

## AT OUTS OVER ROAD.

### ENGLAND AND RUSSIA DISPUTE ABOUT A RAILWAY.

China Starts the Row—One of the Effects of Repudiating a Contract—Trouble May Be So Serious as to Cause War.

The friction between England and Russia, arising from the attitude assumed by the Chinese government in regard to railroad concessions in the Celestial empire, has become the all-absorbing topic of the hour among foreign diplomats. In view of the large American interests in the far east the trend of affairs is also being closely followed in this country. At the close of the war between China and Japan, England and Russia, both watchful for an opportunity to increase their power in the Chinese realm, stepped in and gained control through "leases" over the territory which had been occupied by the Japanese troops. Russia took Port Arthur and the surrounding country on the north of the Gulf of Pe-Chi-Li, while England acquired control of Wei-Hai-Wei, on the south of the gulf. At the present time there is only one railroad in China, which was built by Li Hung Chang and is under the control of the government. The trouble now threatening between England and Russia has arisen through the repudiation by China of a contract with the Hongkong and Shanghai bank to build a road from Tientsin via Shan-Hai-Kwan to New-Chwang. The bank is owned almost entirely by English capitalists, although a few Americans hold stock in it. The proposed new road was an important part of the railroad system under development in China. At its northern terminal it was to have connected with the Manchurian road, which formed the connecting link with the great trans-Siberian route. On the south it would have tapped through Tientsin and the road reaching to the Yang-tse river, the rich valley which is China's chief source of agricultural wealth. The proposed road, which the Hongkong and Shanghai bank held the contract to build, ran through the Russian sphere of influence, as will be seen by the accompanying map. Consequently Russia brought great influence to bear upon the Chinese government to prevent the carrying out of the terms of the contract. Russia's charge d'affaires at Peking, M. Pavloff, appeared before the Yamen and protested and threatened. Li Hung Chang was made to feel the czar's determined opposition to English aggression, with the final result, already announced, that China repudiated the contract with the Hongkong and Shanghai bank. The proposed road now building between Tientsin and Han-Kow is being financed ostensibly by French and Belgian capital, but, as a matter of fact, Russia is supplying the money. This road runs through the English sphere of influence. In view of this fact disinterested persons are trying to figure out the justice of Russia's opposition to an English road in its sphere of influence when Russia is infringing in a similar manner upon English property. Another peculiar feature of the controversy is found in Russia's demands regarding the financing of the two roads. No matter what nation supplies the money, Russia insists that in the case of the road running into her sphere of influence it should in no manner be mortgaged with the possibility of its falling into the hands of an alien power. At the same time Russia insists that all liens on the road running to the Yang-tse river, through British territory, shall be under the czar's control. In 1896 an agreement was made between the Chinese government and the Russo-Chinese bank, a branch of the Russian ministry of finance, by which was created the Chinese Eastern railway company. In reality this was merely an offshoot of the Siberian road. Its object was to connect the latter from a point near Nerchinsk, in the transbaikalian district, with the terminal Vladivostok by a line carried across Manchuria. In connection with her recent negotiations for the lease of Port Arthur and Tallen-Wan, Russia openly claimed the right to carry her railway down into the Leao-Tong peninsula. The agreement signed in March permits Russia to extend a branch line to Tallen-Wan, or, if necessary, to the most suitable point on the coast between New-Chwang and the Yalu river. The North of China extension, as provided for in the contract with the Hongkong and Shanghai bank, would have spoiled such a scheme by connecting New-Chwang and Tientsin and Peking. Russia's plan would have left that important treaty port out in the cold, and the bulk of the Manchurian trade would have been driven down to Tallen-Wan and Port Arthur, instead of passing, as hitherto through New-Chwang. This was another consideration which weighed heavily with Russia in her determination to control all railway communication from the north to Peking. The proposed road from Tientsin to New-Chwang as surveyed covered a distance of about 250 miles. The Franco-Belgian (Russian) railroad from Tientsin to Han-Kow will be about 600 miles long. Germany has also obtained important concessions in connection with the acquisition of Kiao-Chow, while France has rights of a similar nature in southern China. As for the United States, a deep interest is being taken by the state department at Washington in the contract given to Dr. Yung Wing by the Chinese government, which is considered one of the most valuable yet granted.—New York Tribune.

Politeness pays as a rule, yet many a man has lost heavily through a civil action.

