

ORIENTAL ECONOMY OF WOOD. In contrast with the immense Commercial Mills of Puget Sound, sawing logs of six or eight feet diameter and sometimes a hundred feet in length, let us see what the Japanese do.

We take a teabox, light, but very strong, capable of safely protecting its contents on its ten thousand miles journey. It is made of narrow pieces of wood, often but two or three inches in width, and very thin, doweled together with care and precision, thus piecing out the boards to a foot or more in width, comprising the sides of a tea chest.

The shrub or tiny tree from which these boards are made can not be more than three or four inches through—yet they are economically sawed and built into the form desired and are much stronger than our American shipping boxes which are manufactured from large trees, and contain four times as much wood as the Oriental.

Our past and present wastefulness may ere long require the same economy as we now see in the Japanese.

JOHN P. BROWN.

WHO ARE THE CUBANS? Does "General" Garcia represent the Cubans? All in authority, including the New York junta, say so. And now it is openly confessed and proclaimed that all the liberty which the veteran conspirator and revolutionist ever wanted was the license of power to direct a worthless gang of traitors to the government of Spain in the work of rapine, robbery and murder.

BRIDGE DISBURSEMENTS IN OTOE COUNTY. During the year 1897 the county of Otoe paid the bridge building firm of Henderson Brothers twelve thousand three hundred and seventy-six dollars and ninety-four cents (\$12,376.94.)

This firm in that period received from Otoe county for new bridges only three thousand two hundred and ninety-eight dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$3,298.69.)

But in the same time Henderson Brothers got from Otoe county for repairing old bridges within its limits nine thousand forty-three dollars and thirty-five cents (\$9,043.35)!

We have a curiosity to learn whether it would be cheaper to burn the old bridges and build new in their stead?

Bridge repairing seems to be without limitation in Otoe county. Will some one itemize and publish all expenditures in this line?

IN A DISASTROUS DROUTH. Discontent, like weeds, is difficult of extermination. Nothing fertilizes discontent and rejoices the demagogue and political place hunter in an agricultural community so well as a disastrous drouth. After crops have been destroyed, and the farmers have nothing

to offer in exchange for money, the explosive oratory of communism is effectively torrid and crimson. Then the injustice of the unequal distribution of the currency, the rainfall, the sunshine and the crops is made as plain as stars in the sky. Then plutocracy, the capitalistic classes, the corporation cormorants and the venal vampires of the money power are depicted as the real conspirators who are trying to bring ruin to those who owe them and universal disaster to the entire commerce of the country.

MONROE DOCTRINE. This is the name by which a famous maxim of United States policy, enunciated by James Monroe, president from 1817-1824, is popularly known. Briefly stated, it is "not to permit any European power to interfere in restraining the progress of liberty in North or South America by exercising sovereignty on this continent." The foregoing sentiments were set forth in his seventh annual message, Dec. 2, 1823, as follows: "The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellowmen on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers, in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy to do so. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we resent injuries or make preparations for our defence. With the movements of this hemisphere we are of necessity more immediately concerned, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different in this respect from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective governments. And to the defence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted. We owe it, therefore, to candor, and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and these powers, to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence we have, on great consideration and on just principles, acknowledged we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States."

DISCRIMINATING HUMANITY. To prevent human suffering, and to alleviate the agonies of sick and starving Cubans, American authorities declared war against Spain. And now with no defeats and with phenomenal victories by land and sea the people of the United States witness their peerless soldiers stricken by fearful fevers in miasmatic camps and beleaguered by hosts of refractory diseases on every hand. General Shafter reports between four and five thousand of his command in hospitals; and a single regiment—the 24th regular infantry—has lost every one of its captains. In the front of facts like these, when honorable peace may be attainable, one mentally pictures to himself the splendid youths who adorn our fighting forces, the good mothers they left at home, the affectionate solicitude of those mothers, their tears for the loved and the lost, their sobs for the wounded sufferers, and something like humanity wells up in the sympathizing heart. Then one wonders why humanity should not lead us towards speedy and honorable peace; how can humanity discriminate and direct its sympathies so that they shall go out to aliens and forget their own brothers?

ECONOMY IN THE USE OF PUBLIC MONEY. A late number of The Lincoln Courier declares that a Mr. Schwind (whoever he may be) drew pay from the state for eighty-four days service, when he worked only seventy-four days.

Schwind likewise claimed 151 days service as secretary of the senate, which sat only eighty-four days.

Schwind did not omit to charge for ten days out of that eighty-four while the legislature was enjoying a vacation.

Schwind's bill was verified. He received from the state, upon the approval of the auditor, \$604. Schwind is an animated mustard plaster when it comes to drawing salaries.

According to The Courier, Schwind had two assistants who likewise received pay for 151 days each at \$4 per day. Beside the two assistants, he had a stenographer who cost \$348. Beside the stenographer, Schwind had a messenger who cost \$225. Beside the messenger, Schwind had a custodian of his office who cost \$246. Schwind had also a custodian of supplies for the senate who cost \$240. Beside the foregoing, Schwind indulged in the luxury of a message clerk at \$378. Schwind likewise had another clerk at a cost of \$338. In addition to the above, Schwind received \$1,300 for compiling a legislative journal subsequent to the adjournment.

How many Schwinds are there in the service of the state government? Are Schwinds a perennial crop in Nebraska? Are the Schwinds as a clan or tribe in any way responsible for the origin of the word "Swindle?"