

## RUSSIA FAVORS IT

Signifies Her Intention to Localize War Against Japan.

## WANTS CHINA NEUTRALITY

Wants to Line Up With Secretary Hay's Suggestions and Will Conduct War Against Japan Only.

"Russia gladly and willingly favored the suggestion of Secretary Hay that as far as possible, the belligerents in the far eastern war localize hostilities and respect the neutrality of China in the interest of a continuance of peaceful intercourse of the rest of the world. My government expressed the conviction that Mr. Hay's suggestion was prompted by motives of the highest humanity and was mutually advantageous to the belligerents."

This statement was made by Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, in the course of a conversation with a representative of the Associated Press at Washington, D. C. The ambassador spoke in general on the far eastern situation. Although the negotiations on the neutrality proposition have been carried on almost entirely between the several foreign governments addressed and the American envoys accredited to them, the weight of the work of the Russian ambassador at Washington in the councils of his majesty was strongly influential in the shaping of Russia's reply.

As soon as the note was addressed to the Russian government, Count Cassini was advised of the fact by Secretary Hay and a long and earnest conversation followed on the motives of the Washington government in initiating this move, unique in diplomacy. To the frankness of this conversation, a frankness made possible by the cordial and intimate relations which Mr. Hay and Count Cassini have enjoyed at Washington, is largely due, it is said, the prompt response of the Russian government, which is naturally concerned with many matters of the gravest importance and some demanding the most speedy attention, such as war measures.

## Obscene Med. Adds Must Go

The postoffice department has begun a crusade against the printing of objectionable advertisements and stories in newspapers and periodicals throughout the country. The action is based on section 3893 of the revised statutes which imposes a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or imprisonment for not over five years, or both, for any person depositing in the mails or aiding in circulating through the mails, of any obscene print, pamphlet, etc. It is proposed to amend this law to include vulgar advertisements and other printed matter. Under the new policy a number of papers containing questionable matter have been thrown out of the mails under telegraphic orders to the postmasters and a campaign will be waged against objectionable medical advertisements, which are being widely published.

## Advice Against Wage Reduction

President John Mitchell of the miners' national organization, speaking before the Illinois miners in Chicago, advised the miners not to accept any reduction in wages.

"The present condition of the coal market entitles the miners to expect a renewal of the old scale," said Mr. Mitchell, "and I for one will not consent to any change to the disadvantage of the workers. We must admit the wages are of right governed to a certain degree by the condition of the market, but there is nothing in the present state of affairs which would justify any attempt to lower the scale."

In a general discussion of the labor problem Mr. Mitchell advised the workers to rid their minds of the idea that the interests of the operators were inimical to those of the wage-earners.

## Baltimore Insurance Loss \$31,095,132

The Baltimore Underwriter prints the list of losses of all the fire insurance companies in the Baltimore fire. The total gross loss is \$32,684,984, of which 6 million falls upon the local companies. The estimated total of salvage is \$1,769,762, which leaves a net loss to the insurance companies of \$31,095,132. It has been learned that many of the large wholesale dry goods houses formed an insurance pool among themselves which amounted to about 5 millions from which practically nothing will be realized. Another development is that very few of the tenants of the so-called fireproof buildings carried any insurance.

## Panama Inaugurates President

Dr. Amador has been inaugurated first president of the republic of Panama before the national constitutional convention. Pablo Arosemena, president of the constitutional convention, administered the oath of office.

The inauguration occurred in the plaza in front of the cathedral the same place where the act of Panamanian independence was read on November 3, 1903. Thousands of persons were present, and the scene was most interesting.

## NEBRASKA HEADS THE LIST

Her Teachers Prepare Themselves for Schoolwork the Best Way.

The compilation of the reports of the meetings of the state educational associations of eight western central states this winter is considered by Nebraska educators to be indicative of the reason for the superior educational standard of Nebraska and the remarkably low percentage of illiteracy in the state.

