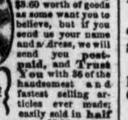
FEBRUARY 19, 1904.

The Commoner.





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Chronology of the Eastern Situation

1860-Russia annexes extreme east- | at Tokio and great enthusiasm is ern part of Manchuria, thus securing the port of Vladivostock.

1881-Russia occupies more Manchurian territory.

1885-Russian colonies established in Manchuria.

1891-Czar Nicholas III. issues a rescript for the building of the trans-Siberian railroad.

1895-Treaty of Shimonoseki, making peace between China and Japan. France, Germany and Russia compel Japan to withdraw her claims as to portions of the Lioatung peninsula, and Japan yields to superior force.

1896-Private treaty between China and Russia, the latter promising to defend China against the world; Manchurian railway agreement perfected. 1897-Germany gets possession of Kiau-Chou; Russia takes the opportunity to seize Port Arthur and Talien-wan.

1900-Boxer rebellion gives further opportunity to Russia to fasten her grip on Manchuria.

1901-Protests by Japan and other powers to Russian encroachments on Chinese territory.

1902-Treaty of alliance between Great Britain and Japan is signed January 30. China-Russian treaty signed April 8 for the evacuation of Manchuria by Russia, and declaring the province to be an integral part of China; China's commercial treaty with Great Britain signed September 5.

1903-Russia fails to keep pledge to evacuate Manchuria, and April 23 demands new conditions as to the carrying out of the Manchurian treaty.

June-Japan and the United States object to the new conditions, and Russia begins movements on the Yalu river under pretense of taking up timber concessions.

July-Japan protests and presses Korea to open the port of Wiju to foreign trade. Great Butain and the United States concurring in the demand. Pavloff, Russian minister to Korea, makes threats.

August-Japan proposes a modus vivendi the 12th, and negotiations are opened. Japan presses Russia for fulfillment of all treaty conditions. September-Russia gives new pledge that New Chwang and Mukden would be evacuated October 8, but later demands grants for landing places and military post stations, and Japan evinces resentment.

shown.

January 15-Russia delays answer and Japan shows impatience.

January 30-Minister Kurino makes inquiries at St. Petersburg as to when a reply to Japan's last note may be expected.

February 3-Russia's reply is sent to Tokio, but proves unsatisfactory.

February 5--Baron de Rosen, Russian minister, is notified at Tokio that Japan intends to sever diplomatic relations with Russia.

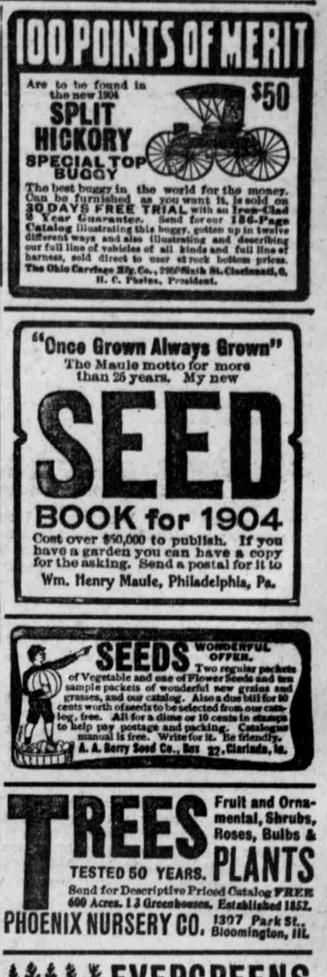
February 6-Minister Kurino, Japanese envoy, demands his passports at St. Petersburg and receives them, and Baron de Rosen is notified to quit Tokio.

February 8-Japan declares she will take military and naval steps to protect her interests in the east.

Sponge Fishing in Florida.

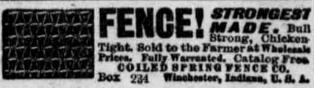
In sponging two men work together in a skiff. One sculls. The other leans over the side, and buries his head in a wooden bucket with a glass botiom. Through this glass he can see every fish, every bit of coral or sea feather, and every shell or sponge upon the bottom. His glance sweeps indifferently past shark, ray or pompano, past single fish or fish in schools, past big fish seeking a dinner and little fish seeking to escape making one. It hesitates at every growth upon the bottom, and rests for a moment upon every form of sponge which it encounters. When a sponge of commercial value comes within range of the sponger's vision his free hand reaches behind him for the thirty-foot pole with its sponge hook which lies across the gunwales. The motion of the boat is checked by the sculler, the hook is lowered to the roots of the sponge which is then torn from the bottom.

Sponges, after being sured are put up in strings four feet eight inches long, and sold in Key West, like everything else there, at auction. In the fishing community of the keys the sponge is a sort of social wampum. Choice specimens are given as tokens of regard, or as expressions of gratitude for favors. They are available in payment of compliments or debts, and their value canno' always be measured by their monetary equivalent .- Country Life in America.



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October S-China signs commercial treaties with Japan and the United States.

October 15-Japan agrees to recognize dominant interests of Russia in Manchuria, but wants Chinese sovereignty unimpaired. it also demands recognition of Japanese influence in Korea and the opening of Yongampho and other ports, besides a neutral zone on both sides of the Yalu river. October 30-Reoccupation of Mukden by Russia is reported.

December-Japanese diet opens the 10th and the government is censured for the inadequacy of its measures.

December 17-Russia makes reply to Japan's last note, but it excludes Japan altogether from the Manchurian question.

December 21-Russia is asked to reconsider its reply.

December 28-Emergency ordinance is issued in Japan, giving the government unlimited credit.

December 29-High court of war is held, with the emperor in the chair. Admiral Togo is put in command of the fleet; he captured the Taku forts In 1900.

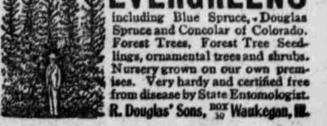
1904-Jan. 5-Japan sends final note to Russia, intimating that her demands must be acceded to or war will result.

January 8-Review of troops is held

Dogs Blow the Bellows.

On an uptown street on the east side of the city hundreds of people daily pause at a blacksmith's shop to watch three large and intelligent Newfoundland dogs, which are employed by the brawny smith to work the bellows of the forge of his shop. In one corner of the shop is a wooden wheel about eight feet in diameter and wide enough for a dog to stand in. When the wheel is at rest the dog stands in much the same position as the horse in a child's rocker, with his head always turned toward the torge awaiting orders. When toid to "go ahead" the beast on duty at once starts on a brisk trot, which makes the wheel turn around rapidly and by means of a crank and lever the power is conveyed to the bellows.

The dogs work willingly and with such intelligence that people are never weary of watching the efforts. of the animals to keep the smithy fires bright. Each dog works in the wheel for one hour and then rests for two. . They cost their owner about \$2 a week each to feed and he estimates that they save him \$12 a week as otherwise it would require at least the service of two men or a small engine to do their work .- New York Mail and Express.







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