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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1905.

SHIP SUBSIDY BILL POSTPONED.

For the present effort in Congress for the ship subsidy bill has been completely superseded by the demand for regulation of the railroads. For ship subsidy there is an earnest group, that would give this subject preference over all others. But this group hasn't power to carry forward its purposes, against any earnest demand for attention to another subject; so now it must give way. It reluctantly admits that it can do nothing this session. But let it not be supposed that we are taking final leave of this bill. It will reappear.

It is well enough, therefore, to keep in mind what this scheme is. The prevailing note in it is subsidy, pure and simple, its main feature being payment of five dollars per gross ton to all vessels now registered or that hereafter may be registered in the United States, which may have engaged in the foreign trade for one year, with proportionately smaller amounts for periods of nine months and six months. In professed or alleged return for this subsidy the vessels receiving it may be taken by the Government for the National defense, or for any public service, upon the payment of a fair compensation; they shall carry mails whenever the Postmaster-General requests it; one-sixth of their crews shall be citizens of the United States, and all ordinary repairs or overhauling must be made in the United States, even in cases where drydocking is necessary, provided a drydock of sufficient capacity is within 500 miles of the location of the ship. There are provisions also that after a certain number of years a fixed proportion of the crews shall be enrolled as naval volunteers, and that no ship is to receive a subsidy for a longer period than ten years. Besides, there are provisions for the payment of mail subsidies to steamers for the purpose of establishing regular routes to countries not now reached directly, and it is provided that no portion of these mail subsidies can go to any one of the five contract ocean mail lines already established. It is proposed to levy an increased tax on all tonnage entering the United States from foreign ports, but in the case of American ships to pay back to them 80 per cent of it, provided certain requirements are fulfilled regarding the carrying of boy apprentices on such a voyage. Joined with these plans for helping our merchants to increase the number of their ships is another for the establishment of a naval reserve by paying officers and men employed in our merchant marine and deep-sea fisheries an annual retaining fee varying in amount from $100 down to $15, and by requiring shipowners to have a certain proportion of such naval volunteers among the crews of their vessels while receiving a subsidy for sailing in the foreign trade.

This scheme would cost the United States a lot of money, and the more effective it might be the more it would cost. There is no probability that it would reduce the cost of ocean transport; and if it should, it would only require subsidies greater still, to make up the difference or loss. The complaint now is that freight rates are too low to afford any profit to American shipowners; hence the need of subsidy. It is a contradictory argument, throughout. One corollary is presented that has plausibility, namely, that we need a merchant marine as a school for seamen for the Navy, and shall not be able to develop and maintain an effective naval force, unless we bring up seamen for it. Of course this argument has no weight with those who think there is no good reason why we should have a large Navy.

The Oregonian prints today a long communication from Representative Smith, of Josephine, notwithstanding large demands on its space, to permit the best possible argument to be made for a State Railroad Commission. The former commission was abolished because it was inefficient and impotent. First the Governor appointed and the commission did nothing; then the Legislature elected a commission, which, according to Mr. Smith's statement, was about to accomplish something when a succeeding Legislature elected another commission which did nothing. Mr. Smith appears to recognize the fact that politics and railroad influence destroyed the usefulness of former commissions, and now he proposes to have one elected by the people. Still politics. The Oregonian cannot see that he will do anything by his new arrangement except to provide three fat jobs for three more office-hunters.

RUSSIA'S HUMILIATION.

The people of Russia clamor loudly for peace. To them conquest in the Far East is nothing; the need and the opportunity to meet pressing necessities at home are everything. Pride of empire, patriotism such as opposes the effort of Russia in Manchuria, are swallowed up in the great slough of abject wretchedness in which the masses are struggling. It is apparent that peace abroad can alone restore peace at home. The Czar, wiser for all his weakness than his uncles, the formidable Grand Dukes, sees this, it is said, and is not only ready, but anxious, to make peace with Japan.

In support of the wisdom of this contention the press of Russia—unmuzzled at last—speaks encouragingly. To let the war party down easy, as we would say, it is pointed out that conditions which could not be foreseen at the beginning of the conflict have arisen, making it practically impossible to push the war to a successful termination at this time. The valor of the Russian soldiers is unquestioned, now as ever. Strong in endurance, brave in battle, unquestioning in obedience, they have maintained the honor of their country even in defeat. They have attempted what under the circumstances has proved impossible, and, through intense suffering and discouragement, uncheered by a single substantial victory, they have failed.

