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WEDNESDAY . . . . . JULY 29, 1908

## WHAT AMERICA NEEDS IN THE PACIFIC.

Richmond Pearson Hobson is either a prophet or a fool in the esteem of a great number of people. History will probably record that he is not a fool, and while his predictions are not likely to come true, one reason for it will be that he drew such a dark picture of American future in the Pacific as to create an ample support for preventive measures.

At the Democratic National Convention, Hobson gave one of his so-called jingo speeches and was all but hooted from the stage. The convention refused to give him a single cheer. The assembled representatives of the Democracy were in no mood to sanction a scare-talk or give offense to friendly nations by appearing to believe what he said.

The newspapers throughout the country, however, reported his words. Some praised him. Others praised the men who hooted him. He nevertheless accomplished the end of stirring up the people to a sense of their duty to prepare for the maintenance of peace.

Hobson's average speech or magazine article is usually shaped to make the average American's hair stand on end. The reader feels like the youngster deep in a ghost story, and begins to look over his shoulder before he is half way through.

Perhaps Hobson does draw exaggerated romances, but they are no more far-fetched than the indifference and supreme confidence of the American people for the last ten years.

One of Hobson's latest articles is in "The World Today" for July, wherein he deals with the "Defense of Our Outlying Possessions." Here, as in all his other articles, Hobson shows that the weak point of America is in the Pacific. He believes in proceeding on the theory that our country should be prepared to cope with the strongest combination of naval power possible to be thrown into this ocean. In this he is right, be the strong naval powers of the present or future what they may. He says:

"We control about seventeen billions of the world's banking capital, nearly three times that of Great Britain and Japan combined. We could maintain supremacy upon both oceans and our people would not be conscious of the burden. The cost of the Navy that would thus insure our peace would not be the hundredth part of the cost of the war that is inevitable without it."

"In moving out to this, our natural and invincible position of naval supremacy, we should adopt a consecutive and conservative, but a relentless program of naval expansion, carrying forward simultaneously all the departments of efficiency, ships, men, shipyards, naval bases, and coaling stations. At the present juncture such a program would require the authorization at each session of Congress of four new battleships and two new armored cruisers of the largest size, auxiliary vessels, and all other departments in proportion. We should not hesitate at the expense of these vessels, but should set the pace with vessels four or five thousand tons larger than any other in the world. The more expensive the pace becomes, the sooner the other Powers must drop to the rear and accede to us our rightful position of leadership in the race."

"In laying the foundation for naval supremacy we must remember that a merchant marine is necessary for supplying needed auxiliary vessels and the seafaring habit to men required for naval expansion in time of war. The question of becoming independent of our competition and our probable enemies for the transportation of our great over-ocean commerce is of urgent importance, and to this end we must revise our navigation laws, encourage ocean shipping and, if necessary, have our Government own and operate a few over-ocean steamship lines from Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific ports."

"With a view to aiding in the defense of our insular possessions, we

should enlist a considerable force of native troops, and should organize and encourage an efficient militia and home guard in all of them and in Alaska and Panama.

"The condition of our preparedness must guide our diplomacy and national attitude. While we are moving forward on our march toward naval supremacy, particularly during the period of incompletion of the Panama Canal, for which period the Anglo-Japanese treaty holds, we must expect Japan to try to precipitate a conflict, and we must absolutely refuse to accept a conflict. We must be prepared to accept any humiliation rather than war."

"As a nation we have been so absorbed, each one in his own business, that we have utterly neglected our country and its defense, our country's obligations to its helpless dependencies, and our duty to provide for their defense. We are thus unprepared and our danger is close at hand. Japan has been making stupendous preparations, naval, military, diplomatic, and it is only natural that she should seek to take advantage of our lack of preparation, which affords the opportunity to gain complete supremacy in the Pacific and to dictate the commercial policies of China and the Far East."

"Therefore, our program, condensed, is to send our whole Fleet to the Far East and keep it there, and to build quickly two more Fleets for the Atlantic, and while we are building the fleets we must be prepared to eat dirt. We must build ships and eat dirt. When the ships are built we can stop the dirt diet, and not until then."

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## LIDDY RAPS THIS WIT

The following communication has been received:

Wanted a position on a Honolulu morning paper as maritime reporter by a qualified person, who will not have to resort to the base and unmanly action of misquoting, and trying to hold up to ridicule, persons from whom he may glean information, that would be acceptable to the public, provided it approximated verbatim, and was not distorted so as to "pad" space.

The applicant is a lover of the truth, and could make his waterfront items, fare more interesting and appreciable and valuable than any weak and puny efforts at "Do-ismism," or imaginations of a neat oppressed brain" used by some one holding a position on the editorial staff of a Honolulu daily paper at present. Address: Jeffersonian Democracy Liddy, Anti-Haycock, or Cornstal Man, P. O. Box 314.

## HITCHCOCK PLANNING WHIRLWIND CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 15. — Frank Hitchcock, chairman of the Republican Campaign Committee, is preparing for a whirlwind campaign, and before entering upon it with all his cohorts in line he is going to hold a council with the men who will have to bear the brunt of the battle in the various States. He does not mean to be caught napping, nor does he intend to lose by overconfidence any votes which vigilance would gain.

Hitchcock will leave tomorrow for Colorado Springs, where he will meet the leaders of the Republican party and State Committeemen of California, Oregon, Washington, and other States west of the Missouri. He realizes that Bryan will make a great effort to snatch those States from the Republican column, and while it is believed generally that he will fail, Hitchcock is for taking no chances. He will counsel making the campaign a vigorous one.

Later he will go to Chicago, and there he will meet State Committeemen and prominent party men from the States lying between the Missouri and the Alleghanies. Not an effort will be spared to win votes in Utah, Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma, which are held as important to Republican success this year as Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kentucky, and Michigan.

## ELEPHANT MUNCHEB BURNING MATCHES

New York, July 4.—Khartoom, an African elephant at the Bronx zoological gardens, had his first taste of parlor matches yesterday.

Visitors were feeding Khartoom and his charming, if somewhat bulky, wife, Sultana, peanuts. A young man offered Sultana a handful of matches.

Sultana, as crafty a young lady as ever came out of the African jungle, sniffed at the proffered handful and turned away. Khartoom reached out his long trunk, scooped in all the matches, tossed them into his capacious mouth and crunched them.

In a moment there was a spluttering, a flash and then a wild trumpeting as Khartoom began to spout burning matches. In trying to get the matches out the elephant tossed his head so that some went down his throat. They gave him a stomachache and Khartoom walked more vociferously than ever. His cries were taken up by Sultana and by Gunda, the Indian elephant in the next inclosure. Then all the other animals' within earshot that could make any noise added to the din. For ten minutes the zoo rang with wild echoes.

The burning matches that dropped from Khartoom's mouth set fire to the straw at his feet and Keepers Thuman and Beyruther had to pour half a dozen buckets of water on the blaze. Dr. W. Reid Blair, the zoo animal doctor, peered down the elephant's mouth, discovered it was not badly burned and decided that Khartoom was suffering principally from fright and chagrin.

"Barring his stomachache," remarked the doctor, "he isn't harmed much, but we would like to catch the perpetrator of the outrage."

## DIED.

WATERMAN—In San Francisco, July 22, Herman, beloved husband of Anna Waterman, father of William, Jesse, Hugo, Emil, Herbert, Clarence, Ella and Irma Waterman, and brother of Joseph and Bernhard Waterman, a native of Bavaria, Germany, aged 66 years.

The funeral services will be held Friday, July 24, at 10 o'clock, at his late residence, 2409 Devisadero street.

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