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SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 1913.

PASSING EVENTS

We are through with the holidays. Christmas, New Years and the children's week at home are over. Comes now the legislative session, an experience through which we must pass biennially.

SENATORS—In a good many states there is deep interest in the election of federal senators. Montana will escape this excitement this year.

PLEDGES—The democrats and the progressives in the Montana legislature have announced their intention to make earnest effort to carry out

THE MESSAGE TO SULZER

It was an American soldier who was made immortal by his preparedness and efficiency in delivering the "Message to Garcia" just before our war with Spain began.

One of the noteworthy incidents of the week, just past, was the delivery of the "Message to Sulzer" by the little band of suffragists who marched up the Hudson from Gotham to Albany and delivered to New York's new governor the word of the women of his state that women are and of right ought to be created free and equal to men.

It was something of a march. It was undertaken in a spirit of exaltation and it was carried out in a spirit of grim determination by those who survived the perils of the expedition. The marchers encountered storms and jeers. Likewise, they found some sunshine and some encouragement.

There was inspiration in the march to Albany. Its route led through historic scenes and these spoke of deeds of daring and devotion in the cause of liberty. It was a new experience to the marchers, but enough of them endured the strenuous test to make it possible to accomplish the delivery of the "Message to Sulzer," which was the prime purpose of the expedition.

Perhaps the message, so delivered, was more effective than it would have been had two or three of the women ridden to Albany by train and called upon the governor in usual form. But Governor Sulzer is something of a sensationist himself and he may have been strongly impressed by the determination of the squad which marched under the leadership of General Jones.

Modern warfare takes advantage of every possibly available means for quickening the transportation of its fighters. Trains, automobiles, flying machines—anything that reduces the time and conserves the energy of the army is called into service.

But we were not carrying the message and it was not addressed to us, and General Jones doesn't care what we think about it. However, we are glad there was no Montana girl in the band of marchers and we hope that the Missoula suffragists will not undertake to march to Helena to deliver any message to Governor Stewart.

Not that we think the suffragists care particularly what we think—they have a way of doing as they feel is best. But we are glad that their course of action in Montana has not assumed the spectacular form which some of their contemporaries appear to consider necessary.

We are for suffrage, but we are not for this sort of campaigning. We retain considerable respect for such men as Bishop Doane, even though they don't agree with us on the suffrage question. We admit that there are arguments against suffrage—just as there are arguments against university consolidation or commission government or any of the movements which are so enthusiastically supported by their friends.

And there is that pretty little suffragist—she doesn't think it was unsuccessful. It brought her a husband.

to our institutions of higher education. If the question of consolidation is not to be decided upon its merits, if it is to become a medium of exchange in the barter of votes—then it would better never be raised. And the friends of the movement have this to consider. They must guard against the injection of politics into their campaign.

AN EARLY START—Certain it is that a substantial part of the members of the session will make an honest endeavor to get under way such legislation as will provide for the enactment of some of the more important of the laws which were promised to the people of the state in the party platforms.

It is to be regretted that Dr. Myers closed his addresses without enlightening his hearers as to just how this exalted plane of world morals is to be attained. There are some well meaning but deluded peace enthusiasts who are trying to persuade our school teachers all over the country that the way to bring it about is to

THE MILL TAX—Foremost in importance, from almost any viewpoint, is the question of the levy of a mill tax for the maintenance of the state's educational institutions. This is a matter which has received the attention of the state's people for more than two years.

Bridge building has been removed from the list of hazardous occupations, as there does not seem to be any probability that the dynamiters will secure bail.

The express companies announce rates below those of the parcels post. But they didn't announce them before the parcels post went into business.

It is suggested that the court should also grant an interlocutory decree separating dynamite and alarm clocks.

The man who tries to make his underwear accord with the weather has little time for anything else these days.

Perhaps it is because the good die young that so many of last week's resolutions are already null and void.

Despite New Year resolutions, there will be about the same old crowd waiting for 1 o'clock this afternoon.

If the express companies can carry cheaper than the post now, why couldn't they have done it before?

However, the average citizen will prefer to have his eggs scrambled in the pan and not in the mail pouch.

