

MEN and MATTERS IN THE FOR as the WORLD MOVES



Gives Warning to Germany.

Berlin, June 26.—Wilhelm von Kardorff, the veteran member of the German Reichstag, who has startled his countrymen by declaring that the British navy is becoming a menace to Germany, has achieved political fame and honor despite the fact that he has for more than fifty years been without a nose. Kardorff fought a bloody rapier duel with a fellow student while...



VON KARDORFF, GERMANY'S NOSELESS STATESMAN, SAYS BRITISH NAVY IS A MENACE.

at Heidelberg University in the '40s, the combat ending in the lopping off, close to the forehead, of his proboscis as the result of a deadly slash directed by his antagonist. It might have been replaced, it is said, had not the surgeon been forestalled by one of the big mastiffs that generally attend their masters at these encounters. In consequence a wax nose had to be substituted for the severed member and has done service all these years. So clever is the imitation that persons who are not in the secret have no reason whatever to suspect that it is artificial.

Kardorff is 76 years old and has been a dominant figure in the Reichstag for the past thirty years. He crossed swords upon many occasions with Bismarck, and even to-day, at his advanced age, is one of the most forceful and feared debaters in the House. His specialties are protection and bimetalism—a combination that will strike American politicians as unique. Of an old Prussian family, Von Kardorff springs from typical "Junker" or land-baron stock, and is accordingly one of the pillars of German agrarianism, that powerful political sect which refuses to recognize that modern Germany has lost its status as an agricultural state and must arrange its fiscal policy to meet the demands of industry, which is now the nation's support. It was Kardorff and the influence of his immediate following that saddled the present high tariff upon Germany, with its colossal grain and cereal duties, and consequent hardships upon the working classes. To the policy which he has helped to fasten upon the country is due in large measure the rise and prosperity of Social Democracy, which exploited "bread usury" (high tariff on grain) to the full at last year's Reichstag election and captured dozens of new strongholds.

Kardorff is an emphatic and sometimes erratic talker. Some of his outbursts, like his recent reference to the menace of the British fleet, have provoked critics to call him a "welscher hitzkopf"—a white-headed alarmist. Yet he is one of Germany's most picturesque political figures and will be widely missed when he passes off the stage of active political life.

Dominion Day.

It is thirty-seven years since the scattered provinces of Canada were consolidated into one Dominion which gave birth to the impulse of nationhood. The start was made by men of great faith—men who believed in the ability of the people to make the Dominion strong and great. That faith has been more than justified. The pulse of the nation beats with full and quickening life. The most sanguine anticipations of those who laid the foundations of the Dominion are being realized. There have been days of trial, days of adversity, days of gloom; there have been good times and there have been bad times; there have been race differences which have been followed by fuller and clearer understandings, religious differences which have led to broader toler-

ation, but, looking around us and above us, there is hardly a cloud visible on the sky. The sun of Canada's prosperity shines clear and high.—Ottawa Free Press.

B. Com., the New Degree.

There is to be a faculty of commerce at the University of Manchester, and, according to the first prospectus which has been issued, two commercial degrees are provided for—"B. Com." and "M. Com."

To obtain these degrees students must master the study of economics, an analysis of industries from the international standpoint, accounts, modern history, trade geography, languages and general commercial law. "Bachelors of Commerce" must pass in from eight to ten subjects, and the "Master of Commerce" degree is conferred on B. Coms. who offer "a dissertation on some subject approved by the faculty." The fees for each subject are from 6s 6d to 2s.

The faculty has been founded with the object of affording a systematic training in higher commercial subjects, in the study of government and administration, and in the work of economic and social investigation.

The faculty is designed for all classes of students who desire to train themselves in the "business sciences," for those who can give the whole of their time for three years after leaving school, those who cannot give their full time, but will carry on their studies after entering the business, and those who can devote only evenings or other portions of their time to study.

Classes are to be held in the day and evening, and the course for the degree may be taken in small portions, so that there is nothing to debar any of these classes of students from offering themselves for the degree.—St. James Gazette.

Suicide Impulse at Sea.

Births, marriages and deaths are very common at sea; cases of suicide, although not materially swelling the records of deaths, are by no means frequent. It often happens that mental depression is accentuated by the vastness and solitude of the ocean. The sense of loneliness, helplessness and insignificance has been known to develop into suicidal tendencies. Strangely enough, during an actual tempest the sense of self-preservation seems to overpower the desire for self-destruction. Some months ago a young lady on board a steamer bound for a Canadian port evinced much apprehension as to her safety during a violent storm. Less than two days later, when the sea was calm and sailing conditions pleasant, she climbed over the bulwarks and threw herself into the ocean.

