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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JULY 19, 1907.

TO MAKE WAR LESS STRENUOUS.

The contention of the United States for the inviolability of private property at sea in time of war was carried at the peace conference at The Hague on Wednesday by a vote numerically strong, but not strong in fact, since no considerable naval power except the United States approved it. Great Britain, France, Russia and Japan opposed, and Germany made a reservation which was tantamount to a negative. Nations whose power is large on the sea find objections to a proposal which would limit their means of doing injury to an enemy; while those which are not able to contend for mastery of the sea are inclined mostly to the opposite policy. The contention on each side is a selfish one mainly, though we do not overlook the argument of the United States, based on precepts of justice and humanity. Russia is in an exceptional position; for, though not among the great sea powers, and confronted always with possible blockade in the Baltic, yet has resources within her own vast territory and little to lose, yet possibly much to gain, by continuation of the old policy of capture at sea.

Immunity of private goods on the sea has always been a favorite contention on the part of the United States; for it was proposed by Franklin in the course of the negotiations for peace with Great Britain in 1783, and has been renewed at every possible opportunity since. Reasonable as the argument for it seems to be, yet the argument of those who oppose it is, from their point of view, a strong one. The sea is the great highway of goods, and every power at war with another desires to weaken its enemy. Interception of goods that belong to or may be destined to an enemy is a method that we ourselves have not hesitated to pursue. The status of private property on land and sea, while the same in principle or in equity, is not the same in fact, since the goods brought by sea might be the very goods most needed by the enemy for prolongation of the contest. Besides, it is undeniable, as one of the commissioners at The Hague recently said, that "commerce is more and more becoming an authoritative factor in international relations," and that "the mercantile world's dread of great pecuniary losses is one of the strongest deterrents of war."

This is one way of restating Sherman's argument that "war is hell." Yet in all times, except among savages, war has been allowed its mitigations—chiefly through motives of chivalry or mercy; for though war means reduction of the resources of our enemy to the very limit and exhaustion of his power of resistance, yet the uselessness and inhumanity of it, when no point is to be gained by further destruction of life or property, is everywhere a recognized principle. To destroy your enemy's fighting force is of course the great object; and one of the means of such destruction is interception or seizure of goods and annihilation of trade that may sustain his fighting power. This is done even on land as far as may seem necessary. We did it on both sides in our Civil War.

Most of the proposals discussed in the peace conference for robbing war of its terrors or reducing its dangers seem to us about as reasonable and practicable as proposals to abolish war itself. But it may be good academic exercise for diplomats. Bullets are made to kill, and they are fired for that purpose. A delegate to The Hague proposed that "needlessly cruel bullets" should be prohibited—that is, bullets that lacerate instead of cutting small, clean holes. We don't remember that anybody laughed, but the proposal was one upon which the grave irony of a Swift would arrest the attention of the world and become a contribution to its permanent literature.

THE RISING STAR.

Exit Fairbanks. Enter Knox. This is the latest move in the puppet dance with which the "interests" seek to amuse and delude the American people. Perhaps the plutocracy really expect to make Mr. Knox the next President. If they do, disappointment awaits them. The Senator from Pennsylvania cannot be nominated. His affiliations with the powers that prey debar him absolutely from the confidence of the American people. They also make it impossible for Mr. Roosevelt to expect from him, any more than from Mr. Fairbanks, a sincere and hearty support of the legislation which he advocates.

Whether the President is to be a candidate again or not, the next Republican convention will be a Roosevelt convention, dominated by Roosevelt ideas.

Even if Mr. Knox, by dint of accident or cunning, should be nominated he could not be elected. The people who vote will have naught to do with him. His nomination would make a free gift of the Presidency to Mr. Bryan. It would be one of those blunders which, in their consequences, are worse than crimes. But we need not worry. It will not happen.

THE VOICE OF AUTHORITY.

