HINTS BY THE SOCIAL ARBITER

How to Entertain the Younger Set During Their Easter Vacation.

NOTE—The Arbiter will be glad to answer any questions of a social nature that may be submitted. Such questions should be addressed to The Arbiter, care The Washington Herald.

By THE ARBITER.

With the approach of Easter there is a buzz of preparations for the social festivities for that season, and invitations are already out for the dinners, teas, and breakfasts that will be crowded into the few days following Easter Sunday when the schools in town will be closed and those young Washingtonians who are students at the schools and universities at a distance will be home for the holidays.

The Arbiter has been asked by a number of the mothers of the schoolboys and girls what to do for their entertainment when they are at home, a question not easy to answer in this age, when the young people affect the airs and manners of their elders and assume, or endeavor to assume, their prerogatives. Now, every age has its pleasures, and things are all awry when a boy of fifteen and eighteen has enjoyment in the same distractions that appeal to a man ten years his senior.

Simplicity should be the keynote of all entertainments arranged for boys and girls under twenty, and too much cannot be said in favor of the old-fashioned amusements, the pretty games, the contra dances, in which old and young formerly had pleasure, and for real fun, gayety, and charm there is no party equal to an old-fashioned dance where ragtime waltzes are abandoned for the quaint old music played on a fiddle; where muslin frocks and ribbon sashes, like those our mothers used to wear, take the place of the extravagant creations of the French modiste, and where the refreshments are simple, substantial, and plentiful. But, unfortunately, such an old-fashioned party is almost an impossibility in town, with the bake shop so convenient, with Marie demanding a frock quite as fine as Gladys' next door, and where the acceptable thing in dance music is the latest catchy air, whether it has merit or not. But no matter whether it be an old-fashioned party or a new-fashioned dance, such a function is always more popular with young people than any other, for one must have had some social experience and training to properly appreciate a dinner.

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It is a pleasant departure to give a young people's dance at one of the country clubs in the suburb, for the ride to and fro, either in cars, machines, or carriages, is a gay feature. The floors are certain to be in good condition, there is no fear that the neighbors will complain of the noise, and the feeling from restraint is delightful. Such a dance, too, is an easy matter for the hostess, who has only to give her orders and then banish the affair from her mind, for she is absolutely certain that the smallest detail she has planned will be carried out, and so she saves herself the trouble of turning her own house topsy-turvy for the affair, and the wear and tear on her nerves of overseeing her servants and attending to the many minor details that go to make the success of such a party.

A few years back it was the general custom, and it is now being followed more or less, to finish a dance with a cotillion. For such an informal affair no favors are necessary save cut flowers and the Japanese crackers that, when pulled apart, yield all sorts of fancy articles, such as caps, bonnets, aprons, and neckwear, made from colored tissue paper, which convert the wearers into picturesque figures. The things in the more expensive crackers are both handsome and elaborate, and a whole fancy costume can be made from a handful of them.

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It is always pleasant to provide some little surprise in a dance for young people. Last year a hostess at the Easter dance she gave for her daughter hid the bonbons, which were in shape of colored eggs, in fancy nests of spun candy, all over the house, and there was much fun after supper when the hunt for them was started. At another dance an egg-picking figure was introduced into the cotillion, the eggs used being of thin candy filled with little candy eggs. The way in which the figure is carried out is obvious to any one who has ever "picked" eggs, and induced much merriment. Tiny chicks, rolly little balls of down, were used in another figure, and when the little wicker cages holding them were brought in there was an exclamation of horror and disgust from the young women present at what they thought to be cruel and inhuman. The chickens proved to be mere little effigies of the real thing, but they were so cleverly made as to deceive any one at a first or second glance. It was an extremely interesting german where nothing but wild shrubs and flowers were used as favors, and the figures in which the maidens carried great boughs of dogwood, flowering peach, and cherry blossoms made an enchanting picture.

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Much originality can be shown in the decorating of the supper tables at Easter, and among the many lovely and interesting conceits to choose from one can hardly go amiss, but the temptation is to rather overdo the matter and to adopt eccentricities, which are always in bad taste. No flowers are so effective for decoration at this time of year as bowls of flowering shrubs, and these have never been more plentiful at Easter than now, when that holiday comes later than usual. The molds for the ice cream are so exquisite and so cleverly done that they would tempt the most confirmed anchorite. Big white rabbits of ice cream, surrounded by little rabbits of every color and flavor, and ice cream eggs, served in every conceivable form, are the favorite molds, and none are more pleasing. At a dinner in New York not many Easters ago the ice cream was served in the form of eggs, and in each egg there was a souvenir, rings with egg-shaped pearls for the women and stickpins with baroque pearls in the shape of eggs for the men. The favors were undoubtedly charming, but it is always questionable taste to give such presents, and stamps the host as one of the newly rich. Dorothy Whitney, daughter of the late William P. Whitney, who was at the time Secretary of the Navy in President Cleveland's Cabinet, was christened at St. John's Church just nineteen years ago, and many of those who assisted at that charming ceremony still cherish the favors they received then. They were little silk-covered, hand-painted boxes in the shape of eggs, filled with dragees, and after they were emptied of their sweet contents could be used as ring boxes.

