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O. A. DEARING, EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

## WAR BEGUN IN THE ORIENT.

Japanese Fleet Seize Russian Vessels--Happened Yesterday at 5 P. M.

War has commenced between Japan and Russia, by the seizure of Russian vessels by the Japanese fleet. Time, Monday afternoon at five o'clock.

### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

We wonder if there is any real necessity for lowering the asbestos curtain between the Chamberlain vice-presidential boom and the democratic party.

The name of the president who pulled down the flag in Hawaii is Grover Cleveland. And this is claimed to be the best that democracy can offer to the loyalty of the country.

A republican congress is another name for wise national progress. It is the best expression of the genius of the American people. The duty we owe to posterity is to maintain it in its integrity.

Nothing like taking advantage of your opportunities as they turn up. The Mormon elders who are proselyting in Idaho are encouraging the "leap year doctrine." Now, ladies, speak up lively.

Fresh-laid eggs are like gold dollars; they are either good or bad. There is no middle ground for them to occupy. When all right each has a standing value that nothing can take away from it. When bad they are worthless, except in Kings Valley, where they are found useful in enforcing needed lessons in the social status of visitors.

Delaware witnessed on Saturday last, an act of justice for which she is to be commended. A brute by the name of Corbett Lee, at Newcastle in that State, was fastened to the whipping post and received ten lashes, well laid on, for wife beating. This is to be followed up by a month in prison. The gentleman probably deserved what he got, and we hope he enjoyed it.

Isn't it strange that the first thought with which a democratic politician approaches any subject of national interest is to see whether any political capital can be made out of it. There is no thought as to how the interests of the United States are advanced by any policy which the administration has adopted; the one question ever present in the democratic mind is whether the incident cannot be distorted in some manner to the purpose of exciting some prejudice in some minds against the administration. What a misfortune it must be to be a democrat, anyhow!

One of the most fascinating myths of our childhood days was certainly the story of Atlantis—the fabled continent which was said to exist in the Atlantic ocean, between America and Europe. How the imagination reveled in the wondrous tales of its splendor and its power, its palaces and its pyramids. How fancy run riot in picturing its marvels. But the inconoclastic hand of science is tumbling traditions about our ears. The fairy tales of myth and fable, the dim traditions of an almost forgotten past—the haunting memories of vague and shadowy legends, are, by the aid of modern science and research, shaping themselves into actual historical facts. Recent paleontological researches have established the fact of there having really existed an Atlantis—a land connection between Europe and America—in the tertiary period. This was a continent, says the early Egyptian records, lying over against the Pillars of Hercules, in extent greater than Libya and Asia put together, and was the passage to other islands, and to another continent of which the Mediterranean Sea was only the harbor, and that within the pillar of the empire of Atlantis reached to Egypt and Tyrrhenia. A little while later there was an earthquake, and the great island of Atlantis with its 64,000,000 inhabitants, sank beneath the sea. From this continent branching out from the Mediterranean, Europe and Africa received its first people and its first civilization; a civilization that has left its impress on Egyptian history, and which the boasted progress of two thousand years has hardly equalled and seldom surpassed. Atlantis is one of the stern and stubborn facts of history and cannot be ignored.

There will be no U. S. Senator to elect in the next legislature and that body ought to do some good and effective work next session. Benton county has a state senator to elect next June. See to it, gentlemen politicians, that a man of high character and good business ability is nominated to that position. This is not a question of factional fighting—it is the selection of the best man for Benton county's interests. Here is an opportunity to do some good work. Our county has been well represented in the position heretofore. Keep up the standard, gentlemen.