The citizens of Albany, and incidentally the traveling public of the Willamette Valley, have won, through the State Railroad Commission, a decisive victory over the Southern Pacific Railroad Company in the order of the latter to build a passenger depot that can be reached by those taking or leaving the train at Albany without crossing the tracks at that place. It is astounding and would be incredible, except for the security in which the Southern Pacific rests because of its monopoly of the traffic of the Willamette Valley, that the railroad company will make an improvement for the accommodation and safety of its patrons only under compulsion. The utter disregard of the convenience of the public, manifest to a greater or less extent at every important station along the line, was only more apparent at Albany than at some other places because of the danger to which passengers were exposed by being compelled, owing to the location of the depot buildings, to dodge switch engines and moving freight cars in order to reach the passenger coaches. Complaint concerning this matter has long been voiced by the citizens of Albany, but it was only when the voice of authority, supported by statute, was added that the people's rights were taken into consideration.

The time has come at last when the protest of the corporation attorney availed nothing and the railroad company, so generously endowed with Oregon lands, will have to render some small accounting at least to a public whose rights it has completely ignored for years, and whose protests, complaints and even petitions for better service have been passed in contempt. The Railroad Commission has made a good beginning. Let us hope that it will continue in vigilance and activity until this insolent master of the public is reduced to its proper status, that of a respectful, attentive servant, competent, capable and ready to oblige its patrons for a just recompense.

THE NEW SYNDICATE.

The new theater trust, or syndicate, which is forming in New York seems likely to be a formidable enterprise. With a capital of $100,000,000 it seeks to control the theaters of the entire civilized world. It is promoted by the same men who compose the amusement company of the United States; and, although these men strenuously assert that the new syndicate will be "entirely separate" from the old one, the public will exercise the liberty to doubt their word, almost the only liberty which the trusts have not tried as yet to grab and capitalize.

At present our houses of public amusement in America are controlled by two monopolies, which are composed of the same capitalists but go by different names. How distinct they are from each other it is not difficult to imagine. One, the Amusement Company, owns the vaudeville houses; the other, the Theatrical Syndicate, owns what are by a difficult courtesy called the "legitimate" theaters. A legitimate theater in the United States is one where low vaudeville is advertised as high art and where first-night audiences are expected to wear evening dress. In Europe the distinction between legitimate drama and vaudeville is more clearly marked. The new monopoly purposes to preserve to Paris, Berlin and Copenhagen the genuine drama which they love by turning over the theaters of those cities, as it buys them, to our present American syndicate to manage; while the places for farcical diversion are to go to the Amusement Company. Thus the two old monopolies and the new one, while they remain "entirely separate," are to play into each others' hands with a brotherly assiduity which is almost Christian.

Of course the real purpose of the company is to bring the theaters of the whole world under the same control. So far as vaudeville is concerned it may be successful; but there is little likelihood that it can go much farther. The London playhouses may succumb to the American trust, and it matters little if they do, for they count not much more for good or ill in the modern dramatic movement than those of New York. But the principal theaters on the continent receive governmental subventions and are more or less under political control. French, Germans and Scandinavians take the drama as a serious and notable factor in life, as they do music and painting. Their theaters are not places of amusement only, but of education also, and the best culture. The people would not tolerate their degradation by American trust ownership and no decent European government would think of permitting it. Some time is likely to elapse before Paris permits the divine Sarah to act in a tent in order to escape the tentacles of the octopus, as she did here.

Whatever we may expect of the drama in this country, Europe expects new Ibsens and Sudermanns to arise. What chance would Ibsen have had to produce his epoch-making plays with a trust in control of the theaters in Christiana, Copenhagen and Germany? The trust wants profits and cares for nothing else. To its sense art is an abomination, a great literary revolution is nonsense. It desires no innovations, no progress, no risky experiments, and will produce only the safe, old idiocies which are sure to pay.

With a trust owning the theaters, dramatic art would be banished from Europe; but the danger of such a calamity is so slight that it is hardly worth discussing. It is more pertinent to inquire whether the taste of the United States will continue forever to be satisfied with trust-made plays and trust-disciplined actors. The love of the drama is one of the primeval passions of man. It is easily perverted but never eradicated. In other countries it has created both the childish beginnings and the mature triumphs of literary art. Here it has produced little that can escape contempt, and is not likely to do much better while our theaters are managed by a trust. Perhaps some day we shall witness a revival of individual enterprise in the ownership of theaters. The time may come when every American city as large as Portland will have its own resident company of gifted artists. Such a company, playing only "legitimate" drama could not be supported by the sale of seats in America any more than in Europe; but what is to hinder our millionaires from displaying their local patriotism and civic pride by subscribing to make good the necessary annual deficit of a high-class theater? In Europe governments attend to this civic duty; here it must fall upon individuals or remain forever unperformed.

