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New York Representative, J. C. WILBERDING. Chicago Representative, BARNARD & BRANHAM, Boze Building.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1910.

International Courtesy.

It will hardly do for us in this country to minimize the importance of the feeling that has been created in Germany by the failure of the American fleet, now in European waters, to visit that country.

We do not have to rely on the German press and its comments to understand how deep or how significant this feeling is. Count Reventlow, the leading naval expert of Germany, has declared publicly that the failure of the American fleet to visit any German port is, distinctly, an unfriendly act.

And, in view of the enthusiasm with which the American fleet has been received in both France and England, one quite readily comprehends the attitude of Count Reventlow when he says: "It must be regarded coolly in Germany, but attentively and with a sense of its importance."

And yet we believe that the state of the German mind as exhibited in Count Reventlow's statement is too sensitive. It is absurd to think that any slight has been intentionally inflicted. Certainly there has been no desire to hurt the feelings of a country with which—in spite of a rather keen commercial competition—we are on terms of the greatest amity and understanding.

Even in the absence of a reason—a perfectly valid reason existed—our entire history shows the sort of regard which we hold Germany, and we feel quite sure that the perfectly amicable understanding that exists is not going to be disturbed seriously by any such trivial question as this.

Our Measure of Greatness.

The United States now stands fourth in population among the great political divisions of the earth—China, the British Empire, and the Russian Empire alone surpassing it. These four countries are the only ones that can now write the population of their possessions in millions of three figures.

But statistics, the playthings of idlers and savants, do not tell the whole story of a nation's growth in prosperity or advance in civilization. We are surpassed in population by China, for instance, which boasts the largest population of any political division in the world. Russia, too, outnumbers us by one-half more people. Yet with all the handicap of great age and long heritage that these countries have enjoyed, the United States has far more to show of the essential and intrinsic attributes of national greatness.

A much more stringent code of regulations has met the immigrant at our doors within the last decade than ever before; we have insisted in late years on a higher qualification of manhood from the future citizen, and, as a consequence, our immigration figures during the past ten years have been lower than for some years previous. Despite all this, the number of the people in the nation has reached a total that surprises even those who compiled the figures.

This increase is not to be read by itself as an indication of the prosperity and happiness of the people of this country. It is only one of the many indications which, when collated and viewed as a whole, afford a true estimate of the substantial and healthy growth of a people. Mere increase in numbers is not always a sign of progress in the direction in which lies national greatness or the possession of the qualities that make a happy and contented nation. But it is a matter of great satisfaction, and one for very pardonable self-gratification, that this, in conjunction with the other tests of healthy growth and of wholesome advance, shows that the political and social advance of the people of the United States is keeping pace with both the increase of population and the great material development.

There are some nations of the world to whom an increase of 21 per cent, such as this country has to show in the last ten years, would come as a calamity. It would bring about a state of affairs in the already overcrowded nations of the Old World such as justified the economists of the past and some statesmen in regarding the depopulating effects of international or civil war as a form of relief especially designed to meet such

emergencies. The vast natural resources of the United States, the great areas of uninhabited lands, and the sparsely settled districts yet to be seen in parts of the country have proved an uncongenial soil for implanting such, to us, monstrous theories, and have won adherents for the old Malthusian doctrines.

Our pioneer days are over. Recruiting in the homes of misery and oppression of the Old World is no longer either desirable or necessary. The figures that have come as the result of the decennial census, even though they may be slightly inflated in places, show very plainly that the direction of the great work of national development lies along other lines than the mere accumulation of inhabitants. Very serious and very profound social and political questions may now properly call forth the best efforts of the statesman and the sociologist.

A New York man wooed, won, and married a girl within an hour. That was his "crowded hour," all right.

Is the Militia Useless?

It is startling to learn from the reports of the military authorities of this government, after all the money which has been expended to render the organized militia available for service upon the call of the President, that no such accessibility exists. It is pertinent to inquire at this time, when additional legislation for the benefit of the militia, increasing the cost of its maintenance, is pending, why such a vital defect prevails. The existing law does not make it possible for the President to call out the militia in the national defense as the ally of the regular army, or at least to employ the militia in a way which will make it, in every respect, an essential augmentation of the standing army.

