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CONVENTIONS IN THE WEST.

An effort is being made by some of the commercial organizations of the west to take advantage of the meetings this year in St. Louis of 300 or more conventions and induce them, if possible, to convene next year in some city in the west, says the Call.

An idea of the importance of the matter may be gained by noting the following list of some of the meetings that will be held this year at St. Louis: Good roads congress, international congress of electricity, international congress of lawyers and jurists, congresses on engineering, temperance, Sunday rest, instruction of the deaf and an international library congress, national federation of musical clubs, federation of day nurseries, national co-operative congress, National Electric Medical Association, Sons of the American Revolution, railway clerks of America, Music Teachers' National Association, American Neurological Association, American congress on tuberculosis, National Educational Association, American Library Association, American League of Civic Improvement jointly with the American Park and Outdoor Art Association and the League of American Municipalities.

It is intended at all times during the existence of the St. Louis exposition to have a delegation of active western representatives attend every convention and advocate the interests of some city previously decided upon and to have all Pacific coast and western cities interested join in backing such action. It has been suggested that to promote unity an advance conference of those cities be held in San Francisco and the details of a working plan adopted.

Portland is particularly interested in the movement in view of the Lewis and Clark centennial exposition to be held there next year, and the Portland Commercial Club has already engaged a manager to work for the proposition.

The movement is a good one and the exceptional chance offered at St. Louis for concentrated effort should stimulate to action those cities that will profit by it. The United States is pre-eminently a convention country. There is a growing recognition here of the advantage to be derived from a general discussion by representative people of trade, finance, social, religious and fraternal matters. The city that can gain a reputation as a successful "convention city" is fortunate. It has the opportunity of entertaining those people who, as a rule, are prominent in their respective communities at a time when they are enjoying themselves by combining pleasure with business and are therefore in a favorable mood to be impressed.

For our western cities there is more than a temporary financial benefit to be obtained by entertaining such people. In their travels they cover pretty thoroughly all points of interest and thus see and become familiar with our great undeveloped resources, gaining a knowledge of them which could not otherwise be obtained. The dissemination of such knowledge to the greatest number should be our aim, and the plan to use the fair to that end should be heartily encouraged.

CHANCE FOR KING EDWARD.

If King Edward should succeed in bringing about amicable relations between Russia and Great Britain, as he did between England and France, it would be an event of world-wide importance, the benefits of which could not be confined to the nations immediately concerned. The arrival of St. Charles Hardinge, the new British ambassador to Russia, in St. Petersburg recently, has naturally provoked great interest in European diplomatic circles, because it is generally believed St. Charles is entrusted by the king with a special mission to the czar direct, the object of which is to reach an understanding whereby the respective spheres of influence of Russia and England in Asia shall be strictly defined, just as the

Anglo-French convention defined the spheres of those nations in Africa. Another important subject of negotiation will be the reduction of armaments on the Indian frontier, which now constitute an enormous and useless expenditure for both Russia and Great Britain.

Many Americans will naturally be skeptical as to the practicability of such a program. Yet it may prove to be no more difficult than the negotiations with France, which at the start seemed equally perplexing to most outsiders. For it must be remembered that Nicholas II. was the first to propose international disarmament a few years ago, and the recent Russian reverses in the far east may possibly have taught the czar's most bellicose advisers that reliance on mere brute strength is not, after all, the safest of anchorages. King Edward may yet be known in history as the great conciliator.

ADVISING MR. CARNEGIE.

Professor Goldwin Smith has written to Andrew Carnegie advising that "instead of spending so many millions in libraries, which would grow of themselves with the advance of civilization, he might do something to relieve the misery in the homes of the world's poor."

Professor Smith is not alone in thinking he could spend Mr. Carnegie's money more wisely than Mr. Carnegie spends it, says the Examiner, commenting on the professor's advice to the library enthusiast. Indeed, there never yet was a philanthropist whose neighbors could not tell him that he was making a fool of himself, not in being charitable, but it being charitable in the particular way that seems to him best.

The problem how to be most wise in giving has never been solved, and probably never will be absolutely. There are at least as many ways of giving as there are givers.

Mr. Carnegie's library idea may not be the best way of spending money for the benefit of others, but it has this merit—it brings nearer to the hand of every person the knowledge that is contained in books, and therefore stimulates ambition, and so indirectly may raise more men out of squalor than are to the credit of the home charities of which Professor Smith writes.

