

JAPAN BUSY IN KOREA

station unless the passive officials ordered the train to return to Nampo. This threat prevailed, force proved to be a remedy, and the starving Neapolitans were saved. The Italian press comments in the strongest terms on the incapacity of the railway bureaucracy to cope with difficulties.

Railroad Building Pushed in the Hermit Kingdom.

Signor de Marinis, a former Italian minister, who may return to office, has delivered a speech at Naples pointing out the increased trade between the two coasts of the Adriatic, urging the revision of the treaty, and suggesting that Italy should direct her efforts toward preventing any power from acquiring a predominant position in the Balkan Peninsula.

OPEN DOOR TO BE MAINTAINED

It is reported from Carlsbad that the state authorities have forbidden pumping operations in the new shaft of a neighboring coal mine because pumping is believed to diminish the flow of water to the Carlsbad springs.

Material Progress Being Made in Manchuria—Unrest in China May Lead to Serious Trouble, Students Fomenting Discard—New Anti-toxin for Dysentery is Discovered.

London, Feb. 16.—Now that the Japanese government, suspicious at first, has become convinced of Russia's good faith in her promise immediately to evacuate Manchuria, preparations for vast transit improvement are growing apace.

REICHSTAG MEMBER FINED.

Erzberger Arrested for Refusing to Testify in Court.

Berlin, Feb. 16.—Mathias Erzberger, the most prominent member of the Center in the Reichstag, was arrested and fined this afternoon for refusing to testify in the case of Poplau, a former government official, charged with disclosing secret information.

WOMEN CABBIERS IN PARIS

Two Have Received Licenses and Will Begin Work.

Public Wonders if Mark Twain Sleeps as Well as Smokes in Bed.

Interested in Our Navy.

Paris, Feb. 16.—Women cab drivers for Paris are at last within sight. Two women have received licenses and are expected to begin work next week. Their first day's services have been already engaged by a strenuous newspaper, after which the women will take chances with the public.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

Editor The Washington Herald: In many cases, the metric is the best, but not in all.

In surveys, no matter what system prevails, vulgar fractions are often necessary to express exactness.

In some measures of length, the metric is too verbose.

The tailor buys his cuts of cloth one yard and a two-thirds and a half, and three yards and a half.

In the metric system he would have to order a two-and-a-half-yard cut by expressing one meter, fourteen centimeters, and three millimeters; or one meter, one decimeter, four centimeters, and three millimeters.

Here our system is more concise, as well as exact.

The metric division of substances is by halves, quarters, and so forth.

The druggist, after mixing his ingredients, divides his powder in halves and quarters and the quarters into thirds to make the requisite dozen.

He has no difficulty in dividing by quarters and thirds by the eye. If he had to divide the mass into half and halves into fifths to make the requisite ten powders, his weighing is accurate enough.

Twelve is divisible by two, three, four, and six. Ten is divisible only by two and five.

The size of a shoe is a third of an inch, the size of a barley corn; as we learned in our former arithmetics, three barley corns make an inch.

The measurement of shoes is arrived at by a somewhat arbitrary method. Many of the old designations of length were arbitrary, but not in this case.

An inch, the length of the first joint of the thumb; an ell, the length of the arm; a yard, the distance from a man's nose to the length of his outstretched arm.

The metric system is more scientific, but it is not so convenient.

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LONDON FIGHT GAINS

Extravagance of the County Council Exposed.

BRICK VENTURE PROVES FIZZLE

General Mismanagement Affects Bankers, Who Lose Quarter Million Dollars Profit Each and in Turn Cut Off Extra Distribution to Underpaid Clerks and Employes.

London, Feb. 16.—The campaign against municipal socialism which controls the administration of London gains in strength as the election approaches. This week's meeting of the county council was one of the stormiest in its history, and it developed fresh revelations of inefficiency and extravagance.

There was an interesting little object lesson in municipal ownership connected with a municipal brickmaking. The council decided some time ago, when bricks cost 25 shillings a thousand, to make its own bricks. It did so, and they cost 25 shillings a thousand, but it turned out that only 16 per cent of the council bricks were any good, so the whole product is now worth 19 shillings a thousand for roadmaking. The net loss to London taxpayers is \$25,000. One of the defenders of council-made bricks was embarrassed by a specimen breaking in his hands while he was defending its quality against the aspersions of the other side.

Trapped by Tax Commission.

The progressive champions of municipal tramways have been confounded by the fact which has just transpired that the council is in a dispute with the income tax commissioner over a tax claim on tramway profits. The council argues to the public that the tramways earned a small surplus. They object to paying the income tax, and are on the ground that the reported profit was on a gross and not a net. The opponents of the council argued that the accounts had been audited, and no profit had been made.

There was a striking example this week of the ultimate effects of municipal ownership in the temporary insolvency of Woolwich. The local council was obliged to seek an overrider at a bank amounting to \$25,000 owing to losses on the municipal electric lighting scheme. The rate of taxation must be raised 12 per cent this year in order to meet a deficiency.

Bank Profits Dwindle.

An indirect effect of county council extravagance was shown at the annual meetings of the principal London banks this year. The London and County Bank and the National Provincial Bank were each obliged to write off a quarter of a million dollars from the year's profits owing to the decline in the value of London bonds on account of the damage to the city's credit by the council's extravagance. The London and County Bank's annual custom of distributing a portion of the profits among the staff. It is a notorious fact that London bank clerks are the most underpaid of English employes.

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