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AMUSEMENTS. Orpheum—Vaudeville. Grand Opera-house—"Claire and the Forgemaster."

Chinese Exclusion. In discussing the new bill to exclude Chinese Mr. Loud of California makes a suggestion that may well be considered. He favors, personally, the re-enactment of the existing law for an indefinite period, giving as his reason that all of its provisions have been subjected to executive and judicial interpretation and are now being beneficially applied to the purpose for which the law was enacted.

There are some obligations which are not nullified even by the defensive and precautionary fervor of our people on the subject. Our Supreme Court has established the principle that our right to exclude derives from an international treaty with China. True, we can break that treaty and China cannot resist its violation, but it is not seriously argued that such an act conforms to the honor or dignity of this republic.

Perhaps Mr. Loud's proposition may be the best solution of the problem, for problem it is, though as a policy it seems so plain and proper to the people of this coast. The views of the East and South have to be consulted, and while we would cordially indorse violation of the treaty here, if necessary to secure protection against the coolie invasion, that sentiment evaporates in the ratio of distance from Pacific Coast settlement.

The present law has the right of way, and maybe, after all, we are safer if we travel with it in the middle of the road for another period. A curious illustration of the morbid fondness of some people for crime is reported from Paris. The police authorities recently offered for sale a number of jewels and trinkets which had been connected with criminal cases, and it was found that they brought prices far above their intrinsic value, owing to the number of bidders who were eager to have something associated with a famous murder or other crime.

St. Louis purposes to make airship contests a marked feature of her exposition next year, and consequently the people of the Mississippi Valley will see queer things hovering in the air all summer. Even as far off as Chicago those who are careless in their drinks may frequently see sights that will lead them to believe they have got 'em again.

The proposed establishment of a permanent census bureau is an attractive scheme on the face of it, but those who claim to be able to see through it declare it is only a trick to give employment to a lot of census bureau clerks for whom the Government has no further use.

According to one report Senator Platt is threatened with paralysis, and according to another Senator Quay is writing an autobiography; and it is now up to the debating societies to decide which of the two is in the more perilous condition.

Texas has several counties without oil wells and upward of forty without lawyers. Gushers and spouters, it seems, are not plentiful enough to go round in a State as big as that.

THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE.

At the close of the first day's hearing given to the Cuban junta by the House Committee of Ways and Means a member of the committee said that a Senator had declared that the Senate would settle the tariff as to Cuba, and the House would have nothing to do with it. To this Mr. Dill of Pennsylvania replied: "He will find out differently before he gets through."

This raises an issue that is destined to figure very largely in Congress and the courts. The constitution requires that revenue bills originate in the House, and from 1789 until within the last few years that provision has been construed to give the House power over such legislation, at least equal to that of the Senate.

The latter branch, however, has steadily encroached upon this equality of the House. The first step taken was the placing in the hands of the Senate and the Executive of the power to conclude treaties of reciprocity, which voided the rates of duty established in a tariff act.

No one seems to have given expression to the effect of such a transfer of power.

To illustrate: Congress may pass a tariff law establishing rates of duty and designed to yield revenue required for the support of the Government. The House may remain unchanged in its majority, favoring the continuance of such a tariff, but the Senate may change and with the Executive favor free trade. It is seen at once that the President and Senate may in such case make and ratify commercial treaties that repeal every paragraph of the tariff, remove all protective features and practically establish free trade, compelling the Government to resort to direct taxation and to increase the internal revenue taxes in order to secure the revenue required for its support.

If the President and Senate by treaty can reduce a tariff to per cent they can reduce it 100 per cent, removing it altogether. This is perfectly plain. If that authority exist in the treaty-making power it exists without limitation. If the constitution permit it, then the constitution establishes a Government consisting of the President and the Senate. The highest function of government is in its power of taxation. Without that there is no government.

Our Federal constitution says that all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist in a Senate and House of Representatives, and that all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments, as on other bills.

It seems plain that this declares the enactment of revenue bills to be a legislative act, and among the powers deposited in the whole Congress. The Senate is given only concurrent powers over such legislation, and nothing seems clearer than that it was never intended that the Senate should exercise treaty-making power to nullify an act of the whole Congress relating to revenue.