Cross-country rides and cross-country walks have become a feature in entertaining young people, and there is no more wholesome a way of having a good time. The party meets generally at the house of one of its members for an informal luncheon, and later in the afternoon starts out for a sprint or a gallop in the beautiful suburbs, which are never quite so lovely as when garbed in their spring finery, for the Easter frocks and bonnets of Dame Nature are far and away superior to those from the most celebrated houses in Paris and New York. The chosen route, as a rule, leads to some clubhouse, where a stop is made for tea, toast—plenty of it, too, for appetites are whetted by the vigorous exercise—and gossip before blazing logs, which are still grateful of an afternoon, even on these bright and sunny spring days. Sometimes there is dancing in the big ballrooms, with their tempting floors—for a party of young people never seem to be tired when there is fun afoot—and they return home in time for dinner, a bit fagged, perhaps, after their strenuous afternoon, but exhilarated and happy.

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There will be no lack of dinners in Easter week, and the markets are stocked with the good things that go to make a perfect menu. Nothing should be served at this time that is not seasonable and local. Why should fish be brought in refrigerator cars from Louisiana, Oregon, and Maine, when the waters of the Potomac are teeming with the richest and yet most delicate fish known—shad? The only reason that that is not more appreciated by the very rich is because it is easy to obtain and fairly cheap; but let an epicure discourse on its charms, and one's mouth will water and one's heart warm. And nowhere are there more delicious vegetables to be had than from the Eastern Sho', or more marvelous fruit a little later on. A very heavy dinner at this season of the year, when one's appetite is jaded, is quite out of place. Rich meats and game, highly seasoned sauces and pastry, no matter how delicious, should find no place on an Easter dinner table. An acceptable menu at this season is:

Little Neck Clams.
Royal Consomme.
Fried Shad
New Potatoes — Cucumbers
Sweetbread Croquettes — French Peas
Saddle of Spring Lamb, Mint Sauce
Asparagus.
Roman Punch Served in Oranges.
Fried Spring Chicken
Hominy — Currant Jelly
Lettuce Salad with Chives
Cream Cheese — Bar-le-duc Gooseberries
Whipped Cream and Strawberries Frozen
Fruit. — Coffee.

This is, of course, a rather elaborate menu, but it could be made simpler by cutting out the croquettes, fried chicken, and Roman punch. A most refreshing drink to serve with such a dinner is champagne cup, but those who object to cups or mixed drinks of any kind should serve claret, hock, and champagne, though it is perfectly good form to serve only one wine through the entire dinner.

The following recipe for champagne cup, which comes from one of the large country houses in England, is an excellent one; indeed, I know of none better:

One quart of champagne, two glasses of brown sherry, one small glass of cognac, one small glass of curacao, two bottle of soda water, two tablespoonfuls of sifted sugar, peel of one cucumber, three pounds of ice, or two quarts of orange-water ice. The sugar should be stirred in last of all.

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The wife of one of the high officials writes to ask what she must do in regard to the calls she has been unable to return in person. "I have made already 700," she says, "but there are more than 100 that are still unreturned; yet I must go away." The wife of an official cannot pick and choose. If she elects to return in person the calls of those who cannot be counted her friends, but who visit her simply because she is an official, from curiosity, or some other such reason, then she must adhere conscientiously and consistently to her rule. It is better to return no calls in person than to leave "more than 100" unmade, for those who have been neglected will feel the more piqued because others have been singled out and honored by a personal visit.

The wisest course for an official hostess to pursue is to call in person on her friends, those in the official circle, and her husband's supporters, but the other considerable number should be quite as well pleased to receive cards and occasional invitations to the official houses at which they call. With the very best intentions in the world, an official hostess cannot return in person all the calls made upon her; hence, she should make it a rule to visit in person those only who have some claim upon her, to whom she is obliged.

In the case that has been appealed to me I would advise the wife of the official to have her own or her husband's secretary, if she has none, take a carriage and leave in person her cards at the houses of the neglected ones. Under the circumstances, this seems the only course, but the official women should bear in mind that they are not here to be drudges and slaves, and that personal popularity is dearly bought at the expense of giving up one's entire time and making great inroads on one's strength, which is quite necessary if one would return in person all the calls received during a season at an official house.

