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DOES JAPAN WANT WAR?

If there is any foundation in fact for the alarming reports sent out from Washington, concerning the strained relations between this country and Japan, it is time for the citizens of the United States to wake up to the fact that a war with the Mikado's forces is among the possibilities of the near future. If it comes, it is because the Japanese have decreed that it must be. Whether the San Francisco school question is made the casus belli, or some other situation is created as an excuse for hostilities, does not matter; if war with this country is on the Japanese program, it cannot be averted by any ordinary measures of diplomacy, for it will be waged as a means of furthering Japan's plans of aggrandizement. Japan has studied the Bismarckian policy of building up empires through successive wars, and has, perhaps, marked the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands as the next points of attack.

According to Washington dispatches, some foreign power has offered Japan the money necessary to conduct another foreign war. Embassies of this power are also said to be actively engaged in Japan creating a hostile sentiment there toward this country. It is further stated that the situation is considered so grave that President Roosevelt has concluded to invite the president of the board of education and the superintendent of public schools of San Francisco to come to Washington for a friendly conference on the matter. It is hoped that that will result in some arrangement whereby the vexed school question will be permanently settled. Perhaps it will. But it would be folly to close the eyes to the fact that if Japan wants war, she will find some pretext, no matter how many are removed for the sake of peace.

It has generally been supposed that Japan cannot for many years engage in a war. Her resources, it was thought, were completely exhausted by the Russian war. But no foreigner seems to have a clear idea of the resources of that country. It must be admitted that if Japan has decided to take away some of our islands, her better policy is not to wait till the United States has built up a powerful navy, but to strike quick. With the aid of a foreign loan, she would be in a position to swoop down upon the Philippine Islands, for instance, and land a strong force there, which would be impossible to dislodge, except at the greatest sacrifice of both lives and money. Is this the Japanese program? It is well to remember that Japan is in the habit of striking first, and declaring war afterwards.

The present dispute with Japan is a reminder to the western world of the aspirations and aims of that country to become of the leader of the millions of Asia in a movement against the Occident. The ideal now is, undoubtedly, the consolidation of Asiatic forces in a grand effort of defense against western intrusion in every form. And who can say that this ideal is but a shadow and a dream? And who can say that ambition will not tempt the Asiatics, awakened by the sound of the war drum, to further exploits into Europe, as of old? Who knows but that the little cloud, no larger than a hand, will grow with fearful rapidity and finally discharge its terrible thunders where least expected? The awakening of Asia by the tramp of armies and the roar of cannon does not augur well for the plans of peace congresses. It gives no encouragement to the proposition of gradual, or immediate, disarmament.

THE REAL AND ONLY PROBLEM.

Would it be ungenerous, or irrelevant, to remind those long-distance reformers in the great Atlantic coast cities, who seem to be so much concerned about the morals of the people of Utah, that if they evinced more solicitude about the reeking pools of iniquity that fill the atmosphere in their immediate vicinity with nauseating odors, they would be more liable to gain approval, and support, than when they reach out to sweep before the doors of others, while the filth is accumulating on their own front porches?

There is a phase of married life in those large cities which a writer in Life describes as follows:

"A pretty girl with a minimum of brains and a maximum of ambitious mother made up her mind to marry a good society, so she accepted a wealthy middle-aged bachelor, had the use of a house in town, a house in the country, several automobiles, yachts and private cars, and was able to go to the opera, cover herself with diamonds and see Europe. After she had been married for several years she became independent of everything except alcohol, which she had learned to consume in the form of cocktails, highballs and champagne. This making her fractious and irritable, her husband left her to get her own way while he went his, and there being no children she had nothing else to do but devote herself to the bad habit had formed and kept it up as long as possible.

"Puzzle—Give the names of the avenues and hotel corridors where this lady can be seen between the hours of 2 p. m. and midnight."

kept secret from her husband, or heard a male patient exclaim, 'for goodness sake, doctor, don't let my wife know anything about this affair.' And then he added, significantly: 'There is no doubt that if physicians should reveal all the secrets in their possession, society would be disrupted and churches dismembered.' And he was not contradicted by his brethren in the profession, who heard him.

