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LESSONS FROM THE ORIENT.

Guns have triumphed in the far east, says the New York Tribune. That is the indubitable lesson of the two great sea fights. The Japanese victories were victories of guns. We do not mean of guns over armor merely, but of guns over torpedoes and, of course, over rams and all other devices of naval warfare. In the earlier stages of the Port Arthur war torpedoes and mines were used with some effect. Kipling's lines on "The Destroyers" were dramatized again and again under the shadow of Golden Hill. But those were mere feintings and preliminary skirmishes. In the real event, when fleet swung fairly out to meet fleet in the open, the day of the gun had dawned. Of all the tremendous damage that the Russian fleet suffered off Port Arthur and in the Korean strait, we do not know that any was done by torpedoes or mines. It was done with shot and shell from the guns of Japanese warships.

Note that it was done at long range. It was the policy of the Japanese, for obvious reasons, to avoid close quarters. At Port Arthur they did not permit their large ships to come within two miles of the enemy, and most of the fighting was done at a greater distance than that. The shot that killed Admiral Witthoeff and smashed his flagship was fired from several miles away. At such range torpedoes were not to be operated and mines were vain. It was the 12-inch guns of the battleships and the 8-inch guns of the cruisers that did the business. The Russians complain that the Japanese had a great many more torpedo boats than they, but at the same time they declare that the torpedoes did them no harm. In battleships the Russian fleet was as strong as the Japanese, but the Japanese battleships beat the Russian battleships. That was the story at Port Arthur. In the strait there were three Russian cruisers to four Japanese cruisers. The Russians, ship for ship, were much the larger, the three Russians having almost as much tonnage and almost as many men as the four Japanese. Yet the Japanese sent one Russian to the bottom and made floating wrecks of the others.

Russia's navy has for years been notoriously neglectful of target practice. Her appropriations of money for that purpose have been the smallest in Europe. Japan, on the other hand, has poured out money lavishly for naval target shooting, and for years has kept her gunners practising at short range and at long range, until they have become the best marksmen in the world—outside of America, let us hope we may add.

There is the story of ultimate naval efficiency. You must have the biggest and most powerful guns in the world. That means, of course, that you must have battleships big enough and strong enough to carry such guns. Finally, you must keep your gunners practising and practising and practising at the targets in time of peace until they can "hit the gold" at miles away; and then you will know that in time of war, if such time comes, they will send their bolts home to the vitals of the enemy's ships, as our men did at Santiago and as the Japanese did in the strait and in the Yellow sea.

WASHINGTON LANDS.

During the fiscal year ending June 30 last, says the Tacoma Ledger, the number of entries of public lands in Washington was 9,989, embracing 953,069 acres, as compared with 14,085 entries, embracing 1,410,157 acres of public domain in this state during the year 1902-3. The cash receipts during the last fiscal year amounted to \$76,000 as compared with \$1,194,716 during the previous year.

Reasons may be found for the falling off which the not inconsistent with the theory that there has been no large decline in the movement of homeseekers to Washington during the last twelve months, as compared with the previous years. A large amount of land more desirable than the government has to offer has been offered by private companies which have installed irrigation works. These lands are preferable to less accessible and less favorable lands in the government domain. They have doubtless attracted a large number of settlers. The state, the railroads

and timber companies have also been in the market with lands, the government title to which passed in previous years. It has been the policy of many owners of timber lands to sell them to settlers at exceedingly reasonable prices after the lands have been logged off. The great activity in lumbering operations in this state during the last few years must have resulted in the clearing of extensive tracts, which have been open to purchase by settlers.

The smaller receipts from entries upon government land will result in a smaller addition than during the previous years to the irrigation fund for this state. The amount now on hand and available for this purpose is, however already large enough to justify the government in proceeding with the work of reclaiming some of the semi-arid lands in Eastern Washington still a part of the public domain, the reclaiming of which by irrigation will greatly stimulate the demand for such improved portions of the public domain and materially aid in the development of the agricultural resources of the state. Ten thousand entries during the twelve months ending with June last is not a bad showing by any means, but it is desirable to have the public lands in Washington taken up for settlement as rapidly as possible.

