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International law, as applied, provides that any neutral can sell to any belligerent anything it can deliver. Only captured goods are contraband.

Russia has indicated a desire to conclude an arbitration treaty with the United States. The war in the Orient is not without its compensations.

The first rule of the Board of Review, now in session, to work on is that the taxable wealth of Omaha for 1905 must be greater and not less than for 1904.

Now that General Kourpatkin has an automobile, Russia may be expected to withdraw all objections to the use of uncivilized modes of warfare by the Japanese.

Secretary Taft is now finding out just what the people of Panama want if it is possible for them to tell it; but it is not improbable that they do not know themselves.

Ten thousand socialists made a demonstration in Vienna, but they could not scare a premier who has been attending the sessions of the Austrian parliament and knows what real trouble is.

It will now be in order for the yellows to blaze away at our old friend, the venerable Dr. George L. Miller. The doctor, however, has survived many blazings in the past and seems to be good for several years to come.

The absence of "franks" was noted at St. Louis, but they were doubtless there, all interested in their peculiar hobby to be found on the grounds and having little time to waste on a mere president of the United States.

A. Conan Doyle says that Great Britain is proving itself a poor ally to Japan, and it is probable that he did not require the services of Sherlock Holmes to discover that Russia is using Welsh coal to send its ships to meet the Japanese.

Japan is eager for a land victory before the arrival of the second Russian squadron in Asiatic waters, but General Nogai seems to act differently on the Tokio initiative than he does when he starts the fighting himself. Someone should cut the cable.

It was a woman from Ohio who succeeded in borrowing large sums of money from a Massachusetts man on securities which she said she had in a bank, but which the lender never saw. All of the lambs do not grow in the west, nor are all of them sheared on Wall street.

The sensationalists trying frantically to make out that Omaha is going to the demotion how-ows, and at the same time to show what gratifying progress it is making in the real estate direction, building expansion and industrial growth are indeed having a hard time to make one square with the other.

Applicants for liquor licenses are hereby reminded that the law requires notice of application to be published in the paper of largest circulation in the county, and that The Bee's right to these advertisements has never been successfully controverted. And no application for which notice was published in The Bee has ever been refused for want of legal publication.

The railroad maps hereafter will have to show Omaha as the foot of the ladder, because E. H. Harriman has come to this city to begin climbing the rounds of railway fame by starting in at the bottom. One of the Goudas went through this same performance here not so many years ago, to say nothing of a whole lot of lesser lights in the railway world. As the foot of the railroad ladder, Omaha is a decided success.

SOUTHERN REPRESENTATION.

The country will know definitely in a short time whether there is to be a renewal of efforts in congress to have the provision of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution, relating to representation, carried out. The republican national platform declares: "We favor such congressional action as shall determine whether by special discriminations the elective franchise in any state has been unconstitutionally limited, and, if such is the case, we demand that representation in congress and in the electoral college shall be proportionately reduced as directed by the constitution of the United States." This unquestionably voiced the very general sentiment in the republican party.

There is said to be a large element among the republican members of the house of representatives which favors early and energetic action on that plank of the platform and it has been announced that early in the coming session Representative Crumpacker of Indiana will urge the adoption of a resolution for carrying out the declaration of the republican national convention. It does not appear probable that there will be action on the question by the present congress. The coming session will end March 4 next, so that there is not time for any legislation involving extended discussion, and while the proposition looking to the reduction of southern representation might be adopted by the house, there would be no chance of its passing the senate, where there is no limitation upon debate. Southern senators would have no difficulty in prolonging discussion of the question to the end of the session. For this reason, if for no other, there will doubtless be some republican opposition to having the matter taken up at the coming session, but it is said that even if action is in this way postponed it will be impossible to suppress it in the next congress. It is pointed out that in many states republican campaign orators made the disfranchisement of negro citizens in the south one of the principal features of their addresses, thus further committing the party to deal with this injustice.

