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MINES ON THE HIGH SEAS.

An interesting point concerning the neutrality of the high seas is raised by the recent operations off Port Arthur. The Russians, it will be recalled, resorted to the shrewd device of stealing out at night with torpedo boats and placing mines in the waters in which they had seen the Japanese warships cruising during the day...

The Hatsuse, however, was destroyed, according to report, about 10 miles off shore. That would indicate that the Russians were pretty daring in coming out so far. It would also indicate that they came well out of territorial waters into the high seas and placed their mines. The question is whether that was lawful. It is lawful to place mines in territorial waters. Of that there is no doubt; but it is a different thing to put them in the neutral waters of the high seas...

Obviously, it would be intolerable for a belligerent power to sow the north Atlantic steamship routes with mines, to the peril of whatever vessels, neutral or belligerent, might traverse those waters. Any power doing so might well be regarded as an enemy of the human race. But, if that be forbidden, should not all placing of mines in neutral waters or in the high seas be prohibited?

THE TRUSTS ABROAD.

It is believed to be useful for partisan purposes to teach the people that the transaction of much of the business of this country by large corporations, given the bad name of trusts, is an evil that has originated in our protective tariff. This course is taken in order to effectively ambush another attack on protection. But as a large part of the business of Great Britain is transacted by corporations between which and our trusts there is no appreciable difference in economics if there is in law. There have been organized in Great Britain 77,579 of such corporations, with a stock issue of \$29,982,110,245. A majority of these floated their stock and went under to the loss of the shareholders, just as the wild-cat trusts in this country did to the loss of the investing public.

The Manchester Chronicle says that last year 1629 of these corporations became insolvent, inflicting a loss of \$145,995,000 upon the public which had taken their stocks. The same authority says that in the last 10 years the losses from the same cause have amounted to \$2,725,240,000. It is declared that this lost capital was never represented by valid assets. That is to say it was watered and fictitious capital.

The Chronicle declares that there must be legislation to protect the public against the lure of such investments and that "It does not meet the case to say that we cannot legislate for fools; we must so legislate as to protect the nation from unscrupulousness, dishonesty and fraud. The board of trade has been urged by the stock exchange to deal with this abuse and a serious effect must be made to safeguard our commercial interests by making the law very stringent in dealing with abuses of flotation under the limited liability system."

All the features familiar to use in the United States appear in Great Britain. Under free trade stock watering and luring of investors go on just as here under protection. The revenue system makes no difference. If our democratic politicians were in Great Britain we suppose they would be pointing to free trade as the mother of trusts and the wicked inventor of stock watering.

The United States government had been exceedingly liberal to the world's fair at St. Louis, before

its managers applied to congress for a loan of the last \$4,600,000 required to make ready for the opening of the exposition. That final grant was a loan of money and nothing more. The government took pains to secure itself against any loss. A bank could not have been more cautious. The final installment of the loan was paid over to the exposition company about the 10th of May, and the company must begin to repay the loan next month. The government took a first lien on the gross receipts of the exposition company from all paid admissions to the grounds and from all moneys received from concessions. The method of repayment is set forth in the law making the appropriation. On the 15th of next month the company must report to the secretary of the treasury, in detail, the total amount of its gross receipts. On July 1 there must be a similar report and payment covering the period since June 15; and in that way, on the 1st and 15th day of each successive month, the reports and payments must be continued till the whole debt is discharged. But these semi-monthly payments must never, after July 1, be less than \$500,000, or the concern must go into the hands of a receiver, who will be the secretary of the treasury himself.

Reports received at Washington from the far east dwell at length upon the terrific power of the Japanese Shimose powder, the nature of which is an absolute secret. It is not used to propel the shot, but for bursting charges of the army and navy explosive shell. The result of the explosion has astounded the United States army observers. The heaviest armor-piercing shell with its small cavity is rent into countless thousands of sharp fragments which are hurled through the air with such force that they tear through the sides of an iron ship as would a projectile from a machine gun. The Russian warships Variag and Korietz were found to be riddled, deck and sides, by fragments of these shells. It is not known that any other nation possesses such a terrific explosive.

