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PUBLICATION OFFICE... Market and Third, S. F. EDITORIAL ROOMS... 217 to 221 Stevenson St.

Delivered by Carriers, 15 Cents Per Week. Single Copies, 5 Cents. Terms by Mail, including Postage:

DAILY CALL (including Sunday), one Year... \$6.00. DAILY CALL (including Sunday), 6 months... 3.50.

All postmasters are authorized to receive subscriptions.

Sample copies will be forwarded when requested.

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C. GEORGE KROENESS, Manager Foreign Advertising, Marquette Building, Chicago.

NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE: STEPHEN B. SMITH... 30 Tribune Building.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT: C. C. CARLTON... Herald Square.

NEW YORK NEWS STANDS: Waldorf-Astoria Hotel; A. Brentano, 31 Union Square.

CHICAGO NEWS STANDS: Sherman House; F. O. News Co.; Great Northern Hotel.

WASHINGTON (D. C.) OFFICE... 1406 G St., N. W.

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FRANCE IN CHINA.

It is a singular revelation of the weakness of the central Government of China that France should plead an invitation of a Viceroy to send troops into Southern China against the prohibition of the Peking Government.

Whatever be the merits of the question between the artists and the utilitarians, it appears there is no immediate danger of a serious change in the falls. A careful student of the subject says that on the American side 113,000 horsepower is now in use and franchises have been granted to divert 105,000 more.

It is history that when foreign troops are invited to take part in a domestic quarrel they seldom withdraw willingly. The soldiers of Strongbow were welcomed to Ireland by a faction and their successors have been in Ireland for more than seven centuries.

China has a population of 425,000,000. All Europe has only 372,000,000. It would seem to be the proper policy of the Western world to let China remain intact, to let her ancient civilization alone, to cease trying to destroy the ideals of her people, but to join in peacefully adapting that civilization and those ideals to conditions which will bring her vast consuming power into proper relations to the world's commerce.

With their matchless capacity for passive resistance, it is doubtful whether the Chinese can ever be adapted by conquest or force. It is human nature to cling, with more desperate courage and devotion, to ideals and institutions which are assailed by force.

The United States, as a Government, cannot even suggest the impolicy of such moves as this last one by France. We have gone to the limit of diplomacy in securing the agreement of Europe to our open door policy and the equality of opportunity for Chinese trade.

It would be an incident satisfactory now and great in history if Europe and the United States would join in a convention, like the peace conference at The Hague, to agree upon a policy as to China. The real interest of all the parties to such a convention is Chinese trade.

Reports from the East tell of great damage done to the peach crop by frost. Maryland is howling and a wail comes up from North Georgia. It is remembered, however, that such reports come in every year at this time and then later on peaches flood the markets just the same.

NIAGARA ENDANGERED.

WHEN the captains of industry devised a means of converting the water power of Niagara to the service of man there was a general jubilation. People talked of "harnessing Niagara" as if it were an achievement to be proud of, and many were the sanguine speculations as to the coming of a time when it, the great scenic wonder of the East, would be transformed into a dynamo to light the streets and drive the engines of New York.

It is feared that extensive works erected on both the American and the Canadian side of the falls will seriously diminish the quantity of water that goes over the precipice. The managers of the enterprises are reported to be quite aware of the probable effect of their works, but they take a strictly utilitarian view of the question.

Another danger to the falls is the great drainage canal at Chicago. It is asserted that if the canal be developed as some enterprising men desire there

would be such a quantity of water drawn off by that outlet that the supply at Niagara would be much less than at present. In fact, some alarmists assert that there would be a "dry Niagara" at certain seasons, and they are doing their best to organize an association devoted to the duty of saving the falls.

A number of prominent men in New York signed what they believed to be a petition to the Legislature to provide for improving Erie canal, but they have been amazed to find that it requested the Legislature to do nothing of the kind and leave the whole thing to the national Government.

TALKING OF BRIBERY.

