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ENGLAND'S ONE CONDITION.

According to advices from both London and Washington, the British government would accept a neutralization clause if it contained a neutralization clause. A London dispatch of a few days ago stated that the negotiations on the subject of a treaty were understood to be based on the one condition that the proposed isthmian canal shall be neutral and that if this can be definitely assured it now seems likely Great Britain will agree to abrogate the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, though there is still the possibility of an endeavor on the part of Great Britain to bring up simultaneously the Alaskan boundary matter. It was said, however, that this last contingency is officially described as being merely a question of policy not very likely to be pursued if the United States is content to make the canal neutral.

A Washington dispatch to the New York Sun says the secretary of state has secured the views of a sufficient number of senators to show, in his opinion, the character of an isthmian canal treaty that will be satisfactory to the senate and at the same time have a chance of being acceptable to the British government. Reason for giving credence to this appears in the fact that the British ambassador is understood to have deferred his departure for England until Secretary Hay returns from his trip with President McKinley, Lord Pauncefoot in the meanwhile to correspond with his government on the basis of the views of the leaders in the senate with whom Mr. Hay has talked, or with whom he has exchanged written communications. The dispatch further states that a hopeful feeling prevails in official circles that the chances for the negotiation of a treaty that will be ratified by the senate are excellent.

The question of the neutralization of the proposed canal is the only one of consequence in the way of a treaty that will permit the United States to construct and control an interoceanic waterway and it will be most fortunate if this can be satisfactorily disposed of. But in view of the attitude of the senate regarding the Hay-Pauncefoot convention and the British government upon the amendments to that treaty, it is difficult to feel confident of a satisfactory solution, though certainly it is not unattainable. The trouble is that in such a matter there is little, if any, opportunity for compromise.

At all events, the British government having left the way open for further negotiations and expressed an earnest desire that a satisfactory understanding may be reached, our government is to be commended for its efforts to renew negotiations, which it appears the British government is most willing to enter upon. We do not doubt that intelligent and unprejudiced public sentiment is now more largely in favor of a neutralized canal than at the beginning of the discussion of the question and it is quite possible that some of the United States senators who opposed that provision of the Hay-Pauncefoot treaty have modified their views. Such an inference seems to be warranted from what is understood to have been elicited from senators by Secretary Hay. At any rate, it appears to be assured that a new treaty will be framed and ready for submission to the senate at its next session.

THE PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION. All roads will lead to Buffalo after tomorrow, when the Pan-American exposition opens. This is a much more significant enterprise than is commonly realized, or than perhaps will be fully understood until it has been adequately described. It has been carried out on a generous scale and the exposition will be unique in the fact that it has received no aid from the federal government. Judging from the illustrations that have appeared from time to time the architectural effects will be exceedingly fine, while it is promised that in some of its features, notably in the display of American art, the exposition will surpass all that have gone before. It is said that no equally complete and meritorious exhibition of the works of painters and sculptors who can fairly be claimed for the United States has ever been seen. How extensive the exhibition is of the products of Latin-America, which the exposition was especially designed to display, is yet to be learned, but undoubtedly it will be of great interest.

That the fair will be largely attended can be confidently predicted. Buffalo is an attractive city and there is tributary to it a population of many millions. There will be drawn to it not only large numbers from the states, but Canada will also furnish many visitors. The exposition should therefore prove a financial success and in all probability will do so. It is an enterprise in the highest degree creditable to the enterprise and public spirit of the people of Buffalo.

AS TO FOREIGN LOANS. Referring to the American subscriptions to foreign loans, the Financial Chronicle says that while the direct participation of our financiers in transactions of this sort, for the first time in our history, is in a way highly gratifying to American pride and undoubtedly marks a real and very great advance in American financial prestige, it is an exaggerated idea that it signifies decay in Europe's own resources. The fact that this country has been turned to in the foreign loans may doubtless be taken to indicate partial distrust or restriction in the field of foreign capital, but not an actual want of resources abroad.

