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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 1905.

GERMANY AND HER PURPOSES.

It is a diplomatic game, with veiled threat of war, that Germany is playing for embarrassment of France. The incident of Morocco is but a pretext. Germany has no right of intrusion in the relations of France with Morocco. The affair is "outside her sphere." Nevertheless, Germany persists. Russia, ally of France, is hopelessly beaten, and Germany, now the bully of Europe, thinks she may humiliate France again. At the same time Germany suspects, or pretends, an agreement between England and France, which she wishes to press to an avowal or disclosure. The Morocco incident is merely an excuse or subterfuge.

The National Review (London) says "the German Emperor, who is continually discoursing upon the various perils which are supposed to menace the European world—at one time the 'American peril,' at another time the 'yellow peril,' but always the British bogey—threatens to become a veritable nightmare to all pacific communities. He suffers from a morbid restlessness, and is haunted by the thought that he has been a good many years on the throne, yet has not become a great conqueror, as his ancestors were." Further: "We feel bound to note the nervousness which prevails in almost every capital of Europe, owing to the fear that the war lord is liable to run amuck at any moment." This explains the present tension between Germany and France, in which England also is deeply concerned.

With Great Britain, France has an understanding concerning Morocco, where both nations have interests. Germany has no real grievance in the matter, and enters no intelligible excuse for interposition—further than that "her susceptibilities were hurt" because she wasn't let into a conference about a matter that was none of her business. Now she insists on another conference, with herself, of course, as one of the parties.

"That Germany"—we quote again from the National Review—"is bent on making mischief rather than on upholding any legitimate interest is shown by the double-edged argument advanced in the semi-official Press. On the one hand the cordial support which France has received from the British government and the British Press is represented as the sinister effort of 'perfide Albion' to embroil the republic in the first place with Morocco and in the second place with Germany."

The probable truth is that Germany wishes to force a territorial concession from Morocco, through menace of a European war, and to obtain a naval base and coaling port on the Moroccan coast. France is now paying the penalty of her part, in league with Germany and Russia, in robbing Japan of Port Arthur and other fruits of Japan's triumph over China.

GO SLOW AT THE CORNERS.

Within two months automobiles for private use and public hire have multiplied rapidly in Portland. Better streets and our customary pleasant Summer weather are certain to conduce to wider employment of the vehicle. Our streets are too narrow, as every one knows, but never before have we had such an object-lesson on the necessity of curbing the speed mania that has taken hold of certain professional chauffeurs and amateur drivers. Since the Fair opened, apart from larger crowds on the downtown streets, danger to pedestrians has increased in like ratio with the number of self-propelling wagons.

On straight stretches of street the person afoot can easily keep away from harm, but unfortunately neither the careful man who is walking nor the careless man at the throttle of a gasoline engine can see around a corner. Here lies the great danger of collision. For a concrete example, stand a few moments at Sixth and Washington, or any other intersection in the shopping district, and note the speed at which automobiles turn the corner. It is good luck alone and extreme vigilance of pedestrians that prevent many accidents.

But we are less of a menace than the street-car, says the man who speeds his auto. Not so. The street-car keeps to the rails, which every one can see; besides, it makes a lot of noise, which is in itself a protection, to say nothing of the loud gong. In the noiseless character of the automobile lies the chief danger. It will be well if every one in charge of an automobile resolves when making a turn to reduce speed to the gait of an average man walking. That is what the street-cars do.

Reform is best accomplished by healthy public sentiment. The Oregonian calls on all persons to use their influence upon owners to slow down before they turn corners. Passengers should demand this caution from drivers of public vehicles. The automobile club can do much if it tries by the force of example. If you must speed, do it on a straight course. Before you come to a corner where you intend to turn, slow down to a "walk." Don't take the risk of maiming or killing innocent people in order to save ten seconds' time.

FRANKENSTEIN.

