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FIREWORKS AND PATRIOTISM.

Police Commissioner Gordon and members of the city council have in view the enactment of an ordinance restricting the use of firecrackers as a means of celebrating a certain historical occasion of considerable moment and other occasions of less importance. At the next meeting of the council, if the city attorney finds time to prepare the measure, it will be brought up for action, and doubtless passed. If the council happens to enact this proposed bill, it will not have labored thus long in vain.

It is somewhat singular but nevertheless true, that the ordinary man wants to make noise when he feels good. The average drunkard, for instance, wants to exercise his vocal organs in a vigorous manner, and if your candidate happens to be elected the desire to shout comes over you, and you will seldom be satisfied until this desire has been appeased. The conservative element smiles quietly at victory, but the proposed ordinance is not intended for this class of people. It aims to keep within proper bounds the enthusiastic throng that lets its enthusiasm interfere with the rights and liberties of those whose sentiment, while perhaps quite as deeply-rooted, does not manifest itself so boisterously.

These vigorous celebrants of ours have operated under the license which patriotism affords on most occasions. On the Fourth of July the man with a liking for pistol practice may march up and down the busy street with a revolver in each hand and to his heart's content tear holes in the atmosphere. At any other time of the year, except, perhaps, New Year's morn, the police would swoop down upon him and throw him into jail. On the somewhat ridiculous hypothesis that he is showing his patriotism, this man with the acute desire for use of firearms is permitted to run at large, notwithstanding the fact that he occasionally shoots out the eye of some near and dear friend, or frightens a team of horses that, dashing through crowded thoroughfares, runs down and kills some hapless child.

A moment's reflection will probably convince most right-minded people that a patriotic demonstration ought not to convert this nation into a land of howling lunatics. Just because the Fourth of July rolls around once a year it ought not of necessity follow that the small boy shall be permitted to throw a bursting firecracker into the face of some passerby, or that the enthusiastic adult shall be licensed to explode a bomb at the feet of some unthinking person who has stopped on the corner to wait for his car. Even on the glorious Fourth, when the eagle is screaming and the lad of lads is devising ways and means of acquiring a bountiful supply of gunpowder tightly wrapped in paper, the well-balanced man ought to be allowed to walk down the street with his little girl without having to run the gauntlet of exploding firecrackers hurled at his head by the enthusiasts who have been carried away with the general lunacy of the occasion.

Now, we would not discourage patriotism, but did you ever enjoy the delightful sensation of exploding firecrackers in your coat pocket? Did the nape of your neck ever provide the resistance necessary to the explosion of a torpedo? Did some acquaintance ever set off quite near to you a giant cracker or a miniature cannon, injuring the drum of your ear to such extent that you were unable to hear properly for months? Was your little girl ever burned to death as the result of a firecracker carelessly thrown or was your son's eye put out or his hand blown off on the nation's natal day?

If anything of this sort has ever happened you, or come under your observation, you may have some little appreciation of the ridiculous extent to which a patriotic demonstration may be, and usually is, carried. In all reason, we submit that the occasion does not warrant it. Patriotism, we agree, is a mighty good thing; but there is a place for lunatics. The temporarily insane individual who promiscuously hurls his firecrackers at sane people very greatly resembles the rowdy who throws water-soaked showballs at everyone who chances to pass.

If the council can enact some measure which will have a tendency to restrain such persons, it is to be hoped the law will be provided without delay.

JAPAN'S CHANCES ON LAND.

The pro-Russian element in the United States, confessedly discouraged because of the repeated defeats which have been administered to the czar's fleets by the Japanese, has found consolation in the thought that Russia would even matters when operations on land were begun. It expresses confidence that the Russian soldiers will annihilate the Japanese forces, and readily figures that the advantage thus far gained by Japan will be conveniently overthrown.

There is no theoretical occasion for a belief of this kind. Modern military experts calculate that one 20th century soldier, acting on the defensive, is equal to five soldiers on the offensive. This comparison of fighting strength is made with due regard for the entrenchment of the soldier on the defensive. Behind his modern military breastworks he is able to successfully contend against five adversaries. It was different 50 or 100 years ago, when armies battled man for man and the bravest and best fighters won. Then numbers counted; now the offensive party has all the worst of matters.

It will thus be seen that, if the Japanese are able to land 250,000 men in Korea—a military accomplishment of comparative ease—the services of more than 1,000,000 Russian soldiers will be required to successfully oppose them. From what little we have been able to observe of the Jap soldier, he is quick-witted and brave. He is reared to die for his country, and courts so glorious a death. He is, to be sure, more or less, an unknown quantity, but there is no reason to doubt that he will prove quite as proficient on land as his brothers have at sea.

