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FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE.

The "Peace" cause must owe expressed the belief that one of the immediate results of the war with Spain, and the victories in which the American volunteers rushed so much honor, would be a reaction among the Old World nations in favor of disarmament. When at Santiago and Manila it was demonstrated that the "raw" American artisan, at Santiago and Manila it was demonstrated that the "raw" American artisan, and volunteers in the face of the fire, the old militiamen of Europe, made necessary by the iron and blood policy of Prince Bismarck, received it was thought a death wound. This view has now been condemned from an unexpected source.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg states that the czar has ordered his foreign minister to invite the powers to meet in conference for the purpose of discussing the means of insuring "real and lasting peace and terminating the progressive increase of armaments." In the note conveying this invitation to the powers it is pointed out that the present moment is favorable to a movement for universal peace, as that now is a desire felt among all civilized nations. It is also pointed out that unless the incessant adding to the military burdens of the nations does not cease, a catastrophe must come with horrors at which every thinking being must shudder. It is to avert this that the Russian emperor invites the representatives of the nations to assemble for the purpose of solving the problem before the world. Friends of peace throughout the world will hail this step with joy, and if, as is evident, the outcome of our war with Spain has suggested the necessity of calling a halt to the desolating onward march of militarism, it will be recognized in history as one of the greatest blessings given by the Almighty to the world through the fellow favored above all others in this dispensation. The proposition coming from such a source cannot be disregarded. It will undoubtedly be accepted, and whether leading to any immediate result or not, the deliberations of the congress will have a lasting influence upon the world's history.

It is a fact that the foremost thinkers of this age consider militarism a relic of barbarism—the inheritance from an age in which might was considered that which is right as brute force. Old General Moltke's idea that universal peace is a dream, and an ugly one at that, is dead and buried with him. There is an almost universal conviction that peace and good will among nations is the condition which mankind is to be accomplished. The only question is as to the means by which it can be obtained.

Probably the czar has not issued his invitation to the powers without having some definite plan to lay before them. He must be prepared to prove that Russia has no intention of gaining time so as to be better prepared for a struggle with Great Britain. He must be prepared to propose an arrangement whereby sufficient guarantees are given that possible complications between the powers concerning interests in the various parts of the world can be settled satisfactorily. Universal interest will center around this plan, for upon its efficiency the success of the universal peace congress will depend.

GREAT ARMIES.

The rapidity with which the United States can raise, equip and place in the field a great and effective force of men is a great example to the other nations, but they will hardly profit by it at once, perhaps to large measure because they are unable to do so. The other part of the measure is made up of the widespread lessons of inability to realize that there are other available agencies besides armies with which to settle disputed questions. The governments of such nations seem to think that the greatest possible security is brought about and maintained by keeping their subjects constantly beneath the shadow of a war cloud and letting them at intervals hear the howl of the leashed dogs of strife as they tug at their chains and fetch at their musical mouths.

The United States goes along with a peace-footing force of less than 27,000 men, but its resources are so classic and its capabilities so vast that this number can be swollen all at once until it is multiplied by tens and hundreds. Contrast this comfortable and expeditious situation with the awful burdens which the people of the chief European powers have to bear in supporting military establishments, and note the difference. Russia has the largest standing army, and each year it is growing larger and larger. Every year some 200,000 conscripts join the army, which in time of peace numbers 1,000,000 men; on a war footing this rises to 2,500,000 men, and the ceiling out of the reserve would increase it to 4,447,000 trained soldiers. Should necessity arise, the second and third bands of the Opolchenie, or militia, consisting of untrained men, could be called out, thus swelling the army to the enormous total of 4,000,000 men.

France is the seat to scale of mighty military establishments, with a standing army of 520,000 men, rising to 1,000,000 in time of war, which the calling out of the reserves would increase to 4,000,000. Despite that frozen force, the army is increasing year by year, and it will be if it is not already increased by some 50,000 men. The German army, which is rightly considered a model of military perfection, numbers 500,000 men in peace. Within a few days of the declaration of war Germany could put 1,250,000 trained men into the field, and the calling out of the reserves would increase this number to 4,200,000, nearly as many as France and eighteen times as many as the United States deemed it necessary to overcome Spain with.

An army, whether on a peace or a war footing, is an expensive arm of the governmental service. Does our present military system as compared with Europe's cost more than the taxpayers of the millions; so just think of what kind of a burden it is that the taxpayers of Russia have to bear with a force thirty-eight times as large to maintain year in and year out! Those of France and Germany differ only in the matter of degree and not very much degree at that. We don't want to be thankful for in this land of the free and home of intelligent rather than militant liberty.

REGARDING BUILDING PERMITS.