It would seem that Congress is justified in applying a remedy to such a condition before action is taken, for instance, on the bill that has been introduced in the Senate by Mr. Penrose, providing pay for officers and enlisted men of the militia to an extent estimated to represent a draft on the public Treasury of double the sum now allotted for the development of the militia. Perhaps the solution of the problem is in the direction which has been suggested by Col. E. M. Weaver, chief of the militia division of the War Department, who is shortly to become chief of the Coast Artillery. That officer has suggested the establishment in, and the maintenance by, the States of a constabulary force similar to that in Pennsylvania, which body will respond to calls for service in the suppression of strikes and other local difficulties. This will free the militia from such duty, which is irksome to the militia and places it in direct antagonism to the labor element, according to the sentiment prevailing among members of labor unions, who have carried their prejudice so far, in some instances, as to prohibit a member of a labor union from joining the militia. This is another way of suggesting that the organized militia shall be a national body supported entirely by the general government and distributed, as to location of the commands, in accordance with the population. That would evidently take the militia from under State authority and control. It would be in all essential particulars a reserve army, and it would be correspondingly expensive.

If the country is to continue its expenditure for the improvement of the militia, the taxpayer has the right to expect that it will be of use to the country when a military force is needed in addition to the regular army. Otherwise, the militia appropriation is an extravagance compared with which there is nothing quite its equal in reckless expenditure of public funds. The disclosures which are made by the Secretary of War and the Chief of Staff of the army in their annual reports this year should check appropriations for militia purposes until there is an assurance of an adequate return for the outlay.

It is sincerely to be hoped that Congress will settle speedily that ex-Präsidential railroad bill and let us forget as soon as possible a mighty unpleasant incident.

The Passing of Navy Yards. It begins to look as if all the navy yards are doomed to extinction. The Secretary of the Navy has, as is well known, recommended in his annual report and in his hearings before the naval committees in Congress that certain of the minor naval stations—some at home and some beyond continental limits—might be discontinued with eminent profit to the government. The proposition is alluring to Congress, doubtless, as a measure of economy, to which this administration seems to be so unalterably committed. Now, the Secretary of the Navy has added to his record as a prudent administrator by suggesting that no battle ships be built at navy yards, as required in certain instances by Congress, and by intimating that the larger repair jobs, periodically necessary on ships of war, might also be done at private plants under contract with a saving of the public funds. This means that Mr. Meyer has arrived at the conclusion, probably disclosed by his thorough accounting system, that the cost of ship construction and repair is an extravagance when such work is undertaken at a public plant.

It has been known for a long time that the operation of navy yards is necessarily more expensive than the cost of the identical work performed under contract. But there has been some question whether it was not wise to continue to make use of the available governmental facilities in preference to abandoning them, notwithstanding the premium which was being paid in that direction. Of course, if it shall appear that the difference in cost is excessive and that not sufficient return is vouchsafed for the additional expense, there should be no question in the Navy Department or in the Capital regarding the course to pursue. It is somewhat, but not altogether, a question of cost and the adjustment of conditions to bring the work within reasonable limits.

At the same time, it must not be overlooked that navy yards have been established for military purposes and have

been maintained in a state of efficiency, presumably, in order to have at hand in time of war the adequate means of repairing vessels which have been damaged in engagements and the return of which ships to active service is eminently desirable with the least loss of time. In such a situation, the cost is of no consequence, and it is conceivable that there would be a situation where to question the expense would be criminal. In the reform movement which has beset the administration in all its executive branches it is well that care should be taken not to go too far in lopping off expenditures which may be necessary in a precautionary way in anticipation of the demands of an emergency. It is possible there are too many navy yards, but it is wise to go slowly in the matter of getting rid of some which may be required as a "military necessity," although they are not acceptable as a business proposition.

A guardian has been appointed for an Indiana man eighty years old who insists on climbing trees. And after all, he is probably only a Democrat vainly seeking plums.

The Ballinger investigation cost, it is said, \$13,844; and we could just as well have done without the whole thing.

The new postal savings bank will be established January 3. But at that time of the year who in the world will have any money to put in there?

In Winnipeg, where there is a street car strike, college men are acting as conductors, and are allowed to keep all the fares they take in. They are making from \$30 to \$25 a day. Had the companies allowed the regular employees such a snap, there would have been no strike in the first place.

A Connecticut man, five feet tall and weighing ninety-three pounds, is said to be moving a barn without assistance. If he were full grown, he could probably move a farm.

Mr. John Bunyan is in jail in New York, charged with speeding his machine. If the pilgrim's progress is too fast, it is sure to land in the slough of despond.

If any one doubts the courage of the American sailors, he should read the accounts of the British banquets they are tackling.

As showing how hard it is to avoid salteration, Curiosity and Christmas go together.

