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AMUSEMENTS.

Central—"King of the Opium Ring." Alcazar—"Self and Lady." Columbia—"On the Quiet." Grand Opera-house—"The Barber of Seville." California—Haverly's Minstrels. Tivoli—"A Gaiety Girl." Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening. Fischer's—Vaudeville. Recreation Park—Baseball. Oakland Race-track—Races to-day.

AUCTION SALES.

By J. J. Doyle, this day, at 11 o'clock, Horses, Wagons, etc., at 520 Seventh street.

THE ISTHMIAN QUESTION.

DISPATCHES from Washington announce that a formal appeal has been made to Secretary Hay by the Colombian Charge d'Affaires that the United States observe its treaty stipulations and maintain free and uninterrupted communication across the Isthmus of Panama. This may be taken as a proof that despite its assertions of strength the Colombian Government is by no means sure of its ability to cope with the insurgents. Asking the aid of this Government to keep open communication across the isthmus is very much like asking aid for the support of the Colombian Government itself.

In his recent address at the Chamber of Commerce banquet Secretary Hay said the United States is so resolved to respect the independence of the various states of Latin America that not even for the sake of establishing among them that peace which we so much desire would the Government do anything opposed to the dignity or the independence of those states. That may be taken as an assurance that we will not interfere between the Colombian Government and the insurgents. The protection of the isthmian trade, however, is another thing. We are under treaty obligations to keep the passage way across the isthmus open for trade, and should the war interfere with that trade we may have to act for the re-establishment of order.

The treaty which the Colombian Government has asked us to observe was made between the United States and New Granada in 1846, but is still binding upon Colombia as one of the states in which New Granada was divided, and the one in which the Isthmus of Panama is included. In this treaty it is stated: "The United States guarantee positively and efficaciously to New Granada * * * the perfect neutrality of the before mentioned isthmus, with the view that the free transit from the one to the other sea may not be interrupted or embarrassed in any future time while this treaty exists, and in consequence the United States also guarantee in the same manner the rights of sovereignty and property which New Granada has and possesses over the said territory."

While it is provided that the treaty can be terminated by either side upon giving twelve months' notice, no such notice has been given and it remains in force. We have, therefore, not only rights but duties in the isthmus which we are bound to observe. Unquestionably there have been a good many investments in the territory that would not have been made but for the guarantee of the United States. We have repeatedly sent warships to the isthmus to watch events and be ready to protect trans-isthmian traffic whenever such protection should be needed.

The present war has reached a point where it appears the Colombian Government feels itself compelled to call upon the United States for action. It is hardly likely, however, that the insurgents will venture to interfere with the traffic, since their leaders must be well aware that such interference would bring them into immediate conflict with the United States. They have as much fighting as they can attend to without provoking a quarrel with us. It may be, therefore, that we shall not have to exert any force for the protection of the traffic. A word of warning may be sufficient. The Colombian war is not our affair, and we are not going to interfere unless forced to do so by the folly of one side or the other in interfering with international trade across the isthmus.

Chicago is disturbed because some outside people have been filling her markets with "pure honey" containing about 60 per cent of glucose, but then she should remember how long she has been filling the outside markets with adulterated lard. As it stands the game is about even.

Lord Rosebery has declared a desire to see an end to party government in Great Britain, but perhaps the wish is mainly due to the fact that he has no party of his own and isn't able to get one.

THE YUKON CONSPIRACY.

WHEN The Call published to the world the first information of a plot to capture Dawson and set up an independent government in the Canadian portion of the Yukon Valley the story was received with something of incredulity, notwithstanding the recognized reliability of The Call's news service. One of our contemporaries ignored it altogether, probably with the intention of publishing it later on as an exclusive story. Another devoted a column of its news to discrediting the report, and then stated editorially that it "may have started, as such stories usually do, as the innocent fantasy of some imaginative individual."

