

NEW YORK GOSSIP ON MANY THEMES

GAS TRUST IN SERIOUS DIFFICULTY—SO ALSO ARE THE OBNOXIOUS LOAN SHARKS—LEGISLATION SLOWLY DRIVING LATTER OUT OF BUSINESS.

(Special Correspondence of The Journal.)
New York, Feb. 22.—The upheaval of public opinion in this city caused by the outrageous methods of the gas trust has caused a sympathetic outburst of energy and activity in the state legislature which promises trailblasts of trouble to the above-mentioned gas trust. It looks at present as if it would cost the trust a handsome sum of money to prevent the passage of some decided and vexatious laws. It is even possible that the intensity of public feeling in the matter will be considered too strong by the legislators to risk any tactics subservient to the interests of the trust. It might be rather dangerous for any member of the legislature, should it be discovered that he had been approached by any representative of the trust. Even the erection of a municipal gas plant has been suggested and the appointment of a committee to report on that proposition has been favorably received in the board of aldermen.

Loan Sharks Disgusted.

The loan sharks of New York are finding the hunting-grounds of this city decidedly dangerous and unprofitable just now. Owing to the vigorous war waged against them, many of the loan sharks have migrated to the undisturbed territory of New Jersey, but the legislature for some reason or other their customers do not feel inclined to follow them across the river. It is understood that the members of the high-interest guild are secretly collecting something like a corruption fund for the purpose of securing from the legislature the passage of a law which will enable them to resume their nefarious business in Greater New York. Among the bills introduced in the legislature and most obnoxious to the loan sharks is one which requires the companies who make loans on salary to file a copy of their agreement with their customer and with his employer. If that bill should become a law and should be thoroughly enforced it would have a powerful tendency to stop that branch of the loan business. Another scarcely less obnoxious law to the loan sharks is that prohibiting them from charging and collecting more than 5 per cent on their loans, and forbids them charging higher than the ordinary notary fees for acknowledgments.

Well Oiled Machine.

The advantages of a thoroughly organized and well oiled machine evidently appeals to the Democrats of New York state, not under the immediate control of Tammany. The Democratic organizations in several counties have already strongly endorsed the plan of extending the organization of the state into every county in the state of New York. It has also been suggested that the state convention name the candidate for United States Senator prior to the election of such senator by the New York state legislature. While the former proposition, undoubtedly meets with general approval among the Democrats in the different parts of the state, the latter suggestion has not been favorably received. However, it is of no particular consequence, as it is generally admitted that the chances of electing a Democratic United States senator are extremely slim.

Sympathy for Japan.

No matter what the feeling in other parts of the country may be, the New Yorkers strongly sympathize with Japan in the present difficulty. The way in which the people here receive every bit of news, indicating a success of the Japanese, the enthusiasm shown over the dash and courage of the eastern Yankees during their first attack upon Port Arthur, leaves no doubt as to the directions in which the sympathy of the people lies. The local Japanese consular general has been practically besieged all week by persons who were anxious to offer assistance in some form or other to Japan. Hundreds volunteered to assist in the Japanese army or navy, while others came forward with various practical or unfeasible plans for raising funds in the interest of Japan's war fund. The Jews of New York showed themselves particularly eager to assist Japan and the reason given by many was, that it was not so much the desire to help Japan, as the desire to get even with Russia for the massacre at Kishineff, that prompted their offers.

A Rare Collection.

J. Pierpont Morgan made another lucky investment the other day, when he purchased the Louis Sayre Burchard collection of Norman-French romances, which several American universities wanted to buy but could not, because they could not afford the expense. The library was gathered by a student of the chivalrous literature of the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and contains more rare illuminated manuscripts and block-printed books than any other collection in this country, excepting, perhaps, that in the Robert Hoe library. The valuable collection will soon be placed in the magnificent marble library which is in course of construction in the rear of Mr. Morgan's house on Madison avenue.

How convenient it is to be rich and have residences in different cities. Robert Goellet, who had been assessed for \$100,000 personal property and Mrs. Henrietta Goellet, who had been assessed on \$20,000 worth of personal property, succeeded in escaping taxation by making oath that they were non-residents. Both claimed Newport as their place of residence. It is expected that quite a number of the select of New York will follow the example of the Goellets, to the loss and detriment of the less fortunate taxpayers.



