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WHEN TOLSTOI WAS A COWARD.

Tolstoi feels very keenly the seeming inconsistency of his life, the fact that he cannot make his altruistic notions harmonize with his Jolly life. His chagrin has, on one or two occasions, nearly made a coward of him. At night, when no one was looking, he has slunk away toward Moscow, like a tramp, to be himself somewhere. But always, before he has got far, a voice has said to him: "Lyoff Nicolayevitch, you are afraid. You dread the remarks of the crowd. You shrink on hearing that you preach what you don't practice. You are trying to run away from it all, to be comfortable yourself, whether others are or not.

"Think of your wife and children, of the home you have made. Is it your right to sneak away from all this just to make yourself look and sound consistent? Have you not duties toward your wife and children to observe? Do you think you can throw over all that you were to them and they to you, merely to satisfy your vanity—vanity, Lyoff, and nothing more? You are vain in your very sneaking. You insist upon appearing all that you think you are.

"Back, back, back! Remember your wife and children. Remember that you have no right to make them think and live the way you would. Remem-

ber that to sneak away is cowardly. Back Lyoff Nicolayevitch!" And back the old man has trudged, to take up his burden as a citizen.

One night he talked with me about my wanderings. He asked me why I had led such a life, how the vagabonds lived, and why I had not continued to live among them. I told him the truth. He stroked his white beard, and looked dreamily at the chessboard.

"If I were younger," he said at last, "I should like to make a tramp trip with you here in Russia. Years ago I used to wander about among them a good deal. Now, I am too old—too old," and he ran his hands rheumatically up and down his legs.—*Joshua Fynt in "Success Magazine."*

RUBBER CONSOLIDATION FAILED

NEW YORK, May 4.—The Herald says negotiations have failed in the attempt to consolidate the International Rubber Company and the United States Rubber Company and that the scheme has been abandoned. The stumbling block proved to be inability to come to satisfactory term.

As a result the International Rubber Company will manufacture rubber and thus become a competitor of the United States Rubber Company. It is at present a producer of raw rubber supplies and sells a portion of its output to the United States Rubber Company.

STEAMER DODE ASHORE.

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., May 4.—The passenger steamer Dode is ashore on the rocky beach near Marrowstone Point. The passengers were taken off by the steamer Eyan Thomas and landed at Port Townsend. All efforts to float her proved unavailing, and the tide is going out. Mate Robert Wilson was at the wheel when she went ashore.

IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

It makes all the difference in the world to the convivial man where, and what, he drinks. Most men desire beauty and cleanliness, and handsome appointments in the saloon they patronize regularly, as well as the essential pre-requisite of genuine wines and liquors that are served to them. And these things are so particularly and properly conspicuous at Otto Sund's elegant resort, the Commercial, at No. 509 on the street that name that they account thoroughly for the fixed and splendid custom he enjoys. There is nothing allowed to pass his counter but the best and choicest in every department of indulgence, and the service behind it all, is the most pleasing and satisfying in the city.

RIDGELEY TO SUCCEED ECKELS

NEW VESSELS REGISTERED FOR SERVICE ON GREAT LAKES—LOEB TO RETIRE FROM THE CABINET.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 4.—Financial circles are all agog over the persistent rumor that Comptroller of the Currency, Ridgeley, is to succeed the late James H. Eckels as president of the Currency Ridgeley, is to succeed Chicago. No confirmation can be had here of the rumor, for Comptroller Ridgeley and all of the higher officials of the Treasury, except Assistant Secretary Reynolds, have lost themselves in the crowds of diplomats, statesmen and foreign representatives in attendance at the opening of the Jamestown Exposition. It would not surprise the knowing ones, however, if this report were true, for the Commercial National Bank is a member of the chain of financial institutions that is commonly regarded as being controlled by the Standard Oil Company, and that corporation has shown its preference for the Treasury Department as a recruiting ground. It will be remembered that Mr. Eckels stepped out of the position that Mr. Ridgeley now holds to take charge of the Chicago institution.

