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THE VENEZUELA OUTLOOK.

A few days ago the Venezuelan situation appeared almost beyond the critical stage. From various capitals of Europe reports were sent out that a settlement was at hand. The blockade, it was said, was to be raised immediately, and thus one of the greatest dangers to peace was to be removed.

But the blockade has not been raised yet. There is now a hitch in the proceedings. The "allied" powers demand that they be treated as preferred creditors, and that other powers having claims against the country be made a secondary consideration. It seems that unless this demand is acceded to, the negotiations will be indefinitely prolonged, and the blockade continued.

Venezuela's answer to this new representation will be awaited with considerable interest. The demand is of course unjust, and may have been formulated for the very purpose of delaying a final settlement. The claims of France are certainly as just as those of the co-operating powers, and it would be singular for Venezuela to refuse to treat France right, because the French government did not send gunboats to the Venezuelan coast. France has acted the part of a true friend to Venezuela, by not joining the coalition against her, and on that account she should certainly not be set aside, when the final settlement of claims occurs. This is perfectly clear. But possibly Venezuela will have to give in on this point too, in order to secure the withdrawal of the blockading fleets and the restoration of her commerce.

The United States is not at present a party to the negotiations that are being carried on, but such influence as our government can properly exercise in the council of nations on this matter, should now be given, very emphatically, in favor of a speedy settlement. It is not to be denied that some of the blockading officers have gone beyond their rights. They have destroyed gunboats and merchant ships, and attempted to enter an inland sea, where they had no business; they have bombarded forts, apparently without provocation and in violation of the customs of war, and killed peaceful villagers. How much further may they go, if the blockade is not discontinued? What other unexpected situations may not develop.

The United States obtained great influence after the war with Spain, but this will not be maintained, unless the country gain a diplomatic victory for the Monroe doctrine—the real issue in the Venezuela war.

It is reported from Havana that German officers have made extensive soundings in West Indian waters, and even taken photographs of certain fortifications. It is suggested that this really does not mean anything, since the soundings were taken merely to verify facts already known to all governments. It was desired to test the exact meaning of such military studies, it would not be a bad idea to send some American officers to make soundings along the German coasts, and to photograph some German forts. That would at once elicit the German interpretation of the exact meaning of such studies.

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE.

President Schurman, in an address in Cooper Union, Jan. 23, on American Ideals, discussed the Philippine question, and strongly advocated that the islands be given independence, as was Cuba in due time.

The speaker took the view that the real Philippine question now is, what to do with the spirit of freedom and independence of which the Filipinos are animated. He thought that but one answer to that question was possible. He did not think the American people would be divided on that question, but that the Filipinos would speedily be granted independence. "That," he said, "is my solution of the great Philippine problem which confronts us. You must either confer the Filipino spirit of liberty and independence, or you must comply with it. My proposition is to comply with it. I am confident the American people are opposed to coercion."

We believe, too, that there will be no divided opinion in this country on the question of giving complete independence to the Filipinos. But there will be different ideas as to whether this complete independence will be under the American flag, or under a Filipino emblem. To some it will appear that the future of the islanders would be brightened under the flag that stands for all that is best and most advanced of human civilization. To these it always has been strange that American citizens can refer to American flags as "coercion, slavery, oppression," etc., and that they can compare it to Spanish rule.

The fact is that when the Filipinos have come to understand what American rule is, they will probably clamor for a place in the American Union, and they will gradually learn what it is, by seeing it applied to the government

of the islands. If American rule in the Philippines is despotism, it must be the same in every state and territory in the Union. Mr. Schurman, for some reason or other seems to have given this fact no consideration whatever, in his otherwise admirable argument.

HEALTH DAY.

A "health day," such as that contemplated by the bill introduced in the House by Mr. White of Maine, would be a good institution for any state. But it should go further than prescribing for the disinfection of houses. It should make a general cleanup obligatory on property-owners. Yards, vacant lots, alleys, and all sorts of corners, should come in for consideration; also gutters and sink-holes, stables and similar places. For to disinfest the houses, and leave the surroundings undisturbed as breeding places for pestiferous microbes, would be waste of money and energy.

