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BY HOFER BROS.

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CANAL AND JAP.

The prospect of this country's being flooded by a tide of Japanese coolie labor, brought over in thousands to work on the Panama canal, is anything but assuring.

As Gilson Gardner and Jacob Waldeck have indicated, as a result of their special study of the situation, the Japs that come over will never go back but will find their way into our southern states and spread throughout the whole country.

It is a problem affecting American labor much more intimately than does even the proposition of the canal commission to purchase its ships and supplies abroad. The one might force a reduction in the price of certain products of American labor, but the other would cause demoralization in the price of American labor itself.

If half that is said of the efficiency and quickness of the Jap coolies be true they would be dangerous competitors in the labor markets of this country. They can live a year on what would not keep an American family a month. And they are not content to remain in menial employment, but rapidly perfect themselves in skilled labor and obtain high positions.

There is no law to keep them out, and it is not likely that Uncle Sam, since Japan has become so great a power in the world, will care to inaugurate any policy of exclusion.

Just at present the Japanese government itself has the matter under consideration. A special Japanese commission to investigate climatic and labor conditions on the isthmus and report upon the advisability of encouraging subjects of the mikado to seek employment there has finished its inquiry, but has not yet made its report. Meanwhile, the American member of the commission, secretary of the Japanese consulate at New York, says that in his own "private" opinion it would be unwise for Japan to send a large number of laborers to the isthmus, because of climatic conditions.

Ex-Governor Davis, however, who has just arrived from Colon, tells the New York newspapers that the completion of the water works and of the sewerage system will make the zone as healthy as Havana is. There are now between 7000 and 8000 government employes in the zone, but the number of Japanese among them is not given. So far the commissioners have depended chiefly upon the native and Jamaican negro, who is unsatisfactory.

The gate is wide open to the Jap.

PRIDE OF PROFESSION.

Andrew Carnegie, the man of many sides, in his latest book, on the Life of James Watt, gives us the impression "pride of profession" and illustrates how far this is carried by a story of the street scrapers of Pittsburgh. At their noon repast these men were expressing their opinions of McCarthy, one of their number, who had recently died. One of them went so far as to say that he was "the best man that ever scraped a hoe on Liberty street." To this eulogy another allowed "Mac was a good enough man on plain work, but around the gas posts he wasn't worth a cent."

It was pride of profession, pride of their work notwithstanding its lowly character, that inspired these men thus to eulogize their dead comrade. They had gotten hold of the principle of life which makes work a joy and a satisfaction.

All men of whatever rank and station feel the same thrill of pride over work well done. It is inherent in them. Mr. Carnegie puts it this way: "Thus is human nature ever the same down to the roots. Many distinctions, few differences in life. We are all kin, members of the one family, playing with different toys."

It is to the glory of mankind that this is so; that men see the value of honest toil and respect one another for faithful, efficient work whatever the task may be. The fame for this kind of service belongs to all and it is as much prized by one as by another. The circle of one man's fame may not

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be as wide as that of another, but it is not less valuable to him for all that. His joy is just as genuine and his satisfaction just as real and the respect paid him just as sincere as if the whole world were at his feet.

Pride of profession is a virtue which all men should cultivate. It gives hope and courage to the weak and the strong to the humble and the great. It means progress and true success.

X-RAYS

As the thermometer goes up beer goes down.

Russia now wants peace, but she does not want to buy it.

Suicide by an insane man, being in keeping with insanity is a rational act.

Everybody is going to Portland Wednesday, and so is everybody else.

"Every inch a king" will not apply to Oscar, since he has been, so to speak, cut in two.

Its Salem day every day at home, and just for a change let us give Portland a sample one.

Today each of the four teams will meet the enemy, and some of them will be his'n.

Everybody's is a fairly good magazine, but is suffering from a case of confluent Lawsonitis.

Those who are praying for warm weather should be careful not to make their prayers too fervent.

The tall tower is already offering advice to the new mayor, who will do well to "try it on a dog."

King Oscar "firmly objected to being deposed," says the dispatches. Maybe "he needed the mon."

Four men, one boat, two quarts of whiskey, and twelve bottles of beer, eight hours, and three infantile trout.

If Norway can't draw a king or queen, she may finally conclude to do like the other kingdoms, get a knave.

Salem's handsomest exhibit at the Lewis and Clark fair next Wednesday will be "the ladies, God bless 'em."

In Norway now, the church cuts the name of King Oscar from its prayers, but Oscar can stand it, and God understand.

If the President will fire both Loomis and Brown the great reading public will rise up and call him blessed, and then take a gladsome rest.

"Times change and we change with them," is illustrated in the Kaiser maintaining the Bernadotte dynasty in Sweden, established by Napoleon.

Young Millionaire Thaw, of Chicago, married an actress a year ago, and his family received her with such a frost that her love froze, and the marriage melted. Now she is warming Mr. Thaw for alimony.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought. Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

TRAIN STRUCK TRAMP

Body Was Hurl'd Forty Feet and His Shoulder Bone Broken

The Eugene local train struck a young hobo about two miles this side of Eugene. He was sleeping beside the track. Awakened by the train, he got up, and was struck by the steps, and thrown over against the fence, about 40 feet. He was picked up unconscious. His people live in Vancouver, and he was going to Hood River to pick strawberries. His arm was badly bruised and the right shoulder bone broken. He was taken to a Portland hospital.