The Call did not publish the story upon idle rumor. It had reliable authority for every word published, and knew that despite its seeming improbability the story was true. A conspiracy to raise an insurrection in the Yukon Valley, to seize Dawson and set up a revolutionary government had been formed, and, while its full extent had not been ascertained, enough was known to alarm the Canadian authorities, to put American officials on guard and to bring about a meeting between the officials of the two Governments to take steps to investigate the affair and to guard against a possible raid.

From sources other than that from which The Call received the original information confirmation has now been given to the story as published. James Seeley, head of the secret service of the Northwest Mounted Police, stated to a correspondent of The Call at Victoria on Thursday that not only was there a conspiracy to overthrow Canadian rule in the Yukon and loot Dawson, but the scheme hatched by the conspirators for the project was a feasible one, and had its existence not been discovered by the members of the secret service in the Yukon and nipped in the bud the raiders could have accomplished their purpose and after taking Dawson could have held the place for six weeks or two months.

Further confirmation was given by E. S. Busby, Canadian customs officer at Skagway, who not only made a special investigation of the conspiracy, but is the bearer of a report on the subject to the authorities at Ottawa. Busby is reported as saying that one of the features of the plan of the conspirators was to be opposed to the Canadian Government and its rule in the Yukon and to have them assist in the fight against the mounted police. Another feature of the plan was the shipment of rifles from this country for the use of the conspirators, and money was subscribed for that purpose.

In addition to the statements from the British officials a further statement was obtained at Seattle from a man who claims to have been one of the leaders in the movement. His statements of course are not so reliable as those of the officials, but in the main they agreed with what had been obtained from the official sources, and to that extent serve as confirmation of the existence of the plot and of its dangerous character.

It is worth noting that the story is not so improbable as it seems at first sight, though we admit The Call would not have accepted it from any other than a thoroughly reliable source. The Yukon country is filled with adventurous men, many of whom are desperate. They have staked their all upon the hazard of striking it rich either in the mines or in the gambling houses, and they have failed. They are ready now to resort to any means of getting gold. Around these daring ones is a host of men some of whom are dissatisfied with the Canadian Government while others cherish an abiding hostility to everything British. Among such elements it is not difficult for a natural leader of men to find a considerable following, like that which Walker took to Nicaragua or Jameson to the Rand. Fortunately the conspiracy was detected in time and has now been exposed and exploded. It is not likely the Yukon conspiracy will be any longer dangerous.

Incited by the success of the Union Labor ticket in this city some of the labor agitators in Chicago are talking of putting a labor ticket in the field in the next State campaign in Illinois, and thus does the effete East try to keep up with the motions of the golden West.

THE RIOTS IN ATHENS.

MEN who are ready to fight do not concern themselves much about the nature of the incident that precipitates the struggle. Thus history records many wars that seemingly resulted from trivial causes. Tasso has told us of a fight between two Italian states over a stolen bucket, and there was once a long contest between Great Britain and Spain because certain Spaniards cut off the ears of an Englishman named Jenkins. With such precedents in the past we need not be surprised that the Athenians are rioting and spilling blood because of a proposal to translate the Gospels into modern Greek.

Of course the man on the street in Athens cares a great deal more about Greek than does the man in San Francisco. He has not been accustomed to dismiss problems for which he cares nothing by saying, "They are all Greek to me." It can therefore be readily understood why he should care something about the language, but it is not easy to understand why he should wish to fight his neighbor because the Government has deemed fit to publish an edition of the New Testament in the Greek that is spoken today instead of in the Greek that was spoken two thousand years ago.

We are told that the students of the University of Athens who are leading the rioters have come to the conclusion that the proposed publication is designed in the interests of Russia. Queen Olga is by birth a Russian; she favors the new publication, and therefore, according to student logic, the publication would tend to weaken Greek nationality and infuse Slavism into the hearts of Greek youth.