The fascination of watching the swift flow of water from the propellers at the stern of a vessel is a well-known cause of suicide. Even sailors who have gazed down at the surging stream have been overcome with the morbid impulse to leap into it. In the Red Sea and Indian Ocean, Lascars, mad with heat, have leaped out of the engine-room and at a bound have dived overboard, never to be seen again. Lack of success in America or Australia has driven many an emigrant to seek oblivion in suicide. Two cases occurred last year of unsuccessful men who drowned themselves when in sight of the old country.—London Mail.

Cost of Edward's Coronation.

The cost of the coronation of King Edward VII, details of which were recently published, establishes a record for modern times. It was considered, until recently, a lordly and magnificent thing for the subjects of George IV to spend £238,238 in putting a crown on his head, but we have eclipsed their lavishness by £121,000. William IV and Queen Adelaide were content with a modest £50,000. It is not easy, says the London Chronicle, to understand in what King Edward's £258,000 was sunk, not so easy, at least, as in the case of George IV—a sumptuous record of whose coronation proved too costly to finish. The part which did appear contained seventy-three colored drawings, "finished like enamels, on velvet and white satin." Each portrait cost fifty guineas. A different spirit animated Earl Grey, when defending the Ministry from a charge of unseemly mutilations in regard to King William's coronation. "It was the hope of the King and the Ministers," he said, "to prevent a heavy burden from falling on the people."

The First Burmese Novel.

A new departure in Burmese literature, in the form of a publication of a Burmese novel, has been welcomed in Burma, says a correspondent. To every one familiar with the literature of the Burmese—and, unhappily, they are not many—there is no doubt that this departure will be welcomed as a relief from the tedious tales printed in ponderous volumes and written in conventional style.

An educated Burman well known in Rangoon has had the happy idea of writing the novel somewhat on the lines of those issued daily by the publishers in other countries. The task was one beset with many difficulties, the first and greatest of these being the language itself, for its flexibility in expressing new ideas makes it, we are told, a very unwieldy instrument in the hands of even the most accomplished scholar. The cause of this stiffness is to be found in the evolution of Burmese literature. The first Burmese novel which introduces this new departure from conventional literature, and surprised and even astonished Burmese readers, has appeared in serial form in the Friend of Burma and will be shortly published in book form with illustrations. The story is entitled "Maung Gin Mang Ma Maydo Vatthu." It is interesting, we are assured, not only as to its plot, but as giving much valuable insight into Burmese family life and into the customs and practices of the Burmese people. Burmese life is painted, not as seen through European glasses, but from within by one who had lived and is living it.—Lahore (India) Tribune.

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THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM.

THE speeches at the Democratic National Convention, which were addressed to any subject outside the internal feuds of the party, were elaborate denials of any relation between Republican policy and the progress and prosperity of the country. If that be true, then no public political policy or method of administration can affect in any way the economic condition and material progress of the people. This is the logic of the Democratic statement, and it makes idle the promises of the platform, which run to the subjects of taxation and prices, and promise "the rescue of the administration of the Government from the headstrong, arbitrary and spasmodic methods which distract business by uncertainty and pervade the public mind with dread, distrust and perturbation."

This platform expression is lifted bodily out of the trust organs. They used it in every impressive form when President Roosevelt ordered the seven cases brought against the trusts, and were frantically duplicated when each of the suits was won. No legitimate business interest of the country has felt any dread of Republican policy or administration, nor any uncertainty. What those business interests require is the gold standard of value, assuring financial stability and adherence to our economic and revenue policy of protection.

The gold standard plank of the platform, as first agreed upon and then struck out to please and placate Bryan, was a lying evasion, which every gold standard Democrat knows to be false. A party that proposed to be false about a policy of such importance, and finally made a cowardly surrender, is not fit to be trusted with its maintenance, no matter what may be the present position of its candidate, who twice voted to destroy the gold standard. The plank, as framed and then killed, said: "The discoveries of gold within the past few years and the great increase in the production thereof adding two thousand million dollars to the world's supply, of which seven hundred millions fall to the share of the United States, have contributed to the maintenance of a money standard of value no longer open to question, removing that issue from the field of political contention."

