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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1905

THE ISLAND OF SAKBALIN. Japan naturally wants Sakhalin, and ought to have it. Sakhalin is one of

the peculiar islands of the world; pecuar in its conformation, and now dou-My important from its position and its relation to the struggle for ascendancy the Orient between Russia and

Sakhalin is part of Japan's system island empire. It is separated from Japan's northernmost island only by a narrow strait. Yet it extends 600 miles toward the north, far past the mouth of the Amur River. It is a narrow and ward the north, not capable of sustaining within itself a large population, but | ing. perhaps also for gold and other metals: its strategic position, as a defense to Japan against Russia-since Japan has come to realamong the nations of the world.

Japan once possessed this island, but Russia pushed her out of it. Not aware of her own strength, or of the limitations of the might of Russia, Japan at first yielded to Russian pressure and consented to share with Russia the sovereignty of the Island. Finally Rus sia, pursuing the policy customary with her, gained entire possession. This was fifty years ago. Japan feared to provoke the hostility of the great power pressing upon the North Pacific Coast of Asia. So Russia got Sakhalin.

But Japan, having now cleared the seas of Russian warships, has proceeded to retake Sakhalin. She has cappoints occupied by them, and now announces her purpose to retain Sakhalin: or, since Sakhalin is now hers by conquest, to sell it to Russia for a great sum, equal perhaps to the war indemnity she claims. So Russia might buy Sakhalin, instead of paying indemnity direct, and thus "save her face," The island would be valuable to

Japan, but a big sum of money for it rould help her to maintain the military and naval ascendancy she has won; is confident of being able to hold Russis in check hereafter. So Japan will sell Sakhalin back to Russia, and take her indemnity that way.

Such seems to be the present state of Bakhalin, if she can get a sum of

upon this compromise. from the reports now at hand. An ar- great labor and expense of irrigation. ticle on this page today gives an account of Sakhalin and of the history of the controversy over it, showing the reasons why the two parties contend so strongly for possession of it.

Till now it has been deemed improb able, even impossible, that the belligerents could agree. It is by no means yet apparent that they can; but prolungation of the conference from day to day leaves a hope that agreement may yet be reached.

All nations are deeply interested in securing peace between Russia and Japan; for all know that prolongation of the war may, through some turn in affairs, extend its area, till half the world may be involved.

USES OF INDUSTRIAL ALCOHOL.

sIndustrial alcohol can be used in many activities in the United Stateson the farm, in the factory, in the laboratory and especially in the gas engine, but it is subjected to the same tax acterized the relations of the Russian as beverage alcohol, and its use for government to the United States. such purposes, therefore, is practically industrial alcohol the beverage alcohol ted States is the only commercial coun-

Austria, Russia, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden. Switzerland and Italy the tax is not levied. In this country the tax is about \$2.07 a gallon, or nearly 1000 per cent of the original cost of

the alcohol as distilled. The greatest use of industrial or "denaturized" alcohol would be as a motor fuel, for automobiles, power boats and stationary engines, whose motive fluid is now gasoline, the cost of which has been largely advanced in the last six years. Other uses would be for lighting, heating, cleaning, manufacture of dyes and of organic chemicals.

The supply source of such alcohol is tilled from corn, potatoes and other farm products. Is Germany, where production of industrial alcohol has been most encouraged, farmers have been benefited by a greatly increased demand for potatoes, of which enormous crops are grown; besides, they have a cheap fuel for their farm machinery. In Oregon, where vast crops of potatoes could be grown, and where price of gasoline is high, the boon of industrial alcohol would be considerable.

Such alcohol is unfit for beverage and its freer use therefore would not disturb the restrictions now placed on the beverage fluid. It is an essential ingrelient in thousands of important industries. Many articles contain alcohol, though containing no evident traces of it. It is clean, odorless and free from danger of accidental explosion.

A bill to remove the tax on denaturized alcohol will be introduced in Congress at the coming session, and an attempt will be made to persuade that body to lift the heavy tax from industrial alcohol.

THE SMALL FARMER.

Under the reclamation act of 1902 no landholder can obtain water to irrigate a tract exceeding 160 acres from a Government ditch. The obvious purpose of this provision is to induce owners of large tracts to sell them in small lots to settlers. It involves no injustice, because the land without water will be quite as valuable after the irrigation system is established as it is now. Indeed, it will sell for more, since an unearned increment to its value will arise from the settlement of neighboring tracts.

