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A TRIAL OF MODERN NAVIES.

The remarkable result of the late conflict between Japanese and Chinese naval forces are particularly interesting, as throwing new light on the possibilities of modern naval warfare. The battle between these forces affords practically the first test of the modern armed battle ship in active service. The Chinese vessel, the Chen Yuen, with the cruisers supporting her, was not, of course, as formidable a boat as is to be found in other navies. But she was a battle ship built after European models and upon modern lines, and her armament and fighting equipment were those of the wholly modern and as yet untried type of man-of-war.

There has been much dispute among the naval authorities as to the probable outcome of the first naval contest between these improved weapons of maritime warfare, opinions varying not only as to the duration and fatality of such a contest, but as to the superiority of the naval giant of heavy burden and armament over small but quick-moving vessels armed with torpedoes. The reports of the conflict in the Asiatic waters are yet too vague to warrant the drawing of deductions, but the one fact that so powerful a battleship as the Chen Yuen, built in England and manned by German officers and supported by two cruisers, could be sunk like an old-fashioned wooden frigate, will be sure to re-awaken the discussion. The most plausible explanation yet advanced is that the Chinese battleship was either blown up by a torpedo or sent down before that most deadly of all naval weapons, the ram. The details concerning this encounter and the subsequent conflicts between Japanese and Chinese naval forces will be watched with keen interest by every nation of civilization. The lessons to be learned from them may encourage a continuance of the policy of building floating fortresses like the Victoria and the Italia. Or they may tend to the partial abandonment of vessels of this class in favor of fleets of smaller but more active vessels.

OUR FOREIGN POLICIES.

It is no sinecure for a man who occupies any post under this administration that brings him into relation with its foreign policies. For it has foreign policies, a great many of them; and the most level-headed man is likely to get them all mixed up. It may be, for instance, that there is no truth in the story that Secretary Herbert, after consultation with the president, had a dispatch prepared censuring Admiral Benham for his conduct at Rio de Janeiro and recalling him from command, and was saved only by a popular outburst of popular approval of Benham before the dispatch could be sent off. But it fits in exactly with the conduct of foreign affairs under Mr. Cleveland and Secretary Gresham.

We have no need to recall the humiliation of our experience in Hawaii. Poor Minister Willis has been getting himself into a peck of trouble ever since he went there, because he is expected to guess at the shifting views of his superiors in advance of action. He followed his instructions closely in the attempt to restore Liliuokalani. He was blamed for going too far. Now the new republic has been proclaimed, and he acknowledged it, as he was bound to do, and he is blamed for going too far in the other direction. Just what the blunder was in the case of the outbreak of hostilities between China and Japan we shall probably not know, be-

cause it has been arranged to Japan's satisfaction. But as far as diplomacy is concerned, and in all that concerns our foreign affairs, this administration displays a curious mixture of stupidity and malevolence. One instant it defies American public opinion, and the next it cringes to it with discreditable servility. Its conduct of foreign relations is on a level with the lowest form of domestic politics.

There is tropical heat in Germany, and scores of men have been prostrated, many dying in the military maneuvers, that are relentlessly carried out. The strain of long marches under immense loads of ammunition, blankets, rifles, canteens and haversacks, is intense, as in actual warfare, and the long, dusty columns, tramping under blazing helmets and bayonets, make distressful spectacles. Emperor William, on board the imperial yacht Hohenzollern, has been enjoying the refreshing breezes along the coast of Norway all this time, arriving yesterday at Cowes, where his yacht, Meteor, has been entered for the Queen's cup.

Today the road convention will be in session, and it is expected that there will be a full representation of delegates from every district in the county. It is to be hoped that the result of today's gathering will be for the immediate betterment of Clatsop county roads, and it will be if the delegates work in harmony. The question which they will discuss is of equal, if not greater importance than the long-aggitated railroad question, and we trust their labors will end more satisfactorily than like conventions, dealing with railroad matters, have heretofore.

There is no Democratic paper just now so occupied by its own party as not to have space for a torrent of good advice to the Republicans on the theme of harmony.

OREGON NOTES.

The new parsonage of the M. E. church of South Salem has been finished.

The dudes of Baker City, when they want a spice whisky, languidly call for a "stuffed club."

One of the nuisances of Marshfield is a dead horse floating around in the bay near the railroad dock.

Some of the journalists who run the patent insides throughout the state, are fairly spilling over with advice to Palace Car Pullman.

Those people in Oregon City who want a "fat job" have a chance of getting it as there is talk of starting a soap factory at that point.

The summer normal school closed last Tuesday evening, and Superintendent Stevenson reports an increased attendance over last year.

There would be more men throughout the state preparing to spend August at the sea shore, but they are now in too deep water to reach it.

Some one broke into a saloon in Marshfield and stole several gallons of whisky. He'll probably find himself a "snake thief" if he drinks the stuff.

The fame of the Clatsop beach climate in the summer time is universal. In Portland the children are taught that when they die they go to Clatsop Beach.

Editor Kundret, of the Salem Independent, has hied himself away for a two weeks' vacation. He took along a lightning rod to catch electric eels with.


One of the Portland ladies who recently ascended Mt. Hood, has just finished an oil painting, subject, "Sunrise." It called out the fire department.

The Albany Democrat has thrown its shears at the Foley correspondent of the Eugene Guard, with the handles the wrong way. It says "the stuff clipped shows the correspondent to be the biggest liar in Oregon."

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