The only question that seems to trouble some of the inconsistent reformers of our age is 'polygamy.' And yet, that is an issue that really belongs to the past. The flood of iniquity that disrupts homes, lowers the moral standards of society, and sinks souls into eternal perdition, is the problem of the present.

PETITION FOR HIGH SCHOOLS.

The petition presented to the Governor and Legislature, by a committee of which Mr. L. E. Eggertsen of Provo is the chairman, asking for an appropriation for the high schools, should be carefully considered.

At the late election a proposition to use part of the school funds for the support of the high schools was decided in the affirmative, but this petition goes further than that. It asks for increased taxation in favor of the class of schools referred to. It is doubtful whether, had that question been put to the taxpayers, the result of the vote would have been the same. That is the reason why the subject of the petition should be carefully considered. Some way should be found, if possible, to meet the expressed desire of the taxpayers, without increasing the burdens which are heavy enough now.

It is undoubtedly true that state aid for the high schools would enable a greater number of boys and girls to continue their studies after having passed the district schools; it is also true that high school education would become cheaper; educators tell us that with that class of institutes of learning supported in the principal cities of the State the cost for each pupil would be reduced from \$145 to \$75; that is to say, the same amount of money would go so much farther. These arguments have their weight. If extravagance is justified in any direction, it is when indulged in intelligently for educational purposes. But the end the petitioners seek to obtain can be gained, we have no doubt, without further increase in the amount of taxes assessed against the property of the citizens.

CUT DOWN THE SPEED.

The automobile speed nuisance is assuming dangerous form in Salt Lake. That there have been no serious accidents or fatalities of late, is due more to good luck than to good judgment, for these great machines are almost invariably driven far beyond the bounds of public safety, and very close calls from death are constantly occurring in both business and residence districts.

It is no uncommon sight to see a daring chauffeur, who likes to feel the "thrills," and experience the "sensations" of "cutting corners," dash in and out of Main street with a velocity that is fairly frightening, even to strong men, to say nothing of timid women and children. It is not to be presumed that their skill will always be able to plot them through the openings they make amid the crowded throngs of pedestrians on street crossings and elsewhere. Rather it is probable that one of these days there may be a dreadful tragedy to record unless there shall be an abatement of the speed evil. This fact that serious mishaps have been frequent in Salt Lake seems to have developed an extreme recklessness and daring on the part of the speed fiends until the limitations of the law and the patience of the public have both been shattered. Our broad streets doubtless have much to do with keeping accidents of the automobile kind down to a minimum, but because they are wide they do not carry with them a license for machine driver to cut capers upon them in defiance of the city ordinances that he may simply experience "his thrills" and "sensations" and be able to regale his fellow speed annihilators with his most recent exploits of skill and daring. Besides it should be made clear to all owners and drivers of automobiles that South Temple street particularly, is not a course for remarkable exhibitions of speed either at midnight or in the day time. It is a nuisance and a danger that should be stopped at once regardless of who the offender may be.

CRIME AND DRINK.

The statement that the saloon is responsible for a great deal of crime is sometimes disputed, but statistics prove they are. A San Francisco clergyman showed some time ago a notable increase in criminal cases in that city, as soon as the saloons were opened after the earthquake. And now the Chicago Record-Herald calls attention to the experience of the state of New Hampshire.

That state used to have prohibition. During the last full year under that rule, the twelve months ending Oct. 1, 1902, there were a total of 992 prisoners, 427 of whom were charged with drunkenness. The next year, ending Oct. 1, 1903, the state was for seven months under the Nold law and five months under a new license law. The prisoners sent to the county farms increased to 950, of whom 838 were charged with drunkenness. This was an increase of over 250 prisoners in a few months. The following year, ending Oct. 1, 1904, the respective numbers increased to 1,575 and 1,537, and the year after that, the last for which official figures are available, the totals were 1,786 and 1,537. The cases of drunkenness which were deemed bad enough to require punishment and in which the prisoner did not escape by paying his fine and costs, but went to the workhouse, increased, therefore from 437 under the old regime to 1,437 under the new.