The report shows that Nebraska teachers are progressive and prepare themselves for school work in a much more thorough manner than in the majority of the other states considered. Five of these states have more teachers engaged in school work than has Nebraska, but of the entire list of eight, Nebraska heads the list in the matter of attendance of teachers at the educational association meetings. The table of comparison of the number of teachers and the number in attendance at the meeting is as follows, in the order mentioned:

Iowa	29,073	986
Wisconsin	13,156	1,800
Minnesota	12,695	1,675
Missouri	11,709	975
Nebraska	10,785	851
North Dakota	9,629	1,840
South Dakota	5,052	400
North Dakota	4,583	258

Nebraska not only leads the list in the actual number in attendance, but in the proportionate attendance. Iowa, with the largest number of teachers of any of the states, has the poorest proportionate showing of attendance.

## CHICAGO'S WATER SUPPLY

Plans for Having High Pressure for 300,000 Gallons Per Minute.

The Chicago city council committee on high water pressure for the business district has completed its report. The plan recommended provides for a capacity of 30,000 gallons per minute, with a pressure on the pumps of 300 pounds per square inch. The trunk mains and lateral conductors will be of sufficient size to give a hydrant pressure of 200 pounds per square inch after being forced 9,000 feet through a 36-inch main at a velocity of nine feet per second. As an illustration of the results expected it is estimated that under the proposed plan, with forty-four streams discharging 220 gallons per minute surrounding a given block at an elevation of 335 feet above the street, this being the longest distance that water would have to be forced through the mains and hose in the down-town district from the pumping station. The plan is to make the high pressure to cover a territory about two miles long and one mile wide. It is strongly advocated by fire and insurance experts. The estimated cost of installing the plant will be about three and a quarter million dollars.

## Cannot Do Business on Side

The house committee on postoffice and post roads have completed the postoffice appropriation bill, which carries \$169,997,588. The appropriation last year was \$153,500,000.

The total appropriation for rural free delivery service is \$21,000,000. Last year this item was \$12,600,000. The salaries of rural free delivery carriers is increased from \$60 to \$720.

This provision regarding rural carriers is inserted in the bill: "On and after July 1, 1904, carriers shall not solicit business or receive orders of any kind from any person, firm or corporation, and shall not during their hours of employment, carry any merchandise for hire."

## Agriculture Will Rank First

Decision has been made by the faculty of the Missouri university at Columbia to elevate the study of agriculture to a place as a high science, and agriculture as taught in high schools will be accepted as a basis for entrance of students to the university. This will have the effect of placing the study of farming on an equal footing with other sciences.

It is proposed by the university to introduce the study into every high school in the state, and if the plan is successful it is expected that other states will follow the example.

## The Tramp Has Some Rights

The Iowa supreme court has decided that a tramp has rights which a trainman must respect, affirming a decision from Pottawatomie county, in which a tramp secured judgment for injuries sustained by reason of forcible ejection from a moving train. The lower court held that a tramp had no rights and that the trainman was justified in throwing him from the train, no matter what the results might be. A new trial was granted and a favorable decision rendered.

## No Minor Users Hereafter

The report of the special grand jury which investigated the Iroquois theater disaster will be submitted to Judge Chytraus.

In the report will be included a recommendation that legislation be enacted forbidding the employment of theater ushers less than twenty-one years old. The jurors found that the Iroquois had enough ushers, but that they were boys who deserted their posts at the first alarm.

## IMAGE RICHLY CLAD

TREASURE TROVE IN CHAPEL OF CITY OF MEXICO.

Jeweled Figure of the Virgin Sold for \$25,000—Discovery of Its Value an Accident—Had Been for Years Comparatively Unnoticed.

A curious discovery has just been made concerning an image of the Virgin in the chapel of the Colegio de las Vizcainas in the City of Mexico.

