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ATHENA, JANUARY 26, 1906

The correspondent of a French paper, who had exceptional opportunities for observing the daily life of the Japanese soldiers at the front and in the field of action, dwells at length upon the freedom of these men not only from intemperance, but from other vices which sap the strength and impair the fighting qualities. He draws a sharp contrast between these conditions and those which he found prevailing in the Russian camps, where drinking orgies and other shameful indulgences were the regular order, especially in the officers' quarters, and he affirms it as his conviction that the unvarying success and the remarkable victories won by the Japanese forces were largely due to the self control and clear-headedness which their rule of temperance in all things gave to them. We believe this to be emphatically true. The worst enemies the Russians had were in their rear—vodka, illiteracy, licentiousness. These worked to their undoing as much as the courage, intelligence and marvelous efficiency of their foes in front.

Take a look at the United States during the past year; observe the conditions of peace and plenty and almost universal happiness; note what the American farmers have done for themselves and others by producing over six billion dollars' worth of food-stuffs and other valuable commodities, and then contrast the results with what comes from pursuit of glory at the cannon's mouth and quarrels over the balance of power. If the wicked politicians, so called statesmen and ambitious generals and admirals will only keep their hands off, the farmer will keep the whole world well fed, prosperous and happy. Meantime all will agree with the poet Shelley, that the time is coming when humanity will "look back and shudder at its younger years." It might also well shudder at its later years, as it is now old enough to know better, and hang its head with shame to see all lands still resounding with the tramp of armed men and the seas filled with monster battleships.

The National Grange and the labor unions are liable to come into collision. At its recent session the former adopted a resolution declaring "that we, as American citizens, believe it is every man's privilege to work as many hours as he will for pay and that energy, thrift and activity are entitled to encouragement and should

command rightful compensation for services rendered." This is, of course, a direct blow at the eight-hour working day, which is the favorite propaganda of the labor unions. But manifestly, it will be difficult to restrict farm laborers to a specified number of hours, owing to the nature of farm work.

The Chinese have assumed so much of a threatening attitude toward all foreigners that arrangements are being made quietly by all the governments having citizens there to be prepared for an emergency. The authorities at Washington have arranged to have some vessels on hand. It was intended to order the battleship Oregon back home, but it has been determined to leave her on the Chinese station for the present. Moreover, the movement of troops to the Philippines is being hurried in order that a sudden outbreak in China may not catch us unprepared. It is to be hoped no trouble will occur making it necessary to send in troops to rescue Americans and other foreigners, but if it becomes necessary it will have to be undertaken vigorously.

Thousands of farmers answered the advertisement of a man who offered to sell "a receipt for making a pound of butter from a pint of milk and a teaspoonful of our preparation." Of course anyone should have been able to see that such an offer was a fraud on its very face, and it is marvelous that any person, however green, should have bit at such a transparent bait. All schemes offering short cuts to wealth and new ways to do old things should be regarded with suspicion and followed by the Missouriian's demand of "show me."

Wilhelm's Magazine, The Coast, published at Seattle, continues to grow with vim and vigor. The monthly appearance of this sprightly, clean, interesting magazine on our exchange table is welcome, indeed. It is purely western in every feature, line and fiber. It is strong enough to stand on its merit, and if you are a subscriber to it, we know that you feel glad you are, and if it does not come to see you regularly, we can assure you that you are not getting all that is good in literature.

The steps to be taken to announce yourself as a candidate for office and the steps to be followed to secure the nomination, is being carefully studied by several who are aspirants for a county office. According to reports there will be quite a number of candidates, but up to the present time but few petitions are out.

A Missouri young man went to Kansas to work on a farm, attracted by the announcement that an "eight-hour" day would be observed. He says that he learned that what is meant by "eight-hour" day in Kansas is eight hours' work before noon and eight hours after noon.

It may be true that trusts are not the outcome of a high protective tariff, but one thing is sure—if there were no high protective tariff there would be some trusts which would not exist and some men now getting very high wages who would not be drawing pay.

The extension of forest reserve areas in the United States during the recent year has been phenomenal.

The total area now under control of the forest service of the department of agriculture equals in size any of the great western states. The total area is 97,716,860 acres, and this is mainly made up of lands reserved from states and territories in the Rocky mountain region and the Pacific slope.

