G. W. Burton Relates His Impressions of Spain's Ancient Capital Where Half Million People Are Housed in Remarkably Small Area But Happy Withal, Each an Aristocrat With Democratic Ways,

By Q. W. Burton. Madrid-I am sitting here in my room writing this letter 100 yards from the center of the world. The center of infinity is anywhere and everywhere. So it is with the center of this world of ours. We all know where the "Hub of the Universe" is in the world of a great many highly intelligent and very fine people. The Chinaman thinks his "Flowery Kingdom" is also "The Central Kingdom" and is full sure that China is the center of the globe. To the southern Californian who would care say that Los Angeles is on the rim? And the dweller by the Golden Gate will become indignant if any dare assert that his city is not the most central spot from which all latitude and longitude must date, while the Portlander is just as sure that the sun in his diurnal course does not look down upon a bit of country comparable in any respect with the valley of the Willamette from the forks of that delightful stream to where it mingles its waters with those of the Columbia.

Madrid to Malaga at the southern end of the Iberian peninsula is 676 kilometers, to Santander on the north coast in a straight line the distance is 502 kilometers, to Barcelona 685, and to Listion 665. These are railroad distances, and in no case are the places absolutely the farthest from the capital to the coast. To be sure, Lisbon is not in Spain, but once it was, or what was the same, was under Spanish control, and this is another case of things being what they should not be. The patriotic Spaniard is fully convinced that it was a hard and unfair decree of fate that his country is not still what it was in the days of Philip II and much more besides. Surely the world would be better if the wrong cause had not triumphed and deprived the world of so able a mistress. But fate won, and we shall not be able at this late day to change her decrees and won, and we shall not be able at make what should be the things that shall be.

I had heard a great deal of the Puerta del Sol, or the Gate of the Sun. and had my own ideas about this interesting dot on the surface of the earth. Now I am little given to consulting guide books. I find they too often lead me into the wrong paths and leave me to find my way back to fact by my own unguided efforts. I do not know, "Kind Reader," what you think of the "Puerta del Sol" just as you alt there on the shores of the far away Pacific at this moment. As I sat there a few months ago I had in my mind in with these fascinating words a vision of an ample park with stately houses on all sides and fine trees and flower beds full of color and beauty all between. I never pretend to more knowledge than I possess, and am making a clear breast of my ignorance, as it was last winter when I sat where you sit now. Well, there you have the Puerta del Sol as created by my misguided imagination. Here is the spot as it stands, before me from my window here in old Madrid.

We reached the Hotel Londres at midnight of a certain day. It is a regular hotel, not large nor fine from our point of view in America. It is called "Grand," as are all hotels here. Measured by things in New York it is not dear. But I knew I could get just as comfortable entertaining at a pension for less than half the "tariff" at the tening the curve. From heel to heel across the straight part of this square the distance is 500 or 500 feet, and tries and learn. Madrid has dozens of birth and position count for so much around the flattened curve it might small plans or squares all over the one might expect to see much representations around the flattened curve it might small plans or squares all over the one might expect to see much representations of the common people. As a matmeasure somewhat more than 1000 feet. Here 10 of the principal streets of the city converge and here come all the streetcar lines of Madrid. Here also is 250 to 500 feet where it enlarges into much more independently in aristocratic much more independent much congregates at noon a mass of the a plaza here and there. It resembles Madrid than in the most democratic population that fills it as thick as an the avenue Champs Elysess in Paris, city in America. All asked here has of a beenive when the flowers are all in bloom. It is a flower bed of color, be sure, but the flowers are human, the beautiful women and handsome men of Spain, and the color is that of the all around the horseshoe, but not grand in any one instance. Two or three are hotels, all "grand" by the signs, they bear, but not one so good as a second class hostelry in any large city on the Pacific coast.