If the owner already has water for his land and surrenders his prior right to promote an irrigation project, he makes no real sacrifice. The influx of population upon every irrigated tract invariably causes the price of land to rise enormously, so that what might seem like a sacrifice in surrendering pioneer water rights is really an investment and a very profitable one. These matters are so nearly self-evident and are so thoroughly understood on all sides that those who charge the Government with injustice in its requirements cannot be supposed wholly ingenuous. It is natural to believe either that they are seeking to obtain the benefits of irrigation at the expense of their neighbors, or else that they prefer a small, selfish advantage to the welfare of a whole community.

A farm of 160 acres has been the ideal of the United States Government is all its dealings with settlers on the public domain, and experience has. proved its wisdom. The homesteader of islands, and should be part of her on his quarter-section has created flourishing commonwealths from Ohio to the Rocky Mountains. For grain farming with machinery, that is enough land to exercise the brain and muscle of a man and his family. If he has mountainous Island, bleak and cold to- more he must become an exploiter of hired labor; he is no longer self-suffic

of great value for fisheries and for coal. In irrigated regions a quarter-section is too much for one man to farm. It not only requires an investment beyon make an independent living with their ization of the new part she is to play hands, but it also requires more labor than one family can furnish. Irrigated land is usually so productive that a tract of twenty acres or less, thoroughly cared for, furnishes plenty of work for a farmer and his boys, and pays them much better than many ranches of three or four hundred acres in the Willamette Valley have paid of late years.

Communities settled upon irrigated land where the farms are so small that there is little need for hired help and the methods are so enlightened that the returns are secure and ample, exhibit country life under its most charming conditions of ease, independence and society. Why cannot such communities, tured the Russian garrisons at all half rural, half urban, exist in the Willamette Valley as well as in the Yakima country, at Hood River, and in such singularly happy spots as Eagle Valley, not far from Baker City?

Wherever there is a fertile soil with abundant moisture and an inteligent and industrious population, the closelysettled, highly civilized rural commu nity is possible. Irrigation is not a necessary condition to such ideal country life: it provides a sure supply of water and thus furnishes certainly and and, instructed by recent events, she unfailingly the first requisite of prosperity and civilization; but wherever Nature gives moisture in abundant and regular quantity, as it does in the Willamette Valley, the small, highly productive farm, the farmer living in leisthis interesting negotiation. It signifies ure and comfort, and advanced rural that Japan will give up her claim to society are possible. Why have such communities as Sunnyside in Washmoney that would reimburse her for the ington, the Payette neighborhood in expenditures of the war. Her first de- Idaho, and Eagle Valley in Oregon, and was for both Sakhalin and war never developed west of the mountains? indemnity. But she will make peace The land may be made to support as many people to the square mile, while Such, indeed, seems to be the fact, the beneficence of Nature forestalls the The rainfall is abundant, and it comes when it is most useful. Is it possible that what we most lack in this part of the world is an intelligent usderstand-

ing and use of our own advantages?

Russla's diplomacy, if never honest, is at least always interesting, and the present game of the White Czar's government, as played by Witte and his company of diplomatic performers, has in it all the cunning for which Russian statecraft is so well known. To begin with, Russia has been laboring to make the world believe that peace, though somewhat desirable, is not at all necessary; that, in sending envoys with full power to bring the war in the Far East to an end, it is acting only in courtesy to the humane inclinations of President Roosevelt, whose appeal it could not resist, because of that "traditional friendship" which always char-

To show the world that they are aniprohibited. The proposal to lift from mated by a "sincere" desire for peace, the Grand Dukes, with the cabal of the tax is an important matter for the Alexevevs. Bezobrazoffs, et al., are now country to urge on Congress. The Uni- quite willing to allow China the possession of her own territory, and to try in the world which has failed thus transfer the celebrated lease of Port to encourage use of industrial alcohol. Arthur to Japan, provided the consent of the dispensary system any more than

few other concessions, though not of as great importance, these adepts in duplicity and cunning are also willing to concede. Having done thus much for asked, and that the Island of Sakhalin, the territorial property of the Mikado from whom it was stolen in a most high-handed manner but some few years ago, and now reconquered by Japanese arms, be given back to "the old blind beggar."

