

The Spokane Press.

GEORGE FOTMAN, Manager.

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THE CHARACTER OF IMMIGRANTS.

Hundreds of newspapers and scores of magazine writers have taken a shot at the character of the immigrants who are pouring into the United States by the thousands.

The danger signal has been hoisted by men who surely can not have made a study of the virtues of the foreign born and the faults of Americans.

It is charged that many of the newcomers cling to the customs and languages of Europe; that they live, act and feel very much as they did before they found homes in this good land, and therefore are not good Americans.

Isn't a good Italian, Russian or German as good as an American any day? Can there be such a thing as nationality in morals? Must a man eat certain food, adopt a new style of dress, or change his language to become fit to call himself an American?

We are not so very old in this country. We have made some progress. We are learning to hate vice and admire virtue. We are educating some of the rawness out of ourselves. We are on the right track.

But there are others! We have no monopoly of good thoughts, good deeds or fine ideas.

Most of those who come to America to enjoy the feel of a little more liberty are our moral equals. They worship God their way, and have tried to make the best of their small opportunities. They love their wives and children, they respect the aged, and they stick to old customs because they are good customs that stood the test of hundreds of years.

They live frugally.

That is a habit born of necessity. It is a habit that, could it be Americanized, would add to the health of mankind.

They are clannish.

So are the Americans. Society is made up of cliques, and the Russ and the Jap are not more certainly divided than are the various classes of society in this country. The one is the natural division that time and association will eliminate. The other is a class distinction that has its foundation in wealth, and is not good for society.

Yes, criminals find their way into this country from abroad.

But we have our criminals, American born, reared where education is free, and their crimes have been as black and hideous as anything that Europe can produce.

Don't take your types of immigrants from the scattering Anarchists, who located in Patterson, N. J., or the occasional thug who is touching elbows with the American crook in great cities.

Rather find them on the plains of the west. They are tilling the soil on a thousand farms; or in the wheat fields of Minnesota and in the mines of the northwest, or on the mighty vessels of the sound.

Their lips may halt at the strange words of a new language, but most of these are physical and moral equals of Americans fit to join in that grand refrain:

"My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty."

JOHN BULL, UMPIRE.

The British foreign office just now is in a happy condition of having a lot of little troubles on hand to keep it busy, but no big ones which would be at all agitating. Ordinarily the diplomatic game of administering a great empire is one of the pleasantest in the world. Some of the younger officials are said to prefer it to whist and ping pong. The Venezuelan matter was altogether too strong. As it turned out to be a bad break as well, it was also disagreeable. Present matters relate to the world's "awkward corners." These are Morocco, in the northwest corner of Africa, and the Balkans, in the southwest corner of Europe.

In neither place does England expect to get territory, but she wants to act as umpire between the powers who be. Benevolent umpiring can often be made very profitable. In Morocco, France, Spain and Italy all have aspirations, but neither of them will be able to do much without the support of England and the other powers. France has never formally recognized the validity of British rule in Egypt, but might do so in return for British consent for taking a slice off Morocco. Spain already occupies a little territory opposite Gibraltar and she will undoubtedly be given English support in somewhat extending it. It is a British ambition to take Spain under wing in the same way that Portugal has been taken. Portuguese colonies are now to all intents and purposes British, and in time the few remaining Spanish colonies in Africa may occupy the same position. In this case Germany could not get them.

The Balkan question is much more complicated. The powers have been tinkering with the Macedonian situation without accomplishing anything, and it is learned on high authority that, alarmed statements aside, there is a great probability of a rising there in the spring. The fact that this rising has hitherto failed to come off on program has had the effect only of putting weights on the safety valve and the explosion, when it does come, will be the more tremendous. Here again there will be a great chance for British umpiring. Serbia will be sure to get into the mess, and little Montenegro, backed by the king of Italy, will try to grab some Turkish territory.

The British foreign office is now very eager to distinguish itself after the Venezuelan break. These matters in "awkward corners" are more within its capacity and there are likely to be interesting doings at most any time. The state department at Washington handles a few big questions only and has almost none of the hundred little political and diplomatic deals which keep all departments busy in the British foreign office. As a rule these questions do not reach the high officials until they begin to get important. When they reach this stage Germany is likely to hear something drop. Contrary to the kaiser's expectations, the Venezuelan affair has brought the British foreign office and the Washington state department closer together than ever before, and has made both of them most suspicious of German intentions.

COUGAR MINE SOLD.

The Cougar mine, situated at Sumpter, Ore., has been sold to the Hendrix-Gain Investment company. D. R. Evans and J. V. Larkin of Spokane were the principal owners.

Washington.—The Elkins bill was favorably reported to the house yesterday by the committee on interstate commerce.

PRETTY NEGLIGEE COSTUME.



It is a fad with the girl of today to have her boudoir jacket, her silk petticoat, her stockings and her corsets and hose-supporters, which give her a venus-like form, all match exactly in color. This dainty negligee costume, which consists of a loose sacque and petticoat, is made of pale pink silk with insets of antique lace.

