

COMMENT CHANGED.

Press of France and Germany Entirely Changes Its Attitude.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS ARE HEDGING.

France is Disturbed to See the Anglo-Saxon Race Becoming United for Peace, and She Feels War.

Paris.—There is nothing more remarkable in Paris—and one may say in France—than the spirit of nervousness existing with regard to what is America's real sentiment toward France. It is manifest that the press realizes that it took a false step at the outbreak of hostilities between Spain and the United States, and now the papers have come to a confused halt.

The news that the Queen's birthday had been celebrated in America is printed in all the papers without comment, which is an ominous sign. It is impossible to deny that a rapprochement between England and America is viewed here as a threatening indication of the future. It brings no comfort to any one to realize that the position of the press has been responsible for this state of affairs.

Berlin.—It has always been a matter of calculation what the majority of German newspapers would do for their foreign news without the Paris edition of the Herald, but no one would have prophesied that the German press would be brought back into the right path of foreign politics by it.

Yot this is what is being indirectly accomplished, as any one who has noticed the more temperate and just tone of such important papers as the Cologne Gazette, and noted the justice in them to the Herald, may see for himself that where the excellent and progressive Frankfurter Zeitung and monarchial Denschwert were alone in their championship of the American cause two weeks ago, now even the blindly prejudiced Berlin Tageblatt is beginning to see like a dove, in comparison at least with its late outbursts.

It is fortunate that most of the German newspapers are strongly influenced in their opinions by such leading organs as the Cologne Gazette and Frankfurter Zeitung as opposite as these two are in party. The Cologne Gazette receives "straight tips" from the Foreign Office, and is in a way semi-official, so that its columns must be studied with care and respect.

ENGINEERS AND IMMUNES.

Regulations for the organization of the Force Recently Authorized.

Washington.—The regulations for the organization of the brigade of engineers and the ten regiments of immunes authorized by separate act of Congress were formally agreed upon by General Miles and Adjutant-General Corbin. Recruiting will begin promptly with a view to the utilization of the men in the army of occupation of Cuba.

The brigade of engineers is to be comprised of three regiments, to be designated United States Volunteer Engineers. There are to be three battalions in each regiment of four companies each. For each regiment there are to be fifty-three commissioned officers and 1106 enlisted men. The officers will be selected for their skill as military, civil, electrical, mechanical or topographical engineers. An effort will be made to recruit the enlisted men from every branch of the engineering profession and of mechanical skill.

The men composing the "immunes" are expected to be recruited largely from the South. They are to be organized into regiments, half of whom will be composed of whites and the other regiments of negroes.

Martial Law in the Canaries.

London.—The Daily Chronicle publishes a dispatch from a correspondent in Las Palmas, Canary Islands, saying that martial law had been proclaimed throughout the Canary Islands and is very rigidly enforced.

Brush the udder and surrounding parts just before milking, and wipe them with a clean, damp cloth or sponge.

Attitudes Assumed by Five Nations.

Washington.—The consular reports give notice of the declaration of neutrality by five countries—Russia, Greece, Venezuela, the Netherlands and Canada. Particular importance attaches to the declaration by Venezuela, because her ports would be of great value to the Spanish as places of refuge and as possible coal supplies in the event that the declaration of neutrality was withheld. The notice is dated Caracas, April 29. The Minister of Foreign Affairs took action on the day upon which he was notified by Minister Loomis that the United States had declared war. The notification does not go into details as to the rules of neutrality to be applied by Venezuela, nor does it with the question as to whether coal is to be a contraband or not. It expresses Venezuela's position in the one sentence: "The republic will preserve the strictest neutrality during the contest."

The Dutch proclamation of neutrality, in addition to the usual forms, cautions all citizens of the Netherlands from becoming in any way involved in privateering, and they are also cautioned to respect the blockades. Touching the coal supply, the Dutch regulation is that this shall be supplemented only to the extent necessary to permit the ship to reach the nearest port of the country to which it belongs, or that of one of its allies in the war.

The Canadian proclamation is in the same terms as that of Great Britain except as to the provisos. The Russian declaration has one important statement not usual in such cases, as follows: "The disagreements which have recently arisen between Spain and the United States of America have induced the Imperial Government to seek, in concert with the other powers, some means which might prevent an armed conflict between those two countries. Unhappily, our friendly measures are without result and a state of war now exists between Spain and the United States. It is with keen regret that the Imperial Government witnesses an armed conflict between two states to which it is united by old friendship and deep sympathy. It is firmly resolved to observe with regard to the two belligerents a firm and impartial neutrality."