Of the twenty-seven new vessels of the United States registered between April 1st and 15th with the Bureau of Navigation, nearly one-third of them will go into service on the Lakes and inland streams. This is a remarkable showing and indicates the extent to which the navigable waters of the United States will be used for transportation purposes, once they are improved thoroughly and scientifically. The home ports of the vessels to be used in the inland traffic are at Cleveland, Detroit, Duluth and Erie, Pa., on the Lakes, and at Galena, Ill., Wheeling, W. Va. and St. Louis on the rivers. The majority of these vessels will be used for the transportation of freight, and once an inland fleet is established on the rivers there will be no possibility of a recurrence of the disastrous congestion of commerce that occurred this Spring when the railroads were not only unable to handle the traffic, but were actually unable to go to the rescue of communities in the northwest that were suffering from the lack of coal. The vital necessity for improving the rivers and harbors of the United States has been brought forcibly to the attention of Congress by the National Rivers and Harbors Congress. Not less than \$50,000,000 for such improvement work a year is the demand made by this organization, which all along has contended, that, once the waterways are made safe for navigation, there will be no trouble in supplying fleets to carry commerce. The figures made public by the Department of Commerce & Labor indicate that the contention is correct and if the government will provide adequate waterways private capital will quickly take advantage and utilize them.

There was considerable surprise this week when it was publicly announced in the newspapers that Secretary Loeb is to retire from the service of the President to accept the presidency of one of Washington's big street railroad corporations. His retirement, it is reported, will take place by the first of the year. Mr. Loeb, with characteristic caution, has declined either to confirm or deny the report, but it is generally believed that Frank M. Hitchcock, at present First Assistant Postmaster General, is the man for the place. In support of this belief it was pointed out that Mr. Hitchcock in temperament, habit and looks, would make an ideal secretary. He is thoroughly versed in national politics, both through his association with Mr. Cortelyou in the management of the last campaign and in his personal investigations of affairs in various parts of the country, made under the personal direction of the President himself. Mr. Hitchcock is an expert stenographer as Mr. Loeb and he would be equally as serviceable to the President in the matter of receiving confidential dictation.

WILLCOX SUICIDE.

NEW YORK, May 2.—David Willcox, late president of the Delaware & Hudson who committed suicide at sea last week left his estate to four cousins on his mother's side. The estate is valued by William G. Willcox, the dead man's cousin, at \$1,100,000.

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AMERICAN CAPITAL.

The following information concerning mining and mining in Mexico and the direct interests of Americans therein is furnished by Consul-General Alfred L. M. Gottschalk, of the City of Mexico:

According to the best private authority a conservative estimate of the American capital brought into Mexico since 1902 and invested in mining and smelting ventures amounts to about \$125,000,000 gold. This figure may materially increase the general estimate of American investment in Mexico, which I estimated some little time ago at \$750,000,000 gold value. The following is an approximate investment of American capital in mining and smelting in the states mentioned since 1902:

Agua Calientes	\$ 3,000,000
Chiapas	1,000,000
Guerrero	5,000,000
Guanajuato	12,000,000
Hidalgo	5,000,000
Jalisco	10,000,000
Michoacan	2,000,000
Mexico	2,000,000

Oaxaca	10,000,000
Puebla	5,000,000
Queretaro	1,000,000
Tabasco	1,000,000
Tamaulipas	1,000,000
Vera Cruz	1,000,000
Zacatecas	5,000,000
Total	\$64,000,000

It is also stated that in the states of Sinaloa, Sonora, Coahuila, Durango and Nuevo Leon at least \$60,000,000 of American capital has entered within the last five years. This Consulate-General recently referred to the liberality of the present Mexican mining laws and to the fact that an effort would soon be made to improve without restricting them. A comparatively large number of American mining enterprises have neglected to comply with the requirements of the Mexican law in regard to incorporating in the republic. This omission is probably caused by a desire to avoid the payment of the Mexican stamp tax, which is based upon a percentage charge of the amount of the corporation's investment.

HOT BOX ON EDWARD'S TRAIN.

Believed To Have Been An Attempt To Wreck Royal Special.

GENOA, May 4.—The overheating of an axle compelling the removal of a car from a train which King Edward was traveling to France is declared by newspapers here to have been probably an attempt to wreck the train. Before entering the Simplon tunnel the train was stopped as a measure of precaution at Sion and it was found that a grease box on one of the axles was missing. The train had been running at the rate of a hundred kilometres an hour and the axle was white hot. If the train had gone a few miles further the axle might have fused and the cars would then have been derailed. It is said that the bolts and pins securing the box had been deliberately removed. An inquiry was immediately begun.

EARTHQUAKE AT MALAGA.

MADRID, May 4.—Telegrams from Malaga report that an earthquake which lasted 17 seconds, was felt there on Thursday.

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