THE COAST COUNTIES.

Portland Journal: A very interesting portion of this splendid young state is that lying on the west slope of the coast range of mountains, including Clatsop, Tillamook, the western end of Polk, Benton and Lane, the northwestern portion of big Douglas, and all of Lincoln, Coos and Curry counties.

These counties and parts of counties are exceedingly rich in various kinds of resources or natural wealth. They contain a vast amount of timber—the largest and finest accessible body of timber left in the United States. The soil is rich, productive; when, as in the course of time and the tide of events it must happen, the timber disappears, tens of thousands of small farmers will in this region find comfortable sunset homes. There is abundance of water. Brooks sing, purl and murmur almost everywhere. It rains a good deal along this coast region, it is true, but, after all, no more than it rains in the course of a year at Boston, Mass., or Charleston, S. C. Winter—what people in eastern states call winter—is absolutely unknown over on that sunset slope of America. And there is no excessive heat in summer either.

Tillamook county—to mention it now only incidentally—is already the greatest dairying county in Oregon. Lincoln is also a fine dairying county, but produces grain, hops and fruit besides. Go down to Coos—timber, coal, rich meadows, water power, deep-soil, a good harbor, an ocean before, an empire behind—peace, plenty and prosperity on every hand—but yet development of naturally great resources has been carried on only in a comparatively small way.

We look for a very great development of these seafaring counties in the next few years. And Portland ought to have a large hand in that development. Portland can handle their products, and supply them with their necessities, as well as San Francisco can. We need a greater and better coast trade. All we have to do is to go after it.

NOT ITALIANS, BUT OTHERS.

The report on the naturalization frauds in New York, made to the state inspector of elections, discloses not only a shocking story of the traffic of citizenship, but at least one evidence that the force and effect of the English language, as a medium for the expression of thought, is not thoroughly comprehended at Albany. In detailing the fraud the report states that "Italians have been the chief offenders." It would have been more appropriate if the report had stated that Italians had been the principal implements of the chief offenders—the men and officials engaged in the traffic in evidences of citizenship.

The fact that the subjects of sunny Italy, from the north under the shadow of the Alps, to the Saracenic Italians of Sicily, appear more largely on the rolls of fraudulent naturalization is undoubted. But it is not to be deduced from that fact that the children of sunny Italy, immediately on landing, proceed to the fraudulent naturalization company's offices and tender their services in pushing the game along. It is the children of sunny Italy who are hunted up by the scoundrels engaged in the business—the scoundrels who are native and to the manner born—and lassoed. It may be the Italians are willing victims. The records appear to show that fact—but they are not the chief offenders.

The Louisiana Purchase Exposition has not yet shown such promise of enormous profits upon the millions which have been invested in the enterprise as to encourage the projectors of other international exhibitions in the near future. The naked truth is that the nations are heartily sick and tired of world's fairs. They have had too many of them in the last half century, and want a long rest.

Prussia proposes to start a war against her coal trust. We suggest that she study the way we have done it in this country, and then try some other plan.

A mother wants to know how to keep her boys off the street. Make the neighbors keep their girls at home.

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Guatemala Exiles Pardoned.

New York, Aug. 27.—President Estrada Cabrera of Guatemala in celebration of his re-election, has, according to a Herald dispatch from Panama, granted amnesty to all political offenders and exiles. The latter, it is added, may return to Guatemala and enjoy full protection and individual guarantees.

Put an End to It All.

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Office Constructing Quartermaster. Astoria, Ore., August 25, 1904.—Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received at this office until 10 o'clock a. m., September 24, 1904, and then opened, for the construction of a frame pump house, removing and resetting old boiler, smokestack and machinery, furnishing and setting two new boilers and smokestack and make connections with wells; also change in distributing of water system and the setting and connecting of four generating sets for electric light at Fort Stevens, Ore. United States reserves the right to reject any or all proposals. Plans can be seen and specifications obtained at this office. Envelopes should be marked "Proposals for construction" and addressed Captain Goodale, Quartermaster, Astoria, Oregon.

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