The world looks on and sees that the cause of this failure is not to be attributed solely to the activity and persistence of the Japanese army. It sees Japan feeding and clothing her soldiers honestly and with the purpose of making them efficient; treating them hygienically when sick and scientifically and promptly when wounded. It observes a singleness of purpose inspired by patriotism in all branches of the Japanese government that extends to the lowliest subject of the Empire. Over against this stands a Russian commissariat ruled by peculation and utter disregard of the needs of the army in the field, fortress and camp; a hospital service wholly inadequate to the demands that press upon it, and sanitary conditions that destroy or render unfit for service whole regiments. No wonder the cry for peace is heard throughout the realm of the Czar, or that he, seeing the utter impossibility of bringing the war with Japan to a termination that will reflect honor upon Russia, inclines a willing ear to the demand.

Rotten to the core is the Russian system of government—civil, ecclesiastical, military and naval. Extravagance rules in high places, grinding parsimony in low, and dishonesty all along the line between. Disguise these facts and seek to soothe the wounded pride of empire as it may, by urging unfortunate conditions at home as the cause of its failure in Manchuria, it is still patent to all the world that the vaunted power of Russia is a great, unwieldy bulk drained of efficiency by a system that has been outdated by civilization, of the ability to deliver a telling blow upon an alert, progressive adversary.

THE FOREST RESERVES.

Official publication has just been made of the transfer of the care and administration of the forest reserves from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture. By a circular dated February 1, 1905, Secretary Wilson has defined the principles to govern henceforth. The first aim he states to be the permanence of the resources of the reserves. He names as these water, wood and forage. But the conservation of these is to be made as far as possible consistent with the use of the resources of the reserves in question. The first party in interest to enjoy these resources is to be the home-builder, who is to be the first charge of the administration by the Government of the reserves. Obviously, therefore, in future the interests of the individual worker and home-maker are to be preferred to those of the wealthy stockman or corporation. This is as it should be, and is notice of another stage in carrying out President Roosevelt's desire and intention that every man shall have his equal chance.

The circular is stated to be based on the Congressional act approved February 1, 1905, making the transfer of control of the reserves. The third section directs that the forest supervisors and rangers shall be chosen, when practicable, from qualified citizens of the states containing the reserves. By an order signed December 17, 1904, civil service rules were made applicable in the forest reserve department. By the fourth section of the act rights of way in and across the reserves for construction and maintenance of dams, reservoirs, water plants, ditches, flumes, pipes, tunnels and canals are granted to citizens of the United States for "municipal or mining purposes, and for milling and reduction of ores."

It is matter for remark that such beneficial use of water should not have been extended to those desiring to develop power for motive or manufacturing purposes. In view of the published resources of the Santiam and McKenzie water systems in abundant water power (all included in the Cascade reserve), it may be asked if it be too late to provide for extension of the privilege in question for these last-named purposes? This matter may probably be of urgent importance to the citizens of Oregon in the near future.

NEW JERSEY, HOME OF CORPORATIONS

Happy little state! Where gentlemen of large means send their little office boys and other hangers on to lay the foundations of the enterprises which are to overshadow the states; where the air is so salubrious for the incubation and growth of corporations that it has become a kind of Santa Barbara for the weaklings; where the kindly state shelters them from the hard life they might be exposed to in more scrupulous and difficult headquarters—such is New Jersey. So the Northern Securities Company and the United States Steel Corporation and the Shipbuilding Trust and many other innocents which had as little to do with New Jersey as with Oregon there have found nests for themselves. Why?

The chief points are that, once born in New Jersey, the corporations can go where they please to do their business, and have all the directors they wish, regardless of residence. A modest office is kept in the home of their birth, and there they can at light expense maintain their organization, hold these quiet meetings where proxies represent the stockholders and are voted strictly according to instructions, and no questions asked. No heavy continuing taxation is imposed, but from the immense number of corporations, each paying a little, enough comes in to pay the greater part of all the state expenses, maintain the charitable and educational institutions, and keep up and develop a road system, which embraces, we are proudly told, one-third of the macadamized roads in the United States.

It is perhaps not generally known that there is as much diversity between the laws governing the formation and life of corporations in the various states as in the divorce laws. Some require all the directors to be residents, some one-half or less, varieties of regulation as to annual and other meetings, and a wide range in fees required and taxes to be paid are found.