The Greek declaration is continued in a line stating that the strictest neutrality will be maintained.

Plans for Ruling the Philippines.

New York.—A special telegram from Washington says: Major-General Merritt, who is to go to the Philippines as Military Governor, is expected to govern them under martial law until Congress decides what shall finally be done with them. There is little doubt that they will be permanently held by the United States. In view of the jealousy existing among European nations many Senators and Representatives believe that it will be more difficult to relinquish control of the Philippines than to hold them.

In view of this belief some consideration is already being given to the problem of devising a civil government for the islands when the war is ended. The extension of the Philippines to the United States, as it will be a great many years before the inhabitants are capable of any degree of self-government. The proposition that seems to meet most favor is to have the government of the islands administered by a board of three commissioners, two of whom are to be American and one of the United States Army, as in the District of Columbia. When the number of Americans in the islands is increased sufficiently a very limited form of popular government might be introduced, to be expanded in the future.

Tariff taxes are to be collected by military authorities and are to be turned into the United States Treasury. As the war progresses the same system of collecting taxes is to be applied to such Spanish territory as may be occupied, thus compelling the conquered territory to aid in defraying the expenses of the war.

Until such time as Congress shall take action formally annexing the Philippines or any other conquered Spanish territory to the United States, all goods coming from such territories will be taxed at United States customs houses just the same as goods from other countries.

SAN DIEGO BAY MINED.

Restrictions Placed on All Vessels Entering and Departing.

San Diego.—The outer channel leading to the harbor of San Diego has been mined with mines containing from 100 to 300 pounds of highest quality dynamite manufactured, and a strict patrol is being maintained to prevent friendly vessels from entering the bay over the customary course. The dynamite contains 75 per cent of nitro-glycerine, and it was shown the most careful consideration by Lieutenant Meyer, who was entrusted with the responsibility of laying the mines. He had numerous assistants comprising electricians and mechanics of this class, who volunteered for the work.

The rule issued by the War Department for the regulation of shipping at this port prohibit the departure or entrance of vessels through the channel between the hours of 8 at night and 4 in the morning while the mines are in existence. Orders were received by Lieutenant T. M. Shaw, navigator for the Naval Battalion in California, to report at San Francisco and take command of the tug Active, lately purchased by the Government, and which will be used for patrol service outside this port.

Platinum and Gold.

A package of wire that weighs 25 pounds and resembles ordinary fine polished steel wire was entered at the appraiser's department of the custom house some time ago and valued at \$5,000. This is almost as much as the same weight of gold would be valued, and the wire attracted a good deal of attention. It was platinum wire, and for that reason worth its weight in gold. A man who viewed it said that the demand for it had apparently increased greatly, as much more platinum, crude and manufactured, was coming through the custom house now.—Duluth News-Tribune.

That is How Gomez Styles His Patriots.

WILL RESPECT CIVILIZED WARFARE.

Denunciation of the Brutal Methods of Castilians by the Commander-in-Chief of the Cubans.

New York.—Thomas Estrada Palma, the representative of the Cuban republic in New York, has just received the first copy of Las Villas, the bulletin which is published by authority of General Gomez at the headquarters of the Cuban army. Besides the official notices and orders issued to the army the paper contains a lengthy address issued to the Cuban army and people by General Gomez, in which he says:

I, Maximo Gomez, commander-in-chief of the Cuban army, take this opportunity through the medium of Las Villas, which heretofore will be published once each week at the headquarters of the army of liberation, to communicate with those of my command and our people. In view of the adoption of the constitution of the republic of Cuba and the armed intervention of the United States in our behalf to aid us in obtaining our independence, which soon will be recognized by all the world, I desire to make known that heretofore our soldiers no longer shall be known as insurgents, but soldiers of the regular army of the republic.

I hereby direct that there shall be issued each week a war bulletin, which shall be published at the general headquarters of the army and shall begin with this issue on the 10th of May, to be known as Las Villas. It will be circulated under the direction and by the authority of the staff officers of the army, and in it will be published all circulars, orders and official notes of the War Department as well as information which our army and our people may desire to know concerning our progress and our allies, the United States.

I take this occasion to remind each Cuban in service that he now has a country recognized, for which he must fight with all honor and glory. He is no Cuban soldier and not an insurgent, and will respect the rules of civilized warfare. I will order punished any chief officer or private who fails to respect the rights of our prisoners of war, and such prisoners will be treated with respect to their rank and according to the rules of civilized countries and the constitutional army.