ANSWERS TO SOCIAL QUESTIONS

1. Question: I heard a mother say the other day that she had rather see her son dead than to have him grow up with bad manners. You seem to be a great stickler for good manners, but don't you think that this was rather a strong statement?
A MOTHER WHO LOVES HER SON, WHETHER HIS MANNERS ARE GOOD OR BAD.

Answer—Yes, the statement is a strong one, and was meant to be, doubtless, but it shows no lack of love on the mother's part, for it is better, almost, for a lad to die than to grow up with bad, boorish manners, for having such he is of little use to himself or any one else, and is a disturbing element in society. The prime reason why bad manners are so objectionable is because ill-nature and selfishness is at the cause of them. No really kind, tender, good-hearted, well-intentioned person can have bad manners; his manners may be uncouth, inelegant, but not bad. Bad manners imply a bad heart, and are shown constantly in little things, and oftentimes by people who are supposed to have the most elegant manners. Great talents are not appreciated by the world at large, by the person one casually meets, but civility, affability, and a pleasant and courteous address are recognized and valued by every one. Read what Emerson has to say about manners, and then, while you may not cease loving your son when his manners are bad, I venture to say that you will do your utmost to see that they are always good. A friend, who is known for her admirably bred children, whom she never seems to discipline, allows me to print the following extract from a letter from her son, who is now a fledgling in the diplomatic service. "You remember, dear mamma," he writes, "how you always insisted on absolute obedience from your children, what an autocrat you were in our home circle, and how you never permitted any one to question your orders. The thought that I could disobey you never even entered my head, and I don't understand yet how you compelled such implicit obedience, but I do remember that I used to wonder why I was made to do things that none of the other boys did, and that often when I was sent to black boots, that seemed quite clean, the lears used to mingle with the blacking, and I often felt foolish when practicing the little amenities that I was taught to observe when none of my companions observed them, and more than one boy got a black eye for calling me prince and Lord Chesterfield, but now I understand, and am grateful, and I have a 'swap for you, last go,' as we used to say at home.

"The dowager Marquise de F. has been very kind to me since I came here and at her reception the other evening she beckoned me to a seat beside her on the sofa, an almost unheard of honor for a man of my age, and a mere attache. 'My dear lad,' she said, after we had uttered a few formalities, 'you mother must be a wonderful woman and I want you to send her my compliments at having brought up such a son—blush, that's right, for it shows you are not an egotist, but but modest, and modesty is the greatest of all the virtues. I don't know what's in that noddle of yours, it may be quite empty, but I have watched you ever since you came here and I have not seen you do an outre thing. Now that's a great test, for you were suddenly thrown into an entirely unfamiliar environment and you carry yourself quite like a man of the world, although you are only a boy fresh from college and you are not a prig. How did she manage it, that mother of yours? Run now and play with the young people, you have no time at your age to waste on grannies.' But I did not go just then, I sat as long as she would let me, and retailed her all the latest gossip which she fairly dotes on and when I kissed her hand at going she gave me a tender little pat on the head just as you used so often to do. Don't think I feel cocky about all this praise, which does not belong to me, but to you and I am only repeating it because it is such a feather in your cap and I feel as I write what an ungrateful and unappreciative little brute I was to have shed tears into the blacking box when you sent me to black my boots."

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2. Question: Is it quite as good form in these days to have a wedding in the afternoon or evening as at midday? Also kindly tell me if a wedding is at night what the proper custom for the groom would be, Prince Albert coat or a dress suit? Are attendants absolutely necessary? BRIDE ELECT.

Answer—Afternoon weddings, the popular hour is 4 o'clock, are becoming more and more fashionable, and it looks now as though the custom of being married at noon would be abandoned. It is also perfectly good form to be married at night. The groom for such a wedding should wear evening clothes. No, it is not necessary to have attendants.

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3. Question: How long is it necessary for a widow to wear her veil over her face? And when is it admissible for her to wear white collars and cuffs?

Answer—It is not necessary for her to wear her veil over her face at all unless she desires to, and she is at liberty to wear muslin bands on the neck and sleeves from the very first moment she dons her black is she wishes to. This quibbling about mourning is very offensive. It is only those who do not feel deeply who give the matter much thought.

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4. Question: Is it really true that some Washington hostesses have what they call black lists, on which they keep the names of all those who seem to them undesirable, and that they try and prevent other women from inviting to their houses those whom they have blacklisted?
A SEEKER AFTER LIGHT.