No political utterance by any party in this country was ever as seamed and scarred, embossed and embroidered with contemptible cowardice and purulent dishonesty as that.

The Republicans and Democrats who stood for the gold standard in 1896 made it possible and finally secured it by legislation enacted independently of any increase in the supply of gold. That increase had nothing to do with the adoption of the standard and has no influence whatever upon its maintenance. The plank boasted that seven hundred millions of the increased supply have come to the United States. That is true. It is also true that if Bryan, John Sharp, Williams, Champ Clark, Judge Parker and the big and little deities of the party could have had their way and adopted free silver, not a single dollar of the increased supply of gold would have come to us, nor would there be left with us a single dollar of the stock that was on hand when these men were oozing enthusiasm at Chicago over Bryan's cross-of-gold speech, or supporting his pretenses. It is a poor compliment to the common sense of men like Ben Cable, Charles S. Hamlin, Thomas Taggart and Robert Pattison, gold Democrats and delegates at St. Louis, that they should agree to submit to such an untrue statement of a scientific situation.

The platform is intolerably verbose and repetitious, and presents only three issues—tariff, taxation and the Philippines. As for the tariff, there is no half way tinker's shop nor cobbler's stall between protection and free trade. Each represents an economic principle that may be defended. There can be no hybrid between them. If protection enrich manufacturers, free trade enriches the importers. If promoting the private business, the employing and consuming capacity of men, is bad, then we must stop doing anything, and protection and free trade are open to the same impeachment. The Democratic platform proposes a mule tariff, something that is neither horse nor ass, but has long ears and can bray. If it had boldly declared for free trade the party would have been entitled to respect. But its tariff expression is worthy to sit in the stocks with the gold standard hypocrisy to be egged by the people.

The people are informed that they are taxed within an inch of their lives to support the Federal Government. As the indisputable official figures show that Federal taxation, interest on the public debt and all amounts to just two cents per day per capita, the burden will be a light one to lift, and won't be missed when it is lifted.

The Philippine issue will be discussed separately. The significant feature of the convention was its domination by Southern men. Jones of Arkansas, chairman of the National Committee, called it to order and introduced Williams of Mississippi as temporary chairman, and he was succeeded by Champ Clark of Missouri as permanent chairman, and Daniel of Virginia was chairman of the platform committee. Every one of these was a free silver man and cursed Cleveland in 1896. Their lack of principle is the smallpox which infects the party they control.

Annaklahash, chief of the Juneau Indians, in token of peace and friendliness has sent a splendid totem to President Roosevelt. While the President undoubtedly admires the gift and appreciates the spirit of the simple giver, it is likely that even the Presidential contempt for difficulties will be awed at an attempt to pronounce that name.

THE SPEECH OF DELMAS.

IT is gratifying to intellectual Californians, who are proud of the pre-eminence of their State and of its citizens who are gifted in such ways as to attract attention wider and longer than the commonwealth itself, that the oratorical fame of Mr. Delmas does not have to rest upon his speech at St. Louis nominating Hearst. He put his goods on a falling market, and though flattery, sugared and scented, plays through the speech like lightning through a summer cloud, it is known that it was insufficient to sate Hearst's appetite.

He indulged in a variety of comparisons to bring out in higher relief the ascriptions to his candidate, and among them compared him to the pole star. That is not original. The pole star has been an oratorical property ever since it was used to fix the points of the compass. With the task he had in hand Mr. Delmas should not have borrowed a figure from Bossuet, Burke, Shakespeare and a large lot of geniuses and gentlemen who while alive used the pole star as a horse to draw the

plow of their oratory through the intellectual glebe of their time.

Why was he not original? Why did he not take the pole star in hand in a new way? This he could have done by comparing the pole star to Hearst and not Hearst to the star. If he had pictured the solitary star, hanging in the north heavens just at the edge of the Big Dipper, twinkling green with envy because Hearst excels it in standing hitched, he would have struck out a new idea in oratory.

He also presented Hearst as "true as the needle to the pole." That also is old. It was first used by a Chinese coolie 3200 B. C. What an opportunity Mr. Delmas lost by imitation instead of originality! He should have had the needle divorcing itself from its long devotion to the pole and turning upon its pivot point to Hearst as the new pole and incarnation of constancy. When he had a client who can gorge that sort of thing and upon whom it acts neither as a cathartic nor emetic, but who can always gorge more, he should have lived up to his opportunity. As it is the fame of Delmas is neither advanced nor set back by a speech that was all plain and no pinnacles.