Our soldiers will conduct themselves in such a manner as to gain for themselves the good offices of our brethren of the United States, and for this reason it is my wish that the army of Cuba may exhibit model discipline. I do not continue this war which so valiantly has been kept up for the past three years, with the idea of revenge. We are fighting for liberty and independence, and not for revenge, and I would call your attention to the fact that the history of the world shows that loss of blood has always been the price of liberty.

Notwithstanding, we must ever remember our dead martyrs to the cause of Cuban freedom and fight the good fight, and it will not be long before every Spanish soldier shall have left our soil. We have had to contend against a most cruel enemy—one which has known no honor, and its methods have been most barbarous, and every act of Spain has shown the thirst for blood and desire to trample down and annihilate the people of Cuba. I do not desire that our army shall emulate her example but I would prefer that our methods of war be those of civilized nations; that we may show to the enemy that those whom they are fighting are more honorable than themselves.

In a recent proclamation by General Blanco he made the statement that it now was the duty of all Spaniards to die for their honor in the war against the United States. Spain does not know the meaning of honor. Her definition of the word is nothing but cruelty.

Spanish soldiers have never been known to die for honor except when they were opposed to ten to one. Their idea to impress upon the assassinators of defenseless women and children, whose protectors are now fighting for freedom in our army. Their idea of honor has been to rob, to plunder. They die for honor drinking, gambling and committing crimes against humanity and against society; but now they will die before American and Cuban arms.

I take this opportunity to speak thus to our people and our army that they may be encouraged and know that we are in our fight for freedom, which long has been deserved, and which we can now see will be a reality at no distant day. I shall also, from time to time, in Las Villas, communicate with you in the same manner.

Lines and Shoes.

Women are endowed with strange vagaries, and while extremely fastidious in many ways are very neglectful in others. Even the swellest society girl is not as particular as to the freshness of her collar and cuffs as the plain everyday man of business. To change his linen at least once a day is a sort of religion with most men. With a woman it is different. They will inspect their collar and cuffs after a day's hard wear and decide that they will do, not recognizing the fact that if any doubt exists as to the matter they should be consigned to the laundry without demer. Again, a man is much more concerned as to the state of his shoes than a woman. Even the poor clerk on a mesager salary spends his nickel a day for a shine without grudging, and if it is imperative that the nickel be saved he gets up earlier in the morning and wields the blacking brush himself. The woman will gown herself in Worth's or Paquin's latest creation and forget to look at her shoes.—Godey's Magazine.

Milk quietly, cleanly, quickly, and thoroughly. Cows do not like unnecessary noise or delay. Commence milking at exactly the same hour every morning and evening, and milk the cows in the same order.

Members of the Leader's Force Tell of the Conditions in the Banks.

Washington.—Secretary Alger and General Miles conferred with two officers from the staff of General Garcia—General Enrique Coleazo and Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Hernandez—who come direct from Garcia's headquarters, bearing credentials from him to perfect a plan of co-operation with the American force. They accompanied Lieutenant Rowan of the United States Army on his return from Garcia's camp at Bayamo, in Central Cuba, and shared with him the danger of a two-days' trip in an open boat from the north coast of Cuba. They reported first to the Cuban delegation here, and Secretary Quesada was careful to keep their presence a secret until General Miles had made the fact known.

This relieved the men from further anxiety, and General Coleazo and Colonel Hernandez gave an interesting account of General Garcia's forces and the general equipment of the Cuban army.

Colonel Hernandez says Garcia has his headquarters at Bayamo, and that his staff, with a body-guard of several hundred men, are quartered inside the city. The infantry and cavalry are quartered in the suburb of South Bayamo. Tents are not used, but in their place the men hastily construct coverings made of palm leaves and guinea grass, which are more effective than canvas as a shelter against the hot sun. In all about 3000 men are thus quartered. They are well armed with Remington and Mausers, captured from the Spaniards. Most of them have machetes, but only the officers carry other small arms.

Colonel Hernandez says communication is maintained with General Gomez at various points along the coast. From these he has a general idea of the forces outside of those with General Garcia at Bayamo. He estimates that there are 12,000 men, all of whom are well armed, east of the trocha and constituting forces in the eastern division of the island under General Garcia. These include the 3000 at Bayamo, the others being scattered at various points. He estimates General Gomez's immediate command at about 3000 men, with 6000 men scattered at various points. In all, there are, according to General Coleazo and Colonel Hernandez, about 30,000 to 25,000 troops.

