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IT IS OREGON'S FAIR.

Just a word to the Legislators. Do you know what the Lewis and Clark Fair will mean for Oregon? Do you realize that the state is hedged in on north and south and east with states in which energetic cities are in active business competition with the territory that is represented in the land that bears the name of our state? Do you know that no nation or commonwealth in these strenuous days of strained commercial pursuits can afford to let an opportunity that offers for the promotion of their community pass?

It is almost beyond human conception that there should exist a faction, small as it is—and it certainly is insignificant—that would in public halls of assembly oppose a measure that has been carefully nursed for the purpose of putting invigorating commercial life into all branches of Oregon's industries. There seems to exist, principally among a class of out-of-date newspapers, an opposition to everything that is likely to benefit the people at large. He who lives and thrives solely within himself must indeed be possessor of a narrow soul. Must we permit this pessimistic class to blight the chances that have come to us at a time when all is in readiness for the striking of a blow for our Oregon and her principal city?

The words "our Oregon" sound sweet to the ears of all who hear them. Strangers who visit us say that the Oregon people have a peculiar love of state that is refreshing to note. Is Portland so small a part of "our Oregon" that the city should be regarded as selfish when she puts herself in the fore and fights for that which will surely be of benefit to all? Would not one think a second time before expressing confidence in the man who will say "Portland is after something that will be of value to her alone and the rest of the state must suffer?"

The Lewis and Clark Fair will be an Oregon Fair. It will not be a Portland Fair. When the people of the East speak of it they will know that it is given in commemoration of an event in the history of Oregon and not of an epoch in the life of Portland. It will advertise the state, help to sell your goods, give you a market that will be open to the world where the "warp and the woof of your brains and your hands" may be placed before the representatives from all lands. Why then is the proposed Exposition to be considered a "Portland Fair?"

No, there is too much good sense in the make-up of Oregon people to take this ridiculous and far-fetched view of the condition. The people want the Fair and only a misconception of their wishes would result in other than a unanimous aad unswerving loyalty to the Exposition in both houses of the Capitol at Salem.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS DESIRABLE.

A measure that is before the Legislature, introduced in the Senate by Pierce of Umatilla, is sound and good. It should become law. If so, Oregon counties will have a County Attorney, who, in addition to prosecuting criminal cases, will attend to civil business of the people.

At the present time, Oregon is divided into districts, Multnomah County being the only one that has a prosecuting attorney of its own. But, even here, the prosecuting attorney has no incumbent duty to advise county officials regarding the civil affairs of government. Often cases arise in which special counsel must be employed at large expense when issues involve civil matters.

It is probably not susceptible of questioning that, in those states that have adopted the county attorney system, results have justified it. County officials frequently have need for legal counsel, and dispense with it because to have it would entail added expense. With a county attorney in each county a fixed salary would be paid, and he would owe his full time and attention to criminal as well as civil cases, and would advise officials whenever advice was needed.

Senator Pierce has proposed his bill in response to a demand that is general, but that has not hitherto crystallized into such a measure. If the Legislature pass the bill it will only have placed Oregon in the list of states that act in the premises according to what experience has taught the wisest.

BENEFIT OF OUTDOOR SPORTS.

There is nothing in the line of health preservatives that conduces so much to the physical development and care of the human system than the judicious use of athletics. This fact is thoroughly appreciated by the faculties of the greatest educational institutions in this and other countries, and one of the principal studies in the college curriculums is health, the means to obtain it, the way to preserve it.

Outdoor exercise has long been considered one of the best practices for those wishing to become strong and powerful. Gymnasium work at most of the Universities is compulsory, providing a student is not engaged on the football track, or baseball teams. The excellent showing that has been made by the athletes of the various colleges in their studies has so impressed the governing boards that a general movement has been started in order that the faculties shall work in harmony with the different athletic committees, guaranteeing them every privilege in the furtherance of their sports. The principal reason for this friendly disposition is the great amount of good that it does for the students in a physical way.