American co-operation, says that Journal, was enlisted because of the wish of foreign governments to avoid, in the first place, the disturbance of their own markets and in the second place because it was the business of these governments to get the best price obtainable. There is no doubt that the foreign loans that have been negotiated in this country could have been disposed of abroad, but probably not so readily, while it is obviously to the advantage of the foreign money markets to draw gold from this country at a time when the balance of trade is heavily in our

favor and steadily growing. It is a fact, however, that European financial resources are experiencing a strain which renders the help that America is able to give exceedingly acceptable.

WHAT KILLED MAXIMUM RATE LAW. From the discussion indulged by certain newspapers over the recent ruling of Judge Sanborn of the United States circuit court to the effect that no proceedings can be brought under the Nebraska maximum freight rate law to recover penalties from any railroads, although not parties to the original suit, it is plain that the facts are not clearly understood.

The original maximum freight rate case turned on the question whether the rates prescribed in the law were excessively low to the extent of confiscating the property without due compensation. The court held on the showing made that under the then existing conditions the schedule violated the constitutional guaranties and was therefore unenforceable. The federal supreme court did not say that the law was unconstitutional, but expressly announced that conditions of traffic might change so as to make the legal schedule a reasonable one, whereupon it might, upon proper showing, be revived as an active statute. What Judge Sanborn decided in the Rock Island case was simply that while the law was nugatory with reference to one or more roads, its penalties could not be imposed upon any other road, but that all must be treated alike.

What has killed the Nebraska maximum rate law beyond resurrection is not the decision of the federal court, but the decision of the state supreme court abolishing the State Board of Transportation. The maximum rate law under its terms could not be made effective except through a state board of transportation, and its whole fabric is built on the assumption that the state board exists to secure its execution. If the maximum rate law is dead as a salt cracker, as we are now told, the last nail was driven by the supreme court of the state at the instance of the late fusion attorney general, and there is no use trying to confuse the public mind upon the subject.

Senator Pettigrew is credited with having made enough money in speculation since congress adjourned to pay up a large accumulation of debts and have a surplus of several hundred thousand dollars. The astonishing part of the story is that it was made on tips furnished by J. J. Hill, the railroad magnate. Think of Pettigrew, whose heart has bled for the downtrodden and oppressed during two terms in the senate, for only \$5,000 per year, becoming a shearer of lambs on the stock exchange.

The people of Italy who have been worried by brigands are reported to have struck a new lead. It is to raise a purse and hire the undesirable neighbors to emigrate to the United States. The scheme may work all right for the Italians, but the people of America will be likely to file an objection. This country can raise all this kind of people it has any use for, in fact it has a surplus just at present.

Some of the popocratic organs threaten to publish the names of officials and members of the parties who accept passes and other corporation favors. If they start in the publishers must make up their minds to slight a large number, deny space to advertisers or enlarge their papers, for the list is a long one and possibly might be adorned by the names of some reformers who are talking the loudest.

The Jacksonians refuse to believe that the County Democracy this year mean what they say about being irreconcilably opposed to fusion any more than they did last year or the year before. Democratic practice and profession are decidedly at variance in this neck o' woods.

FLY TO THE CORN BELT. It cannot be denied that these dark and dismal spring days an optimistic weather bureau is more or less of a comfort.

ONE SUBSTANTIAL GAIN. San Francisco, Cal. The prolonged resistance of the Boers may not yet have discouraged Kitchener, but it has reduced Post Laureate Austin to silence, and that is something for which the world owes thanks.

PRODIGAL FOR ROYALTY. St. Louis Republic. Though the British government is \$250,000,000 behind, the English mind is so constituted that pride is felt in reports of the tour of the duke and duchess of York, who are spending \$13,500 "doing" the colonies.

THE FINISHED RARELY SQUEAL. Washington Post. Stories of big profits in Wall street tend to make the ordinary individual very much dissatisfied with his lot. But he should bear in mind that the losers are usually heard from through the proceedings in bankruptcy.

THE PRICE THAT STAGGERS. Boston Globe. The Boers are without a ship upon the seas, without a cent of coin, and the bankers of the world and deprived of every productive industry, yet are they not fulfilling the threat they made when they said their conqueror must pay a price that would stagger humanity—aye, and sober it as well?