## DENTISTS FOR THE ARMY.

### Urgent Plea for Their Employment by the Federal Government.

Our government surrounds her enlisted men with comfortable sanitary quarters, supplies them with good, wholesome food and enforces physical exercise for the proper maintenance of good health. During illness the hospital facilities are of the best, and only skilled surgeons and thoroughly trained assistants are employed. The latest improved surgical instruments and the best medicinal agents are used, regardless of cost. All portions of the human organism are guarded with care, excepting one of the most important, the dental organs. What part of the physique is of more importance than the teeth? And if they are extracted or diseased the whole system suffers, and perhaps beyond remedy. We have neglected the blessings of dental science. Statistics show that 90 per cent of the people of this country need dental attention, while only 20 per cent receive the same. Dr. Otto Arnold forcibly remarked while speaking on that subject to the Ohio State Dental Society:

"In our army there is great susceptibility to the insidious process of dental caries, which is no respecter of persons and has no limit, for other diseases may come and go, but dental caries, when once begun, like the brook, goes on forever."

In many instances persons suffering with dental disturbances are totally incompetent for the performance of their regular duties. When dental caries reaches a certain stage, and if the skilled knowledge of the dentist is not employed, the extraction of the offending tooth is necessary, which results in impairing the utility of the antagonizing tooth, causing the adjoining teeth to lean toward the space from which the teeth were extracted, due to the stress of mastication, injuring articulation and making mastication more difficult. The loss of several teeth will so impair mastication that constitutional disturbances will often result. Proper dental attention would decrease the retired list and many valuable men would be retained in the service who are now disqualified; diagnosed as dyspeptics because suffering from indigestion traceable to lack of proper mastication facilities. Assimilation is imperfect unless there is proper mastication of the foods, and where there is malassimilation the susceptibility to contagious diseases—diarrhea, dysentery, etc.—is exceedingly great and the effects of fatigue are more rapid and lasting. The dental surgeon would be of invaluable benefit to the general surgeon in cases of gunshot wounds or other injuries to the mouth or face. The dental surgeon would be of valuable assistance on the examining board in preventing the enlistment of men with defective teeth. An almost accurate means of identification would be available from the charts kept by the dental surgeon. We have in the army veterinary surgeons, but is the care of the horse of more importance than the proper care of the men, and do they have proper care if dental surgery is lacking?—Ex.

### Drink from a Lamp-Post.

An English paper says that for some time there have been rumors that one of the next things in applied science was to be street lamps for London which should supply the weary pedestrian with tea, coffee, cocoa and hot water on the penny in the slot system. The hot water lamp is an established fact, as any one who is able to make a journey to Queen's buildings, Southwark Bridge road, may see for himself. The lamp looks somewhat like an overgrown gas lamp standing on a square base. This base is really a tank containing fifty gallons of water. The water comes from the street main, runs up the lamp post and passes in a spiral of many swirls round and round three great gas flames. The heat turns the water into steam, and the steam, confined at a pressure of thirty pounds to the square inch, becomes superheated, and passing downward, keeps the water in a small tank above the main one always boiling. From the upper tank the steam passes to the main one, which it keeps at a temperature just below the boiling point. The smaller tank is supplied from this main tank. A half-penny put in the slot at the side releases a spring and enables a handle to be pulled over, whereupon the boiling water runs from a spout in any quantity up to a gallon. At present only hot water is on tap. Later, compartments in the square pedestal will be filled with tablets of compressed tea, cocoa, etc., cups will be attached to the base, and then the thirsty traveler will only have to put his penny in the slot, draw out a compressed packet from the drawer, drop into the cup, turn on the boiling water by means of another half penny, and enjoy his cup of hot drink at any hour of the day or night.

### Why Locomotives Are Numbered.

A prominent railroad man says that the old custom of naming engines instead of numbering them was done away with because there was such a pressure brought to bear in favor of this, that and the other locality. The various influences used became so annoying to the officials that they decided to adopt the plan of numbering the locomotives, which was done. A similar nuisance exists at Washington in the navy department. Probably during the late war Secretary Long was pestered more with people who wanted vessels named in honor of somebody or something than he was with all the other questions which came before him put together.

