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O. A. DEARING, EDITOR AND BUSINESS MANAGER

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Marcus A. Hanna is dead, and by his death the country loses one of its grandest public men. As senator from the state of Ohio, and chairman of the Republican National Committee he was a mighty, potent political force, and his loss will be keenly felt. He made McKinley President, and sacrificed his own ambitions to advance the interests of Theodore Roosevelt. In his private character he was a man of amiable disposition, of kindly heart, a kind husband and father, and a loyal friend. One of the most noted men of the present generation has passed to his rest.

One of the most celebrated cases in the annals of criminal jurisprudence in England is about drawing to a close. Mrs. Maybrick is at liberty after a long imprisonment. Her case has been a remarkable one. Charged with poisoning her husband she was convicted and sentenced to death, her sentence being subsequently commuted to life imprisonment. Ever since her incarceration efforts have been making to secure her release, and at last they have been successful. Doubt as to her innocence or guilt has always prevailed and the release of Mrs. Maybrick does not solve the mystery. It is one of those cases that admits of no solution, for as long as she maintains her innocence, her guilt cannot be established beyond a doubt. The women of America have been her active advocates, and they will rejoice that she has at last gained her freedom.

While our dispatches from the seat of war in the Far East have dealt mainly with the doings of the Navy, it is not right that we should forget that Japan has an army as well, from which she has a right to expect grand and decisive results. The best estimates concede that the war footing of the Japanese exceeds 500,000 men, and there is no doubt that she can make good her oft-made boast of landing an army of 200,000 men in Korea in three weeks. The distance is short, she has the transports and the troops, what is there to hinder? There is no Russian navy of any account to interfere with the safe transportation of the troops and supplies. The Russian troops already in the country probably number as many as Japan will put on the field. The success of either army depends upon their strategy, skill, bravery and equipment. May the best men win.

The most prominent factor in an army's might is not so much in the number of men as in the amount of supplies. The army that eats is the army that wins. If Japan destroys the Russian navy, then the Trans-Siberian railway is the key to the situation, and the military staff is afraid the railway will prove wholly unable to carry from Russia the amount of food and ammunition that will be needed during the war. In this we see the sagacity of the Japanese course in precipitating the hostilities, while the snow and ice of Siberia would prove their most effective allies.

The Siberian railway is cut in two by the frozen lake Baikal, which is crossed by a ferry. It is impossible to build a railway over the ice. It will not be open till April, and till then the transportation of supplies is practically stopped, and greatly retarded. So it will be seen that the strategical importance of the Trans-Siberian Railway is greatly overrated. No trains are allowed to run faster than twenty miles an hour, and if the Japanese refrain from blowing up the railroad in dozens of places, where the most difficulty will be experienced in repairing it, we miss our guess of the efficacy of Japanese strategy.

To the unbiased observer of events in Manchuria it looks as if history was to have a repetition of the Dewey victory in Manila Bay. When Admiral Togo, the Japanese Dewey, on that memorable Sunday night, steamed with his fleet in silence and darkness to Port Arthur, they found the Russian fleet driven out of the protected inner harbor, unaware of their peril, and the torpedo flotilla dashed in and hurled into the hulls of three of the Czar's finest vessels the terribly effective white-headed torpedoes, and fifteen million dollars worth of battleships, were retired from further service in this war. The next morning the Japanese naval vessels advanced and opened fire on the navy and the fort, and two more battleships and three cruisers were damaged, all below the water line. On the next day two more of the Russian fleet were totally destroyed, and three transports captured with 2000 troops. On the same day at least nine more Russian steamers and sailing vessels were captured by Admiral Togo's fleet. Four days of war and many Russian vessels are badly damaged and destroyed. Four days of war, and forty million dollars worth of Russian ships are rendered useless. Four more such days and Russia will not have a ship in Eastern waters. The Japanese are master of the sea.

The war of the creameries is going on with vigor. The trust in Portland is trying to freeze out the small creameries through the state. When this is done the price of butter will go down out of sight, and the farmers can't help themselves. See?

At the meeting of the new Engine Company on Monday evening some of the most urgent business was transacted, and the meeting adjourned until more committees can report. The GAZETTE's suggestion as to districting the city was adopted, though in so doing one trifling error was overlooked. This was in the numbering of the districts. When the fire was in District one the bell was to strike two. When in District two the bell strikes three. This is like the Farmer's clock: when the hands stood at half past eleven it struck three, then he knew it was twenty minutes to seven. The common sense proposition is to omit number District one, and make them 2, 3, 4 and 5. Then when the fire is in Dist. No. 4 it strikes 4, when in 5 it strikes 5, and no mistake is possible. This was so evidently an oversight that the committee was consulted, and agreed unanimously to correct it at once. District one will be omitted. The four Districts will be numbered 2, 3, 4, and 5, and the taps will correspond with the number of the districts.