Turkey retreats in London with about the same precision which she showed on the home grounds.

When the freaks get through experimenting with the parcels post, it will become really useful.

If you believe in free speech and a free press, leave a penny for the Boise fund.

Alarm clocks were not originally designed to waken dynamite, anyway.

The Ethics of Peace and of War

Under the above title Dr. Philip Van Ness Myers, of Cincinnati, addressed a large audience at the Harolds theater a few evenings ago. His hearers, for the most part college professors and teachers in attendance upon the teachers' convention, listened with attention and interest and applauded with evident appreciation and approval.

Dr. Myers' treatment of his subject was earnest and scholarly, as he traced the history of war, in its ethical aspects, from the earliest times to the present day. His opinion of war correspondents very closely to that said to have been enunciated by one of its masters, General Sherman, in three monosyllables, some years ago, and he advanced the conclusion that it is an anarchism, a crime against civilization, and that in the not far distant future, "as history counts time," it would be done away with; that the nation that should make war in those millennial days would be regarded in the same light as we today look upon the man who commits murder.

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Greece is entitled to Crete — this, we think, is the verdict of the world.

no crime, but really deserves well of society if he is able to apprehend or punish the criminal. There are also many wars waged in defense of a principle. Such was our ancestors' struggle in 1776, and surely no patriotic American will condemn them for establishing liberty on this continent, badly though it is being prostituted as license in these degenerate days.

It is thus seen that only wars of justice and aggression are morally iniquitous, and the broad settlement that all war is immoral is not exactly to maintain that such soldiers as Lee, Jackson, Grant, Polk, Sherman and Meade were actuated by the desire to "lie, steal and kill," is absurd upon its face, though they did find it necessary in serving the sides which they respectively thought to be in the right, to use substitute to deceive the enemy, upon occasion to capture his property in order to diminish his fighting efficiency.

As to the moral turpitude of war, there are many who will agree with Professor James that a state of war rouses the best and highest attributes in men, which in peace might have lain dormant and never been developed. It certainly seems true that the dignity and safety of the country are menaced with harm or oppression, that all the virile impulses of the people come to the front, and the spirit of self sacrifice and devotion to the highest ideals rises to supreme heights.

Notes what Ruskin, scholar and traveler, peace-lover, and, in his Oxford days, so retiring and unaggressive that only his genius saved him from being called a prig has to say in his "Crown of Wild Olive": "When I tell you that war is the foundation of all the arts," I mean that it is the foundation of all the high virtues and faculties of men. It is very strange to me to discover this, and very dreadful, but I saw it to be quite an undeniable fact. I found, in brief, that all great nations learned their truth of word and strength of thought in war; that they were nourished in war and wasted by peace; in a word they were born in war and expired in peace."

It may here be remarked that most of the soldiers' words and the involubility of his parole, his devotion to the highest ideals of duty, his fortitude in hardship and his steadfastness in danger, his spirit of fair play in combat, his contempt for the coward and sneak, his loathing for the secret assassin who approaches his enemy from the rear, his generosity to the unfortunate and his protection for the weak; these, some of the military virtues, had their birth in the practice of the Christian knights who went forth in the Crusades to rescue the tomb of their Master from the unbeliever, and they have been articles of the soldier's code of honor ever since.

But waiving all that, and assuming for the sake of argument, that war is something of which we should promptly rid ourselves, how is it to be done? The abolition of armies and navies is not the first step, even if it were possible. There must first be aroused a real desire on the part of the nations for universal peace, and the outlook for that is, as President Eliot regretfully tells us, in the face of his round-the-world pilgrimage in the interest of that propaganda, "not encouraging." He found a respectful hearing everywhere, but no enthusiasm anywhere. In order to effect disarmament, there would have to be an agreement among all the nations as to the manner and the date of the disarmament. Suppose it were agreed that it should proceed successively, that is, for instance, that France should disarm first, then Germany, then England, and so on. What guarantee would France have that Germany would not invade her the day after she destroyed all her military power, or Germany that England would not practice the same game upon her? Or suppose that it was understood that all the nations were to disarm on a certain day, what guarantee would any nation have that its principal rival would not forget the date and then pounce upon her? "Why," the answer is, "they would be bound to carry out the terms of the treaties." Now the history of diplomacy shows that no treaty is so sacred, but that the instant the interests of any one of the parties demand it and that party has the power, the treaty ceases to be worth the paper on which it is written and is broken with impunity. If one nation, mistrusting the good faith of the others, should fall to disarm, there would be but one way to deal with her, and that would be by force, and force is war.

