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WORKING FOR A WORLD'S PEACE.

Assurances of continued peace with its neighbors in the society of nations is an asset which should be coveted by every country. Certain learned historians have pointed out that every war in the world's history could have been averted had a few level-headed men, representing the contending nations, met about a table and reached a compromise. Society has recognized the force of this argument as applied to individual cases only; it has abolished the code duello, but civilization has not yet reached that point where armed strife between nations, like armed strife between individuals, is under the ban.

But that stage of civilization may be not far distant. The establishment of the tribunal of The Hague was a long step in the direction of attaining the coveted goal. Recently a conference was held at Washington, presided over by Hon. John W. Foster, former secretary of state, that marks another step forward. Its purpose was to consider matters looking to the conclusion of an arbitration treaty with Great Britain similar in its general features to the treaty defeated in the United States senate in 1897. Such men as Edward Everett Hale, Andrew Carnegie, President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton, Hon. Frederick W. Seward, Governor Durbin of Indiana, President Jordan of Stanford, and Edward Rosewater, the distinguished editor of the Omaha Bee, addressed the gathering. The result of the conference was the adoption of a resolution advocating the treaty mentioned.

The language of the document sets forth that it is recommended to the government "to endeavor to enter into a treaty with Great Britain to submit to arbitration by the permanent court at The Hague; or, in default of such submission, by some tribunal specially constituted for the case, all differences which they may fail to adjust by diplomatic negotiations;" also it is recommended that the two nations agree not to resort in any case to hostile measures until after this means of settlement by arbitration has been exhausted and further the resolution recommends that our government should enter into treaties to the same effect as soon as practicable with other powers.

It is well and fitting that a proposition of this sort should come from the United States. If the treaties can be effected according to the suggestion, or even if only the one with Great Britain be effected, more will have been accomplished toward bringing about the world's peace than could be secured in a whole volume of pronouncements by a czar whose actions belie his soft words.

COMMON SENSE ON THE BENCH.

Justice Flemming of the N. Y. court of special sessions resents the imputation that "the law's an ass." There was a case before him and his colleagues relating to an illegal sale of lager beer, in which the plaintiff's counsel contended that the people must prove that the beverage sold to them had been "a fermented and malt liquor." Thereupon the learned judge responded that to require testimony from personal knowledge or the production of an expert analysis to establish that presumption would practically amount to a nullification of the law. He said it was a "fermented and malt liquor, and therefore judicial knowledge would be taken of the fact. Doubtless he had no thought of implying that all beer was just what it purported to be, but, so far as he was concerned, he was resolved that the law should not be made to appear ridiculous, and by way of making clear his point of view he told a little story.

About half a century ago there was a justice of the peace in Jamaica before whom an action was brought to recover a penalty for the sale of a quantity of whiskey under five gallons under the law then made and provided. It was proved that the defendant without a license, had sold a glass of whiskey, but his counsel moved for a dismissal of the case on the ground that there was nothing in the evidence to show that the glass did not contain five gallons or more. "In that case," said Judge Flemming, with a pleasant humor, "the motion was granted, but the venerable justice of the peace was acting alone and did not have

the experience of two others to aid him in matters of the kind."

This anecdote strikes us as an excellent illustration of the way in which some lawyers, who are officers of the court, and too often a court itself, strive to confirm the celebrated opinion which we cited at the beginning of this article. It is not given to laymen to penetrate the deeper mysteries which are an open book to the profession, but neither technical learning nor stupendous general intelligence is necessary to a perception of the fact that to this day the processes of justice are clogged and its light is obscured beyond all reason by such means as proved effective with the old-time Jamaica magistrate who has gone to his reward. It is therefore a cause for rejoicing when a judge sweeps such rubbish out of his court room.

THE DESTROYERS' GOOD WORK.

The flotilla of torpedo boat destroyers, under convoy of the cruiser Buffalo, departed from the Canary islands for Gibraltar a few days since, and are well upon the third stage of their journey toward the Philippines. Up to this time the torpedo flotilla has moved exactly on schedule time and had a voyage absolutely without incident beyond the ordinary.

When it was proposed to send these torpedo boat destroyers to the Philippines, there was a number of alarmists who rushed into print with a claim that it was taking a most desperate chance to send vessels with such relatively small tonnage upon such a very long voyage; and the navy department was censured for exposing the lives of officers and men to such unnecessary peril. All of this was rather ridiculous in view of the fact that torpedo boat destroyers, and, in fact very much smaller torpedo boats had been sent from Europe to Asiatic waters in large numbers, says the Post-Intelligencer.

No one who had any knowledge of the seaworthiness of these destroyers, which are vessels of some 420 tons displacement, had the slightest doubt of their fitness to make an ocean voyage; but in concession to uninformed public opinion the department detailed the cruiser Buffalo to convoy the flotilla, much to the disgust of the officers, non of whom could see the necessity of any such nursing.


The vessels, which are designed to reinforce the Asiatic fleet, and probably for permanent use in Asiatic waters, are the Decatur, Bainbridge, Barry, Chauncey and Dale. They are all new, having been launched within the past two years. All are of identical size and very similar power and speed. With the armaments which they carry, which includes 3-inch guns they are fitted to do the work of ordinary gunboats, in case of necessity; while their extraordinary speed renders them of value as dispatch boats for distances which they can cover with their normal supply of coal. They will be valuable additions to the Asiatic fleet; and it was sound policy to send them out there at this time.

PLUGGED \$20 GOLD PIECES.

Every time you get hold of a \$20 gold piece these days you should examine the edges very carefully and see if 16 small holes have been bored in it and filled up with brass or some other such base metal, suggests the Tacoma Ledger. It won't take most people very long to do this with all the twenties they get, but bank clerks and some others who handle a good many of them every day are likely to be losers if not careful. The mutilated coins are worth \$3.75 less than \$20.

It is curious that people will take the trouble to get \$3.75 worth of gold dust in this way and run the risk that goes with it. The labor of boring these sixteen and filling them as nicely as they are filled, and have to be filled, would doubtless earn \$3.75 in almost any honest employment. No risk would be taken and nobody would be wronged, but on the contrary everybody would be benefited, as he is by all honest effort is rich and can stand it, and to take a kind of satisfaction in their work for that reason. They do not take a cent from the government. Uncle Sam redeems no counterfeit coins nor plugged coins. He spends as much money as may be necessary every year to catch counterfeiters and coin mutilators of every sort. He seizes plugged coins and counterfeits of all sorts where ever found, and the people in whose hands they are found are the losers. The counterfeiter robs his neighbor just as any other thief does. He takes about twice the risk that other thieves take, for the government is on the watch at all times and no counterfeiter, great or small, can long remain at liberty.

Japan is divided, for military purposes, into seven districts, each of which is occupied by a division. The headquarters of these divisions are located respectively at Tokio, Sendai, Nagoya, Osaka, Hiroshima, Kumamoto, and Sapporo. There is also the Imperial Guard, with headquarters, of course, at Tokio; they are to be distinguished from other soldiers by having a red instead of a yellow band around the cap and are a picked corps, who present a very fine appearance. The war footing of the Japanese army exceeds 500,000 men, and its peace footing is almost 200,000; these figures take account only of combatants. The discipline courage and endurance of the Japanese have been clearly exhibited side by side with troops of Occidental nations in China, and have suffered naught by comparison.



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1408 Second Street, Louisville, Ky., April 14, 1908.

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