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### ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

#### AND ENGLAND AND FRANCE?

One of the most pointed of yesterday's cables to the Commercial Tribune was neither long nor official, says the Cincinnati paper, but it was pregnant of other troubles across the water, and it was in these words:

At Lloyds today 30 per cent was paid to insure against the risk of war between France and Great Britain within six months. Yesterday the rate was 20 per cent.

"Within six months" has a wide and an ominous latitude. Bound to Russia by treaty alliances and mutual interests, France is in a most peculiar and dangerous position. She is not required to aid Russia with men nor with ships unless Russia should be attacked by two powers. England is not hampered in any way as to any attitude she may desire to assume, and neither is Germany, while the other powers of Europe are as but pawns upon the board and need not be considered in the present possibilities, for not one is in position to attack, and few in position to be able even to defend against attack.

But China is a power—possibly to be despised—but still a power. She is an independent government, with troops and ships and knowing with absolute certainty that the success of Russia in the conflict with Japan means for herself the position of a Russian province, governed by a Russian viceroy, and her total extinction as a world power of any magnitude.

In the Chinese port of Shanghai the Russian cruiser the Mandjur, is bottled up, and on the outside are two first-class battleships awaiting her outcoming. Yesterday in an attempt to get out of the harbor she was chased by the Japanese and run back to anchorage, from which she has been preemptorily ordered away by the Chinese authorities, pursuant to the proclamation of strict Chinese neutrality. Having 24 hours in which to make up her mind, she will attempt to escape under cover of the night, and the rest is with the Japanese.

It may be the incident and the consequent anger of the czar may bring about a conflict with China, and in that event France would be bound to go to the assistance of Russia—and Lloyds know the drift of events. With France moving a man or a ship in aid of Russia, or furnishing her munitions of war, there would come the death grapple, with England's fleet sweeping the channel and the Armageddon of the giants would be on to the death. The successes of the Japanese are marvelous, and Russia must have assistance, even if she has to play most foully for it. The news henceforth will be even of greater interest and import than it has been.

#### HENS AS CIVILIZERS.

A correspondent at Panama says that eggs are worth 10 cents apiece and are sometimes difficult to obtain at that price. Eggs have been 4 or 5 cents each in Boston this winter, and not much less in New York. Even in western cities a fresh egg costs 3 cents. It is argued that at 5 cents the food value of an egg is at least equal to that of 5 cents' worth of steak or chops, leaving out the question of waste. It seems that the hen has not been fully appreciated. Professors of the "dismal science" of political economy have been so lofty in their views that they do the hen far less justice as a prominent force in the progress and enlightenment of the world. In the winning of the west, says the Globe-Democrat, the pin money of the pioneer mothers came chiefly from eggs, and fried chicken was the piece de resistance of the festal board when the hardy frontiersman kept advancing with a rifle in one hand and a hoe in the other. As a higher—at least more elaborate—social development is reached, the egg goes up in money value, and enters into the menu in such myriad forms that the student of civilization is compelled to admit that the hen can lay a claim to a manifest destiny along with other bipeds, some of which (tramps, for instance) can not be depended upon to produce anything worth even a penny while the earth performs a daily revolution.

Since eggs have risen in value, and are also subject to the doubtful blessing of cold-storage, why not

own 10,000 hens and take a short cut to opulence! Right there the hen draws the line. It is refractory on the subject of trusts. Eggs may be cornered, but not the hen. It is partial to a community of reasonable size. It likes an old-fashioned farm, where there is room to skirmish for a living, with its pretty progeny scampering here and there through the grass. No skyscrapers or huge rows of prison coops for the hen. It goes out of business if too extensively systematized as a commercial proposition. As a consequence no hen syndicate has been formed, with the usual capitalization of \$100,000,000. Promoters have been unable to subdue the hen to their purposes. And yet the hen lays one of the golden eggs of commerce and is a big fact in modern existence. It is worth scientific investigation and a reasonable degree of intelligent attention. But don't try to govern the hen too much, or organize it in big egg factories seven stories high. In that case the stockholders will finally have to charge up the plant to profit and loss, and chase the grasshoppers themselves as a means of subsistence.