No. The disarmament theory falls because it commences at the wrong end of the problem. It is a crime against its citizens and that nation to neglect military preparedness in these days, and it is treason for any citizen to advocate such a suicidal policy

for the country which protects him, so long as human nature is what it is. It is well known that the conscience of man in the aggregate is less sensitive to moral considerations than is that of the individual. Man in the mob will often do things from which in his individual capacity he would recoil in horror. That being the case, it follows that so long as the nature of the individual is such that little children scarcely out of long clothes will fight and quarrel over trifles, that large boys will impose upon small boys, that little girls (and those who have passed girlhood) will regard others of their sex with hatred, malice and envy, that one business man will stoop to underhand means to get the advantage of his rival, that big corporations will grind and crush the small competitor to the wall without mercy in order to gain control of business; be assured that the conscience of nations will be no higher. Their standards of morality, will, according to all the testimony of experience, be even lower than that of the individual and the attainment of what they conceive to be their interests will rise superior to all moral considerations.

There seems, then, to be but one effective way of approaching this problem, and that is through the education and conversion, first of the individual so that he will practice in all his relations in life the principles taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Some progress has been made in the 20 centuries that have elapsed since it was pronounced, but the end is not in sight yet. Until man as an individual practices these precepts, it is hopeless to expect nations to do so, and until nations do it will be as necessary for each to build up its military strength to insure its safety from aggressive and envious neighbors, as it is for cities to maintain police for the protection of life and property from the criminal.

In view of the early completion of the Panama Canal and of the closer contact that will ensue between our country and powerful rivals of other lands, with all the struggles for commercial supremacy, it behooves every thoughtful American to ponder these questions in a practical way, undeluded by the infinitely remote chimera of international disarmament.

Better years of preparation than days of disaster. PATRIOT. Missoula, Jan. 4, 1913.

HAS BIG JOB



CAPTAIN A. C. BAKER.

Captain Asher C. Baker, United States navy, retired, will be the director of exhibits of the Panama-Pacific exposition which will be held at San Francisco in 1915. He was named for this position by President Charles C. Moore.

In making the appointment President Moore had in mind Captain Baker's unusual experience and important service in general exposition affairs. The director of exhibits was connected with the Chicago exposition in 1893, the Paris exposition in 1900, and the St. Louis exposition in 1904. He was vice president of the class jury, vice president of the group jury and a member of the superior jury at the Paris exposition.

NEWEST NOTES OF SCIENCE.

Great Britain's textile mills employ more than 1,000,000 persons. Books will not become yellow if the pages be exposed to sunlight occasionally.

Kentucky and Pennsylvania produce nearly all the canal coal mined in the United States.

A method for making a strong, durable cloth from banana stalks has been perfected in China.

The annual rain and snowfall of the United States is estimated to weigh 6,000,000,000 tons.

Potato planting mechanism which can be attached to an ordinary plow has been patented in England.

An electric heating pad shaped to fit the contour of the human face has been invented by two Idaho men.

Bolling graniteware utensils in soda water once in a while will remove grease and keep them fresh and wholesome.

Two Texas men have patented a set of vest buttons containing electric lights, fed by a battery carried in a pocket.

A new acetylene headlight for automobiles has three burners, so spaced as to utilize the whole surface of the reflector.

The turpentine output of the world exceeds 25,000,000 gallons a year. The United States produces the greatest producing country.

A machine driven over ice by a motor, which also operates a circular saw to cut the ice for harvesting, has been invented by a Boston man.

A new handle for a traveling bag or suit case bears its owner's name in such a position that it cannot be removed without breaking the handle.