FOR various reasons the people of New England have been very much occupied of late in discussing the prevalence of bribery in elections. Out of the discussion there has come of course a conference on the subject. The principal speakers were Governor Garvin of Rhode Island, who described the bribery practices of that State; Rev. J. J. McCook of Hartford, who spoke of the evil in Connecticut, and George Kennan, who told of the ways things have been run in Delaware, with incidental references to Massachusetts.

In a New England conference Delaware should not have been brought to the bar, for she is outside the Puritan pale. It happens, however, that the alleged master of bribery in Delaware is Addicks, and Massachusetts has a deep interest in Addicks. He once monkeyed with a Massachusetts Legislature and got away with it. Moreover—and this grinds the New Englanders—he got away with it cheap.

Concerning that phase of the issue Mr. Kennan is reported as saying: "He (Addicks) thought by putting \$140,000 into that campaign he had bought a Senatorship, and no doubt he was going to get it. But it was found that while the Republicans had a majority of eleven he could control only six or seven of them. He therefore turned his attention to buying votes of legislators in the Assembly. He and his workers offered from \$10,000 to \$20,000 apiece for every vote they could get. I am glad to say for the credit of Delaware that although \$20,000 was offered to legislators for their votes he did not get a single man during that session of the Legislature. And his Boston worker, Mr. Donohoe, was so disgusted with this result that he said to the chairman of the Sussex County Republican Committee: 'This is a d—d queer state of things down here in Delaware. In Boston Mr. Addicks can get all the men he wants for \$5,000 apiece, but if there is any man in this d—d Legislature that can be bought I haven't found him.'"

Governor Garvin, after reviewing the exposure of bribery in Rhode Island, suggested as a remedy the abolition of the secret ballot and said: "I think the final way to vote will be to hand each voter the voting list, with his name upon it, and at the side of the name a space for him to write the name of the candidates for whom he wishes to vote—opposite his name. There we will have the list and know who votes, and it is a matter of proof in courts. It is an open ballot, to be sure, but by that means you will need no corrupt practice act."

Mr. McCook estimates that in Connecticut there are upward of 30,000 venal voters and that they hold the balance of power in every election, so that bribery virtually decides every contest. By way of suggesting a remedy he said: "What is required is that plain, honest people begin to attend primaries, committee meetings, the polls; that they put on no airs; that they be ready to give and take; that they plant their heels at every favorable spot, taking in and holding every inch of the slack, and that they suffer not themselves to be discouraged because they get more cuffs than haps, and because their Rome cannot be built in a day. In a word, duty, conscience, unselfishness, imperturbable good nature, invincible stubbornness."

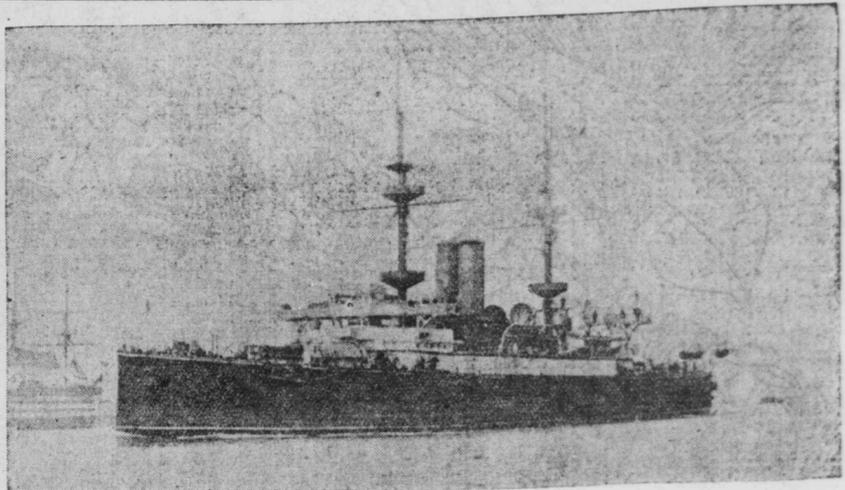
The results of the conference are by no means encouraging. Governor Garvin's plan of an open ballot is too much opposed to American tradition to be adopted. Mr. McCook's plan is easy to recommend, but there appears no way of getting it enforced. Probably if some vitally important issue were at stake the good citizen would go to the primaries and the polls and scorn to sell his vote; but as politics go to-day there appears no way to get the good citizen interested enough to do his duty, and consequently the man who is ready to pay for votes generally gets more of them than the other fellow.