It is understood that the purpose of the present visit of Garcia's officers is to give that General's assurance to the authorities here of his desire to give every possible co-operation to the American movements. The Cuban officers have made a good impression here, and the authorities were agreeably surprised to find them men of ability and soldierly bearing, speaking English well.

RANKS OPEN TO ALL CITIZENS.

The Present Call for Volunteers Does Not Favor the Militia.

Washington.—The issuance of a proclamation by the President calling for 75,000 more volunteers has added a new and stirring phase to the lethargic conditions which have prevailed of late. The proclamation means not only the assembling of a large force of troops, but also the appointment of a number of major-generals, brigadier-generals, colonels, majors, staff and field officers, for the organization of this additional force of 75,000 men into army corps, divisions, brigades and regiments.

Secretary Alger stated that the determination to issue the call had not been reached until late yesterday. The merits of it have been canvassed more or less for some weeks, but it was not until a few hours before the call itself appeared that the move was finally decided upon.

It is settled that the enlistments are to be thrown open, much as they were at the outbreak of the Civil War, and are not to be restricted to the militia and national guard organizations of the several states. It will be an encouragement to the organization of independent volunteer companies and regiments. These will retain their identity to a certain extent as state troops, as the Governors will have the appointment of all company and regimental officers, while only the brigade, division, corps and staff officers will be appointed by the President.

The Pacific Coast States will be expected to supply troops approximately as follows: California, 1933; Nevada, 1429; Oregon, 370; Washington, 794; Idaho, 139; Montana, 314; Utah, 257. The new force will require, either by appointment or by officers already appointed, three Major-Generals and about twenty-four Brigadier-Generals. The Colonels, Lieutenant-Colonels, Majors, Captains and Lieutenants are appointed by the Governors of the various states as the law provides that "all regimental and company officers shall be appointed by the Governors of the states in which their respective organizations are raised."

Powers May Occupy Cuba.

London.—The Star claims to have information that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Hanotaux, is making great efforts to stop the Spanish-American war. It says that Russia, Austria and France are endeavoring to induce Germany and Italy to join in a declaration to President McKinley representing that the powers will induce Spain to grant the independence of Cuba.

Should America refuse intervention the powers mentioned would send a fleet to put Cuba under international rule, as was done in the Island of Crete, until the withdrawal of the Spanish forces and the constitution of a regular local government. It is said that these powers would justify intervention on the ground that the war threatened the general peace of Europe. This information is not regarded seriously here.

To Maintain the Telegraph.

Washington.—Senator Chandler introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to establish and maintain all such telegraphic communication as he may deem necessary during the continuance of the present war by opening or reopening such ocean lines as may be necessary in any emergency for the proper protection of naval and military operations. The bill carries an appropriation of \$1,000,000.

SOME INTERESTING NEWS FOR THE RURALIST.

SPOKEN OF IN THIS COLUMN.

A Few Sensible Hints to Suit the Busy Agriculturist.—Items That May Benefit our Readers.

How To Be Successful With Bees.

Scarcely any one is incapable of handling and controlling bees. It is simply a mistaken idea of some people that bees have a special dislike for them, and that only certain individuals can handle bees. It is only necessary to know how to handle bees for anyone to succeed with them. To handle bees properly it is not necessary to go to war with them, but absolutely wrong. If we should undertake to fight a colony of bees into subjection the fight would continue till the last bee of the hive was dead, providing we held out that long ourselves.

Bees can only be handled successfully by kind treatment, and by studying their habits and becoming well informed of their nature and mode of doing things. Any one may succeed with them by taking advantage of their weak points. Smoke is the controlling agent to be adopted in handling bees. By smoking bees they become excited and will at once proceed to fill themselves with honey, and when thus filled are perfectly peaceable and will allow themselves to be abused, robbed, and even killed without offering any resistance. The Cyprian bees are the only ones I ever had that at times would resist smoke and in order to handle them I have used simply kind treatment and careful manipulation, and fully succeeded. If we but take the time, we may handle any colony of bees without the aid of smoke by careful manipulation if we get well acquainted with their nature and habits.

If you are afraid of bees you will not get along with them very well, and the greater fear the less success you will have. The fear of bee stings keeps many from engaging in bee culture. This reason to the practical apiarist appears very foolish indeed. You may say that bee stinging persons whether they are afraid of them or not. This may be true to some extent, but I am satisfied that fear causes almost 90 per cent of all stings received. Bees seem to dislike all rapid-moving objects. You may walk slowly through your apiary and not a bee will molest you, but on the other hand, if you pass rapidly among them some of the bees are likely to follow you, and hence your actions have much to do with it.—A. H. Duff in Epitomist.