Oregon is on the side of the easy ones as to formation, the moderate ones as to fees and taxation. If a suggestion in The Oregonian a week or two ago were taken up, and a commission named by the Legislature now in session, to present to the next Legislature a report on such laws as should be amended or passed regarding common carriers, it would be well to extend its functions to cover the field of the creation, management and taxation of corporations generally. With the development now in the air of the manufacturing, mining, colonizing, fishing, wood and stone working, brick and pottery making, and other resources of the state, abundant use will be made of the powers for creating and managing corporations for such purposes. In view of the growing tendency of corporations everywhere to escape restraint and regulation, and of the difficulty of bringing them to time after their strength has been developed by use and immunity, the path of wisdom would seem to be to study, to define and to limit their powers in advance. One field that needs most careful study is that of local control of corporations operating in Oregon but which have a distant birthplace.

SILKEN DEARS IN HOMESPUN.

If Americans have one great fault, it is that of impetuosity. They fly from one extreme to another, and run the fad of the moment into the ground, as the saying is. Some time ago the "strenuous life" was the battlecry of the people. Today it is the "simple life," and American society is determined to be quiet if it has to raise Cain in the attempt. A few recent entertainments in New York show how simplicity has become the fashion in circles where unlimited wealth might tempt to extravagance. Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish gave a roof-garden party, James Stillman gave a modest dance and James Hazen Hyde a small entertainment of sorts. These names have a golden ring.

Mrs. Fish engaged the "Lady Teazle" company to amuse her guests, and her guests and her chorus girls vied with one another in staring. There was nothing to mar this quiet little entertainment, except the hateful notoriety consequent upon Lillian Russell's refusal to appear, and the $2500 paid the managers of the "Lady Teazle" company was well invested. Simplicity, even rusticity, marked the Stillman dance. The dining-room was converted into a small forest, and here a "picnic supper" was served. Real trees and real grass, as the theatrical advertisements say, were employed to hide the walls and to carpet the floor. A stream of real water—nothing ostentatious, such as champagne—trickled through the room over real stones—not diamonds, but simple gravel. As no actresses were invited to this Forest of Arden entertainment, none had the opportunity of refusing to attend.

Mr. Hyde, doubtless out of deference to his younger friends, gave an "Eighteenth Century Costume Fete." He himself, however, avoided the ostentation of either eighteenth century costume or the gaudy evening dress of modernity, by wearing the uniform of the New York Coaching Club, "with black knee breeches, black silk stockings and pumps." The ballet corps of the Metropolitan Opera-House appeared, and then Madame Rejane and several members of the company presented a comedietta written for the occasion. Everything was entirely in harmony with the doctrines of the simple life, even the decorations representing the gardens of Versailles. But after supper things became a little livelier. After supper one is ready to be jocund with the fruitful grape.

Madame Rejane, whose art is so delicate that the critics have had to drag in the French word nuance to hint of its fine gradations, also, it appears, excels in the more robust requirements of the stage. Anyway, as the story goes, the gifted Parisienne forsook the smiling Thalia for her looser-jointed sister, Terpsichore. To be out with it, Madame Rejane skipped up on a table and danced an ecstatic cancan. We greatly fear that Pastor Wagner would not commend this embroidery of the homespun life, but youth must have its way, especially after supper. The only event to be feared is that simplicity will be so overdone that it will become in itself ostentation. There is the pride that apes humility.

IN MEMORY OF MISS WILLARD.

The New York Mail notes that among the statues in the old Hall of Representatives at Washington—now a statuary hall—the figure of one woman will, after March 17 of this year, keep company with the figures of the great men of the several states that have been and will yet be placed there. Each state in the Union has the privilege of placing there at its own expense, subject to the ultimate approval of Congress, statues of two of its greatest men. It is among these that this solitary figure of Miss Frances E. Willard will stand, serene in the simple majesty of womanly purity and conscientious purpose.

It is not necessary to indorse the methods whereby Miss Willard sought to purge the land of drunkenness in order to admire the traits of character for which her name stands. Patience, persistence, faith in human nature, love of home, sympathy for the oppressed of her sex—these were the well-springs of Miss Willard's endeavor. The State of Illinois stands sponsor for this innovation in the personnel, so to speak, of Statuary Hall, though Miss Willard was born in New York. In the view of the journal quoted:

> Politics and war have monopolized too long the niches wherein the effigies of the Nation's great have stood. The works of social morality and virtue, of life and growth, deserve to be commemorated as well as those of pure statecraft and those of death and destruction. And the part which women are now playing in the moral upbuilding of America certainly entitles them to the honor of this great woman's inclusion in any such hall of fame.