By parity of reasoning a tariff treaty becomes a revenue bill, and the constitution says that such bill shall originate in the House. Yet this modern interpretation cuts the House out of any and all jurisdiction over the revenue, removes the subject from public discussion in the open Congress and takes it behind closed doors in executive sessions of the Senate to be settled by that body and the President. Again, if the Senate and Executive by treaty may lower or remove duties, they may by the same means raise them. If such jurisdiction exist at all, it applies both ways, and its use is without limitation.

Therefore, it will be seen that, as government is non-existent without the taxing power, and wherever that power is deposited is the actual government, if the Senate and the President hold that power exclusive of the House, they are the government, and we have a system consisting of an Executive and a legislative body of one house only.

This is the most serious question that has arisen since the constitutional perpetuity of the Government was questioned by the South before the Civil War. It so seriously affects American interests and domestic production, and the whole policy of protection, as to require re-argument in the courts, and if the power claimed be found in the constitution the necessity of amending that instrument will become an issue in our politics.

The canal route and rights which the Panama company has put on the national bargain counter seems to have been too much for the Senators. They may not decide to take it, but they cannot pass it by without looking at it and feeling of it.

HUMANITY IN WAR.

KING EDWARD, in his speech from the throne at the opening of Parliament, commended his troops in South Africa not only for their courage, but for "cheerfulness in the endurance of hardships incident to guerrilla warfare, and a humanity, even to their own detriment, in their treatment of the enemy, which are worthy of the highest praise." We are told that when the words were uttered the peers, peresses and high officers of state broke out into a prolonged cheer, which was repeated again and again.

There can be no doubt that the utterance of the King and the cheers of the Lords were due to the controversy now raging between the British and their Continental critics concerning the conduct of British troops in the South African campaign. Cheering in the House of Lords during a speech from the throne is something like a breach of etiquette. It is so great a violation of ancient precedent that the officials of the House were dismayed by its occurrence, and, notwithstanding the evident satisfaction of the King, they signalled deprecations of the outburst. Evidently, then, the peers have felt very acutely the attacks made upon the army and are in no mood to treat criticism with silent contempt.

The incident is a striking illustration of the increased force of public opinion and of the great degree to which the most powerful nations and statesmen feel themselves responsible to the sentiments of mankind. At the beginning of the last century few people would have concerned themselves about the sufferings entailed by such a war as that in the Transvaal; and those who did concern themselves about the matter would have had but little response to their appeals for a larger humanity in the conduct of war. Their criticisms would have fallen upon deaf ears. No nation engaged in the Napoleonic contests of that time was sensitive to what other people said of its tactics in the struggle, and no statesman would have thought of paying attention to foreign criticisms had they been uttered.

Nothing more clearly marks the development of the spirit of humanity among civilized men than this increased sensitiveness to the sufferings of others and the augmented sense of a responsibility to public sentiment arising from that sensitiveness. So pro-

found an impression had been made upon the British people by the criticisms of Continental Europe upon Kitchener's tactics that Chamberlain was stung to a sharp reply. His words had no other effect than that of increasing the intensity of the criticisms, especially in Germany; and now the King himself has found it necessary in the most emphatic manner to meet the charge by commending his troops for humanity.

War can never be made lenient. Its object is to destroy, to kill and to crush. Its methods must necessarily be harsh. It is evident, however, that civilization has come to look upon it with something of abhorrence and to insist that it be waged with some respect for life and property. Weyler's methods in Cuba stirred Americans into a war for the liberation of Cuba, and yet they were nothing like so severe as the methods pursued by the conquerors of times past; and it is safe to say that there is not a single nation in Europe whose troops have not committed excesses far grosser than the worst that have been committed in South Africa. That sad truth was revealed in the conduct of the allies in putting down the Boxer uprising in China, and yet even in that far-off war there was a strong public sentiment that held to account the generals and the Governments that permitted the outrages.

Humanity, in fact, is no longer an unimportant feeling among civilized men. Slowly but surely it is working to put an end to war by developing an abhorrence of the evils that attend wars. Public sentiment on such subjects is no longer despised. Nations feel their responsibility to it and kings from their thrones appeal to it.

