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Abraham Lincoln.

If Abraham Lincoln had lived until yesterday he would have been ninety-five years of age. It is difficult to realize that a man who seems to have lived so recently was born so long ago, and we might say died so long ago.

The birthday of Lincoln will grow more and more sacred with the passing years. That is true of all men whose birthdays are worthy of remembrance and observance and no American has ever lived, worthier of a public observance of the day of his birth. Once the most hated of men by a large section of his country, there is perhaps no man produced in this country whose memory is so generally revered.

It would be waste of words to speak of his public services for any school boy of sufficient age to understand them who is not familiar with them should be debarred from a perusal of the history of his country. But Lincoln's triumph over the most adverse circumstances must be encouraging to the youth of the country. He who had grown up in a drifting and almost illiterate, shiftless society, who had no education save that which he had been able to pick up in hours not devoted to bread-winning, who had been for years a mere country lawyer with a narrow horizon, directed a foreign policy of dignity, strength and honesty. Lincoln came out of rough, shiftless poverty stricken stock, but through inexplicable gifts he wielded in a democracy and with the full consent of the people, a power as great as that of the czar.

Lincoln's most marked characteristic was the accuracy with which he understood the American people. He was wholly honest; he thought fairly and never as a bigoted partisan. He conquered by the power of truth. This love for truth, his infinite patience and his hard thinking seem to have guided him unerringly in every great problem he had to solve.

The Turk's Opportunity.

The engagement of Russia in the far east affords Turkey an opportunity to evade a duty and break a promise made under compulsion—that of carrying out the Macedonian reform plan forced upon her by Russia and Austria.

The status is naively put by the dispatches from Vienna, "In the present situation of affairs in the far east the Porte considers it unnecessary to burden itself with the carrying out of the principal measures of the plan of reform, etc." That is something that would hardly be said of any other nation in similar circumstances, but the neglect of the sultan to perform a serious obligation at this time is something to be naturally expected.

The outlook for a bloody season in the Balkans is, therefore, most promising. While the whole world is interested in a betterment of conditions in the Balkans there are only two nations to whom it is of great political interest, Russia and Austria. Of all the nations of the world there is only one of whom Turkey is in so much fear that she would undertake to do something which she does not wish to do, and that one is too busily employed with more important matters just now to insist that Turkey shall carry out a solemn promise which brought about a cessation of the recent troubles in the Balkans.

In those troubles Bulgaria held itself aloof as a government, but it could not entirely restrain the sympathy of its people. Now that Turkey finds herself with a free hand it may reasonably be expected that there will be another outbreak which will make the previous troubles seem of little importance.

The want of morality of Turkey in this case offers another reason for the removal of that country from the map.

The Missouri mule is wondering what part he will have to play in the struggle between Russia and Japan.

Senator Burton, of Kansas, announces that he is serving his last term. Not if the St. Louis grand jury can have its way.

As we pointed out at the beginning of the war, there has been confusion in the transmission of news. The war is considerably less than a week old, yet there have been reports of enough engagements to have occupied the contending forces night and day without any intermission. All this news has now been boiled down into descriptions of two fights

The Link last night contained a head line, "Dog Gets Coffee Pot on the Brain." We have known men and newspapers to have things bigger and more unlikely than coffee pots on the brain.

CURRENT COMMENT

SOME USES OF WEALTH.

Mr. Whitney's fortune, estimated at $25,000,000, might perhaps have been twice as large had he followed the practice of many men of great wealth of accumulating money for its own sake. In his wiser estimate he regarded riches not as an end to themselves but as a medium of exchange for possessions of greater value.

He lived lavishly. He spent a small fortune each year in entertaining his friends. He bought art treasurers, built mansions, maintained country estates, kept a racing stable, and in general, from the safety deposit millionaire's point of view, put his money to extravagant and unproductive uses. His wealth was never hid away in a strong box awaiting a stringency in the market to be loaned out at usurious interest.

He endowed no libraries and built no hospitals. Yet his abundant distribution of riches was in effect a form of philanthropy which found its way into the stable-boy's home, helped the struggling artist, encouraged many business activities and eked out multitudes of small incomes. From such a source of supply a fructifying stream of wealth goes out into the industrial world the abrupt cessation of which would be felt as a serious loss.

In the multitude of millionaires whose chief ambition seems to be to see how big a pile of dollars they can heap up there is surely room for here and there one who acts on his belief that the best use of superfluous money is to spend it with discriminating prodigality for his own enjoyment, for the pleasure of his friends and the benefit of his fellow men.—New York World.

RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

One of the most dangerous positions which one can hold in the public service is that of a railway mail clerk. The possibilities of losing life or limb are greater in this employment even than in the army or the navy. In the last fiscal year eighteen mail clerks were killed, seventy eight were seriously injured and 398 were slightly injured. The total number of casualties, counting every accident which occured, was 1,337. There was not a month, hardly a day during that time in which there was not a wreck on a mail-carrying train.

This chronicle of casualties has interested congress to the extent that provision has been made in the last two annual appropriations for the payment of $1,000 to the legal representatives of every clerk killed in the line of duty. No objection has been raised to this benevolent attitude of the government. The postmaster general, however, recommends that this donation in case of death should be limited strictly to the dependent relatives of the deceased clerk. The words "legal representatives," are too broad a term and allow distant relatives who perhaps are not acquainted with the clerk to become his beneficiaries.