The inner sanctuaries of old-fashioned Democracy have been invaded. In the sanctum sanctorum of Tammany Hall the Hearst boom sits like Poe's raven, never fitting, and positively refuses to get out into the Night's Plutonian Shore. William Hearst has come to stay, and conservative Democrats must take their medicine like little men. The New York Tribune gives a list of half a dozen states that are sure for him, and mentions other states where the Hearst boom is "received seriously." Mr. Watterson of the Courier Journal says "that a man wholly untried in political affairs, untrained in office, personally unknown to any constituency and in any public arena, should appear as a candidate for President of the United States seems anomalous to the point of absurdity, and it would be easy enough to dismiss that aspiration of Mr. Hearst's as of a piece with the fantastic ebullitions of the late George Francis Train, or even the unsexed whimsies of Victoria Woodhull of other days. But those who make light of him ignore the power of audacity and enterprise working with unlimited means. Mr. Hearst, at least, is in dead earnest." Boston Democrats of prominence in the party councils intimate plainly that Oney will have to surrender his claim in favor of Mr. Hearst. Albany, New York, Democrats hint at a decided weakening of the position of Judge Parker, while Judge Geo. Gray's own state of Delaware is conceded to Mr. Hearst by even the most ultra champions of conservative Democracy. Truly Willie is in it, and the Oregonian's recent statement that "Hearst gives up" was not founded on fact, but was the surmise of some person interested, where "the wish was father to the thought". Go on, Willie, we admire your gall.

OUR BRAINY CONTEMPORARIES.

"The Grover Cleveland Gas Company" has been incorporated in New Jersey. The name is a mistake. It ought to be W. J. Bryan.—Post-Intelligencer.

Occasionally the daily news gets into curious juxtaposition. For instance a Texas dispatch in the Daily Guard the other day was headed "Mules for Russia," and next a St Petersburg dispatch "Prayers for Russia". In the natural course of affairs mules and prayers never did go together. Mules and redhot profanity are companion pieces.—Eugene Guard.

The Indians of the Quinault Agency are typical "Holy Rollers". Under the influence of religious excitement they roll from side to side until exhausted. There is no record, however, that they have broken up their furniture, roasted dogs and cats alive, or performed other sacrificial rites which lately made the Corvallis contingent conspicuous as physical demonstrators of "religion". But then the poor Indian is but recently civilized.—Oregonian.

Dr. A. B. Bevan, one of the leading physicians of Chicago, has startled the Medical Society of that city by declaring that "drug treatment is useless in cases of pneumonia," and adding "the medical profession, so far as medicines are concerned, can be of no assistance in the fight against the disease. The sooner the profession will acknowledge this to the public and set to work to discover some specific to save pneumonia patients the better for all concerned." Several physicians protested, but after discussion it was agreed that no definite remedy is known for the malady that carries off more lives than any other known disease in the United States. The mortality during the present severe winter has been enormous, especially in the large Eastern cities, and it is the same every year. Help can be given; but no cure is certain. For that reason great care should be exercised to avoid taking the distressing malady.—Ashland Tidings.

The Latest

RUSSIAN FLEET TO SAIL

The Russian fleet sailed today from Port Arthur under sealed orders. The receipt of this message created a profound sensation here, as it is generally conceded the Russian commanders have found that they were in grave danger from their own defenses, and unable, moreover, to combat the attacks of the Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers, which, drawing in close to shore, under cover of the night, continued to harass the Russian fleet.

RUSSIAN NAVY TO FIGHT

Russia will now try to strike a telling blow at the Japanese with the remnant of her Port Arthur squadron. The objective point is clearly the Elliott Island group, where the Japanese squadron is said to be gathering in force. The Russians will attack without delay, as nothing can be gained by waiting longer.

VLADIVOSTOK'S FLEET

One more report current here is that the Japanese commander-in-chief detached some of his most effective vessels and started them northward to destroy the Siberian fleet from Vladivostok. If this is so, the Russian Admiral has probably decided to take advantage of the weakened state of the Japanese squadron and endeavor to strike a blow that will change the balance of naval power in Korean waters.

FEARS ABOUT CHINA!

The great danger at this time is the attitude of China. If, as is far from impossible, there should be another outbreak of anti-foreign feeling and the powers may again have to intervene, this might lead to complications of a most serious nature, the outcome of which no man can foresee.

Guilty Officer Shot!

We learn from official sources the news of the dramatic sequel to the Russian disaster at Port Arthur February 9. After the attack of the Japanese, Viceroy Alexieff summoned before him Russian officers whose negligence was the main cause of defeat. After cross-examining them as to their conduct, Admiral Alexieff was convinced a lieutenant among them was the most culpably guilty. It is alleged he drew his revolver and shot the young officer dead before his comrades. The lieutenant had taken a party of officers ashore on a torpedo boat, whereas he should have been on guard outside the harbor.

Reductions for February


GROCERIES	
Look our list over, see the reductions and save money while it rains.	
D G Sugar, 100 lbs.....	\$ 5 65
22 lbs A & L Rolled Oats.....	1 00
Padlock brand Peaches, 35c cans.....	25
Palo Alto brand Peaches, 25c cans.....	20
Extra Standard Corn, two cans.....	25
" " Tomatoes, two 3-lb. cans.....	25
Corned Beef, 20c. cans, 3 for.....	50
Dried Beef, 20c. cans, 3 for.....	50
3 Cans Fancy Sardines in oil.....	25
1 lb. Seeded Raisins in bulk.....	10
2 1-lb. Packages Seeded Raisins.....	25
7 Bars Daisy Laundry Soap.....	25
6 Bars Silk Laundry Soap.....	25
4 Packages A & L Soda.....	25
2 lbs. 17c. Coffee.....	25
3 lbs. 20c. Coffee.....	25
3 lbs. 40c. Coffee.....	1 00
"Young America" full Cream Cheese.....	17

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


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

For the month of February only.

F. L. Miller. We want your produce



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