Announcement comes from St. Petersburg that hereafter political prisoners will not be condemned to the dread tortures of Siberia without a trial before a regularly organized court. While the reform may not be more than a formality, it indicates that the leaven of civilization is working in Russia and that after all the Czar is amenable to criticism from his neighbors. And the Russian Government needs sorely now the friendship of the vast and diverse interests that form the empire.

ALAMEDA WON'T TRAIN.

THE people of Alameda have made a representative expression against consolidation with Oakland.

They exhibit much feeling in the matter and some alarm. It was concluded by the meeting that safety should be sought in the adoption of a freeholders' charter. The Call has no desire to advocate or oppose the proposition to unite the great population on the east side of the bay in one government, but the plan is before the public and there is no room for doubt that it will be in issue until a definite settlement is made.

Such a settlement can only be secured by going ahead to a finality. The Alamedans fear a change in the statutes of the State which will compel them to submit to be "gobbled," as they call the proposed process. They are of the opinion that they can make a new charter, to be ratified by the Legislature, making permanent their individual government. Thereafter a consolidation would find a charter in the way which could be amended by consolidation, but the people would vote on the amendment. But after such new charter is adopted the argument for consolidation and its economies will be strengthened. A new charter will increase the cost of the individual government, as it has in Oakland and as it will in Berkeley if that city adopt the same expedient. If the thin populations were consolidated they would make the second municipality in the State. We do not say that there is anything in mere size, but it is claimed that a common government for them all will be a better government and more economical.

It is easily foreseen that the discussion of the issues is destined to cause much heat and friction between the people of the east side. There is bad blood over it now, and it will get no better until some sort of settlement is reached. It will enter into district and county politics, and will cause a constant turmoil and confusion. It seems that a little wisdom and good feeling will save all of this and bring the issue to a test that will be accepted as final.

Instead of the people of Berkeley and Alameda rushing into a new charter campaign, why not get together with Oakland and agree to constitute a representative commission from each town, empowered to get together and see what kind of a general charter can be framed for a common government of them all, each retaining its present name and place on the political map of the State, after the borough plan which put New York and Brooklyn under one government, leaving them still known as New York and Brooklyn?

It is better to defer a fight over the matter until a compromise like that has been tried. Such a common charter would have to go to the Legislature. It is possible, too, that it would require an amendment to the State constitution, so that the finality in either event would not be imminent, and the people would have time for ample consideration of the whole matter in coolness and not in heat of temper. The underlying facts of taxation and expense could all be developed and compared with what can be fairly predicted of the new government, and as a result many men might change their minds. Perhaps those who now favor consolidation would get light leading them to abandon it. On the other hand those now in opposition might be led by facts and comparisons to go to the other side.

The legal phase of the subject is very interesting indeed. The whole State is interested in the questions it will raise. There are other towns that will want to economize or satisfy their ambitions by consolidating. At present it is an untried field, as proposed on the east side. The city and county consolidation of San Francisco was a different matter entirely. It dealt with a duality of government over the same population. The merger was easy. No heartburnings about going off the map were caused by it. No pride of municipal individuality had to be wounded. The only issue was the substitution by the same population of one government for two.

It is already obvious that the east side cannot be similarly consolidated. Individuality must be respected, and how can this be done except by borrowing from the experience of New York and adopting the borough system?

A saloon-keeper was brought before the bar of an Oakland Judge the other day on a charge of selling liquor to girls in his groggery. In Oakland this is a serious offense, and the defendant forfeited \$1250 and his license in penalty. What a curious and sensational situation would develop in San Francisco if we could find a Judge with the same opinions and the courage to enforce them as this Oakland protector of youth and morals.

A South American ant, that preys upon and destroys that pest of the cotton fields, the boll weevil, has been discovered and introduced with instant success into the plantations of Texas and other Southern States. It now remains to be seen if the ant, after annihilating the boll weevil, is not more dangerous than has been his victim to the cotton crop.

TALK OF THE TOWN AND TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Chasing "Business" Principles.

John J. Fitzgerald is the well known chicken farmer of Santa Rosa. He has a tad—business principle. Mrs. Fitz does not possess all the acumen of John J. in the matter of driving bargains—small bargains—any kind of bargains, so John J. thinks, and he enjoys trying to break her to the very useful habit. Look out for the nickels and the 5¢ pieces will roll themselves along, is a pet axiom with him. Fitz is not mean in his frugality, but, on the contrary, is the soul of generosity. His economy is not a mania, only a principle.