THE PURE-FOOD LAW.

There were no pure-food laws in this country when the pioneers were blazing the trails and laying the foundation for the civilization which was to follow. But the lack of these safeguards was in no manner detrimental to the health of the people. In the absence of any chemicals and drugs, the original American settlers preserved their beef either by smoking it or pickling it in good salt brine. The Indians, who were models of good health, dried the fish in the sun or smoked them over a fire which threw off no poisonous odors. The Indian pudding was not made of kiln-dried chips, straw or excelsior of the modern health-food type, but was made of pure cornmeal. The menus of those old days were, of course, less elaborate than some which can now be found, but viands enumerated were all pure and wholesome, and for that reason perpetuated good health and added years to the lives of the people.

But the demands, or rather the practices, of modern civilization have relegated to the rear the simple life methods of food preparation and preserving, and the ingredients of the stuff that is sold under most attractive labels are a mystery to the consumer. Adulteration of food products had become so near to one of the fine arts of the country that a few years ago a systematic crusade for pure food was begun. The result of this crusade is now apparent in a pure-food law which promises again to confer on the individual the right to know what he is eating. This pure-food law, which was fought with great vigor by the Eastern packing house interests, at last got safely through Congress and is now in good working order. Under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture the National Board of Food and Drug Inspection has formulated rules for its enforcement. This will be good news to the consumers, but will hardly be received with rejoicing by the big packing-house interests, which in the past have profited by the extensive use of powerful drugs and chemicals, the merits of which were far from advantageous to the unfortunate consumer.

The rules governing enforcement of the new law are quite explicit in stating that no drug, chemical or harmful or deleterious dye or preservative may be used. Permission is granted for the use of common salt, sugar, wood smoke, distilled liquors, vinegar and condiments, and for the present the use of saltpetre is permitted. A concession is made to the manufacturers who have been using chemicals which are now under the ban so far as products already packed are concerned by permitting their sale with the character of the ingredient of the package distinctly stated on the label. By this precaution the buyer will know exactly what he is purchasing, and can govern himself accordingly. There is nothing unreasonable or unjust in the provisions of the new law, nor in the rules for its enforcement, and it is believed that it will be generally respected. It will at least be a preventive of any more embalmed beef scandals.

AMERICA VS. SWEDEN.

King Oscar, of Sweden, is anxious that the hundreds of thousands of Swedes who have left their native land should return. To ascertain their reasons for preferring America to Sweden he has set in motion an investigation which will be systematically carried on throughout the United States. If King Oscar is in search of details regarding his wandering subjects, simply as a matter of information, his investigation may bring interesting returns. If, however, he expects to find any good reason why a man should remain in Sweden when it was possible for him to emigrate to the United States he will be disappointed. There died in Montana a few days ago a native of Sweden who came to the United States a little over thirty years ago, landing here penniless and unable to speak English. He was then 20 years of age, and in his thirty years' residence here accumulated a fortune of approximately $40,000,000, all of which was secured by hard work and an intelligent grasping of the opportunities which never were presented and which never can be presented in the land from which he emigrated.

In all of his kingdom and throughout its career, King Oscar cannot point to a similar case to that of Peter Larsen, the dead Montana millionaire, while in this country under our benign laws, and by reason of the natural advantages of the country, it is possible, as is repeatedly demonstrated, for the Swedish emigrant to rise to a position of wealth and power greater even than that wielded by the monarch from whom he escapes. In his circular calling for particulars King Oscar asks what it would be necessary for Sweden to do in order to induce her wandering children to return. It hardly seems possible for Sweden to do anything which will prove sufficiently attractive to bring back her people who have taken up life in the new world. In the United States, in Canada and in Mexico the governments are still offering free farms to all comers who are willing to work and improve the land.