If this view is indorsed by any considerable number of citizens of the several states that still lack their quota in furnishing the "Hall of Fame," we may well believe that the statue of Frances Willard will not be left alone to represent woman's endeavor in the niches occupied by the "Nation's great."

The intense cold that prevailed during the first week in February in Eastern Montana did not result, as it was feared would be the case, in heavy loss of stock. A few years ago a temperature sinking in some places to 52 degrees below zero would have swept the ranges of every living thing, and, abating, would have left the gulches piled and the plains strewn with carcasses. Now, however, the ranges are practically swept of stock by prudence and thrift (and let us hope humanity has a hand in the clearing), in advance of the storms of the two last months of Winter, with the result that the loss is nominal. Chance for many years played an important part in stockraising on the great ranges of the interior, from Nebraska to the Cascade Mountains. Little or no provision was made for feeding and sheltering the Winter contingent of herds and flocks that was left after the Fall selling, and as a result at least once in five years thousands upon thousands of animals perished miserably. Stockmen have in late years, however, got their commercial second sight, and the loss from stress of weather is now relatively small any season, and never utterly disastrous. The National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals put in some excellent work in behalf of plains cattle and sheep some years ago, but it is probable that pecuniary interests took the lead in effecting such change in conditions in the care of stock as has been noted.

The State Senate has on its calendar the Newell bill to provide for the transportation of insane asylum patients. It had been made a special order for last Tuesday at 3 P. M., but for some reason it was not considered at that time. This is the measure that proposes to take from Sheriffs conveyance of patients to the Salem asylum and place it in the hands of experienced attendants. It passed the House by an overwhelming vote, and it should not be defeated in the Senate, either by open opposition or by failure to act. The Senate committee on medicine, of which Senator Coe is chairman, has made a favorable recommendation. No doubt Senator Coe, who understands perfectly the reasons why politicians and others interested in the graft do not want the Newell bill to pass, will urge speedy action.

"President Roosevelt has not only stolen our thunder, but our lightning as well," remarked Mr. Bryan when discussing proposed freight-rate legislation. But it was lightning and thunder that Mr. Bryan did not invoke during the last campaign, and never thought of. Nor did the Democratic party. True, it was one of the "demands" of the Democratic platform, but it was lost in that pitiful recital of the Nation's woes. The issue was distinctly made by the President after the election. The entire agitation has been carried on since then. The House has now passed the Esch-Townsend bill and the Democrats were forced to support it. Now it is up to the Senate, and it seems likely to pass there. We have now a President who addresses himself to real abuses, and does things.

China's ancient civilization has apparently left human nature there much as it is in newer countries, and even in the somewhat dull pages of a Consular report one may find instances. In saying that there is a strong demand for very cheap ribbons, Consul Anderson adds that "in this line almost anything which will enable the Chinese woman to make a show of finery at a low price can be sold profitably." Referring to the increasing demand for porcelain-lined wash basins, the report says that such utensils "may be used indiscriminately for washing a face or a vegetable, but they are popular, and if put down in China at a low price their sale would be enormous." Another demand noted is that for cheap pictures to decorate the homes of the people.

The late epidemic of smallpox at Billings, Mont., caused the health authorities of Dawson County to issue an arbitrary rule in regard to vaccination. This rule requires all persons resident in the county, permanently or temporarily, to be vaccinated or show a certificate that they have been successfully vaccinated within two years. It is not probable that a rule so sweeping in its requirements can be successfully applied, but its promulgation shows the faith of the board of health, just emerged from a bitter contest with smallpox, in the value of vaccination in combating the disease.

An Eastern W. C. T. U. branch is about to begin a crusade against all kinds of slang. Among the expressions to be classed as "swear words" are "By gosh!" "Oh, fudge!" "Rubber!" and "Knocker!" The "gosh" and "fudge" part of the list may be cheerfully recommended for eliminiation, but it would be robbing the language of two excellent words to kill "rubber" and "knocker." So useful have these words become that one is inclined to wonder how Shakespeare managed to give Beatrice so much to say without discovering their modern application.

Attorney-General Moody, acting, no doubt, under direction of the President, has issued an order that United States Attorneys and Marshals shall take no hand in directing the affairs of State Legislatures. One more impertinent interference by the National Administration with our local statesmen.