Astley Parris, a native of the West Indies and a preacher, recently told a Boston audience that the West Indians did not wish any missionaries from this country. "They come to us," he said, "all puffed up with a notion that they are superior beings; they patronize us, and in the end they degrade our people rather than help them." There are other people who share the opinions of the West Indians on that subject.

It is stated that John D. Rockefeller is backing an experimenter who is trying to devise a means of producing electricity direct from coal; and now, if the experimenter will work the lead as cleverly as did the inventor of the Keely motor, the Rockefeller millions may be properly distributed in a few years to the satisfaction of everybody.

Israel Zangwell says the reason why so many artists wear long hair is because they cannot afford to pay the barber for cutting it; but the theory is untenable, for if a man were a true genius he could get his hair cut without paying for it.

BRITISH ARE NOT EXPERT IN THE USE OF LIQUID FUEL



BRITISH BATTLESHIP HANNIBAL, OF THE CHANNEL SQUADRON, WHICH HAS BEEN ORDERED TO A DOCKYARD, IN ORDER THAT INQUIRIES MAY BE MADE AS TO WHY THE USE OF OIL AS FUEL ON THE VESSEL PROVED A FAILURE.

LIQUID fuel is not meeting with any success on board the larger ships in the British navy, although it has given satisfaction on torpedo-boat destroyers. It was a flat failure on the battleships Mars and Hannibal of the Channel squadron, and the ships have gone to a dockyard, where inquiries into the causes of failure will be made.

The health of the British navy shows a steady improvement, the report for 1902 indicating that it has never been better since 1852. One interesting fact is this, that foreign service is not attended with high mortality and that the English climate, as a whole, is no better than any other.

Captain G. H. B. Mundy of the British cruiser Isis was recently the victim of a mortal assault by three Spaniards at Las Palmas, of the Canary Islands group. The ship had landed seven cadets for treatment of measles at the English hospital at Puerto de la Luz, and the population, believing that the patients were suffering from smallpox, attacked the escort of sailors, pelting them with stones. Captain Mundy, who was ashore in plain clothes, ordered the bluejackets to retreat to the hospital and tried to quiet the disturbance. Three of the principal offenders were arrested and brought before a local court, where the leader was sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment and the other two to twelve years each.

The London Post calls attention to the curious circumstance, which has hitherto escaped the attention of naval critics, that since the introduction of the searchlight on war vessels nobody seems to have thought of protecting it. The searchlight is carried in various places in different navies and is in all cases a "shining mark."

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mayor George E. Catts of Stockton is at the Lick. Former Judge J. M. Mannon of Ukiah is at the Lick. Dr. and Mrs. Koch of New Orleans are at the Grand. Dr. Edgar T. Stewart of St. Paul is at the Occidental. Judge and Mrs. W. H. Hatton of Modesto are at the Lick. John Paulson, a lumber merchant of Portland, is at the Palace. Dr. and Mrs. D. Shephardson of Chicago are registered at the Grand. Frank Piskey of Chicago, the playwright, is at the Occidental. A. C. Irwin, State Railroad Commissioner of Maryland, is registered at the Lick. Edgar Halstead, a wealthy sugar planter of Hawaii, is at the Occidental, en route to the islands. Healey Bausil, a civil engineer of Delhi, India, who has been traveling throughout Europe, is at the Palace. He is returning to his native country.

Rich Strike of Coal in Montana.