If such statistics are considered, the enormity of the crime of opening the saloons on Sundays, whether this is done with or without the sanction of the police, can be appreciated. It is bad enough to have places of that kind running six days every week, but when the proprietors conclude to open on the first day of the week, too, in defiance

of both law and public sentiment, it is time for the citizens to wake up and take action.

The State of Vermont has had experience both under prohibition and local option. In 1902 a local option law was adopted according to which every town was to decide whether it would remain dry, or have saloons, the following year. When the vote was put under this law, 92 out of 245 towns voted for saloons, says the Record-Herald. The next year the number fell to 40, the year after to 34 and in 1906 to 29. The latest vote in all the towns combined showed about 8,000 majority against the saloons. When the prohibition law was abandoned the majority of the change was only 1,000.

This proves what experience teaches citizens regarding the curse of drunkenness as promoted by law-debating saloonkeepers. The saloons are breeding places of crime. The income companies derive from them is more than lost in the expenses of taking care of criminals and paupers whose misfortunes can be traced, directly or indirectly, to drink and kindred evils.

Strauss' "Salome" must be pretty rank if New York cannot stand it.

In the Thaw case many talesmen are called but few jurors are chosen.

Though advanced in years, Mrs. Russell Sage continues to hold her own.

The pure food law probably has more effect on the mind than on the food.

The price of bricks is to be advanced. And they are bricks without straw, too.

So Juvenile Judge Brown kept a vicious dog. What an example to set children!

Does Mr. Oliver consider that he is getting "a square deal" on the Panama canal contract bid?

As a nation we shall never be satisfied until Governor Sweetenham's own conscience condemns him.

"In England you seldom make friends; you buy them," says London Truth. But do they stay bought?

It is St. Valentine and George Washington and the fact that it is the shortest month in the year, that make February famous.

So intense is their feeling on the Japanese school question that the good people of California refuse to use Japanese ware.

It seems to be Senator Rayner's idea that the President doesn't care who writes the songs of the people so long as he makes the laws.

In demanding full rates for the transportation of soldiers and horses, the government cannot say that the railroads are not doing the fare thing.

Senator Hale says that the Senate does too much talking and not enough work. Congresses, legislatures, all public bodies, all private persons do the same thing.

The San Francisco board of education wants to know what the President wants in the Japanese school question. Nothing but justice for the Japanese school children.

And now Secretary Taft appeals to Congress for a big appropriation for the purpose of fortifying Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Will the country ever catch up with its fortification plans?

The facts brought out by the interstate commerce commission in its investigations of various railroad mergers will furnish the foundation for party pronouncements in favor of government ownership.

Mary Louise Hewes, known on the stage as Louise Calder, has begun a suit in the supreme court of New York in which she seeks to restrain Elizabeth P. Hewes from posing as the widow of John H. Hewes. Widow herself, doesn't Mary Louise know that you can't restrain a widow?

SENATORS ON SALARIES.

Mr. Lodge of Massachusetts. The American people are a generous people. They have no desire that men whom they consider fit to represent them should scramble along as best they may with a pittance in Washington. I am certain they desire them to be justly and properly paid, and I think, Mr. President, that it is for the dignity and the decency of official life here to pay a salary proportionate to the importance of the office which is held by senators and representatives, and which will enable them to live not extravagantly, but simply and decently with their families in a manner becoming to their situation.

Mr. Dubois of Idaho.

"I do not think the people will figure this out in dollars and cents. If I read the signs of the times correctly, and accurately measure the trend of events, the people want good service, undivided service, and honest service. They do not want to force their representatives to the lecture platform, to write magazine articles, or to look around here and there for a business opening to eke out the salaries which they receive here. They want them to devote their attention to the interests of the people, with a mind free, so that they will not belong to this class or to the other and can legislate equally for all of them.

Mr. Daniel of Virginia.

I know, Mr. President, that this is the most poorly paid body of servants in the employment of the government. There is not a country on the face of the globe that pays its inferior and subordinate officers so high and its higher officers so low as does the United States of America.

Mr. Money of Mississippi.

Mr. President, for my part I want to have a recall on this question, and I want to go on the roll as in favor of an increase of salary for those who are to come after me, and for myself I shall accept it, if the law is passed, and it will come to me without the slightest squeamishness, or I would rather say, perhaps, delicacy upon my part about it.