We are not aware how large a proportion of the young men of Greece devote their spare time to reading the Gospels in old Greek or would give their time to it if published in modern Greek, and consequently we are not able to judge the merits of the cause for which the students are fighting. Possibly the innovation might be fraught with much danger to the student body. It might enable the common people to read the Gospels and understand them just as well as the university men, and that of course would be a loss of scholarly prestige. It may be that some such issue impels the students to rise and mutiny, but we are inclined to believe that the new publication is only a pretense for fighting and that the students have been looking for something to have a row over for a long time and have taken up this solely because it gives to the fight something of a religious, a literary and a patriotic glow.

Whatever be the motive for the rioting, it seems to be popular. We are told that twenty thousand people gathered on Thursday evening around the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter Olympus to cheer the students who were making a demonstration there. It would have been an impertinence for an orator in

such a crowd to ask, How many of you read the Gospels in the old Greek? The only pertinent question was, Are you agin the Government? To that there would have been a universal roar for an answer. They were against the Government so hard that before the police could disperse them thirty were wounded and nine were killed. Athens had asserted herself.

VON EDELSHEIM'S IDEAS.

SOME weeks ago a considerable flutter was caused in Berlin by the publication of a pamphlet setting forth the tactics Germany would pursue in case of a war with the United States or Great Britain. The pamphlet was by no unknown or irresponsible author. It was written by no less a person than Baron Von Edelsheim, an officer in the chief general staff of the German army. It was that fact which caused the flutter, for such a book coming from such a source seemed something like an official utterance, and accordingly it made a sensation that extended over Europe and even to this country.

So far as we are concerned there is no occasion for alarm. A dispatch from Washington of yesterday announced that the German War Office has issued a formal disavowal of responsibility for the pamphlet, and that the German Ambassador at Washington had forwarded it to Secretary Hay with suitable explanations. In our case, then, the incident is closed. We never were alarmed or offended by the publication, and consequently we are just as willing to accept an explanation as an apology.

Doubtless explanations have been made to Great Britain as well as to us, but none the less the issue remains open. The persistence of the German agitation against Chamberlain is recognized in Great Britain as an evidence of a deep feeling of hostility among the Germans against Great Britain herself. The London press treats the subject as a very grave one, and several papers express the fear that the clamors of the people may force the German Government to take some steps against British interests that may lead to war. Such being the strained relations between the two peoples, there is naturally a great deal of interest in Von Edelsheim's pamphlet.

The summary sent to this country of the contents of the pamphlet is brief, but sufficient to show that Von Edelsheim has no high opinion of British troops or British generals. He declares that in case of a war between the two powers Germany would take the offensive and invade England and dictate peace at London.

Briefly stated the argument of the writer is this: Sooner or later Germany must fight Great Britain, because the expansion of German commerce will inevitably bring the two into conflict. As soon as war is declared Germany would at once send her fleet to sea while the British were getting their ready. By reason of her greater promptness Germany would be able to dominate the sea for a time, and during that time she would mobilize an army and enter upon the invasion.

After pointing out the shortcomings of the British troops as revealed in the South African war the pamphlet goes on to say: "We must also take account of their slight fighting value compared with well trained German troops. The only troops ready in England for action are three divisions of the First Army Corps, about two divisions of the Second and a combined division of the Third, together with three cavalry brigades. The strength of an English division on a war footing is only 10,000 men, while a similar German division numbers about 16,000 men. Germany can transport six infantry divisions, or one cavalry brigade and five infantry divisions to England in a very short time. How the operation could be carried out must not, of course, be explained here. But this can be said that it can be done within little more than thirty hours in favorable weather from German harbors in the North Sea. Large tracts of the English coast furnish good landing places for troops, and the country itself has so many resources that an invading army could live on them for a long time. On the other hand the island is not large enough to allow English troops to destroy a once victorious hostile army. It is unlikely that such a war would last very long and considerable reinforcements would, therefore, not be needed."