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STATE NEWS

Eugene is to have a new cement block factory.

The beet crop of the Grande Ronde will be larger this year than ever.

Twenty-three pounds in one fleece of wool that brought \$6.44 is the record from Corvallis.

The Astoria council refused a permit to the Standard Oil Company to erect a building inside the fire limits.

A grain and hay warehouse belonging to Rode & Hicks, of Forest Grove, was destroyed by fire Thursday afternoon.

Judge Lowell, of Umatilla county, is the last named candidate for Judge Bellinger's vacant place on the federal bench.

Some of the people at The Dalles wonder where the young men under age in that city get their liquor to get drunk on.

Prohibition was voted upon in eight precincts of Portland at the late election. It was carried in four and defeated in four.

Joe Parr, a half-breed of the Umatilla reservation, filled up on firewater and shot his brother Eli in both legs with a shotgun.

A petition has been presented to the council at Lebanon asking them not to grant a license for any saloon in North Lebanon.

An ordinance to prohibit the leaving of bicycles on the streets and in hallways was defeated at the last meeting of the city council at Grants Pass.

The Alumni Association of the Albany College will hold their annual reunion and banquet on Wednesday evening, June 14, 1905, at the United Presbyterian church.

The Independence public and high school scholars will complete their year's work this week. There will be 12 high school graduates and 28 have completed the eighth grade work.

James Costello and Will Harris were drowned just outside the Coquille river bar near Bandon Thursday morning. They attempted to reach Seal Rocks in a small boat, which swamped.

A carnival show that was recently at Grants Pass for one week only paid a license of \$10 for the entire time, and the city had to put on three extra policemen. Now the council is going to raise the license fee.

At Albany Thursday the Woman's General Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian church passed resolutions protesting against the admission of Senator Smoot to the United States senate, saying it is "an insult to American womanhood and perilous to American society."

Moses Taylor, one of the most wealthy and prominent ranchers of Umatilla county, has been indicted by the county grand jury on a charge of attempted arson. It is alleged that Taylor hired two men, Richard McGrath and Monroe Palmer, to set fire to the barn of a neighbor, John Bannister, whose ranch is near Athena.

The Oregon City council passed an ordinance granting a franchise to the Oregon & California Railroad Company to practically all of Railroad avenue. In return for the concessions by the city, the Southern Pacific Company will immediately begin the construction of underground team and overhead pedestrian crossings that will require an expenditure of about \$25,000.

A dispatch from Hood River Thursday says: "Because she struck pretty 16-year-old Grace Thompson a frightful blow amidships with a heavy rolling-pin, Mrs. Florence Shafer was fined \$10 and costs in Justice Nickelsen's court this afternoon. Mrs. Shafer vows she will remain in jail rather than pay her fine, provided some one looks after her 1-year-old child."

Economy

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Japan's Seaweed Industry

A branch of the fisheries in which Japan far surpasses all other countries as regards extent and ingenuity of method is the seaweed industry, according to United States Deputy Fish Commissioner Smith. In the United States, notwithstanding our long coast line and seaweed resources, not inferior to Japan's the annual crop of marine vegetables is worth only \$40,000; whereas in Japan these products are exceeded in value by only four animal products of the fisheries. Many kinds of algae are gathered. The local consumption is enormous, and large quantities of prepared seaweeds are exported to China, Europe and elsewhere.

Among the most valuable kinds of seaweeds are the kelps (laminaria), which are taken in immense quantities on the northern coast, particularly in Hokkaido. The plants are prepared for market in a great variety of ways, under the general name of kumho. Kumho is one of the staple foods of the country, being eaten alone as a vegetable or as a seasoning for meats, fish, stews, etc. This business has been carried on since 1730, employs thousands of men, women and children, and is worth from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Various algae with soft, pulpy fronds are dried by the fishermen and sold to dealers for manufacture into a kind of glue. This business dates from about 1670, and is now conducted in over 100 establishments.

A very valuable seaweed product, and the one with which Americans and Europeans are most interested, is a vegetable isinglass or agar-agar. It is made from weeds rich in gelatin by boiling them in fresh water and straining the pulp through coarse cloths. The business began about 1760. Five hundred establishments are devoted to the manufacture of kanten, and the output in 1902 was 3,000,000 pounds, valued at \$750,000. The identical alga from which the Japanese make their kanten abounds on our own coasts, but not a piece of it is now utilized.

One other seaweed comes almost entirely from planted grounds, and in the cultivation of marine vegetables the Japanese stand alone. In all parts of the world there occurs a red alga known to British and Americans as laver, which was formerly a popular food in the British isles, and sparingly eaten in the United States. From a very remote period the Japanese have utilized this plant, and for centuries—just how long is not known—have carried on an ingenious form of cultivation.

The best grounds for the cultivation of the laver are in Tokio bay, and are leased by the government. In 1901 the area planted with brush was 951 acres, and the value of the crop was over \$148,000, or \$156 an acre. In 1903 the same area yielded \$300,000, or \$310 an acre. The total area of cultivated grounds in the whole of Japan is about 2300 acres, and the value of

the seaweed grown thereon is \$400,000 to \$500,000. About 3500 families are engaged in this form of agriculture. Small quantities of the laver are eaten fresh, but most of it is sun-dried before it reaches the consumer. This product has numerous culinary uses, and is found in every Japanese kitchen.

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