THE JOURNAL

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A Royal Wedding

The young queen of the Netherlands, Wilhelmina, was married to-day to Duke Henry of Mecklenburg-Schwerin at the Hague, where the queen was born in 1880. The groom is of the grand ducal house of Mecklenburg, the only reigning family in Europe of purely Slavonic origin, and claiming to be the oldest sovereign house in Europe, tracing their origin to Genseric, king of the Vandals. Genseric was pretty much of a freebooter, but the Mecklenburg family count his antiquity and do not lay too much stress upon his deeds. Duke Henry is not very much oppressed with funds, for his little duchy is poor, but Queen Wilhelmina has looked after the purse and, being very rich herself, the two can keep house at The Hague very comfortably.

This marriage is undoubtedly a love match, pure and simple—quite as much so as the marriage of the late Queen Victoria with Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg. Wilhelmina fell in love with the big fellow at sight, it is related, and reciprocation was instantaneous. On the floor of a brilliant ball room they were telepathically united. The duke is fortunate. The queen is not very pretty, but she is said too possess very engaging manners and is entirely natural and unaffected.

Some of her subjects objected to her marriage with a German prince, because they fear too close a union with the German empire, of which Mecklenburg-Schwerin is a component monarchy. They fear that some day the plan of the late Count Bismarck to annex their country will be carried out. Germany wants the Dutch seafront for naval and commercial purposes. The incorporation of the Netherlands in the German empire would mean the transfer of her rich colonial possessions in the west and east Indies and in South America. It is possible that England would object to the appropriation by Germany of the Netherlands for the purpose of completing her seacoast, because such action would bring the two countries face to face, and Germany is now using all the means at her disposal to bring her navy up to the strength of that of England. Under such conditions there would be a great strain upon the friendly relations of the two.

It is hoped, however, that Queen Wilhelmina and her consort will be permitted during the term of their lives to enjoy the goodly heritage bought by the valor and the blood of the house of Orange.

The military academy bill has been amended in the senate to prevent hazing on penalty of dismissal from the service. This is only putting into effect by law what obtains in the public schools among boys where every bully is compelled by the sense of fair play to "take somebody of his size."

Mr. Carnegie and the octopus are about to part company. Mr. Carnegie will have nothing to do now but make appropriations for libraries. Get your orders in early.

Must Face the Music

The president, through Governor General Wood, has suggested to the members of the Cuban constitutional convention the propriety of expediting their work so that congress at the present session may pass upon the results.

There are congressmen who want to shift the responsibility of passing upon this constitution from themselves to the president, but the president knows his duty and that of congress too well to allow such devolution of responsibility. It is contended by a considerable portion of the democratic press that it is the duty of the president, when the Cuban constitution is drafted and approved by the suffrages of the Cuban people, and when congress, without acting on the completed constitution, passes a joint resolution directing the president to withdraw the forces of the United States, to order the evacuation of the island and turn over the archives and public property to the native government. Such action, these journals say, is made mandatory by the resolution passed by congress in April, 1898, just before the breaking out of the war with Spain. This resolution declared that the Cubans ought to be free and independent and disclaimed any intention on the part of the United States to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over the island except for the pacification thereof, and when that is accomplished to leave the government of the island to its people.

In his call for the constitutional convention the president, last July, included the duty of providing for and agreeing with the United States government upon the relations to exist between that government and the government of Cuba, as devolving upon the convention, and thus it has been made very plain that the question of relations with the United States must be considered, and the Cubans understood and accepted the duty.

That the resolution of April 20, 1898, is prohibitive of any consideration of the Cuban organic law is to assert an absurdity. The expression "pacification" in the resolution meant far more than driving the Spanish troops out of the island. Obviously it means the establishment of a stable government, with guarantees of permanent peace, the faithful and equal administration of justice to all, and conditions promotive of the industrial and commercial development of the island and the welfare of the people. The gentlemen who, to prevent an extra session of congress, are quoting the resolution of April, 1898, as barring the United States out of any further interest or direction in Cuban affairs, have possibly not reflected that they propose the evasion of a national duty. The permanent and stable government has not yet been established. The constitution is not yet perfected. To withdraw our control before the constitution is in the experimental stage would be to hand over the interests of the Cuban people to a group of scheming politicians to the injury of business and industry, and the promotion of disorder.