Thinking persons are much distressed over the lack of capable younger men to take the places of the great National leaders of the present generation. Not that such a lack is evident in the vocations of politics or business, but there is an utter dearth of capable cotillion leaders in New York.

We are to have flat salaries for state officers after January 1, 1907. We have had flat salaries since the constitution was adopted in 1857, but the trouble has been that the state officers have thought they were not enough. The new salaries will do till the state officers want more.

The recent agitation for increase in teachers' pay has had one specific result. The salary of the City Superintendent has been increased from $3000 to $4000.

John L. Sullivan has such a bad cold that he has lost his voice. Fortunately he has retired from the ring.

Recent peace talk shows that Russia is not so sweet on the bitter end.

NOTE AND COMMENT

The abandonment of our land-fraud cases would be regretted by several persons, among them being the paragrapher of the Washington Post.

One question we are sorry Adam didn't take the opportunity of setting at rest while he was in Eden: Was the beet created with any idea of its being eaten as a vegetable?

If we were a dramatist, we should end all our plays about the middle of the last act and then have the curtain dropped a few minutes too soon. These devices would prevent the last scene of the play from being rendered inaudible by the shuffling of anticipatory feet and the rustling of hats and wraps.

The Beef Trust packs most everything but juries.

A Chicago woman thought she had a divine call to burn herself. Most of us are content to leave that to a personage who is anything but divine.

St. Petersburg papers think that Russia has not lost any prestige. It is rather hard to lose something you haven't got.

Another uncharted reef has been discovered. This one cost a 10,000-ton French cruiser.

The Senate has passed a bill authorizing the acceptance of the Goldsborough. Remember the Goldsborough?

Ambassador Porter wants $35,000 to search for the bones of John Paul Jones. That's a lot of money for a skeleton that isn't even guaranteed.

Excellent! The Czar is reported to intend sending a Grand Duke to the front. The further in front he puts the Duke the more every one will be pleased.

Borelli's comet has hove in sight again. The giddy thing scoots around the sun every eight years or so, without any ascertainable purpose, except that of keeping on the move.

Portland now has a "locktwister." The police hope to make him a lockstepper.

City Detective Green, of Denver, voted 587 times in one precinct. He must be the original long green.

"John L." may open a saloon in Portland. Told you the Development League would bring results.

Irrigation is said to be lowering the temperature of Egypt. Yet the same thing increases a man's temperature.

At an evening party given by the Grand Duke Alexis, the Grand Duke Vladimir, overjoyed at his success in having quelled the disorder in St. Petersburg, became intoxicated and danced a cakewalk. M. Pobiedonostseff, the Procurator of the Holy Synod, said that he felt 20 years younger, and that it should have been done 20 years ago.—New York Evening Sun.

Nice, genial fellow that Vladimir, and what a dear old priest is the other man with the long name.

Ice cream is the latest haunt of the microbe. Boil your ice cream.

In a recent trial in a London court an old man, summoned as a witness, was unable to tell the name of the street or number of the house in which he lived. To the judge, who expressed his surprise, the witness replied: "I didn't know there was any need to know, as long as I could find my way home." There is a sensible man. What is the use of burdening the memory with uninteresting and non-essential details? Take life easy and don't worry over dry names or numbers. Let the memory busy itself with love songs or something that will "pleasure the ear," and away with the multiplication table and the price of beef.

Beating Hearts.

An eel has two separate hearts. One beats 60, the other 160 times a minute.

When Mr. Man
And sweet Miss Girl,
With both their hearts
In a fluttering whirl,
To the altar go,
And the preacher's done,
Two hearts, they say,
Now beat as one.
But when Mr. Eel
And slim Miss Eel
The thud of deep
Affection feel,
And leave the life
Of single rue,
Four hearts, it's clear,
Must beat as two.

The Fairbanks News, which cheers the Alaskans of that bustling town, has issued a good special edition devoted to the growth of mining and business in general in the district. The News also takes the opportunity to tell something of its own growth, and refers to its pet machine as follows:

> The Mergenthaler linotype that puts reading matter into print faster than the speediest operator of a typewriter can put letters on a sheet of paper, is the pride of the shop. It is the most famous machine of its kind, having a varied history. Besides the double distinction of being the most northerly located Mergenthaler in the world and having been the one upon which the world's record for speed was made, more money has been paid for No. 5801 than for any other linotype made. To date its cost has been $14,000. The greater part of this was freight charges, as the machine was brought in over 500 miles of trail to Dawson, and then shipped at great expense to Fairbanks by river steamer.