One day, in 1732, three Spaniards while rambling through the city noticed a number of poor children playing in the street, apparently uncared for and with no school to attend. This meeting inspired them to erect at a cost of \$600,000 the great, gloomy red stone building occupying an entire block and known as the Colegio de las Vizcainas, or de San Ignacio or de la Paz, for girls, chiefly orphans. The intention of the generous trio, natives of Biscay, was to limit the benefits of the school to children of Spaniards, but long ago this was found impracticable.

This ancient institution is conducted under the supervision of some of the foremost ladies of Mexico, including the wife of President Diaz. Recently some of these women received permission to renovate the robes of the images in the college chapel. To do this they unlocked all the cases, including one of wood and glass in which a figure of the Virgin stood for many years undisturbed.

To their amazement the apparently humbly clad image proved to be of wood, beautifully and artistically carved, covered by a sheet of silver studded with gold and precious stones.

Competent judges say the image represented originally the Virgin of the Angels and was later transformed into the Virgin of the Conception, as shown by the mutilation of the group of angel heads on which the feet rested. At one time there were seven heads and three had been severed. A silver crescent, now in two pieces, had been nailed over the head and face of one of the angels.

The attitude of the body is extremely natural and correct, and the workmanship of the silver tunic and the veil, hanging in rich folds and gracefully caught at the waist, is highly praised by artists. From crown to base the height is 1 metre and 15 centimetres.

The jewels consisted of 192 diamonds, 342 emeralds, 26 rubies, 1,947 pearls, with four stones said to be hyacinths. Notwithstanding the care taken to protect the image after the discovery of its value, some thief was able to steal from the case seventeen gold chains, one gold and emerald butterfly and several diamonds and pearls.

An expert from the Monte de Piedad, national pawnshop, estimated the value of the figure and decorations at \$20,000. An offer from a jeweler of \$25,000 was accepted and the image sold to him. It is rumored that the image will be sent to Paris.

The purchase money will be used in providing for an additional number of students who, after receiving an education, desire to remain in the school instead of going into the world. The right to this home, "lugar de gracia," ceases only with marriage.

## Where Justice Halts

Describing some of the difficulties attending the administration of justice in Nigeria, a British officer says: "The cases tried by judicial officers are often puzzling. How, for instance, shall an officer trained in British ideas of law deal with the case of a man who confesses with full conviction and sincerity that he is guilty of transforming himself into an alligator or hyena and devouring the children of his neighbors? Common report may, in a second case, accuse a man of witchcraft or murder; the local chief is appealed to, to test his criminality by the poison ordeal. He dispatches his messenger to administer it; the accused perhaps dies, but all are convinced that he ran no risk if he were innocent. Who is to be convicted? The inflexible logic of British-made law lacks elasticity to deal with such cases."

## Good Morning.

Good morning, my little boy blue,  
The flush of the dawn's in the sky,  
The grass of the meadow is wet with the dew,  
And the robin is singing on high.

No sign of the cloud-rack appears,  
No hint of the wild afternoon,  
Its lightning of loss and its tempest of tears,  
And the darkness that falleth too soon.

Then follows the bow of that prove,  
Which paints the departing of light,  
When pleasures and labors and sorrows must cease,  
In the infinite calm of the night.

Good morning, then, little boy blue,  
The flush of the dawn's in the sky,  
The grass of the meadow is wet with the dew,  
And the robin is singing on high.

## Russian Honeymoon Car.

The Kursk-Zarkoff railroad of Russia, advertises a special car for honeymooners, designed and furnished with the very latest luxuries. A famous engineer and architect were called in to plan it. The decorations are in the best Parisian style and polite female attendants look after the comfort of the happy couple. None but the newly wed are allowed to use this magnificent car, which, by a stroke of ingenuity, is built to accommodate alike the very wealthy and those with a modest purse. The partitions are removable, and the car can be used as a series of small compartments or as a couple of roomy salons.

# ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION WILL BE GREATEST EVER HELD ON EARTH

Estimated Cost, Exclusive of the Value of the Exhibits, Is from Forty to Fifty Million Dollars—Miles of Wonderful Displays in More Than Twenty Buildings.

It is now a little more than two months before the gates will open upon the World's Fair at St. Louis and the public will be invited to see the greatest exposition that has ever been created. The vast exhibit palaces are complete and many of them have been finished for several months. Within the next two months all of them are to be brightened with new coats of paint so that, on the opening day, the magnificent array of palaces will appear as fresh as a newly blossomed rose.

No one, no matter how vivid his imagination, can picture to himself the scene that will be presented when the Exposition is complete. The more one sees this great collection of exhibit palaces and countless other buildings, the more deeply impressed he becomes with the grandeur of the undertaking. As the days grow longer and the air becomes balmy with the breezes of spring, the Exposition will take on far greater activity than it has seen during the boisterous days of winter. In spite of the severe weather, work has not ceased upon the construction of the World's Fair for more than a day or two at a time and there is every expectation and promise that it will be complete on the opening day.

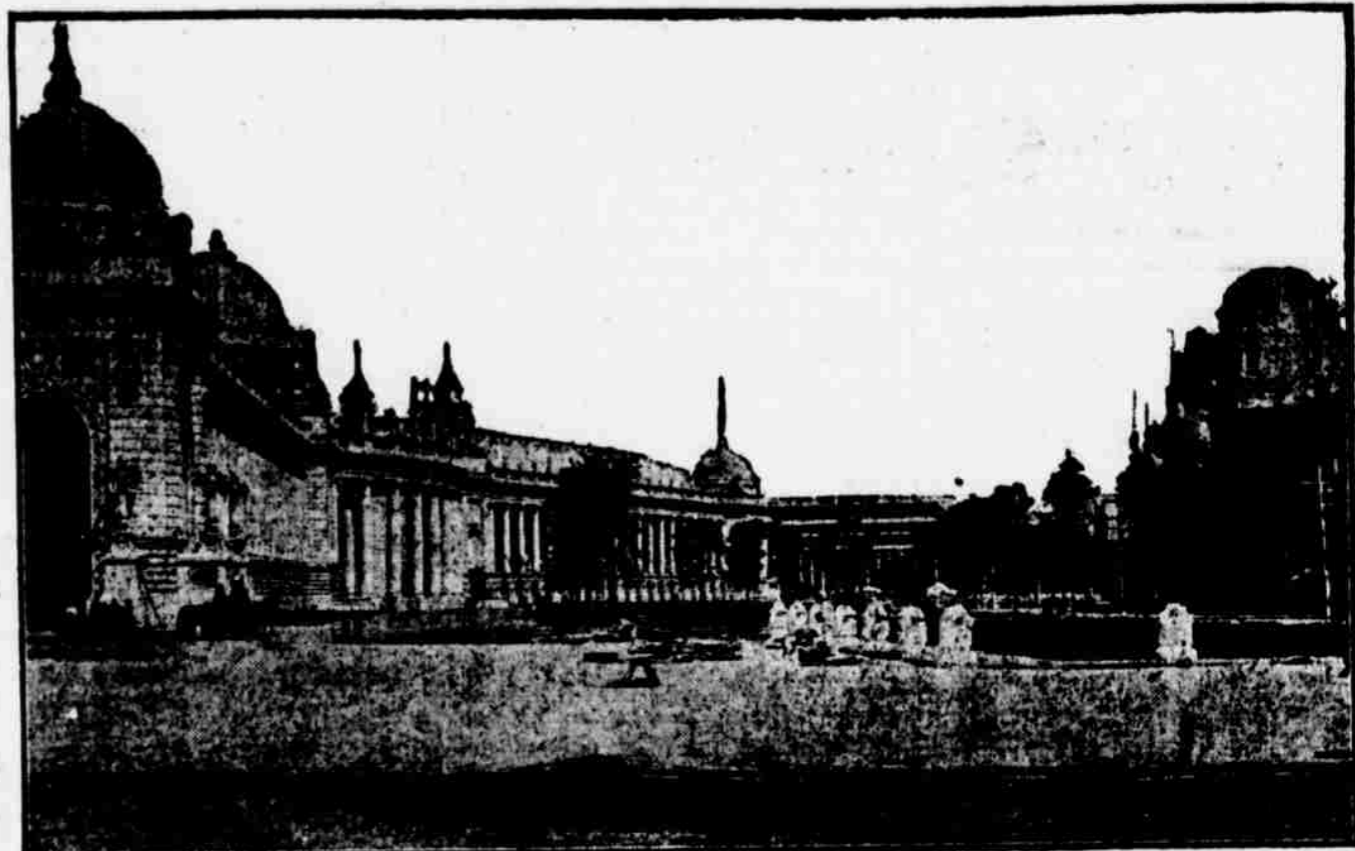
The buildings and grounds, magnifi-

cent both to believe such a statement. But such is the fact. The exhibit palaces of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition average much larger than those of Chicago and are greater in number. About 130 acres of floor space are provided in the various palaces of the present World's Fair and more than twenty buildings will be used for exhibit purposes. The largest of these is the Palace of Agriculture, which covers twenty acres. The next in size is the Palace of Transportation, covering fifteen acres and containing four miles of railway tracks for the exhibit of locomotives and cars.

At the Chicago Exposition there were practically no outdoor exhibits. At this World's Fair about 100 acres are given up to outdoor displays, supplementing in a most pleasing manner the hundreds of thousands of indoor exhibits. At the Chicago Exposition one building was used for no less than three important departments. At the World's Fair in St. Louis four buildings, covering forty-five acres, are given up to the same four departments.

