

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

We believe very few people change their political opinions as a result of the speeches made by politicians who take the stump and discuss the issues of the day a few weeks previous to a presidential election. It, no doubt, causes more or less enthusiasm in the political parties, that is all. The average political speaker takes up subjects which have been discussed over and over again by the newspapers, and from reading these in the country and daily newspapers people form their conclusions and vote accordingly. From what we can learn there is no money in the "political pots" of either party in Oregon this year, hence the scarcity of stump-speakers who as a rule, are awfully enthusiastic and patriotic on these pow wow occasions. It is well that it is so. Take for instance Tillamook county, and no matter how many speakers might be put on the stump we do not believe it would change the vote one iota at this late date. Citizens have made up their minds how they intend to vote next month, for it is from the newspapers they have received their political gospel, hence an important factor in an election is the newspapers which have intelligently discussed the political issues during the past few years.

UNCLE SAM has a costly and unwelcome task in the Philippines, but, for all that, the United States will perform it. The accomplished fact of expansion will not be followed by contraction. We cannot shirk our duty and soil our honor. We shall establish "a stable form of government," perhaps a number of "stable forms," suited to the needs of various localities. And we shall make sure of their stability by taking care of them.

We understand it will not surprise some of the republicans in Portland if Bryan is elected. Surely they have not changed their Webfeet to cold feet. But after the republicans in that city foolishly slaughtered their own legislative ticket it is no wonder they are looking for another surprise.

THE republican editors who use patent sheets and boiled plate matter, issued by a trust company, are coming in for a good deal of twitting at the hands of their democratic brothers, which places them in a queer position on the trust question and home industry.

THE coal barons of Pennsylvania asserted that they would not recognize the trades' unions which the coal miners belonged to. This was a silly position to take in trying to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

If a political party ever had a bugaboo mounted on a white elephant it is the imperialism advocated by the democratic party. But the voters on the Pacific Coast are too intelligent to be scared by such a phantom.

MARK HANNA has called Boss Croker, of New York, an emperor. Perhaps Croker, with a good deal of truth, could return the compliment.

HOBSON has returned from Manila and arrived at Washington without being kissed. He was in luck for once.

Open Field for Farmers.

Americans get boastful at times and claim to feed and clothe themselves and a large contingent of the human family in other countries besides. Figures that don't lie, however, take the conceit out of those who read and think, and show that to a considerable extent we only trade wheat, corn, beef and pork for coffee, tea, sugar, wool, silk, wine, fruits and other foreign agricultural products. The Agricultural department at Washington has just published a bulletin showing that our average annual importation of these articles for the past five years have reached the sum of \$366,964,708. We buy coffee from Brazil, Java and other sections, sugar from Cuba, Germany, Hawaii and the Dutch East Indies, tea from China and Japan, silks from France, Italy, China and elsewhere, hides and wool from Great Britain and South America, wines from France, Italy and Germany and foreign fruits from a dozen countries.

Of wool, hides, wines and sugar we produce some and import more. Of coffee, tea, and silks we import all we use and it is a question of some importance to our agricultural interests whether we can increase our production of the first named articles and successfully engage in the production of any or all of the others. Of climate and soil we have a diversity that would seem to open the way to the successful cultivation of even coffee and sugar on a large scale. As to silk it is only a question of relative cost. Wine and tropical fruits can be produced in unlimited quantities whenever our farmers consider it worth while. It is probable that we will be compelled to be large buyers of wool and hides from South America and Australia simply because it is more profitable to crop small farms with a diversity of products than to turn large section of tillable land into sheep and cattle ranches.

The possibility of supplying our own wants in whole or in part in those articles which we now import almost wholly from other countries is one that offers itself as a solution of the problem of over production in other agricultural staples. Those who cheapen cotton, wheat, corn and other staple products growing more than can be sold at remunerative price will do well to study these figures of our agricultural imports with a view to extending their farming into new fields. We have mastered the processes of refining sugar, roasting coffee and raising grapes. Why shouldn't we learn to grow sugar and coffee and make wine as well?

Eat Before Going to Bed.

Many people have an idea that it is injudicious to eat before going to bed, but doctors laugh at the suggestion and often prescribe a light supper as a cure for insomnia and many ailments.

