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SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1900.

Russia seems to be getting uneasy and eager for strife. The military forces are chafing and the czar well knows that they seek activity. Whether the recent maneuvers are directed at England cannot yet be determined. It is not easy to solve the problem as now presented by the czar, whose actions certainly make doubtful his late sincerity at the peace congress for disarmament. That he means mischief there can be little doubt, but toward which nation is not known. Japan may be his objective point, as it is thought that the two powers will soon clash. Germany is happily seemingly at peace with all nations and has been more friendly with France than for years, and other European powers are quiet with the exception of warring England and restless Russia. Yet all Europe can be said to be over a volcano that is ready to belch forth at any moment. The most interesting to watch at the present period is not England, now engaged in South Africa, but Russia. It will be but a comparatively short period of time when the most stirring events the world has ever seen will be witnessed. It is then necessary for monarchs to hold their thrones to please their audiences and also to direct the attention of their subjects from the monotony of home affairs and adverse criticism of their rulers.

Democrats, and Populists in particular, seem to take pride in the fact that Linn county, now under Democratic regime, has constructed a \$7,500 courthouse and still has not so high a tax levy as Marion, and has no debt. Here the critics pause, and it is well for their cause that they do so. The Linn county courthouse is completed, but it will take a goodly sum to finish up the grounds and other requisites. This will of course not be done until after the election. The county judge is a Populist. To him was handed over by his predecessor, a Republican, the sum of \$45,000, with which he was to build a courthouse and conduct the affairs of the county without the necessity of much of a tax levy. In other words, a Republican administration through economy saved the sum, but a Populist is spending it. To whom does the glory belong? The Populist county court can show a lower tax levy, thanks to the Republican court, but can it display a balance of \$45,000 less the cost of the courthouse? That is what the taxpayers should inquire into. Marion, on the other hand, is a costlier county and comparisons drawn should have that item in full view. There has been no reckless waste of money, and Marion county warrants today are selling above par, the first time in its history for a long period.

Rev. Mr. Sheldon, who last week conducted the Topeka, Kas., Capital "as Christ would," has made a pile of money, which goes to the poor of Kansas. He has also boosted his book, "In His Steps," and gained considerably in royalties, which go to himself, for Brother Sheldon, while he might edit a paper "as Christ would," cannot console himself with living as Christ did. They are two different propositions. His venture in journalism is that of an adventurer. He has given the people what they constantly yearn for—something new—but we cannot see where he has helped the cause of Christianity or purified the press, which will continue to cater to the public's appetite. He might as well try the management of a restaurant on the same plan for all the example that he sets. In the days when

Christ was on earth the conditions were entirely different from now, and it is generally thought that the people are more enlightened. We are today living in an age of well paid ministers of the gospel, rented pews and religious style. Times have changed. They are altogether different from what they were in days long ago, and Brother Sheldon, while becoming noted through his efforts, cannot change the natural course of events.

Bryan is coming to Oregon as a missionary to teach the natives. His stay will not be long, his time between now and the day of his defeat being precious. He comes to turn the two congressional districts from Republicanism to Democracy and to capture the Oregon Democratic delegation to Kansas City. Bryan will pass through Aurora, north on March 29, south on April 5, but will stop just long enough for the train to discharge its cargo. We regret this, as the very few Democrats in this banner Republican precinct certainly would be pleased to imbibe a little Bryanism direct and have their waning courage boosted. Since his last visit here Bryan will notice wonderful progress made by the state in every industry, the augmentation of the population, great development of resources and general prosperity. He will doubtless remark upon the advancement and attribute it to anything but the Republican administration. He may even go so far as to give as the causes the anti-imperialism feeling pervading the Democratic bosom and the "bright" prospects of an era of free silver.

The President in his message advocated free trade with Puerto Rico. He has given no indication of a change of sentiment. Mr. McKinley is not responsible for the acts of congress, nor is he to be censured for the dilly-dallying of congress over the subject while Puerto Rican business circles are paralyzed on account of the uncertainty regarding the tariff. Republican members of congress disregarded the advice of the President, who may be biting his time and seek to become more popular than ever by vetoing any tariff bill relating to Puerto Rico that may be presented to him. It is not in order for President McKinley, whose message is before the people and too clear to be misunderstood, to tremble, but the Republican congressmen have good cause to shake.

