

THE JOURNAL

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Peace May Come of It. While it may be incautious to say at this time peace is in sight yet the situation is distinctly hopeful for the opening of negotiations between the contending powers. President Roosevelt's efforts have been confined to getting their representatives to approach one another and apparently they have not been without success. The most extreme delicacy has to be exercised in this stage of the preliminaries of peace and this is why the public knows so little about the matter. But secrecy is a hopeful sign that something is being done. When Russia and Japan have taken the first step of recognizing the fact of each other's existence and begun to talk peace even in the most tentative way, there will be no need for the other powers to do anything except watch the progress of the negotiations and try to make the path of peace as smooth as possible for both. The actual terms perhaps will not be mentioned in these days, and when they are mentioned they will undoubtedly at first drive the warring powers farther apart for a time. Japan will seek to have something to her dignity and Russia will stand on her dignity and say the offer is such that the czar's government could not entertain it. But if both have had enough of fighting it will be not impossible to overcome the objections of Russia nor modify the demands of Japan. After Liao-yang, Japan would have quit fighting for the status quo as it existed in February, 1904, plus her diplomatic demand that Russia fulfill her pledges to the powers. After Mukden and the Tsu islands Japan was justified in enlarging the scope of her demands and undoubtedly has enlarged them to include the permanent abeyance of the Russian fleet in Asiatic waters, the transfer of the lease of Port Arthur, the neutralizing of Vladivostok's fishing privileges off Saghalien, the command of the Eastern China railroad, and perhaps an indemnity. The latter is the real sticking point with Russia. So far as the other items are concerned Japan has most of them now, and really, the only thing she is demanding is that she be paid the expense of taking them. Russia, however, is free to say that inasmuch as Japan always denied Russia's right in Manchuria and Port Arthur, she cannot ask Russia to pay the expense of suing out the writ of ouster. It is not entirely improbable that Japan could be settled with today without a money indemnity. But that is today. Tomorrow Japan may be in possession of real Russian territory.

The Nub of the Equitable Trouble. The point in the Equitable trouble is that while the company holds itself out to be a mutual concern, in fact, it is not. It is a stock concern, and the stock is controlled by one man. Until this situation is relieved there will be no peace in the Equitable. Supposing the company lost all of its present directors, the next set must be the creatures of the stock control just as the present directors are and, so the process of selecting directors might go on forever with no relief so long as they represented the stock and not the policy holders. The theory of a mutual insurance company is that the policy holders own it. They delegate the executive authority to certain officers, and they expect the whole time of these individuals at a stated salary. They are supposed not to have any further interest. It is true that very few even mutual insurance companies have worked out this way in practice. The officers intrrench themselves and in course of time come to believe they are necessary to the company, and are, in fact, the company. But under the mutual plan of organization it is always possible, in theory at least, to notify an officer that he is not wanted.

Spending Dollars Abroad. Public Opinion calls attention to the summer rush of Americans abroad. It estimates that this being a good year in America, at least 150,000 residents of this country will take their vacations in Europe, and that they will spend on the average \$1,000 apiece, making a total of \$150,000,000 to be subtracted from the balance of trade which would ordinarily be our way. This sum, if kept at home, would run the city of New York for a year and leave a handsome margin. It would pay the pension list for a year, or it would buy and rebuild the street railway system of Chicago. There are many things it would do, but perhaps none which pays the country any better than the trips abroad, taken by those Americans who spend only judiciously and usefully. Money is profitable only as it is well laid out. One of the best ways to lay it out is in learning, and surely the American who goes abroad learns, among other things, the value of money. Another way, useful way, of spending money, is in proper recreation. The man who takes a well-earned tour abroad comes home more determined than he ever was before to make his business go.

An Overworked Man. Professor Hugo R. Meyer of Mr. Rockefeller's university is a very active man. His peculiar brand of activity just now appears to take the form of making addresses and offering testimony against the government control of railroad regulation. Of course, if Mr. Rockefeller had not been able to profit by railroad discrimination and secret rebates, there would probably have been no Chicago university, and Mr. Hugo Meyer would not have been available for the purposes for which he appears to be so useful at present, but under the circumstances his activity seems to be justified on the basis of paying debts of long standing. Mr. Meyer has just been before the national convention of millers in Kansas City repeating the testimony which he gave to the interstate commerce committee to the effect that it would be quite impossible for the government to take any hand whatever in the making of railroad rates without at once adopting the distance tariff principle and depriving individuals, and localities of any advantage that might accrue to them by virtue of competition, geographic position or in any other way. He makes the mistake of not only declaring this theory but of asserting that the interstate commerce commission has generally acted upon the distance tariff principle. The Journal has recently had some testimony direct from the members of the commission themselves bearing upon this point. Commissioner Prouty gave The Journal, on June 3, an extended statement in refutation of Mr. Meyer's theory and backed it up by citing cases and rulings of the commission to show that "it (the commission) has invariably declined to apply the distance rule when competitive conditions prevail." The commissioner cited the last case decided involving rates upon export traffic to Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, from Western points, in which the commission held that the rate to the port of export should not be determined by distance, but should be so adjusted as to permit free competition to all the ports. The commissioner proceeded to discuss this question at some length, in the course of which he said: "We must not be understood as holding that the cost of transportation alone controls. Rates cannot be made with a yardstick. Commercial conditions and physical conditions and the condition of the carriers themselves must be considered. Few of the many misrepresentations which are being made to influence public opinion at the present time have less foundation in fact than this claim that if the commission were to give the power to fix a new rate in place of an old one, found to be unreasonable, it would be necessary, under the law, to make interstate rates upon a distance tariff basis." This statement of the commissioner, together with the cited instances where interstate rates are not fixed on the distance basis, is probably quite as valuable a contribution to the discussion of this subject as the speculations of the professor from the Rockefeller university.

