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J. W. CONNELLA

T. G. GWYNNE, EDITOR

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Judge Dickey, of the Supreme court of Brooklyn, the other day ruled that a divorce obtained in South Dakota was invalid and would not award the custody of the 11-year old child to the mother who secured the divorce on the ground of cruelty.

The business of some of the large banking and trust companies of New York has grown to such an extent during late years that it has become necessary to work three eight hour shifts. The night force is called "Cascarets," because "it works while you sleep."

The story published in The Miner of yesterday, relative to an assay office for Oregon, is doubtless a correct version of the situation. It constitutes Congressman Williamson's views on the subject, at any rate, and he is in a position to size up the proposition intelligently.

It seems probable that Chicago will take steps to thwart the antitoxine combination. There is talk of establishing a municipal laboratory for the manufacture of antitoxine in order to combat the exorbitant prices established by the so-called "death trust." It is said that a bill to this end will be introduced in the city council.

Judge Wood, of St. Louis, holds that a medical college has no jurisdiction over its students' love affairs. A student of Barnes Medical college had a scrap with his sweetheart, and was expelled on complaint of the belligerent fair one. The student applied for a mandamus to compel the college to reinstate him and issue him a diploma. It was granted.

Press despatches from New York announce that radium from minerals found in Colorado has been exhibited at a meeting of the Technology club before which the latest developments in the treatment of disease by the use of liquids charged with radio activity was described by Dr. Wm. J. Morton, of the New York Post-graduate hospital, who said he had effected three complete cures of cancer with radium. Remarkable results also were said to have been achieved in cases of malaria and other diseases due to bacteria.

A gentleman with statistical bent has found that in mining there is a profit of 300 per cent with 35 per cent failures, while manufacturing ranges from ten to twenty five per cent profit, with failures of ninety-five per cent, says the Engineering and Mining Review. The statistics of fifty Colorado mining companies,

with a combined capital of \$40,000,000, show the following result: Dividends paid, \$20,000,000; original investments by stockholders, \$7,000,000; returned to stockholders on par value, over forty-three per cent; returned to stockholders on original investments, 300 per cent.

Salt Lake, Utah, will soon open the doors of the first home for aged, injured and decrepit miners in the United States, to be known as the Judge Home, named after the late Mr. Judge. Provisions were made in his will, which were later carried out by Mrs. Judge, who survived him. Of the hundreds of men who made their many millions in mining, none but Mr. Judge have deemed it necessary to provide for the aged and infirm miners when the poor farm stared them in the face. A sad commentary on the usually supposed generosity of the rich men who have made their millions in mining.—Mining World.

The most complete, accurate and satisfactory resume of the mining industry for the year 1903 is furnished by The Mining World, of Chicago, in its issue of January 9. It contains 120 pages, specially prepared reports by its own correspondents from all the important mining camps in the United States, east and west, and full page colored maps of these states. This last is something of a novelty and gives to the number a permanent value, for it will surely be filed. The Mining World has always been one of the very best trade journals published, and every once in a while, as in this instance, convinces the admiring reader that there was room for improvement, though he didn't know it.

Cabling from St. Petersburg, the correspondent of the New York Herald quotes an unnamed prominent diplomat as saying: "Let all those who are adding fuel to the fire, which means war, remember that no possible power can limit that war to Japan and Russia. Its extension to other countries is sure, with results too terrible to consider."

This seems to be the general opinion of the best informed men all over the world. There is no reasonable doubt but that Russia is maneuvering deliberately to extend her sway, risking war with Japan, which nation she thinks she can crush. Napoleon once said that the civilized world will one day be either Cossack or anti-Cossack, and it looks as if this is to be one of the decisive events in the fulfillment of that prophecy.

Professor Robert M. Allen, secretary of the Pure Food association, has just returned from a trip abroad, where he was sent to conduct investigations regarding European food and drink products. His report relative to French wines is not only somewhat startling, but also disillusionizing. It says:

"I learn from the authorities of the municipal laboratories of Paris that 60 per cent of the French wines and 80 per cent of their champagnes are either adulterations or imitations, notwithstanding the French vineyards had the greatest yield the past two years within a century, and pure wine itself had been very cheap. Much of the wines included in this 60 per cent never saw a vineyard, and grapes form no part of their composition."

He characterizes the Germans as endeavoring to enforce pure food

laws, but England, he says, is the dumping ground for bad foods.

