

few barrels of sugar and chlorate of potash. Great steam boilers and capacious coal bunkers he will make things of the past. By means of compressed air the potash and sugar are blown together and mixed in a compartment, which takes the place of the boiler in an engine. Drops of sulphuric acid fall upon this combination, causing a series of rapidly recurring explosions, the shock of which takes the place of steam in forcing the piston back and forth. The cylinder is kept cool and the refuse washed away by an ingenious process of applying water, which serves still another purpose in absorbing the smoke. During an interview he said:

"Wait, wait,"—his face lighting up and his eyes twinkling; "wait until I get it in some great ocean vessels. Then the world will not scoff. They won't be steamships any longer. Why, she'll skip through the water at the rate of eighty miles an hour. The faster the safer—that's right. If you send it fast enough you can drive a candle through a board, you know. Yes, sir; that's right."

He has been working on his "great invention" for two years and though seventy years old is still quite vigorous. He keeps hammering away at his work, which is all done in a garret from which he seldom emerges, and is supported by grown-up sons and daughters. He seems to have a reputation as a crank, but then we can't always judge by that; Robert Fulton was similarly gagged once upon a time.

PRECAUTION BETTER THAN DAMAGES.

The season for open street cars having arrived, and this particular form of vehicle having made its appearance, a suggestion is hereby offered the management of the city railways, with no thought of intimating, however, that they do not already understand their own business. We refer to the matter of a railing or guard on the side of the car next the posts which occupy the middle of the street, and which in some instances—notably on East Temple street where massive new poles have lately been set—barely miss the wide cars. It will be very remarkable if there shall be no accident from persons endeavoring to mount or alight from the cars and being crushed against these unlooked-for obstructions. It is all very well to say that people who ride on street cars ought to know enough to get on and off on the right side; it may be deemed conclusive to argue that if a warning be plainly printed in each car and the conductor be furthermore instructed to look out for the safety of his passengers, the company has acquitted itself of all responsibility. But no conductor can control the outgoings and incomings of people on an open car, and in the present condition of some of the streets the wrong side is the only side upon which a person can alight without a step-ladder.

Of course we hope no accident will occur; but if some day an awkward person should be swung against a telegraph pole and have his leg broken through getting off the car on the wrong side, or if a thoughtless coun-

tryman should have his head knocked off through looking around to see what pulls the car along, we shall be in a position to say that such a calamity might have been expected and should have been guarded against.

A JURISDICTIONAL QUESTION.

The *Tribune* recently contained an article (contributed) in which it was sought to be shown that justices of the peace in this Territory have no authority or jurisdiction as committing magistrates in cases arising under the laws of the United States. Why they have no such jurisdiction is not stated. Mention of the fact that the Organic Act and subsequent legislation give them no such power is made, but that proves nothing. Such enactments do not withhold such power and the presumption therefore remains that they hold all the authority that justices of the peace usually hold except wherein they are expressly curtailed thereof. No law specifically defines their jurisdiction. To say that if an offender against the laws of the United States is brought before a justice of the peace and required to give a bond for his appearance elsewhere if indicted will not be binding, is not only to state an absurdity but to go contrary to established facts. There have been several cases in this Territory wherein such authority has been exercised, the last one that occurs to us being that of John Eckart for counterfeiting, the defendant being brought before Justice George D. Pyper at the City Hall and by him held to answer to the grand jury, and the question of jurisdiction was never thought of. This was some four years ago. If the justices ever had such power—which they did both as a matter of fact and of law—they hold it still because it has not been taken away. The only mention of them in such connection in any congressional enactment of late years is to make United States commissioners equal to them as committing magistrates under Territorial laws by the Poland bill, and making the commissioners equal to them in all respects by the Edmunds-Tucker act.

There is and can be no question as to the jurisdiction of justices of the peace as preliminary judges in any kind of criminal case, national or local, save where either is specially committed by law or rule to some particular functionary, and none such are under discussion even if they obtain at all in this Territory. It follows that, as a jurisdictional question, Judge Judd is right and his critic is wrong; as a matter of policy he is right and his critic is wrong, because if justices of the peace do not do their duty and the people near him do not strengthen his hands, the grand jury or a commissioner can still act and the odium will be on those responsible for the dereliction.

THERE HAS been some dispute about the correctness of the claim that the pen is mightier than the sword. But there will be none about the new epigram that the law is mightier than the fist. John L. Sullivan recently spent a night in a Maine jail for striking an attorney—a one-armed attorney at that.

AN OPEN QUESTION.

It looks very much as if all was not going our way before the Bering sea commission, and that if Mr. Russell concludes to conclude his speech before the commissioners die off or become demented, there will be other fingers than ours in the pie. It all goes to show that in making any kind of a bargain, nothing should be left to inference or presumption; all the features in the case should be understood and put down, and then if either party cannot deliver all the goods it tells or in any other way fails to come up squarely to the requirements of the deal, let a forfeiture which shall previously have been secured be made. Nations and individuals would save a great deal of ill feeling and expense if they would do this all the time.

If the commission should decide that Russia had no title in the thirty-mile limit to seaward which she conveyed to the United States—within which are contained pretty much all the seals between the straits and the Aleutian islands and probably a majority of those in the whole world—we will then have to fall back upon the three miles of sea water skirting our northwest possessions; and while these contain a goodly number of the bone—or rather in this instance the hide—of contention, the extent to which our sealing interests as compared with what they are now would be cut down would be something prodigious. This would not, however, be the worst part of it. We have been bandying words with and harrying our British neighbors continuously for years over their alleged "piracy," "disregard of the law and comity of nations," and so on, and they would then have the laugh on us if not indeed something more serious. So would Russia; she got her money and gave us possession of something she did not own. If we demand restitution to the extent to which we claim to be injured she would have a double defense; first, the purchaser must beware and if he does not ascertain what it is that he is buying it is his own fault and his own loss; second, the purchase turned out better for us than we expected it would, the property bought having already yielded many times more than its cost, so that in equity the claim, if any, would be the other way.

However, the decision is not made yet and as Sir Charles Russell seems to think that a speech to be immortal must also be eternal, it may not be for some time; and even then there is a chance for it to come our way after all. In the meantime the question will prevail—Is the Bering sea open or closed like the World's Fair on Sunday?

WHEN THE *Tribune* editor wants his writings to be understood as pleasantry, he ought, in common courtesy to that large proportion of mankind who cannotathom his peculiar kind of intelligence, to accompany each paragraph with a diagram. When caught in a falsehood, he promptly avers that he was only joking; and because everybody does not accept that apology and cannot see the joke, he insists that the comprehension of pleasantry is a well-nigh extinct acquirement.