

SPAIN FACING THE FUTURE.

Notwithstanding the efforts of Premier Sagasta to prevent any knowledge of the proceedings of the Cortes becoming public, and notwithstanding that body's determination to discuss the ratification of the peace protocol in secret, the public is learning much concerning the nature of the attacks upon the ministry, and that in precisely the same way in which the American public gets its information of what happens in the United States Senate when it goes into executive session, namely, through the deliberate confessions of members who, after having sworn secrecy, proceed immediately to enlighten representatives of the press as soon as they emerge from the sittings. While the senate has ratified the terms of the peace protocol, and in so far made Premier Sagasta's path easy, it is not thought that his ministry can live much longer after such a fire as it has sustained from critics in the Cortes, and face of the rise of a new party led by General Polavieja, formerly governor-general of the Philippines. He has issued a manifesto summoning into being a party which intends to exclude the professional politicians, who, he claims, have cursed Spain and brought upon her all her woes. This party is to have for one of the chief planks of its platform a thorough investigation and frank statement of the present condition of national finances, and will advocate a decentralization of the government without impairing national unity. Private letters from high-minded Spanish citizens to their friends in this country do not hesitate to assert that Spain needs to be and eject from Madrid men who have made her credit and her colonies pawns to be sacrificed in their play for political honors and personal enrichment, and it is gratifying to note that General Polavieja, one of the ablest of Spanish administrators and most incorruptible of men, should have emerged from his retreat to lead the people in a crusade against these political leeches.

If it be true that the natives of the Caroline Islands have arisen and thrown off the Spanish yoke, Spain is forced to act immediately if she would preserve her authority there.

SOAP AS A DISINFECTANT.

The use of soaps containing a disinfectant of some kind has become so general that observations on the practical value of such combinations cannot fail to be of interest. Dr. Reithofer has recently published the results of some experiments carried out by him with various kinds of soap, having for object to determine their value as microbicides. He used the ordinary mottled soap, white almond soap perfumed with nitrobenzine, and hard potash soap. He found that these soaps were very inimical to the cholera microbe, a 1 per cent solution killing them in a short space of time, while a five per cent solution of the potash soap killed them in five minutes. We are, therefore, at liberty to infer that, as in washing the hands the strength of the soap solution is never less than 5 and may go as high as 45 per cent, this method of disinfecting the hands, as well as the clothes, etc., is fairly trustworthy. Much stronger solutions are required, however, to destroy the bacilli of typhoid, the colibacillus, etc., not less than 10 per cent being sufficient. None of the soaps experimented with appeared to have any effect on the pyogenic microbe. The practical result of these investigations is that it is always preferable to use soap and water first of all, rinsing the hands in the disinfectant solution afterward. This is an important point which merits to be generally made known.—Medical Press.

SAMPLE OF POPULIST ECONOMY.

The Washington correspondent of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer says: A striking contrast between the claims of the republican representative from the First Oregon district, Hon. T. H. Tongue, and the Populist, W. S. Vandenberg, who contested his seat in the present congress, is found in the pages of the deficiency appropriation act, which has now become a law. In cases of election contests before the house of representatives the contesting candidate and the sitting member are both allowed full compensation for all expenses incurred in carrying on the contest, provided it does not exceed the sum of \$2,000. A great majority of the members and contestants claim the full limit of the sum to which they are entitled, declaring that their expenses because of the contest have been greater than the amount allowed by law. In the session fully three-fourths of those entitled to claim expenses claimed the full \$2,000. Mr. Vandenberg, however, contented himself with a claim for \$1,250.95, while Mr. Tongue only claimed the sum of \$100, which all who know anything about election cases here realize is rather under than over the probable cost of defending his rights.

FOUNDER OF THE RED CROSS.

To Mr. Henri Dunant, a Swiss gentleman, belongs the honor of inaugurating this movement, says Woman's Home Companion. Being in Italy at the time of the battle of Solferino, June 24, 1859, he visited the battlefield. Appalled by the needless and terrible suffering, he remained many days, doing all in his power to relieve it. During these terrible days Mr. Dunant conceived the idea of a system of organized relief whereby aid could be given under such circumstances. Returning home, he published a little book, called "Recollections of Solferino," that aroused great interest. His appeal touched a responsive chord in all hearts. Being invited to address the Geneva Society of Public Utility on the subject, he unfolded to them his plans. From that time forward he labored indefatigably to win adherents to his cause, writing articles, delivering addresses, traveling from place to place, consulting officials high in authority at the European courts.

DYNAMITE GUNS.