BUTTE, Mont., April 12.—A Miner special from Bozeman says that a rich strike of coal has been made near there. A tunnel has pierced a vein that is now seven feet in thickness and its width is increasing. The coal is of a high grade and is readily coalable.

Rockefeller Makes Generous Offer.

LINCOLN, Neb., April 12.—Officers of

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO CURE ANY DISEASE

The Cause Must Be Removed, Same Way With Dandruff.

Kill the germ that causes dandruff, falling hair and baldness, you will have no more dandruff and your hair must grow luxuriantly. Herpelde not only contains the dandruff germ destroyer, but it is also a most delightful hair dressing for regular toilet use. No other hair preparation is on this scientific basis of destroying the dandruff germ than Newbro's Herpelde. Sold by leading druggists. Send 10c in stamps for sample to The Herpelde Co., Detroit, Mich.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of

Wm. D. Gifford

Sweden is still utilizing the old monitors John Ericsson, Thorsden, Tirfing and Loke, built between 1865 and 1871. It was realized in 1894 that although the vessels had served as coast defense as coast defenders on the high sea they were still valuable when located inshore and in harbors. They have since been modernized, armor has been strengthened and new armament placed on board, and they are likely to last for an indefinite time, being built of the best iron.

The best marksman on board the Texas is J. McCullin, who enlisted only three weeks ago as a landsman. McCullin aimed one of the six-pounders, while at target practice in the gulf, scoring ten hits out of ten shots at a distance of 1069 yards. The Texas was steaming at the rate of ten knots an hour. It was McCullin's first experience in target practice and also his first trip on the water.

John Ryan, a coal passer on United States monitor Puritan, has been awarded a silver war medal by King Edward for services as a scout with the Canadian contingent during the recent war in South Africa. Ryan, however, was absent from his ship when the medal was forwarded, and stood on the books as a "straggler," having been absent without leave for less than ten days. After this limit is reached he will be considered as a deserter and liable to six months or one year's imprisonment and dishonorable discharge. It is the opinion of the legal department of the navy that Ryan can accept the gift of King Edward without special consent of Congress.

Assistant Secretary Darling has authorized the adoption of the piece-work system on the battleship Connecticut, building at the New York navy yard. Thus another disadvantage of Government shipbuilding in competition with private yards has been overcome, and as the

navy yards are rapidly being supplied with the latest labor-saving appliances tools and machinery, good and expeditious work may be looked for as a natural result. It now remains with Congress to modify the antiquated laws regulating the purchase of material, and for new methods of private yards. The agitation for shipbuilding in Government yards in which Vallejo took such an active part one year ago has had beneficial results and dilatory contractors begin to realize that the navy yards have become formidable competitors in the building of naval vessels.

Special Order No. 37 of the Navy Department authorized the issuing of athletic outfits to vessels in commission. The articles enumerated in the appended table of allowances are for officers and crews, and in addition fencing foil, gloves and masks are issued for the sole use of officers on vessels having complements of over 100 men.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

SQUARE ACRE—S. A. D. Gilroy, Cal. A square acre is 4 rods; 160 poles; 4840 yards; 43,560 feet; 5,272,940 inches. A square the sides of which are 208.71 feet long contains one acre.

WOODEN PEGS—G. M. As this department does not advertise any business house it cannot give you "the name of a house or firm that sells machines for making wooden pegs." Letters containing questions, the answer to which amounts to an advertisement, should have in the letter a self-addressed and stamped envelope.

... TWO LITERARY GEMS ...

"TAINTED GOLD"

The New International Novel of the Lure and the Heartaches, the Mystery and the Magic of the London Stage, My MRS. C. N. WILLIAMSON, Will Begin in the

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Also One of the Best Short Stories Ever Written, by the Famous Author of "Sherlock Homes,"

"THE SLAPPING SAL"

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER STRIKING FEATURES:

... Choosing of Wives ... The Woman Who Argues

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ME-OWS OF A KITTY

By KATE THYSON MARR.