Summer Feeding for Eggs.

The best food for the warm season is that which gives the best results without regard to the cost. Which food is the best, however, is the main point which is to be decided. Any advice on this subject imparted to one may not be suitable to another, as differences in location of farms, breeds and many other circumstances govern. Some farms are small, having but a limited space, while on others it is necessary to confine the fowls in small yards, in order to protect the garden, and again there are farms upon which the fowls have unrestricted liberty. In every case the food must conform to the conditions.

If there is room for a range the hens will require no food, but if the birds are confined, their good judgment is necessary in order to feed correctly, so as to avoid throwing layers out of condition, as they will look for their food from their own instinct of endeavoring to seek it. If fed on grain in warm seasons they must have a variety in order to reduce the grain supply usually eaten and also for dietary effects, green food being essential. If this is given it must be done so as not to allow too much. If hens are not fed too liberally they will work at scratching, which is the best indication of health that can be observed. The hens that are on a range should lay through the whole summer, and the cost of the eggs should be little or nothing.

If anything is allowed, let it be lean meat or green bone well covered with meat, or fine, no fat being given, as they can easily procure carbonaceous substances from the range. In this connection it may be stated that meat is the best egg-producing food known, and only its cost deters poultrymen from using it generally.—F. H. Jacobs in Farm and Fireside.

Horicultural Notes.

The most popular sized strawberry crate in eastern markets is one which holds 32 boxes.

In ordinary years California produces one-fourth of the beans raised in the United States.

S. P. Kimball announces that he will dry prunes at his Dallas evaporator for one-third the product this year.

The Indiana Farmer reports a great scarcity of apple bloom in that state this season. The prospect for a crop of apples is very poor indeed there.

The Idaho pear which has been growing in the experimental orchard of the Oregon Agricultural College since 1890 has not given satisfactory results.

The San Francisco Chronicle says that as a matter of fact no box of California cherries has sold this year for \$10, notwithstanding the reports of several sales at that price.

Cherry trees which stood in low places lost most of their fruit by frost. In many orchards it is noticeable that there are few cherries near the ground, while the upper portion of the trees are loaded with fruit.

There is talk in some of the papers about excessively high wages for harvest hands in eastern Oregon and Washington this year, but while men may be a little scarce farmers will be slow to pay exorbitant wages.

The Salem Statesman reports that negotiations are pending for the lease of the Salem cannery to a California canning concern. If a sufficient supply of fruit and vegetables can be assured to warrant the undertaking, it is said that the lease will be made.

Growing Squashes. The squash is a heavy feeder and

must have an abundance of fertilizer to do well. Applying good, fine, well rotted barnyard manure is the best method of furnishing plant food. The cost do not think of saving manure. If you can possibly get it, apply not less than ten cords to the acre. Put the bulk of it on broadcast, plowing it in, reserving only one good shovelful to place in each hill. Let the hills be made 10 feet apart each way. It is important to allow plenty of room, as crowding means an excess of vines and a loss of fruit. Plant not fewer than ten seeds per hill, as it is necessary to allow for some losses from depredations of bugs. Of course not over three or four good strong plants are to be left in each hill.

The squash is badly troubled by at least three forms of insect life. The striped yellow beetle come first and the farmer must be on the lookout for them, since often during an hour or two of a bright sunny day these pests will ruin every plant in a hill. They seem to issue from the earth in legions and pounce upon the tender leaves as soon as they peep out of the ground. Land plaster, with the addition of a little kerosene oil, is the remedy for these insects. Add a couple of table-spoonfuls of kerosene to a two-quart measure of the plaster, thoroughly mixing. Next comes the black or brown bug, which smells so offensively. Place some bits of wood, as shingles, around each hill and these bugs will collect beneath them to pass the night and may, therefore, be caught and killed each morning. The third great enemy the squash has in the outworn. This is an insect difficult to find until the mischief has been done. The best preventive measure is the use of wood ashes and lime in the squash hills and about the vines. It is well to change the land upon which squashes are grown about every year, to in some measure, escape the many insect pests.

The Future of Wool.

Owing to the uncertainty caused by the war it is somewhat difficult to forecast the future of the wool market. Manufacturers undoubtedly have a large supply on hand at present, and they will not increase it, but await developments. The demand is very slight, and, in fact, no sales are taking place at present. Under these circumstances the prices quoted in the market reports are merely nominal. However, none of the holders of old wool are willing to sacrifice it; all are waiting for higher prices, and the likelihood is that they will get them.