Some of the New York hotels have decided to provide rooms for women smokers, which would seem to indicate that all this suffragette agitation has not been in vain.

It was beastly inappropriate to drag out a war scare during the peace-on-earth season.

Now that a college student has died from overstudy, we suppose the rules will be once more revised.

If our "experts" keep on telling Japan what she might do to us she may feel like trying it on.

Some say the New Jersey Senatorial primary was a joke, but Dr. Wilson can't see it.

A man in the State of Washington is advertising for a thousand cats. If mild music is any sign of supply, Washington City could easily spare that number.

The Attorney General announces that he will meet the meat packers on their own ground and mete out to them such punishment as may seem meet.

Another insane woman has won a prize for a magazine poem. One might suppose the magazines were partial to that class of poets.

Mr. Small, of Cincinnati, undertook a large cart when he started out to court his kissing.

From the Kansas City Star. The forms of the law courts should be revised and radically improved as the forms of political science should be improved. There are a good many lawyers and jurists working on these reforms.

From the Philadelphia North American. To every man and woman whose Christmas purchases include even one gift to be sent to an absent friend or kinsman, this season provides the annual object lesson of this nation's discreditable lagardness in establishing a parcel post.

From the New York Evening Post. President Taft never "sat on the lid" to better effect than in his speech before the Society for Judicial Settlement of International Disputes. By it he clamped the cover on the jumping-jack alarmists who had been filling Washington with their cries about our imminent peril, and fastened it down.

HUMAN NATURE IN WASHINGTON

By FRED C. KELLY.

The United States government is insistent that the menus in the Senate and House restaurants shall be printed in the United States language, so that members of Congress who do not like to prank with "sight-unsent" games may order what they want to eat. Nevertheless, a dish will get on the menu occasionally with a cafe-French name to hide its real self, and then nobody, not even a linguist, knows what the dish is.

The other day Champ Clark, noted for the simplicity of his gastronomic tastes, ordered some new kind of dessert before he thought. It had a name like a ladies' tailor, or the summer home of a man with a newly acquired fortune, but no more substance to it than the plot of a musical comedy or a magazine short story written by a woman.

The other day we will probably succeed Uncle Joe in the chair looked at the dish cringing like a wise old hunting dog sitting on a "possum hole," took one bite, and then pushed the dish from him with the disgusted air of a man throwing aside a new-fangled hat that he failed to fill.

"I could get more nourishment out of just reading about something to eat, or thinking about food, than I could out of eating that," dryly remarked the Missourian.

Natives of the far West are usually more proud of their country, or say they are, than any other people. This was evident the other day when a bunch of Western Representatives got together in one of the cloakrooms and began to fuss among themselves about which came from the most typically Western town. Some were also boasting about being the most Western in Carson City—in order that Western ancestry that went back even unto the third generation.

Then James C. Needham, of California, cleared his throat and observed that while he didn't like to brag about himself, he felt that he was the most Western man in the crowd. Such had been the circumstances that he had to leave his home town, but to the entire West. Sometimes in his dreams, he declared, he sees visions of thriving Western towns that in reality he has never seen.

The fact is that James Carson Needham was born in a prairie schooner when his parents were en route to California as emigrants. While the happy event took place in Carson City—in order that his parents might have inspiration for a middle name to give him—he regards himself belonging to all the great stretch of country commonly labeled the West. Not long since a Western paper wrote to Needham and asked him for a picture of his birthplace, expecting him to send a nice little photograph of one of those old-fashioned L-shaped houses, with an iron dog out in front. Needham wrote back the picture of his actual birthplace, a picture of a wagon that he had torn out of the catalogue of a South Bend

factory. He had a picture of a wagon that he had torn out of the catalogue of a South Bend factory.

The annual crop of fool letters to United States Senators and Representatives is now about to be harvested. Already the Senators are getting scores of letters from the members of the House of Representatives' Friday afternoon club asking the Senators to write them debates and essays on subjects that the Senators are supposed to know about. One man wrote in the other day wanting a Senator to arrange to have Congress pass a law that would give all forms of Halloween planks, and another wanted to get action on a scheme he has cooked up to redistrict the entire United States into twenty-two miles square. Each State would be divided into sections of that size, and the writer hopes to have his plan put through at the present session of Congress.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A BELATED SHOPPER. The writer for the public prints has been supplying. For many weeks his urgent hints On early buying.

He says late shopping brings regrets, Is far from funny. In fact, this is the way he gets His Christmas money.

A lot of blinix of wondrous worth He has been dropping. And now he gaily hustles forth To do his shopping.

