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WONDERFULLY EFFICIENT.

The present crisis in the far east offers further evidence of the wonderful efficiency of the world's greatest news-gathering institution, the Associated Press. Doubtless the scope of the work of this mammoth news-gatherer is due largely to the enterprise of present-day newspapers, but, be that as it may, the organization has promptly responded to the demands made upon it. Ten years ago newspapermen would have scoffed at the idea that news-gathering could have been perfected so thoroughly.

The days of the old United Press are still remembered by the public. For a time this association promised to become a formidable rival of the Associated Press, but the competition proved too keen for it, and eventually it disappeared. Since that time the Associated Press has had practically a clear field. Monopoly usually results in poor service, but in the case of the Associated Press it has had the effect of increasing its news-gathering efficiency until now the system is absolutely perfect.

There are still a few minor news concerns in America, but they necessarily render poor and unreliable service. The people of Astoria have frequently, during the past few months, been assured by an evening journal that "Port Arthur has fallen." The announcement has been made, in large type, perhaps a dozen times. Such reports emanate from the minor news institutions, which occasionally take a long chance and predict events that may reasonably be expected to occur.

The Associated Press is not required to take any chances. In every country, in every state, in every city, town and village, this great news-gatherer has an accredited correspondent. What happens in the way of news is accurately "covered." The Associated Press is never "down to a guess," and consequently is always correct. The fall of Port Arthur could not possibly occur without the fact being reported immediately by the Associated Press, for it has long since made provision for the complete transmission of all war news. As a consequence, the people of Astoria, living many thousands of miles from the seat of war, are enabled every morning to read of the progress of events, many of them occurring on the day of publication. It not infrequently happens, indeed, that The Astorian prints dispatches from the far east dated some hours later than the hour at which the paper is sent to press.

Only the most perfect system could enable such complete service. In every essential the Associated Press is alive to the interests of its members, and the public is thereby kept fully informed of the happenings of the world. In view of these considerations, it is not surprising to note that 45 daily newspapers have become members of the Associated Press since January 1. Every day the Associated Press brings the world together, telling the people of one nation the complete story of the happenings of every other nation, accurately, fully and without prejudice. To the Associated Press and its capable northwest correspondent, Mr. S. B. Vincent of Portland, the people of Astoria are indebted for the truthful record which is daily placed before them through their leading newspaper.

IS GERMANY WITH RUSSIA?

There is persistent talk of a secret treaty between Russia and Germany. The London Times, which never speaks without sound warrant, and which has the best sources of information of any journal in the world, flatly insists that such a document is in existence. According to this story, Russia and Germany are to act together in perfect harmony and for the advancement of their mutual interests in Asia, in the event of Russian success in the war now waging with Japan.

What those mutual interests are, it is not hard to surmise, says the Post-Intelligencer. Emperor William makes no secret of his plans for colonial expansion. Russia and Germany, and tentatively France, have ambitions to dismember the Chinese empire and to divide its provinces among them. Russia's acquisition and retention of Manchuria, in the teeth of pledges to the contrary, was the primary cause of the war with Japan. Germany's reluctance to withdraw her troops from China, at the end of the Boxer outbreak, was notorious. She did so, finally, because Em-

peror William was not satisfied that the time had yet arrived to act.

That Germany would take advantage of Russian successes, if they came, is hardly to be doubted. She would absorb the remaining northern provinces of China, precisely as Russia will absorb Manchuria, if Japan, the only country apparently willing to fight, should be crippled and helpless as the result of the war with Russia.

Great Britain and the United States have the same commercial interests to be injured by the division of China as has Japan. American and British trade would be absolutely excluded from any Chinese province in which Germany and Russia obtain a commanding position. The same trade would be excluded from Manchuria, if Russia succeeds in retaining it, as soon as Russian merchants were able to handle the trade. Neither country has any idea in colonial expansion beyond exploiting colonies for the benefit of home trade and excluding all other nations from any share in the colonial trade. France shares these same ideas.

If Russia is successful in the present war, and if Germany co-operates with her in such an Asiatic policy as these two countries would be liable to adopt for their own aggrandizement, the dream of American commercial supremacy in eastern Asia will have to be abandoned, and we must look to see Chinese markets closed to us ultimately.

All this is based upon the supposition that Russia will be successful in the present war, a prospect which, at the present time, looks remote. The prize of China is a big one, however, and Germany might be willing to come to the assistance of Russia, and would do so, doubtless, if assured that the United States and Great Britain would keep aloof and calmly permit the destruction of Japan and the dismemberment of China. But would the United States and Great Britain do this?

