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Letter From Record's
Washington Correspondent

(By F. J. Dyer.)

(Special to the Record)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 6.—The movement of the progressives, or insurgents, or whatever name they shall eventually be known by, to form a national party has not caused any particular excitement in Washington, whatever it may have done in the country at large. Still, it is realized that a movement of this kind, backed by men who have such names as Crane, Bourne, Pinchot and other plumes who attended the birth and christening of the movement, may have an important bearing on the political history of the country.

The insurgent movement has attained such proportions throughout the country as to be entitled to serious consideration. Whether it is ephemeral, the outgrowth of dissatisfaction with existing conditions, or whether it is the genesis of a social and political revolution only a seer can tell; and the seers of commerce are in such disfavor with the police departments that perhaps it may be just as well to dispense with occult aid in trying to fathom the future in this case.

HEALTHY TRADE CONDITIONS

The bureau of statistics has issued a statement of the trade of the United States for 1910. It shows that the unremitting efforts of the state department to better our trade relations with Spanish America are meeting with good results. Our exports to South America are increasing while our imports from that continent did not increase. As we have constantly bought more from the countries south of us than we have sold to them this is rather a satisfactory showing. An especially interesting feature of the figures is the fact that the exports to South America for the first time crossed the 100 million dollar line, and are practically two and one-half times those of a decade ago; being, for 1910 \$106,303,616, and for 1900, \$41,248,051. To North America the exports have more than doubled in the decade, the figures for 1910 being \$425,576,533, against \$198,788,019 in 1900. To Europe the increase in exports is very slight, the figures for 1910 being \$1,192,695,728, against \$1,116,399,524 in 1900. To Asia and Oceania the growth is also comparatively small, the figures for 1910 being \$124,859,916 against \$98,531,349 in 1900.

On the import side the gain from Europe is larger, the total imports in 1910 being \$790,154,694, against \$441,610,461 in 1900. From North America the imports in 1910 aggregated \$321,212,684, against \$130,361,423 in 1900; from South America \$189,456,428, against \$102,706,633, and from Asia and Oceania combined, \$239,732,090, against \$143,445,861 in 1900.

We bought goods to the amount of \$270,889,409 from the United Kingdom and our sales to it were \$550,626,404. Our next heaviest customer was Germany, which took mostly raw materials worth \$258,307,490; next came Canada, to which our exports were \$241,809,233; then France, which took goods valued at \$115,709,548. From Germany we imported manufactured articles worth \$106,536,719, from Canada \$102,256,955, and from France \$127,827,395 and bought only \$57,782,617. Brazil sold us a little more than Canada, \$103,716,231, and bought from us goods worth \$24,988,837, which, however, makes a good showing in comparison with the \$19,765,836 worth of goods we sold that country in 1909. Our purchases from Brazil fell off nearly \$14,000,000 from 1909, indicating that we are getting closer to an even exchange with that rich and growing country. We sold Argentina ten millions more than the \$32,050,322 we bought from it, and on the whole, the state of our foreign trade is shown to be healthy. We still buy much more from China and Japan than we sell to those countries, but our sales of \$63,858,939 to Mexico are nearly three millions more than our purchases from that nation.

HEAVY GUN FIRE COSTLY

It is the estimate of the war department that damages to private property due to heavy gun fire, target practice, maneuvers, and so forth, amounted last year to \$22,802,400. The secretary of war has asked that this sum be appropriated to settle 183 claims for damages of that character. People who live in the vicinity of the coast where heavy gun fire occurs have often suffered damage because of it, but many of them have not been aware that claims for such damage would be considered valid. The secretary reports that every year when target practice takes place in

some locality it is unavoidable that window glass will be shattered and plaster knocked down. Sometimes window and door frames and doors are thrown out of plumb by the concussion. It has been the custom to have claims for such damage immediately investigated, and the actual amount of damage determined and reported upon by a board of competent officers, and the conclusions of the department based upon those reports are submitted to congress with recommendations for settlement of the claims. It generally happens, however, that several years elapse before an appropriation is made. Every effort is made by the department to reduce to the minimum the discomfort caused to the citizens by the heavy firing. In line with this effort it is desirable that at least in those cases where it is known that damage will be inflicted annually, provision should be made by congress for the prompt reimbursing for damages to private property as ascertained by the board of army officers appointed for the purpose. At the present time there are 150 cases, amounting to \$18,558,14, which have been investigated by the department and recommended to congress for settlement.