In a famous passage Macaulay predicted ruin for the United States. It would come, he said, when the swarming myriads of the proletariat should forget their respect for the law under the sting of hunger and seize upon the wealth of the happier classes, which is safe at present only because they forbear to take it; and they forbear only because they can fill their stomachs comfortably full by a moderate amount of honest labor; but let the chance to labor once fail! Let their stomachs once get empty with no prospect of being filled lawfully! Then you will see. So reasoned Lord Macaulay, and he reasoned well; but the common fate of prophecies has befallen his brilliant oracle. Time has not brought it to pass and is not likely to.

Anarchy has come upon us, to be sure, but not from the hunger of the proletariat. It has come from the greed of the better classes to whom Macaulay looked as the bulwarks of the social order. Hostile Europe during our war with Spain symbolized America by a pig. For certain of our better classes the symbol is not unapt, though as a matter of fact their greed has become concrete, or incarnate, to borrow a word from theology, not in the form of a pig. It has taken a shape more elusive than a pig, even a greased one; and the hand of the law glides off from its slippery skin, no matter how eagerly it may grip. But the law has never tried very hard as yet to get hold of this slippery creature, this incarnate greed. He is very big, for one thing, and the law has always been afraid of him. He is very ingeniously put together for another thing, and the law is proud of him; for she made him as Frankenstein did his monster. The law is proud and fatuously fond of her monster; he repays her affection with insult and contempt.

Frankenstein prowling among new-made graves gathered the materials which he pieced together into the shape of a man. To his horror, when the thing was done it was alive. Soulless and unmeral, an elemental demon, it was the concrete embodiment of reinless lust and greed; but in form and physical function the thing was a man. He turned upon his creator, blasted his happiness and ruined him. American Law, a pitiable Frankenstein, prowling among dead political and economic theories for her materials, and working long and patiently, has elaborated the creature before whom she now trembles paralyzed and helpless. The confederated corporations, the monster which dominates the United States, is the creature of the law, and the law is afraid of him.

The dangers which have beset the Government of the United States have never come from the people, whom Macaulay dreaded. The great Rebellion was the work of an oligarchy; the people refused the tempting bait of dishonest money dangled before them by rich mineowners and unstable theorists; it is not the people who are today combining to undermine, to thwart, to befuddle, to defy the law. It is not the people of the State of Washington, for example, who have published their intention to "ignore" certain laws enacted by the last Legislature; it is the railroads. Should the people do such a thing it would rain injunctions; it would hail bullets; and so it ought, for the law must be supreme; but the law endures the insult from the railroads with sweet serenity. No injunctions will be thought of; no bullets will fly. The matter will drag itself away to a muddy oblivion in the vast marsh of legal procedure; and its only outcome will be another lesson to the "people" in the principles and practice of anarchy. Wise laws or foolish, no matter now; they are laws; and the railroads are going to ignore them. They are going to defy the will of the commonwealth. They threatened to do so when the law was passing through the Legislature, and now they are carrying out their threat. They will "ignore" the law made—foolishly made, let us concede—to protect the people. Suppose the people should decide to ignore the laws made to protect the railroads and other property? Is it likely that they will not learn the lesson in course of time? They will learn it, and they will better the example. When the elephant gets drunk, it goes hard with the monkey.

The founders of our Government erected bulwarks against the people. They intrenched the "better classes" in the United States Senate. They thought they had given the election of the President to the learned, the rich, the wise and therefore the good; but history was too strong for their purpose; the people took wholly what the constitution-makers meant only to seem to give them. The fathers forbade by fundamental law the violation of contracts; the Supreme Court, incited by Daniel Webster, decided that a charter to a corporation was a contract; hence such a charter, once obtained, no matter by what fraud, no matter at what expense of public debauchery, became something sacrosanct. A human criminal the law might execute; criminal corporations became hedged with such divinity by this famous Dartmouth College decision that the law has never since been able to come at them.

It may be wondered whether John Marshall, when he concurred in that decision, so fertile in good and evil to the Nation, foresaw all its consequences. He thought he was erecting one more barrier against the passions of the hungry mob. He was really putting together the backbone of the skeleton of the monster which the law, our infatuated Frankenstein, has since patiently completed—the confederated corporations, whose defiance of his creator is the one great danger that menaces the Nation today.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE TRADE.

