

Mall Steamship company has a paid up capital of eleven million dollars, runs steamers between Japan, America, Europe and Asia and pays a ten per cent dividend on its capital. The Osaka Mercantile Steamship company (Osaka Shosen Kaisha) has a paid up capital of nearly three and a half million dollars, owns about one hundred vessels and pays a dividend of ten per cent. These are the largest companies but there are many smaller ones; some paying dividends of sixteen and twenty per cent.

I will close this article with the suggestion that the mercantile marine seems likely to show large growth in the future, offering, as it does, a legitimate field for national expansion.

Japan's fishing industries furnish a training for seamen and her people seem at home upon the water. She needs more territory for her expanding population and has about reached the limit in the cultivation of her tillable land. Every additional ship manned by her citizens is like a new island, rising from the waves, upon which her increasing population can be supported. If she seeks to acquire land in any direction, she finds her efforts contested by the inhabitants already there; no wonder she hails with delight these floating farms constructed by the genius of her own people—new land as it were, won and held without the sacrifice of war.

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### HEAVY FREIGHT BY MAIL

Testifying before the house committees on postoffices and post roads, Edwin C. Madden, third assistant postmaster general, said that indiscriminate use of the government free mail envelope by various executive departments of the government was one of the chief causes of the postal deficit. He said that typewriters, billiard tables, desks, chairs, lounges, carpets, book-cases, and heavy steel safes were sent on mail cars free at all times of the year, and that it happened that much of these heavy shipments were made during the period when the mails are weighed for ninety days in order to determine the basis of compensation to railroads. Mr. Madden said that in 1899 this government free matter, exclusive of bags and wrappings, constituted 12.58 per cent of the entire weight carried. Postmaster General Cortelyou, he said, had estimated that in 1904 the government lost in round numbers \$20,000,000 by this free matter.

Postmaster General Cortelyou suggests as a remedy that each department of the government shall pay postage upon its mail matter according to its class. Representative Overstreet favors a law requiring each executive department to keep account of its mail shipments both as to weight and character, and he thinks that this plan would provide the necessary remedy. It will occur to a great many people that this is a very important problem and that congress should be able to apply an effective remedy.

Mr. Cortelyou's recommendation seems to be practical and it should, we think, be adopted. The government franking privilege has been grossly abused. Senators and representatives have participated in this abuse, and there is an impression at Washington that congress will not provide an effective remedy. There is no reason why there should be a postal deficit. It has long been a mystery why the government has so long submitted to extortion in this matter of payment to railroads for mail transportation. For carrying the mails railroads charge the government about 800 per cent more than they charge the express companies for similar service. The franking privilege should be readjusted and, wherever practical, actually abolished, while the railroads should be required to carry the mails on reasonable terms.

### THE SAME OLD STORY

The marital difficulties of Count and Countess Boni de Castellane are just now being discussed in the public prints. Countess de Castellane was Miss Anna Gould, daughter of the late Jay Gould. She conferred her hand and her millions upon Count Boni de Castellane of France, a fortune hunter of odorous reputation. The result is just what thousands predicted, basing their predictions on precedent. Some of these so-called international marriages have been happy, but the vast majority of them have ended in ruined hopes and broken hearts. American girls of fortune, blinded by the pomp and glitter of courts of royalty, have purchased titled husbands just as their fathers purchased railroads and manufacturing plants. The only difference is that their fathers were successful, as a rule, in their ventures, while the daughters have been unsuccessful. Love can not be measured by dollars and cents, and place and position bought with love as the

sacrifice, must sooner or later become like the Dead Sea fruit that is so beautiful to the eye but turns to ashes on the lips. Count de Castellane's reputation was well known before his title was purchased with American dollars. But that title was coveted, and its glitter temporarily hid from the enchanted eyes of the American heiress the dishonorable stains upon it. Now the glitter is gone, the horrible stains stand out prominently, and one more American girl, disillusioned and disenchanted, is asking for relief from marital vows that were only a hollow mockery when first taken. It is the same old story, told in the same old way.

### "SEE AMERICA FIRST"

There was held in Salt Lake City recently a convention that had for its object the work of impressing upon Americans that before touring in foreign lands they should "See America First." It would be well to consider the fact that the habit of neglecting one's own country to travel abroad breeds provincialism, puts a premium on ignorance of the country's conditions and weakens patriotism. People who have raved over the glories of the Alps never saw in Switzerland greater scenic beauty than is spread out before the traveler in the Rockies. People who have floated down the storied Rhine and sung praises of its beauties beheld scenes there far inferior to the scenes placed before those who have traversed the course of the Hudson and the Columbia. The eastern world contains nothing that is worthy of being mentioned in the same day with the Grand Canon and the Yosemite Valley. There is nothing in all Europe worthy of being mentioned in the same day with the Yellowstone Park. The petrified forests of Arizona, the Garden of the Gods, Cheyenne Canon, Niagara Falls, the great gorge of the Niagara river below the falls. Mammoth cave—all these and a thousand more American sights excel anything that Europe has to offer save the pomp and glory and circumstance of having made a "foreign tour." That there is glory in having made a foreign tour before "seeing America first" is not a credit to our patriotism or our common sense.