Answer—I have heard such a rumor, but placed no credence in it, because it would be so unnecessary for a woman to write down names which she could easily remember, and it would be a disagreeable person, indeed, who sought to hurt a person socially simply because she had something against her. Gracian says that "It is the sign of a tarnished name to concern oneself with the ill fame of others. Some wish to hide their own stains with those of others, or, at least, wash them away; or they seek consolation therein—'tis the consolation of fools. They must have a bad breath who form the sewers of scandal for the whole town."

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5. Question: Are coronets ever really worn on the head as they were evidently intended to be?
TUFT HUNTER.

Answer—Yes, in England, by peers and peeresses, at the time of a coronation. On the continent coronets are not worn, but are represented with other heraldic insignia.

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6. Question: Should a stranger, a gentleman, who brings letters of introduction from friends in England to his friends here, wait until he is called upon by the man of the family before calling upon the ladies, even though he has met them and been cordially asked to call?
ENGLISHMAN.

Answer—A strict construction of etiquette would make it necessary for him to await the formal first call from the man of the house before calling upon his family, but we are rather lax in America about the formalities, and if the ladies of the family of the man to whom he bears letters have asked him to call it would be perfectly good form to do so.

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7. Question: Is it correct form for a young woman to ask a young man to call upon her?
INGENUE.

Answer—Not if she has a mother living, and then it is better for the young man to request permission than for her to grant it unasked.

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8. Question: Is the Prince Helie de Sagan, who is pursuing Mme. Gould, or being pursued by her, the head of his house, and what relation is he to that Prince de Sagan, who is the divorced husband of Helen Morton?

Answer—Yes, he is the head of his house, his father having died in 1898. The title of Miss Morton's husband was not Prince de Sagan, but Count de Perigord. He is a brother of Prince Helie de Sagan.

AMBASSADORIAL PRESTIGE.

Sometimes It Is in the Man, Not in His Expenditures.

From the Boston Transcript.

On one of the hot days of the short but burning St. Petersburg summer, Alexander I advised John Quincy Adams, our Minister to Russia, to take a country residence until autumn should come. Then divining from the American Minister's silence the motive for his stay in the superheated capital, the Czar added, "but perhaps there are reasons," and turned the conversation to subjects which admitted of no restraint. Yet the American Minister who could not afford to leave St. Petersburg and follow the court to the country was not a man without prestige. He had so much of it as to induce the Czar to seek to mediate between the United States and England to bring the War of 1812 to an end. The Czar had troubles enough on his hands to exempt him from such a request, but he appreciated the American diplomatist, even though the latter lived quietly. Nor did the Russian society of that day undervalue Mr. Adams. The prestige was in the man and the Russian statesmen realized it. They had seen a great deal of profession, of lavish luxury maintained by ambassadors to impress them, without being impressed. Shortly before the Czar and Mr. Adams had their conversation, Napoleon, in approving the bills which his ambassador had incurred at St. Petersburg, added the comment that while he wished the dignity of the empire to be maintained by the French embassy, loading down its dinner tables with grapes and melons in midwinter and letting loose floods of the costliest wines were not the way to do it. "Does the man think I sent him there to be a restauranteur?" was his question.

It Wouldn't Hurt Him.

From the Baltimore American.

Castro wants a square deal, but what he needs is a round scoring.

VALUE OF THE IMMIGRANT.

Brings to Us Best Qualities of Many Foreign Lands.

From an Address by Jane Addams, of Hull House.

It will be a grave reproach to the American nation in another half century if the spiritual and social value of the immigrant has not been discovered. This country, which has virtually no indigenous art and which has been forced to borrow or import from the older countries, should seize this vital source lying fit to its hand, to enrich its older importations. There is no reason why these modern men and women, taught your modes of expression, should not tell their musical lore, fresh with the tang of the earth, of unspoiled sweetness, to the benefit of American music. They construct their crude little dramas from the common life of their people, yet these uplift, rest, and ennoble the magnificent function of art because the playwrights, like Anteus, have renewed their strength from the earth and have told with forceful earnestness the stories of the immigrant colony.

It is when these people give you their own spiritual life, or when you get it, not with investigations, but through a friendly comradeship, as they have preserved it among themselves, that you may benefit. It is not when you have taught them the qualities of your national life. When the colonies that are now hedged about with the barriers of alien customs, alien speech, alien observances, are seen in the light of a larger experience; when they see the new country into which they have been thrust by circumstances or lured by big desires, with a broader sense of the double relation, then the real value of the immigrant will be revealed.

