scientists.

Russia wants American banks to take part of the war loan. We warn her in advance that she can't do any business in Oberlin.

An Indiana high school boy shot a girl schoolmate and then committed suicide because the girl's parents would not let her marry. It is strange that so many suitors become shooters nowadays.

The New York Evening Post points out that American ingenuity has improved upon perfection in devising a safer method of duelling than the French. The foreign duellists exchange two bullets at 25 paces; the American duellists—testé Lawson and Greene—exchange newspaper advertisements at intervals of 24 hours.

James Burnley, an English writer, has compiled a list of the richest persons in the world. It will probably astonish most people to find the two richest men hailing from South Africa, although the figures, after all, are no more than wild estimates.

Mr. Hooley, the English promoter, who chased his gullible countrymen out of about \$25,000,000 by schemes in comparison with which the gold-brick trick is nice and legitimate, has been found guilty. If the news of that verdict is carried down to the shade of Whitaker Wright as he stalks about in the regions below, he will experience a very noticeable relief.

The New York Child Labor Commission has compiled facts and testimony which show that child labor is by no means confined to the southern factories; the anthracite coal district of Pennsylvania and the glass factories of New Jersey. In some cities of New York, a state in which the most stringent law against child labor in factories exists, this abuse seems, according to this compilation of facts, to flourish in its most blighting form.

When the state rested its case against the courtesan Phyrne, her advocate made the briefest argument on record. Without a word he pulled apart his client's robes and disclosed her to the judges. "It her bars," the judges were convinced that one so beautiful could do no wrong, and the woman was acquitted amid the applause of the spectators.

There is much in the argument that the railroads would better accept moderate and reasonable regulation than to provoke radical socialist attack. This was the sum of the suggestion to them in the President's message.

Liberty is a fine thing. But when it signifies yellow fever, bubonic plague, smallpox, scarlet fever, other diseases there may be, why, then, liberty is not so fine a thing.

The "tyranny" of the United States has extinguished yellow fever in Cuba. Never would the Cubans have destroyed it. We did it by the "persuasion" of force. We extinguished "liberty," while we compelled the Cubans to clean up, and this same thing has been done, or rather it still stands, in the Philippine Islands. Vital statistics of the City of Manila show that the death rate is being constantly reduced, and indicate that America will do for the Philippines what has already been done for Cuba, and what is beginning to be performed for the Isthmus of Panama.

A recent meeting of the Society for Ethical Study, a woman's club in New York, became occasion for general conversation owing to the absence of the lecturer who was to have been present. In the remarks of some of the women, as reported by the New York Press, it is taken for granted, apparently, that the subject of potting women on juries was discussed, not, as might have been expected, to bring about the Patterson girl's conviction, but her acquittal, as a jury of her own sex would understand the emotions that might prompt her to shoot the man who had wronged her.

The question of mixed juries has been taken up again, and again. Nan Patterson is no doubt glad that men alone are to decide her fate. Her selection of jurors by their appearance would not have been as wise a move had women been among them. As it is, her life has

been given her opportunities of judging men, and her training is not unlikely to have stood her in good stead at this crisis. When she declares in tones of deep emotion, "I have always tried to be truthful and honorable," she has every reason to feel that the men of her sex, without effect upon the men of her sex, are due to improved methods of shoeing and balancing and to lighter harness and sulking. This theory would hardly hold good if carried too far. When Maud S. was queen of the turf no one indulged in any "knocking" to the effect that Flora Temple would have been just as fast as if she wore the same gear as that which Maud S. used when she captured the world's record. Flora Temple was much faster than the single-toed equines of the plowage age, because breeding and development made her so. The same influences are responsible for the speed of Maud S., Major Delmar, Lou Dillon and their successors yet to be.

Not all of the wolves in Illinois congregate around the Chicago Board of Trade, a Bloomington, Ill., dispatch announces the assembling of hunters from all over Central Illinois to engage in a wolf hunt. It also stated that the wolves had been increasing so alarmingly lately that an organized attempt at extermination was necessary. Dwellers in the Middle West, where civilization was supposed to have pitched its tents before Oregon was a state, will not fail to revise their view regarding the "wild" ways of the United States. The wolf's "long-drawn howl" may still be heard on Unalaska's shore and in Illinois, but it is not a frequent sound in an advanced commonwealth like Oregon.

It is a surprise to the public to learn that Mr. P. P. Mays has been indicted by the Federal grand jury. Further, that though called to appear before the grand jury, he was given no opportunity to be heard. It should be borne in mind that this proceeding thus far, as to him, has been wholly ex parte. Until he has been heard there can be no proper judgment upon the matter with which he is charged. It is right, therefore, that there should be suspension of the grand judgment until a full public hearing can be had. The position of Mr. Mays, his prominence in affairs and the reputation he always has borne, call in fairness for this forbearance.

An electric locomotive drawing eight loaded cars on a snow-covered track showed a speed of sixty miles per hour on the New York Central a few days ago. Performances of this nature foreshadow the retirement of the steam locomotive from the roads. The new types of electric locomotives possess all the advantages of the old steam machines, so far as speed and power are concerned, and in addition are more economical and clean, smoke and cinders being avoided, while the wear and tear on tracks is much less than with the steam locomotives.

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Mr. Foster's dinner at Washington, who is diligently neglecting his private interests in the public service. Mr. Sweeney thoughtfully and graciously promotes good feeling among the immediate followers of the Pierce County man by a season of wine, wit, song and frivolity, with a few edibles thrown in.

What surprising tact it was stipulated by the host that no politics should be discussed, and that all possible care should be taken to avoid any misunderstanding between Mr. Sweeney and Mr