

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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POSSIBLE FUTURE DIFFICULTIES.

While the agreement to submit the Venezuelan dispute to the arbitration of The Hague tribunal gives assurance of a peaceable settlement and makes a most important precedent for such controversies, intelligent students of conditions in South and Central America and of the relations of the United States to the southern countries see the possibility of future difficulties which it may not be practicable to submit to arbitration, as in the present case.

But the financial obligations of the southern republics to foreigners, although very large, are not the only thing out of which future trouble may arise. The fact must be recognized that colonization by Europeans of the countries of South and Central America will go on. Many subjects of European nations are already settled in those countries and it is certain that within the next half century their numbers, in the temperate zone of South America at least, will be enormously increased.

Another thing out of which future trouble may possibly grow is the fight for markets. The question is not so much the acquisition of Spanish-American territory as the control of Spanish-American markets. Where European capitalists have penetrated, there American capitalists are sure to follow.

Competition has already resulted and collision is only apt to follow, especially as the countries in question are extensible republics. European capitalists are vigorously supported by their respective governments. Shall American capitalists be left to shift for themselves? It is held by some to be an implication of the Monroe doctrine that a working method for guaranteeing to European powers adequate protection to the personal freedom, lives and property of their citizens in the Spanish-American countries must be devised.

Whether Dr. Lorenz came to this country to make more money of more fame, or both, is immaterial. Sufficient to know that he has relieved a suffering humanity and made many people happy.

Governor Mickey has very good reasons for planting himself firmly against the claw-hammer coat. David Butler, the first governor of Nebraska was a claw-hammer coat every day, but he was impeached and removed from office.

Whatever yet remains to render Marconi's method commercially available, it has gone far enough to raise an agitation in Great Britain of the need of government supervision of all wireless stations, very suggestively the proposition is first put forth by the naval authorities.

The legislature of New Hampshire has voted to submit a woman suffrage amendment to the people of that state, just to keep the suffragist agitators busy. They will not be so busy, however, as to prevent the sisters in Nebraska from besieging our legislature for a similar concession.

It would not be strange if the reports were true that President Roosevelt is beginning to show the physical effects of the strain to which he has recently been subjected. It would not be strange either if President Roosevelt would begin to show visible signs of the fact that he is not as young as he was when he occupied the executive mansion at Albany four years ago.

After all, was there any real need for the precipitancy of England and Germany in blockading Venezuela and establishing a state of war? Why should not all this negotiation about arbitration have been carried on and concluded before overt acts of hostility were committed, especially as those acts constituted the greatest embarrassments to arbitration? It is a most serious business that England and Germany have entered upon and it is to be hoped that they will not get out of it without being impressed with the necessity of going somewhat slower next time.

President Schurman's suggestion that we will make a mistake if we try to impose the English language upon the Filipinos willingly or unwillingly is eliciting several notes of dissent, but it is none the less dictated by prudence. We have sections of this country where English is only an alternative language and have only by slow degrees succeeded in making it the accepted language. In the Philippines the transfer process is bound to be still slower. It will be the part of tact for us to make the Filipinos want to learn the English language in preference to the Spanish or native tongues to which they are accustomed. If they can be brought to that point the other obstacles in the way will be easily surmounted.

and institutions. The very fact that civilizations other than our own have survived is proof conclusive that there is substance in them—had civilization been constantly at a dead level all the world over, it is morally certain none of the great nations or races would have made as fast progress as they have or have reached the points of vantage now occupied.

AMERICAN CAPITAL IN MEXICO.

How much American capital has been invested in the development of Mexico is shown in a statement by the United States consul general at the capital of that republic, who estimates that \$500,000,000 gold is the amount of American capital invested in Mexico. This amount has practically all been invested within the past quarter of a century and about one-half of it within the past five years. The development of the railroad systems has been to a large extent done with American capital, which represents about 70 per cent of the total investment in railroads.