Got Her Easily. "The psychological moment counts for much in a love affair."

"That is true. Ferdinand, for instance, asked father for my hand the afternoon my dressmaker's bill came in."

The Aftermath. "Christmas comes but once a year." "Quite so, but I expect to have a collector coming for forty-two weeks."

Fashion Note. "For waiting, skirts should just escape the floor."

And for the Salome dance, I take it, They should just escape the police court."

A Mechanical Toy. Mary had a little lamb; He was like an snow. It ran around when he was wound, But sometimes wouldn't go.

Just About Enough. "This New English Dreadnought will cost \$100,000," commented Mrs. Giff. "What a waste," declared Mr. Wombat. "I could buy a nice winter outfit for that money."

Shop It Works. Early to shop and early to stop; that is the way, and the throng keep right along to the last day.

Ample Returns. "Christmas charity pays good dividends." "What do you mean?" "I always get a dollar's worth of enjoyment out of every nickel I give."

Eggs as Legal Tender. Eggs are now being used as legal tender in the thirty-six saloons of East Youngstown.

Custom Floored the Colonel. When Theodore Roosevelt was made special representative of this country at the funeral of the late King of England, he was told by Whitehall Red American Ambassador at London that he had to appear at the funeral at 9 o'clock in the morning arrayed in full evening dress.

MAKE-UP OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Views and Interviews

The British House of Commons at one time or another has numbered among its members some very remarkable men, whose presence there is almost as inexplicable as that of the fly in the amber, and two at least of whom would, if the law had had its way, have been numbered among the dead long before they sat at Westminster.

One of this singular and romantic pair was James O. Kelly, member for Roscommon, the story of whose adventures before he became a legislator is more thrilling than fiction. To give out a few examples: When Mr. Kelly was a young man he was the correspondent of a Cuban paper at the time when that country was in the throes of civil war. He was arrested as a spy, sentenced to death, and actually was facing the rifle of the firing party when the United States consul arrived on the scene and rescued him a few seconds before the fatal command was given.

He fought gallantly with the French against the British, saved the life of the Empress of Brazil, escaped a hairbreadth escape from death in Canada, Mexico, and Algiers, and was lost a whole year in the Sudan.

But that fellow didn't belong in Westminster," opined the early rider. "If he was ever to get into Congress he would be getting up at this time o' mornin'."

The large man was Senator Boies Penrose, who, when he was out of the first group to enter the lobby of the big hotel in the morning.

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House and of the Senate each is entrusted with a supply of the more important d-c-s, which are provided by the government for the free use of members of either House when they shall ask for them. It has been noticed by the men who hand out the little pills and capsules and things that the demand is always greater when there has been a long speech delivered or a long document read, such as the President's message. There are always a few Senators or Representatives who feel duty bound to stick around and listen to such things, and a long speech makes them nervous and fretful. After it is over, they go and ask for some quinine, or whatever enters their heads.

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THAT WAR SCARE.

From the Providence Journal. The Post Sound said, at Brimstone, is the only place available in the Pacific for docking our largest war ships. The lack of sufficient facilities would be a serious handicap in case of war.

From the Buffalo Express. The Pacific Coast of the United States offers the most tempting outlet for Japanese ambition. California alone has a greater area than the entire Japanese empire and might take care of Japan's surplus population if she were to be freed, virtually without military defense.

From the New York Press. The influence of discipline and the restraining considerations of good sense are probably responsible for the silence of the navy during the "imagination scare." No nervous Congressman thought of asking Secretary Meyer for his opinion on the defensibility of the country or the share of the navy in resisting invasion.

From the St. Paul Dispatch. The plaudits of the American people will not be disturbed by anticipation of war. Nothing so improbable will be permitted to come between them and their enjoyment of life and their pursuit of happiness. Anything but a defensive war is inadvisable, and there is an abiding confidence in the ability of the race to protect and defend itself.

From the Chicago Record-Herald. Representative Tawney suspects a "plot" to "Hobsonize" the country, and is almost inclined to charge army and navy men, including the War Department, with having entered into a conspiracy to stampede Congress into throwing money to the winds and increasing "defense" appropriations beyond all sane and conceivable limit. Mr. Tawney is probably mistaken. There are no signs of any plot or conspiracy.

From the Baltimore Sun. Why should Mr. Tawney think it necessary to keep our own people in ignorance of conditions in this country that are known in other countries? In point of fact, that would be impossible, for every reasonably well informed person knows that the standing army of the United States is too small and too widely scattered to offer serious opposition to an invading army of 100,000 trained and well-equipped soldiers.