## NEW YORKERS MANGLE NOW.

### Occupation Familiar to Readers of Dickens Introduced in Gotham.

Foreigners, especially those of English birth or parentage, are all more or less familiar with the term "mangling," says the New York Herald. To the average American the word has little meaning. To the reader of Dickens the ignominious ending of Mr. Mantalini in a "mangling shop" is familiar. The scene described by Dickens can now be witnessed—of course, omitting the reduced gentleman and his virago companion—any day and evening on the east side of town, for there is to be found the "mangle shop," presided over by a woman and liberally patronized by all the housewives of the neighborhood. Regularly every week the women go there with their basketfuls of newly washed and dried household linen and take turns at the wheels, each doing her own mangling. The neighborhood being thrifty and comfort seeking in an humble way, the week's wash is an event and the place is well patronized. Some of the patrons of the shop are women who work out by the day, widows with families to support or women with luckless or thriftless husbands, and for these the shop is kept open till 10 o'clock at night. In the daytime the customers are the more prosperous housewives, whose husbands have steady work and who are, therefore, free to devote themselves entirely to their housework and their children. Some of these women bring their children with them, infants in arms, who are dumped down against the wall until mother shall be at leisure, but who, if on mischief bent, are tucked into the deep clothes baskets, which sometimes hide them entirely from view. "It's cheaper by a good deal to bring your clothes here than what the wood or gas or even oil for heating your irons would cost," said a sturdy matron as she began her task, turning slowly and steadily, after seeing to it that the rollers were in even. "And it don't heat you up so, like ironing does. And if you take pains and go over the nicer, finer things a time or two extra they come out as smooth and glossy as if they were ironed," spoke up a younger woman, who was folding pieces at a table. "I went over this tablecloth twice and I'm sure it's as nice as need be." "What is the charge for mangling?" I asked the young woman. "Ten cents an hour, if you turn yourself, and if you are lucky enough to get here among the first, so as not to have to wait any, you can run over the whole week's work, even if it's a big one, in an hour and a half. It was a good thing for this block when Miss Schmidt decided to open, and I think she is liable to always have all the customers she can handle. There are plenty of places like this in the old country, I have heard mother say," she went on, as she pulled out a roller and proceeded to unwind some newly mangled articles. "But there's only one other here in New York, and for a long time the people about here did not know what a mangle was. Miss Schmidt got these machines brought out from Germany. There ain't any made like them here. She used to keep one of these shops over on the other side and the sign that hangs out there she brought along with her when she moved her things. She does well at the business and takes in mangling to do when the machines are not in use. Only she and her sister and a little nephew live there in the back rooms and I think that they make out well."

### Independent Young Palmer.

Honore Palmer, son of Mrs. Potter Palmer, says the Newport News, is a very independent chap and a much-liked one. When on a visit home from Harvard on one of his holidays his mother asked him if he would like a new runabout for a birthday present, suggesting that an old buckboard, very antiquated in style, which was as the apple of his eye, was really not the thing to take the girls driving in of an afternoon at Newport, where the finest vehicles in the world are seen on the avenues. This proffered gift was rejected with great hauteur by Mr. Honore, who said: "If any girl objects to driving in that buckboard she can stay at home!"

### English in Chinese Customs Service.

The Chinese customs service is headed by an Englishman. It is chiefly manned by Englishmen. It was created and organized by an English army officer and diplomatist, Sir Thomas Francis Wade. At Hong-Kong and Wei-Hai-Wei England has ports, and in the former case a tract of mainland has recently been added to the possessions of England. The Chinese navy has been built in English shipyards and much of the time has been commanded by Englishmen. The native steamship lines have English commanders.

### No Occasion to Take a Bath.

A foreigner who was brought before a San Francisco magistrate the other day was found to be so uncleanly that the police were ordered to give him a bath. "Vat! Go in the water!" he asked. "Yes, you must take a bath; you need it. How long is it since you had one?" The foreigner shrugged his shoulders and replied: "I never was arrested before."

### A Thorough Stock.

"How about that Klondike mining company you were in?" "I thought it was going to be such a big thing." "It was a big thing." We disposed of nearly \$500,000 worth of stock.

## IN A DUTCH FAMILY.

### QUEER SAUSAGE NEGLECTED FOR DELICIOUS EGGS.

Servants Are Never Trusted—Food, Plate, China and Linen Locked Up and Weighed Out Only When Needed—An Afternoon "At Home."