Too much cannot be said in favor of cleanliness. It is said to be a fact that the death rate in nearly all the larger centers of population has fallen considerably in late years. In New York, for instance, it is said to have fallen from 26.7 per thousand in 1877 to 19.95 in 1902. In Philadelphia the decrease has been from 22.03 to 17.67. Chicago shows a falling off in the death rate from 20.21 to 13.38, while Boston comes down from 24.57 to 13.76. St. Louis, Washington, New Orleans, Pittsburg, Louisville, Savannah, Cincinnati, all show the same improvement.

There can be no doubt about it, that this improvement is due chiefly to modern sanitation. The importance of pure water, fresh air, and clean surroundings is better understood than it was formerly by the general public. It should not be necessary to legislate for cleanliness, but if clean yards, streets, and alleys can be secured in no other way, by all means pass the law. There would be some logic in compulsory cleanliness. We might pattern after the city of Breck in Holland, where, so we are told, once a year every house is visited by the town cleaners who scrub it from top to bottom, inside and out, without any expense to the tenants.

We are not aware, however, that further legislation is needed on that subject. If the laws already existing are enforced, and if common sense be permitted to rule, Utah will be perfectly clean. Its sweet air will not be contaminated by sickening odors. The entire state will be the garden spot, and health resort, nature designed it to be.

YELLOW JOURNALISM.

The governor of Pennsylvania is quite severe on "yellow journalism." In his inaugural address at Harrisburg he said in part: "Sensational journals have arisen all over the land, the owners in conceit and the writers in the purvey of crime and crime and crime, by promulgating dissension and anarchy, by attacks upon individuals and by assaults upon government and the agencies of the people. They are a terror to the household, a detriment to the public service and an impediment to the course of justice. It would be helpful and profitable to reputable journalism if they could be suppressed. I suggest for the consideration of the Legislature whether or not it would be well to extend to such cases the law of negligence as developed by the decisions of our courts, so that there should be liability for damages for the physical and mental suffering caused by publications made without 'reasonable care.'"

There is no doubt that the journalism generally designated as Mongolian in color has caused a great deal of harm in this country. It is responsible for not few crimes, and among others, perhaps for the assassination of the late President McKinley. But it is doubtful whether restrictive legislation would have the desired effect.

Civilized life seems to have brought with it a number of evils, against which philosophers and moralists preach in vain, and legislators equally in vain legislate. They are commencing to be known as "necessary evils," which cannot be suppressed but which must be confined to the possibly narrowest limits, so that the evils flowing from them may be reduced to a minimum. "Yellow journalism," we are afraid, should be classed among these evils. Any effective efforts at suppressing it would strike the legitimate press too, and do much harm. When the case is such, that the pulling up of the weed would destroy the wheat, it is infinitely better to suffer both to grow until the day of harvest.

THEOLOGY NO BAR.

The St. Paul Globe of recent date, in the following paragraph discussed the election of Hon. Reed Smoot to the United States Senate: "Senator-elect Smoot, of Utah, while an Apostle of the Mormon Church, is not himself a polygamist. At least, no one has yet been able to name his polygamous wives or produce the record. Are the principles of the Mormon Church so antagonistic to the principles of the United States government, that a man may not belong to the one and hold office under the other? That seems to be the point on which the fight on the seating of Smoot will hang. Can a man's theology deter him from holding federal office? There is little doubt that many a man's theology is anything but Republican; indeed, theology tends to the monarchial or paternal theory of government. It would be well under the circumstances, for the people who are managing the fight on Smoot to have in their possession facts of a more tangible nature than his theology."

WATER TO BURN.

The present century promises to be one of the most important in history, when the wonderful inventions now in view are considered. Among these must be placed an invention of a device whereby water may be used as fuel. To burn water sounds like a paradox. But that, it is claimed, is being done now by Mr. John A. Montgomery, of Williamsport, now 75 years old.

According to a special dispatch to the New York World, it has taken the inventor 25 years to perfect his device. In 1853, we are told, while studying chemistry, he learned that perfect heat is derived from the combustion of one part of oxygen with two parts of hydrogen. "Then he recalled that water is composed principally of those two elements in the above proportion. Why,

then, should water not be made to burn?" he asked himself. Ever since he has been trying to construct a simple and practical apparatus that would condense the latent heat contained in water and make it perceptible, and now he says he has succeeded. While flowing through the pipe that serves as a feeder the water becomes separated and condensed into gases, which, coming together at a right angle, form a combustion which is continuous and unvarying."

