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THE RULES OF WAR.

The Russian rules of war, which have at last been promulgated, present in at least one respect, a marked contrast to the Japanese, and suggest possibility of controversy concerning them, says the New York Tribune. In part, they are undoubtedly just and worthy of general approval. Thus they reaffirm the principle that a free flag makes free goods, and that neutral goods are free even when under the enemy's flag—always excepting in both cases, of course, goods that are contraband of war. Those principles the world owes to Frederick the Great of Prussia, who put them forth at the time of the Seven Years' War. They were then taken up by Franklin and by him impressed upon the French government which in turn got Russia to accept and proclaim them during our revolution. After a century and a quarter of adherence to them, there was no fear that Russia would renounce them now. Nor, after half a century of practical universal acceptance of them, is there danger of repudiation by any nation that wishes to remain in the company of civilized states. The principle that blockade to be respected must be effective is also reaffirmed, as was to be expected.

The crux of the matter lies in the designation of exceptions to the rules concerning merchandise—that is, in declaring what goods are contraband of war. Concerning some goods there can be no question. Arms, ammunition, military equipments, warships and their equipments are universally recognized as coming under the ban. But it will be observed that Russia puts coal, oil and all kinds of fuel on the contraband list absolutely. It is doubtful if such classification will meet the approval of all other powers. No doubt fuel intended for a warship is as much contraband as is the ammunition for its guns. But is coal or oil that is not for military use but for the peaceful uses of non-combatants, contraband? Surely it should not be so classed. It may be hard in some cases to determine for what use it is intended. But those Russian rules give no hint that any attempt will be made at such discrimination or even that such goods would be exempt from seizure if their non-belligerent destination were proven. The same is true of telegraph and telephone instruments and material. Whether it is true of all food supplies is not quite clear, the clause dealing with them being obscurely worded. It is to be wished that the intent had been more unmistakably expressed. What we have said in regard to fuel applies also to food. Its character as contraband or non-contraband depends upon its destination and intended use.

The chief difference between the Russian and Japanese pronouncements upon this subject is that the Japanese divide goods into two classes, those that are essentially and invariably contraband and those that may be or may not be contraband, according to circumstances, while the Russian makes no such distinction, but classes fuel, oil, spirits and perhaps food in the same category with arms and ammunition and warships. We should be sorry to believe the Russian government intended to enforce the rules as harshly and unvaryingly as they are expressed. There is room for hope that it will not, seeing that the czar has ordered the release of various cargoes of coal bound for Japan which were seized by his warships in the Red sea. There is an ominous touch, however, in the declaration that Russia reserves the right to modify or make exceptions to the rules as she pleases to suit special cases, so that she might abrogate the rule that neutral goods are exempt from capture in the case of some country that had incurred her suspicion or displeasure. Of course, we have no notion that she dreams of any such extreme step; but her proclamation opens a possible way for it. We do not look for any trouble, or for even the least controversy, with her over the matter of neutral or contraband goods; but the possibility of any difference on the subject between her and any country would have been made much less had her "rules of war" been more explicit in some respects and more discriminating in others.

JUSTICE FOR CAPTAIN DREYFUS.

Time works wonders, says the Ledger. One of the best things time does is to cool the passions of men. Things are said and done in the heat of passion that

seem infinitely silly in the perspective of recollection. France was worked up to a pitch of intense excitement over the Dreyfus case a few years ago. Over there the presumption is that if a man is accused of crime he is certainly guilty, and unless he can establish his innocence by a preponderance of evidence there is no chance for him. It had been discovered that some traitor connected with the French army was selling military secrets to the German and Italian governments. In France it does not pay for a stranger to be inquisitive about fortifications, means of defense, military maneuvers or matters of that kind. Questions on such subjects bring the inquirer under suspicion and he is apt to be reported to the police authorities and watched. To understand the popular feeling that was aroused against Dreyfus in France it is necessary to bear in mind a number of differences between their system and ours. Frenchmen are trained to regard military secrets as inviolable, and that a stranger or foreigner is warned not to ask about, a Frenchman would be despised for revealing, especially for money, to a foreign power. The crime with which Dreyfus was charged was hideous, there was a legal presumption of guilt, and, to make matters worse, the young officer was a Jew.

Probably the infamous scoundrels who charged Captain Dreyfus with treason selected him as their victim because they knew popular feeling would be more easily aroused against a member of a race that has never been popular in France. The anti-Semitic agitation has been one of the most disgraceful and indefensible movements that has arisen in France. It was easy to work up feeling and prejudice against Dreyfus, but it seems incredible that he should have been convicted without the slightest show of proving his innocence. One of the peculiar and discreditable features of his first court-martial was that Dreyfus was not allowed to hear the evidence offered against him, and the court took the declaration of Colonel Henry that Dreyfus was certainly guilty as evidence of the fact. Dreyfus was publicly degraded and sent to Devil's island, and France gloated over his downfall. He was absolutely innocent of the charge against him.

There were some brave men who were convinced of Dreyfus' innocence and sought to secure justice for him. They were persecuted without mercy. The sacrifices of Zola and Colonel Picquard and Maitre Labori and others in Dreyfus' behalf will go down in history as truly heroic. But it has taken years for the first impression that Dreyfus must be guilty to wear off. The court of cassation annulled the first conviction, ordered Dreyfus brought back to France, and retired, and again he was convicted, though there was no evidence that would justify a conviction at common law. Now the court of cassation has granted an application in Dreyfus' behalf for a review of that second conviction and the final decision of that tribunal may be awaited with confidence. The best news from France in connection with the Dreyfus case is the change in public feeling regarding him. Time has softened prejudices and restored sight to the blind. There were few Frenchmen who could believe that Dreyfus by any possibility could be innocent long after the rest of the world was convinced of it. It is fortunate that Dreyfus lives to see justice in sight.

THE LATEST WAR.

The latest war in evidence is that over the kind of music that is to be rendered at the St. Louis exposition. The committee having the music in charge seems to be quarreling over the subject. One class of people wants the official music program to be classic in character, declaring that music of the highest order would best befit the dignity of the great exposition. Another class wants a plentiful sprinkling of "rag time" music, on the ground that music of this character would best please "the common" people, whose ears are not attuned to such high grade classic music. As the so-called "common people" will in all probability far outnumber those who are educated up to a comprehension of a higher grade of music it would seem that the "rag time" advocates should have their way.

The advocates of high grade classic music, however, are reported to be strenuous in their insistence that only that class of music shall be rendered and the advocates of "rag time" are reported to be in a minority, although they have not yet given up their labors to secure music that shall please the masses.

Here is a chance for arbitration and compromise. A mixture of classic and rag time music would gratify all classes of visitors to the exposition. The managers of the exposition can afford to abandon at least the proposed "high" character of their music scheme in the interests of the people. If, however, the managers shall hold to their determination to have none but classic music played there will undoubtedly be not only plenty of "rag time" music rendered on the midway, but music of every kind to suit the fancy of the unrefined.

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ASTORIA

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

SEASIDE DIVISION

6:15 a.m.	Astoria for War-	7:40 a.m.
11:35 a.m.	renton, Flavel, Fort	11:10 a.m.
5:50 p.m.	Stevens, Hammond	10:45 a.m.

6:15 a.m.	Seaside for War-	12:00 p.m.
9:30 a.m.	renton, Flavel, Fort	7:30 p.m.
2:30 p.m.	Hammond, Fort	9:25 a.m.

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