

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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RUSSIA'S RETALIATION.

Russia's proposed Christmas box to the United States is not very likely to be forwarded. It will be recalled that two weeks ago somewhat feverish anxiety was expressed in various quarters at the announcement that in retaliation upon the United States or our notice of abrogation of the treaty of 1832 Russia proposed to raise existing duties on American imports 100 per cent, and also to impose a duty of 100 per cent on articles which are admitted free under the present Russian tariff.

But, after all, it was not the Russian government which proposed this drastic reply to the United States' implied remonstrance at the Czar's treatment of American citizens. It was only a bill proposed in the Russian Duma, which happens to be a very different condition. Students of the Russian government need not be informed that the powers of the Duma, still a very youthful institution, are by no means comparable with those of our own congress.

As a matter of fact, the province of foreign affairs lies entirely outside the competence of the Duma, nor are even treaties subject to its approval. The minister of foreign affairs is the Czar's servant only, and in no way answerable to the national assembly on the state of foreign relations. The only influence that the Duma can exercise is an indirect one, through its responsibility in preparing the budget of the nation's finance.

Nor, as construed by our own officials in Washington, says the San Francisco Post, is there any more significance of hostile intent, even in the bill as introduced in the Duma, than in our own enactment of the maximum and minimum provisions of the Payne-Aldrich act, which, after having been two years on the statute books, have not once been invoked. "The desire of the Duma," writes the Washington correspondent of the New York Times, "to prepare a measure in case of eventualities, is considered here perfectly natural." Indeed, the opinion here seems to be that unless some incident, at present unforeseen, should arise differing materially from the incidents attending notification of the treaty's ending, there is no reason why a trade war should result. It happens that the points at issue between the two countries occur in a treaty of commerce, and that is perhaps unfortunate. But essentially those disputed points are political, not commercial, and the negotiations will win or fail, according to the political presentments made."

The bulletin issued recently by the Bureau of Statistics at Washington gives the best of reasons against the probability of Russia's ever inviting such a trade war with the United States as hinted at by the Duma resolution. It shows exports from the United States to Russia approximately \$25,000,000, imports from Russia \$12,000,000 in the fiscal year 1911, and indicates that trade between the two countries has practically doubled in the last decade. That is to say, the balance of trade between the United States and Russia is more than two to one in our favor. Russia largely depends on the United States for cotton, agricultural implements, binding twine, manufactures of iron and steel and manufactures of leather, while we imported from the Czar's dominion during the last fiscal year \$5,409,301 worth of hides and skins and \$2,097,363 worth of unmanufactured wool. The amount of our imports from Russia has been practically the same each year for the last seven years, while in the last decade our exports to Russia have increased from under \$10,000,000 to \$25,000,000 a year.

In these circumstances, Russia is not likely to cut off her nose to spite her face—unless the provocation should be extreme, which is equally unlikely.

An eligible young lady, taking advantage of the leap year, wants a man who is neither too stout nor too thin, good looking and well-mannered and with some means and excellent prospects. Come to think of it, the young lady need not have waited for the leap year to announce that she wanted the ideal young man. If he existed, he would have been gobbled up long ago. The others would not have taken any chance on waiting for the leap year.

After all, it seems that the Colonel's announcement that he would not be a candidate for something in the line of a Patti Garrett or the retirement announcement of the late "white hope," James J. Jeffries. All of them tried to come back.

SAILORS' YARNS.

Landsmen are still remarkably credulous regarding sailors' yarns, despite many discouragements. The skipper of the good whaler Karluk has just returned from the Arctic with the tale of a wonderful region in the far north where the weather answers to the description set down in a Los Angeles real estate advertisement and where the swallows fly in mid-winter. It may not be long before we will hear of an expedition starting for this unknown territory with the scheme of planting orange groves to provide for the Alaskan trade. Sailors' yarns have led to wilder projects than this. Some years ago an imaginative skipper brought into the wonder port of San Francisco the tale of a manless isle in the Pacific. This place, he declared, was inhabited only by beautiful South Sea island girls who were sighing for husbands. The isle was wonderfully rich in coconuts and tropical fruits, and even had beds of pearl oysters close by. The story read like Tennyson's poem, "The Princess," only the Eves of this Adamless Eden in the Pacific ocean were not man-eaters. All of them were reported as being exceedingly anxious to obtain husbands, with whom they might divide their shares in the coconut groves and the pearl oyster beds.

