

FOOTBALL FATALITIES.

The yearly crusade against football has been inaugurated again on the mainland. Dr. Geo. R. Simmons, editor of the Medical Journal, has come to the conclusion that football doesn't pay, and in support of his stand cites statistics showing thirty-five deaths during the past year, as a result of the sport.

While perhaps the figures given are correct, the medical authorities seem to consider that it is only in football that such fatalities occur. Any sport that is popular, is to some extent dangerous. It is the element of danger that makes football fascinating alike to the spectator and the participant. If Dr. Simmons would take the trouble to collect vital statistics for other varieties of sport he would find that the mortality percentage is just as high for coasting and skating while even baseball and lawn tennis are sometimes attended with serious results.

However startling the array of statistics is, that is brought to bear against football as a sport, it will be a good many years before any impression will be made upon the millions of lovers of the game. Dr. Simmons collected statistics both of football and Fourth of July celebrations. Commenting on the results in the Medical Journal he says:

"Almost all our universities and schools now have football teams which engage in a series of matches. College pride and college spirit are developed and improved by the game and honest rivalry in many sports and athletic exercises is encouraged, all of which is to be commended. A little more than twenty years ago the faculty of a university which now has a distinguished record in football, called before it a student who had been guilty of attempting to introduce to the students the Rugby game, and severely censured him because he was attempting to introduce a brutal sport. A professor of another university was widely quoted not long since as declaring that within the last ten years only twenty-three men had died from the direct results of football in colleges. If the statement be authentic 1903 was a most unfortunate year for the devotees of the game.

"The fatalities and injuries of last year, however, were probably not more numerous nor more grave than in recent years. While we do not wish to be considered as opposing legitimate athletic sports, we believe that in this particular game the human wreckage far outweighs the good resulting from three or four months of athletic exercise and training.

"Our statistics show that there occurred thirty-five deaths during the last year and over 500 severe accidents to players. Besides these thirty-five deaths, there were eleven cases of spinal injuries followed by paralysis which in most cases seem to have proved permanent, and, consequently worse than death. Sprains, contusions and scalp wounds have not been included in this list, although reports show that many of these injuries that were at first considered trivial finally resulted seriously. There were 343 fractures, most of them of the bones of the leg and forearm. There were ninety-one cases of fracture of the clavicle, nineteen fractures of the femur, and four of the skull. It is, of course, impossible to estimate accurately the number of permanent injuries received in these cases as many of the fractures were compound, and nineteen of them of the femur, we must believe that in this class alone the percentage of permanent injuries could not be very low. We can, without exaggeration, say that at least fifty deaths or permanent total disabilities resulted from the football games of 1903."

JAPANESE FOREIGN TRADE.

In a recent report from Kobe, the consul says that Japanese direct foreign trade has already assumed such proportions that there is now no question concerning its future progress.

Until the year 1901 the customs returns showed its extent annually under the titles of "Imports by Japanese Merchants" and "Exports by Japanese Merchants," but this feature of the foreign trade has now been eliminated from that document. During 1900, the last year for which this characterization was furnished, Japanese merchants were shown to have done thirty-eight per cent. of Japan's total trade. This consisted of exports valued at \$36,543,254 and imports valued at \$56,143,051.

The percentages of foreign trade exploited by Japanese merchants have been as follows:

	1897	1898	1899	1900
Direct imports	36	33	41	39
Direct exports	28	34	36	37

Much of the foreign trade of Japanese merchants is being done with eastern countries, but the returns show they are also making large gains in the West as competitors of the American and European merchants at the open ports.

The total trade of native merchants during 1900 amounted to \$92,687,105, against \$72,475,343 in 1898, as follows:

	Exports.	Imports.	Total.
1898	\$27,420,158	\$45,055,185	\$72,475,343
1900	36,544,054	56,143,051	92,687,105

Gain...\$9,123,896 \$11,087,866 \$20,211,762

In the absence of official data, it is thought by well-informed resident foreign merchants that nearly or quite the same ratio of increase has continued since 1900, and this seems evident even by casual observation.

Japanese merchants have entered largely into the importation of cotton, wool, sugar, rice, flour, locomotives, rails, iron manufactures, machinery, pulp, etc. The Japanese government itself now imports all the leaf tobacco received into the country, and also handles all the camphor produced both in Formosa and Japan.

As far as the volume of Japanese direct foreign trade is concerned, the inroads made by native merchants have been less noticeable to foreign merchants because of the rapid increase of business at the open ports, and that is not the main feature for consideration, as the most unfavorable effects of Japanese competition are felt by the minimizing of profits upon the foreign business.

The Japanese are less fortunate in the matter of exports. It is more difficult for them to sell to than to buy from foreign countries. In the one case letters of credit are furnished the Yokohama Specie Bank in New York to pay for purchases made by their agents there, whereby they are placed on an equal footing with the resident foreign merchants; but in the other case, the matter of exports, the foreign merchant will long have an advantage. The foreigner is here with his money, and although when making purchases he may be subjected to "squeezes," these will hardly offset the advantage of his home connections.

Japanese merchants are extending their efforts in the manufacture and export of teas, and it is possible that this may be done somewhat in the spirit of rivalry; but it must be conceded that without the aid of resident foreigners engaged in the tea trade Japanese teas would never have been introduced abroad to any considerable extent; neither would its present foreign export be maintained. The same may be said in the case of mattings and other Japanese exports. The foreign merchant has opened up the foreign trade, and although he may be compelled in future to gradually relinquish a much larger proportion of his business, the time is not yet at hand when this can be done without much detriment to the interests of Japanese commerce.