What the attitude of the administration is in regard to the matter is not definitely known, but it must be presumed that President Roosevelt is in accord with the national platform. Still he may not regard it expedient to press the subject upon the attention of the coming congress. While the question is complex and beset with difficulties, its importance from a political point of view is so great that it is certain to hold a more or less prominent place in popular attention until settled. The feeling is widespread and very earnest that the policy of southern states in disfranchising colored citizens and retaining their representation in congress and the electoral college is not only a wrong to such citizens, but also a grave injustice to other sections of the country. That feeling is not likely to diminish, but rather to become intensified.

MORE EXCLUSION AGITATION.

There is promise of an agitation for the exclusion of Japanese laborers, a resolution calling upon congress for such legislation having been adopted at the recent convention of the Federation of Labor. The proposition is to exclude Japanese from both the United States and its insular possessions. We think it improbable that congress will respond to this call, for the reason that to pursue a policy toward Japan such as we have adopted toward China would not only be certain to destroy existing friendly relations, but would imperil our commercial interests in the Orient to a very serious extent. We cannot deal with Japan as we are dealing with China in this matter of exclusion without arousing a resentment which might be exceedingly damaging to our interests in the far east, for the protection of which Japan has shown a most friendly concern.

Moreover, there is no serious danger, so far as this country is concerned, from the immigration of Japanese laborers. This is shown in the comparatively small number that have come here. Japan will have need after the war for all the laborers who are left and it is not to be doubted that the government will adopt measures to prevent emigration. At all events, it can be confidently assumed that very few Japanese will leave their native land, when there is an active demand for labor, and come to this country to compete with American labor. It is possible that the Japanese government would be found willing to enter into an agreement or treaty with the United States under which the movement of laborers from one country to the other could be rigidly restricted, but if we should adopt a policy of exclusion it would invite retaliation that would undoubtedly result to our disadvantage.

JAPAN'S DETERMINATION.

The statement of Japan's prime minister is a message to the world of the determination of that power to carry on the war as long as it has a resource in men and money. This, he declared, is necessary to insure peace in the Orient and to safeguard the existence of the empire. There is no division of sentiment in regard to this. To a man the Japanese are exhibiting today the same earnest patriotism, the same willingness to make sacrifices, which they showed at the beginning of hostilities. Both government and people are practicing the utmost frugality in order that the military establishment shall be adequately supplied. And it appears that the country is by no means badly off, as has been represented by some writers on conditions there. The value of this year's crops is largely in excess of the average and in spite of war the foreign trade of the country has improved. The fact that the latest loan was largely oversubscribed evidenced the confidence in Japan's financial resources.

The statement of the Japanese prime minister, while not at all surprising, should convince those who have been talking of intervention of the useless-

ness of any effort in that direction.

With both belligerents resolutely determined to maintain hostilities at whatever sacrifice, there is obviously no reason to think that either would for a moment entertain a proposal of mediation. Moreover it ought to be realized that no profit would result to either belligerent or to the world from a patched up peace that left unsettled the real matter at issue. Japan must have her national existence assured. She feels that she cannot have this so long as Russia has a hold upon Manchuria. Only by permanently breaking that hold will Japan be safe and secure and in a position to maintain peace in the Orient. Russia, there is every reason to believe, will exhaust her resources, if need be, to prevent this. She means to retain her grip upon this Chinese territory at whatever cost.

This is the situation and in presence of it talk of intervention is manifestly idle. The statement of the Japanese prime minister must dispel hope of peace in the far east in the near future. It means war for perhaps another year at least and possibly for a longer time.

HARRINGTON'S NEW PARTY.

In an open letter published in the Nebraska Independent M. F. Harrington, who, with two or three other leaders, has constituted the backbone of the populist party in Nebraska, comes out boldly in favor of abandoning that organization and organizing a new political party. It is Mr. Harrington's idea that all the so-called "reform" elements can be again herded together on a platform of national ownership of railroads, telegraphs and coal mines, postal savings banks, graduated income and inheritance taxes, the initiative and referendum, extinction of national bank currency and compulsory primaries. Although this is practically the populist program, the idea that the populist party has the mission to carry it out seems to be relinquished and a new party free from obligations for past political services, without party debts to liquidate or factional differences to allay, is regarded as a prime necessity to prevent the "reformers" from disappearing into the democratic, socialist and prohibition ranks before another four years has rolled by.