The people of Nebraska will be gratified to learn through the Lincoln Journal that "a large number of the members of the incoming legislature are getting tired of the assumption that they are branded with the name of a corporation and some of them are aching for a chance to show that they can get out of the pasture and kick up their heels any time they want to." This is doubtless true, but the corporation managers are making ample preparations for corralling all the mavericks and high kickers by the distribution of a generous supply of complimentary cards that will permit the bearer to travel without pay in first-class style on every passenger train conveyed on rails within the state of Nebraska.

An inspection of a map on which are marked Admiral Dewey's disposal of his fleet, shows that he has established a genuine blockade around the European cordon in Venezuelan waters. He has stationed about fifty warships of all degrees in a vast crescent whose horns rest at islands on the coast of Venezuela, the array including the most powerful battleships in the United States navy, and it is placed in the precise strategic position that would be occupied if hostilities were anticipated.

RAILWAY PENSIONS.

Pensioning railroad employes promises to become general and it is a policy that is to be heartily approved. With the beginning of 1903 seven railway systems will have established pension funds for the benefit of the men who have given long terms of years to faithful service. All the pension plans adopted are reasonably liberal, but the most generous of them as a whole is that of the Canadian Pacific. This provides that all officers and employes of the company who have attained the age of 65 years and been ten years or longer in service shall be retired and pensioned. The pension allowance is to be for each year of service 1 per cent of the average monthly pay received for the ten years preceding retirement.

Negro colonization in Hawaii and the Philippines is only another form of the colonization scheme that has been repeatedly proposed as the solution of the negro problem and as repeatedly rejected as impracticable. The negroes of this country, north or south, no matter how much dissatisfied with existing conditions, would prefer to bear the ills they have than to fly to those they know not of. The negro problem will be worked out right here in the United States.

GRAVE QUESTION SOLVED.

The army board has decided on blue facings for officers' uniforms, though there is a strong sentiment in favor of white facings, and the end is to distinguish the other case for The Hague tribunal.

KEPT ON THE JUMP.

A trolley line has been opened in Porto Rico. This thoroughly disposes of any danger there may have been of Porto Rican revolutions. The people will be too busy dodging the cars hereafter to engage in political disturbances.

A FACT WORTH REMEMBERING.

All those people who delight to talk about Latin degeneration might do worse than to remember that the gentleman who is now sending wireless telegrams across the Atlantic ocean is not an Englishman or an American, or a German, but an Italian.

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We were upon the point of landing as most upright, wise and learned a St. Louis judge who has enjoined a boycott until we learned that the boycotters were members of a plumbers' supply trust. This, of course, puts another face upon the matter. The St. Louis jurist will have to be impeached.

ANOTHER PERIL BOBS UP.

The latest American peril discovered by an Englishman is that there are too few children in the United States. He fears the approach of a time when a handful of Americans will be left on a great continent, as the Indian were before them. Our population increased 14,000,000 in the last decade.

GROWTH OF THE DRUG HABIT.

Inquiries from physicians in all sections of the country show how rapidly and how broadly the appetite for stimulating drugs is growing. Hospitals and sanitariums now derive so small a part of their patronage from the treatment of victims of them. Physicians in private practice discover these secret drug habits among their patients and specific drugs whose uses are understood universally are openly advertised broadcast. The slaves of drugs are multiplying everywhere and the wrecks are drifting dangerously near the shore.

CUBA'S DEBT TO AMERICA.

Few things reflect greater credit upon the United States than the fact, stated by General Wood before the American Academy of Political and Social Science, that there has not been a case of yellow fever in the east end of Cuba for three years, and none in Havana for more than one year, though "the disease had never been absent from Havana a single day in 170 years." The immediate cause of this is that for three years there has been no epidemic of yellow fever in our southern states. The last epidemic is estimated to have cost the country in Cuba, lost to the United States, \$100,000,000. Happily Cuba is disposed to preserve the conditions created under General Wood and the lower branch of the Cuban Congress has just voted \$400,000 to aid the city governments in maintaining good sanitary conditions.

ter and correspondence of which the mails have been loaded for years, and which have been the means of robbing ignorant, unwary and susceptible people of unnumbered millions of dollars. A large proportion of these schemes are violations of the express terms of the law. The range of circumstances, such as false representations regarding the officers of the companies, their property and capital, their profits, etc., which the courts hold to constitute a fraudulent and therefore criminal undertaking if the mails are used, is very wide and renders any attempt thus to make gains by deception exceedingly dangerous. The fact that the mails are absolutely indispensable to the highest success of most of these schemes to defraud is certain with the continuance of the vigorous policy of the department to give the public a protection which it has not heretofore had.