TARIFF REVISION FOR CONSUMERS

Portland Oregonian.
If, as reported, a majority of the senate is opposed to the Philippine tariff bill, there is very small reason for hope that it will pass. The protracted struggle in the house has apparently failed to accomplish anything beyond employing work for the government printers and perhaps increasing the activities of the sugar and tobacco trust lobbies. One peculiar feature of the discussion over the Philippine tariff was the mild interest shown in any other commodities than sugar, rice and tobacco. This particular bill, of course, covered only products grown in the Philippines, the commercial status of which is slightly different from that of products of countries with which we have no political connection. At the same time, the effort to give the Filipinos their just dues could come under no other head than that of "tariff revision," and the manner in which the subject was discussed failed to disclose much of a disposition to permit this revision to cover a wide range.

Throughout the discussion there was apparent indifference to the interests of consumers. We were assured that the sugar trust and the southern planters had no grounds for complaint, because it had been proven, in the case of Cuba, that the price of sugar in the United States would be unaffected by change in the tariff. This may be good argument for mollifying the feelings of sugar manufacturers, but it is not the kind of tariff revision that the consumer is in need of. It has apparently escaped attention of the able politicians who are so glibly discussing tariff revision that the consumers constitute a much larger class than all others combined, and that they have rights in the matter that cannot be forever ignored.

The country just at this time is enjoying unparalleled prosperity. There is work at good wages for all who seek it. Under such circumstances there is less of a feeling of unrest over the injustice of the tariff than there is when times are hard and work is scarce. There is nothing in the history of the past, or the outlook for the future, to warrant belief that we will not again suffer a relapse which always follows a period of high pressure prosperity. When that relapse comes, and idle or poorly paid men feel the weight of high-tariff-protected prices, there will come a demand for the real thing in tariff revision, and, if the party in power fails to heed that demand, it will suffer smashing defeat at the polls.

The time to call a halt in this matter is long overdue, and it is to be regretted that there is very little in the tariff discussion over the Philippine bill to indicate that thought had been given to the wishes or rights of the consumer. If his rights are too long neglected, there will be elimination of party lines that will surprise some of the protected interests which have been cracking the party whip for so long.

OSTRACISM.

The Coast.
Ostracism! There is no weapon adapted to the hand of man, which is so terrible in use as ostracism. Man only lives when enjoying the company of another. He is made, constituted and especially adapted for society. Understanding and speech are his for the complete certainty and delight of companionship. Animals associate and grow together, but man communes and understands together. The mind and heart can uplift the body. Sympathy can soften the fiercest pain. A word of hope can often liberate a human soul shackled to despair. The very being of man thrives and grows in society. Religion, education, politics, industry, business and all human occupations and activities depend upon it and are existent through it. Society is all there is to man and without society man is dead. What a horrible death! To see, to hear, to feel, to crave, to grasp, and yet to be cut off! To ask, to beseech, to beg, to long for and be passed unnoticed, to be shunned, to be spurned! To be sent away, to be rejected, to be cast off, alone! All alone! That is ostracism. That is hell. The imposition of it implies criminality and designates the one ostracized as fit for punishment. It is the implement which drives a degraded soul further down and renders damnation more certain, with recovery less probable. Ostracism! Would that the power of man was unable to exert such an emotion and that it were past human will to express it. It is only a fiendish attribute, which has hatred for its sponsor and hell for its existence and the only time that misery is truly apparent is when it is displayed. Ostracism! Ugh!

Public Notice.

Notice is hereby given that I will apply to the Mayor and common council of the city of Athena, Oregon, at a meeting thereof to be held on the 27th day of Feb. 1906, for a license to sell spirituous, malt and vinous liquors in less quantities than one quart, said liquors to be sold only in a building situated on the west one-half of lot No. 8, in block 5, of said city. Bert Cartano, Applicant.

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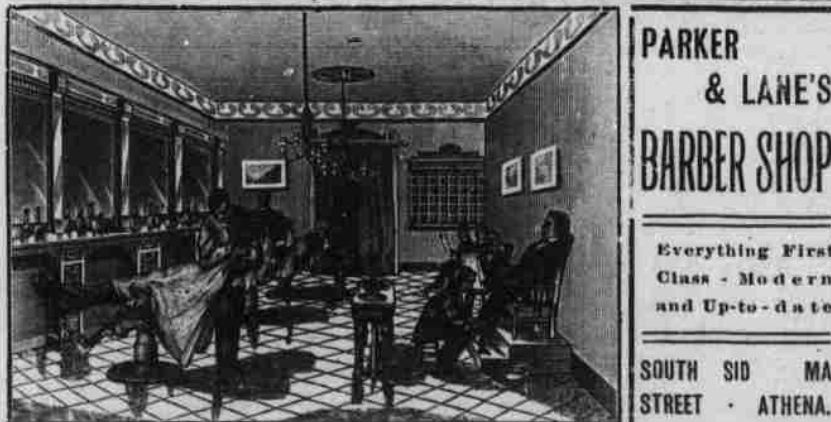
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