On these two items, we are told, rests the honor of Holy Russia-to recede ness. To this end. Mr. Witte, with his straining every atom of gray matter in his head. To this end a sham assembly hath been heralded over the length and breadth of the Russian empire. Other feats, too, and no less acrobatic, are being tried, but, alas! Jap can no longer be deceived nor imposed upon as easily as in bygone days.

The truth of the matter is that Russia is only bluffing to secure the best possible terms from the victorious Japanese. With her credit completely gone even in France, with her ships on the bottom of the Sea of Japan, with her army disorganized and her subjects in every part of the empire in an ugly and rebellious mood-what eise Russia do but make peace? The Mikado's envoys fully understand this and will not be caught in the same kind of a trap as were the allied powers after the Crimean War by the same 'old blind beggar." The sooner, therefore, Mr. Witte comes to terms the better for his lord and master.

WOMAN'S "LARGER SPHERE."

To compile and to present in digested orm the multifarious statistics gathered by the census of the United States, usually employs the Census Bureau during the entire decennial period-that is, from one census to another. Classification of the returns is a very elab orate work, for the details are immense. Only just now has the census office been able to get together certain important parts of the vital, the social and the industrial statistics, so as to

present them in their full signficance. One branch of the work recently reported shows the number of women engaged in various employments, outside of purely domestic duties, and the significance of it is the showing it makes of the increasing employment of women in various occupations into which women have but recently been introduced. The following table, which compares returns of 1900 with those of 1890,

Lawyers 1.010
Literary and scientific persons 5,884
Chemists, assayists, etc. 245
Musicians and teachers of . 52,359 . 7,857 .327,614 .883,282 24,519 4,557 graphers and typewriters 86,118 21,27 22,556 B.474 n mille. 30,630 35,471 32,437 20,663

This, of course, does not exhaust the ist of occupations, but is indicative merely of the increasing tendency of women to engage in gainful operations on their own account. The actual increase in the number of these women in ten years was 1,415,236; yet the actual increase in the number of men in gainful-employments was 5,135,025.

it doesn't appear, therefore, that vomen are "crowding the men out" as fast as some of the social philosophers would have us believe. For even in ome of these employments known more distinctively as "women's occupations," the number of men also has increased the means of most men who wish to greatly. For example, the number of male stenographers and typewriters more than doubled, in splte of the vast increase in the number of women. The umber of male telegraph and telephone operators increased about the same percentage as the total number of males. In cotton mills, where so many women and children are employed, the in creased employment of women was 18,-000, or less than one-third, and of men, 45,000, or more than one-half,

Of Dr. Bodine, the gentleman who uttered the recent lamentation, so widely published, that woman was prestly to drive man out of all occupations except the rudest and hardest and most degraded, the chief clerk of the Census Office is reported as saying: "His inference that man is destined soon to be a drawer of water and a newer of wood is a pretty big explosion to result from a comparatively small mass of figures." Nevertheless, the sphere of woman's work is steadily en-Of course, it will produce, and already is producing, some effect on family life,

AFTER DISPENSARIES, WHAT?

The dispensary system of South Carolina was borrowed from Sweden. where from the beginning it has worked well. The use of alcoholic drinks had increased in that country until it menaced the health of the people and the prosperity of the nation; and what was called the Gottenborg system was devised by public-spirited citizens to check the evil. Under this arrangement the sale of liquor in each town is entrusted to a company composed of responsible persons. The salesman has a salary in no way dependent on the quantity of business he transacts. Sales are discouraged, and the profits go largely into public improvements. The management of the system has been thoroughly honest, and under it the consumption of liquors has so fallen off that, from being one of the most intemperate countries in Europe, Sweden has become one of the most abstemious The modified form of the Swedish

system adopted in South Carolina has always been opposed by radical prohibitionists on the same ground as that of Wendell Phillips' objection to the United States Constitution; that it placed the state "In league with hell." Whatever benefits the state liquor dispensaries might produce, they argued, would be more than counterbalanced by the moral evils of an acknowledged alliance between the government and the hosts of King Alcohol. They pointed out, too, the undeniable fact that under local option laws the liquor business was being progressively excluded from state after state in the South, more than one county, even in South Carolina, being strictly prohibitionist when the dispensary law went into effect. But their argument did not avail. The system was adopted, with the immediate effect, as Senator McLauren has pointed out in an address published in the New Voice, of forcing the sale of liquor upon counties where it had

It is by no means likely that the common sense of the state ever approved In Germany, France. Great Britain, of China should be forthcoming. Some the fanatical prohibitionists did. The Sabbath?