SUGAR CONSUMPTION

Statisticians have figured that the American public consumes 69.12 pounds of sugar per capita annually. This has been the average since 1891. The consumption before the trust was formed, or perhaps to be accurate one should say the American Sugar Refining company, was 45.53 pounds per capita yearly. The increase is rather remarkable. In 1870, the consumption of sugar per capita was 35.3 pounds. The cost may have had something to do with it for the average price of sugar from 1870 to 1890, inclusive, was 9 cents per pound, and in 1870 it was 13.51 cents per pound. The price has decreased and during the period from 1891 to 1909 inclusive, it averaged 4.66 cents per pound, the highest yearly New York wholesale market price during that period being 5.22 cents per pound, and the lowest 4.12 cents.

POTASH MINES WANTED

If any person knows where there is a potash mine in this country he can probably dispose of his knowledge and the mine as well as a figure which will make him comfortable, if not affluent. The department of agriculture is anxious to discover potash deposits. The geological survey would like to hear of some; the President is interested in the subject. And, of course, the fertilizer manufacturers would give real money for almost any kind of potash mines. The fact is, that while there are known to be potash deposits in this country, or at least very promising indications of them, there are no developed mines, and Germany has a monopoly on this very important and, in fact, necessary fertilizer.

SCUTTLE THE SHIP

Under the above caption, the Boston Commercial has this to say relative to the presidential campaign of 1912:

"The first step to insure the election of Judson Harmon as president of the United States in 1912, outside of the democratic party itself, has been taken by the formation of the so-called National Progressive Republican league. While this organization masquerades under name of republican, there should be no mistake as to its character and purpose. In character it is anti-Taft, and its purpose is to boom one of its leaders for president in 1912. As all of these leaders have the presidential bee in their bonnets, we may witness a very interesting contest among themselves, and the league might go to pieces as a result of internal dissensions.

"The character of any organization is shown by the character of the men who compose it. All of the leaders of the movement are well known, and is easy to see what the organization will be, regardless of what it pretends to be.

"At the head of the organization is Senator Bourne of Oregon, a gentleman who knows more about golf than he does about legislation, but who has cultivated the faculty of changing band wagons with such frequency that in one month he has renounced for a second elective term for a president and a month later lined up with the successful candidate on terms of close intimacy. Senator Bourne has obtained wide publicity by his advocacy of what is known as the Oregon plan for electing senators, and it should be said in fairness that of all the men on the list, he is the least radical.

"High in the councils of the new league, and generally considered its leader, is Senator La Follette of Wisconsin, whose claim to be a republican is a libel on the party, as he is republican in name only, except when it comes to voting for a high

protective tariff on the products of his constituents. LaFollette commands little respect in the country at large, and less than ever before, since his boorish conduct in refusing to confer at the courteous request of the president of the United States upon the recent supreme court appointments.

Among other senators who have enrolled in the league are Cummins of Iowa and Beveridge of Indiana. Senator Cummins has distinguished himself by his absolute disregard of facts in discussing railroad legislation and Senator Beveridge has attained to such high esteem in his own state of Indiana that in the recent election his fellow citizens retired him to private life, and sent to Washington in his place John Worth Kern, who was treated as a joke when running on the ticket with Bryan in the last presidential campaign.

"Of course the name of Gifford Pinchot is prominent. It will not be forgotten that Mr. Pinchot was summarily fired by the President of the United States for insubordination that savored of the schoolboy type. It was the same Mr. Pinchot who, when called before the investigating committee in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy, read a long statement accusing Mr. Ballinger of every crime short of murder, but who absolutely refused to make oath to a single charge.