A better understanding of the immigrant will be not only a material and artistic and spiritual benefit, but an example in some ways as well. These people whom you regard vaguely as unclean, unlettered, and unworthy of consideration are almost without exception intelligently patriotic, with a pride in their own lands and their own heroes which is only gained after years of study in their countries' histories. These men are versed in international relations; they bring to their relative standing here in the new country a complete knowledge of their relations in the old and a willingness to abide by them.

They are, in their completeness, as worthy of consideration as if they were colonized in their own countries, to which hosts of persons go each year for interest or information. But their spiritual value, their picturesqueness, their social value, their industrial significance, are dependent upon their cohesiveness, their exclusion of the superficial influences of the new country which robs them of the best of their inheritance and gives them the worst of their acquisition, and their recognition of their own nepotism as their strongest card in establishing the positions they have come to seek.

COMBATIVE LEGISLATORS.

Comment on Incidents Wherein Southerners Have Figured.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

There are times when a man must fight, when, having entered into a quarrel, "he must bear himself that the opposer may beware of him," but the frequency of outbreaks of combativeness among Southern Solons is growing to be a matter of some concern. Within the last few years most of the Southern States have contributed incidents to the "scrapping" literature of the country, and we do not recall more than one or two cases of physical conflict between Northerners or Westerners. Two Senators of South Carolina "mixed" on the floor of the Senate; the two Democratic leaders of the Lower House lately came to blows; some years ago a Senator of Mississippi exhibited his prowess on a street car; a little further back Senator Joe Bailey, of Texas, pulled the ear of a silver-tongued Indianian who did not take it amiss; and divers other collisions have occurred in which the Southerners figured.

While it is pleasant to reflect that the South at least is not represented by a legion of mollycoddles during a Rough Rider administration, we are not sure that fistcuffs are proof of capacity for legislation. If a Congressman must punch or be punched it is preferable that he indulge his propensity at home after the manner of Senator Jeff Davis, who lost his gold-headed cane in an encounter in Little Rock Tuesday. At this time when "a wave of prohibition is sweeping over the Southland," as Col. John Temple Graves would say, it would be consistent and proper for Southern voters to elect to Congress a larger number of gentlemen whose heads are normally cool enough for hair to grow upon them. It must be confessed that the Davises, Heflins, and Clarks do not contribute to the South's enviable reputation for gentle manners.

JAMES JEFFREY ROCHE.

Fine Qualities of Irish Poet Who Has Just Passed Away.

From the Boston Transcript.

James Jeffrey Roche was over young to reach the end of his career—barely turned sixty; but he had won distinction with his ballads and lyrics in his thirties, and his star was ever in the ascendant until he fell a victim to insidious disease a few years ago. He combined in a remarkable degree the fancy and fervor of the poet, with the application of the scholar and the common sense of the good citizen. He was not only editor of the Boston Pilot during and after John Boyle O'Reilly's regime there, but also was considered qualified for membership in the Metropolitan Park Commission, and made good the expectations entertained of him in that civic trust while his literary pursuits permitted him to retain it. With all his humor, which overflowed at a touch, he was serious in his study of public problems, and earnest in his convictions. Policies that commended themselves to his heart and mind he espoused warmly, but he was one of those sane Irish poets and patriots who maintained a stalwart hold on actualities, and refused to be stampeded by or for sentimentality.

It was his spirited sea songs and his brilliant satires that won for him the especial favor of Theodore Roosevelt early in their respective careers, and when Mr. Roosevelt became President the intimacy only became closer. The consulship at Genoa was welcome to him as a refuge from some adverse fate in his publishing business, and as an opportunity for pursuing the literary career in comparative leisure and congenial atmosphere, as Washington Irving, Lowell, Hawthorne, Hay, Howells, and so many other American literary men have done, but the inroads upon his health had become already too serious, and the literary results of his residence in Italy have not been important.

Trade Better Than War.

From the Baltimore American.

War with Japan? Not much! The latest figures show that America has more of the Japanese trade than any other country.

Genuine American Brand.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

The anarchy of New York is much better advertised than that of Kentucky, but the latter is the genuine article.

All for Hughes.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

Gov. Hughes appears to have carried the New York magazines almost unanimously.

IS JAPAN PLANNING TO GO TO WAR?

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Special Correspondence The Washington Herald.

Tokyo, Feb. 20.—Japan is making the most extraordinary expenditures on its army and navy ever undertaken by any nation of like resources in time of peace. The United States is sending to the Pacific Ocean the most powerful armada in the history of navies. Despite the assurances from Washington and Tokyo that there is no serious quarrel between the two powers, these are concrete facts, for the acceptance of which it is not necessary to take any one's word.

Does this mean war?