The total cost of the World's Fair is estimated at from forty to fifty million dollars, exclusive of the value of the exhibits. The Palace of Machinery alone will contain exhibits to the value of eight million dollars.

AT THE WORLD'S FAIR, ST. LOUIS.



View looking east from the Plaza St. Anthony. Palace of Varied Industries on the left. Palace of Electricity on the right. Palace of Manufactures in the distance.

cent though they be, are but the setting for a far more interesting display. In all the buildings the best products that the world can offer will be arranged in the most attractive order and will convey to the mind a better idea of what the wide world is doing than would years of study and inquiry. Fifty-one nations of the world and all of the states of the American Union will be represented in this extensive portrayal of the world's present-day effort.

Those who are familiar with the Columbian Exposition at Chicago have often asked if the Louisiana Purchase Exposition would equal in extent or grandeur the celebrated Exposition of 1893. When told that it would be twice as large in extent of grounds and 50 per cent larger in exhibit space in buildings, they have

To mention the big things of the World's Fair of 1904 would be to give a catalogue of the greatest achievements of man in many lines of endeavor. For example: We shall see the largest locomotive ever built, weighing ninety-five tons and having twelve driving wheels. We shall hear the largest organ in the world in the most beautiful festival hall ever built. We shall see some of the greatest sea-coast defense guns manufactured for the United States government. In the Government Building, which is the largest exhibit building ever erected by federal authority at an Exposition, there will be a model of a half of a battleship for the Navy display. The United States Government has also erected a bird cage so large that tall trees grow within the inclosure, in which will be held captive during the

tude, and an amusement street a mile long, containing the most novel and wonderful entertainments, will furnish diversion to the guests of the Exposition. All St. Louis is preparing for the World's Fair, which will open on April 30 next and continue for seven months. Hundreds of buildings have been remodeled into hotels, and thousands of homes have been listed, upon invitation of the World's Fair management, to help care for the visitors. Every preparation has been made for a period of unusual festivity, and St. Louis expects to give her visitors a delightful season of sight-seeing and entertainment.

