

This Date In History—March 11.

- 630—St. Sophronius, Greek Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem, died.
1544—Torquato Tasso, Italian poet, born; died 1586.
1721—Robert Treat Paine, "signer," born in Boston; died there 1814.
1809—Hannah Crowley, English dramatic writer, died.
1820—Benjamin West, American painter, died in London; born in Pennsylvania 1738.
1853—Alexander Mikhailovitch Gortschokof, Russian prince and statesman, died; born 1798.
1888—General William Starke Rosecrans, a noted soldier of the western army, died at Los Angeles; born 1821.



R. T. Paine.

Senator Mark Hanna is still arguing subsidies. The dollar mark is Mark's coat of arms. He likes grafts.

Prince Henry starts for home today. He goes with a better idea of America, of the United States. His eyes have been opened, and he never saw the Great West either.

Judge Lowell is still in the race for the nomination of governor at the hands of the republican party. He states he will not be out of the fight until the state convention completes its work of nominating a ticket.

The Umatilla county republicans assemble in county convention tomorrow. They come to carry out what has already been agreed upon. The grand old party is very much of a machine these days. The people have little to do with "working" it.

It does look as if the republicans of eastern Oregon would not get together in their effort to nominate an eastern Oregon man for governor. While they are quarrelling over minor matters the interest of eastern Oregon are neglected. The republicans should get together on a candidate, then the rest would be easy.

A public-spirited citizen of Eugene is contemplating erecting a "first-class hotel" at a cost of \$35,000. Just as well attempt to build an up-to-date steamship for 30 cents. A first-class hotel in a town like Eugene cannot be built for less than \$75,000, and it would not net 3 per cent on that amount of money. First-class hotels in small towns are not good investments for the owners. They are the poorest form of real estate investments, but they are splendid things with which to advertise a town.

It is stated that the ultimate object of Prince Henry's visit to the United States was to bring about an agreement by which Germany will be permitted to maintain a large fleet in the Caribbean waters to serve for the protection of the German settlers and the property rights of German subjects imperilled by the frequent revolutions of the little South American republics. In other words, Germany is anxious to get a foothold on American soil with Uncle Sam's consent. The warning of Washington will have to be borne in mind if we are to continue to avoid "entangling alliances."

President Roosevelt informed the Boer representatives the other day that the United States could not assist the Boer cause in any way. Judging by the tenor of the late news the Boers are not in any particular need of assistance. In short, that they are able to take care of themselves. The cause of republicanism is still alive in South Africa. The great British empire is not making much headway in its imperial policies in that country. People who fight for independence for themselves and their country are not easily subdued. The Boers have richly won the right to be free and govern themselves, without the meddling of England or any other country in the governing business.

President Roosevelt has, with his usual strenuousness, informed the federal office holders that they must keep out of factional fights and attend to the duties of the offices to

which they have been appointed. It is a pity that the president's admonitions do not apply to United States senators and congressmen, who are federal office holders, though occupying elective offices, for they are in up to the necks in factional fights, spending their time for their own benefit, which they are supposed to give to the service of the people. Senator Simon, of Oregon, is a sample of these offensive partisans, who is trying to make sure of his re-election, when he knows that the people of Oregon, nor no considerable portion of them, want him in the United States for one minute after his present term of office expires. If this man had one conception of decency he would make no futile attempt to further thrust himself upon the people. Figuratively speaking, they should grab him by the back of the neck and the slack of his pants and pitch him from his political pedestal for all time to come. He has prostituted the politics of Oregon long enough and the party that countenances him is deserving of no endorsement of the people. What is he in politics for?

ATHENS, CITY OF MARBLE.

William E. Curtis, writing from Athens, to the Chicago Record-Herald, says: Modern Athens is a city of marble. Many of the dwellings and business houses, and nearly all of the public edifices are of that material, and even the sidewalks in some of the streets are paved with it. Over on the bosom of Mount Pentelikon are two great gashes, which can be seen for many miles. One of them is the quarry from which was hewn the marble for building the Parthenon, the Temple of Jupiter, the Temple of Thesus and other famous structures of ancient Athens. The other would was made in modern times, and shows the source of the material of which the present city of Athens was built. The authorities have protected the old quarry for historical and archaeological reasons, and nothing has been taken from it for several centuries. The other quarry is just as good. The stone is easily cut and removed, and, although the grain is not so fine as the Parian marble from the quarries in Southern Greece, it is equal to that from the famous Carrara quarries of Italy, and it costs much less. I was wondering the other day why some enterprising American did not come over here and build a railway to the quarry from Piraeus, the seaport of Athens, so as to export the marble, for none is exported now. It would be a distance of only about 12 miles, not counting the curves necessary to make the grade, and it could be run on the gravity principle.