The tale was so attractive and so convincing that an expedition was made up in all seriousness in San Francisco to go to the manless isle. Quite a number of apparently sensible men in all walks of life contributed toward the purchase of a vessel and complete equipments for housekeeping in the South Seas. Even the latitude and longitude of the Adamless Eden were given, so it seemed that there could be no mistake about it. Taking plenty of blank marriage licenses along, the expedition started, but it never located the manless isle. This place proved to be only the dream of an over-imaginative skipper.

This is no insinuation against the skipper who located the Arctic tropics. There is no reason to doubt his word. But should any adventurous spirits be considering the advisability of starting orange groves in this new territory, it is suggested that they consider the fate of the expedition that started in quest of the manless isle. It savors of the project of locating the Phantom Ship with a view to salvaging the treasure that Captain Vanderdecken is supposed to have had in his chests.

MINERAL OUTPUT OF WORLD.

The British home office has issued a report in which it is stated that the number of persons employed in the mines and quarries of the world in 1909 was 6,000,000, of whom 1,250,000 were employed in the British Isles and 1,000,000 in other parts of the British empire.

The world's production of coal was 1,113,000,000 metric tons (a metric ton equals 2204.6 pounds), of which the British Isles produced 268,000,000 tons and the rest of the British empire 37,000,000, the United States 418,000,000 tons and the German empire 217,000,000 tons.

The world's output of copper was 800,000 tons; of fine gold, 600,000 kilos (a kilo equals 2.2046 pounds), of which the Transvaal furnished 226,000 kilos; of iron, 58,000,000 tons, of which 26,000,000 tons were in the United States; lead, 1,000,000 tons; petroleum, 40,000,000 tons, of which 24,000,000 tons were American; salt, 17,000,000 tons; fine silver, 6,000,000 kilos, of which 2,500,000 kilos were Mexican; tin, 116,000 tons, and zinc, 855,000 tons.

The total value of the above production is estimated at \$4,209,522,500, the value of the coal output being \$1,946,600,000. The output of gold is said to have had a value of \$455,830,455.

PROPERTY WASTE BY FIRES.

The figures of the property waste by fire last year, due to negligence, carelessness, ignorance and crime in this country, will amount to well over \$200,000,000. This is irrecoverable loss of values. No more practical educational work has ever been undertaken than that of the National Association of Credit Men in their efforts to make property owners understand their responsibilities in this matter. Despite the massive figures involved, it is encouraging to note that the property waste will be considerably less than the year before.

A writer of household hints declares that flowers can be kept for a considerable period by placing their stems in a potato. The household hunter forgets to mention that at this stage of the game a potato is worth a little more than a bunch of orchids. What the consumer wants to know is how to preserve a potato—that is, if he happens to be wealthy enough to possess one.

The new president of the Chinese republic is beginning to make the acquaintance of the job-chasing brigade. There are a good many faithful insurgents who have not yet been provided for in this state. Maybe the administration can arrange to get them jobs in China.

If a few more of the powers follow the example of Russia and help themselves to slices of China, the proposed Chinese republic will be about the size of the smallest of the Philippine islands by the time it is established.

It is announced that Ishi, the unaccommodated aborigine, will give exhibitions of gambling at the affiliated Colleges. This looks as though Ishi might not be as unaccommodated as he is cracked up to be. The chief of police ought to send a squad to look into Ishi's little game.

J. Pierpont Morgan's statement that the Lord only knows when he, Morgan, will return from his trip to Egypt, implies a more intimate association and acquaintance between the two than we had ever suspected. It is our impression that Mr. Morgan is presuming too much.

The Bourbon Pretender to the Spanish throne is reported to have won \$100,000 at Monte Carlo. If he had stayed with the game he probably would have won his throne back and lost his socks.

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