This man Pinchot, forest reserve commissioner, made a talk before the wool growers, in session at Portland this week, presumably as a representative of the national administration. He dealt out a few meaningless platitudes about saving the forests from devastation, but carefully avoided making any mention of the real issue involved; that those on the outside who are most familiar with the transactions declare that it is a gigantic graft. It is generally believed that these forest reserves are created for two selfish purposes; first that the scrip dealers can make a clean up by exchanging worthless lands bought from the state for lieu land scrip, and second, that the extensive lumber companies can exchange their logged off land for virgin forests. In known instances reserves have been thrown open when the big dealers are ready to lay their scrip, shutting out the individual locator, and it is believed that this will be the case in eastern Oregon. It requires powerful political influence to work a deal of this kind, but a combination of senators and congressman can turn the trick.

Speaking of the former discredit of mining securities in the east, and the present tendency toward favor, the New York Commercial says: "Some things transpiring some time ago—just what and just when it is not necessary to recount here—discredited mining properties as a form of investment with the public east of the Mississippi river. In New York city especially there has been noticeable a quite general disposition to laugh down any mining "proposition" that might chance to get presented here. That has, of course, reflected unjustly on numerous legitimate and profitable mining enterprises, and one of its effects has naturally been to restrict active dealings in mining shares largely to the mining areas and the cities contiguous to them. One effort after another to establish a mining exchange in New York has failed. Boston, to be sure, has never stood wholly aloof from the business, but the general eastern public has eschewed mining investments.

"There is no substantial reason for it, and a most hopeful sign at the opening of the new year is the increasing number of solid, reputable firms that are now making a specialty of dealing in mining properties and mining shares. The public is fast getting educated up to the fact that there are just as good mining properties as there are railroad or industrial properties. There are "black sheep" in every field of enterprise. The thing is to find out which they are. A public that has bitten ravenously at everything and anything biteable in the way of stocks, and from now on is going to exercise some intelligent discrimination as to what it buys, will no longer give mining properties the go-by.

"There are scores of trustworthy firms in New York too, that can help it to pick the good from the bad."

According to the annual statement of the approximate distribution of gold and silver production in the United States for the year 1903, made by the director of the mint, Oregon shows a gold decrease of \$452,000 since the last statement. The figures he gives out are: Gold, \$1,364,314; silver, \$67,500.

It is not believed that these figures are in the remote vicinity of correct-

ness. And there is reason to believe, moreover, that if it were possible to obtain reliable statistics in this direction, the gold production of Oregon for the year 1903 would show a substantial increase. The Miner has repeatedly called attention to the fact that any attempt to obtain exact data in this regard is the merest guesswork, and there is no evidence to the contrary, as far as the efforts of the treasury department is concerned. Indeed there is reason to believe that the figures do not even remotely approximate the real production. A few days before the close of 1903, The Miner had a telegram from a treasury official, asking figures relative to the gold output of the district. The information could not be obtained, and so the reply stated. Then where did he get it? Guessed at it, probably, as there is certainly no source through which exact figures could have been gained. It goes to show that at the late date of the wire, if this district's production had not been correctly estimated, it certainly was not before the close of the year.

Mr. Bryan's visit abroad has furnished a certain class of republican newspapers an excuse for inflicting an array of weak jest and alleged witticism regarding his trip. A newspaper so blindly partisan that it cannot discern merit outside of its own party ranks, nor countenance an honest difference of opinion, is hardly worth noticing, but Collier's Weekly makes the following comment, which is worthy of reproduction:

Mr. Bryan's demeanor abroad is treated with forced and persistent laughter by those organs of the press which happen to be his political opponents. Is this application of the partisan spirit altogether necessary? Mr. Bryan's conduct on the other side has been admirable, and has been properly appreciated by his hosts. He has behaved not as a politician, with certain principles to exploit, but as a serious American, interested in all he could learn about other governments and glad to discuss his own country with as little bias as might be. His reports have shown that his ability as a correspondent is not remarkable, but they have been wellmeant and fair. He gives the same emphasis to the arguments and talents of Mr. Chamberlain, to whom he is presumably opposed, that he gives to the liberal arguments against protection.

"Are you going to take it lying down?" say Mr. Chamberlain and the believers in retaliation. "Are you going to hide behind a wall?" reply Lord Goschen and the descendants of Cobden. Mr. Bryan listened to both sides, with an ear opened to the picturesque, and this detached attitude must do him a world of good. He has probably come back with less of the feeling that it is his duty, or his necessity, to see only one side of many-sided questions. Foreigners have enjoyed him because he was representative of fresh western Americanism, and, at least in casual relations, they are more likely to enjoy that type than the cultivated eastern type, which is more like themselves. They breathe freshness from a man like Mr. Bryan, and he learns intellectual ripeness and tolerance from them.

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