American trade with China has had an uphill fight from its inception. If we had at the beginning maintained the same arrogant, insulting attitude which we now display toward the Chinese, our commerce with the Far East would still be of insignificant proportions. The Orientals who were lured to our coast by the California gold discoveries were welcomed. A few of them engaged in gold mining, but the greater number were satisfied to fill what was in the strictest sense "a long-felt want." They were "hewers of wood and drawers of water," laundrymen, gardeners and followers of other menial pursuits, which the gold miner, the merchant and the white speculators refused to engage in. It was the welcome given these slant-eyed Celestials that first established cordial trade relations with the Far East.

As the Chinaman made money in the necessary pursuits which were beneath the dignity of the white men, he developed into a trader and merchant on his own account. Still retaining a certain loyalty to his own country, he sent back to the Orient for tea, silk, rice and the thousand and one delicacies and curios which today hold such a prominent place on the manifests of incoming Oriental liners. He also learned to eat the wheat bread of the white man, and began shipping it to his old home, where it grew rapidly in favor. The American sawmills ripped up more lumber in a day than the crude Chinese methods could produce in a year, and lumber was added to the list of exports from the Pacific Coast. Thence followed our fish, fruit, iron, steel, cotton, oil and all of the other commodities that have swelled our export trade with China into millions.

The success of the "coolie" in evolving into a merchant attracted the attention of the Chinese capitalists and scholars. They came to our shores to learn more of this country and to extend their operations. At first they were welcomed with the same cordiality that we extended to the Hun, the Slav and the rest of the European "coolies." It was the "glad hand" which we extended to these men that was in turn given to our own commercial travelers when they invaded China and began enlarging the scope of the trade for which the Chinamen themselves had builded the foundation. Now we have grown so big and powerful and arrogant and independent that we have assumed that the Chinese trade is ours by divine right, and that we can insult and humiliate with impunity the men who have enabled us to establish this trade with them. But the worm is turning. That old nation, though kicked around as a football for others, which lay claim to superior rights, intelligence and financial acumen, still fondly boasts of a civilization that was old when ours began.

There is a pride in this reverence for their past, and, no matter what our views may be regarding it, there is no questioning the Chinamen's attitude on the matter. The report that the death penalty will be inflicted on any one purchasing American goods is hardly probable, for China today has some very progressive men who are sufficiently intelligent to understand that the end sought can be reached by equally effective and less repugnant means. American goods can be shut out of China with very little difficulty, and the curt assumption that the Chinese will continue to submit to the outrages which the immigration department is heaping on them because they are in need of certain goods is not well founded.

A prohibitive import duty can be levied against American goods in a very short time, and it will stop their sale in the Orient as effectually as would the plan of killing the purchasers. This effect is a certainty, and the question that remains to be decided is whether we prefer to lose this immense and rapidly increasing trade by continuing our present harsh treatment of those who make it, or cease placing the Chinese gentleman, scholar and merchant below the level of the illiterate peons that are swarming into the Atlantic ports of the United States by thousands. If the Department of Commerce and Labor will exercise the same degree of harshness in determining the rights of these "coolies" that is now shown the Chinamen, there would be much less difference in the size of the steerage list on incoming and outgoing liners than now exists.

A FRUITLESS INVASION.

An American invasion of England serious in one sense, trifling in another, has recently been discovered by a writer in a London journal, which has caused quite a sensation in "smart set" circles of the British capital. Briefly, it is cited that the invasion of American heiresses into the British peerage in the last half century or over has caused decimation in the ranks of the nobility through failure of these American women to become mothers. By comparison it is stated that the influence of colonial women on English society is not only more wholesome, but likely to be more permanent than that of American women, for the reason that they give more heirs of sturdy fiber to the realm. As this writer puts it, colonial influence in England is masculine, vigorous and wholesome, while American influence is feminine, frivolous and fleeting.

