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MANCHURIA AND OUR TRADE.

The idea that Manchuria is but a vast bleak and barren domain, quite common on this side of the world, is entirely erroneous. The immense value of that country, the real underlying ground of contention not merely between Russia and Japan, in a sense, the world's mandatory, but also between semi-Asiatic Russia and the leading powers, becomes every day more apparent. Wise therefore and timely is the latest diplomatic contention that Manchuria with its enormous resources and its astonishing productive capacity, shall not be alienated from China with her Man Chu dynasty; the pledge obtained from Russia by the powers concerned will be absolutely valueless unless Japan's pre-emptory and resolute action has again made this a definite issue.

It is not a question now of pandering to Christian Cossack susceptibilities or of estimating too closely what dangers, if any—as is believed in Germany—may arise in a retroceded Manchuria, should the crude polytheism of Holy Russia and the bloody knout of its religious agents be supplanted still further by the mild and inoffensive Buddhist doctrine. That is not the concern of a commercial power like the United States. Pious and, withal, so practical England is not worrying, we may be certain, as to how much more efficacious toward the world's progress is an "eikon" than a Buddhist praying-wheel. There are countless millions of the Buddhist creed. It is not they who are disturbing the peace of the world but an ostentatiously and essentially Christian power.

To appreciate the full value of Manchuria we can not do better than to return to a recent report of J. W. Davidson, the United States consul at Formosa. He paints a very attractive picture of the present condition of Manchuria. As to its not being able to support an army of occupation, we are told that the wheat and beef industries there have developed so rapidly that within a very short time the country will be independent of all outside supplies of beef and flour. All along the line of the railway splendid cities are springing up, and of these Harbin is the greatest. This place, only three years old, has now a population of 40,000 Russians. Mr. Davidson says that this will be one of the most important cities of the far east. It has commercial stability. Harbin will be the great railway center of all Manchuria, and engine shops costing \$1,250,000 are now being built there. Its industrial and commercial aspects include large flour mills and important wholesale flour establishments.

Mr. Davidson is concerned with the effects of Russian occupation upon American commerce. American trade with Manchuria will suffer, he thinks, much more than British. The products despatched to Manchuria from England are not largely produced in Russia, but kerosene oil, cotton goods, flour and timber, which constitute the bulk of American shipments to Manchuria, are very largely produced by Russia. Moreover, Manchuria-grown wheat, the production of which is increasing tremendously, is much cheaper than American or Russian wheat. The city of Harbin alone now produces more than 800,000 pounds of flour daily. Mr. Davidson urges on his countrymen that they must develop the American trade with Manchuria on entirely new lines. This report, written before the outbreak of the present war, now possesses an added significance. Just at present Japan is fighting our battles.

THE LATEST HEALTH FAD.

A few days ago New York had a visitation by comparison with which the Dowie crusade pales into commonplaceness.

There suddenly appeared upon her frozen streets a man of magnificent physique, clad in a pair of open sandals, one long robe of thin material and absolutely nothing more.

The sandals were a concession to his feet, as he is not accustomed to pavements, and his robe was a concession to the police. What he wore when passed inspection of the immigration officials on landing from Holland, whence he came, it would be curious to know, says the P.-I.

His name is John Solomonson and he comes to make converts to a new cult which may develop into a religion if everything goes favorably. He be-

lieves in a return to primitive nature, not merely as a cult but as a perpetual condition in life.

This generation wears much more clothing than Adam and Eve, and he thinks they were overdressed. If the men and women of today would be sensible in this matter and then betake themselves to the fields and forests Mr. Solomonson thinks they would develop—into a higher grade gorilla it may be surmised.

The highest development, however, could be attained only after a perpetual renunciation of all meat, all salt and all liquids. Nuts and fruit are the proper thing, and when you feel thirsty you may just moisten your mouth with the juice of a fruit.

It is sad to know that this apostle of simplicity in an age of luxury should have attracted the hearty admiration only of the small boys, who greeted his appearance and progress with wild acclaim.

AN OFFENSIVE STATUTE.

Is everything to become the subject of statutory regulation? asks the Call. Is all grace and garnish to be banished to conform to the merely external form provided by an act entitled an act? The Virginia legislature proposes to compel by law circus posters to tell the truth, and nothing but the truth!

Are the people to be deprived of the pleasures of the many colored circus poster by bringing it down to the dead level of mere facts? Are we to read no more of "the only greatest show on earth. The combined combinations and aggregations of the Princess of the ring, the Empresses of the equestrianism and the only wonder of wonders now on the road?" Are we to part with the pleasures of the imagination, and see it all brought down to a statement that men and women will ride around a ring?

The proposed law applies to the pictures as well as to the text. We are to see the circus ladies pictured as plain as they are, and not as prize winners at a world beauty show. We will have none of such a law. Life requires every possible diversion from its hard duties and various vexations. And now, just as the traveling shows have decided to omit the street parade, the cold and unfeeling law of the land proposes to stretch forth and tear from the circus poster its beauty and style.

In the great name of the rising generation, we file a protest thus far in advance of the next session of the legislature, lest this more than Puritan proposition gain a foothold here.

It is astonishing how little the average American knows of his own country and its history. There is not more than one in ten who can tell you how many states there are in the union; one in a hundred, perhaps, could name the presidents in order and about the same proportion could tell you the number of the present congress. The cabinet officers and their duties; the heads of the judiciary and the workings of that department; the plan and extent of our diplomatic relations with other countries—these are matters the average citizen knows and cares little about. Few, indeed, but have a very vague idea of the immense area of our country and our possessions.

Russia has decided that under the exigencies of war she must abandon her proposed representation at the St. Louis Exposition. She is at present fully occupied in blowing up her own ships and defending herself as surely and inevitably by stupid blundering as if she were an active ally of her enemy.

It is understood that Postmaster-General Payne will retire from office at the end of this presidential term, even though President Roosevelt is re-elected. His health is not good, and he feels, furthermore, that his private interests demand his attention.

There are today 5,000,000 day laborers in this country. One and one fourth million belong to national trades unions, another million to trades unions not yet national in their scope and the remainder comprise the army of unorganized labor.

According to the figures of the labor bureau at Washington, there have been more than 22,000 strikes in the past 20 years, and these have involved a loss to employers of \$1,000,000,000, and to workmen of three times that much.

The men who mind their own business are sure to succeed, since they have so little competition. The man who is trying to regulate the business of a whole neighborhood has a large contract on his hands.

According to the expense account of the United States senate, 30,000 quinine pills were consumed by that body during the last year. No wonder then, there is so much bitterness in that body.

Of the \$676,023,592 wages paid by railways of the United States, 2 per cent goes to general officers, 15 per cent to other officers, engineers and conductors and 83 per cent to the employees.

It is an old saying that postmasters seldom die and never resign. But during the last fiscal year 713 postmasters died and 8,344 resigned.

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7:00 p m		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 Fort 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, Fort Stevens & Astoria	12:00 p m
9:30 a m		7:20 p m
2:30 p m		9:25 p m

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