The probabilities are that this year's crop will be largely forwarded and held on consignment until better times arrive, and we consider this the wisest course for growers to follow. When business starts to improve then the buyers will enter the market with a rush, for there is nothing in the way of higher prices.

Under present conditions wool cannot be sold for what it is really worth, and pushing it onto the market means sacrifice. In all probability the present stock in the central markets is much larger than the average person believes. Boston, Philadelphia and New York are all carrying large supplies and it will take some time to work them off. Until this is done prices will be kept down. As stated before our advice to woolgrowers is to hold on for better prices. They will come in time.—Wool Markets and Sheep.

The Next State Fair.

The State Board of Agriculture met recently in Sacramento for the purpose of considering reports of the various committees. The report of the Premium List Committee was the most important, inasmuch as it contained a revision of the entire premium list for 1898, making such changes as were deemed advisable. The principal change was to have expert single judges in all classes where practical, and the secretary was directed to correspond with several experts of the various classes of live stock.

The admission rate to the Pavilion was reduced to 25 cents. This change was made at the earnest solicitation of many exhibitors, and considering the condition of the times, the board deemed it prudent to make the change. The admission to the Park will be 50 cents as heretofore.

Disappointments With Poultry.

Disappointments come frequently to the keeper of poultry, but most often to the man that expects to get a great deal of money out of the poultry business with little work. He buys a lot of hens, builds a big house, fences off a big lot, makes numerous nests and puts the fowls and the establishment together. He expects they will take care themselves, and they do it, after a fashion. The lice multiply and the eggs diminish. The fence breaks down and the prowling animals get in. He feeds without regard to their health, and the birds get indigestion. Disaster after disaster comes upon him. The little chicks fall a prey to lice, rats and mice. Now and then a hawk and told to begin the ceremony. He takes a very long girle and joins all the men with it in a circle, in the center of which the young girl is placed. Then the clergyman recites a number of prayers, and winds up by giving his benediction to all present. The moment he pronounces the last "Amen" the circle and its center stand, to all religious and social intents and purposes, in the relation of brothers and sister to each other. Each of the males is bound in honor—and a Cretan knows no more sacred obligation—to protect the girl throughout her life. A name of them can ever take her for his wife. She is and remains his sister, in the eyes of the priest and people, to the end of her days. But they must also stand by and succor each other, and if needs be, at the cost of life itself.

A Peculiar Custom.

One of the curious Cretan customs which prevail on the eve of every surrection is known as adelphophos, or fraternalization. One of its immediate results is the cessation of all feuds, enmity and rancor. It is carried out as follows. A number of individuals choose a young girl, who must be pretty—no difficult matter in Crete. They inform her parents of their intention, and a successful consent is never withheld. There is then a hawk and told to begin the ceremony. He takes a very long girle and joins all the men with it in a circle, in the center of which the young girl is placed. Then the clergyman recites a number of prayers, and winds up by giving his benediction to all present. The moment he pronounces the last "Amen" the circle and its center stand, to all religious and social intents and purposes, in the relation of brothers and sister to each other. Each of the males is bound in honor—and a Cretan knows no more sacred obligation—to protect the girl throughout her life. A name of them can ever take her for his wife. She is and remains his sister, in the eyes of the priest and people, to the end of her days. But they must also stand by and succor each other, and if needs be, at the cost of life itself.

France Getting Ready to Fight.

Paris.—The Matin says: In view of the eventualities of the Spanish-American war, M. Lebon, Minister for the Colonies, Admiral Besnard, Minister of Marine, and General Billot, Minister of War, met in council, under the presidency of M. Faure, to decide their respective spheres of responsibility. It was decided that General Billot should be exclusively charged with the defense of France, Corsica, Algeria and Tunis, and that Admiral Besnard should undertake the protection of the coasts of France and all the colonies. M. Lebon accepted the necessity of military preponderance in colonial matters and decrees to carry out these decisions, which will be promulgated immediately.

A Peculiar Bridge.

French engineers are constructing a peculiar bridge over the Seine, at Rouen. On each bank of the river have been erected, from these heavy steel cables will support a track bed, which is to be suspended 100 feet above the surface of the water. Moving platforms on wheels are to be run backwards and forwards over this track bed on rails, and from them will hang huge chains, to which will be attached monster swinging cranes.

A man never loses money on fast horses. It is the slow ones that drive him to the free-lunch counter.