From the Kansas City Journal. On top of all this our own army officers have been talking incessantly about our weakness of defense on the Pacific Coast. Representative McLaughlin, of California, only added what has been repeated many times when he said: "A foreign country could land 50,000 troops on the Pacific Coast in thirty days and the only intimation of trouble would be their blowing up of the mountain passes, thus preventing any communication with the East."

From the New York Sun. Congress neglects to provide searchlights and an adequate fire control system for the high-speed high-power guns in the harbor fortifications. It permits for a grommic standing army is a relic of Roosevelt's day, and that what the country needs is an invincible navy.

From the New York Herald. "With a fleet in the Pacific as well as in the Atlantic, the United States would be saved from any attack and the militia need have no worry. It is the navy that is the real defense of the country," Admiral Dewey.

This statement from an officer of Admiral Dewey's experience, Mack, and fame will confirm the popular opinion that Secretary Dickinson's suggested necessity for a grommic standing army is a relic of Roosevelt's day, and that what the country needs is an invincible navy.

From the Chicago Record-Herald. Editor's royalties on moving picture machines alone would amount to over \$3,000 a week. No wonder he finds it hard to believe there can be a more admirable world than this.

From the New York American. Santa Claus is about the only person who doesn't care about the cost of living.

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MARRY? FAR BE IT!

Baron Arthur Groedel, of Budapest, Hungary, who spent at the New Willard, insisted that his mission in America was to hunt big game in the Rockies and not in drawing-rooms. "You are not on your honeymoon?" he was asked.

"Goodness, no!" "Perhaps, then, you have come in search of a bride?" "Heaven forbid!" said the baron. "And yet you would have me get married?"

Then the young baron, who is accompanied by his father, mother, and sister, turned inquirer. He asked: "Are you married?"

Many negative shakes of the head. "How nice!" said the baron. "And yet you would have me get married?"

Judge L. E. Willey, of St. Louis, Mo., formerly chief justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and judge of the American court at Shanghai, has just returned from Mexico, where he has been on legal business, and is at the Shoreham.

"It cannot be denied that there is a feeling of unrest all over Mexico, due to uncertainty as to the succession in the Mexican presidency," said Judge Willey. "As long as Diaz is at the head of affairs, everything is all right; but as soon as he steps out there is going to be trouble, in all likelihood, unless the right man takes his place. Who that man is, no one knows at this time. There are many brave and clever young men in Mexico, but they have no opportunity to show what they can do. Diaz has his eye on everything, and manages the business of the whole nation. Ramon Corral, the vice president, can hardly be considered a substitute for the butler. There is young Felix Diaz, a nephew of the President, chief of police of Mexico City, who is a very capable young man and promises well. One never knows what will happen in Mexico. But Felix Diaz may be the successor of his uncle. But that is merely guesswork.

Conditions in the state of Chihuahua are unsettled, due to local conditions. The so-called constitution of Mexico can never be a success, on account of the lack of organization, money, and a leader. Diaz has everything well in hand, and American interests, as well as those of other countries, are perfectly safe."

Elliott Northcott, United States Minister to Colombia, is at the New Willard. Mr. Northcott was United States attorney and chairman of the Republican State committee of West Virginia prior to his Presidential appointment.

Plenty of Fur. "Several years ago the beaver was becoming rare in the province of Ontario, when in this city recently, referring to a magazine article which predicted that within five years it would be impossible to buy furs of any kind. "But the beaver has so multiplied that steps have been taken that will permit his capture, the revenue for the hide being used for the purpose of buying quinn Park, where no shooting of fur animals is allowed, they are simply tumbling over one another. So it is with some of the other smaller animals.

"In the past," continued Mr. Gibson, "I am afraid there is some justification for the fear expressed. There are a few herds of buffalo left, but the buffalo hide is no longer an article of commerce. The musk ox, which seems to be an excellent substitute for the buffalo, appears capable of furnishing a long, continuous supply of comfortable robes, but I rather think the Indian has disposed of a great many, and that the animal is now to be found exclusively in Northern Canada. It was supposed to be a few herds of buffalo left, but the buffalo hide is no longer an article of commerce. The musk ox, which seems to be an excellent substitute for the buffalo, appears capable of furnishing a long, continuous supply of comfortable robes, but I rather think the Indian has disposed of a great many, and that the animal is now to be found exclusively in Northern Canada. It was supposed to be a few herds of buffalo left, but the buffalo hide is no longer an article of commerce. 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