PSYCHOLOGY IN LAW. Chicago Chronicle. Psychology has established itself as a vital force in law. The Omaha court trying the Cudaby kidnaping case rules that the father's fear of the blindness of his son operated like physical stress to induce him to give up his money to the kidnapers. The point, it sustained on appeal, will be available against successful blackmailers.

MILLIONS FOR POSTAGE STAMPS. Boston Globe. In 1881 the United States government sold postage stamps to the value of \$24,458,502. It now sells stamps to three that value every year. Half of the increase has come within the seven years since 1894, when the sales were \$70,229,919. Apparently the usefulness of the postage is only just coming to be appreciated.

WOMAN'S POSTURE IN THE SADDLE. New York Evening Post. It is to be hoped that the managers of the Brooklyn Riding and Driving club will not adhere to their reported decision to prohibit the appearance of women riding astride at their coming horse show. Not one word can be said in defense of the present seat, to which custom and preju-

dice have so long condemned women, nor could a horseman of standing be found to favor it except on the ground of conventionality. That the saddle is a menace to the many of us who expect to see the illustrious curvature of the spine being one of the familiar results from long sitting in this cramped and utterly unnatural position.

THE MAIL SHIRT WAIST. San Francisco Chronicle. Postmaster General Smith has met the demand for shirt waists in the torrid east by granting permission to mail carriers to wear during the summer months that form of garment, provided it be of a light gray washable material and be worn with a turndown collar, a dark tie and a neat belt. So it seems the shirt waist is bound to come. Nothing can stop the mails.

WHERE THE REAL THING'S ON TAP. Philadelphia Record. Aginaldo is said to be sedulously studying the American system of government, to the end of being able to teach it. He should visit New York and Philadelphia and observe the workings of municipal government on the spot, then go to Harrisburg and take a glimpse of the methods of state government, he would learn more of the political institutions of his adopted country than any books could teach him.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. New York Times. The voluminous business one in Wall street is unprecedented. There are no premonitions of panic to be discovered even by those who would be most gratified to find them. The relation which quotations bear to intrinsic values is a matter of judgment, but probably it is closer than we are accustomed to think. The seasons of great speculative activity and general confidence. Most lines of business are active and profitable; manufacturers are behind with their orders, consumption is steadily absorbing stocks, the promise of the harvest is so far satisfactory and the outlook for the immediate future is full of encouragement. At the same time the part of prudence is to keep one eye on the boom and the other on the sail.

ET TU, SIXTO? New York Tribune. Truly, Liberty is betrayed in the house of its friends! The disheartening announcement is made—from Springfield, Mass., too, of all places—that Senator Sixto Lopez is going to resign the Philippine senate and Aginaldo in accepting American sovereignty and in working for a universal acceptance thereof by his countrymen. Surely, if Freedom shrieked when Kostukoff fell, she must have thrown at least a few stones at this fellow. Sixto, the brilliant, energetic and tumultuous fits when the III news is heard, Sixto Lopez recanted to the sacred cause of Tagal headchopping? Why, he has been supposed to be carrying the very palladium of liberty about in his trousers pocket. Delgado might yield, and Aginaldo himself do the same to the invader, but Sixto Lopez would remain faithful among the faithful.

CAPTAIN CARTER AND HIS PAUL. Philadelphia Record. The continued possession, the safe concealment, of over a half million of public plunder has enabled ex-Captain Carter (now a convict in Leavenworth penitentiary) to keep up a pretense of fighting for personal freedom from selling eyes and circumventing stone walls. His press agent, the late far west announces that the ex-captain will sue Solicitor Richards for slander, because, forthwith, that blunt-spoken official of the department of justice, went so far as to set down minutely in a supreme court brief the extent of Carter's achievement in grand larceny. The press agent, it is only one, in which the Carterian habit of colossal bluff might be useful to his rare jailbird. Let him bluff his civilian co-partners in crime into standing trial at Savannah on indictments found against him more than a year and a half ago. When he should have been relieved of justice from a reproach the restless victim of court-martial might consistently face the future, although still unable to buy or bluff his way out of jail.