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ARMY WON'T MOVE. Salvationists Will Retain Present Quarters.—Brigadier Constans Coming. Despite the decision of the committee on public buildings to put in new boilers in the old city hall nor to reduce the rent, it is probably the salvation army will continue in its present quarters, as no other suitable building is obtainable. "Moving to the quarters being moved at present," said Brigadier Jenkins to-day. "There seems to be a popular opinion that the army is rich, but we are not. Alderman Walker stated that we had an income of \$50,000 a year. It is true that we receive that amount of money, but it cannot be used for the maintenance of the old city hall. The money comes from the rent of the premises, which includes the opera, South Dakota, Wisconsin, part of Michigan and northern Illinois, and must pay expenses in that territory. Brigadier John Constans of Omaha will succeed Brigadier Jenkins in Minneapolis June 22.

THE UNEASY CHAIR. BAFFLING MYSTERY TALE.—The unraveling in the mountains of northern Georgia, of the mystery surrounding a crime committed in New York city is the burden of the story in The Summit House Mystery, by L. Dougall. It is a story that keeps one guessing, unless he is a Sherlock Holmes sort of a man able to see the end of things from the beginning, from either side, or from above or below. The mountain atmosphere is a story of the kind gives the reader a peculiar sensation; it makes him think of some of Poe's tales, lacking, however, much of Poe's literary finish and art. Nevertheless the story is one that grips the interest with increasing strength as the plot unfolds, and that is one of the fine arts of a mystery tale. Funk & Wagnalls company, New York. Vincent Harper, the author of "The Mortgage on the Brain," says that his "method" of writing his stories is "to knit with a chain pipe in your mouth, swapping yarn with longshoremen or Indians or any other men who don't write—and then to write like the devil."

able. In that organization Mr. Hyde nominates a majority of the board of directors by making a dummy transfer to certain persons of a sufficient number of shares of the stock to enable them to qualify. After their election they turn back the stock to Hyde by giving him a blanket power of attorney over it. Mr. Hyde then has the board and the stock as well. The vital principle of insurance is violated when one man has the power to dispose almost at will of the trust funds of half a million persons. The dove of peace must be a carrier pigeon these days, flying between captives with the speed of a wireless message.

Spending Dollars Abroad. Public Opinion calls attention to the summer rush of Americans abroad. It estimates that this being a good year in America, at least 150,000 residents of this country will take their vacations in Europe, and that they will spend on the average \$1,000 apiece, making a total of \$150,000,000 to be subtracted from the balance of trade which would ordinarily be our way. This sum, if kept at home, would run the city of New York for a year and leave a handsome margin. It would pay the pension list for a year, or it would buy and rebuild the street railway system of Chicago. There are many things it would do, but perhaps none which pays the country any better than the trips abroad, taken by those Americans who spend only judiciously and usefully. Money is profitable only as it is well laid out. One of the best ways to lay it out is in learning, and surely the American who goes abroad learns, among other things, the value of money. Another way, useful way, of spending money, is in proper recreation. The man who takes a well-earned tour abroad comes home more determined than he ever was before to make his business go.

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man? It is singular that all the companies should have discovered at the same time that it is worth 50 cents a month more to carry ice up a flight of stairs. The mayor of Philadelphia has discovered that the employees of the city conduct boarding houses which are conspicuously full of able-bodied men in election times. Some phenomenal majorities have been cast for the machine in the wards most thickly populated with these "municipal" boarding houses. The president having carefully weighed the arguments for and against an extra session of congress, has, it is said, decided in the negative. An extra session of congress, like a relapse after the measles, is something that should be carefully guarded against. Chancellor von Buelow received his patent as a prince of the empire from Wilhelm on the day of the royal marriage and the next day inherited \$1,375,000 thru the will of a Hamburg millionaire. The prince seems to be hobbing up serenely von Buelow. King Victor Emmanuel received Congressional honors from the Minnesota legislature in audience yesterday, and while the conversation is not fully reported, we feel warranted in saying that the congressman advised the monarch to stand pat. Nansen is said to be the coming man for president of the Norwegian republic. Nansen has heretofore done his exploring in cold regions, but in politics he will find it warm enough to equalize the temperature of his entire career. Dr. Oser states that a man who marries a freckled girl makes no mistake, as "freckled girls are invariably more amiable." If you cannot obtain a freckled girl, try the other kind. They are good-natured, too. A big delegation from Winnipeg is coming down to help Crookston celebrate the Fourth of July, the anniversary of the day we cut loose from King Edward's great-grandfather. That's neighborly. Georg Drutschel, the next-to-nature man, has moved on. He concluded that nobody could sleep out of doors in Minneapolis' climate but a duck. And Georg was not a duck; he was only a goose. The Northwestern Miller has stuck out his tongue and wrinkled his nose at the sacred Chamber of Commerce's corner decision. The Miller and the chamber should arbitrate. Rev. Fayette L. Thompson's suggestion that every operating room should have a prayer room attached is good. The patient should have his every chance conserved. Ambassador Reid, on an \$18,000 salary, has rented a \$35,000 house in London. Whitelaw must have taken in a good many subscriptions since he crossed. Secretary Morton is now mentioned for chairman of the Equitable. He and Tarbell working together should be able to put up some great jobs in rebates. Boston's crack artillery company, "The Ancients," are said to be quite young. But you could never get a company of ladies to take a name like that. The Philadelphians are now entertaining the Utopian notion of running their city affairs on a business basis. Happy dreamers! The rain falls on the \$3.50 straw hat just as it falls on the 50c one, but the former seems to make a better recovery. The nations seem to understand that Japan cannot again be robbed of the fruits of her work. A diploccus has been presented to King Edward. It should be very useful.

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