Let it be remembered that the president sent troops to expel the Spanish troops and power from Cuba in accordance with the mandate of congress, and let it be borne in mind that, in accordance with the mandate of the treaty of Paris, which is part of the supreme law of the land, the administration of the insular affairs was undertaken until a stable government should be established. The president cannot, if he would, abandon Cuba unless congress so directs. This country certainly has very important interests to protect if congress orders evacuation, such as the protection of private property and contract rights in the island, and to warn off foreign powers who may have reason to complain of acts of the Cuban government and may make the complaint an excuse for undertaking to seize Cuba. Before the Cuban republic is launched as an independent nation, the United States, which has spent a vast amount in blood and treasure in Cuba's behalf, is bound to have sufficient guarantees that it is not going to have an intolerable neighbor, perhaps worse than Spain, just across the straits of Florida. Those guarantees are not now in sight.

It is said that the new senator from Minnesota is an anti-imperialist and a Boer sympathizer. It remains to be seen whether the pie counter will impair his mental digestion. —The Commoner.

Evidently it isn't always pie. We don't know of anybody whose mental digestion has exhibited more signs of disorder than Mr. Bryan's, but he has not been suspected of over indulgence in pie of late years, notwithstanding his repeated efforts to get first place at the counter.

We don't know how Minnesota's senators are going to vote on Mr. Hanna's scheme to pull out of the United States treasury a nice little plum for his friend Griscom, but if they can find any sentiment in Minnesota in favor of it they will have to develop most extraordinary and microscopic powers of discernment.

A Chinaman on the Crisis

A Chinaman, calmly and thoughtfully viewing the crisis in China, contributes to the Open Court a very interesting paper on the condition and future of China. He says that, before the advent of foreigners in China, there was no well recognized system of intercommunication between the governing classes and the masses (commercial and agricultural and sansculottes). With the inauguration of European intercourse a third factor was added. The foreign element adopted an indeterminate course and so there came about a triangular conflict between the governing classes, the masses and the foreign powers. The treaties of peace were made between the first and third parties, the second party, the masses, being ignored entirely. The governing class stipulated away the vested rights and privileges of the masses and the pressure of the foreign influence brought about the resentment of the masses toward their own government.

To arrest foreign encroachments the first party allied itself with the sansculotte, and in the Boxer movement was seen the prelude to a future national career.

Says the Chinese philosopher: "War, famine and pestilence and social and political disintegrations are now forcing and driving the lethargic and self-sufficient Chinaman to develop the lasting qualities of the race and we are witnessing but the opening act of the world's greatest drama, the struggle between the white and yellow perils. The dynasty is without doubt doomed, but what the Chinese are at present anxiously waiting for is the advent of a Napoleon capable of organizing and leading them toward their destiny. For the present they are assiduously serving their apprenticeship in the arts of war in the best school, that of practical experience."

The philosopher points out the helpnessness of the baffled powers, contemplating an oriental power gathering up its strength for a mighty spring at the throats of its western tormentors, instead of cringing before their threats. Whatever the Chinese plenipotentiaries may promise, there is, he asserts, no power competent to guarantee and actually fulfill the pledges. Meantime, there is gathering a menacing flood of Chinese sanscullotism.

Mr. Bryan is developing great possibilities—if the term is not too strong—as a humorous paragrapher. He devotes a page of his paper every week to practice in that line.

Don't Wreck Things.

In Topeka Mrs. Nation's crusade has borne fruit and the joints are closed. But it has also borne other fruit not so palatable. In Chicago yesterday the Dowieites, claiming that all drugs are of the devil, wrecked a number of drug stores on the west side and destroyed a great deal of valuable property, besides enjoying hand to hand fights with indignant druggists, who could not see things through the Dowie spectacles.

If we are entering on an era when people with prejudices, even if they are fairly good ones, take the law and the ax into their own hands and proceed to wreck things, we are entering on a era of troubles unnumbered.

Indignant husbands may at any time attack the bargain counters in the dry goods store with axes or proceed to wreck the spring bonnet crop in its lair.

Brethren, let us go slow and with deep thought before we act.

The Arkansas legislature begins to be sorry that it Pettigrewed and it is now trying to rescind its resolution in favor of Aguinaldo. It is a safe rule to lay down never to attack your country without thought. It shows evidence of senile Pettigrewity.

Governor Nash of Ohio has no difficulty in distinguishing between a glove contest and a fight. They are glove contests when the officials are a bum lot, and they are fights when the officials have a suspicion that the laws are made to be enforced.

P. H. Gibbons, discoverer and founder of "The Sons of Rest," is going into the bill posting business. Between Mr. Breslauer and Mr. Gibbons, Bill ought to be kept pretty thoroughly posted on current political affairs.

The agricultural department has issued a handsome and interesting brochure on the goat. The goat is a valuable animal but for general, all around value, the hydraulic ram is best suited to this section of country.

Nebraska legislators are now out knocking down prominent citizens, dragging them into the capitol and voting for them for the United States senate. Mr. Rosewater says this is cruelty.

It will require about $1,000,000,000 to float Mr. Carnegie's infant industry. Even iron will float with this sum under it.