The demand today is for healthy men and women. Nothing but study would wear out the soundest constitution. The future of this country depends upon the stability of our youth. That is why outdoor pastimes are encouraged. The universal benefit that has been derived from a careful supervision of the exercise done by a student in college has been exceedingly great.

Not alone in the schools and colleges have sports proved a practical blessing to mankind, but on the world's great commons, where the children of the land gather daily to enjoy their different games. Look at the baseball players, tennis experts, bowling cranks, and even those who play duck-on-the-rock, and you will find them healthy and happy. The progress of outdoor sports has been sure and steady and the accompanying benefit can hardly be estimated.

TOO TARDY JUSTICE.

"Binger Hermann is a corrupt and dishonest official."

"Theodore T. Geer is an incompetent and useless effervescence."

This is a mild sample of the statements made by the morning edition of the newspaper trust in Portland, when speaking of the ex-governor and the ex-commissioner of lands for Oregon when the trust had fondly hoped that the days of the political power of these gentlemen were done. But what a change has come over the spirit of its dream!

Lured by the specious representations of "Jack" Matthews, Mr. Scott thought that the hour had come when his long-cherished ambition to enter the Washington political arena was to be realized, and thinking that neither Mr. Geer nor Mr. Hermann would longer be a factor in the fight, all the vile inuendoes and all the scurrilous abuse at the command of his assistants was piled upon their heads.

Binger Hermann was, "if not a thief, at least in collusion with thieves," said the trust sheet, and to this it added abuse of the ex-governor of the State of Oregon.

This was in the days when, with John H. Mitchell in the Senate, with Thomas Tongue and J. N. Williamson in the House, Scott thought there was no chance of either Hermann or Geer ever holding any political power which could interfere with his ambition.

But "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglee" and so found the ambitious Harvey. Thomas Tongue has, by the mysterious dispensation of Providence, passed over to the great majority, the machinations of the too-confident Matthews have been unmercifully turned down by an outraged Legislature, while he sits chafing in his office in Portland planning to go to Salem to bolster up his failing prestige—and the man who had hoped to dictate terms to Geer and Hermann is wearily toiling homeward across the continent, soured and disappointed.

Will Geer forget the insults heaped upon his name by the trust?

Will Hermann in the day of his possible power forget that he has been branded as a dishonest public servant by the paper which for months has abused him in the vilest way and which now, in fear of his newly revived power, refers in a prophetic way to him as a "capable and efficient Congressman?"

No; that justice which is granted by a newspaper to a man in public life only when forced by the fear that his enmity may be dangerous to its schemes will not avail. Portland, since the advent of The Journal, is no longer in the merciless grasp of the newspaper trust as once it was, and the public men of the State of Oregon are at last alive to the fact that the bitter pen of the editor of the trust has lost its power to harm.

SHIPPING OF THE NEW PACIFIC

The section of country bordering upon the Pacific Coast of the United States is on the threshold of the greatest period of development it has yet experienced. Great as the commerce of the Pacific States is already, the near future is destined to eclipse everything that has been accomplished heretofore in the way of commercial expansion.

This will come about or, rather, is already taking place, through the changed conditions that have caused the Eastern ocean to be renamed The New Pacific.

The American occupation of the Philippines, the awakening of China and the vigorous effort that is making to exploit the markets of Asia by American manufacturers have created a new merchant marine for the United States—ships that ply the Pacific and fly the house flag of Pacific Coast ship owners. Our products are moving, in a stream never before equalled in volume, to the countries of the Far East and to the islands of the South Seas.

The carrying trade with Europe and Australia is not enlarging to any considerable extent. The remarkable increase in ocean-going tonnage sailing from Pacific Coast ports is due to the increased demand for our products in the Orient. The steamship tonnage engaged in this trade has been doubled within a period of four years.