It is given to comparatively few to pay visits in Holland, for the Dutch are rather chary of opening their doors to foreigners, says the London Chronicle. With public attention turned to the little country for the sake of its youthful queen, there may be some who would like to receive the impression of an average English girl as to an average Dutch home. I used to wake early in The Hague. Not nearly so early, however, as the busy servants, in their short skirts and tight lace caps. They rise to clean the streets in front of their masters' houses as streets are surely never cleaned elsewhere. Springless carts jog over the uneven pebbles of the Zeestraat, largely freighted with glittering milk cans and tidy old women. Fruit and vegetable vendors shriek the nature of their wares with a harsh insistence of most sleep-murdering sort. So I get up and dress and linger at the window. Truth to tell, the Dutch breakfast is not altogether tempting. The windows are closed and Myheer has obviously only just put out his first cigar. Nor are the toilets of Mevrow and Jufrow quite complete or enhanced by certain popular English hair-curlers. On the other hand, the tea from Java is delicious, the ham worthy of York. With the freshest of eggs one need not depend upon either the inevitable cheese or the queer sausage. More especially as the butter is perfection, despite the damaging circumstances that we helped ourselves with our own knives. As to the Dutch "little breads," they are assuredly the best in the world. Before the meal, all pray in silence that has a quaker impressiveness of its own. Then Myheer, in a sonorous voice and with an indescribable accent, reads a chapter from the French testament. This ended, he vanishes and the ladies begin the arduous labors of housekeeping. Myheer was rich; his cellar would have won the respect of an alderman. Nevertheless, every article of food, plate, china and linen is locked up and weighed out and talked over to an exasperating degree. Honest Christies, the Friesland cook, was radiant on Sundays with dangling earrings of gold filigree and a skull cap of pure gold under the fine thread last that is an heirloom. But she was never trusted to take coffee or sugar at discretion. She had an aged mother, whose wooden shoes were too often heard clicking in the back yard. Her spotless kitchen was scrubbed and rubbed at some unearthly hour. As to the store closet, crowded with potted vegetables, with dried meats, with podded vanilla from Sumatra, that is altogether the sacred domain of Mevrow. Lunch came at 1 o'clock. It rather resembled breakfast, save for a hot dish of beefsteak and of those round, floury potatoes that grow incomparably in the region of sandy Scheveningen. There was tea, there was milk, there were wines of all kinds. Mevrow was resplendent in rich silks by this time, the Jufrow prettily reminiscent of the English modes she so much admired. For Monday was reception day and by 2 o'clock visitors, chiefly ladies, dropped in plentifully. Also a newly married couple who had previously been much discussed. The bridegroom was of ancient family, and—horror of horrors!—the bride was but bourgeoisie, and very shy of the fire of critical eyes directed toward her, despite her smart new clothes. At 5:30 came dinner and two guests. Of course they were cousins, but, for all that, some of the best wines were brought out. Port and sherry are served with rice soup, claret with the rest of the repast. We have over-roasted beef, carved after the abominable Dutch fashion, by which the carver whittles the meat away in chips. We have carrots in an exquisite cream sauce; curry a la Hollandaise, with the rice in a pulp. Next irreflexly comes a delicious mayonnaise of salmon, and, finally, sugary puddings and a handsome dessert of fine fruit. At this stage the Rhine wines make their appearance. Myheer calls toast after toast in old Rudesheim; nor does he neglect to press his choice liquors. Heads are strong in Holland; even the ladies sip their tiny glasses of "Parfait Amour." The best china was used on this occasion—rare old Delft, valued at 20 and 30 florins each piece. We did not linger for coffee, but put on our hats and got into the big, old-fashioned carriage that took us to Het den Bosch; in other words to the very beautiful beech woods that surround The Hague, where the spacious buildings belonging to the White club made an agreeable rendezvous for the gay world of the capital. The night was fine and warm, and wonderful to relate, not at all damp. The band of grenadiers was playing the pretty music of the "Dame Blanche." Very few people listened. The Dutch are not a musical nation, though every one told me with pride that these same grenadiers had once wrested the gold medal from the "Guides" of Belgian celebrity. We had not, indeed, much time to attend, for every moment hats were raised and greetings changed with profound bows. Mevrow brewed tea of alarming strength, boiling her water on a quaint stove that was, in fact, a pall of blazing charcoal. Our circle enlarged. Every possible attention was shown to the solitary foreign-

