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ATTITUDES TOWARD RUSSIA.

There is a certain significance in the present war which from the point of view of philosophical history deserves for more attention than it has yet received. It was just half a century since Russia had engaged in war with a first-class power. In that time she had made enormous territorial gains, some of which were offensive to other nations. But no serious attempt, unless on one occasion, had been made to check her advance. There had grown up a tradition that she could not be checked. It was not based upon her proved prowess in war, for, as a matter of fact, she had never, unassisted, won a war with a great civilized power. Her victories have been gained through diplomacy. At times her diplomacy has excited the resentment of other governments, which found themselves outwitted or otherwise beaten in the game. She has been even charged with bad faith and lack of truthfulness. But no nation until now has ventured to do more than to protest or to rail against her. There has been an unwritten rule that Russia must not be opposed with force.

This attitude toward Russia has arisen chiefly from the habit of taking that country at its own estimate of itself. When Russia declared she was seeking only her rights, other nations acquiesced without venturing to challenge or even to scrutinize her alleged rights. When Russia vaunted herself upon her overwhelming power, the others conceded that she was indeed too strong for them to overcome. This curiously obsequious attitude has been displayed by no power more markedly than by Great Britain, the very power that has theoretically been Russia's chief opponent. Note, for example, the case of the Afghan boundary. In 1872 Russia agreed with Great Britain exactly upon that boundary, and it was marked upon both Russian and British maps precisely the same, as definitely as any boundary line on any map in the world. For a dozen years there was no dispute over it. Then Russia suddenly challenged the correctness of the very line she herself had accepted. Had the British government insisted that the matter had been settled, Russia would doubtless have acquiesced. But it did not do so. On the contrary it promptly conceded that, since Russia disputed the boundary, the boundary must be in dispute. The case was reopened, a commission was appointed, and Russia succeeded in changing the boundary so as to secure for herself a large and valuable slice of territory.

Now, these things are not to be recalled by way of censuring Russia. Her policy may at times be devious. But what are we to say of her policy in other lands—of Prussia's in Schleswig-Holstein, of France's in Madagascar and Siam? British administration of Egypt has been and is a blessing; but many would prefer that Mr. Gladstone had not made that promise of withdrawal which he did not keep and which his successors have not fulfilled and will not fulfill. United States possession of Texas and California has been and is a good thing, but the chapter of our diplomatic history which tells how it was effected is not to be read with pride. It is well to go slowly, therefore, in condemning Russia for the qualities which have made her policy so notably and almost invariably successful. Moreover, we must remember the temptation of her opportunity.

If other nations are so ready to acquiesce in whatever Russia says or does, it is only human nature that she should generally say and do whatever most pleases her and most serves her own interest. The roll of the world's nations bears no such name as Altruria.

But what is significant is that now, for the first time in half a century, a nation disregards the Russian tradition, as we may call it, and ventures to oppose Russia's policy with force of arms. It is a new experience for Russia, and is something of a surprise to the world, that Japan should venture to dispute the validity of Russia's claims and should even call into question the assumed omnipotence of the great northern power. This is the fact which the philosophic historian of these times will not fail to consider. Whether Japan is justifiable or is prudent, or is likely to be successful, in the course she is pursuing—these are questions with which we are not at

this moment concerned. The present observation of race interest is that while for half a century Russia has been doing substantially as she pleased, with no one to hinder and with a prospect of continuing so to do for an indefinite time to come, there now suddenly steps forward the newest of the great powers to challenge her and to resist her and to compel her to vindicate her diplomacy, if she can, by conquering in war. There have been few more interesting spectacles in our time. It is an incident which must strongly affect the attitude of other nations toward Russia, and of Russia toward other nations; and, we may hope, with ultimate profit to them all.

BOSTON'S NEW ELEVATED CARS.

Boston is about to adopt a system of cars on its elevated road that promises to go a great way toward putting an end to jams on elevated stations in rush hours and that will make it next to impossible for such accidents to occur as the one that took place on the Sixth avenue elevated in this city a few weeks ago, by which a young woman lost her life, says the New York Commercial.

On these cars the end platforms are to be abolished altogether, and instead of a door at each end, there are to be three doors on each side of the car, one in the center to be used solely by passengers intending to get off and one next to either end of the cars, to be used solely by persons intending to get aboard. By this arrangement passengers will be able to get off without being compelled to fight their way through a crowd in the aisles and on the car and station platforms, and persons intending to get aboard will be able to do so without having to wait for passengers to alight. Neither stream of persons will come in conflict with the other, and—by no means the smallest advantage of the scheme—women will not be compelled to push through a crowd of men on the car platforms, one of the most annoying nuisances connected with the elevated system of New York city, especially when the no-smoking rule is being violated by them.

The arrangement is perfectly practicable and it is safe to say that it will not be long before public sentiment will compel elevated lines everywhere to follow Boston's example.

The Ledger heartily seconds the proposal that the Washington delegation in congress should earnestly co-operate with the Oregon members of the senate and the house in protesting against the cutting down to \$475,000 of the appropriation for the Lewis and Clark exposition, says the Tacoma Ledger. The amount originally requested, something in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000, was doubtless high, and the senate cut the amount considerably, but not enough to occasion any disappointment at Portland. But the proposed reduction from \$1,700,000 to \$475,000 will compel the abandonment of many plans which, if carried out, would add greatly to the usefulness and attractions of the exposition. Of course \$475,000 is a substantial sum and not to be despised, but it does not appear to be unreasonable to call for more, and Washington is with Oregon in desiring to make the exposition as great a success as possible. It is to be hoped that the Washington senators and representatives will render efficient assistance in the matter. The Pacific northwest is a unit in support of the Lewis and Clark exposition.

It is rather curious that Lord Roberts, who has just retired, was only the 18th commander-in-chief that the British Army has had since the office was created in 1674. This gives an average tenure of nearly 13 years, which is a long time for any man to serve after working his way up to a lofty position. But at times the office has been vacant, and not all of the incumbents put their feet on all the rounds of the ladder. In earlier times the office was a perquisite of the great. Charles II appointed his son, the Duke of Monmouth, who was later beheaded. He was followed by the Duke of Marlborough. Lord Wellington was the fifteenth in succession, if reappointments be counted.

According to statistics collected by Chicago officials in 12 of the principal cities of the United States, foreign born residents constitute 26.1 per cent of the urban population, and they furnish 29.3 per cent of the prisoners arrested for all causes. In view of the fact that many foreigners offend against the laws through ignorance, the common assumption that there are more criminals among the foreign born than among the native born population is difficult of proof.

Discussing the police problem the Daily Journal says, "Paris isn't Portland." We hasten to congratulate Paris and hope she may continue to maintain her identity.

The council may have failed to build its city hall, but it has a chance to retrieve itself by building a city pound.

Fifteen railroads discharged 21,000 employes in the last three months.

Pears'

the soap which began its sale in the 18th century, sold all through the 19th and is selling in the 20th.

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Accused of Libel.

Tien Tsai, March 24.—Viceroy Yuan prohibited the Chinese from purchasing the Chinese newspaper Chihpao on the ground that it had published an untrue article referring to the bad conduct of the imperial troops on the border which tended, he claimed, to excite the people.

Jockey Retires From Turf.

New York, March 24.—Jimmy Mitchell will be seen no more in the United States as a racer, says the World. After attempting in vain at Jacksonville, Fla., to train off the effects of a fall in Berlin when his head was badly injured, he is stated to have sailed for his home in Wales with his brother.

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ASTORIA

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

SEASIDE DIVISION

6:15 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	12:50 p m
9:30 a m		7:20 p m
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