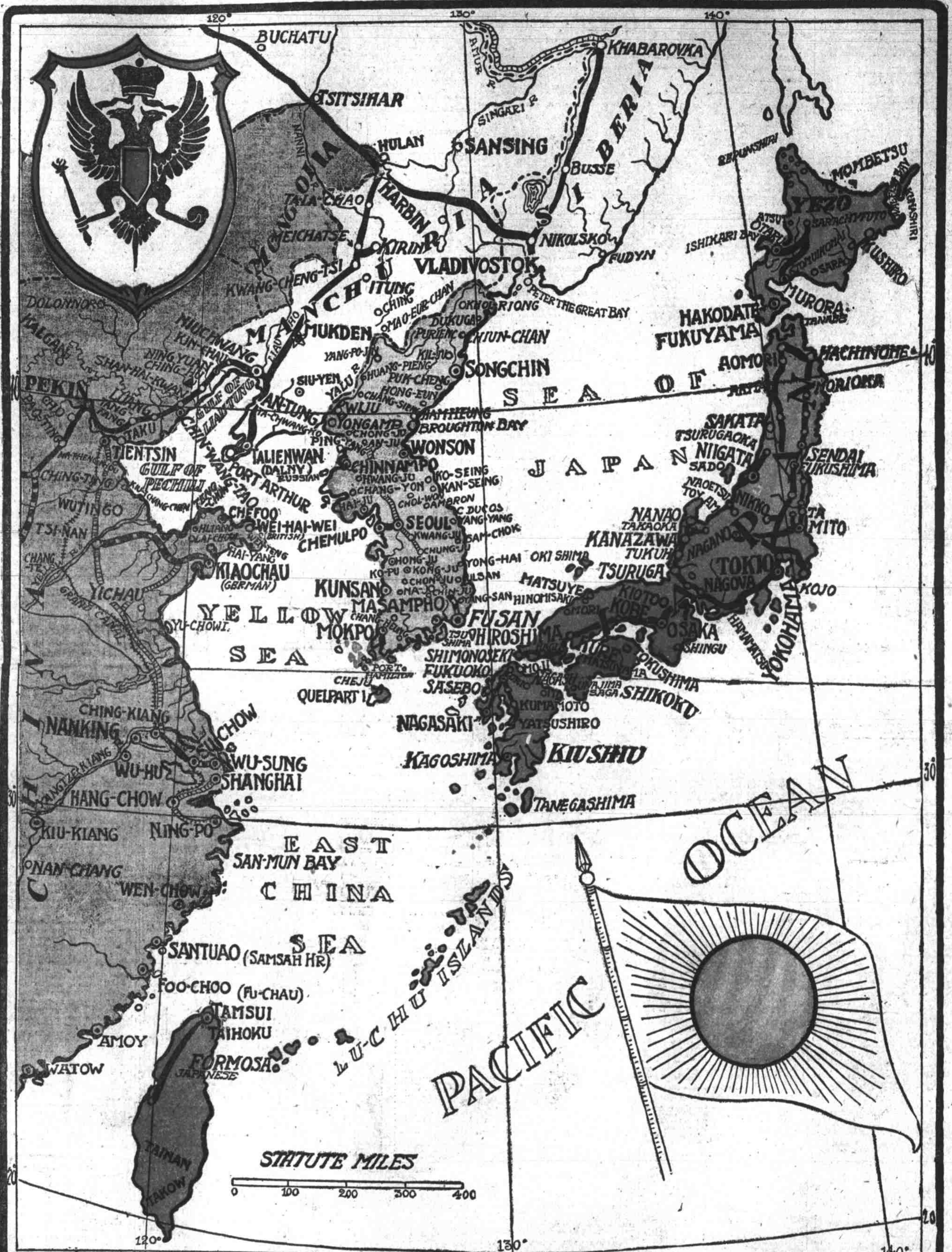
The largest and most complete undertaking establishment on the Coast. F. S. Dunning, Inc., 414 East Alder, Corner East Sixth. Both phones. Calls promptly answered to any part of the city.

FOR A FEW DAYS

We will sell a
S-Dresses, Box Cover Sewing Machine, \$12.50
Drop Head, \$19.50
These are new and up-to-date Sewing Machines.

Standard Sewing Machine Office
250 Yamhill St., Corner Fourth.
Needles, Oil and Repairs. Second-hand Machines all makes, from \$2 to \$15—in good order.

WAR MAP.



JAPAN		SIBERIA (RUSSIA)	
COREA		MANCHURIA	
CHINA		Railroads Completed—Building—Proposed	