A friend of the inventor describes the new contrivance as follows: "In the room was a single heating stove. There was no fire in it, but instead a metal tube curled out from under the grate and protruded as high as the stove, terminating in a funnel. Drawing a pailful of water from the kitchen hydrant, the inventor began to pour it by the dipper into the funnel. A white blaze shot up from the grate, producing intense heat. The water burned perfectly."

Mr. Montgomery adds: "This is what may be done in any stove, when my invention is patented." There can, then, be no cause for anxiety on account of any future shortage of fuel on the earth. There will be light and heat as long as there is water.

Pure thoughts are more important than pure food. Before the department of commerce bill becomes law there will probably be some trading. Venezuela wants peace at any price, but she and the allies cannot agree upon any price. If the whole state were fumigated on the same day its offence would smell to heaven.

Great Salt Lake may be losing its water but not its savor. That becomes greater and greater. It begins to look as though the allies preferred the methods of the circumlocution office to Mr. Bowen's. As a distinguished son of Mars Gen. Mars should have a good time on the Champs de Mars in Paris.

For the state to undertake to support two mining schools would be for it to make two bites of a cherry. Why not refer the controversy over the school of mines question to the Commercial club for investigation. There hasn't been a big collision on a railroad in the past twenty-four hours. The railroad times are out of joint.

The Moroccan pretender is reported to have gained a victory. It is probably nothing more than a pretended victory. A bill has been introduced in the Minnesota legislature to prevent kissing. No such law is needed for kissing always goes by favor.

When Salt Lake becomes a port of entry Utah's congressional delegation will have a greater interest in the river and harbor bills than now. Mr. Lacey of Iowa has introduced a bill to authorize the education of fifty Porto Rican children at the Carlisle Indian school. In educational if not in political matters he would place them on the same plane as native American children.

It is admitted on all hands that prevention is better than cure. Such being the case would it not be better for the Legislature, if it is going to deal with the matter at all, to prevent the making of drunkards by a proper regulation of the liquor traffic than to undertake to cure them after being made? The proposition to submit an amendment to Colorado's constitution to the people giving the state control over smelters will hardly be endorsed in the legislature or by the people but it serves as a straw to show which way the wind blows on the trust question. Trust managers would do well to heed it.

It is really a splendid idea of Mr. Carnegie to present The Hague Tribunal with a library. Such a library would become one of the great ones of the world, a place where publicists and jurists would find every work upon public and international law. It would be a monument to him second only to the Carnegie Institution. It is to be hoped that the idea will materialize.

Booker T. Washington was to have addressed some school teachers and school superintendents in a Florida town, but those who engaged him have been informed that he will not be allowed to lecture. There could be no more proof positive of the need of education in this Florida town than this very incident. They have light skins, and a darkened mind, while Mr. Washington has a dark skin and an enlightened mind.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. It is stated that at every step Secretary Hay took into his confidence those senators who were supposed to know the sentiment of the senate on the subject, and confidence is expressed that when the document is submitted to that body it will be approved without change, after careful examination has been given it. When that is done the diplomatic stage of the undertaking will have practically ended and the constructive will soon begin. It is to be hoped that "art of the United States treaty by the Colombian congress. The treaty ought to be confirmed by the senate, and it should be disposed of in short order. The country is anxious to see the construction of the canal underway.

Chicago News. By the terms of the Hay-Panucofete treaty the United States was assured the full right not only to regulate the use of the canal but to maintain such a force of "military police" as might be deemed necessary for protection. It now remains for the senate to ratify the treaty. The sentiment of the body shows themselves strongly antagonistic to public sentiment, but surely they will not allow so great an

undertaking as the canal to be put in jeopardy by the clash of private and factional interests. The isthmian canal treaty sent to the senate yesterday and the speedy ratification thereof is expected. Colombia is to receive \$19,000,000 down and \$200,000 per year as rental for the concession. The lease is to run 100 years. The Panama company will receive \$4,000,000 for its charter and property, and it is estimated that \$145,000,000, probably more, will be the cost of completing the great waterway. The United States will have exclusive control of it. It will be the world's greatest and most costly canal, and it will revolutionize the conditions of international trade.

ASHAMED OF THE ALLY.

Springfield Republican. Down here in Venezuela a German naval officer, representing the rare opportunity of being at war—the German navy has never been at war before—naturally jumps at every chance to pop the enemy. It may be his one chance of a lifetime. His excitement, of course, must support him. And so he fires away, while the civilized world trembles at every cannon shot. It is to be hoped Mr. Bismarck has not enough by this time—and the Kaiser, too, so long as what the British premier called war is on, no one can tell what may or may not happen. War in any form is an open door for the furies.