The desperation with which this suggestion for a new political party is made by Mr. Harrington is seen in this declaration: "I fully realize that it is hard work to build up a new organization without the assistance of Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hearst, and my hope is that those gentlemen may finally realize that reform can best be accomplished through a new organization."

In other words, the new party is foredoomed if it cannot enlist the co-operation of two dyed-in-the-wool democrats, both of whom have proved their blind adherence to party by supporting in the last campaign a man who represented everything antagonistic to their ideals simply because he had been invested with the democratic nomination. Mr. Bryan, it is true, has gone so far as to advocate state ownership of railroads, but he is as much opposed to national ownership as those who oppose public ownership altogether. Apart from that, however, if he refused to abandon the democratic party under the conditions imposed by the St. Louis convention, he cannot be expected to abandon it under any other conceivable conditions. As the late candidate for vice president on the populist ticket has said, "Mr. Bryan was born a democrat and will die a democrat."

If the success of Mr. Harrington's new party rests with Mr. Bryan, the plan may as well be called in right at the start.

State Treasurer Mortensen will make no recommendations of new legislation to the legislature in connection with his biennial report. Treasurer Mortensen believes in taking the laws as they are and making the best of them by straightforward and honest management of the state funds. The contrast is striking as against some of his predecessors, who were long on recommendations and short on unswerving integrity.

Former Senator Allen represents that the censure implied by the order of the supreme court striking one of his briefs from its files is not warranted by the contents of his printed argument and is to be explained only on the theory that the judges were altogether too supersensitive. The distinguished ex-senator ought to congratulate himself that he was not fined \$500, and let it go at that.

Trustees of Union Theological seminary insist that the institution has not discarded the Westminster confession of faith, but that the course of study will be more flexible. As \$240,000 was given the institution coincident with this announcement it is possible that a school man has found the "flexible currency" which has been bothering congress for the last decade.

"President's day" at the World's fair recorded an attendance of 168,757. "President's day" at the Omaha exposition recorded an attendance of 98,845. Comparing the two expositions and the population of the two cities in which they were held, shows that the achievement of the Omaha exposition was far better than that of the St. Louis fair. Score one for Omaha.

Young Stephen Putney, who disappeared from St. Louis and occasioned so much comment, has returned after having spent all his money and wound up his escapade by enlisting in the army. It is almost certain that one maternal slipper in Virginia was given too much rest, while Putney was in training for life.

The dynamite bomb outrage has produced two most peculiar results in Omaha. We now have one of the local fellow journalists, in order to vent its spite upon one member of the city government, commencing and upholding an-

other city official for whom it has had nothing but shafts of malice and malignity since he marked his advent into office.

And we have the other local yellow journal splitting its throat in denunciation of members of the police board over whose appointment it threw up its hat with loud buzzes and self-congratulation. We don't have to go to "funny, sunny Spain" to run up against strange things.

A few more penitentiary sentences for Indian reservation bootleggers are likely to put a damper on the business, in spite of the alluring profits in it. It ought also to reduce the work of the successive federal grand juries, which, but for bootlegging cases, would ordinarily get through and adjourn on short meter.

Can't Lose Him.

Perhaps the eastern democrats would be well satisfied to see the Bryanites take over Tom Taggart. It would be the easiest and least expensive way of losing him.

Utility of the "Big Stick."

Who said the American naval demonstration against Turkey was useless? Abdul Hamid has purchased \$10,000,000 worth of artillery and will send delegates to the first peace conference called.

Mighty Army on Peace Footing.

The fact that Panama reduced its standing army to a peace basis—only twenty-five men being enrolled—shows that the youngest of the republic stands in no particular fear of the biggest.

They Need the Money.

Unofficial advice is that coal prices will be advanced again on December 1, the explanation being that the trust is overstocked and wants to stimulate demand by making it appear that coal is hard to get.