"Then there is Mr. Brandeis of Boston, who is temporarily filling the shoes of Thomas W. Lawson as the most advertised man in Boston. Mr. Brandeis is well known in Boston and New England for his participation in the anti-New Haven agitation. To the country at large, he is known for his failure to fasten anything on Secretary Ballinger, in spite of all the claims of those by whom he was retained.

"This, then, is the character of the men who have organized the National Progressive Republican League. The platform of the league is closely allied to the new nationalism of Theodore Roosevelt, which assisted so materially in turning the house of representatives over to the democrats last fall."

San Francisco is to get the big Panama-Pacific exposition in 1915. Hooray for Frisco.

That Mexican revolution appears to be a difficult controversy for President Diaz to settle.

The Piocche board of fire commissioners presented a request to the board of county commissioners last Monday to the effect that the fire board be authorized to offer a reward of \$5 to any person with a team of horses who will reach a conflagration with either of the apparatus fires. The request was granted.

The bill introduced in the senate of the United States by Senator Nixon to extend the operation of the enlarged homestead act to Nevada has passed the upper house of congress and will doubtless receive like reception in the lower house. The amended law will mean much to this state as it will make available to dry farming many millions of acres of land.

Racing in England.

Racing in England is a very different affair from what it was when Queen Anne, most sporting of English queens, instituted Ascot races. Just 150 years ago, and ran her famous horse, Mustard, Pepper and Star. Horses intended for racing were always kept tightly girt, with the idea that it rendered them more swift, and as to feeding, the old-time trainer believed in giving them a liberal amount of soaked bread, supplemented a day or two before the race with fresh eggs. And the jockeys, instead of wearing light silk jackets, were incased in full suits of the stiffest taffeta, white, and if the applause of the crowd were not considered sufficient, drums and trumpets greeted the winner.

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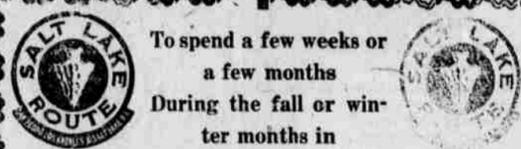
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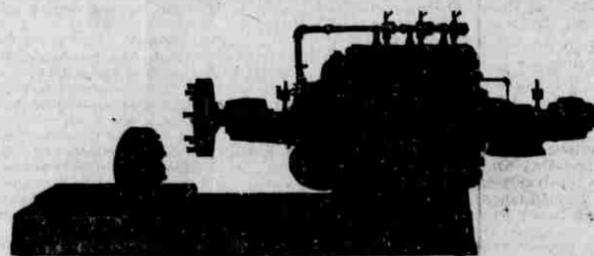
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FRATERNAL SOCIETIES. PIOCHE LODGE NO. 33 I. O. O. F. Meets every Tuesday Evening at eight o'clock. I. O. O. F. Building, Main street. Visiting brothers are invited. Elmer Middleton, Noble Grand; A. A. Carman, Secretary.

MIRIAM REBEKAH LODGE NO. 29, Piocche, Nevada. Meets every Thursday at 7:30 o'clock, P. M., I. O. O. F. Hall. All visiting brothers and sisters are cordially invited to attend. Mrs. J. E. Price, Noble Grand; Mrs. Eva Healy, Secretary.

ST. JOHN LODGE, NO. 14, F. & A. M. Meets at Masonic Hall, Lacour street, on the first Monday of every month at eight o'clock P. M. C. A. Thompson W. M.; W. W. Stockham, Secretary.

KEYSTONE CHAPTER NO. 4, R. A. M. Stated Conventions, five and third Saturdays in each month, at Masonic Hall, at 7:30 o'clock P. M. Companions cordially invited. Frank P. Thompson, H. P.; John H. Deck, Secretary.

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