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THE RUSSIAN DISASTER.

Never before, so far as we can recall, has a great nation at war met with so many or such serious disasters through accident or blundering as has Russia thus far in her conflict with Japan, says the Tribune.

Some weeks ago, in discussing the comparative strength of the two belligerents, we called attention to the fact that, while the Russians had a fine navy, there was reason to doubt whether they were as skilled and as efficient in the use of its delicate yet powerful engines as were their antagonists.

Whatever fighting was done yesterday between the two fleets, and whatever were its results, the loss of the Petropaulovsk must alone be regarded as a great disaster to the Russians. At the beginning they had seven battleships to Japan's six.

ALASKA IN CONGRESS.

An interesting illustration of the manner in which the house of representatives discusses bills that are before it, and also of the degree of interest eastern people take of Pacific coast affairs, is shown in a report by one of our Boston exchanges of a recent debate on a bill to provide for a delegate in congress from Alaska, says the Call.

The report says that in the course of the debate "Mr. Granger of Rhode Island briefly discussed the business feature of the social system of the United

States, and Mr. Bowers of Mississippi answered some statements recently made by Mr. Gillett of Massachusetts regarding violations of the constitutions of some of the southern states with respect to negro suffrage. He made a comparison of the criminal statistics of Massachusetts and Mississippi and said these showed that the negroes in the latter state were six times better than those of Massachusetts.

After giving considerable space to all that was said upon the negro question, the report adds: "The Alaska bill was then laid aside and a bill was passed providing for the cession of 120 acres of land in Colorado to the Beecher Island Battle Memorial Association."

LABELING TREES.

Washington, D. C., is engaged in a movement that is regarded by its citizens as an example of a somewhat novel and emulative sort, says the Telegram. After considerable discussion among the park authorities in the national capital, there has come official announcement that a beginning has been made in labeling all the trees in the public parks of the District.

The Washingtonian who thinks that in this commendable move for the edification of the park-visiting public his city is leading all other municipalities in this broad land of ours, should restrain his swelling pride until he hears from Portland, Ore. Although on the sea-swept fringe of the wild and woolly west, as citizens of Portland it is our right to boast of a park commission that for more than a year has given us the benefit of an arrangement similar to that just inaugurated in Washington.

In the local city park there are approximately 60 varieties of trees and 40 varieties of shrubs, all of which are plainly designated by labels on zinc tags, fastened to the wood with zinc nails, to prevent discoloration from rust. From these can be learned both the popular and technical name by which tree or shrub is known.

Cardinal Satolli's proposed visit to the United States, privately and without a mission, is commented upon as the breaking of a papal tradition, as there is no recent record of a cardinal so closely attached to the papal court going abroad except as an ablegate.

The "Novoe Vremya" of St. Petersburg "sees" the much-worn "Yellow Peril" and goes it one better. The "Novoe Vremya" has discovered what it calls an "Anglo-Saxon Peril," and predicts that Russia, France and Germany will soon form a triple alliance to check it.

By raising the tariff on all oils intended for export from the modest sum of three kopeks per "pood" to ten the Russian government sees a way of greasing the wheels of the war god's car, so as to make it move without undue friction, as the other fellow then pays for the greasing. At least that is the way Russia figures it.

If the thug who killed himself at Hanford to evade the officers proves to be Fahey, the Folsom escape, he has gone on record as doing at least one good act in his life, that of relieving the people of the cost and trouble of his taking off.

The Democratic dissidents said it was not the custom to caucus till the night before the convention, but nice customs courtesy to great Kings county.

It's too bad about Hobson. But perhaps his opponent, Bankhead, stole his tactics and "kissed his way through," "way down in Alabama."

World's Fair Notes. Miss Ella Barrett of Solomon, Kans. will exhibit at the world's fair a table cloth valued at \$500.

A clock 300 years old and constructed entirely of wood will be shown at the world's fair.

Nine cars of exhibits from the republic of Mexico have already arrived at St. Louis where the world's fair Commissioners preceded them.

The largest electrical switchboard in the world, from which will be operated the enormous power for the exposition will be in the Palace of Machinery at St. Louis.

Oregon's state building at the world's fair is a reproduction of old Fort Clatsop, a log structure built from Oregon timber and adjoined by a large corral formed by upright cedar posts.

Steam was turned into the cylinders of the big Allis-Chalmers engine at the world's fair for the first time a few days ago and the largest engine in the world was set in motion. Its speed is 75 revolutions a minute and its generating force 5,000 horse power.

Idaho apples, kept during the winter in cold storage, are the star products of that state's fruit offerings in the Palace of Horticulture at the world's fair. Idaho fruit growers claim that they have Ben Davis apples as firm as winesaps and possessing a flavor that is unknown to the same variety raised in the east.

A brilliant polo season has been planned as one of the world's fair attractions. The leading polo teams of England and America will participate. The polo contests will occur on the Stadium, the program to be arranged by the National Polo Association of America.

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