

THE JOURNAL

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The Peace Conference.

Whether Russia and Japan shall agree upon terms at Portsmouth or not, President Roosevelt has performed his part in the preliminary negotiations in an admirable spirit. All of the ticklish questions of precedence and honors were solved by him in such a way as to reflect credit not only upon his sense of responsibility in the matter, but also to raise him in the estimation of envoys. They found him a man sincerely interested in a successful issue in the conference. They found him big-hearted and truly courteous. They found him eminently fair and discreetly impartial in his treatment of the two warring nations.

With all the honors a great and friendly nation could pay them they have been transported to the place of their labors, and tomorrow their responsibility begins and the president's ends. The prospects for peace are good, notwithstanding the pessimistic utterances of the chief Russian negotiator. These are, no doubt, part of the game. Japan knows how to meet them, and when he is face to face with Komura in the conference room it will transpire how deeply M. Witte is imbued with the lugubrious views he has chosen to give out. It is altogether probable that his spirits will be lighter when he meets Komura at Portsmouth than they have been heretofore. The questions at issue between Russia and Japan are serious, but they are not incapable of solution.

Meanwhile the American people with a deep sense of the admirable part the president has played in the negotiations up to date has the further duty of protecting the commissioners from the busy interference, trusting the rest to their respective governments and the world at large expects of them.

A national convention of the young princes mentioned for king of Norway might be profitable.

A Government Gazette.

There is a disposition to view the move for the publication of an official gazette at Washington as savoring of monarchy, an imitation of the court guides of Europe. Some of our imperialist fellow citizens are beginning to look pessimistic again, and there is even danger that Edward Atkinson may emerge from his Aladdin stove to denounce the proposition.

The court guides of the old world are customarily printed to give information of the whereabouts and the present occupation of the monarch. Where the ruler of the state is also the head of the church and the dictator of society the people want to know about him and the court guide is published, not because the king is determined, that he shall not be lost sight of, but because kings nowadays find it advantageous to do about what the people expect them to do and one thing the people expect is accurate information as to how the emperor enjoyed his breakfast.

An official gazette in America is a very different thing. It would be a convenient place to stow announcements which now are offered to the Associated Press and carried by that organization, if it has the space and considers the matter of sufficient importance. The point is that the Associated Press does not have to make a record for the government, whereas an official gazette would.

There are hundreds of documents, notices, orders which are made by heads of departments in Washington, of which the public gets no notice, except as it bumps against them in dealing with the Washington bureaus. These could be gathered into a government publication, and when indexed and filed would make a comfortable asset for any firm or corporation doing a large business with the government.

The main danger in the publication of such a gazette would be that heads of departments would abuse the privilege of printing. It would become like the Congressional Record, a scandal. It would be necessary to have some one in charge who would not be amenable to influence in permitting improper or unnecessary publications. Perhaps the best way to print a government gazette would be to let the contract to some responsible printers and let them make what they would out of advertising space.

Cassie Chadwick's assets have been gathered up and finally tabulated and they amount to \$14,000. Her liabilities amounted to \$2,000,000, so that the proportion of each person who filed a claim against her estate will be seven-tenths of a cent on the dollar. Cassie is in prison and the exposures she was to make of people high in finance who had "basely deserted" her have not come. The last has probably been heard of Cassie Chadwick until some other fraud shall arise with whom she can be compared.

On his birthday anniversary Russell Sage made a rough calculation of the cost of shoes and ciphered out that they cost up money in a criminal manner. If it were not for the cost of shoes each man in this country would have at least \$8 in cash for each year of his adult life. This at compound interest would at \$4.39 furnish each citizen an annuity of \$169. Mr. Sage regrets that earlier in his life he had not studied the extraordinary waste in shoes.

The Providence (R. I.) Journal observes: "Congressman Brick of Indiana says that the way to meet a deficit in the national income is to quit spending so much money. It is evident that he is a very new member." Mr. Brick is not a new member, but he has some of those ideas regarding economy that grandpa used to inculcate.

Kalamazoo looks pretty good to railroad tie tourists. Mrs. Almira Kramer recently died there at the age of 83 years, leaving a bequest of a \$10,000 trust fund to be used in feeding and washing tramps. The fact that she was so particular about the bathing part of it may grate on the boys some.

The president of Ecuador was being married when a tremendous uproar arose in the palace yard. The president turned pale. "A revolution," shouted an excited officer, rushing into the chapel. "Let the wedding proceed," said the president calmly. "I feared it was an American charivari."

Mr. Root is a busy man. While in Labrador he will seek real view the ecliptic of the sun and try to patch up the Hay-Bond treaty, which was mutilated by the senate last winter. Any statesman who goes about the world reciting the mistakes of the senate will be busy.

One by one explanations of why the Bennington blew up are coming out. The latest is that she blew up because "the metal in her boiler had lost all its tensile strength." Yes, but why did someone let the tensile strength escape? The prospective sale of the ancient library of Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania has already attracted great attention. There is a general desire to see the sources of some of his fantastic messages to the legislature.