No less wonderful has been the development of the coastwise shipping industry during the same period. The fleet of steam schooners, small sailing vessels, barks and ships, plying between Pacific Coast ports, has increased in number in almost equal ratio to that of the deep water craft. During the past year the ship yards of the Pacific Coast have been taxed to their utmost capacity to turn out vessels for the local trade. In many instances contracts were taken for delivery two years hence. The demand for craft to carry oil and lumber was particularly insistent and in some cases owners were obliged to place their contracts with Eastern builders.

In this growth of Pacific Coast shipping Oregon has participated in generous measure. Many of the vessels constructed during the past year, and many now under way, were designed for carrying Oregon lumber and Oregon salmon.

THEY SHOULD SUFFER.

If conducted properly an employment agency is a legitimate business institution. It is frequently the case, however, that it is not run in this manner. The proprietor too often is a man of small principle whose only aim is to defraud his patrons. He very often is on the same par with the smooth fakir who extensively advertises a get-rich-quick proposition.

At various times complaints have been made to The Journal about the methods adopted by one or two of the employment agencies in Portland. It is alleged that they have sent men, after the collection of fat fees, to distant points where they were told good positions at remunerative wages awaited them. After making the trip at additional expense the men discovered they had been imposed upon, finding no work at the stated point, or even the remotest likelihood of getting anything to do. According to reliable workingmen instances of this kind have happened many times right here in Portland.

Agents conducting such shameless operations have forfeited all right to the respect of the community. If the charges made against them are true, there would be no treatment too severe to accord them.

The Belgian Lace Industry.

Lovers of the beautiful products of Belgium, Brussels and Flemish lace will learn with regret that, according to an exhaustive inquiry that has just been completed under the auspices of the minster of industry, the lace industry of Belgium is gradually dying out. That the number of workers employed in the manufacture of Belgian lace has fallen during the last quarter of a century from 150,000 to 47,000, or 68 per cent, is a sufficient indication of the decline in this once flourishing industry. This decline is attributed to the existence of a system of sweating that is the evident outcome of exploitation by middlemen and salesmen. The degree to which this exploitation is carried on is indicated in the report of the department of industry dealing with the present condition of the lace industry by various examples, of which the following are specimens: No. 10, seen at the depot of a "factor" at Barlaere, a berthe of fine Duchesse de Bruxelles with the following indications on the docket attached? Making, 40f.; my price to shop in Brussels, 150f.; sale price at shop in Brussels, 250f. No 12, a "factor" at Lierre pays his workers 4.50 f. for a dozen hat knots embroidered with spangles; one of these knots was purchased by a lady from Lierre at a Brussels modiste's for 14f. The department of industry in Brussels is at present examining the feasibility of intervening in some way in order, if possible, to resuscitate the industry, and to place it on a sounder economic basis. —London Times.

Eastern Oregon With Us.

The Portland Journal has advanced the theory that Portland could afford to open the Columbia River for commercial advantages to that city. This is a good idea, if nothing more. If Portland and the Inland Empire would pull together on this proposition, the river will be opened. This gateway should be unlocked. Eastern Oregon is ready to help unlock this barrier.—The Heppner Gazette.

The Hague tribunal may as well prepare to be roasted by Kipling.—The Chicago Record-Herald.

WHAT THE FAIR WILL DO FOR OREGON

By Duren W. Wakefield.

Now that the Fair is no longer a question of speculation, the only question is what it will do for the Pacific Northwest? The answer to this question is getting to be pretty well understood to be that the Fair will do for the section of country named whatever the people may wish—if the wish is backed up by action on their part accordingly.

No enterprise, it matters not how legitimate and meritorious it may be, should be expected to succeed nowadays without effort, and great effort, and its proper direction. The effort must be as legitimate and untiring to succeed in matters of public enterprise as in matters of personal business affairs. A blunder in such enterprises is even more serious than a blunder by individual enterprises—applying the old adage "that what is everybody's business is nobody's, etc."

