

Corvallis Gazette.

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FRANK CONOVER.

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THE U. S. INVOLVED.

Just at present it looks as though the United States would become involved in the Chilean trouble notwithstanding our determination to take no part in the difficulties of other nations.

The law of nations protects the rights of a neutral nation, but it also defines the duties of a neutral, one of which is that it must use all possible diligence to prevent its citizens from supplying a belligerent with offensive material, soldiers or ships, arms, or munitions of war, and a failure to observe this duty renders the neutral liable for any damage which may result therefrom.

The trouble which confronts us is briefly this: An U. S. schooner called the "Robert and Minnie" at San Francisco recently took on a cargo of rifles and other munitions of war and conveyed them to sea where they were transferred to a Chilean transport, the Itata, sent up the coast under convoy of the man-of-war, Esmeralda, for purpose. Before the transfer was effected, the Itata, putting into San Diego for some purpose, became an object of suspicion and was detained by the authorities, an United States marshal being put in charge. While the local authorities and the navy department at Washington were determining what further action to take the Itata sailed away with the marshal and dumped him off at a convenient point to find his way back and report his discomfiture. Then she proceeded to keep her appointment with the American schooner. Shortly afterwards the U. S. authorities started the swift cruiser, Charleston, after the Itata in hot haste for the purpose of recapturing her. Latest advice says: "It was at first doubted that one of the most powerful of the Chilean warships should go so far from the Chilean coast at this juncture, but it is definitely known that the Esmeralda is now in port at Acapulco, on the Mexican coast, which fact the navy department at Washington was probably advised of when the orders were given to the Charleston. It is deemed probable that the Esmeralda will cruise north toward San Lucas, in the hope of meeting the Itata before the Charleston can arrive and to protect the cargo and crew from seizure, if possible, apart from other considerations."

The Charleston and Esmeralda are quite evenly matched and there is likely to be a lively time if they come together. There are no telegraph stations south of Ensenada, just south of the boundary line in Lower California, so that, save such meager information as may be brought north by one of the Panama or coast steamers, nothing further is likely to be heard from her or the Itata, until the Charleston returns, or is heard from at some of the Mexican ports.

The cities all over Oregon are voting municipal improvements. Let us have a wide awake council. Shake off the moss from your drooping shoulders. Let the warm sunlight of progress shine in upon your weakening spine and you will soon join the ranks of enterprise with an elastic step.

The city of Corvallis has little or no indebtedness being only a little over a month behind in the regular expense incurred for running her municipal government.

Let us have a council for sewerage, first, and take the chances on the men who will be appointed to the offices.

THE BEHRING SEA MATTER.

The latest communication, sent to Minister Pauncefoot, in relation to the Behring sea matter and questions which it is proposed to arbitrate, has been made public. Much of the contention so far has been occasioned by the assumption on the part of Lord Salisbury that the United States claims that Behring sea is a *mare clausum*, or closed sea.

In the opinion of the president says Blaine, Lord Salisbury is wholly and strangely in error in making the following statement: "Nor do they (the advisers of the president) rely, as a justification for the seizure of British ships in the open sea, upon the contention that the seal fisheries, give to the United States government any right for that purpose, which, according to our international law, it would not otherwise possess."

The government of the United States has steadily held just the reverse of the position which Lord Salisbury has imputed to it. It holds the ownership to the islands upon which the seal breed, that the habits of the seal in regularly repairing thither and rearing their young thereon, that their going from the islands in search of food and regularly returning thereto, and all the facts and incidents of their relation to the islands, give to the United States a property interest therein; that this property interest was claimed and exercised by Russia during the whole period of its sovereignty over the land and waters of Alaska; that England recognized this property interest, so far as recognition is implied by abstaining from all interference with it during the whole period of Russia's ownership of Alaska, and during the first nineteen years of the sovereignty of the United States. It is yet to be determined whether the lawless intrusion of Canadian vessels in 1886 and subsequent years has changed the law and equity of the case heretofore prevailing.

