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### RUSSIA ON CONTRABAND.

The Russian reply to the American note concerning contraband of war seems to be practically the same as that made to the British note upon the same subject, says the New York Tribune. It may be regarded by this government, as it is said to have been by the British government, as satisfactory so far as it goes. It involves a decided recession from the ground at first taken by Russia, and a reversal of some decisions already made by Russian prize courts. Thus it concedes that there may be innocent commerce between America and Japan, and that certain articles may or may not be contraband, according to circumstances. The latter point is one of the most important in the case. Russia at first declared that all fuel and all foodstuffs should be regarded as contraband. That was a direct reversal of her own contention of only a few years before, and was obviously something to which other nations could not assent. Now that Russia withdraws from that extreme and extraordinary ground, and concedes that while such goods consigned to the Japanese government and intended for military supplies are still to be held as contraband—which nobody ever disputed—such goods consigned in good faith to private parties for civilian uses are not contraband and are to be exempt from seizure. Moreover—and this is a point only second in importance to the other—the onus of proving good faith is not thrown upon the shipper or the captain, but the onus of disproving it is assumed by Russia.

To such extent the Russian reply may be regarded as satisfactory. Indeed, it is more than that. It is gratifying, being an acknowledgment of the correctness of the American contention. It will go far toward establishing that contention as a principle of international law which will scarcely hereafter be disputed. The thing to be regretted is that the Russian note does not go a little further and apply the same just and reasonable principle to other articles of commerce which the United States and other nations regard as in the same category. Chief among such articles are machinery and railroad material, concerning which this government is making representations to Russia. The Russian contention is that such merchandise is invariably to be regarded as contraband, while the American view is that its status is conditioned upon circumstances of destination and purpose. Such goods shipped to the Japanese government or to a Japanese military contractor might naturally be regarded, upon their face, as contraband. Material for a military railroad in Manchuria might be held to be as much contraband as cannons and gunpowder. But material for a railroad in Japan, or perhaps even in Korea, would have nothing to do with the war, and should not be regarded as contraband. In other words, the same rule should be applied to those goods that Russia has now consented to apply to fuel and food. That is the general view of the great civilized nations of the world, and we must hope and expect to see Russia accept and adopt it.

The question of contraband of war has always been a trying one. It is annoying, even exasperating, to one belligerent to see other nations conducting commerce with its enemy, doubtless to that enemy's aid and comfort. But the rule of contraband is pre-eminently one that works both ways. Whatever rule a nation applies to its enemy's commerce it must expect to have applied to its own. That consideration commends to every belligerent nation not only consistency in practice, but also the largest possible degree of generosity in the interpretation of terms and rules. Moreover, the unmistakable trend of international law and international practice now is toward confining war and its injurious effects as closely as possible to the actual belligerents, and leaving the rest of the world as free as possible to continue industries and commerce just as though there were no war. It is for this latter wise and benevolent end that the American government has been striving ever since the beginning of this war. Its first step toward it was taken in securing the assent of the powers to the recognition and maintenance of Chinese neutrality, so as to circumscribe the war territorially and politically. Now it is effecting a scarcely less important step in seeking to circumscribe the commercial effects of the war. It has already gained much in that direction. It will be a good thing for all concerned—for Russia no

less than for America—if a supplementary Russian note concedes the whole principle for which America is contending.

### THE WAY OF THE WORLD.

If ever Russia needed plans and specifications for a successful march to India, through the very heart of Tibet, she needs them now. The expedition of Colonel Younghusband into Tibet, somewhat lost to view in the progress of apparently greater events in Manchuria, has been most brutally successful. The treaty submitted by him to the representative of the grand lama has been duly signed, sealed and ratified and is now in Peking awaiting the signature of the dowager empress, China having the nominal suzerainty over Tibet.

The treaty will be ratified. China can not well help herself, and Colonel Younghusband's troops are in excellent condition for a fight, if necessary. The treaty is a complete rout of Russia and Russian influence in Tibet. The commercial and trade advantages England has won are of immeasurable importance to her, not only in that regard but in checking Russian designs on India—and the lama pays the piping of Britannia to which Tibet danced.

Under the terms of the treaty the grand lama is to pay the expenses of the expedition, amounting to \$2,500,000, in three annual installments. The practical suzerainty is transferred from China to Great Britain. Tibet agrees not to sell or transfer any portion of her territory without the consent of Great Britain, and the power to grant concessions for telegraph or railway purposes is taken from the grand lama and is to be vested in the British resident—another name for grand lama without the ornaments.