PERSONAL NOTES. The daughters of the Revolution will have their next meeting at Denver. That is more than their revolutionary sires could have

The London papers state that \$175,000 was expended in the funeral of Queen Victoria. Nelson's and Pitt's cost \$200,000 and Wellington's almost \$350,000. Now that Gunner Morgan is seeking a divorce, it is expected that Admiral Sampson will modify his opinion of the gunner's ability to shine in good society.

Chief Justice Fuller is a constant reader of temporary novels. Classics of all sorts he shuns. His press agent in fact a day in court the lighter sort of fiction he finds to be more of a diversion.

It is declared by Wall street that the estates of Commodore Vanderbilt and Jay Gould have about doubled in the hands of later owners. The Vanderbilt properties were worth \$80,000,000 and the Gould interests \$70,000,000.

Vice President Roosevelt was talking the other day to a literary friend who, apropos of Mr. Roosevelt's books and magazine articles, asked him: "By the way, what are you writing now?" "Now? Writing?" was the answer. "Oh! letters, letters, letters!"

It will cost about \$3,000,000 to buy up the Palisades, according to the plans of the Palisades Interstate Park commission, but none can tell where the money is to come from. Nevertheless, the commission has nearly \$600,000 with which to begin operations.

Insurance promoters in the south will pay a handsome premium for a heart-to-heart talk with the lobbyists who failed to block the Texas revenue bill through the state legislature. The fact that a well lubricated lobby slipped a cog, fills them with astonishment.

The Hon. A. J. von Szilassy, the president of the Young Men's Christian association of Buda Pesth, a member of the Imperial Diet, and a leading spirit in all philanthropic movements in his country, will attend the Jubilee convention of the Young Men's Christian association, in Boston, beginning on June 11.

Somebody asked Chief Croker as to the truth of a printed rumor that New York firemen were to wear shirtwaists this summer. "Not for a minute," was the emphatic response. "When a man goes in his shirtwaists it's the end. There are no shiruses on my pay roll."

While out with a coaching party four days ago Alfred G. Vanderbilt drew forth a handful of money to pay for something in a hotel at Yonkers. One of the coins dropped to the floor and the millionaire searched several minutes looking for it. He finally found the coin, which proved to be a red cent. "Take care of the pennies," muttered a bystander.

The editor of the Prison Mirror, who is serving a limited engagement at Stillwater, Minn., is a person of "infinite jest" whose talents need restraint. He thinks the Mirror would be a valuable exchange and is willing to give advertising space to equalize the divvy. "The Mirror," he says, in breezy tone, "is a weekly paper, published at Stillwater, and numbers among its contributors the best literary talent of the state, many of them having been sent to the penitentiary for the very same reason as his own. From this large number of literati, the editor has been selected, and it is not too much to say, deservedly so, on account of his acknowledged proficiency in writing names de plume."

BITS OF WASHINGTON LIFE.

Scenes and Incidents Around the National Capitol. Senator Mason of Illinois shaves himself, and occasionally does a good job of scraping. But there are others. A Washington correspondent relates that the senator recently rubbed into his bathroom washbasin with a razor. He got the razor for breakfast. He hastily scraped his triple chin and reached for the tube of face cream he keeps in a closet above the washstand. It so happened that his small son had, on the evening before, carefully placed a tube of bicycle cement in the closet, and the senator got the cement instead of the face cream. He daubed his broad expanse of face with the cement before he realized anything was wrong. The skin specialist he consulted thinks he will have all the cement off the senator's face in a week.

Statements reach the reception room in the White House as to the latest and latest in Washington. The senator, suffering from what base ball men call a "charley horse leg," was laboriously mounting the steps recently and stopped to rest when half-way up. He saw the chief usher on the floor below and called to him: "Have an elevator put in this building during the summer months. I mean the bill." "Second the motion," said Senator Platt, when he heard of Hanna's offer.

