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STRENUOUS TIMES AHEAD FOR ROOSEVELT.

NOTWITHSTANDING the cheering reports which are being sent forth regarding the mutually satisfactory relations existing between the president and Senator Hanna, they still find their closest parallel in the diplomatic correspondence carried on between Russia and Japan while at the same time both nations are doing their level best in pushing preparations for war.

The political cards have been so poorly played that instead of having a walkover for the nomination, Roosevelt has now before him the fight of his life. It will require not alone shrewd and careful political work and the employment of every agency placed in his hands as president, both in the way of officeholders and office-seekers, but it will require a degree of dexterity and tact which hitherto have been lacking in the management of the president's boom.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE
A Ship Captain on Sunday Closing.
Portland, Jan. 26.—To the Editor of the Journal: In response to your request for letters on the opening or closing of the fair on Sunday, I submit the following: A few days ago a man approached me in an office down town with a petition for the closing of the fair on Sundays. I informed him I was not a resident. To explain what followed I will call this man "Petitioner" and myself "Non-Resident."

They have had a hard and uphill road to travel and were obliged to awaken most of the enthusiasm which is now back of the bill. Very few influential men in congress would have proposed such a measure of their own accord.

THAT DOUBLE MILEAGE PRECEDENT.

MANY thoughtful people are beginning to fear that precedent is supplanting principle as a rule and guide in the administration of our public affairs. In congress yesterday Mr. Hemenway of Indiana, chairman of the appropriation committee, in explaining an item for \$145,000 in his bill, said it represented mileage for senators and representatives, at the rate of 40 cents a mile, in attending the regular and special sessions of congress.

CUT DOWN THE INSURANCE RATES.

THE inspector for the underwriters is hard at work and, judging from his report, is doing his level best to render fire conditions safer here. All of this is commendable and we hope the good work will be continued.

The Czar at the Mercy of Scheming Women.

St. Petersburg Letter in San Francisco Call. One of the permanent puzzles of the present czar's reign has been the remarkable inconsistency with which Nicholas II has conducted the government of his empire.

The czar wavers continuously between allegiance to his wife and to his mother. He loves his wife, but he fears his mother, and it is a constant struggle between love and fear. Sometimes the one gets the upper hand, sometimes the other, hence the zigzag course of the czar's policy visible to the world.

The Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna, the wife of the czar's uncle and heir presumptive, Grand Duke Vladimir, is the most formidable and most dangerous of the women who exercise political influence in the Russian empire. This ambitious woman covets the throne of Russia for her husband and for her son and her whole career has been devoted to the task of undermining the present czar's position.

CORPORATE SECRECY.

Havemeyer Not Only Favors But Practices It in the Sugar Trust. From the Chicago Tribune. Henry Osborne Havemeyer, founder and president of the American Sugar Refining company, is opposed to publicity in the management of corporations.

ROCKEFELLER AND MORGAN.

David Graham Phillips in Success. John D. Rockefeller is an industrial leader; J. Pierpont Morgan is a financial leader. The one is a business man; the other is a banker.

Baron Komura, Japan's Man of the Hour.

From the New York Sun. Many persons in this country are watching the negotiations at Tokio with something akin to personal interest, because of their friendship for the man to whom the fortunes of Japan are chiefly intrusted.

Baron Komura came to young manhood at a fortunate time. The rapid change from the old order to the new had been accomplished in Japan, and there were careers to be made on every hand by those who could see the opportunities and grasp them.

His next conspicuous post of duty was in Manchuria. He was made governor of the captured province of Antung. Presently the great bear came hulking into camp and stole away the Jap's spoil of war, and Komura's occupation as provincial governor was at an end.

KING COTTON.

Phenomenal Record of Exports in 1903—Our Foreign Customers. Walter J. Ballard in New York Sun. Cotton is king of the export side of our vast national business, \$12,000,000 more than \$1,000,000 a day for 1903, Sundays and holidays included, and \$2,000,000 a day for the last three months, and \$2,500,000 a day for the final month.

Advice to the Lovelorn

BY BEATRICE FAIRFAX. Dear Miss Fairfax—I am engaged to my cousin, and he objects to my going to a ball with my mother. Do you think it proper for him to do so? Now, my mother belongs to a lodge, and to please some members she likes to go, and having no one else to go with her...