Japanese teas were far more extensively introduced into the United States during the first six months of 1903 than during the corresponding months of 1902. The increase of tea exports to all countries during the six months amounted to \$1,136,937, while the increase to the United States alone amounted to \$1,185,141, showing that more than all the excess of exports has gone there. It is fair to presume that this may be attributed both to improved quality and to more strenuous effort to hold the market. The total exports of Japanese tea during the six months amounted to \$2,887,883, against \$1,750,946 during the corresponding period in 1902.

Kalaokalani is playing the same old Home Rule game. He wants the Democrats to demonstrate their fitness for association with the Home Rulers by a national victory, before he will consent to join the party.

While the Territorial officials are straining every nerve to pay the ordinary expenses of government, Hilo is crying for repairs to the boulevard that leads to the Volcano.

The Maui police, according to the grand jury report, appear to be enjoying some metropolitan perquisites.

It is less than three weeks to the Republican primaries.

Savage Girls' Valuable Clothes.

Expensive dress is not the exclusive privilege of civilized womanhood. Not infrequently a semi-savage girl has a wardrobe consisting of furs which would be worth from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Grunden, the explorer, relates how one fair Greenland girl wore a dress of sealskin with a hood of that costly fur, the silver fox. The garment was lined with fur of the young seal otter, and there was a fringe of wolverine tails. About \$700 is probably the average worth of the dress of Indian women on the Columbia and Fraser rivers.

As Bad as Martial Law.

ITHACA, N. Y., March 12.—An ordinance has gone into effect here providing for a curfew signal at 8 o'clock. It was found necessary to quadruple the police force and as the law now applies to adults as well as children, considerable trouble is expected especially with Cornell men, many of whom seek recreation in town during the evening.

The greatest of all Russians (Catherine excepted) was Peter Bas, or Peter Michaeloff, or Peter the Great. On his visit to England he wanted to see how criminals were executed. The Old Bailey failing to furnish a victim Peter complained to King William, who regretted the disappointment, but said that inasmuch as no person had been condemned he had no right to take a life. "If that be the case," said the Czar, "you may take any of my retinue and cause them to be executed in the English manner." This offer his Britannic majesty thought proper to decline.

WALKER AROUSES
LABOR UNIONS

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Rear-Admiral Walker, chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission, testified before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce today that Chinese or Japanese coolies would be required to work on the Panama canal, in his opinion, on account of the inability of American laborers to withstand the rigors of that climate. He said there were not enough West India negroes to be obtained for the work, which would require 30,000 or 40,000 men, before its completion.

This statement has already aroused the labor unions and representatives of organized labor here declare that they will at once begin agitation to prevent the enactment of any legislation that will admit Chinese into the Panama zone. They hold that the canal zone is now the territory of the United States and that the exclusion act applies to it as well as to any other possession of the United States. If, however, it should be held that the exclusion act does not apply, the labor unions propose to fight for an extension of the act to that zone.

There will unquestionably be opposition to the employment of Chinese coolies on the canal work from other than labor organizations on the ground that the proper sanitation of Panama would so ameliorate the dangers of fever that white labor could be employed. Admiral Walker, however, clings to his belief that Chinese must be used at least for portions of the work. A meeting of the Canal Commission will be held here on March 22d and the Commissioners will leave soon afterward for Panama.

CARPENTER IS
NOW SECRETARY

Frederick S. Carpenter has been appointed private secretary to Secretary Taft, succeeding Mr. Merritt O. Chance, who has been appointed chief of the supply division of the Post office Department, a position for which his previous experience in postal affairs has peculiarly fitted him.

Mr. Carpenter is a native of Minnesota and a graduate of the Minnesota University. He was in the employ of a legal firm in San Francisco, and the Philippine commission being in need of expert assistants induced him to go to Manila. He soon became private secretary to Governor Taft, and occupied that position until the governor came to the United States to become Secretary of War. Mr. Carpenter accompanied his chief and has been acquainting himself with the business methods of the War Department up to this time.—Washington Star.

Repting and Boarding.

A phase of life in New York that is not common in other cities is exhibited in the large number of house owners who let their homes to other people and live in hotels, apartments or boarding places. Many wives are indifferent housekeepers, or dislike the burdens of a home. They know nothing of managing. They cannot get along with the servants. The hotel is the place for them, or the boarding house. If they desire a small home, the flat is the thing. An ordinary dwelling in a semi-fashionable street will rent for \$2,000. That sum will keep a couple in fine style in a boarding house or hotel, with a child or two thrown in, and madame is relieved of all household cares.

Egyptians the First Surveyors.

The art of land surveying owes its origin to the fact that the Egyptians were unable to keep permanent monuments on land which was overflowed every year by the Nile. Under such circumstances it became necessary to have some means of reidentifying the various pieces of land. The instruments and mathematical methods of astronomy, with suitable modifications, were used by the Egyptians for land surveying.

He Asked Largely.

Peculiar requests from rural constituents occasionally come in the congressional mails. A very funny one has been received by a representative of one of the Northwestern states. It runs: "Please send to me and a number of my relatives (the names of whom were given) some garden seeds. I also want a gasoline engine of eighteen horse power, a wood saw, and a barrel of gasoline. Please send them right away."

Turkish Minister a Night Worker.

The Turkish minister, Chekik Bey, has a cottage at Saville, and when there, it is said, he works nearly all night, only retiring when the other members of the household are preparing to arise. He then retires and sleeps until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. During his sleeping hours no one can see him, it being an unpardonable act for even any member of the household to disturb his slumbers.

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