"It stands to reason," says one well known authority on nerves and digestive disorders, "that as in the daily routine of the average person five hours elapse between the ordinary meals and as the stomach in a healthy individual is empty three hours after digestion begins, it is neither wise nor necessary for the stomach to remain empty from, say, 9 o'clock in the evening until 8 o'clock the following morning, a period of eleven hours, should there be a craving for food during the interval."

Some physiologists hold that the stomach should be allowed this period of complete rest and that in consequence it is better to go to bed fasting than to satisfy the craving for nourishment, but if the food eaten just before retiring is of an easily digested character the tax upon the stomach is not sufficiently great to deprive it of the rest which is necessary for its proper action the succeeding day.

"Nothing better can be suggested than a glassful of milk, but it should always be at blood heat. Cold liquids will do harm rather than good, for in that case the blood is not drawn to the stomach with the same rapidity and in the same quantity as it is when warm liquids are taken. In a great many instances long-continued insomnia may be completely cured, after an interval of,

say, a couple of weeks, by the steady adherence of such regimen. "Lettuce, especially when dressed with oil, has a soporific effect on account of certain sedative principles which it contains. "Heavy suppers after the theater, so popular among city people, are extremely deleterious to health if taken regularly, but it must be remembered that in the majority of cases an hour or two elapses before eating a theater supper and retiring for the night, and the muscular activity so necessary to the proper digestion of a heavy meal is supplied when the supper is eaten at a restaurant or at some other place away from one's home.

"Broiled live lobster and Welsh rarebit, the two favorite after-dinner dishes of a large class of people, when eaten late at night are about as digestible as leather, and many a devotee at their shrine awakens the next morning with a sick headache as the result of his indiscretion. Cheese in any form is indigestible at night.

"A broiled English mutton chop or small lamb chops with creamed potatoes, while not a very fashionable theater supper, is as good as any that can be taken from the standpoint of the physician.

"Raw oysters produce no bad effects if eaten at night, the soft part of them being very easily digested, though the hard part is much less so. Fried oysters and clams should be tabooed at night."

THE CHINA PROBLEM.

Men and Matters Connected With the Present Imbrogllo.

Owing to the absence of Secretary Hay the name of Alvey A. Adee is signed to all notes and dispatches issued from the State department. Mr. Adee is the assistant secretary of state and is, in fact, the chief pillar of the department. Correspondent Wellman says of him: "Administrations come and go, but he goes on forever. Just how long Adee has been there I do not remember, but it must be well on toward a quarter of a century. He knows everything, remembers everything; all the traditions, forms and peculiarities of the diplomatic branch of our government repose in him. He carries them over from one regime to another. Half a dozen or more secretaries of state—Frelingheysen, Blaine twice, Bayard, Foster, Gresham, Olney, Sherman, Day, Hay—have leaned upon him. If there is a difficult dispatch to be prepared—send for Adee. If there is a delicate point of etiquette to be adjusted—Adee is the man to do it. If there is a knotty, embarrassing problem to be solved—some cold-blooded thing to be done in the sweetest and most polite of ways—Adee is in demand. More than any other man has he left his impress upon the diplomatic literature of our government, for during the last twenty years he has written a great number of important dispatches which his chiefs signed and in the nature of things took the credit for. Congenitally deaf and dumb, Adee with most admirable persistence struggled to overcome these serious defects and is now able to carry on conversation quite comfortably. He is a great student and most graceful writer. He is a master of photography and a noted botanist. He is a wit, an athlete and a linguist. Almost every year he makes a bicycle tour through Europe and speaks the native languages wherever he goes. He is a terror to tricky diplomatists because of his knowledge, his insight and a way he has of not hearing very well when he doesn't want to."

The reason for John Chinaman's taste for American ginseng is one of the mysteries of Oriental trade. For over a century the United States has been shipping its entire product of ginseng to China, and during that time the Celestials have consumed not less than \$25,000,000 worth of a root that is supposed to be without medicinal use in any civilized country in the world. In 1822 the United States shipped 753,717 pounds of ginseng to China, but the supply has fallen off so that the shipments for 1898 amounted to 175,000 pounds, valued at \$500,000, and for 1899 to 125,000 pounds, worth \$600,000. Physicians and chemists in this country who have made a study of ginseng agree that about its only virtue is the fact that it will bring in China from \$8 to \$25 a pound, the same being worth in this country from \$1.75 to \$3.50 a pound, dry. Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia and North Carolina are the chief ginseng-producing states, although it is found in New England and Canada, and was one of the primitive industries of Vermont at an early day.