A communication in another part of today's "News" raises the question as to the right of the city to compel its subjects to obtain permission to erect structures within the corporate limits. The practice has not up to this time been seriously opposed, as the subscribers long ago and doubtless will continue to do until some distrustful citizen seeks a remedy where alone he is likely to find it—in a court having jurisdiction of the subject.

To one who believes that we are burdened with too many laws and that restriction is not to be added to restriction until it seems as if the citizen could scarcely tell where his privileges ended or began, the ordinance which provides for the taxation imposed for engaging in a natural right may seem something of a hardship; and in most cases undoubtedly it would be considered so considered. Yet it must not be overlooked that merely building a house is not the only matter to be taken into the account, involving as it does in almost every case some consideration apart from the construction of the building proper, especially when abutting upon or close to the sidewalk or street. The points are the sanitation of the city's interests and the citizen's rights, but in granting a privilege to one they must also be careful that they are not infringing upon one that belongs to some other or others, and this being the case the justice or legality of some of the measures granted may not always be comprehended at a glance.

As previously suggested, if the legislative enactment of or in derogation of any provision of charter or statute law or amounts to the curtailment of any natural or vested right, the most satisfactory plan if not the only available one is to place the matter before one of the district judges and let him and not other citizens or the newspapers be depended upon for a settlement of it. These may discuss such things, but their ruling is not necessarily final.

THE WAR NOT OVER.

It looks as if Senor Sagasta were either a diplomatic acrobat or a politic-forging politician, and perhaps his nature, or at least his inclining, causes him to partake somewhat of both at times. He is becoming so financially technical for anything. The announcement now out from him that in the cortes meeting will be said regarding the war, the surrender or destruction of fleets until incontestible proof in each case is laid before that body, is also makes the startling assertion that his country and ours are still at war, that condition of things which has been recognized as peace being merely a suspension of hostilities to enable the combatants to determine whether they will have peace or not. This is all very fine; a little too fine, in fact.

Sagasta has by some means achieved the distinction of being regarded as a statesman. If so, it is the case of a proofs he speaks of to show that his statesmanship relates to finite affairs only and would hardly amount to profound conception elsewhere. Undoubtedly official declarations should be based upon official information and not always accurately so. If a Spanish ship of war were to founder at sea, or were to bump up against one Admiral Sampson's or Dewey's or destroyed, in either case all hands on the Spanish craft being lost along with it, how would the peace be proved to lay an official report, based on the evidence of some one who was there, before the cortes? Sagasta would in such case have to be accepted, as was the case regarding Appomattox and Manila, in the day of excellent and interesting biography, of the great soldiers and peace newspapers, here of pledges may be taken for granted that fifty years are needed the evidence of a person of station attested to a court and seal to justify the rulers in taking definite action.

However, if Senor Sagasta is not satisfied to be the very model that the war is over, he can order a resumption of hostilities at any time, whether it suits the convenience of the United States or not. On this side we regarded the formal signing of the protocol as the end of the struggle, and all that remained being a matter of detail. On that presumption not only but with that distinct understanding, a halt was ordered and our troops and seamen were commanded to fight no more. If the peace accepted for had not been apparently secured, in advance, no negotiations would have been entered into at all; nothing but a fight to a finish, and Dinih wearing the utter subjugation or the unconditional surrender of Spain. The word "apparently" has some significance apart from the exact meaning as relating to this matter, for in dealing with Spanish statesmen it seems that things may be apparent and not in real existence at the same time. But in the present instance everything was received as in good faith, and on our part it is being so carried out.

To talk of Almadia proof of certain things which every schoolboy in this country knows as well as he does his A B C, is worse than nonsense. It is silly, and to follow it up with a shocking repudiation of what was solemnly agreed upon by the two nations, as a subject for discussion, perhaps not for anything more serious. Undoubtedly Sagasta feels sore; so do the other members of the Spanish governmental family. But there are two ways of treating a sore spot—one by trying to heal it and in the meantime making no complaints, the other by continually calling attention to the injury to which the sore it and tormenting the means by which it occurred.

If the Spanish as a people are still dissatisfied and would rather seek some other conclusion to the misunderstanding between the Americans and themselves, it would be as well all around for such outcome to be sought at once. Our forces are more or less disorganized in this part of the world at least, and it would be no little trouble and expense to us to get them into a mobile, effective condition again; but no matter. It can and will be done if necessary. A good many thousands of our men would rather face Mausers in Spanish hands than what they are and for a second past have been facing.

RAILROAD STATISTICS.

The tenth statistical report of the Interstate Commerce Commission for the year ending June 30, 1897, has some figures relating to the railroads of the country, of general interest.