New York Daily Letter.

BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL, No. 21 Park Row.

The War of the "Regulars."

Feb. 7.—While the Bell bill introduced in the legislature at the instance of the County Medical Society, is directed especially against the Christian Scientists, it also strikes at druggists who prescribe temporary remedies to customers, at the sale of patent medicines, as all persons who recommended their use would be liable to arrest, and finally at the osteopathists. The druggists and the patent medicine men asked the County Medical Society to amend the bill so as not to prohibit the sale or use of proprietary medicines or the giving of temporary relief by registered pharmacists. This the society has refused to do, and thus makes war on all these powerful interests at once. The Christian Scientists, who own half a dozen large churches in this city, are already up in arms against the bill. The osteopathists are making immense fees by their practice, and are multiplying rapidly. The patent medicine men have an important trade representing millions of capital. There is a druggist on nearly every other corner. There are also many opticians who prescribe glasses. All these interests will combine against the Bell bill, and it will be surprising if they do not defeat it.

The "Dream Child" Noguchi.

The Japanese poet, Yone Noguchi, is now in New York, "buried, no one knows where, even his best friends cannot learn," says Mr. Stoddard. It is "his way." He likes to crawl into some remote, obscure corner of a great city apart from all friends and acquaintances, and together with his "moods," and plenty of ink, and sufficient coin for daily bread, manage to exist.

"Alone in the tranquillity, I see the colored thought-leaves of my soul-trees falling down, falling down, falling down, upon the stainless, snowy cheeks of this paper," he writes. He becomes "in love with sadness," as Gelett Burgess says, "and placing himself in this voluntary exile, writes his strange dreamfancies with that yearning, pathetic note that has appealed so strongly to many of the literary critics of the past three or four years, and to nearly all of the readers of "Seen and Unseen" and "The Voice of the Valley," his two volumes of poems, which two years ago were one of the chief literary fads.

His whole character and personality, the wonderful story of his curious dream-life, the things he writes and the quaint things he says and does all mark him as one much apart from the world, even the world of other poets. When he addresses a letter he does not address it like other people. For instance, his letters to Mr. Stoddard are addressed, on the envelop, "Dear Charles Warren Stoddard." In his "Voice of the Valley" he wrote the following lines to Mr. Stoddard:

Night! The spirit of resignation hovers in the night.
We, eloping from the vile land, ask a lodging unto the Master of Solitude.
Friend Charles, turn thy pale face unto me, spell a saddest tale of a mortal king from whom we have fled.
O, wind! Death messages from God are sent unto flowers and leaves.
Ah! the Autumn with frosting teeth tells her fate as a deserted wife.
Stillness! All the mortals send their dreamships heavenward on the tide of sleep.
Thou and I, Charles, sit alone like two shy stars, east and west.
With the love from his devoted friend, Yone Noguchi.

The Mountain Poet's Romance.

His story is something of a romance. He was born in Nippon, Japan, about twenty-four years ago of parents of high social standing. They sent him to the University of Tokyo, where he graduated at a very early age, and directly afterward, growing dissatisfied with a shut-in life and believing that in the English language he could express himself to better advantage than in his own tongue, he started for America to make his way. He arrived in San Francisco and edited a Japanese paper there, wrote for magazines, and published one of his own, with, however, the inevitable reself—not a success financially. Like the first London poets, it was a feast one day and a crust another. People did not comprehend his poetry. Neither could people be blamed; it was formless, struggling, convulsive, those first efforts, full of chaos, but full of fervor, too. The cry of Walt Whitman, "Allons! After the great companions—to belong to them!" struck a keen answering response in the melancholy young Japanese. He wrote to those writers whose books or whose poems he loved. He conceived the most demonstrative affection for them, idealized them, idolized them, and at length started out to find them. Joaquin Miller was one of his "Great Companions." The manner and method of the mountain poet's life appealed to him as the wind sense in his verse, so he found his way to Miller's ranch.

"I have come to stay with you," he said. Miller took him by the hand and pointed to a cabin not far from his. "There is your cabin," he answered; "stay as long as you like." So he stayed, being glad to get away from the life of the cities.

Here he wrote "The Song of Songs, Which Is Noguchi's," "I Hail Myself as I Do Homer," the "Songs of the Yosemite Valley" and many of those gathered in "The Seen and Unseen; or the Monologues of a Homeless Snail."

Robbing the Children.

A bill has been introduced in the legislature to make it easier to drive out policy shops. The committee of fifteen is in favor of legislation along these lines. It has obtained information concerning the large number of policy shops in this city. It finds that most of them are near police stations, fire engine stations and school houses. The best customers of the policy shops are policemen and firemen, and hundreds of school children are induced to visit them in order to play policy with their pennies.