## OLD-TIME MEMORIES.

### Curious Meeting of a Yankee and a Reb on Virginia Soil.

In the camp at Falls Church, Va., are a number of veterans who fought with Sheridan in the Shenandoah valley. From Falls Church to the Blue Ridge mountains, which separate the Shenandoah and the Loudoun valleys, is a trip of not more than thirty miles, says the Washington Times. The panorama of nature presented on one of these ridges is one of the finest in the world, and those soldiers now in camp, to whom the scene is familiar, have taken advantage of their nearness to the old fighting ground to visit it once again. Among those who made the trip recently was an officer of a western regiment, who took his wife with him. At Round Hill they hired a vehicle for the ascent of the mountain. The driver had been one of Mosby's men. As the officer and his wife were being driven along he indulged in many reminiscences of his experience in the valley during the civil war. There was just a little bit of vainglory in his narrative of personal adventures. Several times the man who was doing the driving touched upon the horses a little viciously, as if he were in a bad humor. Once or twice he seemed on the point of breaking in on the conversation, but he reconsidered and held his peace. Finally the party reached a point in the road where the ascent in the mountain begins. The officer's face brightened up. "Do you see that hill right over there, dear?" he said to his wife, pointing to the place. She nodded. "Well, my dear, right at the foot of that hill is the very place where we cooked our supper that night I've been telling you about." "Yes, my darling," said the old driver, turning around, "and that is the very place where we uns ate your supper." "What," said the officer, "were you one of that party of rebs that came down on us?" "Yes, I was. We set up our tent on top of the hill and watched you-uns cook it, and when it was done we swooped down." "Well, tell me, my friend," said the officer, "where on earth you fellows came from?" "Well, I'll answer that, stranger," said the old man, "if you'll clear up a mystery fur me. Whar in thunder did you-uns go to? My idee at that time wuz that you climb up the inside of sum tree."

## QUEEN MARY'S PERMISSION.

### Grants to an Earl the Right to Wear Two Nightcaps.

Among the musty state documents of Great Britain is one which every reader of Miss Strickland's "Lives of the Queens" inevitably giggles over, says the Memphis Scimitar. In the life of Queen Mary Miss Strickland reproduces a wonderful state document, in which her majesty grants special permission to one of her counselors to wear a night cap in her presence. This royal concession is made, presumably as a reward for valuable services rendered. The earl of Sussex was the nobleman thus honored. The earl was a valetudinarian and had a great fear of uncovering his head. Considering, therefore, that the colds he dreaded respected no persons, he petitioned Queen Mary for leave to wear a cap in her presence. The queen not only gave him leave to wear one, but two nightcaps if he pleased. His patent for this privilege is unique in royal annals: "Know ye that we do grant to our well-beloved and trusty cousin and councillor, Henry, earl of Sussex, license and pardon to wear his cap, coil, or nightcap, or any two of them at his pleasure, as well in our presence as in the presence of any other person within this realm, or in any other place in our dominions whatsoever during his life, and these, our letters, shall be sufficient warrant in his behalf." The queen's seal was affixed to this singular grant. Three persons in Great Britain alone enjoy the privilege of remaining covered in the royal presence—Lord Forester, Lord Kinsale and the master of Trinity college, Cambridge.

### A Pitiess God.

Almost as ancient as the earth herself was Eros, the personification of love. Hesiod relates that he was among the first of existing things, and that he assisted Earth in bringing forth from chaos the earliest forms of life and beauty. Aristophanes and others wrote of Eros as the son of Night. Later poets sang of him as the son of Ares and Aphrodite, and honored him as the sweet-minded promoter of human affections. They represented him as a fair-faced boy, winged and carrying a bow with which to inflict sweet wounds upon those who came within range. Nor has Eros ceased to exist even in this practical age, for to this day the poets sing of this little-winged god, as skillful and as pitiless as in the days of old. The philosophic myth of Eros and Psyche is one of the most beautiful of the ancient allegories.

### Venezuela Wants Immigrants.

The Venezuelan government has contracted for the importation of 15,000 families from the north of Italy. Lands and houses will be given them and they will be assisted in a financial way. It is expected that they will develop the cultivation of fruits and cereals and will pay special attention to the growing of vines and manufacture of wine. Each immigrant will get fourteen acres and it is asserted that this amount of land is too small for growing cereals. The United States consul at Caracas says that when the fruit-producing capacity of this cloud of immigrants is developed a market must be sought in the United States. There is none in Venezuela.

### Religion and War.

Every German soldier carries a four-ounce religious book with the rest of his personal equipment.