MENTAL GIFTS RARELY POSSESSED TOGETHER BY ONE PERSON.

A real humorist is a man who without spasmodic effort uses his gifts as mere comments to the expression of his happy thought; but your quack humorist is one who strings his jokes like beads, not making any attempt to connect the whole with his quips and quibbles, but to make the burden of his empty speech. This effortless power of humor, which wraps some gifted men like an atmosphere, is a very rare gift. It has been possessed by none of our notable public men in any large measure save Mr. Reed and Abraham Lincoln. Great wit and power of attack have been exhibited in many of our leading statesmen, but great wit has been denied to them: Fine wit implied a keen intellectual vision; fine humor implies more than this, for human earnestness and sympathy underlie humor, while fine wit does not flow from moral sensibility, but not seldom from intense cynicism of spirit.

The humorist belongs to the land of sweetness and laughter and light in literature, the land to which we may fairly claim our own—Hawthorne, Lowell, Bret Hart and Holmes belonged. They may all be mingled with wisdom, sense warmed and lighted with feeling, moral sweetness and humane sensibility married to intellectual light. Your true humorist is the man who makes the body and form and juice of all that he writes literature; he is the fellow whose colors are of the rainbow, the philosopher of the permanent as separated from the transient in human feeling and action. Your more satirist is a different being. Your humorist is an optimist; your satirist is a pessimist. Your humorist is the prophet of the permanent, while your pessimist is the prophet of the transient; the present, he feels nothing but the chill fog that obscures but never extinguishes the orb of day. In life or in literature your satirist, your prophets of pessimism, are, when sincere, morbid men, the purveyors of a diseased spirit.

TITLE OF OUR CONGRESS.

Several of the papers are discussing the use of the expression, "The Congress," which there seems an inclination to substitute in some quarters for congress. Periodically the expression bobs up and when it does it is generally with the implication that it is superior to the plain word congress, both grammatically and in elegance. There is an assumption, moreover, that authority is to be found for its use in the constitution itself and the early custom of the republic. These people have evidently read only one part of the constitution.

WEALTH AND LONGEVITY.

One of the compensations of poverty has been the belief that scarcity of food and the absence of luxurious and even of comforts promote long living, while untimely death is the common fate of those who can afford costly foods and drinks, soft beds and whatever a luxurious taste suggests. Statistics have sustained this view. A German statistician has gathered from the census returns of the various nations figures which show that there are proportionately many more centenarians among the poor and uneducated than among the people whose educational average is high and whose plane of living is exalted. The census returns have been accepted as accurate, or at any rate, as the only source of official information. Sociologists, therefore, have drawn impressive lessons concerning the rewards of involuntary virtue. No doubt many of those whose poverty compels plain living would be glad to accept a shorter span of life, with better opportunities for enjoyment, in lieu of a century of hunger and hardship; but having no choice in the matter they are disposed to boast of their longevity.

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THE NEW BLOODLESS SURGERY.

Dr. Lorenz at New York. Some call him LO-RENZE, some LO-RENZ, some LA-RENZE, some LAH-RENTE. The Viennese is no giant. I expected to see a Goliath. He was a very tender little street Arab, playing the violin for crows and horses. The exercise of fingering the strings must have given his left hand its power of manipulation in bloodless surgery. In his immaculate white top he looks less like a butcher than any eminent masters of the scalpel and saw. His arm, bared to the elbow, is brown and hairy. His wrist is flat and broad, and his fist strength, His hair, once reddish-brown, genuinely Cisleithan, is tinged with white. His beard is not nearly so big and bushy as it appears in his pictures. His modest mode of looking down has given on his neck a forward set and his shoulders a stoop. He is neither imposing, impressive nor commanding, says Victor Smith in the New York Press.