The number of the clerks employed and the risk they run in the service call for a generous but also cautious and impartial treatment by the government. More privileges and advantages cannot fairly be given to one class of public servants than to another, risks and hardships considered, but it certainly ought to be the duty of the government to investigate the causes of the dangers which railway mail clerks are subjected to, and to do whatever may be possible and proper to remove them. There are 10,555 employes in the railway mail service. They handle mails on 237,329 miles of railroads and electric and steamboat lines; and last year they covered in their tours of duty 344,892,127 miles. Their work was heavy. They handled 8,654,147,680 pieces of first class matter, 7,345,654,,950 pieces of second, third and fourth class matter, and 29,897,062 packages, cases and sacks of registered matter. Of the enormous amount of mail, only 1,387,664 errors in distribution were charged against the railway postal clerks.—Kansas City Journal.

OILING WESTERN RAILROADS.

People who have suffered from the alkali dust in traveling through southern Arizona, New Mexico and Texas find the old plague has practically disappeared. This has been accomplished by sprinkling the track with oil. The principal reason why the oiling of the roads have proved more successful in the west than in the east is that the California oil has less odor, is much less volatile, and contains a larger amount of asphalt than the Pennsylvania oil, and therefore forms a more perfect crust of asphalt and sand. When this work was first taken up three years ago, many difficulties were experienced in handling the thick, mucky, crude oil, but at present it is possible to distribute it the full width of the ballast on the roadway and that, too, while running at the rate of about ten miles an hour. From four to six thousand gallons of oil are used to the mile. It has been found necessary to follow the first application of oil with subsequent sprinklings from six months to a year and a half, depending upon the amount of rainfall and the character of the ballast. In sandy regions the oiling must be repeated after any extensive working on the track which breaks the gummy crust.—New York Commercial.

ANOTHER SORT OF WAR.

While Japan and Russia are growling and snarling over Korea and Manchuria the Cenrral European Economic alliance, with headquarters at Berlin, is preparing to wage war against the products of the United States—unless they are kept out of Germany. No less a personage than the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, has been elected to the presidency of the alliance, and its latest meeting showed represtatives from the kingdoms and Dukedoms making up the German empire and from Belgium, Holland and the Scandinavian countries. Noticeable among the countries not represented are France, England, Switzerland, Italy and Spain, the first and the last named officially declining to take part in the proceedings.

The alliance is confronted with a most serious difficulty at the very outset, with several difficulties, in fact. Before the ability to wage a successful war against the products of the United States can be maintained, the countries represented in the alliance must be able themselves to produce goods of the character, the quality and the cheapness of the American product. Mere sentiment will not work to the exclusion of the American product. When the German or the Scandinavian or the Belgian or the Dutch merchant goes into the market for the goods and wares suitable to his trade he is just as devoid of sentiment as the merchant of any nation on the globe. Not all the appeals of the Economic alliance can make him otherwist, not take from him the mercantile instinct to buy of the best and of the cheapest, and of the most suited to his trade.

The protection of European producers, the avowed object of the alliance, is all right and eminently patriotic, but neither right nor patriotism will convince the European merchant that he is doing right by himself or by his customers in rejecting the American locomotive, the American harvester, the American hog, or the cotton of America, simply because it is American. He will demand a better reason. When the value of the European product equals the value of the American product sentiment may cut a figure, but not until then.—Cincinnati Commercial.

ROYAL ENGLISH PHYSICIANS.

King Edward of England is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, also of the Royal College of Surgeons, having studied medicine and surgery a good deal while Prince of Wales. Two of his predecessors on the English throne, Henry VIII. and Charles I. were also physicians. Froude says that "bluff King Hal" was one of the best doctors of his time, an assertion which is not perhaps entitled to overmuch consideration, but the first Charles was really an intelligent and helpful patron of the healing art.

$34,650 A YEAR; NOT A DRINK.

Burnett Young Tiffany, who is suing to get his full share of the Tiffany estate on the ground that he cannot live on the income now allowed him, itemized his annual expenses as follows: Rent, $1,500; three servants and a man, $1,500; insurance, $150; carriages, $3,000; clothing, $12,000; table, $6,000; traveling expenses, $3,000; other expenses necessary to comfort, $7,500; total, $34,650. Tiffany swore he had not touched an intoxicating drink for nine years.

THE TERRIBLE BOY.

The Mother—"Eunice, was there any kissing in that pantomime you and the others were rehearsing in the parlor last evening?"

The Daughter—"Why, of course; Herbert and I had to kiss, but it was in pantomime."

Johnny—"No, it wasn't, mamma. I heard it."—Chicago Tribune.

It is a good deal easier to make money than to save it.—New York Press.

LOS ANGELES PREFERRED LIST.

The purpose of this column is to supply the Arizona public with the names and addresses of thoroughly reliable Los Angeles establishments. The list will be found particularly valuable to those visiting the Coast. In dealing with Republican advertisers be sure to tell them where you saw the advertisement. They will appreciate it and so will The Republican.