It was quite unnecessary, however, for the News to say in so many words that it had a linotype, for a little higher up the column occurs this:

> . . . This issue contains forty columnsscmfwypy umns, divided among the various departments.

Maybe you think this isn't a hard life. Read this from the Cleveland Leader and learn:

> Sunday editor—Why did you fire the joke-writer?
> Managing editor—He got scooped.
> Sunday editor—Why, how's that?
> Managing editor—Neglected to write a joke about the recent appointment of a Philadelphia man to the superintendency of the dead letter office. All the other papers in the country had one.
> If it had been a Tacoma man we might not have been so remiss.

WEX J.

Our Envious Critics.

Tacoma News.

Senator Mitchell has been indicted three times and then indorsed by the Oregon Legislature.

Washington Post.

Senator Mitchell probably wants it understood that his explanation was intended to cover a multitude of indictments.

On the Proposal to Erect a Statue to Shakespeare in London.

(Alfred Austin, Poet Laureate of England, in Independent.)

Why should we lodge in marble or in bronze
Spirits more vast than earth, or sea, or sky?
Wiser the silent worshiper who cons
Their page for Wisdom that will never die.
Unto the favorites of the passing hour
Erect a statue and unveil the bust,
Whereon contemptuous Time will slowly shower
Oblivion's refuse and neglectful dust.

Need no memento to transmit their name;
Throned on their thoughts and high imaginings,
They are the lords, not servitors, of Fame.
Raise pedestals to perishable stuff;
Gods for themselves are monument enough.

A CORELESS APPLE.

Oregon's finest fruit is threatened with eclipse in the shape of a newly-produced coreless apple. This new apple, which is both coreless and seedless, has been introduced by an old fruit raiser, a Mr. Spencer, from whom the new fruit takes its name, who has been experimenting for some 12 years to obtain this result. The coreless apple, as described by a famous horticultural authority in the Nineteenth Century Magazine for December, is the product of a blossomless tree. The new tree bears a stamen and a very small quantity of pollen, but there is no blossom, properly speaking. Cold, therefore, does not affect the fruit, and the apple grower has little to fear from late Spring frosts, which oftentimes do serious damage in apple orchards. Being devoid of blossoms, it is claimed that the fruit offers no effective hiding place in which the codlin moth may lay its eggs. The producer ofthe new apple claims absolute immunity from the codlin moth, but this is questioned by experts, who assert that codlin moth eggs are oftentimes deposited on the skin of young fruit. But the fact remains that no moth has yet appeared in the orchard in which the new fruit is grown, and there being nothing in the way of perfume or flower to attract the moth, it is hoped that it will be practically immune.

* * *

The color of the new apple is red, dotted with yellow on the skin. As with the seedless orange, so with the seedless apple, a slightly hardened substance makes its appearance at the navel end. This it is hoped to obliterate by culture. The originator of the coreless apple states that the further "we get away from the original five trees the larger and better the fruits become in every way." As the results of tests, it has been impossible for coreless apple trees to bear fruits that have seeds in them; that is, of their own accord. Still, when grown in the vicinity of ordinary apple trees, with their branches interlocked with each other, a small percentage of the coreless trees have sometimes produced two or three seeds, though they are just as apt to be found near the skin as in the center of the fruit. A seed has been found within one-eighth of an inch of the rind. These fortuitous seeds owe their origin to the transference of the pollen from the blossoms of the seedy apple trees to the stigma of the coreless apple tree.

* * *

The flavor of the coreless apple is beyond question, but there is some doubt about its size. Specimens thus far secured are below the size of the standard commercial varieties, although the fact that the fruit is coreless gives to a relatively small apple an amount of pulp equal to many apples which find favor in the markets. There are now 2000 coreless apple trees available for propagation to supply the orchards of the world. It is estimated that by 1906 2,500,000 trees will be put upon the market. There seems no doubt about the demand. While even in the experimental stage, and before the discovery found its way into perfection, hundreds and even thousands of demands came to the discoverer for young trees.