Mr. Bacon of Georgia.

I think the compensation of the Vice President should be at least \$25,000 a year. I have served in the Senate during the administrations of three different Presidents and of four different Vice Presidents, and from such observation as I have been able to make is

that the expenses of the Vice President are larger than the expenses of the President of the United States. I think the Vice President expends more money by reason of his official position than does the President of the United States. The case, because of its more intimate and wider association with official life than the President of the United States has, expect in a very long-distance manner.

Mr. Pettus of Alabama.

Mr. President, the senior senator from Alabama (Mr. Morgan) came here in moderate circumstances, and he is in very moderate circumstances today. Shall he deny himself the right to a little more adequate compensation? He has had none. His estate is worth only about as much today as it was when he came here, and to tell the truth, Mr. President, our people are proud that he is worth no more. It may be a singular sort of thing, but they are proud of him because he has not become rich.

JUST FOR FUN.

Hospitable.

Hospitality is that subtle something whereby fair women and brave men are compelled to march to a personage they hate and thank her for boring them to death.—Puck.

The Ruling Passion.

John D. Rockefeller has just scooped in 939 new indictments at a single stroke. Whatever line the old gentleman takes up he isn't content with anything less than a monopoly.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Spoiling a Scandal.

Miss Scandell—They may appear very devoted, but do you think they're so true to each other?

Miss Kidder (whispering)—Well, I happen to know that only last night he had occasion to set a trap for her.

Miss Scandell—Ah! Do you know, I've suspected.

Miss Kidder—It was more than a suspicion in their case. They knew there were rats in the house.—Philadelphia Press.

Matter of Duty.

Stella—I hear Miss Pinkleigh had some trouble with the customs officials on her return from Europe.

Mabel—Yes, they insisted that her complexion was a work of art.—Chicago Daily News.

Looked for Better Things.

Mrs. Handout—Have you no desire for better things?

Tramp—Certainly, I wish you'd take back this hen and gimme broiled chicken.—Judge.

Advertising in the Gold-Fields.

In an entertaining article contributed to the current Harper's Weekly on the subject of Nevada's "Gold-Fields," the author, Barton W. Currie, tells of an alluring advertisement which was printed recently in the Goldfield Sun (the newspaper in this region, by the way, are printed with gold ink):

"Wanted, a piano-player. Must be good dish-washer. Last performer had a mean temper and quit very suddenly. Apply—Glad Hand Saloon."

Shakespeare and the Lemon.

A curious-minded contributor to Harper's Weekly has unearthed in Shakespeare's "Love's Labor's Lost" an amusing anticipation of a favorite notion of our time.

Armadillo—The omnipotent Mark of the lamb, the almighty, gave Hector a gift.

Dumaine—A gilt nutmeg.

Biron—A lemon.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The February number of Ansie's Magazine opens with a novelette, "Candace," by Anna A. Rogers. It has a great many other stories, essays, poems, and special articles of interest. The cover design is one of its attractive features.—7th Ave. and 15th St., New York.

Success Magazine directs the attention of its readers to a work of legislative reform which has been going on quietly out in Wisconsin, where Charles McCarthy, a man "with a brogue, a Ph.D., and an idea," has almost driven the lobbyists of the "interests" out of business. In this article, "Putting the Lobbyists on the Square," Samuel Merwin describes the bureau conducted by McCarthy, shows its wonderful value, and traces its influence it has exerted in other sections of the country. "In five years," says Mr. Merwin, "McCarthy changed the scheme of law-making at Madison from a disastrous chaos to scientific system." "My Life—So Far," Josiah Flynn's vivid account of his roving tramp life, has proved a sensational piece of autobiography. This revelation of boyhood ideals and yearnings, the blasted hopes and shattered illusions of manhood, the call of the road, the forced and finally chosen affiliation with tramps and outcasts, is a story of adventure surpassing fiction. "Millions of Music," by Edgar Mels, a synopsis of the musical season in America, is illustrated with photographs of the leading singers of the New York opera season. "The Dreyfus Affair," by Vance Thompson, and "Fools and Their Money," a disclosure of the methods of various mining fakirs, are two strong serial articles. These are some of the many features of its month—32 Waverly Place, New York.