not existed before.

influence of Tillman, then Governor bullied both the conscience and the reason of the state into tolerating it at first, but the opposing sentiment has "yellow" race, they ask only two steadily increased and the failure of the things in return-that no indemnity be law is now acknowledged on all sides. With the intelligent people of the state in favor of the system from the outset, as in Sweden, instead of being opposed to it, there is no inherent reason why the law should not have worked as well here as there. The example of the Scandinavian countries, for it has been tried in Norway, also, proves that the fault is in the administration of the from these two items would be a most law rather than in its principle. Senmlimited, as the fluid can be easily dis- humiliating calamity to Russia's great- ator McLauren's arguments against it in the New Voice are none too concompany of trained performers, is vincing, considered as arguments, but undoubtedly the facts of the case are with him.

It is no real objection to the Swedish system to say, for example, that it creates a state monopoly of the liquor business. If such a monopoly really diminished the injurious use of liquor it would be justifiable on the highest sound criticism which he makes when grows the slowest? he remarks that "it lowers the standard of morality of the state to the level of the barkeeper." That was not the intent of the law, of course, but it is the actual effect, as the facts show, and by its working under conditions as they are in South Carolina, not in Europe, the law must be judged.

Upon the whole, the outcome of this experiment in South Carolina is distinctly discouraging to temperance reformers. Nor is there much to encourage them elsewhere. The per capita consumption of alcoholic drinks has doubled in the United States in the last forty years in spite of all efforts against Prohibitionism is an acknowledged failure. Local option is merely prohibition on a small scale. What is the true remedy for the evils of intemperance?

We take it that Billy Ladd and his little old tin-cup bank, having gained some experience, will not soon start a morning paper. Billy Ladd causes his organ to speak most contemptuously of morning newspapers; he thinks they are cumbersome and inopportune," and but "relics of the earlier and formative stages of what is now known as real journalism" We sympathize with the ergan of the Ladd bank and of the plutocratic families-up against legitimate afternoon journalism, represented by the Evening Telegram. It is only another illustration of the fact that every essay in journalism, attempted for purposes not its own, but to help schemes of speculation and plutocracy, will have no good time of it. These abortions have filled innumerable journalistic graveyards. Our sympathies, our deepest sympathies, go out towards the local crepuscular organ of an effete plutocracy.

The latest East Side fire brought out again the old need of earth fills in a part of the city whose buildings and roadways stand on pile stilts. This city has had many lessons of this kind, and some progress toward filling in the low East Side district has been made. The work doubtless will now go on with more energy. It is to be borne in mind, however, that if the Willamette River should go on a flood rampage, as in 1890, the filled-in area would be in great peril: besides, the contraction of the river's flow with the fills would endanger other parts of the waterfront.

Noting what the President said about Federal supervision of the life insurance business of the country, the New York Sun remarks: "Nothing, not even the Equitable scandal itself, furnishes Sure as shootin', sure as fate, ing an argument in favor of the Federal regulation of life insurance as I'd be cutting fat coupons does the general relation of the insurance companies to the insurance departments of the several states. In general it may be rudely stated that the insurance officers blackmail the insurance companies or that the insurance companies own the insurance officers."

Ambassador Meyer, of the United States, at St. Petersburg, is trying to nelp the Czar out of his troubles; but clearly he is not able to do much. He sees the Czar pretty often, but the great public functionary of Russia is controlled by his system of government and by his kitchen cabinet. So the efforts of Ambassador Meyer come to little or nothing. The Czar nominally has all power. In reality the control is in the hands of an oligarchy, of which the Czar is the creature, and, by a fiction of state, the head,

The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune noting Senator Heyburn's letter to The Oregonian reaffirming his opposition to the forest-reserve policy of the Government, on the ground that the bona fide settler was robbed of land, says: "The bona fide homesteader does not seek timber lands for farming purposes, but gentlemen of means and capital do seek them for the purpose of felling the timber and then abandoning the land as worthless to them-and practionly worthless to all others, and dangerous as a fire-breeder."

Take the world as you find it," says Colonel Watterson with great energy in a letter to his paper from abroad. The Colonel has spent a picturesque and strenuous life endeavoring to make the world other than he found it. Does his present advice signify that nothing can be done in the way of betterment, he speaking in the mood of Diogenes or of Alexander?