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The appearance of one single variety of seedless apple cannot seriously affect the commercial applegrowers of the world. If the introducer of the new fruit can develop seedless forms of the various leading apples of commerce—and he claims that he can do it—then the coming of the coreless apple may in due course disorganize the apple industry. Apple culture continues to be the backbone of the fruit industry. In the United States there are 200,000,000 apple trees in bearing, from which 250,000,000 bushels of fruit are annually harvested. At the present time the apple consumption of the United States is 80 pounds per head of the population per year. Since the apple is grown more successfully in this country than elsewhere it has an enormous value as an export crop. The annual imports in Great Britain alone range between 4,500,000 and 5,000,000 hundredweight, in addition to an apple-tree census of 20,000,000 in the British Islands alone.

It is noted in connection with the development of the coreless apple that in 1862 Abbe D. Dupuy, professor of natural history at Auch, drew attention to the Bon Chretien d'Auch pear, which at Auch produced fruits without seeds, though when removed to another locality the seeds reappeared in the fruit in the usual way. But the coreless apple remains seedless in any soil. It is predicted that this new apple will produce as great a sensation when brought before the public as the seedless orange did 20 years ago.

STRAIGHT GOODS ON PURE ENGLISH

Indianapolis News.

The announcement that Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, has introduced a bill for the preservation of the English language is sure a hot one right off the bat. The general impression, at least on our beat, was that when it came to handing out the English language in a manner that was dead right we were pretty fly guys. Not only the preservation, but the amplification of the English language has always been the long suit of the American people, and no matter how fast new bunches of it were sprung, we are always dead next in a minute. What the Senator's game is we can't see from here, but we can give him a quiet tip that we're for the English language from soda to hock, and that if we can give him a lift at this graft he won't find any of us with cold feet. That is, of course, if it's a straight deal and he really wants to do the right thing by the lingo that we are all so proud of. But if it's anything else he wants to keep his eye peeled. We've a hunch that any man who tries to monkey with our mother tongue for political purposes is going to get in the neck all he has got coming to him. We of Indiana, where, perhaps, in politics and literature, we use as much English language per capita as in any other neck of woods in the country, certainly won't stand for anything that gives the language the heavy end of the log. If there is anything we are touchy about it is our English, and whether it is being used for the hot air of political gabfest, or the perfectly lovely resolutions of the Local Council of Women, we want it kept straight and used without any marks on the deck, and it will never lack for a gang of husky guys to see that it doesn't get the worst of it. Us for English, pure and undefiled and oodles of it.

She Was Surprised.

New York Sun.

The truth of this story is vouched for by the victim:

"Where is that old blue coat I knocked around in last Summer?" he asked his wife. She was not quick to offer an explanation.

"It was here only yesterday," remarked the husband. "I know it was."

"Yes," said the wife with a touch of anger. "I know it was. I just got sick and tired of seeing that coat and a lot of other old stuff lying around cluttering things up, and I sold it this morning."

"You sold it! Sold the coat—the old blue coat?"

"Yes, I sold it. And I don't want you to go around moping about it."

"Dear, I didn't want the coat, but tomorrow is your birthday and I had hidden a ring and a nice yellow bill in the inside pocket. I wanted to surprise you and I couldn't think of a better hiding place."

The victim says that what happened after that is nobody's business.

Mutations of Time.

New York Sun.

The chief trouble that we discern in our philosophic scrutiny of Colonel Bryan is that he is too conservative. But a few years since and Colonel Bryan was the limit of radicalism and the very ideal of unrest. Things have changed wondrously, even marvelously. But we do not say that Colonel Bryan has changed at all.

RUSSIA DEFENDED.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

I have had my attention called to an editorial in your issue of December 25 in which you make an article in the Slovak Daily the occasion for a discussion of the industrial outbreaks in Russia which I think does much injustice. You say: "It is stated that the Czar had promised to give the people constitutional rights as rapidly as he can," and that "the Slavs in this country who reply on such information will be woefully misled." The truth is that the American people as a whole were misled by the tales of extraordinary slaughter and widespread revolution manufactured in England and disseminated in that country, and this in accordance with the settled policy of the English government and English press to injure Russia whenever they can. The facts now coming to light expose the ridiculous character of these exaggerations, but to a writer familiar with the conditions it was evident at the start that they were the work of the British anti-Russian press agencies.