#### THE JAP'S "SINEWS OF WAR."

Seventeen Japanese residents of New York city, representing the more important among the numerous Japanese commercial and financial interests there have formally agreed to raise a fund of \$5,000,000 with which to aid their country in its war with Russia. A public meeting of Japanese residents of New York will be called at an early date and furtherance of this plan, and it is confidently predicted that fully \$500,000 a month can be remitted to the government from the American metropolis, if need be, during the continuance of the war.

This is strikingly indicative of Japanese patriotism, says the New York Commercial. No matter in what corner of the world the Japanese casts his lot, his intense love of country remains with him to the end, and he can always be depended upon to make any reasonable sacrifice for the mother country—to go home and fight for her, even, if his services are thus required. This quality exists, too, without the slightest inclination to national isolation among Japanese colonies in foreign lands. Here in the United States our Japanese immigrants take with remarkable readiness to our business and social customs and adjust themselves speedily, and without much effort apparently, to our manner of life in general. Their moral standards are very high, they are generally very ambitious, and their industry, intelligence and thrift are proverbial. And they are modest and unobtrusive withal.

In New York there are at least 1500 Japanese. With remarkable few exceptions they are well-to-do, and many of them moderately wealthy. They can easily raise \$5,000,000 for aid in prosecuting this war—twice that should their country need it.


The Russian colony in New York doubtless outnumbered the Japanese more than ten to one, all contributing provinces and dependencies of the Masovite empire being included. It would be something of a surprise, however, to learn of a war fund being raised in this colony with which to aid the czar in pushing the "Russian advance" southward.

Let us assure our estimable friend, the Oregonian, that we still believe that Portland demands a bar that will fit the Portland channel. As for the Indrasambha she was merely lucky, as her pilot, Captain Pease, stated to a representative of The Astorian. She caught the tides just right and made a lively passage down the river. She was compelled to lie in the lower harbor for 10 days or more because of severe storms then raging, and would have remained there during that period even had there been a depth of 30 feet in the harbor entrance. We beg to further assure the Oregonian that it will not be necessary for the people of Astoria to blow Tongue Point over into the channel of the river in order to block navigation above this city. The port of Portland's Snag island jetty is accomplishing that result, and incidentally ruining Astoria's upper harbor, to say nothing of altering conditions at the mouth of the river. It might also be proper to observe at this time that the bar dredge Chinook is to be given a fair trial.

The movement started last night for a sea wall along the water front is one of the most important steps ever undertaken in Astoria. Certain it is if the city is ever to attain commercial greatness the water front must be improved. The time is ripe to make the improvement, which will be far less expensive than at a later date when the front is lined with warehouses. Every property owner should attend the meeting Tuesday night. It is to his interests to do so.

The National Woman Suffrage Association has announced its determination of meeting in Portland in 1905. We thank the association for the warning and hope to be out of the state at the time of the convention.

It has been pertinently suggested that the society reporters will thrive at Port Arthur, where a surprise party or an engagement takes place almost daily.



## DECORATING

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LEAVE	PORTLAND	ARRIVE
8:00 a m	Portland Union Depot	11:30 a m
7:00 p m	Portland Union Depot	9:40 p m

ASTORIA		
7:45 a m	For Portland and Way Points	11:30 a m
6:10 p m		10:30 p m

SEASIDE DIVISION		
8:15 a m	Astoria for Warrenton, Flavel, Stevens, Hammond and Seaside	7:40 a m
11:35 a m		4:00 p m
5:50 p m		10:45 a m

6:15 a m	Seaside for Warrenton, Flavel, Hammond, Stevens & Astoria	12:50 p m
9:30 a m		7:20 p m
2:30 p m		9:25 a m

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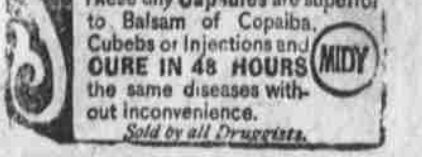
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