The total railway mileage in the United States on June 30, 1897, was 184,828.67 miles, there being an increase of 1,651.34 miles, or 0.90 per cent during the year. Excepting yard tracks and sidings, about 92 per cent of which are laid with iron rails, fortunately 95 per cent of the railway tracks in the country are laid with steel rails.

The total number of locomotives in service on June 30, 1897, was 37,598. Of these 19,811 were classed as passenger locomotives; 10,099 as freight locomotives, and 3,342 as switching locomotives. The total number of cars of all classes reported was 1,257,301, a corresponding number for the previous year was 147 greater. Of the total cars reported, 32,658, were assigned to the passenger service; 1,021,730 were assigned to freight service, and 42,324 were assigned to the special service of the railway companies.

The number of men in the employ of railroads is given as 873,476. They are classified as follows:

The number of station agents as reported for the date named was 39,049; other station men, 74,362; enginemen, 37,681; firemen, 36,736; conductors, 25,527; other train men, 45,611; switchmen, flagmen, and watchmen, 41,783, and telegraph operators and despatchers, 12,462. A distribution of employes corresponding to the four principal divisions of the classification of operating expenses shows that the number of employes engaged in the service of 21,871 employes, or 11 per 100 miles of line; maintenance of way and structures, 189,871, or 94 per 100 miles of line; maintenance of equipment, 100,802, or 54 per 100 miles of line, and conducting transportation, 561,932, or 304 per 100 miles of line. This statement disregards a small number of unclassified employes amounting to 5,000.

The aggregate amount of wages paid to railroad employes was $461,402,553. This amount, it is said, represents 41.67 per cent of the total operating expenses of railways, or $249 per mile of line. The total compensation for 1896 was $2,222,309 greater.

The amount of railway capital outstanding was $10,625,000,974. The amount of capital stock was $4,958,847,253, of which $4,367,656,807 was common stock, and $591,595,596 preferred stock. The amount of funded debt was $5,278,365,816. The classification of funded debt shows that it consisted of bonds, $4,330,911,340; miscellaneous obligations, $408,170,301; income bonds, $253,847,514, and equipment trust obligations, $10,336,727. The amount of current liabilities outstanding on June 30, 1897, was $479,501,805, or $2,594 per mile of line.

The report of the public service of railways is as follows:

The number of passengers carried during the year ending June 30, 1897, as reported, was 489,345,189, being being a decrease of 12,000,000 as compared with the year ending June 30, 1896. The number of passengers carried one mile during the year was 12,096,864,647, a decrease of 182,967,268 being shown in this item as compared with 1896. The mileage of passengers carried one mile during the year was 25,784,864,647, a decrease of 182,967,268 being shown in this item as compared with 1896. The mileage of passengers carried one mile was 25.71, a decrease of 1.31 in this item being shown. The number of persons killed during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 3,123, which is 74,135,439 less than for 1896. The number of men killed during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 2,210, which is 74,135,439 less than for 1896. The number of men killed per million passengers carried was 4.51, which is 0.55 less than for 1896. This item also was less than for 1896, the decrease being 0.55 per cent. The number of persons injured during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 31,256, which is 1,135 less than for 1896. The number of persons injured per million passengers carried was 63.87, which is 1.87 less than for 1896. The number of men injured during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 28,736, which is 1,135 less than for 1896. The number of men injured per million passengers carried was 58.71, which is 1.87 less than for 1896. The number of employes killed during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 1,823, which is 1,135 less than for 1896. The number of employes killed per million employes was 2.09, which is 0.09 less than for 1896. The number of employes injured during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 32,499, which is 1,135 less than for 1896. The number of employes injured per million employes was 37.19, which is 1.81 less than for 1896.

The number of persons killed during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 6,723, which is 1,135 less than for 1896. The number of persons killed per million passengers carried was 13.74, which is 0.87 less than for 1896. The number of persons injured during the year ending June 30, 1897, was 32,499, which is 1,135 less than for 1896. The number of persons injured per million passengers carried was 66.42, which is 1.87 less than for 1896.

The New York World editorially observes that the statement that there are now nearly a thousand cases of malaria, dysentery and typhoid fever among the troops in Porto Rico does not harmonize with the current accounts of the healthful and healthful climate of our new acquisition. "It was supposed that Gen. Miles had fully provided for the and superintendence of Gen. Shafter, and there is accordingly no other reason for any such widespread sickness among his troops except the climate." Perhaps other reasons will be developed on investigation.

In an interview Admiral Sampson attributes Cervera's utter breakdown at Santiago to the fact that his guns were accurately sighted for 4,000 yards while the fleets were under 4,000 yards scarce. This would make it appear as if the Spanish were long-range fighters.

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