With the 5-to-1 advantage which modern warfare affords him, the Japanese soldier ought to give a very creditable account of himself in the land engagement to follow in the far east, and prove a very formidable opponent for the valorous Russian soldiery.

A corn-fed philosopher, who probably gets paid for such work, figures out that corn stands first on the list of cereals. He reckons as follows: Where the corn of seven corn states loaded on wagons, forty bushels to the load, and placed so that the heads of the horses would come just to the rear endboard of the proceeding wagon, and it were possible for this line of march to cover the land and sea, an average year's crop from these seven corn-growing states would make a complete belt of corn wagons six times around the world. Place the crop of 1902 in cars holding 500 bushels each, and allow forty feet for car and coupling, and we would have a continuous freight train 38,378 miles long. After considering these figures one really believes that, in the list of cereals, corn stands first in point of acreage, yield and value.

William R. Hearst now operates a daily paper in Boston, the Boston American and New York Journal, as the new paper is called. Mr. Hearst owns seven daily newspapers—the New York Morning American, the New York Evening Journal, the Chicago Morning American, the Chicago Evening Examiner, the San Francisco Examiner, the Los Angeles Examiner, and the Boston American. He is about to launch a newspaper enterprise at St. Louis.

The number of soldiers engaged in the war of the revolution was 184,028; in the war with France, 3,216; in the war of 1812, with Great Britain, 286,730; in the Seminole war in Florida, 22,795; in the Mexican war, 78,718; in the rebellion, 2,213,363; in the Spanish war, 312,000; in the Philippines, 149,438.

William R. Grace, who is dead at New York at the age of 72, was a multi-millionaire who turned his riches to good account. His was a life of charity, and for his kindly deeds his name will live. He was twice mayor of the American metropolis, having been elected in 1881 and 1886.

The coincidence is noted that the date selected for holding the democratic national convention in St. Louis, July 6, is also the date on which the 50th anniversary of the birth of the republican party will be celebrated in Jackson, Mich.

The crew of the 12-inch gun on the battleship Wisconsin, at target practice in the Philippines, fired 10 shots in 10 minutes, hitting the target, 10x16 feet, nine times at 2000 yards. It establishes another world's record.

Those who regard Booker Washington as a noble example of what an educated negro might be overlook the fact that Washington's mother was a mulatto—a quarter-breed—and that his father was a white man.

The bear has a short tail, but it doesn't interfere with his roaring when the appendage is twisted.

Man wants but little here below—but he's mighty fastidious about the quality of it, usually.

Buffalo Bill is up against the greatest adventure of his career. He is getting a divorce.

Pity the poor Russian baby who is named "Alexieff Knopotkin Skybeloffskyvitch."

A Desirable Hand Book on the World's Fair, issued by The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

Perhaps the best treatise on the World's fair at St. Louis is that published by the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, in an illuminated folder of eighty-four pages, setting forth the attractions of the great fair in a most admirable and complete manner. It contains some sixty-eight views of buildings, including maps of St. Louis, the original Louisiana purchase, and the World's fair grounds. It is a resume of what may be seen at the exposition, giving interesting and valuable information in a way, that one who starts to read, can hardly lay the booklet down until he has read its entire. Aside from its contents, its artistic appearance in the standard colors of the "Royal Blue and Sepia" makes it a thing to be desired. It may be had free on application to any of the Baltimore & Ohio ticket agents, or by addressing H. N. Austin, general passenger agent, Chicago, or D. B. Martin, manager passenger traffic, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Baltimore.

Mysterious Targets in Yard.
 New York, March 22.—The ordinance department at the Brooklyn navy yard is wondering what is to be

done with three huge targets which arrived here from Newport this morning in a badly battered condition in tow of the navy tug Peoria. There is considerable mystery as to the whereabouts of the targets during the winter months and their arrival here today was wholly unexpected by the yard officials. They were used in the naval maneuvers off the Maine coast last summer, and were, after being badly damaged by the big guns of the north Atlantic squadron, ordered to be brought to the Brooklyn navy yard to receive repairs that would put them in good condition again.

For some reason these orders were not carried out, and the ordinance department officers were consequently very much surprised when the valuable targets were conveyed in this morning. They will be repaired here now and the parts that were shot away during practice will be replaced.

Child Found Dead.
 New York, March 22.—Friends of Isaac Zarowitz, 5 years old, of 166 Madison street, Manhattan, early this morning found him dead in the rear of and adjoining building. After school hours he had gone to play with his companions. Heart disease is supposed to have caused his death.

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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.	Way Points	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.	Warrenton, Flavel, Stevens, Hammond and Seaside	4:00 p.m.
6:50 p.m.	Hammond, Fort Stevens & Astoria	10:45 a.m.

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

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