Appealing to statistics, he finds that since 1840 thirty British peers or sons of peers have married in the United States. Of these, thirteen have no children at all, five have no sons and five have only one son each. The total number of peers' children with American mothers is thirty-nine, of whom eighteen are sons. During the same period twenty-three peers of the realm have married in colonies. Four have no children, seven have one son, eight have two sons and two have three sons. That is to say, that, though the number of colonial peeresses is seven less than the number of American peeresses, they have twice as many children, and, while six of them are not mothers, nineteen American peeresses are childless.

Since figures are adduced to prove these assertions, they must be accepted as correct. But what then? Taking into consideration the terms which entered into these alliances, and their literal fulfillment, has either party to these childless marriages any just ground for complaint? On the one side, there was money; on the other, titles. Specifically, the men who were parties to these contracts wanted money, the women titles. Both got what they wanted, what they bargained for, under the sacred name of marriage. There is no reason to suppose that posterity was taken into account in these contracts. Nor is there any reason to suppose that the British realm would have been the gainer in statesmanship, or in what the writer above quoted calls masculine, vigorous, wholesome citizenship, if each and every one of these marriages had been abundantly fruitful. The writer's conclusion is a sound one when he says that in the face of the figures presented "the contention that by means of American wives fresh vigor may be imported into the British aristocracy is merely ridiculous." No one on this side of the water ever contended to the contrary of this statement. Men who marry for money and women who marry for titles and position can hardly be expected to pursue the legitimate purpose of honorable marriage by bringing a houseful of well-equipped children into the world.

NEW YORK'S IDLE RICH.

Provincial New York is predicting that the Lewis and Clark Exposition will be a frost on account of the great distance between Portland and New York. This observation, which is found in the New York Press, undoubtedly reflects the sentiment of a considerable number of the inhabitants of Manhattan Island. New York contains more "idle rich" than can be found in a similar area anywhere else on earth, and the idle rich find but small pleasure in anything other than a vulgar display of wealth. Such a display could not well be made in a visit to the Lewis and Clark Exposition, and, even were it possible, the plain, every-day, matter-of-fact citizen of the West would fail to be dazzled or even interested by it, and the purpose for which it was made would accordingly fall flat.

Into the metropolis of the New World have drifted millionaires from all parts of the country. Many a fortune which had for its foundation the tub and washboard of the maternal side of the house, while the male ancestor was busy with pick, shovel and pan, is now being spent by the descendants of the washerwoman and miner with all the recklessness that is generally attributed to the drunken sailor. Work—common, prosaic work, such as the vulgarians who failed to inherit wealth are familiar with—is too degrading for these idle rich, and the effort required to make a four days' trip across the continent is too severe a strain to be undertaken. Of course, there are hundreds of these victims of financial degeneracy who have never been west of the New York state line, but they have made frequent trips to Europe. The valets and maids can trundle them down to the steamer, and but little physical effort is required until they are trundled ashore over in "dear old Lunnon," whose natives they so dearly love to ape.

A trip across the American continent and a mingling with the people of the various sections of the West broadens the mind of the man of average intelligence, but it appeals not to the givers of monkey dinners and trucklers at the feet of tarnished nobility from across the Atlantic. And perhaps, after all, Portland will not be a serious loser by this threatened frost. Nothing which we have to offer these idle rich can appeal very powerfully to them, because they are not endowed with reasoning powers or ability to discover anything of interest where there is no opportunity for the display of vulgarity. The fact that the scion of some multi-millionaire has had a cocktail named in his honor or has had to pay many thousands in alimony to an actress entitles him to homage in New York, but it would not have that effect in Portland, except among a few idle rich who are nursing similar ideas here at home with only moderate success.

The idle rich to whom the journey across the American continent is too much of an effort can well be spared by the Lewis and Clark Exposition. They could be spared by New York if New York would only try the experiment of getting along without them, for there are a number of rich men who are a credit to New York, although they must feel lonesome in that city of iniquity. One of those industrious rich, F. Norton Goddard, died a few days ago after spending a good portion of a $6,000,000 legacy in teaching the people of the tenements to live better; in campaigns against vice, and in other forms of benevolent work. Mr. Goddard died of overwork at the early age of 44 years, but he left behind him a record for good deeds accomplished such as will never be left by the Jimmy Hydes, Harry Lehrs, Thaws and others of their kind.