But there can be but one blunder made now that will seriously affect the result of the Fair. It is already a go. Nothing will stop it now. Only blunders can prevent its eminent success. It has already proved to be a success to a certain degree. The business men of Portland, the real estate men, the property owners, the people in the country, already feel the effects of the Fair, throughout the state. A general confidence has been inspired for the future by it. Business of all kinds is not only better, but property is reaching a more substantial basis of value. Men are coming to see that their property stands a good chance of increasing in value to a large degree, and this always inspires confidence. There has never been any trouble in making a living in this country, but the large amount of idle and undeveloped resources have caused many to become discouraged for fear they would not be developed in their lifetime. But now they have hopes of an early realization of a dream that seemed so far away.

But we can blunder and interfere with the success of the Fair to a considerable degree. We may sit back now and wait for someone else to pay the bill, to do the work, while we expect to reap the benefit. The Legislature may fail to make the proper appropriation, and this will not only throw cold water on the matter throughout the country, but will place our Representatives in Congress in an awkward position when they make the application to the National Government for aid. These are blunders that should not be permitted. Our people as well as our state legislators should see that we mean business by going into our pockets and contributing liberally to the Fair fund.

What the Fair will do for the country has been discussed in nearly all its phases, and no one believes to the contrary of its value to the entire Pacific Northwest. There is not a nook or corner that will not be benefited. There is no line of business that will not be benefited. There is no industry that will not be improved. There is no resource that will not be eventually developed. It will make our great Oregon greater, and what is now looked upon as a state just beyond the territorial stage will become a state in the front row of states.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY

Wireless messages will travel further by night than by day. This is the interpretation put by Marconi on the results of some of his long-distance experiments. Although all his scientific brethren do not agree with him, the facts on which his conclusions are based are certainly interesting. A paper by Marconi on the subject was read by Professor Fleming to the London Royal Society recently, and the following comments upon it are translated from an article contributed to La Nature (Paris, November 29) by Emile Guarin. Says this writer:

"In the course of some of his long-distance experiments in wireless telegraphy, made between Poldhu, Cornwall, and the steamship Philadelphia, on her way from Southampton to New York, Mr. Marconi noticed for the first time that there was considerable difference between the distance at which it was possible to detect the electric waves during the day and during the night. . . . According to Marconi the cause of this difference is the fact that sunlight produced 'diselectrization' of the transmittng antenna. The electric oscillatons of this antenna ought therefore to be protected from the action of light in order that they may be as effective as in darkness.

"The discharge of a negatively charged metallic body by means of daylight has already been remarked by several observers, and since each oscillation must charge the antenna negatively for a half-period, the diselectrifying effect of the light may be sufficient to produce diminution in the amplitude of the oscillations.

"Marconi found it of no advantage to remove the oscillator from the light; it would be interesting to see whether daytime effects would be increased by covering the transmitting antenna with substances opaque to light. We have reason to think that the experiment would be successful.

"For short distances the effect of diselectrization either does not exist or is not appreciable. The effect is noticeable only at great distances, when use is made of very powerful apparatus and of high potentials.

"It should be added that all physicists do not agree with Marconi. Thus, for example, M. J. Joly has observed that the effect noticed by the young Italian electrican might be attributed to the fact that the electric waves coming from England were moving during the day in a direction opposed to that of the earth-current and during the night in the same direction, so that the conditions were similar to those of sound transmission in a strong gale.

"Professor Oliver Lodge does not accept this explanation. According to him, the effect observed by Marconi is due to the conductivity and consequent partial opacity of the air under the influence of the ultra-violet solar radiations. But at present theory is of little importance. It is the facts that are important for us to know."—Translation made for The Literary Digest.

FROM OTHER EDITORS.

But She Saved His Life.

Tillamook Headlight: While in a state of despondency Saturday Ben Bunn made an attempt to commit suicide, but was prevented from doing so by his wife. She saw him draw a revolver with the intent of killing himself, and seizing the deadly weapon she placed him hors du combat, thus preventing him from taking his own life. Bunn is an old and respected citizen of this county and it was owing to sickness he became despondent and while in that condition decided upon the rash act.

Oregon Veterans.