HOW TYPICAL HOBO BROKE INTO SOCIETY

Paul Gilbert, who was at one time a prominent figure among the Spokane 400 and who is now traveling for a large eastern establishment, relates an experience last evening which happened in this city some years ago. The story is that of a young man whose habits were devoid of all refinement and who had passed the greater part of his life in "tramping" from one end of the country to the other. The circle of his acquaintance was confined to the lower strata of society and even in that element he was looked upon as a thoroughbred "hobo."

A LORENZ OPERATION.

A Lorenz operation has been successfully performed upon the 8-months-old child of J. F. Campion, a photographer. The operation was performed on January 17 and was entirely successful. The child was born with club feet.

INDICATOR THAT WILL INDICATE.

You Can Tell When Your Letter Will Be Collected. The latest mail box device adopted by the postoffice department consists of a dial showing the actual time of collection. The carrier, on emptying the box sets the indicator, to show the exact time of the next collection.



show the precise time a letter dropped in any box will be taken up, but will also serve as a check on the movements of the carriers, acting on the "watchman's clock" principle. If a collector skips a box, the people who see it can notice the fact, and make trouble for the carrier by telephoning a complaint to the superintendent.

tion in which we were placed," said Mr. Gilbert, "three of us waited on our host and began to remonstrate with him. His answer was: 'What all you guys? Ain't those folks looking up to the notch? They're me old pals.' 'That was his first and last attempt to enter society. He disappeared shortly afterwards and has not been heard of since.'

"Will You Have the Table Warm or Cold?"

A Question Which the Weather Chief Says Waiters Will Soon Be Asking.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—According to Willis Moore, chief of the government weather bureau, the time is not far distant when the restaurant waiter will ask, when he takes your order: "Will you have the table warm or cold?"

Moore explains that this will be the next development in the air-cooling device which he is now experimenting with.

Moore has great confidence in his apparatus for cooling. The nature of the appliance has already been described in the newspapers.

What Moore wants now is to perfect a small portable cooler that may be placed in the center of a dinner table in the hot season, for the purpose of reducing the temperature within a small circumference and render the meal hour a time of comfort.

Moore is now having a number of these table coolers made, and says that for 25 cents the air around an ordinary table may be kept at any temperature the diners may desire.

"I am confident that within a year or two," says Moore, "that these coolers will be in general use in the better class of eating houses throughout the country. They are bound to make a hit."

AT LOCAL THEATRES.

A fair sized audience witnessed the opening performance of "Corianton" at the Auditorium theater last night. The play was originally launched under Mormon auspices, and, although there is no dogmatic exposition of Mormon doctrines, the records of the book of Mormon are in evidence.

The story of the play is an interesting one, and founded on mythical history of ancient America, the action being supposed to take place 75 B. C. As an elaborate spectacle "Corianton" is not disappointing. The scenic effects are lavish and the costumes rich and handsome.

Alphonz Ethier won the cordial approval of the audience in the title role and Miss Helen Boyer was an interesting Zoan. Others deserving mention were Carl Smith Scerle, Walter Percival, Bert Merket and Miss Ida Due.

The play will be repeated tonight and twice on Saturday.

"The Heart of Maryland," David Belasco's thrilling war play, will open a two nights and matinee engagement at the Spokane theater this evening. There has been a large demand for seats.

"BIG BEN" GETS HIS FACE WASHED EVERY 15 YEARS.

MANY A SMALL BOY MIGHT ENVY ENGLAND'S BIGGEST CLOCK—TIMEPIECE OF WONDERFUL SIZE AND MECHANISM.



LONDON, Feb. 13.—The small boy undoubtedly envies "Big Ben," Britain's largest clock, that booms out the hours from the tall tower of the houses of parliament, for he only gets his face washed once every 15 years. He is getting it done now, and a sorry job it is the men have who do it. Yet it is not the task now that it once was, when a stargazing had to be erected the whole height of the tower, 130 feet. Now the daring face-washer, by the aid of tackles and pulleys, pulls himself up in a little cradle-like basket, and sits there, dangling in the air, as safely as if he sat in a comfortable chair in his own parlor. The smoke, rain, dust and grime has so accumulated that the lights which make the dial luminous have barely struggled through the dirt, and it became hard to read the hour at any great distance. Now, however, when the four dials have been cleaned, 360 candle power electric lights will be placed in the tower, and then anyone who can see the tower at all will be able to know the time. The clock is a massive affair. The hour bell weighs 27,000 pounds, the hammer for the bell weighs 400 pounds, while the quarter-hour bells weigh 7800, 3350, 2600 and 2100 pounds, respectively. The pendulum, which is over 13 feet long, weighs 700 pounds. The dial of the clock are 23 feet in diameter. The hour marks are two feet long, the minute spaces are one foot square, while the minute hands are over 11 feet long. The clock is wound every Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, and it takes two men several hours to do it. A new appliance, however, is now to be put in the tower, which will wind the clock automatically by electricity. When built, the clock and bells cost \$110,000.



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