Robbery of the City.

Controller Coler appeals for public help in securing the enactment of a law that will give him authority to hold up a bill for supplies purchased at excessive prices. He is going to make a test case in hope of winning under the present law.

AMUSEMENTS

Foyer Chat.

"The Parish Priest," which Daniel Sully will present at the Metropolitan to-night, is a theatrical surprise. The title suggests everything that the play is not. It suggests, first, religion, yet there is no religion in the play. In the character of Father Whalen is a beautiful sentiment suggested by his calling, but in no act, situation or line, does he make any allusion to the creed which he represents. It is not an Irish play, the scene being laid in Wyoming valley, Pennsylvania, and the action revolves around characters thoroughly American.

"The Belle of New York" will open a four night's engagement at the Metropolitan Sunday evening. The company is a notable one, with Miss Beulah Dodge, who has a store of good looks and ability, in the part of the Salvation lassie. Among the other members are E. J. Connelly, Joseph Kane, James Darling, Arthur Deegan, George Tollman, E. S. Tarr, Mae Sailor and Grace Rutledge. The company numbers sixty-five and the production is identical with that seen in London during the prosperous run of "The Belle" at the Shaftesbury theater.

On Thursday evening, Feb. 14, at the Metropolitan the Alice Nielsen Opera company will appear in "The Singing Girl." The Nielsen company is the largest regular traveling organization in America, numbering over 100 people, and includes a large orchestra. Miss Nielsen's other great operatic success, "The Fortune Teller," will also be given. It is promised that every member of Miss Nielsen's original New York organization will accompany her and that the productions will be made here with all the elaboration and perfection that characterized their original presentation.

The lovers of Shakspere are looking forward with pleasure to the engagement the coming week at the Bijou of Frederick Warde. Mr. Warde comes with a stronger company and a more elaborte scenic equipment than he has ever employed before. Of the plays in his repertory, "The Duke's Jester," the comedy by Espy Williams, received with much favor last year, remains prominent. His repertory for the week will be as follows: "The Duke's Jester," Sunday afternoon and evening, Wednesday matinee and Thursday night; "Richelieu," Lord Lytton's historical play, Monday and Friday nights; "Hamlet," Wednesday night and Saturday matinee; "Othello," Tuesday and Saturday nights.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

The Society's Fascinating Exhibition Proves a Great Success.

BEAUTY AND UTILITY UNITED

Graceful Ceramics—Exquisite Needlework—Splendid Showing by Public School Children.

The second exhibition of the Arts and Crafts society is being appreciated according to its deserts, as is shown by the crowds which throng Beard's gallery. The visitors are fully aroused to the interest and importance of the display of fine workmanship and individuality and are not content with one visit. The exhibition will be all too short, closing Saturday night, and is free to everyone. The society is being congratulated and is congratulating itself on its success in bringing together such a comprehensive array of examples of nearly all the more important branches of craftsmanship. A fine general effect has been secured by a careful arrangement of the exhibits. Each class of work is kept together and in this way instructive comparisons can be made.

The exhibits represent nearly all sections of the country and much the greater part are from out of town. The work of the Minneapolis and St. Paul artists, however, compares very favorably with any shown and the exhibition will serve to bring to proper notice some workers who are practically unknown and to increase the good opinion held of workers already known.

Work of Local Exhibitors.

Two pieces of furniture made from Mr. Bradstreet's designs are shown—a Celtic arm-chair and a door for a clothes press. The door is in two colors of natural wood and each panel has a Japanese decoration in rich but quiet tones. The bronze finishings are in a pattern of flying birds. William Jungbauer of St. Paul has an empire side table; A. A. Gewont, a crucifix and a small carving of a child and a hen. Miss Esther Eddy, burnt wood articles; small articles of furniture, Mrs. Mary A. Helmick, Misses Gertrude Leonard, Agnes Harrison, and Katherine Ellis of St. Paul; decorative panel of burnt and colored wood, Mrs. A. M. Wang; decorated wooden screens, Miss Margarethe E. Heisser; designs, Misses Mary M. Cheney, Mary E. J. Colter of St. Paul, M. E. Heisser, Messrs. Wallace B. Clarke, and Robert Giles, Misses Katherine Ellis, Theresa Peyton and Lucy L. Chapman, St. Paul. A. A. Anderson of the university has a good piece of illuminating. Hahn & Harmon show their souvenir booklet on the Pillsbury monument unveiling.

Famous Leather Workers Exhibit.