The three young hoodlums of East Portland who have beaten a smaller and timid yet well-behaved boy to death are not nearly so much to blame as their parents are, who never have restrained or controlled their offspring's natural brutality.

It seems the Russian commissioners would accept the compromise terms is its name. suggested by President Roosevelt, and the Japanese might also. ,But the Czar is said to be obstinate. He is willing to make further sacrifice of his subjects

ping was deemed unconstitutional. In Multnomah County, whipping for wifepenters has been found the best kind of constitutional " Inasmuch as Oregon can't hold any nore political conventions, its citizens should make the most of the commer-

cial and irrigation and other conven-

was let off with a fine because whip-

tions at the Fair. We do wonder, since Billy Ladd holds morning newspapers in such contempt, what he is running a Sunday morning newspaper for, except to break the hely

OREGON OZONE

Taking Things Easy.

"I don't believe in worrying," said the fruit-stand man to the stranger who had paused in front of his stall to remark that it was going to rain and he feared it would spoil the picnic. "No, sir, I don't believe in worrying at all. I just take things as they come."

"So do I, for that matter," replied the stranger, surreptitiously taking three bananas, a peach and a bunch of grapes, and hiding them under his coat. "I don't believe in worrying-I always take things

Sends Us the Seed.

An Indiana man has solved the problem of insuring longevity. At the age of % he has just built his coffin of lumber cut from a tree which he planted for the purpose. It required half a century for the tree to grow large enough to furnish coffin material, and, of course, the man could not afford to die beforehand. By principles of public policy; but it is a the way, what sort of tree is it that

Evaporation of the Egotist.

who imagined that he was a big man, with a Big I.

The little man was really small enough to rattle around in the place he occupied like a dried-up pea in a last year's pod. There was another man in the same little man, and he was on.

He knew well enough that the little man was sufficiently insignificant not to leave a grease spot on the pristine pages of posterity when he gave up the ghost. He was widely aware that the little man, some uneventful and unremembered day, would perish like the unsubstantial fabric of a vision and leave not a wrack behind-not even a hatrack. But the little man continued to imagine himself the sole and solltary pebble upon

this bank and shoal of time. When he walked abroad he paused every ten steps to enjoy the sensation of

earthquakes. And it grieved him sore that other men, and particularly ladies, never seemed to recognize the fact that the earth was of the Quaker persuasion when he walked thereon.

The little man and the other man, he who was on, met one day in front of the general delivery.

The young clerk was new at the business, but, being a woman, she was up to snuff and knew what was what, "Is there any mail for Me?" inquired the little man, using the Big M in his

accent and imagining that the damsel at the general delivery, as also everybody else, carried his name in reach for ready reference. "Who?" asked the damsel.

"Me-Me," replied the little man, puffing pompously. "Yeth, thir," sweetly replied the dam-

sel; "here is a letter just handed in, addressed to Portland, Me." "He! he!" ejaculated the other man, intending his utterance not as an expression of the personal pronoun, third person, male gender, but as a large and the Japanese Tokugawa Shoguns at Shiluscious lump of laughter.

"Te-he! te-he!" tittered the general delivery, who enjoyed her own joke, as en always do when they can enjoy a joke at all.

Thereupon the little man suddenly vanised, and when the postoffice pup came to sniff at the spot on the floor where the apparition had stood he found not the treaty. In 1852 General Nevelskoy had slightest smell of grease.

"The System." I'd be rich, and I'd be great,

If it wasn't for the System From the bottoms of the bonds If it wasn't for the System. I am sure the only thing That has kept me out of swing

Is the System-yes, the System

I have never had a chance, For I've always had to dance To the piping of the System. What's the use for me or you. Anything to try to do? We can never buck the System. Might as well sit down and mope,

For there isn't any hope

With the System-olt, the System Lawson must be right-I guess. Oh, the frenzy of distress, All by reason of the System! Still, perhaps, it may be true Something's wrong with me and you-With our system-yes, our system ROBERTUS LOVE.

Bryan in 1908

Washington Post, That Mr. Bryan will be a Presidential ominee in 1993 is extremely probable. The nomination of candidates is a long way off, and events may change present indications. But if things political go on as they have been going since Mr. Bryan's prospects were illuminated by the Democratic calamity of November 8, 1904, it is morally certain that he will be able to secure the Dem-ocratic nomination, and equally certain that he will avail himself of that opportunity. At this date he looms up to such an altitude, to such a towering height above any other Democratic Presidential possibility, that there can scarcely be said to be any competition. And when, some months hence, he returns from his travels in the old world "In the interest of good government, what is to prevent his millions of admirers from giving him so hearty and or that there is nothing left to do? Is loud a welcome that his nomination will be cleared of the last lingering remnant of doubt?