How would you like to take Bible lessons of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.? The boy has been conducting a Sunday school class and his exegesis of David's affair with Goliath is said to be a moving picture to our youth.

Fanciullini comes to our city with quite a reputation as a man who has refused to join a brass band trust. The question is, does a man who is lord of six drams need to belong to a trust? Mr. Edison's long heralded, footproof storage battery is promised for October. If it does all that is expected of it, the horse may yet be relieved of the grocery delivery boy strain.

THE UNEASY CHAIR

CLEVER PRANKS BY A YOUTHFUL PEERESS.—There is a whole lot of downright fun in Lady Noggs' Peerses, by Edgar Jepson, who wrote "The Admirable Crichton." Lady Noggs, however, outdoes the "Tinker," she is the niece of the prime minister and keeps the home of that high British official from deteriorating into a recluse's retreat. Not only that, she sees to it that her "doings" constitute a continuous record of the "Tinker's" doings. She sets a pooh-tray (whatever that is) for the prime minister's secretary, much to the discomfiture of that very amusing success depends upon a multiplicity of contracts, so that it is impossible for the policyholder to exercise any but an indirect control over the affairs of the company. Many of the contracts, moreover, are conditioned upon the death of one of the parties, and the state ought to supervise the execution of the contract by the surviving party. As a matter of fact, the United States is the only government in which the power of supervising insurance is decentralized. It is probable that federal regulation of insurance would have been effected before now but for the decision of the supreme court in a certain case that insurance contracts are not interstate transactions, the parties may be domiciled in different states. This decision Mr. Beckford criticizes, and he argues that it has been practically set aside by the decision of the same tribunal, that a lottery ticket is an article of commerce. Federal supervision would effect economy.

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 7.—Governor A. H. Cummins has given his consent to the organization of Cummins republicans in Iowa. The project is to start a boom for him or president of the United States in 1908. The governor received letters Saturday asking the privilege of organizing such clubs and plans to start a series of meetings. The fact that he has given his consent leads the political gossips to believe that like Shaw, Governor Cummins will be out soon gunning for delegates to the next national republican convention.

The governor's advisers have been quick to accept the situation as an opportunity for outgunning the governor's plans to knock Secretary Shaw out of the Iowa delegation in 1908. The letters received from Nebraska have not been made public, neither have the replies been printed, but the authority which states that the governor gives his consent to the boom to be started is not questioned. In Iowa the new presidential boom means a fight for delegates to the national convention. Secretary Shaw's aspirations may be knocked into a cocked hat right at his own door.

The governor will adhere to the tenets he has preached for the past five years. He will advocate the regulation of railroads and tariff reform by a protection congress.

In Iowa the boom for Cummins as a candidate for president is already being made, and the governor's sanction to be a very lively affair. If the governor is able to defeat Secretary Shaw's crowd his position as a factor in national politics will be firmly established. It is not probable that the governor will secure the nomination for president, or that he has nearly so good a chance of securing it in states outside Cummins and his followers say they are fighting for a principle to which Shaw is opposed and that they cannot afford to knuckle to Shaw and thus have their victories in Iowa overthrown.

The Shaw crowd is asserting that Shaw has the right of way and should be left alone; that there is really a little chance of his securing the nomination if he can have Iowa without division.

The recent fight which Governor Cummins won before the executive council when he secured the advance in railroad assessments will have the effect of strengthening him with the farmers and increasing the bitterness of railroad and corporate interests.



CUMMINS' BOOM FOR PRESIDENCY

Governor Likely to Wage a Fight on Secretary Shaw for Principle's Sake.

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JOSEPH CONRAD'S TRUE NAME.—Joseph Conrad is a pen name, says Harper's Weekly. The owner of it was born in Poland, and his real name, according to the chief gardener instructs their invitation (command) the youthful peerses went to live with the princess's daughter. Lady Noggs stayed just four days. By the conclusion of a series of clever plans she won the recall to court command and joyfully returned to the prime minister's home to remove the gloom that had settled upon the place after her departure.

Altogether Lady Noggs is a fairly peevish whose stay with the reader is all too short. McCure, Phillips & Co., New York.

BOTANY IN ATTRACTIVE FORM FOR CHILDREN.—A book that will do much to interest the child in the study of things is "A Little Garden Calendar," by Albert Bigelow Paine. There are three characters in it—Davy, Prue and Chief Gardener. Davy and Prue in January begin to "plant out" their star gardens for themselves, and the Chief Gardener helps them to realize their wish without waiting for Jack Frost to go away. Each starts a window garden. The Chief Gardener instructs them in the mysteries of the plants they grow; and does it all so interestingly that they will surely not forget what they have learned. The instruction is continued on the book's title is "The Garden of the Holy Altar," Philadelphia.

A new and attractive life of William Hazlitt by G. Baldwin Brown, has just been published by Charles Scribner's Sons. The great writer, who died in 1820, is now being read in a broader way than ever before. Mr. Brown, because he was one of the first outstanding personalities of the English school of painting.