Some of the most famous binders and leather workers of the country are represented either by single books or collections. The pieces from the Nordhoff bindery are entirely decorative, cushions, a large etching and portfolio mats. The designs are very simple and the tones soft, and harmonious The work of the Hillside bindery of St. Louis, the designs and work of Miss Mary F. Bulkley, are in a strongly contrasted style, being elaborate patterns worked out in much detail in brilliant coloring. Mrs. E. H. Center is very well represented by a number of beautiful pieces which show bold and sure handling, originality and delightful coloring. In addition to the handsome leather grill and applique curtain already described, there are some fine examples of wall covering and decorative panels, magazine covers and desk sets. Among the books there are two from Otto Zahn of Memphis; three from Miss Ellen Gates Starr of Hull House, Chicago; and some from the Philosopher press of Wausau, Wis. The chief feature of the book collection is the loan exhibit of James C. Young which contains examples from famous presses and great binders, an Aldus, an Elzevir, books from the Kelmscott, Mosher, Philosopher, Roycroft and Vale presses and bindings by Zaehnsdorf, Tout, and Riviere.

The Ceramics Department.

The ceramics include collections of Rookwood, Grueby, Dedham, Newcomb college and Bulger potteries. The Rookwood includes all of the finest new styles, the tiger's eye, iris, sea green and mat glaze and several pieces larger than are usually seen.

The interest in the needlework and textiles is due both to their intrinsic merits and to the fact that many of the varieties are the result of efforts to develop village industries which will afford employment of those in need without taking them away from their rural homes and crowding them in congested manufacturing centers.

Needlework and Textiles.

In this way the Deerfield, Berea, etc., have an ethical as well as an artistic value. The Deerfield Blue and White society has a large collection of work, the general idea being to revive the old methods and patterns of colonial needlework of that vicinage. Three pieces of work of the mountain women of Kentucky were sent by Berea college, two old-fashioned woven coverlets and a floor mat. The Pratt Institute collection includes some beautiful work in color and fancy stitches. Several Chicago artists have sent needlework and Mrs. Anne V. Weston has a beautiful wall hanging of velveteen.

Decorative Modeling.

The entries in decorative modeling are few but notable. Richard W. Bock of Chicago has two statuettes, a shepherd dog and a reclining Indian. The lazy strength of the Indian is wonderfully expressed, and he is the real aboriginal man, not a story book creature. Mrs. George J. Backus has a portrait panel which is excellent both for the likeness and the handling, which is very decorative. She has also a sconce holding three large tapers. The front shows a group of three full-length figures full of joyous sentiment. Both pieces are enhanced by their delicate tinting in green.

The designs and book plates form a large class, but these are less impressive than the made-up designs, although the book plates receive much attention. Miss Elizabeth Chant has a wall panel, showing "The Maid of Astolat" kneeling before the shield of Launcelot, which is delightful both in composition and color. Bardner C. Teall has four tiny book plates that are of special merit.

Beautiful Jewelry.

The jewelry display is wholly the work of Mrs. Elinor Klapp of Chicago, with the exception of Mr. Hudson's brooch and a tiny pewter hand mirror made by Miss Heisser. Mrs. Klapp sent much of her Paris exhibition. It is very original in motif and treatment and many unusual materials are used. The most elaborate piece is a brooch of moonstones set in colored enamel and silver. Many of the suggestions are oriental both in spirit and subject. The copper and silver work is greatly admired and much that is for sale has been disposed of. Some pieces of painted copper by Mrs. Frank Phillips are very effective.

One of the most interesting displays is the basket and rug weaving of the children of the public schools shown in a separate room. It excites wonder as well as admiration, for the results obtained by very young children are really remarkable. They not only show much skill, but good taste in color and form.

The exhibition is open evenings and members of the Arts and Crafts society are present to give information.

MAY ADVANCE INSURANCE RATES.

It is probable that the 168 companies doing fire insurance business in the state will feel called upon to advance rates. The loss ratio in 1897 was .45; in 1899, .52; in 1900, .70. Last year the premiums amounted to $4,182,492, and the losses were $2,908,218—an increase of losses as compared with premiums of $759,250. Taking the estimated cost of carrying on the business in the state, and also the losses from the premiums, leaves a deficit of $189,598.

Cascarine at All Druggists.

Cures biliousness, constipation, dyspepsia.

GREAT WESTERN IS GOOD

SO SAYS FREIGHT AGENT BROOKS

Denial That the Road Is Violating Executive Officers' Agreement as Rumored.

S. O. Brooks, general freight agent of the Chicago, Great Western, denies emphatically that his road has violated the executive officers' agreement of last December to maintain rates on and after Jan. 1. The story that the "freight pool" has gone to pieces as a result of rebellious action on the part of the Great Western's traffic officials is absolutely untrue, says Mr. Brooks, and he adds significantly that a good many people know it.