If the Salt Lake City convention's plans result in turning the tide of travel westward into the marvelous scenic wonders of the great west, it will have accomplished a great work in national education.

### SNOBOCRACY

A dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald, under date of Pittsburg, January 14, follows: "William N. Frew Jr., son of the millionaire attorney of this city and protege of Andrew Carnegie, spent today in a stuffy room on the top floor of the courthouse. Young Frew was called for jury duty last Monday and was placed on the Geyser murder case. All week long he has occupied the same sleeping quarters with eleven other men, and marched out with them three times a day to a cheap restaurant, where he has had his meals. It was thought that the case would be finished yesterday, but it is still on and the jury was kept locked up all day today, greatly to the disgust and annoyance of young Frew and his parents. They sent him some home-cooked meals, flowers and reading matter."

Now that was too bad. Think of "the son of a millionaire attorney" being required to submit, while on jury duty, to the same inconveniences to which plain, everyday citizens, serving as jurors, are put! Think of "the son of a millionaire attorney" occupying the same sleeping quarters with "eleven other men" and "marched out with them three times a day to a cheap restaurant!"

No doubt young Frew was "greatly disgusted and annoyed." No doubt, also, young Frew's parents were "greatly disgusted and annoyed." But what about the "eleven other men?"

Can it be possible that even the "Fourth Estate" has fallen under the blandishments of snobocracy?

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The question of the popular election of United States senators is before the Iowa legislature. A resolution was introduced asking the governor of Iowa to write the governors of other states to name representatives to an interstate conference looking to joint action on the part of the states to secure the calling of a constitutional convention which shall submit an amendment for the direct election of senators. The two-thirds vote in congress necessary for the submission of such an amendment can not be obtained, but the legislatures of two-thirds of the states may call a convention for proposed amendments, and if

these amendments are ratified by three-fourths of the states they become a part of the constitution.

The Chicago Tribune expresses doubts as to the advisability of a constitutional convention. The Tribune thinks that the delegates to such a convention will not be inclined to confine themselves to the single subject of the method of electing senators. The Tribune suggests a way in which it thinks a state may have "more of a voice" in the election of senators. It says:

"It is in the power of the Iowa legislature to pass a law providing for the expression of senatorial preferences at the primaries. If any considerable number of voters attend the primaries and express a preference the legislature will act in accordance with it, though not legally bound to do so. That will be the nearest possible approach to a direct election of senators. Such a law can be enacted this year, while it may require many years to get a constitutional convention."

The Tribune's plan has been tried and has not always worked successfully. There is on the Nebraska statute books a similar plan. The Nebraska law provides that at the general election voters may express their preference for United States senator by writing the name of their favorite on the ballot. The legislature is not bound to follow these preferences and, in truth, has never heeded them even when a considerable number of votes were cast for a particular candidate. As a rule comparatively few of the voters take the trouble to express a preference.

It is difficult to understand why the Tribune says that this plan "is the nearest possible approach to a direct election of senators." It is plain that the people favor this reform. True, they can not secure the consent of congress, as at present constituted, but sooner or later this reform will be accomplished. The constitutional convention plan seems to be practical, although there may be some difficulty just at this time to persuade two-thirds of the states to call the proposed convention. It is to be hoped, however, that the Iowa legislature will adopt the resolution and that the proposed conference will be held. That will provide a means for testing the sentiment.

The present method of electing senators is doomed. To bring about a reform will require time, but the senate will yet be made responsive to the public will, and the only way to bring about that desirable result is to make the senators dependent for election upon the vote of the people.

### "KEEP IT DARK"

The New York World is authority for the statement that at a recent meeting of the members of the Equitable Life Assurance Society the directors were required to sign written pledges in which each one bound himself not to divulge anything about the revelations made by the society's accountants. The World says that there was submitted at this directors' meeting a report containing evidence of a great many scandals which have not heretofore been revealed.

Evidently it is beginning to dawn on some of the Equitable policyholders that Mr. Ryan's investment in Equitable stock was not entirely philanthropic.

### AN 1896 QUESTION

Discussing the increase in the gold productions the Sioux City Journal asks: "Will the purchasing power of gold decrease as its volume, with accompanying credit, increases thereby forcing a higher level of prices?"

If memory is not at fault the Sioux City Journal and other republican papers disposed of such questions as that in 1896. Then they bitterly denied the quantitative theory which was in fact the foundation for all arguments in behalf of bimetalism. Can it be possible that the Journal has been converted to the theory against which it contended in 1896?

### ONE OF THE MYSTERIES

Inquiry has disclosed the fact that of government funds distributed among the banks the City National Bank of New York has on deposit something more than \$8,000,000. The Vigo County National Bank at Terre Haute, Indiana, has on deposit something more than \$16,000,000. The total deposits of government money amount in the neighborhood of \$65,000,000. Of that sum two banks have \$24,000,000, or more than one-third of the entire deposits. This is only one of the many mysteries at the national capital.