You would not turn to look at him a second time in the street. In the operating theater, 400 eyes critics observed him. The benches, made of structural steel, slate and gaspise, are in tiers so steep that their occupants presented an almost vertical wall of faces. A few well-gowned, middle-aged women were there, besides half a dozen clean-cut, white-capped, white-aproned. The visiting women have been doctresses. Dr. Virgil P. Gibney, who is as strong as a bull moose and as hardy as a red roller in a steel mill, made a bluff and bluffing effort at a woman. When he escorted Dr. Lorenz into the operating room, he was an enthusiastic round of hand-clapping, which being ended, he said, swinging his arm in a half circle: "Gentlemen (and ladies); HE needs no introduction!" Deal silence followed. The good doctor had almost overlooked the women. Dr. Lorenz addressed "Gentlemen" only, taking no notice of the women. After a short preface read from a formidable mass of typewritten copy Dr. Lorenz's first subject was brought in upon a gurney, and two white-robed attendants transferred from that to the operating table. It looked like the corpse of a little girl. Her hair seemed very black and her skin very white, excepting her face, which was flushed. Her stertorous breathing beneath the ether cone, held by a young doctor, indicated that she was at the end of her struggle against the anesthetic. Presently, with a sigh, she passed into that state of temporary death which knows no pain. Then Dr. Lorenz, remarking quietly, "Gentlemen, we have no time to lose," laid down his manuscript and set to work.

At times I felt like shooting the Viennese. It was beyond my belief that a delicate, crippled, sick child could hold together under the fierce twisting, bending, stretching, hauling, crushing and wringing of two powerful men—Lorenz and Mueller. It was like a breaking on the wheel. It was like a crucifixion. To follow the demonstration required every ounce of moral courage and will power that I possess. And those critical surgeons sat there with hapless lathes on their faces, expecting that of them were past 45; the rest, about 150, were between 25 and that age. To look at them you would have believed them capable of more concern at a cat fight. Dr. Lorenz speaks fair English, but is hard to follow. His demonstration was tedious because of his effort to explain the minutiae of every detail. His thirty minutes seemed as many hours to me, because I feared he might kill the baby. At last the climax. Did you ever try to break a hambone across your knee, or across a billet of wood? There was a round-edged piece of maple on the table, about the size of a brick. When the child's hip was placed upon this, and Dr. Lorenz, one hand on the abdomen, the other on the thigh, laid all of his 195 pounds thereon, it was evident that something must give way. Even those blasé surgeons leaned forward expectantly and waited for the moment looking as weary and satiated. Then came to every ear a sound as of a man throwing his ankle out of joint, and we all knew that the poor little cripple's awful deformity was cured. The head of the femur had entered the cup-shaped cavity of the acetabulum, and the ball had been seated in its socket. And those surgeons who looked so tired of life actually clapped hands and said "Bravo!"

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES.

Chicago Post: "What did the lovers quarrel about?" "She wanted him to promise to love her forever and ever, and he said he wanted the day for himself."

Philadelphia Press: "She says she would not marry him if he were the last man on earth." "What nonsense! If he were the last man any woman would marry him just to spite the other women."

Smart Set: Fludibus—Do you suppose that girl Bikkins is to marry as rich as she is said to be? Fludibus—No question about it—I know Bikkins.

Town Topics: Mrs. Von Blumberg—the doctor told me today that my vitality was at its lowest ebb between 4 and 5 in the morning. Von Blumberg—That's the reason I always try to get home about that time.

Chicago News: Growlts (at the theater)—Mrs. Nedburn certainly does look charming tonight. Mrs. Growlts—Yes, she has a husband who would marry her just to spite the other women.

Washington Star: "And do you never wish to experience love's young dream?" asked the romantic young married woman of her bachelor brother. "No, sir," replied he, "for, you know, dream's over the hills."

Judge: "Why you marry me?" tremulously inquired the honest youth of the cooing maiden of the grass widow. "Oh, kind sir, answered the diffident maid, "you must ask marriage of me, and I do," said the truthful swain, "but she said she couldn't have me, as she was engaged to old Goldrod."