"We are maintaining with absolute fidelity the schedule of rates which became effective Jan. 1," said Mr. Brooks in an interview with The Journal today. "The only rates we have are the regulation, tariff rates which have been in existence since the agreement of the executive officers of the various roads. We respect that agreement. I will go farther, and say I believe the Great Western is adhering to tariff rates better than any of the lines. I know that our competitors will bear me out in the assertion that the Great Western is keeping the faith. We have always been conservative and we are now holding to tariff absolutely. There is no foundation whatever for the stories sent out from New York regarding our traffic business being unsatisfactory, and for that reason we have commenced to ignore the executive officers' agreement."

Mr. Brooks' statement will clarify the air for a number of traffic officials who had just began to felicitate themselves on the permanency of rates when news of a Great Western break was received. Every freight official in Minneapolis and St. Paul declares the present rate situation to be the most satisfactory in years, and they are greatly alarmed lest something occurs to impair the harmonious relations now existing between the railroads and the shippers. The strict maintenance of rates has enabled the shippers to sell goods on a more satisfactory basis, and have greatly benefited many lines of business.

NOW THE PENNSYLVANIA

Persistent Rumor That It Has Entered Transcontinental Deal.

New York, Feb. 7.—A special to the Times from Philadelphia says:

Persistent rumors, which could not be confirmed, find credence in railroad and financial circles. They are to the effect that the Pennsylvania Railroad company has entered a transcontinental deal which insures it traffic from ocean to ocean. It is said to have made a compact with the Union Pacific, which recently acquired the Southern Pacific. The deal is said in these quarters to include both the Atchison and Southern railway systems.

One Pennsylvania railroad official said: "I do not believe that the rumors of negotiations for the Atchison and Southern systems are the proper explanation, but the Pennsylvania railroad and Southern Pacific are pretty close and an ocean-to-ocean deal might be easily arranged. The rumors of the Pennsylvania-Union Pacific deal may have some real foundation in fact. If they are true, I am inclined to think the Atchison and Southern railroad systems may be included."

SANTA FE GETS BUSY

Authorizes $5,000,000 General Mortgage 4 Per Cent Bonds.

New York, Feb. 7.—The Herald says: No action has been taken on the question of a dividend on the common stock by the board of directors of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, and none is expected, as it is pretty generally understood that this matter will be deferred until the June meeting of the company.

After the meeting it was stated that only routine business had been transacted, but it was ascertained from a thoroughly reliable source that among these routine matters was the authorization by the directors of a further issue of $5,000,000 general mortgage 4 per cent bonds.

FLOUR TO THE ORIENT

Shipments Continue to Show a Healthy Increase.

Flour shipments to the orient continue to show a healthy increase. The opinion was expressed by western shippers early last year that the large consignments of flour destined to the orient were due to the action of Russian merchants in stocking up before the application of the tariff on American oflur. But flour shipments, instead of falling off, show as follows: During the five months prior to Dec. 1 there were shipped from Puget sound ports to the orient 402,231 barrels of flour—an average of 80,446 barrels a month. During the month of December these figures increased to a total for the month of 92,399 barrels, while the first two weeks of the month of January there was shown a further increase, the figures for the half of the month being 84,122, or nearly 4,000 more than the average for the five months prior to Dec. 1.

Railroad Notes.

The report that the Soo line was interested in the recent transfer of property at the foot of Fourth street in St. Paul, and intended to build large warehouses, is incorrect. The Soo is in no way concerned in the matter.

Assistant General Superintendent Law and all the division superintendents of the Northern Pacific have been in St. Paul for some days conferring with General Superintendent Kimberley regarding matters along the line.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS

The First State Camp Meeting in St. Paul.

The first state camp of the Royal Neighbors of Minnesota, the ladies auxiliary to the Modern Woodmen, convened at St. Paul yesterday with seventy-eight delegates in attendance and elected the following officers:

State oracle, Mrs. Lucy Lussler, Minneapolis; state recorder, Mrs. Jennie Korjanker, Duluth; state vice oracle, Mrs. Ada M. Lawson, Anoka; state chancellor, Mrs. Frances Robinson, St. Paul; state marshall, Mrs. Cyla L. Elliott, Dassell; state receiver, Mrs. Emma Snow, St. Francis; inner sentiner, Mrs. Zoa Henschman, St. Paul; outer sentinel, Mrs. Lillie E. Schwartz, Luverne.

Mrs. Nash of Minneapolis was elected delegate at large and Mrs. Quintrance of this city alternate after a spirited contest.

Mrs. C. G. Collins of St. Paul was indorsed for member of the supreme board of directors.

Sleeper Service to Kansas City Via "The Milwaukee" Line.

First-class Pullman sleeper from twin cities every day via C. M. & St. P. Ry. to Kansas City.