J. B. Dimick of Hubbard, Or., writes that the surviving veterans of the First Oregon Cavalry and the First Oregon Infantry (Oregon's "boys in blue" of 1861-65) will hold a reunion and campfire in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at Salem, February 3. The afternoon meeting at 1 o'clock will be of a business nature, and the campfire will be held at 7:30. The evening meeting will be open to veterans and the public generally. The papers of the state are requested to make mention of the gathering.

Court Doesn't Care.

Tillamook Headlight: County Judge Conder has made a conservative estimate of the work that each district in the county is wanting the County Court to do, and it amounts to $241,000. As this would take a tax of about 110 mills, it is just as well to ask the taxpayers if they want to foot the bills for this work, for the County Court would be glad to do the work if it had the "dough."

Wicked Partisanship.

Athena Press: Scarcely a reason can be advanced why Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma should not be admitted as states, yet it is quite certain that the two former will be refused admission simply because they didn't "vote right" at the last election. It is a sad plight when territories entitled to statehood are kept out because of partisanship.

Opera Singer Injured.

Oakland Owl: A sad accident happened at the theatre last Monday. During the performance given by the "Belles of Georgia" company Miss Adelinatuscan Patti got her voice frozen. As luck would have it this sweet singer of grand opera was the only one of the company seriously injured, although a few of the others were frostbitten.

Crab Industry.

Coast Mail: The crab harvest in the lower bay is coming on apace, and thousands of the crustaceons are being caught and prepared for shipment. They are cooked by F. H. Barry at his plant in Empire and sent up to the ice plant here, where they are frozen for shipment north.

Everybody Will Be There.

The Dalles Times-Mountaineer: Tomorrow evening an open meeting of the Council will be held to consider proposed amendments to the city charter. Everybody who has a suggestion to make is required to be present at the meeting.

But No Sleighriding.

Coast Mail: While people are wallowing in snow at The Dalles and enjoying fine sleighing, we are having fine spring-like weather here on the bay.

Only Way They'll Do It.

Lewiston Tribune: The trusts are the sort of stock that can't be killed by talk, but that is the only way the Republican party will ever kill them.

Obeyed One Wish.

Exchange: A deacon down East has married the woman picked out for him by his first wife on her deathbed.

SOCKS AND SAILORS.

The Good, Old-Fashioned Woolen Kind Still Worn at Sea.

On a little placard in the window of an outfitting store down South street, where the ships come in, this appears:

"All-Wool Nova Scotia Socks."

Nova Scotia is a name applied to a particular kind of socks that, as a matter of fact, is made in the United States and knitted by machines, but that looks, nevertheless, for all the world like the socks "that mother used to make," with knitting needles, in the days before knitting machines had been heard of, thick, woolen socks such as once were far more commonly worn than they are now. Nova Scotia socks are bought by sailormen, who, sailing in all sorts of latitudes, and abroad in all kinds of weather, want stockings that will keep the feet warm.

They are made in various grades, the best of them of fine, soft wool, and made with double feet, thick, warm, comfortable stockings, indeed, selling for as much as half a dollar a pair. So while Jack may not pay so much for his boots and shoes, he does pay, very likely, more for his stockings than does the average citizen ashore.

These thick woolen stockings that the sailorman buys are mostly in quiet colors, in grays and browns and blues, or in mixtures of some of these several colors with white. Anybody old enough to remember such stockings when they were more commonly worn will see some here looking strangely familar, as, for example, the socks in clouded effects, knitted of yarn, dyed in stretches of some color alternating with white; as a yarn with a stretch of brown, gray and a stretch of white, producing the clouded effect when knitted into a sock.

There will be seen in the stock a few reds and red mixtures, but not many, and the dealer says there is little call for such. Some people, he says, have an idea that sailors go in for gaudy things; but if you were to take down, for instance, any box of shirts in the store you would find the pinks and bright colors always among those that were left, the darker or more sober colors being invariably taken first.