The use of marble and white stucco gives modern Athens an appearance of neatness and beauty, which there is no soot to deface. The dust is very bad, however, when the wind blows. The streets are unpaved and the soil is a clay that moistens into mud or dries into dust very readily, and a waiter always stands at the door of the hotel with a feather duster to brush off your boots. One of the streets is named in honor of Aeolus, the god of the winds, but he does not confine his attentions to that thoroughfare. Down in the old part of Athens is a well preserved octagonal structure of marble called the Tower of the Winds, and one might suppose that it was the place where they originated, but the name seems to have been given merely because it was surmounted by a weathervane. The tower was built about 100 years before Christ by Andronikos of Syria, so an inscription tells us, as a compliment to the city of Athens, and was adorned with a sun dial and a clock that was run by water power in some ingenious manner, but the exact plan of its operation is not understood by modern mortals. An aqueduct supplied a cistern and the cistern fed machinery too complicated for modern horologists to comprehend.

The streets leading east from the Tower of Winds enter a depression in the side of a hill inclosed by a wall which was formerly the site of a school called Diogenes, the famous cynic in the third century before Christ.

The palace of the king is an ugly modern structure, of which a nation of the taste of the Greeks ought to be ashamed. It looks like a factory, but the other public buildings are not so imposing and appropriate, particularly a group of three—the university, the Academy of Sciences and the library—that they more than offset the atrocity in which the king resides.

I doubt if there is a more beautiful combination of buildings in the world. The academy, designed by a Vienna architect, is asserted to be the purest example of the classic school that has arisen in modern times. The surroundings are appropriate and the entire street, called University street, is worthy of the artistic tradition of the Athenians as well as the spirit of modern enterprise.

A pretty park adjoins the palace grounds in the center of the city, and one of the residence streets is lined with pepper trees, but there is no oth-

er shade in Athens except the awnings stretched across the street in the business section to shelter show windows and politicians, who sit at little tables in front of the cafes. The gleam of the white marble is painful to the eyes.

The architecture in most of the houses in the new part of the town are pure Greek, simple, dignified and stately, a striking contrast to the picturesque squalor and delapidation of Constantinople and the ornate embellishment of the Italian cities. Some critics complain that the architecture of Athens is monotonous, but it is the monotony of pure and simple taste, and none can deny the beauty of the modern residences. Most of them are constructed upon modern plans, especially in the interior, with an idea of meeting the demand for conveniences, and I am sure that the Athens of today is more comfortable and beautiful as a city than it was in the days of Pericles and Phidias. The mountain of Pentelikon can furnish all the marble that is necessary to meet the demands of the builders for twenty-five more centuries.

In the old part of the city the streets are narrow, dirty, and the odors rise to heaven. As I have already told you in a previous letter, the modern Greek peasant is not a tidy person, nor is his wife, and the street that passes his dwelling, the house in which he lives and all his surroundings are repulsive to the eye, the nostrils and the sense of propriety.

WHY WAS IT DONE?

It is hard to believe that the "understanding between statesmen," to which the British minister, Mr. Chamberlain, referred a year or so ago, has gone so far as Mr. Hay implied when refusing to ask for passports for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas to enable them to succeed the reconcentrado prisoners in South Africa. A committee organized by Governor Yates, of Illinois, has raised funds for the relief of these hapless non-combatant prisoners, and in order to secure its just distribution, has asked the Rev. Miram W. Thomas, a well loved clergyman, of Chicago, and his wife, to go to the South African camps and superintend the distributing work. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas consented. But passports from the British government being necessary, Secretary Hay was duly requested to apply for them to the British ambassador, Lord Pauncefote. Mr. Hay refused to do so, giving as his reason that President Roosevelt would object. To such a laudable application it would seem that the British government itself should have been left to make the objection. Neither Mr. Roosevelt nor Mr. Hay was requested to act as "buffer." But our government, evidently, wished to avoid placing the tory government of Great Britain in an embarrassing position. Had Mr. Roosevelt requested the

passports, and there is no legitimate reason why he should not have done so, but abundant reason why he should, the British government would have been obliged either to grant the request or to disclose a cruel churlishness which it prefers to conceal. From this alternative President Roosevelt saves it. These "understandings between statesmen," with their little side courtesies in connection with coronations, are curious developments in Imperial diplomacy.—Louis Post's Public.

If Mrs. Dewey were not really sick Admiral Dewey would undoubtedly renew his acquaintance with the prince so pleasantly begun at Manila.

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