'Twas Ever Thus.

Medals are to be distributed among the heroes and heroines of the Slocum disaster. It is not to be given to the survivors. But none of those responsible for the slaughter on the excursion boat have yet been punished.

Peace Definitely Assured.

Since the new republic of Panama has led the world in disarmament, reducing its army to twenty-five men, might not the United States follow the good example to the extent of cutting a torpedo boat or so out of its naval program?

An Entrancing Spectacle.

The spectacle of the western democratic leaders looking to Taggart to get that man's opinion as to what the democracy shall do to be saved would be tragic were it not such an irresistible appeal to the risibles. Even "Tom" Taggart never dreamed of taking himself so seriously.

NEEDLESS ALARM.

Experience Discredits the Assertions of Nativists. In an article in the Independent on the "Value Rank of the American People," Mr. Edward A. Ross looks with some concern on the flood of immigration which now "taps lower human levels than the earlier tide." He thinks that the immigrants from Croatia and Dalmatia, Sicily and Armenia, even though they catch step with us, will, nevertheless, impede our progress. He speaks of them as the "beaten members of beaten breeds."

This is much the same kind of talk that was heard when the Irish immigrant came to this country in such swarms as to alarm the "thoughtful student" of race destiny. It might have been heard when trainloads of Scandinavians were pouring into the west. Now the complaint is that they have ceased to come, and they are spoken of as the "human piers that support our civilization." The Jew might have been considered a "beaten member of a beaten breed," but a "typical American" now finds his closest rival in business, professional life and art in that same beaten breed. As to the Armenians, place a native American, even a simple pure Yankee, in the same conditions which the Armenian finds himself in when he arrives here and the chances are about one to three that he will be outstripped in business by the beaten member "from the lower human level."

The country need feel no great alarm from the recent immigration from southern Europe. The wonderful transformation which the beaten breeds undergo when they have half a chance to show their mettle, and the splendid opportunities and fears over similar conditions which Mr. Ross now observes, should make the Anglo-Saxon American speak with extreme caution of the present immigrants. Especially when schools are more plentiful than ever and Americanizing influences more potent than in former times.

TAXING ADVERTISING SIGNS.

An Effective Remedy for the Billboard and Poster Evil. Philadelphia Press. New York is struggling in vain with the billboards, advertising signs, placards and three-sheet posters on the decorated tiles of its subway. Having made the interior of the subway the best artistic achievement in the ornamental treatment of transportation yet accomplished, the metropolis, government and public together, is agitated to find that the offensive advertising, which sprawls over every landscape, is ruining the site, obscuring the vision and flouting the artistic effect of a great public monument.

For remedy, and one that exists for this evil-taxon. The billboard and the poster are taxed in every European country. It pays in proportion to its size. English cities all levy a tax per square foot for every billboard on which posters can be placed. Every sign in the Metropolitan railroad in London pays something to the public treasury.

This should be the case here. Our cities ought to tax every square foot which affronts the eye with poster and placard, and to regulate it accordingly. Gradually it would be seen that the proper place to advertise is not where a man is forced to look at the advertisement, whether he chooses or not, polluting the prospect, insulting the eye, and often demoralizing the morals, but in a newspaper, where a man pays for his advertisement when he buys the newspaper, and in which a constant censorship is exercised.

Whatever the charter of the Interborough company may permit it to do, if New York really wishes to remove the signs from the subway all the municipality has to do is to tax all posters wherever they appear within the city limits. There is no reason why a man should not pay for the privilege of putting a placard in a common carrier advertising pickles, or a three-sheet poster either above or below a street car.

It is a public franchise. Its value depends upon the presence of the public. Taxation would reduce the evil and if it were heavy enough would remove it altogether. In any case the public treasury would be benefited, public taste would be improved and public morals protected.

ARMY GOSSIP IN WASHINGTON.

Matters of Interest Gleaned from the Army and Navy Register.