Japan has at last reached the limit of her patience, and it is more than probable that the present week will witness the beginning of hostilities in Corea and Manchuria. It is certain that Russia, who has simply been playing for time to complete preparations, will not yield to Japan's demands relative to Manchuria. If Japan has the spunk she is everywhere credited with, the war is certain. It is for her to decide whether it goes on or not. Russia has crippled herself to some extent in the large loans she has been forced to make to complete the Trans-Siberian Railway, to build her new navy, and internal improvements throughout her vast empire. Her indebtedness to France alone is nearly one and one-half billion dollars, and it is doubtful if she can make another loan. On the other hand Japan has just received a voluntary subscription of one million dollars toward her war fund. She has just made her first call for the return to Japan of all her people in America who are liable for military service. It is said that there are at least 150 men in San Francisco alone, who will obey the call, and return to Tokio on the first steamer which leaves port tomorrow. Failure to comply with this call forfeits all rights of citizenship in Japan. It is unnecessary to say that the call will be obeyed. There is a feeling of relief in Tokio at the fact that all doubts regarding the outcome of the negotiations have been practically set at rest. Patriotism is rife among the little brown men and they are stirred to a high pitch of excitement. Let the battle begin.

While the people are still discussing State Superintendent Ackerman's plan for teaching agriculture in the public schools, it is well to study and profit by the experience of other countries on similar lines: The government of Denmark spent \$500,000 last year for the purpose of making more farmers. Any laborer in that country who saves one-tenth of the price of a plot of land can borrow the remainder of the money from the government, paying three per cent. interest. The government sends expert professors of agriculture to give every farmer free lessons in farming, and each new farmer is given a free trip to a model farm, so that he may learn how to make the best possible use of his land. An example like this is surely worth our attention, if not our emulation. If it is to the interest of a small country like Denmark, with only limited resources at its command, to spend large sums to make more farmers, surely our own country, whose possibilities of agricultural development are almost unlimited, could well afford to spend millions to establish farm training schools, where every man or boy who desires the knowledge might learn how to till the soil and become an independent producer on the land. As a preliminary measure to these schools, surely nothing could be better, as a foundation, than Supt. Ackerman's plan of giving the scholars of our district schools a first course in agricultural topics. This will be a fit training for a fuller course in our agricultural colleges, even if the plan as practiced in Denmark were not carried out. The Danish plan of promoting agriculture and encouraging homemaking will result in a more contented and patriotic people and raise the standard of citizenship in that country. It might be followed with profit in this country.

### OUR BRAINY CONTEMPORARIES.

Portland papers are agitating the question of whether or not the Lewis and Clark fair shall close on Sunday. Better wait and see whether congress puts up the wherewithal to insure it opening on week days.—Eugene Guard.

The home of ex-President Cleveland has been blessed with a new baby. The family scales could not be found, and recourse was had to the sacred set used only to record the triumphs of the father's famous fishing. What was the delight of the fond parents to find the infant son weighed exactly 47 pounds.—Oregon City Courier.

You may call him a "rube," or a "hayseed," or a "yap," but the farmer is nevertheless the biggest man in the country. He could buy all the national banks, pay the national debt, purchase both the steel combine and the Standard Oil trust and put Wall street out of business, out of the product of his own honest toil, and still have half a billion dollars left for pocket change. To sum it up in a sentence the farmer, by whatever name he may be called, is the most important class in the United States and has a right to grow cheery at the showing he makes.—Agriculturist.

**Knew How to Keep a Hotel.**  
Guest—I'd soon starve here.  
Proprietor (country hotel)—There's plenty to eat.  
"Perhaps so, but those waiter girls of yours don't attend to me."  
"They don't? Well, that's easily fixed. Here's some wax."  
"What good is that?"  
"Put it on your mustache, of course, and curl the ends. You've got too much of a married look."—N. Y. Weekly.

**Most Unfashionable.**  
"My gracious!" suddenly exclaimed little Mabel Blugore, who had been day-dreaming. "I suppose there's no help for it."  
"What are you thinking of, dear?" asked her mamma.  
"Why, I was just thinking when we die we'll have to wear ready-made heavenly robes for a few days till we can be fitted."—Philadelphia Press.