That is the pamphlet for which the German War Office has disclaimed responsibility. It is not pleasant reading for the British public just at this time, and is the more irritating because of the revelation it makes of German contempt for the British army and the British navy. Had Von Edelsheim suggested an invasion with a million men the British might have laughed, but to suggest conquest by 100,000 men is something like an insult.

THE BEEF SUPPLY.

CHICAGO reports are to the effect that information has been received at the headquarters of the National Livestock Association which justifies the belief that Congress will have the Western public land situation brought to its attention this winter in a new and startling manner. The report goes on to say that from an investigation which has been comprehensively carried out information has been obtained which shows that during the past five years there has been an enormous decrease in the number of cattle in this country, and that the decrease is due almost solely to the destruction of the grasses on the public range.

Information of that kind may be "new and startling" to Congress, but it will not be so to the people of the West who have given any attention to the subject. Over and over again The Call has pointed out and emphasized that very fact. The ranges have been overstocked, with the result that the natural pasturage has been well nigh destroyed. No one has any permanent interest in reseeding the range or in trying to preserve such grasses as remain on it. The struggle for the range has led to repeated outbreaks of lawlessness and to something like a war between the rival cattle men and sheep men, who seek to get possession of any tract that promises to yield feed enough for their stock.

It is certainly time that Congress should deal with the issue in a rational way. By leasing the public lands the Government could not only obtain a revenue from them available for use in promoting irrigation and the storage of flood waters, but the leaseholders would be encouraged to reseed and protect the grasses of the lands covered by their leases, and thus a double benefit would at once accrue. The present wasteful system has been already carried too far, and the shortage in the beef supply reported from Chicago is a warning of what will happen unless a remedy is applied to the evil.

A combination of a paying teller and a receiving teller succeeded in getting \$60,000 out of a bank in Brooklyn without the officials knowing anything about it, and we have thus another illustration of how easy it is to keep bank books in good order for the stockholders while the employes keep the money for themselves.

PRESIDENT PURCHASES CARTOON FROM PUNCH



THE PRESIDENT HAS SENT TO LONDON AN ORDER TO PURCHASE THE ORIGINAL DRAWING OF BERNARD PARTRIDGE'S SYMBOLIC CARTOON, REPRESENTING HIM AS A ROUGH RIDER WHO HAS REACHED AN EMINENCE AND IS LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE. THE CARTOON APPEARED IN PUNCH THE WEEK FOLLOWING PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

REVOLVER—E. B., City. According to army regulations of the United States the revolver, in service, is worn on the right side.

RUBBER PLANTATIONS—T. Spreckels, Cal. There was quite a long article on rubber plantations in Mexico in The Call of December 16, 1900.

POOLE'S INDEX—T. Spreckels, Cal. The volumes of Poole's Index of Periodical Literature and the Cumulative Index of such may be found in any first-class library.

SCHMITZ'S APPOINTMENTS—S. L., City. The Mayor-elect, E. E. Schmitz, when he is inducted into office will have to make one appointment on each commission.

CHATTEL MORTGAGE—J. C. C., City. The law question asked cannot be answered unless there is information as to the State in which the party named gave the chattel mortgage.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS—H. C. F. P., City. For information relative to agricultural lands in the State of California you should make inquiry at the General Land Office in this city.

ACROSS THE RAPIDS—H. P. M., Dos Palos, Cal. This department has not been able to find any record of Miss C. Beck with having at any time swum across "the whirlpool of the rapids of the Niagara."

MONEY LOANED—A. E. H., City. If a party owes you money, is engaged in business and refused to repay the loans you say you made to him, consult a lawyer about bringing an action against him for the recovery of the money.

PORTAMENTO—Music, City. Portamento is a term applied by the Italians to the manner or habit of sustaining and conducting the voice. A singer who is easy, yet firm and steady, in the execution of his passages is said to have a good portamento.

STATION RECEPTION COMMITTEE—Subscriber, City. The duty of a station reception committee is to go to the railroad station, give the expected visitors the glad hand, welcome them to the city and then turn them over to the general reception committee.