Italian sailors and the men from some other Southern countries may prefer bright colored things, but the Americans, the Englishmen, the Swedes and the Norwegians go in for things quiet in colors. Hence the colors prevailing among the socks. "But what does a man do," asked the reporter, "when he gets a hole in his thick stockings? Suppose he's off Cape Horn or somewhere, a thousand miles away, where he can't get anybody to darn them?"

"Why, he darns them himself," said the dealer. "Every sailorman carries in his kit darning needles and a supply of darning yarn; and when his stockings need darning he darns them. And while they may not all be good darners, there are sailors who can darn stockings as well as anybody living."—New York Sun.

How He Earned Five Dollars.

David Higgins was recently asked by a friend if he remembered the first money he had ever earned. "Yes," answered Mr. Higgins. "I have a distinct recollection of it. When I was a youngster I attended school at a place where the use of the birch rod was not an unusual event. It was against the rules to mark the desks in any manner, the penalty being a $5 fine or public chastisement. Happening to violate the rule on one occasion, I was offered the alternative. I told my father, and as he seemed to think it would be too bad for me to be publicly punished, he gave me $5. At that period of my existence $5 was a large sum, while whipping was of little consequence, and so—" here Mr. Higgins reflectively added, "that was how I earned my first $5."

Oscar Gorrell of the University of Oregon has been elected instructor of English in the Tung-Wen Institute, at Amoy, China.

MARKHAM'S ESTIMATE OF KIPLING

Mr. Kipling's new poem, "The Rowers," which we reprint in this issue of The Literary Digest, is not regarded as a very appropriate contribution to Christmas literature. To the New York Evening Post these "oracular and bitter verses" against the Anglo-German entente suggest Mr. Kipling's "infallible instinct for promoting international quarrels." "He is, or affects to be," it says, "a sort of fighting Bersecker, and this naturally puts him out of touch with his age—except when it appears, in mad moments, to be lurching back toward the cave-man." The Philadelphia Public Ledger, however, thinks that it were futile to deny "the poem's power or the remarkable promptitude of the poet in telling in the most forcible verse not only just what the English nation ought to hear, but exactly what it wanted to hear. Kipling expresses the very thought of the great middle class of England. He has displaced the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the leader of the House of Commons, in interpreting the thought of the sound and sensible part of the English people, and as the people's poet occupies a more enviable position than the poet laureate."

An interesting critique on "Kipling as a Poet" is contributed by Mr. Edwin Markham in the form of an introduction to the Kipling volume of Collier's "Library of Poetical Literature." "Kipling's greatest limitation," says Mr. Markham, "is his lack of spiritual vision, his failure to apprehend the empire of the Unseen." His greatest strength is his ability to catch the spirit of the "flying hour," to voice the Here and Now. We quote as follows from Mr. Markham's estimate:

"Kipling is still a young man, and he is already the laureate of Greater Britain. He has done more than English arms to annex India to England. He has localized and focalized for the Anglo-Saxon race the provinces and peoples of India.

"He is the voice of British imperialism, and he is a dynamic force in the public affairs of the empire. His words have passed with a great power over England, fanning the drooping flame of her patriotism, quickening her faith in her soaring destiny.

"He is the poet of energy, the laureate of action. In his verse all things are alive as with the old Homeric stir; all things are quick with a sense of the untirable endeavor, the imperishable passion of the Anglo-Saxon race.

"No other literary man ever pressed so close to the heated center of the flying hour. He rejoices in the hot arena where men love and lust, where they fight and die. This earth-life, and this trembling hour of it, is the thing that takes his heart. He is the poet of the Here and Now.

"He writes not of men in high places, not of men in sheltered ease, but rather of the millions who are digging the ditches, building the bridges, laying the roads, steering the ships, fighting the battles, in the daring path of empire.

"Kipling's vision is essentially objective and concrete. His mind is unique in its quickness to take impressions, to make assimilations. He absorbs the technicalities of professions, the secrets of experts, the wisdom of adepts, the cant of hypocrites, the instincts of animals."