**That's What.**  
Out of barrel and out of sack,  
Out of closet chest and pack,  
Burglars take things now and then—  
For burglars are such taking men.  
—Chicago Daily News.



**HARD ON HIM.**  
Youngwed—I say, old chap! what would you consider the hardest thing to learn about a baby?  
Cynicus—Not talk about it.—Philadelphia Press.

**Undoubtedly True.**  
The progressive woman  
Would like, it appears,  
To advance in ideas—  
And retrocede in years.  
—Chicago Daily News.

**The Proper Security.**  
Jinks—Johnson wants to borrow £10 from me. Is he good for that amount?  
Binks—Yes, with proper securities.  
Jinks—What would you suggest?  
Binks—A chain and padlock, a pair of handcuffs and a dog. That would be enough, I think, to hold him.—Tit-Bits.

**Logical.**  
Willie—Mamma, I dreamed last night that papa gave me a bicycle for my birthday, and you gave me a watch.  
Mamma—But, Willie, you know dreams go by contraries.  
Willie—Then you will give me the bicycle, and papa the watch?—Brooklyn Life.

**Part of Her Trouble.**  
Mrs. Millions—The clergyman spoke quite bitterly of the extravagant entertainments given by wealthy members of the congregation.  
Millions—Did he mention any names?  
Mrs. Millions (with a sigh)—No; he didn't mention a single name!—Puck.

**A Golden Band.**  
Tess—I hear you're taking an interest in church work. You have a Band of Hope, haven't you?  
Jess—Not yet, but I'm to get it today, and it's to have two diamonds in it. Charlie only proposed last night.—Philadelphia Press.

**Not Certain.**  
"Did you," the landlady archly asked, "ever taste Belgian hare, Mr. Smyth-ere?"  
"I don't know," the star boarder answered; "there was one in my soup at dinner. What is your cook's nationality?"—Chicago Times-Herald.

**A Stretch of Imagination.**  
"Mrs. Binks has a noble stretch of imagination, hasn't she?"  
"I don't know her very well. Why do you think so?"  
"I heard her speaking of the flat they live in as 'our town house.'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Not a Safe Guide.**  
"Daughter, wouldn't you trust your father to choose a husband for you?"  
"No, indeed, papa. You would consider any man eligible who would listen to your talk about your rheumatism."—Chicago Record.

**The More the Better.**  
Mrs. Oldboy—A short golf skirt like this makes a woman look ten years younger.  
Oldboy—In that case, my dear, you should wear about three.—Town Topics.

**A Negative Potency.**  
Money," said the philosophical person, "does not always bring happiness."  
"No," answered the matter-of-fact friend. "But the lack of it invariably brings discomfort."—Washington Star.

## Reductions for February

### GROCERIES

D G Sugar, 100 lbs.	\$ 5 65
Extra C Sugar, 100 lbs.	5 15
Padlock brand Peaches, 35c cans	25
Palo Alto brand Peaches, 25c cans	20
Extra Standard Corn, two cans	25
Tomatoes, two cans	25
6 Packages Yeast Foam	25
6 Packages Magic Yeast	25
4 Packages Arm & Hammer Soda	25
3 Cans Fancy Sardines in oil	25
2 lbs. Golden Sunrise Coffee	25
7 Bars Daisy Laundry Soap	25
6 Bars Silk Laundry Soap	25
20 Dozen Clothes Pins	25
10 Packages Tooth Picks	25
Defiance Wash Boards	20

### DISHES.

One set decorated Cups and Saucers	50
" " " Dinner Plates	50
" " " Soup Plates	50
" " " Breakfast Plates	40
" " " Pie Plates	40

When you see it in our ad it's so.

For the month of February only.

**F. L. Miller.** We want your produce

**THE PIONEER BAKERY**

**H. W. HALL**

A fresh and complete line of candies, nuts and fruits kept constantly on hand. Our bread is always fresh. We carry a complete line of smokers' necessities.

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