NO SUCH ACTION—J. A. R., Tuolumne, Cal. The Salvation Army at no time during the administration of President Cleveland, nor any other time, obtained work for a certain number of men at the Union Iron Works or offered to put men to work there for \$1.50 per day.

PAY DAYS—H. B., City. This department has not the time to canvass the leading firms and companies of San Francisco for the purpose of ascertaining when they pay their employes and publish the same. Further, it is a private matter and certainly not a matter of general information.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL—Subscriber, City. St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland, was founded in 1190 by Archbishop Comyn on the site of an old church. In 1846 it was used as a law court, but was restored in 1853. After renovation through the munificence of Benjamin Lee Guinness it was reopened February 24, 1865.

PICKLE—J., Railroad Flat, Cal. The pickle that is used to give corneal bed a red color is made of the following mixture: "Mix brown sugar, bay salt, common salt, each two pounds; saltpeter, eight ounces; water, two gallons." The pickle gives meat a fine red color, while the sugar renders it mild and of excellent flavor. Large quantities are to be managed by the above proportions.

DEBATING SOCIETIES—M. S., City. This department does not furnish facts and ideas for those who desire to take part in a debate on any subject. Debaters are supposed to furnish their own ideas and not those that might be furnished to them. If you want some points for the affirmative side on the subject "Negroes should not be disenfranchised" you should read current history, weigh both sides of the question and then give your reasons in support of the side you take.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT—E. L., City. The quartermaster's department of the United States army is a general staff department charged with the execution of all orders relating to the movement, quartering and maintenance of troops. Thus the department provides for the marching, encamping, billeting and cantoning of troops; for provisions, forage and clothing; for making and repairing roads, military telegraph lines, railroads and bridges, and for ammunition for the men, all supplies and all means of transportation. There are different branches which carry out the orders of this department. The duty of the chief quartermaster is to give the required orders and have them carried out.

PERSONAL MENTION.

M. C. Clark of Gonzales is at the Grand. J. B. Lankersham of Los Angeles is at the Palace.

T. C. Barnes, owner of a large whisky distillery in Chicago, is at the Palace. Murray M. Harris, an organ builder of Los Angeles, is in the city. He is at the Grand.

Captain H. Z. Osborn, United States Marshal of the Southern District of California is at the Palace.

Queen Liluokalani and party left the California Hotel yesterday for Salt Lake, en route to Washington, D. C.

Philip B. Fraser, president of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of Stockton, is at the Palace accompanied by his wife.

Lieutenant A. Bromley, R. N. of H. M. S. Warsped arrived from Victoria, B. C., yesterday to act as best man at the wedding of Robert Dunsuir.

J. E. Stubbs, president of the Nevada State University and brother of Traffic Director Stubbs, is down from Reno and is staying at the Occidental.

Major W. H. Dudley Ward, a retired officer of the English army, arrived from Spokane yesterday, accompanied by H. Lever. They are touring the coast.

W. E. Gerber, a banker of Sacramento, who recently was the victim of an accident while out duck shooting, is now convalescent. He left the hospital yesterday and is at the Palace.

John J. Hernan, who has been, connected with Denver and Colorado Springs hotels for many years, passed through the city yesterday en route to Los Angeles, where he will fill the position of key clerk at the new Hotel Angeles.

A CHANCE TO SMILE.

He—What I feel for you, Muriel, I can never tell in words. True love is silent! Muriel—Oh, no, I assure you. It speaks to papa.—Punch.

"Harry, here's a good article on 'The Secret of Baldness.'" "Huh! Baldness is no secret."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"Who is that whistling?" asked the teacher, looking over the assemblage of juveniles. "Me," promptly replied a new pupil. "Didn't you know I could whistle?"—Chicago News.

GOSSIP FROM LONDON WORLD OF LETTERS

A book which is sure to be welcome throughout the whole British empire will be the narrative of the Ophir's recent tour round the British colonies.