If it be true, as reported, that Washington City has become the most attractive winter resort in America, it must be that the people in the East are so eager seeking office they haven't time to hunt a good climate.

THE RAILWAY PROBLEM.

MR. JAMES J. HILL, in a recent interview in which he once more repeated his often expressed conviction that railway combinations are not only beneficial to the public, but are actually necessary to the welfare of industry and trade, went on to speak of the congested state of transportation throughout the country as presenting a problem whose solution will require extensive railway construction. It would appear, then, that the evil of which so much complaint has been heard all through the fall is of much greater magnitude than has been supposed.

Mr. Hill is quoted as saying: "A careful examination of the railway problem from a national standpoint will, I believe, show beyond question that the business of the country has outgrown the facilities on most of the trunk lines, and that new facilities now apparent will be necessary to relieve the situation. \* \* \* Conditions in this country change very rapidly. \* \* \* To-day we find the volume of traffic so great east of Chicago that the railways are not able to move it under the present conditions. How will these conditions be changed, and at whose cost? Who will build new lines or increase old ones? These are the questions which I will not undertake to answer, further than to say that the West must have the facilities or suffer for the want of them. The public must bear in mind that a bankrupt road cannot furnish good service."

It is to be borne in mind of course that these statements of the inadequacy of the roads to handle the traffic of the country were made as parts of a showing in favor of big combinations and of the absorption of small roads by larger ones. When ample allowance is made for that fact, however, there remains enough of force in the description given of the lack of facilities to excite interest in the problem set forth. Evidently Mr. Hill believes we are to have a new era of railroad construction as well as of railway consolidation. He gives no intimation of who will undertake the new enterprises, but it would seem he is quite sure they will be forthcoming. As he says, "the West must have them or suffer." Such being the case, railroad developments will be watched more closely than ever. There is no telling what the great syndicates may have up their sleeves.

Last year was a great year for the establishment of trusts and syndicates, and this year will probably be noted for the way in which it thins out the weak ones and compels the strong to be conservative.

TEACHERS' PENSIONS.

FROM Chicago comes a report that the teachers' pension scheme undertaken there with such sanguine expectations a few years ago has proven to be a virtual failure. It appears that a large number of teachers who entered into it with high hopes have grown weary of paying assessments and have withdrawn. The consequence is the pensions have been scaled down by degrees until they now amount to less than half what was at first promised. Of course each reduction in the pension has increased the dissatisfaction, and the scheme is about to collapse.

According to the reports that come to us the greatest discontent with the system is due to the fact that the withdrawal of so many members from the scheme has brought it about that even if the pensions were to be continued those who contributed most would receive least. The younger teachers who entered the scheme when first undertaken have paid their contributions into the fund right along, and thus provided pensions for the older teachers who resigned. Now, however, that the contributions have diminished, the younger teachers perceive that they cannot possibly receive the same amount of pension as the older teachers have been getting, and, furthermore, that there is an increasing danger the entire fund may be exhausted long before it comes their turn to be pensioned, and so they may lose their money altogether.

It is said by the advocates of the system that the failure is due wholly to the lack of a legal method of making contributions compulsory. They assert that if the contributions had been kept up there would have been perpetually an ample sum to provide pensions for each in turn as the time came for retirement. Under the voluntary system, however, there is no means for maintaining the contributions up to the required amount. The failure, therefore, is said to be not so much a failure of the pension system as of the voluntary contribution system. At this distance we are not able to pronounce judgment upon the plan nor upon the manner in which it was managed, but in the East it is opinion seems to prevail that the scheme of providing pensions for retiring teachers by contributions from those remaining in the service is impracticable under existing laws.

If Prince Henry of Russia takes in all the grand welcome that New York is preparing for him he will return home with a head on him bigger than that of the Kaiser.

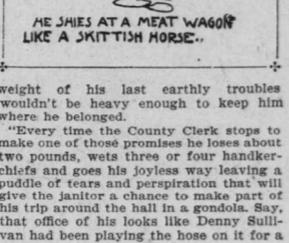
SAYS LEFTY BANNON, "MAHONY CAN'T EAT MEAT SINCE ELECTION."



