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A NEW TORTURE.

Some idea of the trials of people in metropolitan cities may be gleaned in a perusal of the following comment taken from the Brooklyn Standard-Union: There are others than the Italian celebrators who make their celebrations with bombs of a highly explosive character. A new form of torture to rack the nerves of the men, women and children compelled to remain in the city has been introduced nights which, to use a common phrase, is the limit. It is repairing of the trolley tracks. There are two shifts of men for this work, a day gang and a night gang. Along comes the latter just as one is dropping off to sleep, completely fagged out after the day's heat and labor, and commences tearing up the street. Then a flat car with rails arrives. These rails are thrown out upon the pavement, creating such a terrible noise as to make sleep impossible. The construction of the switch or the laying of new rails is the next thing in order, and this is accompanied by noises that to a person not possessed of a musical ear sounds Wagnerian. In the language of the hymn, "Still There's more to follow." There subsequently appear three box cars containing heavy dynamos and numerous electric lights. One seems to be for the purpose of blowing every particle of dirt from the rails to be repaired, another for the heating and welding of the rails, and the other for grinding down the joints after the welding process. Those who have suffered from the noises accompanying these efforts we know do not wish to have them recalled. The excuse is made by the rail road men that by doing this work at night traffic is less interfered with than it is when light. They contend that people are anxious to get to and from business as quickly as possible. This is admitted, but there are many instances where the cars of one line can be switched upon the tracks of another line with very little inconvenience. The people living on the lines being repaired would then be enabled to get a full night's rest and be more capable of business transactions. This work should be confined to daylight. It would seem, however, that people who labor in unseemly hours possess the idea that no one else should rest while they are up and about. They whistle, sing, shout and slam things around in the most reckless manner, to the great annoyance of those who desire rest and quiet.

PLAN OF PEACEMAKING.

It must be regarded as cause for little surprise and for more regret that something like a demand has been made for China's representation in the peace negotiations between Russia and Japan, and that Russia has been made to appear to favor it. Even though, as we have hitherto said, such a desire on China's part may not be unnatural, the grave arguments against it should be apparent to the statesmen of that empire, and they should still be more apparent and convincing to the Russian government. The President of the United States, acting benevolently and impartially, for the sake of humanity, on June 8 last diplomatically urged the Russian and Japanese governments "to open direct negotiations for peace with one another," and further suggested "that these peace negotiations be conducted directly and exclusively between the belligerents." The studied and explicit phraseology of that communication, and the fact that it was addressed to the Russian and Japanese governments alone and to no other, unmistakably indicated his intention that only Russia and Japan were to be parties to the negotiation. It is understood that these two governments accepted his suggestion just as it was made. Since, then, the agreement was thus made for negotiations "exclusively between the belligerents," it would seem to be an extraordinary performance now to introduce into the conference a third power which is not a belligerent, but which, on the contrary, has been kept out of the war through the earnest diplomatic efforts of the United States.

Of course if both Japan and Russia should spontaneously agree to invite China into the conference no other nation would have ground for objection, not even the United States, though such action would be contrary to the suggestion which its President made and which was accepted by the belligerents. But since one of the belligerents is resolutely opposed to such alteration of the plan of peacemaking, any further insistence upon it would be deplorable, as calculated merely to delay and embarrass the negotiations which all the world desires to see promptly conducted to a harmonious and satisfactory conclusion. After that will come China's turn to seek adjustment of her claims, and we have no doubt she will secure it on an equitable basis.

CURRENT COMMENT.

The Panama canal commission have ordered a lot of dump carts, and at the rate the work is progressing the dump will probably be their landing place.

Paul Morton might with propriety be called, the later day abolitionist.

"This," said the Commercial street florist, showing a flower to Will Madison, "is the Iris, the flower of Egypt." "Oh; Gehena," said Bill, "I always thought that honor belonged to Cleopatra."

An eminent Chinese statesman declares that the report of the Chinese prejudice against Americans in China has been greatly exaggerated. Well, the reports of American prejudice against the Chinese in this country have not been overdrawn.

The Pennsylvania flyer covered three miles in 85 minutes. Even bad news cannot travel as fast as that.

Senator Ben Tillman has no place in the Chautauqua program nowadays. Ben is too conservative and his style is timid for these progressive times.

The reports of the marriage Thursday of two of our most prominent young people were greatly exaggerated.—Clatskanie Chief.

The insatiate fire fiend visited Ranier the other day and with its blazing tongue licked the mattress and quilts in a lodging house room. No insurance.—Ranier Gazette.

It sends the cold shivers down a girl's back to remember, after she gets in a hammock that she hasn't got on her best stockings.—Seaside Signal.

There was not a drunken printer or barber in Chinook on the Fourth of July which caused the editor of the Observer to lift up his grateful voice and happily sing: "Nearer my God to Thee."

The editor of the Pacific Journal at Ilwaco lost a bill book containing a lot of uncollected bills the other day. He announces that they are of no value to the finder and of but dum little to the loser, but he would like to have them returned.

Skamokawa is to have a street sprinkler and to keep the wheels of improvement on the whirl the editor of the Eagle demands electric lights, a \$15,000 hotel, a starch factory, cold storage plant and a Fourth of July celebration next year that will jar the town from the center to the outskirts.

NOTHING BUT LIES.

Col. Curtis and the "Hole." Some years ago Colonel Curtis managed an enterprising newspaper here. Among his advertising clientele he numbered several railway companies. The agent of one of these companies gave the Colonel an advertisement—the announcement of special rates to be offered for certain dates. The time for the granting of these concessions expired and the advertisement continued to run in the Colonel's paper. In about a month the railway agent suggested that the advertisement be removed.