No wonder it is a beehive of humanity. Here centers the civil, mercan-tile and social life of a city of 500,000 It is a city, too, not of busy mercantile people, or of manufactur-ing plants, but mostly of government officials, or well to do people whose business is that ancient trade of killing time, of visitors from other parts of Spain, and of tourists from all parts of the world. There are here in our pension eight to twelve persons day by day. Most of these come from America; once in a while comes a German or a Swede, or a man or woman from to bring in 300 miles from the moun-England. Of natives there are some tains a very bountiful supply of pure here at any time. This pension is Madrid in epitome. It is a flat with an area and to the parks, where many small of about 50 by 60 feet. This is sub- lakes have been created. Every morndivided into 10 rooms, all bedrooms excepting the small kitchen, the smaller hose to faucets in the sidewalk and "sitting room" with a plane that occu- flood the streets. There is no mud nor ples one third of its space, and the din- dust in the streets or the air. In the ing room 8 by 12, where half a score of people eat three times a day. The this way several times a day, cooling space is about that of the bodroom the air a great deal. floor of a pretty good American house where would be found four bedrooms, a where would be found four bedrooms, a letter is to present a view of the house hall, and a bathroom. Remember, this in which a great municipality dwells. is made to answer for 10 rooms, and Now about the family. In other words, here more than a dozen people find accommodation all the time. The sleeping city to the humans who make their rooms are fitted up with from one to home here. The first thing that arthree beds each, and these are shifted from room to room as they are needed.
All are single beds. tl is scarcely worth while to say that some of these rooms are mere holes in the wall, with no light from outside nor ventilation excepting from the small halls, almost always hermetically sealed from the outer air. In the center of the flat comes down a light well 6 by 10 feet which greatly reduces the available space. This is used to dry the clothes, which are washed in the kitchen. This flat has five floors and a mansard story under the roof. The ground floor is used for stores; in all the others peo-ple live more or less packed together. building is flanked on both sides and in the rear with others just like it, only the rear one has a light well between it and the others and those on all share in the light. The air is not enough for a bird in a cage.

so in all the other streets near the cen- middle one, the most important in all ter of the city. All the houses are five cities and countries the world over. to six stories, mostly five, excepting a few old ones of one or two. If all the floors of the building are as well occupled as ours the four principal floors odge and feed nearly 50 persons. As the storckespers live in the rear of their stores, and as the mansard accommoes several persons, this space of 50 ories gives shelter to about half a hunople, and 29 auch spaces will





Top-Royal Palace, Madrid. Bottom-Street in Madrid.

Madrid calls up its position with regard to the surrounding country. The city noons when the weather is bright these stands on a slight eminence in the midst places are as populous as a bee hive of a great central plateau around which runs a circle of high mountains, in the late fall and winter snow capped as to their highest peaks, This plateau centuries ago was covered with a dense forest of magnificent growth. The people of these olden times forgot they were to have children to succeed them and that these generations would need wood for various purposes. So they in wood for various purposes. So they in ple of the humblest walks of life, both old and young. The parents sit in the leaving a treeless, bleak and sterile plain sun and chat betimes while the children for miles around Madrid. Hence comes skip rope, play horse, throw balls, and the high cost of fuel as well as of tim- indulge in all the sports of childhood ber for other purposes, and worse still, that are older than all histories and the awful climate of Madrid. It has antedate all cities. passed into a proverb which you hear on So at noon in the Puerta del Sol. It every hand that the climate here is made is a motley crowd. The grand dame up of "nine months of winter and three steps from her carriage and the rich of hell." You realize it at whatever merchant walks the sidewalks cheek by time you come. Moreover, the climate jowl with the street sweeper who has is subject to great changes because of the noon hour off, the street car man the winds from the mountains around. Who is to get his lunch, and the omnip-It is pleasant in the winter during the resent beggar, as well as small boys hours from I1 a, m, to 4 p. m. The and girls, old men and women in poor nights are very cold, and also the mornings and evenings. The Gulf stream of otherwise to catch a penny for hotel, and early in the morning salled forth in quest of my ideal. I found it rope, filling the air with moisture, and in 16 minutes, and it was at the very edge of the Puerta del Sol. This I found to be a bit of the city in the spreads its vapors all over western Europe, filling the air with moisture, and while it prevents the low temperatures of New England, the dampness makes the less degrees of cold or heat all the spreads its vapors all over western Europe, filling the air with moisture, and the daily needs. Here passes along a regiment of infantry, colonel and captains in gorgeous array, foot soldiers well clad and carrying their guns, and the street gamins run in and out among the ranks. Here is an urchln with a