The questions which will probably form the basis of arbitration are as follows:

First—What exclusive jurisdiction in the sea, now known as Behring sea, and what exclusive rights in the seal fisheries therein, did Russia assert and exercise prior and up to the time of the cession of Alaska to the United States?

Second—How far were these claims of jurisdiction as to the seal fisheries recognized and conceded by Great Britain?

Third—Was the body of water known as Behring sea included in the phrase "Pacific ocean," as used in the treaty of 1825 between Great Britain and Russia, and what rights, if any, in the Behring sea were held and exclusively exercised by Russia after said treaty?

Fourth—Did not all the rights of Russia as to jurisdiction and as to the seal fisheries in the Behring sea, east of the water boundary described in the treaty between the United States and Russia, of March 30, 1867, pass unimpaired to the United States under that treaty?

Fifth—Has the United States any right, and if so, what right, of protection of property in the fur seals frequenting the islands of the United States in the Behring sea, when such seals are found outside the ordinary three-mile limit?

Sixth—If the determination of the foregoing questions shall leave the subject in such a position that the concurrence of Great Britain is necessary in prescribing the regulations for the killing of fur seals in any part of the waters of the Behring sea, then it shall be further determined:

First—How far, if at all, outside the ordinary territorial limits, is it necessary that the United States should exercise an exclusive jurisdiction, in order to protect the seals for the time living upon the islands of the United States and feeding therefrom?

Second—Whether a closed season, during which the killing of seals in the waters of Behring sea, outside the ordinary territorial limits, shall be prohibited, is necessary to save the seal fishing industry, so valuable and important to mankind, from destruction, and if so,

Third—What months or parts of months, should be included in such season, and over what water should it extend?

ACCORDING to an article in the Forum by Arthur T. Hadley, the average amount received by railroads in the United States for carrying a passenger one mile is 2 1/6 cents. In England it is about 2 cents, in France not quite a cent and a half, in Germany a cent and a quarter, in Austria about a cent and in British India six tenths of a cent. The difference in these rates are more than compensated by the superior service which American roads give to their passengers, and taking speed, convenience and comfort into consideration, American railways afford the cheapest passenger rates in the world.

BAYARD'S VIEWS.

The promptness with which prominent leaders of the democratic party have given their support to Secretary Blaine in his controversies with the British Government in regard to the New Orleans lynching, must be pleasing to every citizen. It shows that however divided Americans may be in regard to home affairs, no sooner is an international question in dispute than the whole people and their leaders without regard to party, unite in defense of the rights of the country. Nor has the support thus given been either weak or perfunctory. The article written by ex-minister Phelps upon the seal fisheries was one of the most important contributions that was made to the discussion, and no doubt did much to confirm all thoughtful citizens in their confidence in the wisdom and justice, as well as in the strength and consistency, of Blaine's diplomacy. Not less valuable is the paper recently published in the Forum from the pen of Secretary Bayard, who gives to his successor in the office of Secretary of State the powerful aid of his name and reputation in maintaining the position which he had taken in reference to the Italian demand for indemnity. Bayard points out that there is neither any law, treaty nor moral obligation to support the Italian claim, while there is in the history of this country an unbroken line of precedents against it. He cites the case of a British subject named Tunstall, murdered in New Mexico in 1878, in which a claim for damages was made, but which was denied both by Secretaries Everts and Frelinghuysen, who laid down the maxim that the relatives of the murdered man had the same right as a citizen of the United States to sue for damages, but could not establish any claim except through the courts and against the Territory. He also quotes the Chinese cases in 1886, in which it was again declared that the only remedy for aggrieved aliens was in the courts and that no action could be brought against the Federal Government.

Both China and England accepted the doctrine of the irresponsibility of the Federal Government for damages. In the latter case Congress did vote relief to the Chinese, but this was done from benevolence and not to satisfy a legal claim. Furthermore Bayard says that in the riots at Pittsburg in 1878 and in Cincinnati in 1884, a great deal of damage was done both to our own citizens and to some foreigners, but in no case was a claim of damages against the general government established. The sufferers recovered damages from the States of Pennsylvania and Ohio through the courts, and a similar means is open for the Italians to recover from Louisiana if a case of damages can be made out. This similarity of views between the leading statesmen of both our great parties shows at once the justice of our cause and patriotic determination of our people to sink all party differences in its maintenance, and is therefore grateful to every citizen.—San Jose Mercury.