Among the most notable sights which the man of western civilization beholds in China, the gods take a prominent place. They are enshrined, as a rule, in richly decorated buildings, presided over by a great number of men who, though posing as priests, are often men of weak calliber and low tastes.

The Chinese go to these shrines when occasion demands it. Not only the middle class and poor, but the educated and wealthy also offer their devotions to the gods. The strangest thing of all is that men can worship an object built by one of their own kind.

Here and there throughout this country are erected idols and minarets which loom large on the monotonous landscape. These are generally repulsive in appearance, though sometimes the carving is extremely curious, and of a character to appeal to the lover of the wonderful. Most of these gods and monuments are of considerable age. But few new ones are erected now.

Whatever may be his lack of moral perception and originality of idea the heathen Chinese certainly excels in imitative power and is often very much alive to the excellence of mechanical de-

vices that he never saw before. In a recent number of the American Machinist Oberlin Smith affords an illustration of this fact.

A year or two ago Mr. Smith sent H. A. Janvier to China to assist in the erection and operation of coining plants for brass and silver currency. One of the tools which Mr. Janvier took with him was a "micrometer caliper" made by a well-known firm in the United States and capable of detecting differences of a thousandth of an inch in the thickness of a piece of metal. The superintendent of one of the shops which Mr. Janvier established was named Wai, and he proved a very intelligent fellow. During an interval of about six weeks he borrowed the caliper almost daily and was rather tardy in returning it.

Finally he exhibited to the American a reproduction of the instrument, which was perfect except in one respect. Certain tables of figures stamped into the steel by the Yankee maker of the original were omitted from the copy, and in their place were several Chinese characters. The imitation had been made with the rudest of tools, but was a marvel of accuracy. Mr. Wai proposed an exchange to Mr. Janvier and the latter agreed to the proposition.

Quaint Features of Life.

Mrs. S. R. Hicson of Muncie, Ind., seized her 3-year-old child, supposed to be dead, and rushed about the room in a frenzy, insisting the child must live and refusing to have it prepared for burial. In a few minutes she exclaimed that it was alive, which was found to be true. A physician says the child was probably resuscitated from a comatose state by the mother's frantic action.

Daniel Steinman of Paterson, N. J., died from the sting of a bee. Blood poisoning set in and his physician declared the sting had affected the nerves of the heart. Steinman went fishing with friends. The party camped in the woods. Steinman had not been asleep long when he awoke with a scream, and his companions found him in great pain. There was a red spot back of the right ear and he thought he had been stung by a bee. The pain became intense. A lump formed behind the right ear and grew to a large size. A physician was called in and it was discovered that the sting had affected the nerves of the heart. Death relieved him from the agony.

The Chicago Tribune has figured out from the police records that in a total of 771 cases where women in Chicago have acted on the offensive or defensive during the last year the feminine weapon has been broom handles in 186 cases, table knives in 102, stove lid lifters in seventy-nine, rolling pins in seventy-six, plates and dishes in seventy-two, hatpins in fifty-five and the rest scattering, umbrellas and parasols having been used eleven times, books four times and a lamp and nursing bottle once each. This large preponderance of purely domestic utensils will doubtless afford some surprise to the closest student of the tendencies of modern life. Since a woman in time of stress generally picks up the first thing that comes handy it may be inferred from these statistics that the new woman has not yet found her way west in large numbers, or else that she is not a fighter.

One of the police courts in New York has rendered a decision of vital importance to every householder in this glorious country. When Dr. John W. Duke, a dentist living in West Forty-fifth street, came home from the theater about midnight last week he found Patrick J. Farley a neighboring coachman, sitting up with Annie Curran, the cook of the household. Dr. Duke showed some temper because Mr. Farley had prolonged his visit to such a late hour. Mr. Farley retorted in words which Dr. Duke considered impertinent, whereupon Dr. Duke ordered him to leave the premises and attempted to assist him out. Mr. Farley resisted, and during the fracas that ensued got his skull cracked by a contact water pitcher. Mr. Farley got a warrant for Dr. Duke's arrest for assault and the police sent the latter to the grand jury under bail of \$300. Dr. Duke got a warrant for Farley's arrest upon a charge of trespass, but the court dismissed it. The court held that Farley was asked to call by the cook and his intentions were peaceable.

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