DEMOCRACY AND PARTIES

M. Ostrogorski has written in French a 1,500-page work on "Democracy and the Organization of Political Parties," in two volumes.

M. Ostrogorski's object is to study the working of party organizations, as has been written about Parliaments and Congresses, but little attention, comparatively, has been devoted to the power behind them. Political forms have been studied to the neglect of political forces. Indeed, so insignificant is the literature on the subject that the author is able to quote few books as his authority, and has been compelled to draw his material partly from the magazine articles of the last 20 years and partly from his personal investigations. Mr. Bryce, in his preface, calls to mind his own difficulty in 1883 in getting sufficient information respecting the American "machine," and M. Ostrogorski complains of a similar handicap today. His diligence, however, has enabled him to bring together and systematize a body of information which will make these volumes a standard authority on the subject, whatever may be thought of his own suggested remedies for the political diseases which he has here diagnosed.

The first volume deals with England, the second with the United States.

The author's general conclusions about American politics are thus expressed: "The evolution of American democracy ends in two facts of the utmost gravity—popular government has slipped away from the people, and commercialism in its most sordid aspect has laid hands on the Government." The explanation of this degeneration is that the American people have expended all their moral strength in the material building up of the Commonwealth. M. Ostrogorski predicts that sooner or later even this material prosperity will suffer from the effect of the existing political disorders. Of all races in an advanced stage of civilization, the American, he says, is the least accessible to long views. "Wedded to the present, the American possesses a singular power of forgetfulness; the events of the day before are to him ancient history. Confident in the future, he exhibits a remarkable endurance of present evils, a submissive patience which is ready to forego not only the rights of the citizen, but sometimes the rights of man. He does not remember, he does not feel, he lives in a materialistic dream."

M. Ostrogorski scarcely shares in this optimism. He declares that the favorite saying of the Americans, "It will right itself," is becoming every day more untrue. He finds encouragement, however, in the zeal displayed in various reform movements, though these movements have sometimes failed through a tendency to resort to external remedies and mechanical expedients, with an inadequate appreciation of the moral motive power which is the first condition of the proper working of all political systems.

The solution of the problem, both in England and America, according to M. Ostrogorski, must be the cessation of the use of permanent parties with power as their end. Party must become once more a combination of citizens formed specially for a particular political issue. In other words, the fundamental political principle must be "Union instead of unity." M. Ostrogorski deals at length with various objections to his proposal. His most effective reply is that the existing system is already collapsing, and from its ruin and disorder there is emerging a new method. The old parties, though still bearing the traditional names, are crumbling. In this country the tendency toward free homogeneous associations is seen in the formation of "committees of seventy," "leagues," "civic federations," "citizens' movements," etc. "Down with the party and up with the league!" is the cry of the political evolution which is beginning to take shape. The writer does not hesitate to give an outline of the political system which he commends as the truest expression of democracy. He makes no suggestion as to the means by which the desired change is to be brought about, but it may be inferred that he believes the pressure of necessity will be sufficient to strengthen the influence of temporary leagues and thus bring about the decline and fall of permanent parties.

Not a Beet Sugar Questions.

There is not the least likelihood that the beet sugar interest in this country would feel any effect from a reduction of one-third of a cent a pound in the duty upon sugar from Cuba.—We should still import from other parts of the world, and this one-third of a cent remitted from the duty would be paid by the importer to the Cuban producer, while the price to consumers here would not be affected. But this is not a beet sugar question, and it is no longer a sentimental question of relieving hard conditions in Cuba. It has become a commercial matter between two countries favorably situated for trade with each other. The pending treaty is calculated to facilitate and develop this trade, and the advantage would be quite as great for the United States as for Cuba, though, of course, it is relatively of much less consequence to our people.—New York Mail and Express.

Hon. J. S. Clarkson, collector of the port of New York, is down South, earning his salary.—The Commoner.

AMUSEMENTS

TONIGHT'S ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquam Grand — "The Auctioneer," David Warfield.