The plans for the new signal corps post which will be established near Omaha, and to which will be assigned the signal corps personnel and material now at Fort Meyer, Va., include a permanent plan for making, compressing and storing hydrogen gas for balloon purposes. Repeated applications to secure American inventors have disclosed the inability of the signal corps to purchase compressed hydrogen gas, which is absolutely necessary for rapid and successful aeronautical work with captive balloons. Old Fort Omaha is being arranged for reoccupation with a view to the quartering there of a battalion of four companies of the signal corps. Work is in progress for such repairs as will enable a single company to be stationed at that point. It is intended that there shall be two located, the general school of instruction for the enlisted men in signaling, telegraphing, telephoning, ballooning, etc. There will also be established, in efficient condition, field telegraph trains, balloon trains and other special apparatuses may become available through the time of war. Estimates have been submitted by the quartermaster general for the construction of the coming year of such quarters, barracks and other buildings as are necessary.

The acting secretary of war has named March 1, 1905, as the date of commencement of the examination of the candidates for civil life designated for appointment as second lieutenants in the army. There are 1,000 vacancies available through such appointments, nine in the artillery and nine in the infantry, and to fill these the president has designated four honor graduates of military colleges and five other civilian candidates for the infantry arm and nine civilian candidates for the artillery arm. He has also designated nine general alternates to compete for the places of such principals as may fail to pass the required examination. The alternates are to be appointed to either the infantry or artillery as vacancies may become available through the failure of principals and will therefore be subjected to the examination required for appointment to the artillery, which will test their fitness for either arm of the service.

The number of magazine rifles of the new Springfield and Krag types, now in the hands of the War department, is considered sufficient to provide for the maintenance of an adequate reserve supply. In view of this fact it is considered very unlikely that any of the old model Springfield rifles now in the hands of the government will ever be required for reserve purposes. For this reason it has been decided to dispose of a number of these pieces, and calls for bids will shortly be issued inviting proposals for the purchase of 40,000 of the rifles. Other lots will be disposed of from time to time in the future.

In view of the fact that the operations in Manchuria will likely in the future be confined to a somewhat restricted area the War department has decided to reduce the number of military attaches now on duty with the Japanese and Russian armies. Accordingly, orders have been issued directing Lieutenant Colonel Walter S. Schuyler, Second Cavalry, general staff, and Captain Carl Reichmann, Seventeenth Infantry, who have been on duty with the Russian army, to proceed home. Orders have also been issued to Captain Peyton C. March, artillery corps, general staff, and Captain John F. Morrison, Twenty-first Infantry, who have been on duty with the Japanese army, to proceed home. This leaves two military observers with each of the combatant armies.

Acting Secretary of War Oliver and Governor Cummins of Iowa were in conference last week concerning the inscriptions to be placed on monuments to the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Iowa volunteer regiments on the battlefield of Shiloh. The Shiloh National Park commission and the Iowa State commission have not been able to agree as to the wording of these inscriptions, the point involved being as to the time of the arrival of these regiments on this battlefield. Governor Cummins will prepare new inscriptions with a view to meeting the wishes of both sides.

It is expected that the issue of the new Springfield rifle to the army will be commenced some time in January. It will probably take about a month to rearm the army with this new piece. All the machine guns which have been manufactured for the army since the adoption of this new type of rifle and all machine guns which will hereafter be fabricated will be adapted to the use of the ammunition of the new Springfield in order to make possible an interchange of ammunition with its obvious advantages.

MENTIONED FOR HONORS.

Beatrice Express: As speaker of the house, Mr. Cramer has done all that he can physically, mentally and every other way.

Fremont Herald: Judge Wall of the Kearney district is a candidate for president pro tem of the state senate, and his brother, John Wall, is a candidate for reelection as chief clerk of the house. This looks a little like crowding things to the wall.

Wood River Sentinel: In some of our Hall county exchanges we notice the name of G. L. House of Aid mentioned as a candidate for speaker in the next house of representatives. It is a good suggestion and Mr. House and Hall county would be honored by such an election. Several years as representative has placed Mr. House in company of the leaders of this body, as well as in close touch with the affairs of the state.