The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle reports that the Maryland ballot law has not in practice come before the democratic expectation. It was given a fair and impartial trial at the Fredericktown municipal election. As a means of preventing the illiterate negro from voting it proved a delusion and a snare, and Mr. Gorman and his lieutenants find themselves in the position of men who have spent a lot of time and energy in the passage of a measure which is probably a failure from a political point of view. The alphabetical arrangement of names, combined with the party designations set forth in clear, large type, was exactly what the illiterate negro needed to assure his right to vote. It was only necessary to instruct the public in the use of the line, as the which drops in part between the "democratic white" ballot was instructed that "democratic" has a round letter—the fourth from the start, to enable him to pass the judges and have his vote registered. Only negroes who are rated as extra dull confined their voting to mayor. The bright and clear, and was never contemplated by the framers of the law. They do things better in Virginia, where a negro in order to prove that he is 21 years old has to give the date of his birth. If he cannot do this the judges have a right to refuse that he is of age, and every election day sees thousands of white-haired darkies, many of them great-grandfathers, refused the right to vote because they are presumed to be minors.

The Washington Post relates that former Senator Peffer was emerged from the penitentiary, he developed him and his attendant whiskers during long confinement, also along F street last winter. Still recuperating from his severe illness, he has put on lighter attire, and now occasionally appears on the much frequented thoroughfares, pushing a carriage, in which the passenger is a bright-eyed little girl of perhaps 12 months. Yesterday the senator's route was along the broad walk in front of the Treasury department, where, solitary and alone, he walked slowly up and down with measured steps, patiently pushing the baby carriage which bore his little daughter. Naturally the passersby of the gentler sex were attracted by the spectacle of the fond old man and the innocent infant. The latter became the centre of an interested group, the leader of which made the usual observations.

"What is no name?" reiterated the woman again and again.

"Tan't o tell the lady on name?" said the long and solemn Kansan in hollow voice.

But the granddaughter was obtuse, and, following a long parley and exchange of endearing terms, the ex-senator pedaled slowly up the pike toward his daughter's roof-top.

At the request of Senator Daniel of Virginia President McKinley has ordered the return of the Washington relics now in custody of Smithsonian Institution, to the heirs of George Washington Parke Custis.

The relics, consisting of uniforms, swords, camp equipages and other things, were taken from the Lee residence at Arlington at the outbreak of the civil war. They were collected by General Washington's adopted son, George Washington Parke Custis, whose father, Colonel John Parke Custis, was Martha Washington's son by her first husband and acted as aide-de-camp to General Washington during the siege of Yorktown.

When Mrs. Washington died in 1802, Curtis built Arlington house, on his inherited estate of 1,000 acres, on the river bank in Washington. The number of souvenirs of the father of his country there preserved made the house the objective point of patriotic pilgrimages from all points of the country. After the transfer of the relics to the Smithsonian Institution it was said by some of the museum officials that many of the so-called "relics" were doubtful insofar as their association with Washington was concerned.

Arlington house and its treasures passed to the famous confederate leader, General Lee, through marriage. His wife having been G. W. Parke Curtis' daughter. The claim by his heirs to recover the articles preserved moved from Arlington has been pending about fifteen years.

REDEMPTING COLORADO DESERT. A Work of Great Magnitude Carried on in the West. In the absorbing work of great mergers with capitalizations, which a few years ago would have been deemed impossible, we are apt to overlook the fact that a great deal is going on in the world which makes for good in very much larger degree than do the operations of the Wall street financiers. For example, work is now in progress which will redeem for civilization and occupation 400,000 acres of waste land in Colorado and 500,000 in New Mexico, and before the close of the present year one of the most desolate and forbidding of the American deserts will be redeemed and prepared to become one of the garden spots of the continent. In the Valley and the Colorado river into the heart of the desert. This will furnish the water to irrigate about nearly 1,500 square miles of land, which will become wonderfully fertile when thus treated. Great climatic changes may be expected to follow, diverting the waters of the Colorado into this arid waste, where the heat is intolerable and the distance between springs is great than in Sahara. A similar work is in progress on the Arizona side of the river and before winter at least another 100,000 acres of now uninhabitable land will be made desirable by irrigation. Such enterprises do more for the progress of civilization than all the banking deals which can be made in the world. It is not the progress of the Arizona side of the river and before winter at least another 100,000 acres of now uninhabitable land will be made desirable by irrigation. Such enterprises do more for the progress of civilization than all the banking deals which can be made in the world. It is not the progress of the Arizona side of the river and before winter at least another 100,000 acres of now uninhabitable land will be made desirable by irrigation. 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