NO LIGHT TO SEE.

The Salem Statesman seems determined to misunderstand The Astorian in its objections to the direct primary law, and unfairly quotes from this paper to suit its convenience. The Astorian has insisted, and still stoutly insists, that the law can result advantageously only to active partisans of democratic and republican faith. There are thousands of democrats and republicans in Oregon who can not afford to publicly announce their political views. We believe that even the constitutional authority who presides over the destinies of our Salem contemporary will agree that the founders of the republic never intended that a voter's politics should be a matter of public record, to subject him to the wiles of his employer or any other person who might be in position to use him politically. The secrecy of the ballot is a sacred right of the American citizen, but Oregon's direct primary law abrogates it.

The Statesman reaches some pipe-dream conclusions that are highly amusing, deducing, for instance, from The Astorian's assertion that the new law was framed "for republicans and democrats," that democrats can get into the republicans' camp, by a process that would also land the independent there. What nonsense! The democrat may renounce allegiance to his own party and participate in republican primaries, and the independent may falsely declare himself to be a republican and exercise a similar privilege. To be a democrat does not imply, as our Salem friend seems to have concluded, that one must always vote for all democratic candidates for office. A democrat has quite as much right to vote for an occasional republican as a republican has to vote for an occasional democrat—even for gubernatorial candidates! If all democrats and all republicans could be depended upon to vote the straight ticket, and the independents, populists, socialists, prohibitionists, etc., could be convinced that they were inferior citizens and not entitled to privileges exercised by members of the two great parties, the direct primary law might be excusable—although even then the question would be raised, Why should cities and counties be subjected to the expense of two elections when one election would better serve the ends of the people?

The Astorian has yet to learn of one improvement in the new method over the old. The men who fathered the direct primary bill are trying to meet the objections to it, while forced to admit at the same time that the law has disqualified practically every voter in the state of Oregon. The 56,000 or more men who voted for the measure may be forgiven, but there surely can be no excuse for the men who framed the bill. Those men owe an explanation not only to the 16,000 who voted against their fanciful scheme, but also to the misguided 56,000 who accepted their idea of "reform."

Lewis and Clark fair souvenir dollars have been offered for sale. One coin will cost \$2, while \$10 will buy six coins. The poor man who may desire to purchase one coin will have to pay full price, while the well-to-do individual, desirous of buying enough coins for a chain, will get them at reduced rates. Surely, the schedule of prices is a wonderfully equitable arrangement!

New York democrats have agreed to harmonize, but they may find something more than harmony essential to success. This is the year that votes are going to count.

Meets Next at Portland.

St. Louis, Sept. 22.—The Associated Fraternities of America have decided to hold the next annual convention at Portland, Ore., in July of next year.

No Use for Mormonism.

Vienna, Sept. 22.—The Hungarian minister of the Interior has rendered a decision prohibiting Mormon propaganda within Hungary.

Delmar Couldn't Beat Record.

Columbus, Sept. 22.—Major Delmar today attempted to beat 2:01 1/4, but owing to the cold weather and wind failed by 1/4 of a second.

Lady Curzon Critically Ill.

London, Sept. 22.—Lady Curzon, wife of the viceroy of India, is critically ill as the result of the birth of her daughter in March last.

Rock Island Lays Off 2000 Men.

Topeka, Sept. 22.—The Rock Island laid off nearly 2000 men in Kansas today to reduce operating expenses.

Austria Orders Torpedo Boats.

Vienna, Sept. 22.—The Austrian government ordered 22 torpedo boats from a Glasgow firm.

BASEBALL SCORES.

Pacific Coast.

At Seattle—Portland, 0; Seattle, 2.
 At Tacoma—San Francisco, 2; Tacoma, 3.
 At San Francisco—Los Angeles, 0; Oakland, 1.

Pacific National.

At Salt Lake—Butte, 2; Salt Lake, 6.

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Fall Millinery Opening.

The ladies of Astoria are cordially invited to attend the grand opening of fall and winter hats today and tomorrow at the Fair-Millinery in the Star theater building.

MRS. A. JALOFF,
 Eastern Milliner.

Fearful Odds Against Him.

Bedridden, alone and destitute. Such, in brief was the condition of an old soldier by name of J. J. Havens, Versailles, O. For years he was troubled with kidney disease and neither doctors nor medicines gave him relief. At length he tried Electric Bitter. It put him on his feet in short order and now he testifies: "I'm on the road to complete recovery." Best on earth for liver and kidney troubles and all forms of stomach and bowel complaints. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Chas. Rogers, druggist.

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