The English postmaster general is considering a penny-in-the-slot machine by which the purchaser will be enabled to obtain stamps at all hours—a useful matter when the postoffices are closed. The machine is so constructed that it can be fitted into a wall or pillar box, for it is of small compass. The purchaser, after placing the penny in the slot, presses a knob, and the machine does the rest. The stamps are placed on a roller, and only one stamp is released at a time, while an indicator shows the number of stamps remaining in the machine. This is an advantage, and will prevent the loss of sundry pennies and the use of "language."

In one particular London is far and away ahead of American cities. Over there the authorities have notified all persons and corporations displaying or using clocks for the benefit of the public that they must give correct Greenwich time, or permission to have such clocks will be withheld. That is an excellent idea. Right here in Astoria you can see clocks at variance from 5 to 10 minutes almost any time. If a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well.

Russian surgeons say that the Japanese rifle bullets, while possessing a great deal of stopping power, make small, clean holes, which can be treated easily, and give excellent opportunities for the early recovery of the wounded unless some vital organ is pierced. There have been many cases of recovery after the intestines have been penetrated. Interesting contributions to surgical science will follow the ending of hostilities.

Some are wondering why the daily attendance at the world's fair is not made public day by day. There must be a good reason, and we imagine it is found in the fact that Uncle Sam has a lien on half the receipts for the big loan he made the organization when it needed the money. Perhaps it doesn't want to pay with too much alacrity, quite a common weakness, by the way.

The Oregonian denies that it has ever abused Rev. E. P. Hill; it insists that it has merely vilified him. Doubtless the good doctor appreciates the distinction.

Fighting Bob is on his native heath again, having got home without fracturing the peace of anything but the vernacular.

If the country can be saved the commencement day orator is determined that the deed shall be done.

Financially and otherwise it must be said of Astoria that she is always ready with the dust.

By forming a combine the broom manufacturers have given a handle to public criticisms.

If your chest measure is 42, a 34 coat would be a little uncomfortable—and would cause some comment among your friends. Is your advertising expenditure cut too small for your business chest measurement?

JUST FOR INSTANCE.

Folk has declined. Caesar was killed for declining.

Heard on Commercial Street. "Scoundrel, what do you mean by taking my wife's arm?" "I, sir? Search me!"

Kuropatkin says he will march in July—if the Japs do not make him march before that time.

In case of famine the people of Port Arthur may have to eat the historical rooster that had a leg broken by one of Togo's shells.

The Song of the Portlander. I'm goin' to live in Oregon till I die; I don't care if th' rain pours from de sky. I'm goin' to stay where I c'n see Mount Hood. And 'tend the great fair run by Mr. Goode. I'm goin' to live in Oregon till I die.

Concerning Hair. Once upon a Time there was a Young Thing who Longed for an Adoring Young Man. Seeing that her Sisters and Girl Chums done up their Hair in Difficult Twists, she Set About to Learn the Art. In Time she Succeeded so Far as to Attract the Attention of a Young dry goods Clerk who had a Champagne Taste and a Lemonade Salary, but She Welcomed His Attentions as it put her in the Set, Where she could Catch Something Else more to her Mind. The Night that the Young Man had Promised to call She Did up her Hair in what she Thought to be the Latest Agony. When he had been saying Sweet Ciphers for Some time, he Remarked that her Hair was very Becoming, at which the Young Thing smiled. "And," said the Hero, "the Reason I became so Interested in You is that as a Personal Favor I wanted to ask you if you will tell the Secret of Doing up your Hair to the Angel I am Going to Marry next month." At which the Young Thing grew real Angry and asked: "Wouldn't that jar you; wouldn't it make you mad?"

Of course, the above mentioned young lady's remarks had a harrowing effect.

The native of Oregon who pawns his umbrella is lost beyond redemption.

MCCULLY.

The Man in the Trench. (While thousands of soldiers' graves were yesterday covered with flags and flowers, there are thousands of soldiers sleeping the sleep of heroes in the funeral trenches—thrown there in a time of haste and need—over whose sepulcher there are no flags, no flowers, who lie forgotten in graves that are unknown—save by One.)

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