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A FILTHY PRACTICE AND OTHER MATTERS.

The movement to enforce the law against expectation on sidewalks, which has been entered upon by the Woman's Club of the city, from the standpoint of health and cleanliness, is of the utmost importance.

One enforcement of the law would carry more weight and do more to prevent the offense being repeated than hours of argument regarding the disgusting habit.

As showing the pressing need for rigid enforcement of the anti-expectation law we reproduce the following Associated Press dispatch which appeared in The Astorian on Tuesday:

"New York, Jan. 11.—Deaths from pneumonia last week aggregating 364 are causing the department of health to adopt energetic measures to check the progress of the disease.

There are many things that should be done in 1904 which would add materially to the beauty and attractiveness of Astoria that it may not be possible to accomplish.

It is a disgrace to the city government the way piles of refuse and rubbish on the corners of streets (cleanings from gutters) are permitted to lie day after day.

THE CAUSE OF THE TROUBLE.

A correspondent signing himself "X"—"X" you know, is an unknown quantity, sends a letter to The Astorian in which he requests that the causes leading up to the Russo-Japanese difficulty be ventilated.

where there is a startling diversity of opinion as to the conditions which have brought about the strained relations in the far east.

Our friend says that one bunch of agitators is convinced that the Associated Press and the "knetiscope view men" have precipitated the war, so far as it has been precipitated, and quotes to bear out his meaning:

"Then there is another lot of us" who seem to be of the opinion that the unions are making the trouble Labor, according to this version, sees a crisis ahead, due to overproduction, and desires to start a rough house so that half of the laboring men will be killed off, thus enabling the other half to demand increased wages.

The other contending faction in "X's" neighborhood has a sneaking idea that Corea and Manchuria are the cause of the trouble—Russia wants a slice of China and Japan wants the same slice; therefore war, to employ the language of our friend, who concludes: "Mr. Editor, will you tell us which of the three factions is right, or most nearly right, and also give us an idea why the United States and England do not ask these barbarians to try out their cause for action before the international court?"

We beg to assure our solicitous friend that all of the factions in his neck of the woods are wrong in their views of the causes leading up to the present critical situation in the orient. If "X" will stop to think for a moment, he will remember that the nation is today in control of the republicans.

MR. BRYAN AND THE FLAG.

Mr. Bryan has returned from a two months' trip abroad with some new views about our flag, says the Ledger. These views he imparted to a delegation of fellow democrats who paid him a formal call at his hotel a few hours after he landed.

He would not build war ships to maintain its dignity and command respect for it. He proposes what he thinks a better plan. He would "make our government the best on earth, and instead of having our flag float everywhere, let it stand for something wherever it floats."

This sounds well. Nearly everybody will agree that our government shall be made the best on earth, if it is not that already. But how shall the flag be made to stand for something unless sustained by something more than sentiment? What did it stand for in Mr. Jefferson's time when pirates insulted it on every sea, and even within sight of New York harbor?

Mr. Bryan seems to think that a flag or a government may maintain itself in this age and generation of the world by its goodness alone. But he will hardly be able to found a party on that idea.

A Cincinnati architect is said to have seriously informed the Ohio Mechanic's institute, at a recent meeting that a reasonable knowledge of cocktails is now almost a requisite in a technical education in engineering and architecture.

Every time a man spits on the street he ought to be thrown into jail, where he belongs. It is somewhat remarkable that the police commission does not attend to the enforcement of the law covering this matter.

Anyway, the democrats will have a nice sociable time at St. Louis.

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