Considering what Andrew Carnegie is doing with his millions in comparison with the course of most other rich men, the issue should not be between library donations and "relieving the misery in the homes of the world's poor," but rather between what Carnegie is doing and what these other millionaires are failing to do.

The iron master's method of applying his money to the purchase of public libraries may not be the most beneficent form of philanthropy, but compared with employing that money to the incessant making of more for the exclusive benefit of his heirs it is good enough.

A professor in search of something to criticize should be able to select a subject more worthy of him than the method of a man who chooses to do good in his own way.

There is one clause in the local option law which is hardly fair, and which leaves an excellent opening for attack by the opponents of the measure. The bill provides that if a county votes against prohibition any precinct that has cast a majority for prohibition shall be declared prohibition territory. On the other hand, however, if a county votes for prohibition any precinct which might vote against it will be subject to the will of the majority of the voters of the entire county. The law does not work both ways in this respect, and as a result there is much antagonism to it.

General Kuropatkin is said to have carried his coffin to the front with him. The narrative goes that the good general had a dream (variety not stated) in which he imagined himself killed and thrown into a trench with the common soldiers who had been slaughtered in battle. It is up to the public to believe this story or conclude that Kuropatkin is merely running a bluff to make the czar think he intends going on the firing line.

We have for it the word of the Telegram that the Portland city council recently adopted a resolution without knowing it. In view of this remarkable circumstance, would it not be well for the members of that body to determine whether or not they are really councilmen?

Between having his picture taken out at the fair grounds and standing off the assaults of the goody people of the metropolis, Mayor Williams may well be regarded as an official who is earning his salary.

A Portland policeman confesses to having "taken" \$1. The incident is interesting as showing that there's nothing too small for a Portland official to "take."

It is reported that a combination has been effected in Ohio for the purpose of downing Hearst. This trust business is awful.

Now watch for the fireworks in the far east.

JUST FOR INSTANCE. It is thoughtful of Kuropatkin to carry a coffin since the Japs are about to carry everything in sight. And that it is better to die on the field than go home and be shot for not doing what Kuropatkin—according to the war department of benighted Russia. Oregon is still in the lead. One of her fair daughters has eloped in a baseball suit. Wouldn't that make you strike out? If Portland would transfer some of the people in the saloon box to the pitcher's box perhaps Duggdale's Browns would climb up the percentage column. Extra! Extra! St. Petersburg, May 25.—The rumor that Nicholas was going to take a cottage for the summer at Seaside is a false alarm. It's too near a bar, and Nick can't afford to see sea serpents this year! He's seeing things the way it is. LI LI KHEL. It's getting to be so talked about that even Alexeff now writes, "I-regatta-to-state." A millionaire in Chicago named Shurtleff has been robbed of his jewelry and plate. Still it can't be said he hasn't a Shurt to his name. And Judge Parker still saws wood! A girl named Hammer eloped from Philadelphia with a man named Hitt and it was up to the sheriff to NAIL them. And Philadelphians say they never SAW the like. And have placed the incident away in the FILES. It's a PLANE case, however. And on the SQUARE. And that's AWL. McCULLLEY. BECOMES RICH SUDDENLY. Workingman Advised He Has Fallen Heir to \$40,000. New York, May 25.—After having toiled for more than 13 years at \$2 a day as a custom house weigher in a sugar refinery here, Patrick G. Hennessey of Brooklyn, has suddenly found himself to be the heir of \$40,000. Hennessey became cognizant of his good fortune through an advertisement inserted in a daily paper here by a firm of London solicitors who have charge of the estate left by Hennessey's uncle. The latter was a wealthy merchant of Melbourne. He went to Australia in his youth and the nephew sought his fortune in America, never having seen his benefactor since childhood. METHODIST CONFERENCE. Still Rushing Through Business at Los Angeles. Los Angeles, May 25.—The Methodist conference today assigned the 16 bishops of the church to their respective residences for the next quadriennium, adopted the reports of the Epworth League committee and the committee on book concerns, balloted for editor of the Epworth Herald, and held brief memorial services in honor of the memory of some of the leading clergymen who have died within the past four years. DON'T GO TO ST. LOUIS. 'Till you call at or write to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Office 134 Thirt street, Portland, Ore. Low rates to all points east, in connection with all transcontinentals. H. S. ROWE, General Agent. "Neglected colds make fat graveyards." Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup helps men and women to a happy, vigorous old age.

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