AY, this guy Mahony can do more political flip-flops in a holy minute than a high-priced circus actor can toss off in a year," said Lefty Bannan to his friend, "Pegleg" Daily, as he stood warming his feet against the heater in the corridor outside the County Clerk's office. "On de square, dis dump around here is getting as cold as one of those bows Herrin passes out to an office hold-er who has lost his job. Say, the only warm thing in the vicinity of this part of the hall is the County Clerk himself. If those newspaper guys keep after him much longer about that slip of paper he made his mark on when he dealt the bunk to Billy Deane he'll be throwing up the sponge and ducking out to Holy Cross to wear a stone chest protector for fear the



weight of his last earthly troubles wouldn't be heavy enough to keep him where he belonged. "Ever since the County Clerk stops to make one of those promises he loses about two pounds, wets three or four handkerchiefs and goes his joyless way leaving a puddle of tears and perspiration that will give the janitor a chance to make part of his trip around the hall in gondola. Say, that office of his looks like Denny Sullivan had been playing the hose on it for a week.



"The day the old push packed up their carpet bags, lead pencils, cuspids, ink wells, and every other old thing that belonged to the city and done a side step into the cold world so the other bunch of tax-eaters could get to the public trough, Mahony was strutting around here like a prize pig at the World's Fair. I got a grip at his nob's this morning and he comes through with a front that looks like an imitation of Patsy the Macer making a touch. All that swell front and the enlarged skylines is missing. "It must have been an awful blow. One of those wallops that makes a guy stay

on the floor the limit aint a marker to the jolt Mahony got when they sprung that unredemed pledge on him. Say, it's a four dollar dog against a brick watch that Bert wont promise himself a clean shirt for fear his shadow will hot foot him around till he makes good.

"Two or three of them Butcherfown beef killers have promised to hand Mahony a bunch of fives the first time they collide on the path and they swear they'll be Johnny on the Spot with the goods, just to show Mahony they don't go back on their word. Say, it's funny. One of these guys has got Jim McGilroy in a barrel and a mit as big as a Dupeh man. Ever since he went into office Mahony has become a vegetarian. He can't eat meat because it brings up memories of Butcherfown. He shies at a meat wagon like a skittish horse at a man in a shirt waist.

"Well, I guess I'll have to choke off this spiel now. Here comes Abe Ruef, and me and Abe got to have a heart to heart talk about getting Jim McGilroy a job in the Sheriff's office. Jim has a bad habit of singing 'Oh Promise Me' every time he gets a little skate on and he can't sing that song and hold down a job in the County Clerk's office."



HE JIMIES AT A MEAT WAGON LIKE A SKITTISH HORSE. HAVE PROMISED TO HAND MAHONY A BUNCH 'F FIVES.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

NEW YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT—Manhattan, City. The New York paid fire department was organized May 2, 1865.

THE ALAMEDA—S. City. The ferryboat Alameda was built on the Potrero in San Francisco and launched on the 2d of December, 1855.

RAILROAD COLLEGE—L. City. At one time the Pennsylvania Railroad had a railroad college in which instruction in railroading was given.

STATUTE OF LIMITATION—W. Oakland, Cal. In the case of a mortgage the statute of limitation commences to run from the date of maturity.

CRIBBAGE—H. M. City. In the case cited B. in the last play of four scores a run of five (1-2-3-4-5) and in addition to the run gets a point for last play.

GASOLINE—Constant Reader, City. The placing of gasoline in an iron tank that had contained salt water would not produce any deleterious effect upon it.

QUOTATION—Subscriber, City. "To read and write comes by nature" is from "Much Ado About Nothing," act III, scene 3, spoken by Dogberry to the second watchman.

JOE JEFFERSON—G. and T. L. Oakland, Cal. Joe Jefferson appeared in "Rip Van Winkle" at the California Theatre from June 1 to 10, 1878, and in "The Rivals" at the Baldwin from March 7 to 20, 1882.

DOUBLE PEDRO—Constant Reader, City. The game of double pedro is governed by the laws of the place in which the game is played. Generally a player cannot be made to throw down his cards after two or three trials. He can play till he has no more cards.