JUST THE SAME.

James Barton Adams in Denver Post. The New Year is coming and people will be just in the same old way. Just in the same old way that drink will be cut from their list for a while.

Just in the same old way. With mutual intentions our bosoms will swell. The good resolutions from soul-founts will swell enough to pave every highway in—well, just in the same old way.

We'll glance over the year that is dying so fast. Just in the same old way. And vow that the next will not be as the last. Just in the same old way.

Just in the same old way. We'll vow that we'll shed our transgressions and sins as snakes in the spring shed their old winter skins. And enter the New Year as bright as new pins. Just in the same old way.

In writing each manly "Resolved" we preface. Just in the same old way. We'll read and revise them with studious care. Just in the same old way. Our souls will expand with a feeling most true. When all of the list we have finally scanned. And then we will sign them with resolute hand. Just in the same old way.

In less than a month we'll be filled with a year. Just in the same old way. We'll wish the reform lane would show us a turn. Just in the same old way. We'll wish the old temples at first with alarm. They laugh at the thought he can bring us to earth. And soon will be off with him, arm-linked in arm. Just in the same old way.

BLASTS FROM BARR'S HORN.

Old age has its auncies as well as sunset. Self in the sermon in like sand is the seed. A siren's voice in the choir cannot cover a sinner's vice. He has a beggar's idea of prayer to whom it is only begging. No man becomes wise until he has often called himself a fool. God will always set the picture of character in a worthy chamber. Forethought is better than afterthought, but innerthought is best of all. You don't need to treasure your sorrows; you will always find enough when you need them.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

The men who worked the turkey corner last week proved themselves prize gobblers. Colorado and Maine each possess a woman justice of the peace. Heretofore woman has been a mere figure in the justice business. Every time silver drops 1 cent the republic of Mexico loses \$1,800,000. Nations as well as individuals often take a drop too much. Now is the accepted time to put the finishing touches on new resolutions. The job has the merit of affording excellent mental exercise.

Striking proof of the theory of "life after death" is afforded by the resurrection of ancient and modern sorcerers credited Tom Reed and Tom Ochiltree. The man who is a genuine millionaire nowadays is of necessity an aeronaut. The row of ciphers hitched on to his pile comprise his stock of balloons. "A set of false teeth," exclaims a North Dakota paper, "awaits an owner at this office. Owner can have the same by proving property and paying a dollar hush money for not advertising where found."

What with Mascagni's baggage attached and five of Duse's trunks delivered by mistake to Mrs. Doose, who keeps a grocery store on the South Side, Chicago must appear to eminent Italians a very unsafe town. Admiral Frank Wilder, in command of the Asiatic squadron, has been condemned for physical disability by the naval board of medical survey and relieved from duty. On his return to this country he will be placed on the retired list.

Admiral Borewood says he does not want to see another acre added to the British empire. The real estate transaction Britain had a hand in made a deep impression on the imperial cabinet and touched the taxpayers on a tender spot. A poem four feet long celebrating the Greek victory at Marathon was found in one of the tombs of Egyptian kings. Modern versifiers whose songs are buried in waste baskets should provide more enduring toms and achieve fame a few centuries hence.

Few men of his years are as active in business affairs as Abram S. Hewitt, ex-mayor of New York, who is now turned 60. It is sixty years since his name began to assume prominence in the commercial and political life of New York City, but he shows no signs of retiring as yet. Florence Burns of Brooklyn, who figured in a recent murder case; Pearl Hart, the stage coach bandit, and a dramatized Mouline case, are diligently elevating the stage in Greater New York. No doubt the stage could bear a slight uplift, but the first essential is a copious downpour of clouds of lime.

"Santa Teresa," the young woman beloved by the Yaqui Indians and many Mexicans to possess divine power, has sued her Indian husband, G. N. Rodriguez, in the Los Angeles, Cal., courts for divorce. It is alleged the marriage was forced upon the young woman at the point of a revolver by her impetuous admirer at Clifton, Ariz., June 21, 1900.

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