There is every likelihood that such a narrative will be published. The King himself is said to favor the idea. If it be carried out as it is likely to be, the Prince and Princess of Wales will not only contribute to the letter press, but supply many illustrations from the photographs taken by themselves or by their desire. Two separate editions of the proposed work are talked about, one at a popular price and another of an expensive kind such as numbers of people would like to preserve as a souvenir of the historic trip.

It is amusing sometimes, to lawyers in particular, to note how novelists fall into legal errors dealing with law.

Certainly the worst pitfalls a novelist can meet with are these. As far as this country is concerned he may avoid them by reference to approved textbooks, but when it comes to foreign and colonial law it is not so easy to escape blunders.

The validity of marriage and the descent of property are dependent upon local laws that are not readily accessible. For instance, glancing through that interesting new publication, the Victorian Year Book, of which section 5, dealing with law and crime and social conditions, has just been published, some important points of difference might easily escape the novelist may be noted.

How many people, one may ask, are aware that since May, 1890, the law of Victoria was permitted divorce for willful desertion during three years, or for habitual drunkenness on the part of the husband, coupled with neglect and neglecting to support his wife; for habitual drunkenness on the part of the wife, coupled with habitual neglect of domestic duties; for a sentence of penal servitude of seven years, after three years have been passed in prison; for an attempt to murder; for assault upon the wife, or for adultery committed in conjugal residence or under circumstances of aggravation?

These increased facilities for divorce are not open to any person who has not been domiciled in the country for at least two years.

As regards the descent of property, land does not pass to the heir, as in England, but is distributed as personality.

If the wife dies intestate the estate does not pass to the husband, as by English law, but he gets a third only if there be children, and a half if there are not children, but only if there is room for a work that should collect these differences in law in all countries, for the benefit not only of novelists but of ordinary people.

Sands & Co. will publish shortly "The Kiss and Its History." This treatise is the work of Dr. Gustav Nyrop, a philologist of high European reputation. It has gone through two editions in Denmark and has been translated into German, Swedish and Russian. The book has now been put into English by W. F. Harvey, lecturer of English at the University of Lund, Sweden.

Anonymity apparently has not yet lost its value, as there is an advertisement of another enterprising firm offering a prize of five guineas to the first purchaser of "A Sportsman's Love Letters" who can give the correct name of the author.

This, they say, is by the way of stimulating a healthy curiosity. Some very noteworthy literary treasures are to be sold at Sotheby's during the first week in December. They include a second folio Shakespeare and a first edition of "Waverley" in three volumes. A year ago a similar "Waverley" sold in London for the large sum of £15,000. There of his schoolfellows and a few sketches are also to be on sale first editions of "Ivanhoe," "Woodstock," "The Chronicles of Canongate" and others of Scott's novels. A good copy of the first edition of "Gulliver's Travels" is another treasure coming under the hammer.

One entry in the catalogue of the Sotheby sale introduces a very interesting relic of Tennyson. It is his school atlas of ancient geography, with an autograph list of heads.

Walnut and Pecan Panoche. Townsend. Choice candies. Townsend's, Palace Hotel. Cal. Glace Fruit 50c per lb at Townsend's.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau, 121 Montgomery street. Telephone Main 192.

A clown was at first a tattooed person. In Britain and France the country people retained the habit of tattooing or of painting the faces in imitation of tattooing, long after it had been abandoned in the cities.

Avoid baldness, gray hair, dandruff and thin locks by using Parker's Hair Balsam. Hindicorns, the best cure for corns. 15 cts.

10 BIG THANKSGIVING FEATURES 10 With illustrations by the best artists on the Pacific Coast. NEXT SUN-DAY'S CALL. Thanksgiving Number, Out November 24, 1901. 20 PAGES OF FEATURE STORIES 20 THE SUNDAY CALL A WESTERN PAPER FULL OF WESTERN STORIES BY WESTERN WRITERS.