HIGH BAND COLLAR—A. O. S. City. A high band collar with black necktie is hardly etiquette at a strictly fashionable function. There is, however, no reason why a gentleman should not wear such when accompanying a lady to a theater or while attending an ordinary function at which ladies are present.

INDIAN TRIBE—Nimrod, City. The published list of Indian tribes of North America does not give the name of either Miscaleno or Miscalero. The nearest to either name is that of the Mescalero, a tribe that inhabited the territory between Fort Ross and San Francisco Bay, and the Miskanas, who dwelt near the San Buena Ventura Mission.

JAPANESE RELIGION—Nimrod, City. By the constitution of Japan absolute freedom of religious belief and practice is secured so long as it is not prejudicial to peace and order. The religion of the Japanese is the Shinto or Kami no Michi (the way of the gods), the indigenous faith with its twelve sects, and Buddhism with its twenty-five creeds, introduced from China, A. D. 552.

THE RAILROAD—W. M. Santa Rosa, Cal. In Poor's Railroad Manual you will find an account of the Central Pacific Railroad and the Southern Pacific Company that will give you the history of both roads, the amount in which the Government assisted by finance and lands, and the present condition of the financial standing of each road.

BASEBALL LINES—Twirler, San Martin, Cal. In a baseball field the distance between home plate and first base is ninety feet, the same between first and second base. The distance between the second and third base is 90.95 feet, and the backstop is ninety feet from the home plate. For 10 cents you can get a copy of an official baseball guide which will give you the rules for laying out a baseball field.

BLIND GEORGE—M. F. C. City. This department has no record of any record of the doings of the "Wolfen Ventriloquist," a secret society that had for its purpose the reinstatement upon the throne of the Hanoverian King "Blind George." "Blind George" died in 1878; there was a society that wanted to sustain the claims of his son, Ernest Augustus, the Duke of Cumberland, but that individual in 1892 publicly renounced all claims to the throne.

MEERSCHAUM—A. L. G. Alameda, Cal. To color a meerschaum pipe the bowl is ordinarily boiled in a preparation of wax which is absorbed by the pipe, and its hue grows darker in proportion to the amount of tobacco used. A meerschaum pipe should at first be smoked very slowly and before a second bowlful is lighted the pipe should be allowed to cool off. This is to keep the wax as far as possi-

PERSONAL MENTION.

J. Grover of Colusa is at the Grand. G. W. Hudson of New York is at the Palace.

G. W. Patterson, a banker of Fresno, is at the Lick.

S. S. Bradford, a capitalist of Sonora, is at the Russ.

C. G. Gilman, a mining man of Napa, is at the Grand.

Thomas Clark, a mining man of Placer, is at the Grand.

W. W. Douglas, an attorney of Sacramento, is at the Grand.

W. W. Campbell of the Lick Observatory is at the California.

R. M. Green, a druggist and mine-owner of Oroville, is at the Lick.

James Steward, a cattleman of Butte, Mont., is at the Russ, accompanied by his wife.

J. C. Kirkpatrick, Harbor Commissioner and manager of the Palace Hotel, has returned to his home city.

Edward Chambers, freight manager of the Santa Fe, with headquarters at Los Angeles, is at the Palace.

Jacob Eppinger, the well-known grain broker of this city, who has been dangerously ill at the Palace Hotel for several weeks, is now convalescent.

California in New York. NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—The following Californians have arrived: San Francisco—A. Neuman, J. Brewster, at the Herald Square; A. R. Patrick, at the Arlington; J. Kahn, at the Hoffman; S. Martin, at the Hoffman; Los Angeles—R. Sharp, at the Continental.

ble upon the pipe, as rapid smoking will overheat, driving the wax off. A new pipe should never be smoked until the doors except in extremely cold weather. Fill the pipe and smoke down about one-third or to the height to which you wish to color the pipe; leave the remainder of the tobacco in the pipe and do not disturb it until the next time you smoke. The color is obtained. When smoking put fresh tobacco in the bowl, that is, on the residue, and smoke down to that level.