FAMILY TRADITIONS, RELIGION AND LOVE MINGLED IN A STORY OF THE AROOSTOOK.—George H. Pickard's "The Aroostook" is a story of a Scotchman from Canada who went down into New England to build a town, a fortune and a name and to help on the cause of his church, being a Roman Catholic. He did all four, but a dowry of whom he tended to make a bishop, preferred the love of a Methodist minister's sister to his orders, and his only daughter's heart was being strongly drawn toward the Methodist minister, himself when the Scotchman, weary of things, put off the dull impediment of time. The tale in pleasing fashion shows that the heart beats in the same way. Herbert B. Turner & Co., Boston.

THE MAGAZINES.—The Secret of Luther Burbank's Success.—An article by the famous Dutch scientist, Professor De Vries, appears in Popular Science Monthly for August. It gives an account of the professor's visit to Luther Burbank, "the plant wizard," in California. Professor De Vries says in part: "What makes Burbank's work entirely different from that of other plant breeders is the immense scale on which his selecting is made. He is, therefore, able to make greater improvements than others and in much shorter time. In his work Burbank is guided by a special gift of judgment, in which he excels all his contemporaries. To give an idea of the immensity of his cultures, it is sufficient to cite one instance. When sowing his new kind of blackberries, he picked out the best from 60,000 specimens, all in full bearing, dug up the rest and burned them. This he did with wheat, not only with one kind of fruit or flower, but with all. The most remarkable trait, however, of his work is that he never loses sight of the practical possibilities. This method is carried to the highest degree of perfection, and thereby his results are so stupendous that they receive the admiration of the whole world."

Regulation of Life Insurance.—In a thoughtful and timely article which contributes to the August number of the North American Review, James M. Beck, formerly assistant attorney general of the United States, advocates "Federal Regulation of Life Insurance." Mr. Beck points out that to Alexander Hamilton and his contemporaries the regulation of all forms of insurance was a familiar exercise of governmental power. In spite of this fact, and of the immense growth of insurance during the nineteenth century, there was no federal legislation regarding insurance until 1903, when the department of commerce and labor was created by an act the terms of which imply that insurance may be a part of interstate or foreign commerce. Mr. Beck lays emphasis upon certain peculiar reasons why insurance should be submitted to strict governmental supervision; its

CITY NEWS

PHILATELISTS OF AMERICA MEET HERE TOMORROW. Large Attendance of Stamp Collectors Is Expected From All Parts of the Country, and Specimens Valued at Thousands Will Be Shown—Program of Entertainment.

Among the many conventions booked for Minneapolis this summer the unique one will be that of the American Philatelic association, which opens tomorrow at the city hall. The "A. P. A." as it is called, for short, is the largest organization among the stamp collectors in America. It has more than 700 members and its chief guarantee is the interests of those who follow the pursuit of collecting postage stamps. It is expected that from 75 to 100 members will attend the Minneapolis convention which was organized in 1888. The president is H. E. Deats, several times a millionaire and a leading man of Plainfield, N. J., where he makes his home. Among other leading philatelists who will attend are P. M. Wolestein, C. E. Severn, P. N. Massoth and H. N. Mudge, Chicago, D. T. Caton, Muscatine, Iowa; S. E. Moisan, Kankakee, Ill.; W. H. Schaffner, Marion, Wis.; C. C. Johnson and Charles Toelle, Milwaukee.

The election of officers, which is conducted by mail, will be announced at the opening session. The following ticket is understood to have been elected: President, W. C. Stone, Massachusetts; vice presidents, H. N. Mudge, A. Holland, H. A. Fowler, Illinois; secretary, D. T. Eaton, Iowa; treasurer, H. G. Smith, Minnesota; international secretary, E. Doehlin, Pennsylvania; directors, H. L. Rice, New York; W. E. Loy, California.

The stamp collectors will be in session three days, the mornings being devoted to business, and the afternoons and evenings to social amusements. Tomorrow afternoon will be given to a trip to Lake Minnetonka, with a tour of the lake on steamer. On Wednesday afternoon there will be a trip to Fort Snelling and Minnehaha on chartered trolley cars. The Commercial club will give the delegates a banquet Thursday evening.

The chief interest in the convention will be an exhibition of stamps. There will be no general display, but the collector will not go far without carrying in his inside pocket a little album in which are stored some of his rarities. It is not probable that the entire collection of \$1,000 or more shown by the collector will be sold, but the collector whose means are limited.

America is the home of many large collectors. President Deats holds his to be worth about \$60,000, his collection of Confederate local stamps issued before the Confederate government took charge of the postal service being valued at \$20,000 alone. George H. Worthington's stamps are valued at \$150,000, and one secretary devotes his entire time to its care. This sounds like big money, but when \$7,250 is paid for a single stamp, as the Prince of Wales did for a specimen of the first issue of Mauritius, it does not last long for a collection to become costly.

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E. W. MORTIMER IS DEAD

VETERAN OF CIVIL WAR AND OLD RAILROAD MAN PASSES AWAY.

ELIAS W. MORTIMER.

THE WILDLIGHT IN RARE OLD STAMPS

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