In the cities of the West the daily wages of the longshoremmen, stevedores, plumbers, bricklayers, masons and other craftsmen are greater than the weekly wages in Sweden, while there is no such proportionate increase in the cost of living. Sweden, like many other old-world countries, has finished her race, so far as development and improvement of economic conditions under a monarchical form of government are concerned. There are too many royal drones in all European hives, and so long as such conditions exist there will be a steady exodus of the people who work and who desire to reach a land where the results of their work will accrue to their own benefit.

The reunion of pioneers at the grounds of the Chautauqua Association was immensely attended and proved to be very enjoyable, though quite informal. Though the annual reunion of the Oregon Pioneer Association is held in Portland in June of each year, there is no other place in the state quite so suggestive of pioneer struggles and early occupancy as is Oregon City. The first capital of Oregon Territory, the Mecca toward which many pilgrims, possessed of dreams of empire, struggled in the early years; the center of trade in the era in which Hawaii was the Pacific base of supplies and merchandise from "the East" made the long voyage round the Horn, Oregon City was known politically and commercially before Lovejoy and Pettygrove tossed up the coin that, falling, decided the name by which the future metropolis of the Oregon country was to be known, or Lot Whitcomb had dreamed of making a city at Milwaukie. Dear to the heart of the pioneer is the busy little city at the Falls of the Willamette. And when a note calling pioneers together is sounded from its vicinity the response is warm and generous.

The biography of Judah S. Benjamin, by Pierce Butler, just published, contains many interesting particulars of Confederate history. One is a recital of an effort made by the Confederate Government to bribe Louis Napoleon to recognize the Confederacy through the gift of 100,000,000 francs' worth of cotton, with additional pledge of free trade for French merchandise after the war. Benjamin, as Confederate Secretary of State, had gone far in the negotiation, which would have been completed but for the victories of Vicksburg and Gettysburg. Louis Napoleon was a conspirator against the United States from the inception of our Civil War. His invasion of Mexico was part of his scheme against our country. When he fell at last a victim of his own meddlesome and ambitious interference in the affairs of other nations no American had any occasion for regret.

There are reports of serious disagreement between John D. Rockefeller and his Chicago University. Rockefeller has given this institution millions of money, and now he is said to be looking for dividends in the form of brilliant graduates. Because they are not forthcoming he thinks he has made a bad investment. It reminds one of an old fellow who came many years ago from Southern Illinois to Oregon. He had a son growing up to manhood, and on this basis he was appealed to for help for a struggling local college. Told that he ought to do it to give his own son an opportunity for education, he answered: "No, no; it's too resky. My oldest boy back thar in Illinois teased me to let him go fo college, and I did. But jest as he got through he died and I lost all the money I'd spent 'on him. I won't take such resk no more."

Doubtless Mr. Hopkins, of Illinois, is a very wise man in his lucid intervals, if they ever occur. He was decidedly not at his best when he delivered himself upon the tariff and Mr. Cannon after leaving Oyster Bay the other day. In spite of Mr. Hopkins' opinion to the contrary there is nothing that would more strengthen the Republican party than the speedy removal of the tariff from politics by the appointment of a scientific revision committee; and there is nothing farther from fact than his statement that Mr. Cannon would make a better run than any other candidate. Lunacies like this are sometimes caused by sunstroke.

The taste or judgment displayed by Mr. Wood when he took occasion to lecture the press of Portland while a guest of the Press Club was quite in accord with his general character. It was unparalleled boorishness. Perhaps it should be acknowledged that in one particular his accusation against the press has foundation. It has treated him with too much favor and has erred through false courtesy. For such distinction as Mr. Wood possesses he has derived from treatment by the press more favorable than his pretensions deserve.

Two more Japanese sealing schooners have been seized in Alaskan waters, but as they were taken inside of the three-mile limit there is an excellent prospect for the United States to get out of the scrape without paying damages. If this should prove true it will be in extraordinary contrast to the usual result of United States sealing seizures in those waters.

Again this country takes a startling forward step in one of the arts that refine mankind. What European nation, effete or otherwise, ever massed forty brass bands comprising 1500 musicians, marching in an Elks' parade and all a playin' "The Girl I Left Behind Me" at the same time.

When Dr. Brougher addressed the Ad. Men's League on the benefit a church receives from publicity he did not take into consideration the fact that he was talking to a body of wide-awake advertisers who have to pay coin for the same thing he gets gratuitously.