NITRO-GLYCERIN—J. E. S. Aromas, Monterey County, Cal. Nitro-glycerin is an oily, colorless liquid, with a specific gravity of 1.60. It has no smell, has a taste that at first is sweet, but soon becomes pungent, like pepper. It is made by mixing 100 parts of fuming nitric acid at 50 degrees Baume with 200 parts of sulphuric acid; when cool thirty-eight parts of glycerin are added, allowing it to trickle slowly down the sides of the vessel; the mixture is stirred for several hours without mixing. The glycerin and acid are stirred with a glass rod for ten seconds and poured into twenty times its volume of water, when the nitro-glycerin will instantly be precipitated to the extent of seventy-six parts, or double the amount of glycerin employed. It is repeatedly washed with water and then saturated with bicarbonate of soda or lime. It has been found that pure nitro-glycerin dropped on a thoroughly red-hot iron assumes a spheroidal shape and flashes off into vapor in the same way as gunpowder, but if the iron is not red-hot only hot enough to cause the nitro-glycerin to boil suddenly, an explosion takes place. Nitro-glycerin will explode by concussion.

BREAKING OFF AN ENGAGEMENT—T. C. W. City. The giving of a ring known as an engagement ring is customary, but not absolutely necessary. The amount of the ring is not good to her breaks off the engagement, she should do so by letter and at the same time return to the gentleman with the letter anything she may have received from him in the way of photographs, letters or gifts which she may have received during the engagement. When the letter is acknowledged by the gentleman he should send to her any picture, letter or presents he received from the lady. A lady would not care to have any reminder of the man she was once engaged to if she felt that if she did not break off the engagement her happiness would be compromised, and therefore she should not care to give him those presents back; yet there is this to say, that a present freely given is the property of the one who received it and the recipient would be justified in retaining the same. The gentleman might say that "she did those presents back," and if she did not he might comment on an action for the recovery of the same, because there is no law to prevent a man from commencing an action, no matter in what ridiculous light he might, by such a course place himself. If neither party should consent to breaking off the engagement then the probabilities are that the marriage will take place.

A CHANCE TO SMILE.

"I was out to Langley's yesterday. He's added quite an improvement to his home."

"Wings?"

"No, twins."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Isn't that a brigantine that's just coming up?" inquired the first passenger.

"I think not," replied the seaman near by. "I don't remember having eaten a brigantine."—Philadelphia Press.

"Pa, why do they call this railroad a trunk line?"

"Oh, I suppose some woman traveled over on her way to a summer resort along about the time they were trying to think up a name for it."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"I understand that you were very much shocked by the discovery of vice in your city."

"No," answered the political reformer; "I have suspected the existence of vice for a long time. What shocked me was the discovery that an old political enemy of mine was drawing the profits."—Washington Star.

Church—Do you think there is anything in environment?

Gotham—My, yes! I know a man who wears an 18 collar who resides at Great Neck, L. I.—Yonkers Statesman.

"Er—what kind of cigars do you smoke, Henry?" asked Mrs. Newed, cautiously, little suspecting that Henry knew that Christmas was in her mind.

"Six for a nickel, my dear," he replied. "Any grocery keeps them."

He was determined she should waste as little money as possible.—Columbus Journal.

The King smiled. When the King smiles the courtiers look pleasant.

"Well," he said, "there's one royal official whose presence we can dispense with at the coronation."

"Kindly name him, your Majesty," said the commandant of the Beefeaters.

"It is the grand weather prognosticator," replied the monarch and his smile deepened.

"And why will he be omitted?" inquired the royal mace bearer.

"Because," said the King as he gave them the merry ha, ha, "because the weather is the only one who overpowers in his deadly coils. A jackrabbit is, however, considered a tough proposition, and for a pair of snakes to develop an ambition to conquer one is the full vigor of health in a snake's anatomy, for one of the reptiles sprang through the air and landed out into the water. The other, realizing that it had to battle all alone with the ferocious jack, after holding on a moment quickly unwound itself and went up the hillside, with the rabbit in hot pursuit. They were soon lost to sight in the river swam to the opposite bank and also disappeared."

Ex. strong hoarhound candy. Townsend's Cal. Glace Fruit 50c per lb at Townsend's.

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