It is the way of the world, perhaps. It is a way Great Britain has of doing things, in any event. She is entitled to the fruits of her daring and her determination. Under English supervision there will be a wider opening of the Tibetan door to the commerce of the world than there would have been under Russian, and the influence of Russia is becoming paramount in Tibet until Japan declared war and hit the Bear when he wasn't looking. That Russia was seriously planning an invasion of India, sooner or later, was undoubted, and John Bull has simply beaten the Tartar at his own game. Meanwhile, and until ratification by China, Colonel Younghusband sleeps on his arms.

### PUSHING THINGS AT PANAMA.

The announcement that the Panama canal will, in all probability, be completed at a much earlier date than was at first deemed possible will be cheering news to everybody except the opponents of the republican administration and those who didn't want the canal anyway, for the whole commercial world is interested in the success of this great work. Furthermore, thanks to American genius and superior executive ability, it will cost less than the original estimate, partly because of the decreased time of completion, and partly because the use of improved labor saving machinery will obviate the necessity of employing such large gangs of men as would otherwise have been imperatively required. Colonel R. M. Harrod, one of the commissioners, now in Washington, is responsible for the statement that the great waterway will be open for business in five years' time, and that not over 5000 men will be required at one time on the work. Seven hundred native Panamans and Jamaica negroes are now engaged on the most difficult part of the route, the Culebra cut, clearing the way and getting ready for the time when the plans for the entire canal shall be completed, when the work will be pushed. New machinery of American make has been ordered, but even with the old French machinery more work is accomplished, and at less cost, than under the old engineers.

This is an era of accomplishment of everything that is to benefit the world on a grand scale, and America is certainly leading in it, partly because Americans have a natural inclination for large enterprises, and partly because they have the genius or the executive ability to carry out such work. While Europe may still excel us in the esthetic, America certainly takes the lead in the practical—not, however, that we are lacking utterly in the more finished and ornamental characteristics of modern life, but the practical predominates in the average American makeup.

Some facts regarding the question of physical degeneracy have been furnished by the use in England of old tailor measurements for comparison. A firm in the north of England has compared the measurements for clothing made two generations ago with those of today, the results going to show that chest and hip measurements are now three inches on the average more than they were 60 years ago. The same conclusion is reached by the experience of the ready-made clothiers, who, it is said, nearly always find that the present day wearers of clothing require distinctly larger sizes than their ancestors.

It is now claimed that breathing coal dust is a sure cure for consumption. It is just as well, however, to wait and see if this is not a mere advertising dodge on the part of Pittsburg and St. Louis.

The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune prints an editorial entitled, "Irrigation and Roosevelt." Without in any way intending any personal reflection, isn't this putting the cart before the horse?

### Horrors of Mimic Warfare.

The horrors of war have their alleviations, according to "The Atlanta (Ga.) News." While the battle of the Sixth was raging, an officer of the Second Georgia discovered two privates of his regiment reconnoitering a position held by two Virginia girls.

"Why aren't you engaged?" yelled the officer.

"They haven't proposed yet," tittered the girls.

"I'll have them court martialed for cowardice," said the gallant officer, raising his cap. "They are a disgrace to Georgia."

The Fifth Massachusetts lost two flags in Wednesday's fight, but not until every man was declared dead by the umpires. The unfortunate regiment suffered fearfully from the ungrammatical expressions of the attacking party. Shortly after noon a split infinitive knocked the entire fourth company senseless.

In Tuesday's fighting the Ninth Massachusetts, which is composed of Irish-Americans, covered itself with glory. It had recklessly exposed itself to a crossfire from two batteries, and the umpires had pronounced it "dead entirely." A pained expression darkened the handsome face of Colonel O'Hooligan; but only for a moment. "Boys," he shouted to his stricken troops, "yez have died once for America; now once more for ould Ireland!" The umpires were powerless to silence them. Both batteries were captured.

### What is Life?

In the last analysis nobody knows, but we do know that it is under strict law. Abuse that law even slightly, pain results. Irregular living means derangement of the organs, resulting in constipation, headache or liver trouble. Dr. King's New Life Pills quickly adjusts this. It's gentle, yet thorough. Only 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

### LARGEST IN THE WORLD.

Union Iron Works of San Francisco to Be Enlarged.

San Francisco, Sept. 27.—Various rumors regarding the future of the Union Iron Works were today set at rest by C. M. Schwab, who said the plant would be enlarged and made the first in the United States, if not in the world.

### Baseball at Portland.

At Portland—Oakland, 5; Portland, 4.

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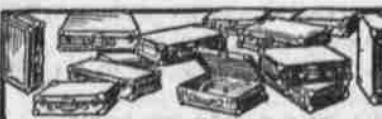
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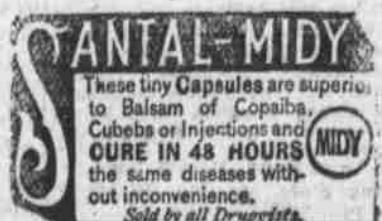
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