THE FUTURE OF THE NEGRO.

The reference by Secretary Taft in his speech at Oxford, O., on Thursday last to the improvement in the conditions of negro life in the Southern States deserves careful consideration. The Secretary seems confident that the work of Booker T. Washington tends to teaching his people how to use tools, "instead of giving them a superficial university education which they cannot use," and will thereby put them in a better position materially; and "their spiritual and intellectual uplifting is much easier." But the fact being that, according to recent figures, there are nearly 9,000,000 negroes in the United States today, as against 1,400,000 one hundred years ago (when importation of negroes ceased), and that of these nearly 4,000,000 are engaged now in gainful occupations, other problems than material ones evidently press for solution. While at Tuskegee it is true that the use of tools is taught, and it is also true that there is no attempt at giving these colored students a "superficial university education," yet the middle ground between the two extremes is that sought by Mr. Booker T. Washington and his staff. The study of the catalogue of Tuskegee, and the account of commencement exercises, and of various institutes in the neighborhood, throws light on a clear and fully reasoned-out plan of study much resembling that of the Agricultural Colleges in other states of the Union. The aim is to make citizens, not mere tool-wielders, out of these colored students. And the records show gratifying success along these lines. For many years after the war the negro was a leaseholder, or a squatter on the land. Now nearly one-fourth of the colored farmers own their own farms. The leaders of their race are facing the need of teaching them so to use their growth in possessions, and in money, that blessing, and not a curse, shall be the result. No less to the negro than to his white neighbor is it true that "the life is more than bread, and the body than raiment."

Although the records of Tuskegee show an increasing number of graduates who are now filling positions where success depends more on brain than on muscle, yet the strength of the institution lies in the roll of students who have learned to practice industries connected with land and its products. It is interesting also to note in the speeches of the colored men at the institutes to which reference has been made, the ring of real and sensible ambition, and of desire for peace and good will with their white neighbors. The aim of these selected and prominent negroes is not shown in anxiety after political office or employment. Rather do they show desire for better farms, better stock, better furnishings for their homes, but, above all, for better education for their children. Noticeable also is the absence of jealousy and envy at the superior possessions of white citizens among them.

If these impressions be true, and they are founded on reading of many accounts and documents regarding Tuskegee and its work, then its aim is far higher than that indicated in the speech of Secretary Taft, and worthy of higher praise. No one can question the right to, and fitness for, the ballot of the growing class of colored men in question. And it is satisfactory to note the disposition in the Southern States to enforce an educational, and not a racial, test. Of course, it is but a little leaven that has been so far produced, and the lump is very large. Yet leaven works, and in that lies the only satisfactory solution of the negro problem in the Southern States.

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN.

They present a neat, pleasing appearance, those officers of the warships now at anchor in our port. They are fine-looking men, and the gilt braid, brass buttons and immaculate attire sets out to the best advantage the strong character in their faces. But the officers of our Navy are not the whole of the show, nor do they monopolize the attention of the admiring multitude. A chain is never any stronger than its weakest link, and the men behind the guns are a very important link in the chain of defense which our Navy has linked around us. This fact is so well understood that we all have a kindly feeling for Jack, whether he is afloat or ashore. As an increasing population intensifies the struggle for a livelihood on shore, there is a growing disposition for our young men, especially those reared near the sea, to go back to the ocean, and for such the Navy offers a fine training school.

The Navy also holds out pretty strong inducements for the youth who has no intention of following the sea for life, but who is attracted by the charm and change of a sailor's life, and is afforded an opportunity for seeing the world. For the man-of-warsman is like the sailor in the merchant marine, "for whom no land was distant, to whom no sea was barred." They are sound in wind and limb and mind, with good, red blood in their veins, are those supple young athletes who wander up and down our streets with a billowy gait and a charming air of contented good nature. They have learned something besides the rules of health on board of the warships, for the Navy is no place for a weakling or a man who fails to recognize the necessity for discipline in all walks of life. "We are not so particular about a man's family out here in the West," said old Canby, the Arizonian, "but what we do want to know is, Will he stand the gaff?" This inelegant Western expression contains a world of meaning when a young man first gets over the rail of a war vessel, and if his mental and physical equipment are such as to leave any doubt about his ability to give and take with equal grace, it would be well for him to remain ashore.