Fifteen men in relays are required to work them. Dynamite guns, such as are used upon the Yosemite, are operated upon an entirely different principle from the ordinary powder guns. They have engines and boilers and air compressors and coolers and all sorts of intricate machinery in a house not far away, by which the projectiles are fired. The dynamite or gun cotton or explosive gelatin or whatever the explosive material may be contained in the projectile only. This projectile is called a "torpedo" by the manufacturers and is exploded by means of a fuse similar to any powder gun's. Dynamite or any other high explosive cannot be used in an ordinary cannon, because the powder would explode the dynamite before it left the gun, therefore the system of using compressed air came into vogue as the only method of throwing dynamite to any distance. The air is compressed and passed along through various tubes before reaching the gun and is used at about 1,000 pounds pressure in the square inch, which is much less than the power of powder. Dynamite will be exploded at about 5,000 pounds pressure to the square inch. These guns are enormous affairs, smoothbore, 50 feet in length, made of the best iron, in three sections, flanged and bolted together and supported on a steel carriage. The carriage is mounted upon a steel racing ring, so called, and the system of handling is by means of an electric motor. As these guns are covered by a large number of patents they are very expensive, costing the government many thousands of dollars each. Fifteen men in relays are required to work them.

The gunner stands upon a platform on the left side of the carriage, uses a telescopic sight, and when all is ready he pulls a lever which allows the compressed air to enter the gun, and the discharge takes place. These guns are all loaded at the breech, and the projectile is handled by a separate carriage. The projectile is about 19 feet in length for the 15 inch gun, and when charged with 500 pounds of dynamite or gun cotton weighs fully 1,000 pounds. It is a steel tube composed of walls three-sixteenths of an inch thick and has a spiral valve at the rear. The fuse is a foot in length and weighs 20 pounds. This fuse contains two pounds and a half of dry gun cotton and a few grains of fulminate of mercury as a detonator. It is set to explode at impact or as the gunner may desire as to time.—Leslie's Weekly.

CONTINUOUS ADVERTISING.

It costs the Royal Baking Powder Co. something like \$500,000 annually for advertising. Some one once suggested to them that it discontinue advertising one year, the baking powder was so well known and advertised, and place the \$500,000 in the profits. The answer was that it would cost the company three times that amount to get the product in its original channels again. This is a pretty good pointer to those business men who imagine they are making a great saving when they discontinue a \$4 or \$5-a-month advertisement a few months in full season. It never pays to tear out a dam because the water is low.—Kimball Graphic.

BIRDS THAT DO NOT SING.

Although they all utter vocal sounds of some kind, Singing is applied to birds in the same sense that it is to human beings—the utterance of musical notes. Every person makes vocal sounds of some kind, but many persons never attempt to sing. So it is with birds. The eagle screams, the owl hoots, the wild geese honk, the crow caws, but none of these discordant sounds can be called singing. With the poet the singing of birds means merriment, light hearted joyousness, and most of us are poetic enough to view it in the same way. Birds sing most in the spring and the early summer, those happiest seasons of the year, while employed in nest building and in rearing their young. Many of our most musical singers are silent all the rest of the year; at least they utter only low chirpings. It is natural, therefore, that lovers of birds should regard their singing as purely an expression of joy in the returning spring and in their happy occupations.

YESUVIUS IN ACTIVE ERUPTION.

Mount Vesuvius promises a dangerous eruption. Lava is flowing in torrents from seven new outlets in addition to the central crater. Prof. Tascini, the director of the observatory, at first said that he did not expect any serious damage would be done. Later, however, part of the roadway from the mountain leading to the observatory and the lower station of the funicular railroad was destroyed by a lava stream and the observatory is considered in danger. The stream along the foot of Monte Somma burned the chestnut forests. From a spectacular standpoint the eruption is finer than any since 1872.

Flight of the Butterflies.

One of the most beautiful sights in the world is the annual migration of butterflies across the isthmus of Panama. Where they come from or whether they go no one knows, and though many distinguished naturalists have attempted to solve the problem it is still as strange a mystery as it was to the first European traveler who observed it. Toward the end of June a few scattered specimens are discovered drifting out to sea and as the days go by the number increase, until about July 14 or 15 the sky is occasionally almost obscured by myriads of these frail insects.

Three Doctors in Consultation.

"When you are sick, what you like best is to be chosen for a medicine in the first place, what experience tells you is best, to be chosen in the second place; what reason (i. e., Theory) says is best is to be chosen in the last place. But if you can get Dr. Inclination, Dr. Experience and Dr. Reason to hold a consultation together, they will give you the best advice that can be taken."

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