Is vaudeville to be the permanent histrionic food of the world? Will the hunger for literature and tabloid dramatic art be sharp enough to pay, say 25 per cent on Klaw & Erlanger's new hundred million dollar syndicate?

Demand that Spokane saloons be allowed to begin business at 5:30 A. M. is the last weakening link that binds the Inland Empire metropolis to the village known as Spokane Falls of thirty years ago.

It took ten minutes to get a jury in a murder trial at Karlsruhe, Germany. In the vigilante days San Francisco beat that record, but it would be impossible today.

INDIVIDUAL CHOICE IN BOOKS.

Librarians Are Criticized for Attempting to Mold Readers' Tastes.

PORTLAND, Or., July 17.—(To the Editor.)—If it were a matter of going without breakfast or the editorial page of The Oregonian, the meal would be dropped. That isn't saying that I always agree with The Oregonian. On the contrary, I often quite indignantly and emphatically differ and continue to read, because it is possible to appreciate ability and good writing even when one's own small personal opinions are not exploited.

For a long time it has seemed to me that librarians everywhere were exceeding their authority in censoring, picking and choosing books in our public libraries. So, let me thank The Oregonian for that excellent editorial last Saturday on "Books for Children." Librarians are not paid out of the public treasury for seeking to impart to the catalogue of their charge, their own personal likes or dislikes, or to censor books in or out, in accordance with their own ideas, or absence of ideas as the case may be. They are paid to take care of the people's books and to see that the whole world of thought lies open before the browsers among their book-stacks, just as far as this is possible in one book collection.

A waiter in a restaurant might just as fittingly arbitrate selections from a menu for us when we dine, as a librarian pick and choooose the books that should go into a library according to his own personal opinions and prejudices, and constitute himself the arbiter of the people's intelectual nutrition. It is time that the reading public not only resented this censorship, but took steps to check and prevent it. They should deny the right of a librarian to harness them down intellectually to the conventional literary pace that to his mind may seem good and proper.

Fling wide the doors of the people's library to books, always books, and more books, and let the people choose for themselves.

The instant any public library is dominated by one mind, its books chosen in harmony with the individual cast and prejudice of one mind,—that moment it becomes a private collection of books to which the public is graciously permitted access.

JOHN O'THE SMITHY.

GREAT NEED OF SUBURBAN LINES.

Nevertheless Portland Should Not Give Away Franchises.

PORTLAND, July 18.—(To the Editor.)—I notice that Mayor Lane suggests the revocation of the franchises granted to the Oregon Traction Company.

I am a believer in competition. The more transportation facilities we have, the better for the general good; and I am especially a believer in interurban lines as promoted now by the Oregon Electric Company (to Salem), the Mt. Hood Electric Company (to Mount Hood), and the United Railway Company and its ally, the Oregon Traction Company (to Hillsboro). I believe that if these companies are acting in good faith and have the necessary capital to build these lines, they ought to receive all the encouragement possible from city, county and state officials.

On the other hand, if these valuable franchises should be simply given away to speculators, to hold them for indefinite periods of time (much to gain and nothing to lose), if these franchises contain no provision to compensate the city, if they contain no forfeiture clause, if the promoters fail to "make good," then I say revoke these franchises and prepare new ones with the proper safeguards to the city. It is to the credit of the Mayor that he watches the interests of the city closely, and I should be disappointed if the Council should not see the situation in the same way as the Mayor sees it.

Let us build railroads (not on paper); let us do things. If the speculator fails, let him forfeit the franchises and give a bonafide builder a chance. No dog in the manager play.

J. H. BROWN.

Mr. Davey Not a Candidate.

BURNS, Or., July 15.—(To the Editor.)—The Oregonian which reached me today contains a very annoying thing and one which I think should have been censored before being allowed to appear. I had nothing whatever to do with Mrs. Wilmarth's visit to Washington, nor have I the first thought of seeking the position of Register of the Land Office here, which is filled by a most competent gentleman, whose term runs over three years yet. Had I a wish to seek a Federal appointment of that nature my personal and very friendly acquaintance with all members of our Congressional delegation would keep me from needing the aid of a woman who is a stranger to me and who was not in mental condition to be helpful to any person, not even herself. I came to Eastern Oregon to build up a business outside of politics and I am doing it. Politicians can rest easy so far as I am concerned. My ambitions will not interfere with them.