President McKinley expressed a willingness to aid in the restoration of peace between Great Britain and Boers. Premier Salisbury politely declined the proffered assistance and that ended the matter. The English are too sensitive or they would not consider the President's inquiry as interference. It will not be profitable to England to view President McKinley's course other than what was plainly stated in the message. It is well also that Lord Salisbury's reply was courteous, for otherwise England would have paid dearly. The United States acted as a disinterested party and was in part apokesman for the other powers. Salisbury's reply, while directed to President McKinley, in reality was a reply to all the governments.

The Republican county convention in Marion will be next Thursday. We sincerely hope it will select not only a good, strong ticket for the consideration of the voters, but that it will be honest and fearless in tone. On all the important questions of the day there should be no evasion or equivocation. Unlike in days gone by, the convention body this year need not be afraid to boldly endorse the gold standard. It should proclaim for expansion, roundly denounce the trusts, favor a pure food law, and, of course, an economical county administration.

There is a whole lot quietly going on in this world that we know little about, but the actions of the leading powers point to grave events pending. It is said that during the last five months 160,000 soldiers have been thrown into different departments of Russia preparatory to a de-

monstration against England. France is inquiring into the military strength of her colonies if they should be called upon. Japan is preparing on land and water for an emergency, and the United States is sending warships to China.

Cecil Rhodes in an interview said: "A marvelous thing about England is her luck. We have made the silliest mistake and have had some of the most incompetent generals, but we are coming out all right as we always do. I am glad to have Kimberley relieved, of course, but in heaven's name why was it not done sooner? Why did they not do at first what was so readily done at last?" The greatest error was in not hanging Rhodes after Kimberley was relieved.

Lord Roberts in South Africa deserves some credit, but not all. Were it not for Buller's maneuvers Roberts would have had more opposition, and a Russian attaché with the British army is of the opinion that the recent British successes have been largely owing to Gen. Kitchener, who, he says, is one of the cleverest strategists living and an absolute master of the conditions under which modern warfare is carried on.

One of the most prominent Democrats of New York, Eugene V. Brewster, toastmaster and chairman at the noted Bryan dollar dinner, has deserted the Bryan ranks and gone over to the Debs crowd. He takes exception to Bryan's anti-trust views. Possibly it is a good thing for Bryan that he does lose such a man as Brewster.

Every citizen has a right to seek public office, and not a few do so. We have often wondered why there have not been thousands of candidates in the field for President every four years. Out of 75,000,000 millions of people we will this year find but two prominent Presidential candidates before the convention.

It is reliably stated that Eastern Democrats will attempt to elect Tom L. Johnson of Ohio chairman of the national committee and eliminate free silver from the platform. Bryan is anxious to be President, but would he stand on a platform failing to endorse free silver?

Notwithstanding the Goebel election law, the courts of Kentucky will decide who is governor of that state. Being Democratic, it is altogether likely the courts will conclude that Beckham, the Democrat, is entitled to the gubernatorial chair.

Washington's birthday was appropriately celebrated by Governor Leary of Guam, who on February 22 issued a proclamation releasing all persons from bondage, which under Spanish rule was nothing more or less than human slavery.

Last Saturday's dailies told of nine inches of snow in New York, traffic blocked; cold, snow and ice even in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and other part of the South. Here in Oregon we were perspiring.

Some men will talk to you, but in such a loud tone that a crowd will hear. Men are brave in giving voice to their sentiments when their claqueurs are around.

The commissioning of Portland must love that new fruit association for relieving them of so much trouble—and business.

It is strange that no one has attempted to get a corner on baskets at one of the numerous basket socials being held in this section.

The Democratic procession in New York city must wait until Boss Croker's broken leg gets well in London.

The Quay case in the senate is set for April 3. It will then be decided whether Quay has still the same old hold.

Congress is not manufacturing much thunder for this year's Presidential campaign.

Here is an item of news: Portland will have a smelter.

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