

War With Japan?

Denver News: Already the criticism is being heard—and not wholly from his enemies—that President Roosevelt is trying to fix things so that his own re-nomination by acclamation is inevitable. Whether this criticism be true or not, every move which gives it color strengthens the hands of those who oppose the policies of reform which have given the president his hold on the American people. We want no war. We want no attempt to avert war by shaking our fists in the faces of those who might be ready to quarrel with us. And we want no policy which will compel us to choose between jingoism abroad and reactionism at home.

Sioux City (Iowa) Journal: The governments at Tokio and Washington are friendly. The Tokio government has the jingoes on its hands. The Washington government has the Pacific coast on its hands. Both of these influences tend to complicate what would otherwise be a simple problem. There should be mutual patience while the logical solution is being worked out.

Pittsburg Post: The only reason Japan can have for war with us is the treatment some of her immigrants have been receiving on the Pacific coast. The blindest Japanese jingo can hardly see any way of bettering this unfortunate situation by war. Nor is there any other substantial advantage apparent from such a step.

Buffalo (N. Y.) News: The United States has no quarrel whatever with Japan. Japan has no ground for a quarrel with the United States. The rulers of Japan have a perfect understanding of the California case and of the nature of our system of government which permits a state to do things that are not within the power of provinces under an imperial organization. The treatment of the Japanese in San Francisco provides no occasion even for national hostility on either side of the Pacific. It is a closed incident in itself. It may lead to a settlement of the question of whether a treaty may deal with topics not within the range of the constitution in domestic affairs, and if it does have that result the way is made clear for the government to handle all such outbreaks as disgraced the California city.

New York Evening Post: But on no ground of discipline or efficiency could a voyage to the Pacific rather than to any other seas be justified, while a cruise to California or the Philippines would be accepted the world over as a threat to the Japanese. We could hardly have a better example of the way a navy, so far from being a safeguard, can become a grave menace to the peace of a nation.

Pittsburg Dispatch: There is just as much reason why an American squadron should be in Pacific waters as in waters of the Atlantic. The Atlantic fleet has maneuvered in Caribbean waters for two years and a squadron has once gone down the South American coast without causing comment. It is no indication of war that six or a dozen vessels may be ordered farther this year to pass the Straits of Magellan. It is known that work on the warships that were to be built at San Francisco has been stopped. More are being constructed in Atlantic ports. There is no reason why the whole navy should be kept on this side of the continent, when the country has large insular possessions and a very considerable commerce in the Pacific. The opinion can be safely ventured that the Japanese government will take precisely this view of the matter and the breathless diplomatists will be allowed to find some other excitement to while away the dull and silly season in Washington.

New York World: Mr. Roosevelt is in duty bound to take into consideration the state of public opinion in Japan no less than the state of public opinion on the Pacific coast. A statesman has no moral right to throw a match into the tinder and pretend that he had no intention of starting a fire. There is no reason known to sensible government or sensible diplomacy why the battleships should be sent to the Pacific. Their presence might revive some of Secretary Metcalf's withered political laurels at home. Their presence might even exercise no

little influence upon the complexion of the California delegation to the next republican national convention. But is Mr. Roosevelt going to set the hounds of sensationalism and race hatred baying again for such an object as this? One simple, plain duty now confronts the president. It is to announce officially, authoritatively, flatly, and positively that the North Atlantic fleet will not be sent to the Pacific.

Washington Herald: What has been really accomplished by the course of the administration so far is to rouse the warlike passions of two nations and to set the faces of America and Japan against each other in suspicion and misunderstanding. The great question involved in our relations with Japan, said Secretary Root, is whether the two countries shall confront each other across the Pacific in anger and growing hatred. This question it is proposed to answer by a naval threat of the most provocative character, and we are solemnly told that that is the best way to preserve peace!

New York Sun: Already the Pacific enterprise, whatever it may really have been, is hopelessly entangled in the ridiculous. It is variously represented now as an insignificant voyage of practice, which might equally be directed to the Mediterranean or the South Atlantic; as an object lesson of the future value of the Panama canal; as an incentive to liberal appropriations for battleship construction; as a display for the benefit of those inhabitants of the slope who don't get a chance to see many of our fine war vessels; as a spectacular sequel to Secretary Root's beneficent voyage around South America, and as a far-sighted attempt to impress a friendly Oriental neighbor with the extent and preparedness of our naval resources. In the last-mentioned aspect it would have been entirely legitimate if pursued in silence or with a frank avowal of the purpose, and in either case it would perhaps have been welcomed by the not unintelligent nation for whose instruction it was designed; but, promoted under a false explanation, or under irreconcilable explanations from official sources, it becomes at the same time preposterous and exceedingly mischievous in its possibilities—as mischievous, perhaps, as anything in a long succession of hair-trigger policies.