The Navy has also developed some pretty good men out of material which might have been wasted, had its energies been misdirected on shore. Some very well-meaning boys have found their way into the Reform School and even worse institutions in many cases because their natures were misunderstood by teachers and guardians. If some of the promising but misdirected energy which is characteristic of a high-spirited boy, and which often leads him a little too close to the dividing line between mischief and crime would come under the discipline which is maintained on board a warship, the results would be far more satisfactory than are secured at a reformatory institution.

The annals of the American Navy teem with incidents of the bravery and patriotism of the marines, and in all great events where our warships have made history the men behind the guns were never yet found derelict in their duties. It is the recollection of these stirring events and of the possibilities of others yet to come that causes us to keep an admiring eye on Jack ashore as well as afloat. On rare occasions he may be guilty of indiscretions, but he is always loyal to the old flag, and, by comparison with the men who follow the same calling under other flags, he certainly makes an impression that does not lessen our pride in him.

A STORY OF AVERAGES.

There has always been much inquiry and many conflicting opinions as to what things in common use are really cheap, as compared with the average price of the past fifteen years, and what are costly. An elaborate report covering this subject has recently been published in a bulletin of the National Bureau of Labor.

This report covers the entire period from 1890 to 1904. According to the report, the farmers of the West took the lead in prosperity last year. That is to say, they were more prosperous as a class than were tradespeople or manufacturers as a class. Yet it appears that the prices of food, taking all together, were less in 1904 than in 1890. The same was true of clothing. Fuel and lighting were much higher, as also were lumber and building materials. Drugs and housefurnishing goods were very near to the average of 1890, and the difference for all commodities during the period covered was very slight. Specifically, the price of all things in open market in 1890 was 112.9, and in 1904 it was 113, the average for the whole period being reckoned at 100.

In agricultural products the only staple that could be bought last year for less than the average price of the fifteen-year period was flaxseed. As against this hops were nearly double the average price, cotton was scaled at 155.9 and wheat at 128.2. Other cereals—corn, rye and oats—were also above the average of the period covered. In articles of food, fresh vegetables went above the average with a record of 146.3, and following them in order came fresh fish, eggs, corn meal, flour, beef, pork and beans. Western butter registered 100 and New York butter 97. Other things on the decreased price list were tea, starch, soda crackers, vinegar, rice, dried apples, coffee and prunes.

In clothing the greatest decrease in price was in hosiery. Ginghams, calicoes and shirtings were below the average, and this notwithstanding the fact that raw cotton sold at double the average price during part of the year. The highest-priced sheetings did not go above 150. The query here is, Who paid the extra millions that the cotton-raisers got for their crop in 1903? Clearly the consumer did not, and we are prone to believe that the manufacturer is not an out-and-out philanthropist.

In fuel, the increase in price has been enormous. The consumer knows who makes up the large margin here. The price of bituminous coal, for example, in 1903 was nearly double the fifteen-year average, and crude petroleum averaged 178.8 during the year. This led to the drilling of numberless wells in Kansas and the fight against the Standard Oil Company that grew out of it.

In metals, a decrease of almost one-half in wholesale prices is noted. Nails, shovels, saws, barbed wire and lead pipe are included in this showing. In housefurnishing goods, woodenware was 30 per cent above the average, while some kinds of glassware and table cutlery were below it. Summing up, it is found that of 249, the total number of articles, the prices of which are given, 189 had increased in price and 60 had decreased. The showing leaves some basis for the complaint of increased cost of living that is heard on every hand, but when this increase is compared with that in wages it leaves a balance to the good for the workingman, which should serve to lift the burden of his complaint.