PRESIDENT HARRISON, in congratulating Oregon on her rainy weather, which he seems to think is more conducive to good character than that of California, said: "How can a boy or young woman be well trained in self-denial who does not know what it is to have a picnic spoiled by a shower?" Well, a boy can be trained by having his picnic girl go off and flirt with another fellow, and the girl can learn it when the other fellow neglects to set up the ice-cream. There is no lack of character-making things in California.—San Jose Mercury.

DISASTROUS forest fires are raging in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan. Towns are being swept away and the loss of life is reported great.

NICARAGUA CANAL.

Warner Miller, who has just returned from Greytown, Nicaragua, says in regard to the canal:

"Few people have any idea of the value of the canal to this country, but thinking men know it is an absolute necessity. I had a long chat with Secretary of the Navy Tracy, and he spoke of the imperative necessity of the canal. He said to me that in war alone it would be of incalculable value."

"In such a state of affairs, as exists at present between the United States and Chili," said the secretary to me, "I could send the West India squadron into the Pacific ocean inside of forty eight hours. That is now impossible, and we must virtually sustain two navies. If the canal existed in fact, the money now spent in the maintenance of the Pacific squadron could be expended for the benefit of the navy in its entirety and the facility with which either ocean could be reached would enable us to save money in connection, repairs and equipment." "The canal will positively be finished in six years," concluded Miller. "It will take about \$75,000,000 to finish it, and at present we have spent only about \$5,000,000. Our plans are perfect and we know to a pound just how much we must excavate."

STATISTICS compiled for the use of the Congressional Committee on Coinage show that France has the largest amount of gold and silver currency in the world, having \$900,000,000 in gold and \$700,000,000 in silver. The United States comes next with \$702,018,869 in gold and \$482,017,346 in silver. England has \$550,000,000 in gold and \$100,000,000 in silver. Germany has \$500,000,000 in gold and \$145,000,000 in silver. The total amount of coinage of the world is estimated at \$3,727,018,869 gold and \$3,820,571,356 in silver.

THERE is more safety in a sewerage system than there is in an army of policemen, whatever their qualifications. We can insure our houses and bar our doors against fire bugs and burglars, but the only protection against the dangers which lurk in the cesspools of the city is good drainage.

Do not cast your ballot blindly for councilmen next Monday. A council that will favor a sewerage system is of vastly more importance than one elected simply on account of its views in regard to the qualifications of the different candidates for appointment to office.

RAW AS BEEF-STEAK.
Baby's Fearful Suffering from Skin Disease Covering Entire Body Cured by CUTICURA.

My baby was taken very sick when he was twelve months old, and in a few days began breaking out. We employed both of the home doctors, and they could do nothing for him. Then we sent for the best doctor in Eaton Rapids, Mich., and he declared him for two weeks, and he got worse all the time; and then I took him to Jackson to a doctor who attends especially to skin diseases, and then he got worse than ever. Then I told my husband we had better try the CUTICURA.

REMEDIES any way; did not have any idea they would do any good, but in less than two months from the time we began giving them to him he was entirely well, and not a spot on him. His hair began growing right off, and we had thought he would always be bald-headed. There was not a spot on his whole body, face, and head, only his nose and eyes, but what was as raw as a beef-steak. So poor there was not anything but bones, and so weak he could raise neither hand nor head.

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Sold everywhere. Price, CUTICURA, 50c; SOAP, 25c; RESOLVENT, \$1. Prepared by the POTTER DRUG AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION, Boston.

Send for "How to Cure Blood Diseases."

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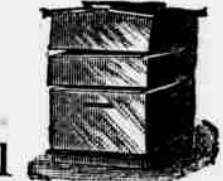
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