St. Paul Globe. The London press is getting outspoken against Venezuelan bombardment and butchery. Says the London Evening Star: "We are ashamed of the reports of our schools slaughtering children. We deplore the disaster into which the German emperor is drawing us. He is acting like a madman with a lighted torch in a powder magazine." When the emperor finds himself without allies in his land-grabbing career in South America he may begin to see a light.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The Derby Anniversary Calendar is a handy little volume giving in the neighborhood of 6,000 noteworthy dates in American history. It contains much information of value. There are many early dates that would be difficult to find elsewhere, such as the first Thanksgiving in 1621, the first duel in 1621, treaty of peace with the Narraganset Indians (1623), conflict with Sioux Indians on Lake Superior (1879), the first newspaper in America issued (1690), Giles Cory pressed to death for contumacy (1692), New England shaken by a earthquake (1755), hiking, etc., and the dates are said to be absolutely correct.—James T. White & Co., publishers, New York.

Everybody's Magazine for February has the following list of contents: "The Courts of the Rajahs," Edmund Russell; "Journeys End," conclusion, Justin Miles Forman; "The Rapier of Persia," Athol Brownell; "Great Days in Great Men's Lives," Alfred Henry Lewis; "Work With the Hands," number four, Booker T. Washington; "A Creed," poem, Shariot M. Hall; "Little Story of Royal Life," "A Viking of the East," H. S. Canfield; "The Spirit of the North-Wind," poem, Ernest A. Gerrard; "A Japanese Gentleman," C. F. Matthews; "Miss Jane Adams," of Hull House, Chicago, Charlotte Teller; "Hygeia at the Solito," O. Henry; "Courage or What?," some incidents of service in the Philippines and China, G. K. Davis; "The Medical Science of Prevention," Thomas L. Steadman, M. D.—770 Broadway, New York.

Our West for January, is a very handsome publication. Among its contents are notices: "The Right Hand of the Continent," illustrated, VIII, by Charles F. Lummis; "Those Terrible Mysteries," (at the Point Loma School), illustrated, by U. Frank Durr; "Above Desert Grave," verse, by Anna Spencer Twitchell; "A Matter of Translation," story, by Joseph Elthorn; "A Successful Holdup," story, by Clarence Alan McGrew; "Early English Voyages to the Pacific Coast of America," (from their own, and contemporary English accounts), Sir Francis Drake—III, "In the Lion's Den," (by the editor), "What Which is Written in Writing," (reviews by the editor and C. A. Moody), and "The 25th Century West," conducted by Wm. E. Smythe,—Los Angeles, Cal.

The Baltimore, Md., Sun's Almanac for 1903 contains in the neighborhood of 175 pages of information on all kinds of important subjects. It is one of the books of reference that will prove very useful.—Baltimore, Md.

The Mazdazman is the barbarous title of a little magazine in fiery red covers. It is a continuation of "The Sun-Worshipper," which formerly appeared in Chicago. The publication claims to be devoted to "advanced thinking," but the contents do not bear out this statement.—1013 Prairie Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Lees' Magazine for January is called a "Robert Burns Number," and much of its space is devoted to that celebrated poet. There is a portrait of Burns, a sketch by Olive Lee, one of his poems, and a poem entitled "Burns Statue." Other contributions are: "The Cotter's Saturday Night," a "Department of Literature, and several selections from Robert Burns' poems. There is also a brief, thoughtful article on miracles.—Dallas, Texas.

The February number of The Arena opens with a paper by Edwin Maxey, I. D., of Columbia University on "The Attack on Venezuela." Prof. Frank Parsons, Ph. D., presents some facts and figures in an article on "Public Ownership." Horace Mann, M.S., discusses "The Labor Problem," and the Rev. Adolph Roeder has a suggestive essay proposing a "School of Civics." Frank Emory Lyon, Ph. D., concludes "Psychology and Crime," and Col. Wm. Henry French, in "A German Revival." Henry F. Harris has an article on "Marriage and Divorce," and George H. Shibley discusses "The Victorian March of Majority Rule." "The Tyranny of Servants" is the title of a fable by Carl S. Vrooman. Editor McLean announces a paper by Justice Walter Clark, among the features for the March number.—The Alliance Pub. Co., Fifth Ave., New York.

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