The investigator will encounter many people willing to assure him that trouble between the two countries is inevitable, and just as many more who protest that all this talk of a clash is mere moonshine. At such a time one must go beyond the assurances of diplomatists, because it is their business to preserve amity by the subtleties of fine speech and friendly representation. One must also disregard the belligerent mouthings of the jingoes, for their utterances of rancor and wild alarm are as unwarranted and dangerous as they are undignified.

Since Japan determined to put aside its old civilization and take up the ways of the Occident, it has fought two wars. The first was with China, the most populous and second greatest in contiguous area of the nations of the world; and the next was with Russia, the greatest in area and the second most populous of all the nations. In each of these conflicts Japan was the victor, not alone by the bravery of its magnificent fighting men, but by its preparedness before each war began. In the year before the war with Russia, Japan's total military and naval expenses were $41,500,000. Last year the Japanese government spent $115,704,650 on its war establishment, and this year it will again spend nearly as much. If it was prepared for the war with Russia, what will it not be prepared for now that it is spending more than twice as much annually as it did prior to that conflict?

On the other hand, a critical examination of Japan's national resources and present financial status reveals such a sorry condition of affairs that even the suggestion of war with a power like the United States seems to be the height of absurdity. No matter how well Japan may be prepared for war in a military way, in other respects it is not at all prepared. Modern war means spending money, and in order to spend money one must have resources. Japan is poverty-stricken and almost bankrupt. Its total wealth is but one-twentieth of that of the United States, although its population is more than half as great.

If every vestige of wealth in Japan could be turned into cash, the whole amount would not be enough to buy the clothing and furniture used by the people of the United States. The entire income of the Japanese government is not as great as that of the United States Steel Corporation. The total annual expenditures for education in the Japanese empire not only falls short of that of many of our American States, but is less than the city of New York spent on its public schools last year. The Japanese peasant welcomes the opportunity to hire himself for twelve months for $16—a sum earned by capable American shop girls in one week. The Japanese bricklayer is one of the country's highest paid artisans, his wages for a day of twelve hours being 31 cents. Compare this with the American bricklayer's pay of $8 for eight hours' work, and one has a striking illustration of the vast difference between the potential wealth of the two countries.

This abject national poverty is the result of the intense congestion of the Japanese people. The entire empire of the Mikado is no larger in area than the State of California, and only 13 per cent of it is susceptible of cultivation. That portion of Japan which must support all

FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

its population is just half the size of the State of Ohio. This means that if every man, woman, and child within the boundaries of the United States and the republic of Mexico should move into Ohio, the soil of that Commonwealth would have no greater task to support them than that now imposed upon the arable portion of Japan.

Japanese statesmen realize that if their country is to retain its rating as a first-class power, some remedy for this congestion must be devised. That remedy, they think, is to be found only in emigration and expansion. It is the solution of this vexing problem that raises the greatest issue in world politics to-day. Streams of Japanese emigrants were sent pouring into Hawaii, the Philippines, Mexico, Canada, and the Pacific Coast States of the Union. The result was trouble. However, the immigration question in America now bids fair to be settled by peaceful diplomacy, as Japan was quick to recognize the difficult position which it occupied, and set about restricting emigration to those countries where its people were not welcome, and where there was enough strength to repel them. But whatever course Japan took at the dictates of peaceful counsel, the fact remains that this slight put upon its citizens has wounded the pride of every subject of the Mikado.

Therefore, the Japanese are all the more set upon solving the problem of the congestion of their people by the other way—expansion. Japan acquired valuable territory from China after the war with that country, but the great powers forced a retrocession. The war with Russia, caused by its occupation of the very territory Japan had been forced to give back to China, and by Russian aggression in Korea and Manchuria, has placed Japan in a position of predominant influence in those two countries. In Korea the sovereignty is virtually in the hands of the Japanese resident general, and in Manchuria the Japanese influence is being extended rapidly. In China proper the Japanese are making a campaign for commercial and political supremacy, the end of which may be a world-shaking controversy. Owing to the necessity of providing more territory for the support of their people, it is feared that the Japanese statesmen may insist upon a programme that will lead to grave international complications.

It was manifestly the Russian purpose to obtain control over China and to exclude from this vast territory the other nations of the world. If this policy had triumphed, Japan would have been forever dwarfed and its commercial progress stopped. While Japan's interests were thus more vital, the other great powers also looked askance upon Russian aggressiveness. Therefore, when Japan took up the gauge and gave battle, the rest of the world looked on and applauded. The exhibition of skill and valor by the Japanese army and navy in that war was indeed marvelous, but wonderful as it was, it did not deserve the extravagant praise and acclaim with which it was received. If the Japanese had their heads turned by the success of their arms, the fault lies largely with those who flattered them and exaggerated their performances entirely out of proportion to their real value.