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If upon the occasion of a strike at Chicago or Homestead and the shooting of a few rioters by deputy sheriffs or militia the press of Europe were to announce that a revolution had broken out in this country, Americans would justly consider that it had made itself ridiculous. The occurrences in Russia no more constitute a revolution than did the shooting of strikers at Latimer a few years ago or the disorders of last year in Colorado, Utah and other places, and the people of Russia, as a whole, are no more apt to participate in a revolution than are the people of this country. The Russians are satisfied with their government and what it is doing for them, and the agitation is carried on by the foreign element, who have a motive which, as it becomes better and better understood by the people, lessens the chances of any revolution taking place. This foreign element is filled with socialistic and anarchistic ideas which are entirely contrary to the Russian as to the whole Slavonic spirit.

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The agitation for a constitutional government in Russia is conducted by Hebrew, Polish and English agitators, who believe that under it they would enjoy unlimited opportunities for fleecing the Russian peasants out of their holdings of land, against which fleecing the autocratic government now protects them. The great mass of the Russian population was freed from serfdom less than two generations ago and given land upon which to live. It has been impossible in the time which has since elapsed to educate them and make shrewd business people of them, and their government has refused to allow them to fall victims through their simplicity to the sharks who are hungry for chances to devour them. If these sharks had been given the opportunity they wish for all the lands which were given the peasants at the time of their liberation would now be in the possession of these persons. But a few cases of the shark arriving with his pack on his back one week and owning half the village the next were enough to show the government what was necessary for the protection of its people, and they will be protected until under a constitution they shall some day decide that such protection is no longer necessary.

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That Russia will some time be governed under a constitution is a reasonable certainty of the future, but the people are not ready for it now.

Upon the occasion of the birth of his son last August corporal punishment was totally abolished throughout the empire except that provision was made for its occasional employment on some rare occasions in the army. At the same time the payment of certain dues upon the transfer of property which had prevailed for generations was also abolished. The political prisoners were all liberated excepting those who were charged with murder. The government also at the same time undertook to provide education for all the orphan children of its officers and soldiers who might perish in war. Practically complete religious liberty has been granted. The liberty of the press has been greatly extended. The school system is being extended so rapidly that it will not be long until education has become as general and as free as in this country. The education of the people is one of the chief cares of the government, and by doing all it can to promote it there is no reason to doubt that it is hastening the time when constitutional government must replace the autocracy and that it knows it.

Russians enjoy under the autocracy more liberty than do the subjects of many so-called constitutional governments. Russian Poland remains Polish. The Poles enjoy religious liberty. They have their language and it is used in the schools and in their courts. In German Poland the strength of the government is constantly exerted to Germanize the Poles and to supplant them with Germans in the possession of the land. The people of Finland have never suffered any such persecution at the hands of the Russians as have the Slavs of Hungary from the Magyar rulers of their country or the Bohemians and Russians in Austria. If the experience of the Slavs of Austria-Hungary and of the Poles of Germany is any criterion by which to judge, the people of these sections of the empire have reason to congratulate themselves that they are ruled by a Russian autocrat instead of by a Russian Parliament.—P. V. Rovnianek, editor Slovak Daily, Pittsburg, Feb. 3, 1905.

Monkeying With Monkeys.

Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser.

We shall watch with some interest the experience of the California man who is going to try to teach monkeys to pick prunes. We remember the story of the Georgian in the old slavery days who imported some monkeys to pick cotton. He reasoned that they would do the work much cheaper than the negroes could, but when he found that it required all the time of two negroes to keep one monkey at work he saw his mistake. The Californian may have the same experience.

Patriotism.

(Translated in Saturday Review from Russian of Lermontov.)

I love my country, though in such strange fashion
No reasons of the mind must rule this passion.
Her dear blood purchased glory,
The calm that best her haughty trust beseems,
Her dark and ancient day of hallowed story;
'Tis none of these that prompts my happier dreams.

I love her steppe (I know not why it is)
Better, the steppe and the cold silences;
Forests that wave illimitable and free;
And river floods big brimming like a sea,
And, oh, a sleigh that posts
Along a byway track—and unaware
You meet a tardy beam that pricks the proof
Shadow of night (the spirit of hearth and roof
Far out upon the air!)
The trembling fire some wretched hovel boasts!

Give me the smoke of stubblefields alight!
A caravan of nomad wains that winds
Across the enormous weald;
And on the hill, in the dun fallowfield,
A pair of stems, two birches glistening white!
I take such joy as many men know not,
To see a barnfloor heaped, a straw thatched cot,
A window and the carven shutterblinds.

Some dewey holiday evening I'll sit by
To watch them dance, long hours, nor tire—not I—
Of the trampling and the whistling; how it glads
The heart to hear their talk, these tipsy lads!