I love to dwell on the parks of these European cities. The park commissions of all our cities should visit these coun-All along are trees with walks between them, flower beds here and there, and with clothes or other outward circum, fountains and monuments to the memory of great men or representing some mythological subject. Simplicity is the feature that strikes you. The plan is robes they wear. How wide apart are all for convenience and to please the the poorest sits at the next table to eye, and this is done by the closest adherence possible to nature. All that is done is to make walks and drives. These and the monuments are the only obtrusion of man into the realms of nature in her simplest moods. Beyond the Prado lie the parks, stretching for miles, all the creation of art whose pur- moving your trunk, if he can, expects. pose is to counterfelt nature as nearly as possible and at the same time permit people to come into closest contact with the simplest moods of nature and enjoy the beauties of the parks. Parque de Madrid and El Retiro are contiguous, and both lie five minutes' walk from the Prado.

Plenty of Water.

20 years ago the city spent \$25,000,000 water. This is piped through the streets ing city employes hitch long pieces of hot summer the streets are sprinkled in What I have been trying to do in this

let us turn from Madrid the physical The first thing that arrests the attention of the careful obbetween wealth and poverty and at the from his native heath, Scotland, when same time the comparative plane of a boy of 18. He claimed to have been equality on which all stand. Madrid is born in the same neighborhood with furniture, jewelry and comestibles are he left Scotland and has left no relaestablishments into existence or keep most of his life, Simpson took an active them in being. The equipages seen part in the winning of the west and along the Prado and the richly dressed is in among a people of taste and three years ago when he was burned wealth. I saw babes in the arms of nurses in costly livery with hundreds of yards of fine lace on the little things'

And just as much in evidence is the most abject poverty. The great mass So it goes up and down the street and in the passing show of course is the These make up four-fifths of the people you see. They are well clad, well fed people who have no great cause to complain. The other 20 per cent is equally divided between, beggars and purchase of the ground, a tract 100 feet humble persons on one side and the on Washington and 174 on Fifth street. "great world" on the other. Some one has said that a church is a place where one of the best in the city, it being rich and poor meet together, and God sufficiently close to the business streets feet on the ground with its six hath made them both. Then Madrid and at the same time far enough out to closely resembles a church, for all be away from the noise, besides it is classes go to all places at the same on one of the most generally traveled time and in the same way. The Prado streets in the city.

people in all their phases. All afterplaces are as populous as a bee hive, Here go the perambulators with the lace bedecked babes of wealth and fashion in care of nurses in gorgeous livery. Sandwiched between pass the children of the middle classes. Sometimes the parents of the children of the laces walk by the side of the little carriages. The middle classes take charge of their own offspring for the most part. And the crowd is all shot through with peo-

the ranks. Here is an urchin with sweeper on his shoulder mocking the sergeant by whose side he struts. In a nothing to do with wealth or position, stance. Any person goes where he will provided he has the price to pay for what he wishes and will behave himself the millionaire in any public place where each pays his way or where adthe utmost independence is marked in the conduct of all classes of people All you can say to the king is "senor," "Si el le gueste a usted, senor," is the way the humblest expects to be addressed. The girl of all work whose wardrobe is worth \$2.50 and whose monthly wage is \$3, expects this of all guests, and gets it. That is all you can say to the mistress. The English is "If it pleases your honor, sir." So it goes in this old monarchy where Outwardly Madrid is very clean. It aristocratic dignity clings so to cere-is mostly so inwardly, too. More than mony and every man is in his own eyes hidalgo and is treated so by allthe most aristocratic people with the

### PIONEER OF OREGON DIES AT DAYTON. WN.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Dayton, Wash., March 4. — James Simpson, well known pioneer mining man of Oregon, is dead at the farm of M. Maynard, six miles east of Dayton, aged nearly 89 years. The cause of death is given as senile decay although the old man had not been sick long. Rev. Warren Kennoyer will conduct the funeral at the Maynard place tomorrow morning and the remains will be brought to this city.