"Alright" said the Colonel and walking into the composing room, he lifted the type from the form and placed it on the "dump." Now in printing offices, especially those connected with newspaper establishments there is a thing known as a "hole." This "hole" means merely that a space in the forms must be filled with type and when there is no type in sight it is up to the printer to fill the "hole" as best he can. There is also a "dump." Upon this is placed such matter as is available at convenient times, in most instances when the "hole" must be filled and no live matter is at hand. The same evening the Colonel's makeup man found a small sized "hole." Spying a stickfull of type

on the "dump" he placed it in the forms. The type happened to be the announcement of the railway rates. Of course it appeared in the paper. The agent called upon the Colonel next day, and said:

"I thought I told you to take that 'ad' out of the paper."

"I did," answered the Colonel.

"No, you didn't," responded the agent showing Curtis the paper.

"Ahem," coughed the Colonel. He tramped into the composing room and again removed the type and placed it on the "dump." The following night the type served to fill a "hole" of the same size. The railway agent paid the Colonel a second visit the next morning, and spoke in no pleasant terms.

"I can't understand it," sighed Colonel Curtis. For the third time he walked to the composing room and removed the type again placing it on the "dump." The next issue of the paper contained the advertisement. As the form of the agent darkened the Colonel's doorway the latter shouted:

"Is that d'ned thing in again? Well the ———— ad won't appear tomorrow morning." Rushing into the composing room he grabbed the type and walking to the rear of the room, he jerked a door which opened onto the Columbia.

"There," he shouted throwing type with all his might. "You ——— blankety ———, if you are in the rag tomorrow, I'll sell the d'ned sheet."

Captain Goodale and the Baby.

At one of the local hostleries dwells Captain Goodale—and a baby. Now this baby is not different from other babies, so far as looks are concerned, but can't the baby howl? He can make more noise with his diminutive vocal chords than a German band can make with a bass drum and half a dozen barytones. Captain Goodale is continually on the lookout for things unusual—We are indebted to him for many contributions for "In Lighter Vein"; he selected "Be Kind to the Animals";—so naturally he recognizes this baby's superiority over others; he considers this baby a pre-eminent howler and often and fondly refers to him as a "brat." Of course we might take exception to the Captain's opinion, being that the baby belongs to the "ad man," and then we mightn't. We deem it a good policy to refrain from agreeing with either the Captain or the proud father. It is up to the reader to decide whether the joke is on Captain Goodale, the "ad man" or the baby.

SEE ICEBERGS IN MIRAGE.

Officers of the Minnetonka Bring Photographs to Prove Statements.

New York, July 23.—A mirage showing a four masted schooner not visible on the horizon, besides two icebergs, only one of which was seen on the ocean's surface, was the unusual spectacle witnessed by the officers and passengers of the Atlantic Transport Line's steamer Minnetonka, which arrived yesterday. The officers showed photographs of this unusual sight. The ship was in latitude 42:23, longitude 49:50, at 9:30 o'clock on Friday morning, when an iceberg was seen twenty miles north. It resembled the profile of a woman's head, and while the passengers were looking at it in wonder, there suddenly appeared above it the mirage. Another iceberg loomed above, and the most powerful telescopes failed to discern it on the sea. While all the spectators were wondering at the sight, there appeared, wrong side up and apparently two miles distant from the northerly iceberg, a four-masted vessel. Every sail was as clear cut against the sky as if carved. This was in sight for three hours, in which time the officers took a number of photographs.

A Surprise Party.

A pleasant surprise party may be given to your stomach and liver, by taking a medicine which will relieve their pain and discomfort, viz: Dr. King's New Life Pills. They are a most wonderful remedy, affording sure relief and cure, for headache, dizziness and constipation. 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store.

Bent Her Double.

"I knew no one for four weeks when I was sick with typhoid and kidney troubles," writes Mrs. Annie Hunter, of Pittsburg, Pa. "And when I got better, although I had one of the best doctors I could get, I was bent double, and had to rest my hands on my knees when I walked. From this terrible affliction I was rescued by Electric Bitters, which restored my health and strength and now I can walk as straight as ever. They are simply wonderful." Guaranteed to cure stomach, liver and kidney disorders; at Charles Rogers' drug store; price 50c.

It will bring rich, red blood, firm flesh and muscle. That's what Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea will do. Taken this month keeps you well all summer. 35cents, Tea or Tablets, at Frank Hart's drug store.

The Diamond Cure. The latest news from Paris is that they have discovered a diamond cure for consumption. If you fear consumption or pneumonia, it will, however, be best for you to take that great remedy mentioned by W. T. McGee, of Vanleer, Tenn. "I had a cough for fourteen years. Nothing helped me until I took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption coughs and colds, which gave instant relief, and effect a permanent cure." Unequaled quick cure for throat and lung troubles. At Chas. Rogers drug store; price 50 cents and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

Forced to Starve. B. F. Leek, of Concord, Ky., says: "For 20 years I suffered agonies, with a sore on my upper lip, so painful, sometimes that I could not eat. After vainly trying everything else, I cured it with Bucklin's Arnica Salve." It's great for burns, cuts and wounds. At Chas. Rogers' drug store; only 25 cents.

If you can not eat, sleep or work, feel mean, cross and ugly, take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea this month. A tonic for the sick. There is no remedy equal to it. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets, at Frank Hart's drug store.

The Astorian 75 cents a month.

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