FRANK DAVEY.

Anti-Stockwatering and Cheap Gas.

Massachusetts has a State Commission, which regulates public-service corporations. Stock-watering is not allowed by the Commission, and the corporations are consequently able to give the public the benefit, to some extent, of the economies resulting from the consolidation of rival companies. Teh Boston Consolidated Gas Company has made four reductions in the price of gas in rapid succession. Bostonians will pay only 80 cents after July 1. The regulation of public utilities in Massachusetts has been beneficial to the public, and it does not appear that it has been harmful to corporations. By limiting the water in stock shareholders have been protected, the people have not been compelled to pay extra prices to assure dividends on watered securities, and the service has been satisfactory. These reforms have been accomplished in a rational way, after due deliberation, and in no spirit of reprisal. The Massachusetts method of regulating interest has the virtue of common sense and justice.

Something the Matter With Kansas.

Exchange.

Suffering Kansas again! A call goes help in the harvest. Something is alforth for 19,578 men and 3400 teams to ways the matter with Kansas.

NEWSPAPER WAIFS.

"How is the new house you're building coming on?" "Very well. We've just reached the second mortgage."—Life.

Sapleigh—"Miss Cutting said lawst night that she—aw—would nevah mawry any man, doncher know." Knox—"Perhaps she said that just to encourage you."—Chicago Daily News.

Kind Lady—"You say you are in reduced circumstances?" Former Oil Magnate—"Yes, ma'am." Kind Lady—"What reduced you?" Former O. M.—"Shrinking from publicity."—Cleveland Leader.

Church—"I see a prisoner in a Jersey prison has been allowed the use of his fiddle in the face of the remonstrances of the keeper's family." Gotham—"Who's being punished, any way?"—Yonker's Statesman.

Knicker—"There are plenty of books telling how to save life while waiting for the doctor." Bocker—"Yes. What we need is one telling the young doctor how to save life while waiting for the patient."—Harper's Bazar.

"Ah, that's pretty!" said Mr. Snooks, looking over a number of architectural designs. "What is that?" "That," said the architect, "is a $1500 bungalow." "What will it cost to build it?" asked Mr. Snooks. "About $8000," said the architect.—Judge.

She—"I don't understand this story of a policeman's brutality to a man he was arresting, at all." He—"What don't you understand?" She—"The paper says he was so rough with the man, and it sounds to me like he was real kind this warm weather." He—"What does the account say?" She—"That he tanned the prisoner till he put him to sleep."—Baltimore American.

MISHAPS IN THE FRENCH NAVY.

How Dependent a Fleet Is on Nearby and Well-Equipped Basis.

The fire which lately broke out near the powder magazine of the French battleship Hoche at Toulon very nearly resulted in a duplication of the other disaster whereby the battleship Iena was destroyed, accompanied by great loss of life. The Hoche was saved by sinking her in a slip to prevent the spread of the flames. Since the beginning of the year an extraordinarily large number of more or less serious mishaps have occurred in the French navy. Here is the list:

January 11 the submarine Algerian sank at her moorings at Cherbourg.

On the same day the submarine "X" became unmanageable at sea, but was rescued and towed to port.

February 2 the battleship Brennus broke from her moorings during a storm, and went ashore near Hyeres.

February 8 torpedo boat No. 339 lost nine men by an explosion aboard during a speed trial.

February 19 the cruiser Jean Bart went ashore on the Northwest coast of Africa and became a total loss.

February 26 the destroyer Kabyle lost three men through an explosion in her boiler room.

March 5 the submarine Gymnote, while maneuvering under water, struck a rock and parted her seams, but succeeded in rising to the surface, and was towed ashore. She has since then been sunk and lost.

March 12 the battleship Iena was rent by the explosion of her after-magazine at Toulon, the vessel becoming a total loss, over 100 of her crew being killed.

March 14 the coast defense ship Fulminante was struck by a torpedo during a maneuver off Brest and towed to port in a sinking condition.

March 17 the destroyer Epee rammed torpedo boat No. 293 off the coast of Corsica, bursting a steam pipe and scalding three men to death. The torpedo boat was beached.