Leaves Minneapolis 7:50 a. m., St. Paul, 8 a. m.; arrives Kansas City 7 o'clock next morning.

Direct and most comfortable route to Kansas City, the southwest and California.

Pullman tourist sleeper also from twin cities every Wednesday, running through to Los Angeles, Cal.

Apply to ticket agents, or write J. T. Conley, assistant general passenger agent, St. Paul, for lowest one-way and round-trip rates to all points south and west.

The Quickest Route and Best Service to Florida.

The Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad has made arrangements to connect in St. Louis union depot with the elegant new "Florida Special" over the L. & N. road, making the quickest time by twelve hours to all Florida points. Only one change of cars from Minneapolis.

To Hot Springs, Ark., Reduced Rate Tickets.

The quickest route is via the Minneapolis & St. Louis railroad. Leave Minneapolis at 7:35 p. m.

Arrive St. Louis, 2:05 p. m. next day.

Arrive Hot Springs, 9:00 a. m. next day. 37½ hours. Only one change of cars. No transfer. Elegant service and beautiful scenery. Reduced rates at No. 1 Nicollet House Block

The Eye of the East

BY FRANK LILLIE POLLOCK.

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It would have been impossible to say whether the man was thirty or fifty. His expression was youthful, but his grizzled hair and the lines that crossed his features showed that either age or suffering had been at work. However long his life had been, it was certain that there was not much more to come. He had been struck by a street car directly under my window, receiving spinal injuries that must result fatally. He had been carried into my office, and, though a total stranger to me, he had requested permission to remain there under my professional care, rather than be removed to the city hospital, and he offered to pay liberally for the privilege. I consented without any hesitation.

The man's name was Hannibal Akers, and he was evidently an American of some education and much experience. The unfailing nerve and cheerfulness with which he contemplated approaching death aroused my admiration, and it was with personal as well as professional sorrow that I watched him rapidly sinking.

It was on the fourth day, and in reply to his question I had told him frankly that I did not think that he had a great many more hours to live.

"It's just as well," he said. "In my grip you'll find a packet of papers corded and sealed with my initials. I want you to send that by registered mail to the Japanese legation at Washington, addressed to the minister and marked 'Private.'"

I promised to see to it.

"Everything else that I have—it isn't much—goes to you," he went on, as a recognition of your kindness to me. Also a story that I should tell only to my own children, only that I haven't a blood relative on the face of the earth. First, I want you to say whether you believe me to be in the full possession of my faculties—capable of making a will, for example."

I said that he seemed unquestionably so.

"Then you mustn't think that I am mad or delirious. Of course, you've never heard of the Sky-Stone, the Eye of the East, the Fire of Heaven? It is said to have fallen from the sky in the neighborhood of Peking about eight thousand years before Christ, when Chinese religion consisted mostly of the worship of elemental spirits. The stone was at once revered as a sort of avatar of the sun. The legend goes that it was large enough to be used as an altar of sacrifice, and that it was semi-transparent, changing incessantly with all the colors of the rainbow, too vivid for the eyes to endure. For a long time it was installed at Tientsin, which name still commemorates the fact, for Tientsin is simply a corruption of the old word, T'ien-Shin—Spirit of the Sky—one of the titles bestowed upon the sacred stone.

"When China became Buddhist in creed, the stone remained the center of a fervid but diminishing cult, and it was finally removed to Korea. Here the world lost trace of it, for the new location was kept secret. No Chinaman would now believe that it still existed. But it does, for I watched it for eight months, till my eyes were blinded by its blaze.

"Some time during the first thousand years of the Christian era, one of the priests in charge of the Fire of Heaven infringed the rules of his order, and was condemned to death. He contrived to escape to Japan, where he married a Japanese wife. The secret of the stone was handed down in the family, till in the present generation the family came to an end in a single daughter.

"In 1888 I was mate of a steamer trading in the China seas, and I met the girl through business relations with her father. At that time marriage with a westerner would not have been tolerated by any Japanese family, but three months later I eloped with the girl as my ship lay off the coast. We were married at Hongkong, and then, resigning my berth, we returned to California.

"The next four years I can pass over. They were the most happy ones a man ever spent, but in 1893 my wife died, followed shortly by her two daughters, in an epidemic of Asiatic cholera.

"My first impulse was to take to the sea again, and I had even gone so far as to apply to the company that had formerly employed me, when the sky-stone legend recurred to my mind. I was not unwilling to believe it in the main, for I knew the value of tradition in the east. If true, it pointed to the existence of a precious stone, either diamond or opal, of such stupendous size as the world has never dreamed of. At any rate, it promised the possibility of adventure, which would prevent sad memories. I laid the story before the Japanese minister at Washington. By him I was furnished with letters to the imperial court at Tokio, and in a month's time I was granted the privilege of a personal interview with the emperor himself.