Thirty-five miles of roadway have been constructed within the World's Fair grounds.

## MARKETING FOR THE SEA COW.

It is Necessary Now to Cut Through Ice to Get at the Eel Grass. The man who does the marketing for the Aquarium's sea cow has had to do some lively hustling this winter to keep that big animal supplied with food.

The sea cow is eight foot long, weighs 800 pounds, and has a healthy appetite. In the first eighteen weeks after its arrival here from Florida, on Sept. 3 last, it ate ninety bushels of eel grass, six bushels of fennel-leaved pond weed and two bushels of ulva, or sea lettuce, making ninety-eight bushels of aquatic plants in all in eighteen weeks, or an average of about five and one-half bushels a week, which is about its present rate of consumption.

The eel grass and other things for the sea cow's table are gathered in Gravesend Bay or the waters there with connected. Baymen say that the present has been the hardest winter hereabouts on the water in twenty-five years. On many days it has been necessary to cut through the ice to get

at the eel grass required for the sea cow's food, sometimes through ice ten inches in thickness and often through ice of five or six inches.

Sometimes when the ice had moved out with a shift of the wind, leaving open spaces, access to the eel grass would be easy, but frequently the ice would have closed in, and then it would be necessary to cut holes in it to get at the eel grass below.

So the work of supplying the sea cow's table has been so far this winter attended by more or less difficulty, but there has never been a day on which the sea cow has had to go hungry.—New York Sun.

## Brain Growth.

Brain development is found by Prof. Seggel of Munich to have two periods of acceleration—from 10 to 11 and from 17 to 18 in girls, and from 12 to 13 and 19 to 20 in boys. At the period of most rapid increase in height—from 12 to 14 years—the growth of the brain is less than one-hundredth that of the body, but at 17 to 19 it grows one-thirtieth as fast, and at 20 reaches one-seventh of the body growth.

## Swiss Industrial Schools.

There are industrial schools for clock and watch making in Geneva, Locle, Chaux-de-Fonds, etc.; there are art and industrial working schools in Zurich and other cities for women, and there are industrial schools for the hand trades in most of the cities and towns of the country. The subjects taught in these schools are drawing, arithmetic, geography, bookkeeping, German, French and practical instruction in the trade chosen by the pupil.

## Wholesale Marriage.

No fewer than forty-two couples were married simultaneously at Plougastel (Lower Brittany) one morning recently. Work in the village and in all the surrounding hamlet was entirely suspended for the day, for the excellent reason that there was scarcely a living soul in the neighborhood not related to one or other of the brides or bridegrooms, for the good people of Plougastel never marry outside their own commune.—London Mail.

## How the Starfish Feeds.

A starfish can neither see nor hear. Neither has it the sense of smell. In spite of those seeming impediments, nevertheless, it seeks and devours its prey as neatly as an ordinary fish. The starfish lies upon its prey and folds its "arms" or rays completely about it. Then it pushes its stomach out through its mouth and will wrap even a large oyster and shell within the folds of the stomach. The mouth of the starfish is in the center of its rays.

## HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND.

Amusing Error of Frenchman That Cost Him \$5.

A French visitor to New York, an enthusiastic automobilist, has learned a lesson as to how things are done in America. On several occasions when speeding a machine through Central park he has seen policemen hold up a hand. The result was an increase of speed and a wave of the hand in return. The police have been in the hopes of catching him, and finally one of them did so by placing his horse in the auto's track, compelling it to come to a standstill. In court the Frenchman was amazed at the cause of his arrest. He took the signals of the officers as commendations and congratulations and turned on more power to show them what he could do. The lesson cost him \$5.

## French Taxes Increase.

Returns of the revenue from indirect taxes in France in 1903 show that receipts amounted to \$568,380,380, an increase of \$26,557,580 over the estimates, and \$20,175,860 over 1902.