While in this city observing the Fourth festivities they boarded a Haight street car, seating themselves on the outside. The conductor gave Fitz a nickel short in the change and when the passenger promptly protested the railroad man corrected his error with due apologies. Fitz pointed a moral from the incident for Mrs. F.'s benefit.

"Now, you see how I made my case good. I upheld a principle and saved my money as well. You, doubtless, would have let it go. That's just like a woman."

In his oratorical exultation he flourished the hand that held the coin and

dollars one day and not as many cents the next, yes; luck was with him and no matter what the fluctuations were John C— added to his bank account until he did not know how much money stood to his credit. Swelled up with his good fortune he saw fit to offend one of the "Big Four" and it was decided to take John C— down a peg or two in his pomposity and planned well to attack his stock deals. The result has been cited above. In less than twelve months he did not own a single share. His home, his horses and all he had on earth was gone and what was still worse his wife left him in a few more years, going to Europe, where she died. And now John C— is a pauper with his city address not mentioned in the directory.

Such is the history of one; there are, or were, many others whose history fits this of poor John C—.

A Famous Clipper.

The achievements of the five-masted steel bark Preussen, 5081 tons, built in 1902, for the Laeisz shipping agency of Hamburg, the largest square-rigged bark in the world, has excited much interest of late. The most remarkable performance of the Preussen thus far has been the completion of the voyage from the channel to Iquique, Chile, a distance of 12,000 miles, in 57 days—about the time made by the steam freighters engaged in the South American trade. On this voyage the vessel took her departure from Ouessant March 5, 1903, and crossed the line March 13, thirteen days out, establishing a record never before equaled by a sailing ship. The parallel of 50 degrees south in the Atlantic was attained April 10, and in the Pacific April 21, eleven days being thus spent in weathering that most tempestuous of regions, Cape Horn. From noon of April 23 to noon of April 24 the vessel laid down 363 miles to her credit, this being the best day's run throughout the voyage. The anchor was dropped in the harbor of Iquique May 1, fifty-seven days from point of departure to destination.—Geographic Magazine.

Answers to Queries.

CHICKENS—J. C. S., Santa Rosa, Cal. Chickens to the value of \$25 are exempt from execution.

DEER SEASON—Subscriber, City. The deer season in Sonoma County opens July 15 and closes September 1. In other counties the season remains open until October 1.

THE FERRY CLOCK—A. M. D., Visalia, Cal. The diameter of the face of the clock in the tower of the ferry building at the foot of Market street, San Francisco, is twenty-two feet.

TO TOUGHEN SKIN—H. C. J., City. The skin on the back of the hands may be toughened by washing frequently with alum water, but such will not improve the appearance of the hands.

SOVEREIGN GRAND LODGE—Constant Reader, City. The Sovereign Grand Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows will be in session in San Francisco from September 13 to 24, inclusive, 1904.

DARLING—A. S., City. "Darling" is the Anglo-Saxon "deorling," the diminutive of "deor"—dear. Darling is therefore "little dear," and should not be applied by children or young persons to people older than themselves.

DAGO—N., City. Dago is said to be a corruption by American and English sailors of the Spanish name Diego (James), applied for its frequency to the whole Spanish people. It was originally applied to one born of Spanish blood and used as a proper name. Now the corruption of the name is extended to Spaniards, Portuguese and Italians.

BONFIRES—C. A. E., San Leandro, Cal. The lighting of bonfires on midsummer eve, June 23, the eve of St. John's day, was part of one of the most joyous festivals of Christendom during the Middle Ages. From the account of Jakob Grimm in Deutsche Mythologie the festival seems to have been observed with similar rites in all countries of Europe. Fires were kindled in the streets and market places chiefly, were blessed by the parish priest and prayer and praise offered until they burned out, but usually they were secular in character and conducted by the laity. The young people leaped over the flames or threw flowers and garlands into them. Jumping through the flames was not a display of agility, but in obedience of an ancient custom, which, it is asserted, prevailed before the birth of St. John. At one time it was the belief that the souls of all people who slept on St. John's eve would leave the body and wander to the place where death would finally occur, and it was to prevent the soul from wandering that people sat at the church door or took part in the festivities on St. John's eve.

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