Fiction aside, the February Century devotes one of its pages to Lincoln, Washington and Longfellow interests, with pleasant reminiscences of "The Washington-Craigie-Longfellow House"—one of the most interesting of American homes; Francis LeBaron, Prof. W. M. Sloane's recollections of an interview with von Moltke, in which the famous field marshal paid glowing tribute to Washington's strategy; Bishop Potter's interesting description of "The Graves of Three Washingtons," and "A French Officer with Washington and Rochambeau," extracts from unusual sketches and papers kept by an aide to the French while in this country during the war for independence. All of these papers are illustrated. Gen. A. W. Greely's account of "Armandsen's Expedition and the Northwest Passage," John Graham Brooks' discussion of "The Human Side of Immigration," for which he urges increasing attention and "The utmost practical weight consistent with safeguarding interests within national bounds," and Warden Allan Curtis' accounts of race types in Wisconsin, with pictures by Guipen, are important features of this number. The fiction is of a kind to keep one awake into the wee, am'ahs hours. "The Shuttle" carries Mrs. Burnett's latest and most fascinating heroine, Betty, to St. Louis Court, and tells of what she finds there after the years of Rosalie's unexplained separation from home and friends. A. E. W. Mason's "Running Water," grows in intensity of interest and among the short stories Charles D. Stewart's "A Race on the Mississippi" is to be read by young and old—it is racy and vigorous and full of color.—New York.

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Special Matinee Tuesday at 2:30.
Klaw & Erlanger Present
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Prices—50c to \$1.50. Sale today.

Thursday, and special Thursday matinee at 2:30, Paul Gilmore in "At Yale."

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ALL THIS WEEK!

The Hazardous Loop
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Every evening (except Sunday) 7:30, 9:00, 10:30. Box seats \$1.00. Matinees Daily Except Sunday and Monday 50c 2c and 10c. Box seats 75c.

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Matinee Saturday, 2:30 p. m.
The Yankee Doodle Comedy.

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Presented by VICTOR FAUST, and a Carefully Selected Company.
Coming Next Week, "MY WIFE'S FAMILY."

LYRIC THEATRE

Salt Lake's Only Family Theatre.
TONIGHT!
The Sensational Melodrama.

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Matinees Wednesday and Saturday.
Night Prices—10, 20, 30 cents. Matinee, 10, 20 cents.

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RICHARDS STREET.

"Sweet pleasure drives away dull care."
Roller Skating combines pleasure and healthful exercise.

Roller opened morning 10 to 12, afternoon 2 to 5, evening 7:30 to 10:30.
Music by Held's Band.

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Saturday Specials!

Attractive offerings for tomorrow—new and seasonal goods reduced to make our store particularly attractive to you.

GINGHAMs and SEERSUCKERS!

All new goods—the latest 1907 spring designs and patterns for Ladies', Misses' and Children's Dresses, Kimonos, Men's and Boys' Shirts, etc.

A. F. C. and Red Seal Zephyr Gingham, regular price 12c, Saturday only, per yard 10c

Bates and Amoskeag Seersuckers, regular price 15c, Saturday only, per yard 12c

ONLY TEN YARDS TO A CUSTOMER.

SALE OF LONG KID GLOVES!

The Mousquetaire Glace Kid Gloves, in black, white and colors. A carefully selected, very choice line of long gloves — placed on sale tomorrow.

8 BUTTON LENGTH KID GLOVES, regular price \$2.50, tomorrow only 2.00

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Ladies' Coats

We have just received a shipment of 50 inch, loose fitting, Black Coats, very stylish and quite seasonable, that we are selling at \$20.00 and \$22.50

Roosevelt Bears

The little ones choose them in preference to a doll. A very fine variety—all sizes.

1/3 OFF SALE

Ends TOMORROW —Values that need only to be seen to be appreciated in our Clothing Dept.

All Men's, Boys' and Children's Winter Suits; all Men's Fancy Cassimere and Fancy Worsteds; all Men's, Boys' and Children's Winter Overcoats; small lot of Men's, Boys' and Children's Sweaters, Woollen Toggles and