Pawnee Press: The Lincoln Star and The Omaha Bee have announced that the friends of J. T. Treney of this city will urge his nomination and election to congress from this district in the event of Congressman Burkett's election to the United States senate at the approaching session of the state legislature. If Burkett's succession would result in Mr. Treney's election then all the inhabitants of Pawnee would be enthusiastic for Burkett. But why not transpose the matter—send Mr. Treney to the senate and let Mr. Burkett serve the term in congress for which he was recently elected? That would be the sensible thing to do.

FATHER SCHELL.

Lyons Sun: Father Schell seems to be keeping the Indian gratters rather busy these days.

Cuming County Democrat: We hope that if there is wrong doing at the Winnebago reservation that it will now be thoroughly investigated and treated accordingly. Success to Father Schell in his efforts for right.

Pender Times: After Father Schell, who will keep Thurston county in the limelight? In our fifteen years residence here no county in the state has equaled Thurston in keeping prominently before the public, and the worst of it all is that the notoriety has as a general thing not rebounded to the county's good name.

Lynch Journal: The Rev. Father Joseph Schell is winning the admiration of the people of this country in his fight for the bettering of the conditions of the Winnebago Indians and against the multitude of gratters who have been living and growing fat off the Indians. That either serious harm to the father or great good to the Indians is evident and the case has so far been exposed that the good is sure to follow any harm the gratters might do.

Pawnee Republic: Schell is a good deal like a wild man running amuck with a carving knife and attempting to disembowel everybody he comes to. He has up to date denounced the O'Connors and Ashford of Homer; Superintendent Willson and E. H. Johnson of Winnebago; Inspector Wright and Commissioner Jones of Washington, D. C.; F. H. Hutcheson, E. J. Smith and Waldo Whitcomb of Pender, and George Mayrort of the Omaha agency. If Schell hasn't got horns in his hat rack we don't know who has.

Fremont Tribune: Father Schell, the Catholic priest who is making a fight in behalf of the rights of the Indians on the Omaha and Winnebago reservations, has been accorded a respectful hearing in Washington by the president, though he was denied it by the land department. Father Schell may be eccentric, as the gratters have tried to make it appear, but he is doubtless telling a good deal of truth about the manner in which the aborigines have been systematically skinned on and about the agencies for many years. White men have never said "curry to the Indians. It is probable Father Schell's efforts will prove beneficial to the government's wards.

Wayne Herald: Father Schell, a Catholic priest, has been stirring up things pretty lively on Winnebago agency lately. He has brought to light a good many of the most strenuous campaign, sometimes laboring from 7 a. m. to 11 p. m., grew fat on the exercise.

Mr. Taggart of Indiana says it's too early to consider policies for the democratic party. It certainly would be a bold underwriter who would take a risk on the Taggart organization.

Lieutenant U. S. Grant III, grandson of the late President Grant, has been detailed to the White House as military aid to President Roosevelt and will be stationed at Washington barracks.

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PERSONAL NOTES.

The first thing the zemstvos should ask of that proposed Russian legislature is authority to change their names. Mr. Fairbanks, vice president-elect, after a most strenuous campaign, sometimes laboring from 7 a. m. to 11 p. m., grew fat on the exercise.

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OLD AGE.

Bernard Barton. Old age! that's a bitter pill. For humankind to swallow; Fraught with full many a present ill, And fear of worse to follow.

And yet thou art a medicine good, Not to be bought for money; Worse than the worst of nauseous food, Yet sweeter far than honey.

Thy aches and cramps, thy weary bones, Indefinite which breed thy pain, Might move the very heart of stones, If stones had hearts to heed them.

But these must come, of course, with thee, And none dispute, or doubt them; Such may be borne, and woeed by Who patters least about them.

Old age! be what thou wilt, thy reign Cannot endure forever; Feebler thou shalt be, and pain Arise links that soon must sever!

And if thy pains the soul reveal, To heavenly truth and warning, Who would regret the ruined wall That lets in such a morning?

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