The range war in Central Oregon has assumed a new phase this season. Heretofore the conflict has raged between the sheepmen and the cattlemen, but this year the ancient enemies find common cause in contesting the rights of the farmers and ranchmen, who have been pouring into the country and building homes. The stockmen have had free rein on Government land for so long that the ranchers, who have at last secured possession of it, find extreme difficulty in commanding the respect to which their ownership entitles them. It is not pleasant to read that armed guards are patrolling the streams and will shoot if those in charge of the flocks do not move. Might has seldom made right in a country that laid any special claims to being civilized.

American manufacturers will not be invited to attend the International Congress of Cotton Goods manufacturers, and the invitation of the Southern Cotton Corporation to have the congress held in this country will be declined. The reasons given by the foreign cotton manufacturers are that the object of the congress is to devise ways to become independent of the United States for raw cotton supplies, and there would accordingly be no possibility of securing assistance from the Americans. The Americans will hardly suffer deep regret over the matter, as it would not be conducive to their pleasure to listen to the discussion of plans for the killing and burying of their favorite industry.

Russia is still talking about the sale of the Saghalien Islands, and the latest report is to the effect that the purchase was made by a syndicate of Americans, and not by the American Government. The consideration named in this latest rumor is $80,000,000. The last previous real estate purchase made by the United States from Russia was that of Alaska, and, as the consideration for that territory was only $7,000,000, it would seem that the price stipulated for the Saghaliens is somewhat high. Still, it must be remembered that real estate is advancing even in northern latitudes, and it may be that the Siberian jail yard is worth the money.

The pioneers of Oregon—some hundreds of them—are at home with thankful hearts today. They are thrice glad—first that they attended the annual reunion in this city; second, that they were able to visit the Lewis and Clark Fair, and third, that they found the homes to which they returned after the pleasures and fatigues of the pioneer occasion veritable havens of rest. To these homes they are followed by the good wishes of those who were glad to entertain them as guests through two or three happy, strenuous days.

Requiem mass will be celebrated in the naval chapel at St. Petersburg today for the repose of the souls of the brave men who went down with the helpless ships of Russia under the gunplay of Togo's fleet. This is the one thing that Russia can do to her own satisfaction and to the comfort of the living thousands whose loved ones were swallowed up in the sea. To this extent her prayers and incantations are availing. As to the poor fellows who went down with the ships, their rest came sure and soon.

The Columbia River canners are again falling behind with the pack. The cold-storage houses are taking so many of the big fish that there are not enough to go around. As the fish which go into cold storage command a uniformly higher price than those which are canned, the fishermen, who disburse most of the money handled in the industry, are not losing anything by the changing conditions.

Mr. W. W. Cotton is to be Federal Judge. He is an excellent man and an able lawyer. The only criticism will be that his active career has been that of a railroad attorney and lawyer and manager for corporations. But Mr. Cotton is so fair a man that time, in this case, we believe, will overcome such criticism and remove such distrust.

The Oregonian will furnish a full verbatim report of the trials in the United States Court, beginning next Tuesday. It is the only paper in position to give such full report, day by day. The report will be a stenographic one, and it may be relied on for accuracy, completeness and impartiality.

It looks now as if Liao Yang, Mukden and Port Arthur were merely curtain-raisers for a drama soon to be enacted on the same stage.

Peace negotiations do not synchronize with war news from Gunshu Pass.

OREGON OZONE.

State Questions.

Who first prospected Portland, Ore.?
What is it makes Augusta, Ga.?
And is it history's wealth of lore
That makes old Philadelphia, Pa.?

I wonder if Topeka, Kan.?
How much did old Columbus, O.?
And won't you tell me this, old man:
Whose pastures does St. Joseph, Mo.?

Are things in Providence, R. I.?
(What struck the town?—But let it pass.)
Will dougty Douglas stand or fly
If all the troops in Boston, Mass.?

What's that? Indeed! Did Jackson, Miss.?
Too bad! of woes he has his fill.
I think misfortunes such as this
Enough to make Chicago, Ill.

Why doesn't soiled Seattle, Wash.,
In Puget Sound? (Now don't get gay!)
If you would not pronounce it bosh,
I'd ask you whom does Tampa, Fla.?