Mr. Simpson came west about 60 years server is the sharp contrast revealed ago from New York where he landed a city of great wealth. This is mani- Robert Burns, the immortal Scotch fested in the rich shops where clothing, poet. He severed his family ties when Only great wealth could call such tives that he knew of. On the frontier fought many Indian battles. He was children in the parks in charge of well never married. He lived in a small lad nurses teach the looker-on that he house on the outskirts of Dayton until

### SOON BEGIN WORK ON WASCO'S COURT HOUSE

y's new \$100,000 court house is to be built on the corner of Washington and Fifth streets, the property occupied by the First Baptist church, the county court having closed a deal with the heirs of the O. D. Taylor estate for the The site selected for the court house is caking of the physical features of and the parks are where one sees the bargained to sell a quarter block it

owned on Second street to the government ment for a location for the government building for which there is an \$80,000 appropriation, and will likely sell the quarter block on which the old court house stands for business purposes. It is expected that work of constructing the new court house will be commenced not later than June 1, and it is expected to complete it before the end of the year.

NO BOXING BOUTS IN CITY OF SALEM

Some bouts have been held from time more teacher to be engaged.

(Special Dispetch to The Journal.) Freewater, Or., March 6.—The Milto Freewater school board has re-Salem, Or., March 4, Ordinances of nearly all the teachers for 1911 that Salem, Or., March 4,—Ordinances of the city of Salem do not permit prize fighting and Mayor Lachmund has sued an order directing that Chief of Police Hamilton prohibit future boxing bouts in the city. A fight that was to have been pulled off last night under the auspices of Company M of the Oregon National Guard in the armory, which is located on the third floor of the city hall, was called off.

Some bouts have been held from time investment of the teachers for 1911 that taught last year. Professor I. E. Woung will be the principal for the principal for the Professor W. H. Musselman has been engaged as the principal for the Precewater school. Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Sevy, Mrs. Florence Kelly, Mrs. Charles Bliss, Miss Bessie morris, Miss Olga Oleson, Miss Nell, Miss Mary Graham, Miss Alice Compton are the rest of the staff with one more teacher to be engaged.

La Follette Charges Interests Are Benefactors of Japanese Treaty.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Madison. Wis., March 4.—"Dollar
diplomacy," Japanese exclusion and a strong scoring of President Taft and Secretary Knox in connection with those themes is the central interest this week

ntains this passage: cored again. This time it is on trade its right to exclude Japanese laborers leaving in its place a 'gentleman's agreement, which, without a treaty pro-vision, is nothing. In return, if there is any consideration given, it must be found in the likelihood that certain New York bankers will be permitted to participate in concessions for the con-struction of Manchurian railroads.

'Dollar diplemacy is more interested in Morgan concessions than in Japanese exclusion. Dollar diplomacy traded the navy's secrets for contracts for the Schwab Shipbuilding company. It is meddling in Turkey to get more con-cession for American financiers. What next? Is there anything more, anything which Taft and Knox will not give to foreign nations in exchange for the

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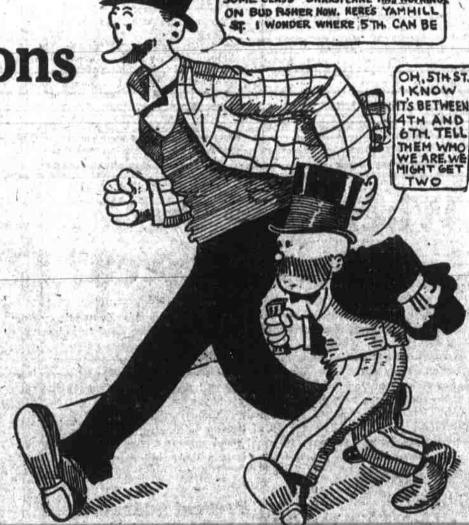
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