When the war ended, the treaty between Japan and Russia permitted Japan to exercise control over Korea, but stipulated that the civil authority in Manchuria should be returned to the Chinese, in whom it was rightfully vested, and that the "open door" should be maintained. Three years have passed since the war, and now it is charged that Japan has failed to abide by the spirit of its treaty agreements, however it has kept to the letter, and that Japanese aggression in Manchuria, and even in China proper, is of exactly the same nature as that of the Russian. It is charged that American commercial interests are more effectually shut out of Manchuria now than during the era of Russian domination, and that Japan is showing evidence of a disposition to shut up China to all of the other powers. This is why the Japanese have suddenly ceased to be the "pet children of the nations."

The American interest in this question is peculiar. The United States is the only one of the great powers which has not been suspected of designs upon a portion of the territory of China. When the war between Russia and Japan began, John Hay, Secretary of State, addressed a note to the two warring powers and obtained their pledges that the fight would be confined to Manchuria, and that other Chinese territory should remain inviolate. Thus the United States stands to-day in the attitude of the chief champion of the territorial integrity of the Chinese empire. The American government is the only one that any of the powers will trust in China, and it is also the only one in which the Chinese have confidence.

Thus the theater of the drama of world politics has been removed to the Orient. In the cast of players there is a new actor of a different blood. For the first time in modern history, an Asitic nation, emerging from hermetic seclusion which had bound it since the days when Alexander the Great wrested the scepter of world rule from Asia, has become a figure of commanding interest. The progress of Japan since it took on Western ways is the most rapid in the history of nations. But wonderful as it is, it is not possible that in fifty years it could so change as to measure up to the standards of the Occident, acquired through the experience of twenty centuries of blood and struggle.

Japan has adopted Occidental civilization as one puts on a cloak. Underneath the white shirt-front of the Japanese statesman still beats the heart of an Oriental. For this reason this newest and greatest issue in world politics is uncertain. Ever since civilization evolved a code of international morals, all the great powers have been Christian, have been of the white race, and have had a more or less common education. The Japanese does not thing as the Occidental thinks. Clever as he may be in adopting Western guns and Western dress, he is charged with being unable to comprehend the white man's code, or being incapable of playing the game in the white man's way. This is why the prediction is made that he may unsettle the peace of the world.

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To-morrow—Japanese Secret Service.

EDITOR'S NOTE—The foregoing is the beginning of a series of articles from Japan which will appear daily in The Washington Herald for several weeks. The reader will find these letters entertaining, instructive, and altogether impartial. The subjects of Mr. Haskin's articles for this week follow:

Monday—Japanese Secret Service.
Tuesday—Japanese Emigration Views.
Wednesday—Frenzied Finance in Japan.
Thursday—Japanese Business Methods.
Friday—Japanese Labor Conditions.
Saturday—Politics in Japan.

IN THE FISHING SEASON.

Annual Sacrifice of the Humble but Useful Angle Worm.

From the Indianapolis News.

The fishworms are beginning to move, as they do with beautiful regularity at the earliest approach of spring. They set the pace, and soon after they begin to move, so does the fisherman, and then the fish. Why does the fishworm, alias angleworm, alias earthworm, alias (scientific) oligochaeta, leave its safe winter quarters below the frost line and burrow its way toward the surface, only to be pursued by the ruthless fisherman, or if it protrude its exploring head the smallest fraction of a degree above ground, to be seized by the predacious robin and violently dragged from its native element? Why, we ask again, does the fishworm, alias, &., incur these deadly risks by leaving its winter quarters as soon as the earth begins to soften, and the earliest spring rain, still cold, invites exploration of the surface soil? It can only be because instinct, some imperative law of nature, tells it the time has come for it to get busy and resume its work of trying to make the world habitable by triturating and pulverizing the soil and thereby making it more tillable and productive.

There are no earthworms in the arctic or antarctic region, nor in frozen high mountain altitudes nor in sandy deserts. They are too wise to waste their lives in localities where they can do no good. It is their mission to assist in cultivating soils that can be made productive, and the fact that many of them fall a pray to fishermen and robins does not defer them from their appointed work—a work, by the way, of which they have a monopoly as to methods and in which the beneficial results are out of all proportion to the simple means employed. For by simply passing the soil through their bodies they contribute enormously to its tillable quality and productiveness.

Darwin estimated that earthworms bring to the surface in rich meadow lands not less than one-fifth inch of soil per annum. They are not noted for brilliancy, but they are very industrious and that is a quality which counts in the long run. Fishworms are entitled to respect and they have their rights, but if you will use them for bait use a small book and instead of crowding the worm on the hook pass the latter through one end or the middle of the worm, leaving it free to wriggle. The bait is thus rendered much more attractive than it would otherwise be and the fish care little for the visible hook. It will soon be time now.