Out of the Fact Factory. Philadelphia Bulletin.

No unvaccinated person can vote in Norway. "Bosh" is a Turkish word meaning "nothing."

Sumatra grows the largest flower in the world. It measures a yard and three inches across, and its cup will hold six quarts of water. Rafflesia Arnoldii

The Austrians use a stone blotting-pad that never wears ou. A little scraping with a knife cleans it effec-Living is 40 per cent cheaper in Lon-den than in New York. The mountains of the moon are far higher than those of the earth. The Danube flows through countries

in which 62 languages and dialects are Among the Sultan's plate are bables' baths of solid gold. Big-gun practice at sea often causes obsters, in sheer fright, to drop a claw.

Tallest Structures in the World. New York Mall. Metropolitan Towar (proposed)..... Tailest structure, Washington Monu-.555 feet fallest public building. Philadelphia

City Hall. 537 feet
Tallest cathedral, Cologne 512 feet
Tallest pyramid Cheops 479 feet
Tallest business building Park Row 380 feet

SAKHALIN, AN ISLAND WAR PRIZE

Russia Seized It From Japan, Nippon Han Won It Back by Force of Arms and Now It Figures as a Price of Pence.

of war news, have not of late been following very closely the operations in the Far East, all this talk of the Island of Sakhalin seems remarkable, that there should be so much contention over a ong strip of bleak and barren land may seem inexplicable. Yet when the facts are known and recognized, the haggling over the future disposition of the island is worth any amount of pains on the part of the opposing envoys. It might almost be said that it is indeed worth continuing the war for-at least from Japan's stand-point. And what lends a peculiarly interesting bit of romance to the Ports proceedings over the fact that the man who was principal ly responsible for Russia's first complete acquisition of Sakhalin is now carrying on, as an aide to Mr. Witte, a great in ctual battle for its retention among the Czar's possessions

Sakhalin, or Saghalien, or, its native name, Taraika, is a long, narrow strip of land that extends almost due north and south a few miles off the coast of Asiatic Russia, or what was once Asia Once upon a time there was a little man tic Russia. It lies in the southwest part of the Sea of Okhotsk, in latitude 52 degrees. It is separated from the main land only by the six-mile wide Mamia Strait. Unfertile, mountainous and cold, it offers little encouragement to agriculture, but is extremely rich in coal and There was another man in the same is said to possess great deposits of gold small town who had kept cases on the and other precious metals. Its coast line is bleak and uninviting. On the western shore lofty cliffs rise sheer out of the sea, unbroken by bays or any indentations of land whatsoever, while the eastcoast is little better, although here and there narrow inlets and lagoons plerce the barren rocks. Huge forests owever, abound and will be a source of fabulous income to the Island's future But its chief value lies in fisaeries. Its waters are said to be the finest fishing grounds in the world. Japan is a fish-eating nation. It is at the same time a growing nation. From the economic standpoint this fishing industry is all

but absolutely essential to its welfare. The population of Sakhalin is insignificant-always has been. Its aborigines were the Alnus, the same race of as those who sprang forth first in Nippon. In 1872 there were 13,000 inhabitants, counting all sorts and conditions, and today there are about 38,000, or a little than one person to the square mile. This long splinter of land, therefore, has suddenly grown to be one of the chiefest spots in the world, inasmuch as its near destiny is to work a stupen dous influence upon the history of two

great nations. The one surprising point in the present contention over its possession is the fact that its strategic and intrinsic importance seems to have been an apparently recent discovery in the part of the Japanese statesmen, whereas Russia, if her actions are to be considered as guided by any degree of foresight, had without doubt realized it years ago when she made her first encroachments on Sakhaiin's ospitable shores. That happened in 1853, when at last the Russian expansion had reached the Pacific. It was not, however, until 1856 that any political cognizance was taken of what Japan likes now to call a trespass. On February 7 of that year Admiral Putiatin, in the the Czar, signed a treaty moda, specifying that in the Island of Sakhalin there was to be "no delimitation of boundaries between Japan and and that the conditions that had hitherto obtained should continue as they were, which meant that Russia was to keep the posts that her ambitious gen-