The Baker—"The Little Minister."

Cordray's—"Down by the Sea."

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

The Marquam Grand — "The Auctioneer," for the week.

The Baker—"The Little Minister," for the week.

Cordray's—"Down by the Sea," for the week.

MANAGERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS.

"For Fair Virginia."

Extreme pleasure is being expressed on all sides over the announcement that the next production to be given by The Neill Stock Company at The Baker will be A. L. Whytal's great play, in which he so successfully starred some seasons ago, "For Fair Virginia." This play is one that has received the hearty commendation of critics and the public wherever it has been presented. While it is not strictly a war drama, it has many of the attributes of one. The story being one of scenes and incidents of the Civil War. Like "The Little Minister," it will pack The Baker Theatre at every performance and will prove one of the most popular productions of this excellent company this season. Manager Baker is entitled to the hearty congratulation of his patrons in securing for presentation at his cozy playhouse this wonderful play. As only once before has the piece ever been permitted to be played in stock, Mr. Whytal reserving it for his own use. The demand for seats is already very large, and it is doubtful if there will be anything but standing room at The Baker next week.

"The Auctioneer," Tonight.

Tonight at the Marquam Grand Theatre David Warfield, in "The Auctioneer," will begin an engagement of three nights, with a matinee Saturday.

"The Auctioneer" takes its leading character, Simon Levi (David Warfield), among familiar New York scenes. First he appears in his auction store on Hester street, amid surroundings that are entirely characteristic. He acquires a small fortune and moves uptown to Lexington avenue. Here, during a reception given in honor of the engagement of his adopted daughter, Helga, and young Richard Eagen, he learns that certain stocks in which his money has been invested are worthless. Thus poor old Simon Levi is again reduced to the necessity of peddling, and the final act shows him as a toy vender on Twenty-third street, near the entrance of the Sixth-avenue "L." "The Auctioneer" is said to abound in local color and human interest, and, while offering the star all the opportunities he has had in the past, it affords him scope for the exhibition of pathos, the possession of which Warfield is claimed to have in a surprising degree. While arousing the almost extravagant mirth of his auditors, there comes an occasional tug at their heart-strings, the result being a wholesome, hearty and refined diversion of deep, human interest. The reports which precede Warfield's appearance here are to the effect that his performance has been widely and warmly commended; that, in fact, there is no city in which he has ever appeared in which he has not been highly appreciated. "The Auctioneer" will enlist the services of a company unusually large for productions of this kind. There are more than 50 people engaged, the best known names among them being those of Marie Bates, Maria Davis, Helena Phillips, Dallas Tyler, Sadie Miner, Dorothy West Rogers, Rachel McCausland, Eugene Canfield, Robert Fischer, Stokes Sullivan, Harry Rogers, Charles Chappelle, William Boag, Herman Lechner and Cyril Vezina.

If the Mississippi Flowed North.

The Rhine is less than 900 miles long, and the Danube less than 2,000. The length of the longest river in India is 2,300 miles, and the longest river in Asia is 3,320 miles. The Nile is 4,062; it affords, however, only 730 miles of continuous navigation from its mouth. You may take a steamboat from the mouth of the Mississippi and pass up 3,900 miles from the Gulf—as far as from New York across the Atlantic to the Strait of Gibraltar, across the Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea to Asia Minor, and up the Dardanelles to Constantinople, and then you will have to disembark and walk 400 miles if you wish to equal the distance that would have to be traveled to reach the headwaters of the river.

What if this "Father of Waters," like the Nile, had flowed north instead of south; and, like the Red River of the North, had emptied into the Arctic Ocean instead of the Gulf? Commercially speaking, it would have cut off this great river system from the world; would have made the Isthmian Canal to the Mississippi Valley, and would have spread annual devastation throughout its course, because the floods of spring from the southern portion of the river would have poured down upon the northern, while the latter was still ice-bound. Tilting the basin of the Mississippi only a few hundred feet would have made all this vast difference.