"I concealed nothing but the location of the treasure, and I represented to his majesty that it was the duty of any civilized nation to bring such a jewel into the light of day, if only as a matter of scientific interest, and that his was the only government in possession of the secret. To purchase the stone would be out of the question, for no price could be set upon such a thing, and, if the Chinese government learned of its existence, it would be infallibly converted into a crown jewel and locked out of sight. I offered to guide a Japanese force to the spot for the sum of $300,000, to be paid me when the stone arrived in Tokio.

"In less than a week I was informed that the government was disposed to accept my offer, but that, as the exact nature and even the existence of the stone was a matter of some doubt, I would be required first of all to conduct a Japanese officer into Korea, where more definite information concerning the stone might be obtained. For this expedition I would be paid $25,000, in addition to my former demand.

"I had rather expected such a proposal, and I accepted without hesitation. In three days I was landed with my companion, Lieutenant Takasatu, from a Japanese torpedo boat on the northeastern coast of Korea. Here we spent several days, disguised, of course, endeavoring to learn something from the peasantry, all of whom, I knew, were of the cult of the sky-stone. We dared not approach the great building, half castle and half temple, where the stone was supposed to be kept. In spite of all our precautions, we managed to arouse suspicion, and we were seized by a mob and dragged before their highest tribunal—the priests of the temple itself. Here I lost sight of my companion.

"Instead of the death I expected, I was chained into a narrow niche in the rock wall in such a position that I could neither stand nor lie at full length. It was precisely like the inquisition's 'chamber of little ease.' But it opened directly upon a wide, roofless hall, and in the center of this, on a pedestal of gold and antique woods, and not twenty paces from my eyes, blazed with ineffable splendor the sky-stone itself, the Fire of Heaven.

"Its custodians, suspecting the secret of my mission, had arranged the punishment to fit the crime, by chaining me almost within reach of the object of my search. How to describe that object I do not know. It was evidently an enormous fire opal, changing color incessantly as if by an internal illumination. It was shaped like a millstone, and I swear that it was nearly as large! All day it scintillated under the rays of the sun with a shifting brilliancy, and at night it shone with a faint, bluish, phosphorescent glow. Day and night it was guarded by priests whose chanting never ceased.

"I am certain that the agonies of that imprisonment would have driven me insane, had it not been for the hypnotic influence exerted by the gigantic jewel. As I crouched in my chains for hours, dreamily watching the continual play of light at its heart, I no longer marveled at the divine honors paid to it. But the Fire of Heaven was not to be regarded with impunity, and a severe ocular inflammation, like snow-blindness, endangered my sight.

"My jailors gave me no medical attention, and I cowered in my niche, blind, sick and crippled for a period of which I lost all count. My vision came back to me after a time, and, thus warned, I resisted the infernal fascination of the stone, and looked upon it as little as possible. Then, one morning, the Fire of Heaven was gone from its place, and a strange silence reigned in the temple. That evening it was entered by Japanese troops, headed by Lieutenant Takasatu, and I was released. I learned that war had been in progress between Japan and China for several weeks.

"Lieutenant Takasatu had escaped from prison several months before, taking back to Japan corroborative evidence of my story. Scouting parties had at once been sent to operate in Korea. War was the inevitable result, and at the earliest possible moment a flying column had been pushed ahead to the temple of the sky-stone, arriving just too late to secure the treasure. Under threat of torture, neighboring peasants admitted that the priests had all gone aboard a junk at midnight, taking various articles with them, and had sailed northward.

"They must have landed on the czar's dominions, for if they had turned southward, they must have fallen into the hands of the Japanese fleet, which held the Korean straits. So the war came to an earlier close than was expected, and Japan consented to receive a cash indemnity instead of the cession of the Korean peninsula. The latter's value was gone."

The effort had been too much for Akers, and his voice dropped almost to a whisper. This recalled me to my medical duties. Administering a teaspoonful of brandy I forbade him to speak further.

"It doesn't matter," he whispered, with a faint smile. "I'm done for, anyhow. Where is the sky-stone? Nobody knows. Somewhere on the Russian coast. Japan will never, never give it up, and her spies have been searching every inch of that country for five years, and when they find anything, you'll hear of it. But—I—won't."

He sank back dead! It was a hot night, and I flung up the window. As I looked down into the dimly lighted street I thought almost with terror of the information that had been confided to me. Then as I was turned away the distant cry of a newsboy came up through the darkness:

"Extry! Extry! War threatened between Russhy an' Japan!"

WILHELMINA, QUEEN OF H OLLAND, MARRIED TO-DAY.