Louisville Courier-Journal: It is extremely unfortunate that a mere matter of detail in the routine of naval management should be the subject of so much public discussion and vested with a significance through indiscreet representations which it is now found necessary to correct with such pronounced official disclaimer. There is no reason why we should not have a strong naval force in the Pacific. There is not a battleship in those waters, the last having been withdrawn about a year ago. We have no need of them in the Atlantic waters, and if our government regarded it expedient to send a squadron there or elsewhere for diversity of service, or whatever object, it should do so without explanation, much less with the semblance of apology.

Springfield Republican: There could be no rational criticism of a quiet, unostentatious strengthening of the American naval force in the Pacific. No power could protest against the sending, one by one, at intervals, of some battleships from the Atlantic to our Pacific coast, and that Japan would not protest is evident from the apparent fact that her government has the self-control to refrain from manifestations of alarm over the garish performance that is now contemplated by our government. It is not too late for the president to modify the grandiose dimensions of the proposed cruise and demonstration, and adopt the policy of rational re-enforcement without a thunder and lightning stage setting.

Wheeling (W. Va.) Register: There are something more than surface indications that the administration is about prepared to recognize that the ordering of our battleship fleet to the Pacific was ill-timed. That the president himself regrets at least the news "leak" and most of all that Secretary Metcalf gave the fact publicity, is undoubted.

It would be strange if the United States could not distribute its own ships in its own waters without sending to the Orient for a permit.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

A MONUMENT TO BILL NYE

The American Press Humorists have taken up the subject of erecting a monument to the late Edgar Wilson Nye, the monument to be erected in Laramie, where Bill Nye first came into fame, and where the best of his fun was concocted. Nye needs no monument to perpetuate his fame, but the monument is needed to prove that the world appreciated his genial humor. Bill Nye made life easier for many a burdened man and woman. His humor, always kindly and always ready, scattered smiles all over the land. The American Press Humorists will honor themselves when they thus pay tribute to Edgar Wilson Nye. The association will meet in Los Angeles, September 15-22, and during the convention an entertainment will be given for the benefit of the monument fund. Robert J. Burdette, Melville D. Langdon, Sam Davis, Strickland W. Gilliland, Edmund Vance Cooke, Thomas A. Daley, Judd M. Lewis, W. D. Nesbit, Sam E. Kiser and other well known entertainers will have places on the program. If every one who has laughed at Bill Nye's drollery will contribute to the monument fund, it could be erected of solid silver. Contributions may be sent to Frank Thompson Searight, Los Angeles, Cal.

ET TU BRUTE

In an editorial in its issue of June 2, the Kansas City Star complains because of the failure on the part of a certain railroad company to keep faith with the people of Kansas and Missouri. In that editorial the Star says: "The company's failure to keep faith with the people because there happens to be no law to compel it to do so discloses the real spirit of the privilege grabbing corporations. As a result of this insolent disregard of the public demand the railroads will awaken some day to the truth that they themselves are the advance agents of the menacing increase in the sentiment for government ownership."

"The railroads themselves are the advance agents of the menacing increase in the sentiment for government ownership!" And this from the Kansas City Star that has dealt so uncharitably with others who have dared to point to the trend of the times and to the logical results of corporate oppression and lawlessness!

A HIGH TRIBUTE

Theodore Franklin Toler died recently at Carbondale, Ill. Mr. Toler was thirty-eight years of age, and was a faithful democrat. The Southern Illinois Herald, published at Carbondale, pays this high and deserved tribute: "There never lived a more magnificent specimen of Egyptian stock; never lived a more promising child, a more highly respected boy, or a man of higher social standing, more kindly heart or unquestionable integrity. His popularity was not confined to Carbondale or Jackson county; he was known and held in high estimation throughout the length and breadth of the state. Frank Toler is dead! The announcement was not unexpected, but it threw a pall over our city, and went as a sword-thrust to every heart. Every house became a house of mourning. Every one had lost a dear friend."

WHAT THE VOICE SAID AT EVENING

Rest, life, and be still. The task of the day is done.
 What you have sown God trusts to the soil, rain and the sun.
 What you have dreamed is his thought of days that are yet to be.
 What you have hoped he counts in the sheaves of eternity.

Rest, life, and be still. For you falls the night—sweet boon!
 Truth lives in eternal day—like the sun, in eternal noon.
 Touch, O soul, the soul of the infinite, patient God.
 Who plants the seed of the ages in the moment's moldering sod.

Rest, life, and be still. God gave this sunset hour
 That, watching, you might feel the peace of His quiet power.
 In lights and colors of life no dusk of death can mar,
 God paints this day in heaven, and over it hangs a star.

—Charles P. Cleaves in Youth's Companion.