A Prophet Not Without Honor.

From the Nashville American.

Grover Cleveland's advice seventeen years ago was as safe and sane as it is to-day, but nine-tenths of the Republicans and half of the Democrats pretended not to think so.

TARIFF TO THE FRONT.

Importance of Electing Congressmen Pledged to Real Reform.

From the Philadelphia Record.

It shows a due appreciation of what needs to be done to relieve the tense business situation in the country on the part of President Roosevelt that the first item in the legislative programme which he will demand at the hands of Congress is a declaration in favor of a revision of the tariff at a special session to be held after March 4, 1909. It is not anticipated that the standpatters in Congress will make any serious objection to this proposal. There may be revision without reduction of tariff rates or burdens. It has even been suggested that as a step toward revision the present Congress should authorize anticipatory investigation, by the Ways and Means Committee of the House and the Senate Finance Committee, to break ground and prepare the way for judicious revision.

The real friends of tariff reform will not take much stock in this preliminary plan for stand-pat rearrangement of tariff schedules by standpatters. If, however, Congress shall act upon Presidential suggestion and declare for tariff revision at an extra session next year, it will have the effect of pushing the tariff question to the front immediately. If the next Congress shall be pledged to take up the task of revision, it is of the utmost importance that only trust-busters shall be sent to represent the people therein. A majority of Representatives should be elected to the next House favoring the reduction of rates on iron, steel, hides, lumber, paper, pulp, glass, tinplate, and a hundred other necessaries of living and of manufacturing industry; and that majority should be large enough to impress the country and dominate the action of the inveterate standpatters in the United States Senate.

In the fight against predatory wealth one year of resolute action in the Congress will be more conclusive than a ten-year struggle in the courts or than a lifetime of vaporing on the hustings or in the press.

Protection from Dynamite.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

The same principle that applies to knives, pistols, guns, &c., applies, in this day of terror and dynamite outrages, to the sale and possession of explosives. As to the efficacy of the suggested regulation, of course, no one would assert that it would do away with bomb throwing. The man who was desperate and criminal enough to contemplate wholesale murder by dynamite would not hesitate to break all conceivable laws and ordinances in the effort to obtain the stuff. But the object of all laws in regard to deadly weapons is to render it more and more difficult for the wrong persons to procure such instruments of crime, to reduce the danger of their use, and add as much as possible to the safeguards enjoyed by the community.

SAFEGUARDING A NEW EPOCH.

Country Will Not Tolerate Government by An Oligarchy.

From the World To-day.

It is not every man who can read the signs of the times. Some of us are blind and some of us have hallucinations. But one thing is plain even to the blindest—the past few years in the United States have closed one epoch and have begun a new. They have been years of storm and stress. Even more than we have been aware, democracy itself has been on trial. The country has faced a fundamental issue. Are laws to be obeyed, or are they to be evaded?

We are by no means saints as yet, but we have begun to learn the meaning of the word law. Our courts are not all they should be, but they are more respected than they were ten years ago. Our Congressmen are too friendly with lobbyists, but they are more susceptible to public opinion. Business men, maybe, are no more honest than they were once, but they are less inclined to play upon the brink of dishonesty. This new epoch is not the work of any one man, although President Roosevelt deserves gratitude for his share in bringing it to pass. It is a new phase in the development of democracy to be seen in national, municipal, and even State government, as well as in every walk of life.

It is no wonder that men who have played fast and loose with the law should think themselves aggrieved. A man with privileges that he has come to believe are vested rights dislikes to be told that he must bow to a higher law than that which his attorney formulates. Nobody likes to be less important than he has been. But it would be worse than idle to attempt to bring back the past. It would be sheer foolishness.

Unless we utterly mistake the temper of the country at large, we have reached a very simple alternative: Are the American people strong enough to regulate the administration of great corporations, or are we to have fastened upon us an oligarchy from which there is no release except through revolution? And there is no question that the country chooses the first alternative.

Depose the Oligarchy.

From the Minneapolis Journal.

Arrogating to itself the possession of superior political wisdom, the little oligarchy that rules the House has, therefore, determined to permit no legislation, no matter how imperative the exigency, that disturbs the sacred tariff. The absurdity of this position is too obvious to need elucidation. It is idle to expect that Mr. Payne and his associates will be moved by the arguments of President, colleagues, or public. But the House majority has a duty to perform in overriding this sort of tyranny that it cannot with safety ignore. The public expects the House majority to resume its normal functions and to become, in fact as well as in theory, the controlling factor.