To those who, suffering from a surfeit | inhabitants as a start, and a year later Muravievsk, on the southeast coast. Thus was a foothold gained by the European

It took the Japanese nearly ten years comprehend what a mischief they had done themselves, and when they did perceive it the best they could do was to renstrate and attempt to divide the is land in two, they to take one-half, the Russians the other. But to no avail, for the Russians maintained that the status quo suited them perfectly. Ten years later the Japanese were fold that Sakhalin was exclusively Russian, and in 1875 they so far acquiesced to the theory as to accept in exchange the Kurites, which Russia presented to the Japanese without ever having owned them. All this, course, cannot be forgotten by such cistudents of history as the modern Japa-ness are believed to be.

It is interesting to note who brought about this deal, and under what conditions. Nowadays it is popularly called "Rosen's coup," although in former years the deed was attributed to the Baron's the deed was attributed to the Baron's then chief, M. de Struve, envoy during the '70s at Tokio and later for ma ssia's representative at Baron Rosen, as a young officer of the guards at St. Petersburg, was reputed to be rather wild and extravagant, and was sent as acting attache and acting cretary to De Struve, as a sort of wing-ipping training. But no sooner did the ung officer appear in Tokio than he adopted a course toward the Japanese olony, but also ran adversely to its own idea of things. In those days it was con-sidered the proper thing to slight and arry eneself contemptuously toward the Japs. Not so did the Baron, who soon came such close friends with the high officers of the Oriental land that his inluence grew to be the most important asset M. de Struve had in the country he was accredited to. De Struve hims and perhaps Rosen, too, were considered among the most frivolous of men, spend ing their days and nights at tourns and balls and routs. One fine morning, however, the other foreign envoys were peremptorily notified by their ho the Japanese to abjectly surrender the whole Island of Sakhalin to them in exchange for the practically unowned Kuriles. Such an opening of eyes has carcely ever been witnessed in a diplonatic colony since.

But surprised or not surprised, Russia had at last obtained what she set her cap for at the beginning, and quickly began her work of colonization. The island was onverted into a penal settlement. It has opularly been called the "most terrible a the world," a barren rock or two, here once to have been sent was to have eft all hope of good and decent things this life behind. In fact the penal colnies in Sakhalin were in many nore terrible than the majority of those Siberia, where exile, for the most part. meists of enforced emigration fro pean Russia. In Sakhalin there was first of all, the severe, uncompensating ortunity to forget troubles in the engrossing care of the soil. Fishing was not a trade for prisoners. There was little to do but go through the dull, hard routine of convict life. In Siberia, exiles often started life over again, and many are known of successful men, banished from their homes, renewing their success and becoming powerful in the land where they are practically prisoners. Not so in Sakhalin, for of all official-ridden prisons that was the worst in the

The final disposition of Sakhalin is a ubject of world-wide interest and in ance. Should it remain Russian there ittels likelihood that its resources ould be worked for decades right no longer of usurpation, but of treaty. In 1852 General Nevelskoy had explored Sakhalin and founded the first and training ground for a race of war-Russian settlement at Binsk, on the riors such as perhaps has never been see southwest coast, with only six Russian since the days of Sparta's powers.

BULK NOT EVERYTHING.

St. Paul Pioneer Press. St. Paul, with 197,625 inhabitants today, may justly congratulate itself on being "a pretty big town." But there are so many others bigger! The best fame of our city is evidently not to be looked for in that direction. Let our people take more account of some of their other assets. Among these are beauty of situation, and a capability, on account of the romantic character of the site, of being made one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Next comes an opportunity, owing to the purity of its water supply and the excellence of its drainage, for maintaining a reputation for being the most healthy eity in the world. The concentration of abolish capital nunishment in New Jersey railroads at this point indicates another opportunity; that of so perfecting the machinery for handling merchandise as to enable an immense business to be done with few hands, thus contributing to maintain and magnify the present primacy of our city in the wholesale trade. The numerous ratironds make possible,

enterprises without number on territory in and contiguous to the city, with superfacilities for handling freight, yet without congestion of population which attends the multiplication of such enterprises in many other places.

The influence of a community depends moves on the quality, not on the size, of its ings.'