For whom has this Tombstone, Ariz.?
Did Denver, Col.? Now, by the bark
Of Noah's pair of pups ge whizz!"
Who built this Texarkana, Ark.?

The following is suggested as an advertisement in the "small ad" section of the Christiana Chronicle: "Wanted—Somebody to wear a crown, somewhat out of fashion, but newly polished; will fit any prince who upholds the national divorce doctrine; no Swedes need apply."

The Penang Echo states that a full-grown tiger shot by a Malay was sold to Chinamen who have a tooth for tiger meat, at 40 cents a catty. If it had been a small tiger, no doubt it would have been sold at so much per kitty.

The world may move on now as usual. Hallie Erminie Rives has been presented to King Edward and has kissed his hand and had her picture published in the act of smiling sweetly just after the kissing.

Margaret Gladstone Stuart, known in fashionable and foolish Newport as "reader of the souls of love and doctor of love," has read a soul of love and annexed it. She is now the wife of William McKenzie, of New Jersey. Mr. McKenzie is worth several millions of dollars, and one of his gifts to the bride is $1,000,000. There are a great many women who would like to be readers of the souls of love and doctors of love, if thereby they might peruse, pursue and cinch a soul of love that is capable of making such lovely wedding presents.

James J. Jeffries may have imagined that he is the most famous man in the world, but the report of the dog census-taker in Los Angeles, his own town, shows him how sorry a thing is the notoriety of a heavyweight champion. When a man is really entitled to be famous he lives in the hearts of the people, and the people name their children or their dogs after him. In Los Angeles, out of 1400 dogs duly licensed, with tags showing a local habitation and a name for each, there is one ugly pug—only one—named Jeffries, while 76 animals bear the name of Teddy and another proudly wags his tail and "comes" when the full name of Theodore Roosevelt is uttered. Mr. Jeffries' only hope for vindication lies in a resort to the familiar and convenient aphorism that no prophet is without honor save in his own country.

Reflections on Bachelors.

A bachelor is a barnacle on the ship's bottom of society, and should be scraped off with the siren shell of matrimony.

The most forlorn creature on earth is a hound pup without a home, and next to him is a man without a wife.

It is better to be a grass widower than a bachelor, for the grass widower may have tried to do his duty.

After a man reaches 40 without marrying he thinks all the women are setting steel traps for him, and that is why he steps so gingerly when in their presence.

An unmarried man is without hope, here and hereafter. No one waits and watches for him here, and he will have no one to place a lighted candle in the window of heaven for him. Therefore he is liable to take the wrong road hence.

A Fair-to-Middling World.

I love this world as it wags. Don't you?
It's a pretty good world to stay in;
The old ship's manned with a jolly good crew,
And it's fitted to work and to play in;
So we'll sail right along
With a shout and a song:
It's a merry old world to grow gray in!

I take this world at it comes. Don't you?—
Its thorns, here and there, and its flowers;
And whether its skies be of gray or of blue,
And whether we've sunshine or showers,
We can work, we can dream,
For we know that the scheme
Is ordained of benevolent powers.

I love this world with its ups and downs,
Its toils and its pains and its piddling.
Though we don't wear diamonds, robes or crowns,
We are gay if we pay for the fiddling;
So we'll dance and we'll sing
In a rosy-round-ring:
Oh, I reckon it's fair-to-middling!

ROBERTUS LOVE.

The New Tax Commission.

Pendleton East Oregonian.

The new Tax Commission of Oregon which is supposed to present a general tax law to the next session of the Legislature has one of the greatest tasks on its hands ever undertaken in Oregon. In fact, a general law covering the entire State is well nigh impossible, because of the different conditions in the various portions of the State. It will be interesting to see what the Commission does in this matter. About all it can do that will be of value to the general taxpaying public will be to provide a law by which franchises, privileges and unseen property values are brought to light and taxed. This will be its chief work, and in this work it should have the best assistance of the people. Every franchise held in Oregon should be made to pay taxes just as money invested in livestock, farming land or other producing property. The farm, mercantile stock and other visible classes of property pay too much of the tax today.