March 18 the battleship Martel returned to Toulon from a trial trip leaking badly by the stern.

May 19 the cruiser Chancy was wrecked on the Saddle Islands off the coast of China and abandoned.

May 29 a condenser tube on the battleship Patrie burst, scalding a number of stokers, and the vessel was obliged to give up her trial trip.

May 30 the machinery of the battleship Democratic broke down in the course of her trials, and she had to be laid up.

July 3 a joint of the main steam supply of the battleship Justice gave way, filling the stoke-hold with steam and causing a panic, though only one stoker was seriously injured.

This is an exceptionally bad record, but it shows what may happen even in a fairly well disciplined navy and in time of peace. It shows how dependent a fleet is on well-equipped and nearby bases, where repairs can be made with neatness and dispatch. It shows that drydocks and navy-yards are essential accessories, without which near at hand a war fleet would soon become an assemblage of cripples.

A HERO IN OUR VICE-PRESIDENT.

His Activity in the Watery-Grave Episode at Yellowstone Park.

New York Sun.

Mr. Fairbanks was on the pier. He was looking over the mountains that encircle the lake. There was with him one friend, the hotel keeper, certainly a fat and properous man. Two friends were with him. He was alone. He was the center of a brilliant company. The pier is half a mile or a quarter of a mile long. It is several rods long. It is long enough if it is a quarter as long as Buttermilk Charley. At any rate, he alone or he and the fat hotel man and the other man or men heard the piercing shriek, either directly or by long distance telephone. He or they started at a mad pace for the water. Mr. Fairbanks "doffed his clothes" as he ran. He "took off his coat and hat." He "shed his garments as he sprinted." He "kept a newspaper in his hand in his agitation." Nonsense! He was not agitated. He was as cool as a cucumber on ice. He didn't stop to shed his garments. The life-saving service is no dressing and undressing room, Mr. Fairbanks lightened along that pier. Observers say that fire flew from his feet. His white tennis shoes were calcined before he reached the end of the pier. There, poising all his faculties for one tremendous effort, he dove madly into the lake.

How deep was the water? Some authorities say six feet; some say eight feet; some say 30 feet. No man of science will accept an inch less than the last number. Diving headlong, Mr. Fairbanks would run aground in less.

Hand in hand, the rescuer and the rescued walked back to the hotel. There was not a dry eye among the spectators or a dry rag on the Vice-President. Some stories say that he carried the lady in his arms. This, however romantic and welcome, we must sternly reject. "Save me, save me, but don't spoil my clothes!" had been the passionate adjunction of Andromeda. Mr. Fairbanks as a born leader must lead, but he is far too keen and fleet a racer to carry extra weight.

Stonewall's Bridge Builder.

Washington Star.

"Stonewall Jackson," said a Virginia veteran, "used to tell a good story about a bridge builder.

"This bridge builder was called old Miles. He was very necessary to Jackson because the flimsy bridges on the line of march were continually being swept away by the floods or destroyed by the enemy, and in these contingencies Miles was a regular jewel. He could run you up a bridge in the time it would take another man to make the measurements.

"One day the Union troops burned a bridge across the Shenandoah. Stonewall Jackson called old Miles to him and said: "'You must put all your men to work, Miles, and you must keep them at it all night, for I've got to have a bridge across this stream by morning. My engineer will draw up the plans for you.'

"Well, early the next morning Jackson, very much worried, met old Miles.

"'See here,' he said, dubiously, 'how about that bridge? Did the engineer give you the plan?'

"Old Miles took the cigar from his mouth and flicked the ash off with a sneer.

"'General,' he said, 'the bridge is done, I dunno whether the picter is or not.'"

Not a Christian Science Goat.

Chicago Tribune.

Harold's mother was a devout follower of mental science. The two were crossing a field while in the country. And when the lad saw a goat in the distance he shielded himself instinctively behind his parent's skirt.

"Harold, I'm ashamed of you," she told him. "Don't you know there is no such thing as pain and that the goat can't hurt you?"

"Y-yes," he admitted timidly. "I know it and you know it, but the goat don't know it."

BRYAN'S TURN NOW

—From the Washington Star.