00, the establishment of manufacturing

population. Athens, in history, outshines Babylon. Oxford today outwelghs Man-chester in the counsels of England. If the people of St. Paul continue to address themselves to making their city attractive for the beauty of its parks and thoroughfares, its cleanliness and health, its facilities for education and recreationand to the improvement of its government as well—its vacant spaces will ere long be filled with the homes of a class of resi-dents so superior that they can well afford to dispense with the crowds which serve only to congest without bettering

A Real American Capital.

Saturday Evening Post. We read that Chicago has just found that she has a population of 2,220,000, and we pass on with some commonplace com-ment on the marvel of it. But it is a fact worth pausing over. Chicago is American in a deep sense in which no seaboard city is or ever can be. The seaboard cities represent much that is foreign. Chicago stands for the great Mississippi-Missouri Valley. It is the true capital of the true American people. Its very gliness, like that of a mighty, incomplete work with the workmen swarming in and over it and the noise of their toll sputting the heavens, is inspiring and splendid. In its 2,250,000 there is no vast, inert, undigested mass as there is in New York; Chicago seizes upon its newc era as the fire seizes upon the fresh shoveful of coal.

Rural Delivery and Sobriety. Milwaukee Wisconsin

A Milwaukee man asserts that in addition to the other benefits which rural free delivery of mails has conferred upon dwellers in the small country towns, it has exerted a noteworthy influence as a temperance agent. In the old times, he says, when the men folks went down to the store to get the mail, the store usually sold liquor, and, they were likely to linger and swap gossip and take a few drinks-or in some cases a great many-before driving back to the farm. Now, when the mail is delivered at the farm, the usual practice is to sit down and read the paper the first thing after supper, and when Mr. Farmer has finished that pleasing task he is usually ready to go tice

NECK BROKEN, STILL CONSCIOUS

New York World. The Rev. Emil A. Meury, pastor of the Second Reformed Church, one of the best beloved clergymen in Jersey City, a man of sound sense and cool judgment, made this astonishing statement yesterday: That to him and five others a murder

proved, while being executed on the gallows, that he retained consciousness memory and the power of voluntary mo tion after his neck was broken. "I have seen seven unfortunates hanged. One was Paul Genz, who was executed in the Hudson County April 12, 1897, for the murder of Clara Arulm. In the fight I shall make to

I shall argue that sometimes a man is conscious after his neck is broken. "Paul Genz was in my charge; he and I discussed the question whether a man's brain might be active after his cervical vertebrae were broken. Genz was certain he would be conscious after he neck was broken. He said to me: 'Watch me closely. After my body is jerked upward and I fall to the rope's end, and my neck is broken, I will wait about a minute; then will close my hands twice, then once, then twice again. I arrange this signal now so that none of the doubters who may be looking at me can say that my movements are only involuntary twitch-

The clergyman continued solemnly When Genz fell, after being jerked into the air by the fall of the weight, his body stiffened. About three-quarters of a minute passed. Then Genz clinched his hands twice, opened them again, closed them once, then twice again. I distinctly saw his pinioned hands make the signal he said he would give me. So did six other men to whom I had told Genz's dse of what he would do. The horror of it was almost overwhelming.

Two Miles a Minute.

U. S. Consular Report. The Belgian administration the congress to appropriate \$19,615,000 for a new rallway into Germany via Louvain, Trond and Argenteau. The new line will help to meet the close competition of the Dutch railways. Every effort will be put forth to make travel as comfortable as possible and to increase speed as far as is consistent with safety. It is hoped that the speed will reach 120 miles an hour. There will be no grade cross-ings, the grades will be light, and the radius of every curve will be at least 2000 yards. The projected road will ny with Antwerp, the port of entry into Belgium.

Snakes in Southern Orgeon.

Ashland Tidings Homer Burron killed a big rattlesnake on Emigrant Creek Hill, last week, which had ten rattles. It was an unusually oig snake and had evidently lost some of its rattles. The other day Senator Car-ter killed one with 13 rattles on Frog Creek Hill, above Henry Applegate's place on the Dead Indian road. Yesterday Claude Freeman killed a large rattler, near the corner of Woolen and Church streets, on the side of the hill A rattlesnake is rarely seen on the Sis kiyou side of the vailey up this way. A few years ago they were numerous on few years ago they were numer the Cascade side of the valley.

Seaside Warnings.

Sanitary Record. For the local visitor who has no opportunity of studying the habits of the marine fauna, it would be well that shellfish should only be gathered after inquiry has been made as to the prac-tice of the local gatherers familiar with danger sones of pollution.