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SALT LAKE CITY, - OCT. 26, 1904

A CAPITAL QUESTION.

It is very well known that Cheyenne
is the capital of the State of Wyoming.
It is not so widely known that efforts
are being made to remove the State
capital to some other point more geo-
graphically central. The statute of the
State respecting the capital requires the
submission of the question of its future
location to the vote of the citizens at
the election of 1904. This may not be a
permanent settlement of the question,
because whatever the result of the
vote may be this year, a change
could be made by a constitutional
amendment whenever two-thirds of the
voters should so decide. But the agita-
tion now in motion is of serious con-
sequence to our neighboring State for
several reasons. It is therefore caus-
ing much strong feeling and some
strenuous competition.The claimants for the capital as op-
posed to Cheyenne are Casper, Lander
and Rock Springs. The last-named
place however is not urged very strongly,
as it is not really a central loca-
tion. It is about conceded that in the
distribution of State offices, Laramie
is to have the university, Rawlins the
penitentiary and Evanston the insane
asylum. An agricultural college is
talked of for Lander. Cheyenne already
has the capital, which cost nearly \$500,-
000, and is a very fine and suitable
building, of which the people are justly
proud.Lander and Casper are more centrally
situated than Cheyenne is, looking at
the map for the area of the State. But
Lander has no railroad connection and
Casper has, we believe, but a single
cross country line, while Cheyenne is a
noted railway city and is
accessible therefore from the most
populous parts of Wyoming, to say
nothing of the country at large. Twelve
splendid passenger trains arrive at and
leave it every day, besides three mixed
trains and numerous freight trains, for
all points, and further lines are projected.
It is therefore much better suited to
the people of Utah county, where so
many Utah people have settled, than
either of the other places named, as
they can reach it readily by rail, and it
is so for the most populous sections of
the State. So much for its accessibility.Cheyenne appears to be the favorite
in the race for the capital of the most
influential Wyoming papers, outside
as well as inside that city. It has held
that position for thirty-five years by
legislative enactment. It remained
there during territorial days and has
continued since statehood by constitu-
tional provision. Its advantages as a
business centre are conceded. It has
the imposing State building which has
served its purposes well. All the public
offices necessary in such a structure
are there. Its legislative halls are ample
and convenient, and there really
seems no need to build another such
edifice even if Cheyenne is not centrally
situated.The question of expense is a very im-
portant point for consideration. The
bonding power of the State is limited.
Only one per cent of the assessed valua-
tion of property therein may be bor-
rowed. The total valuation this year
is \$46,695,938. The full sum to be ob-
tained by bonds therefore would be
\$466,693. Of that amount \$200,000 has
already been raised at six per cent in-
terest. The balance left is but \$266,693.
Now where is the good financial sense
of running to the limit in order to build
a new capital which, at \$266,000, is not
likely to rival the present structure,
and leave no margin for other purposes?
It is evident that increased taxation
would be the result, and it is for the
taxpayers of the State to say on Novem-
ber 8 whether they desire the extra
burden, when they already have what
is needed for a capital, and is likely to
suffice for some years to come.Suppose that for the sake of pleasing
the people in the neighborhood of Cas-
per, or of Lander, the change was
made, the bonded debt incurred to the
limit, a new capital erected with in-
sufficient accommodations for all nec-
essary state purposes, what would be
done with the expensive structure vacat-
ed at Cheyenne? The ambition of the
towns named may be laudable
enough, but where would be the finan-
cial wisdom of feeding it, at such a
great cost to the entire taxpaying
population of the State.There is little probability of either of
the places mentioned obtaining the lo-
cation, because the votes against Chey-
enne would be so much divided. There
would not be enough for either claim-
ant. Why then need Cheyenne care, it
may be asked? For the reason that
unless the majority of votes is cast for
Cheyenne the matter will remain an
open question, to the further unsettling
of affairs, the opportunity for more agita-
tion, the probability of heartburnings,
wirepullings, contentions and ill-feel-
ings. These can be settled for some
time by the casting of the majority
of the ballots for Cheyenne at the Novem-
ber election.Well, somebody will inquire, what is
that to Utah or to the Deseret News?
This much: Utah is interested in thewelfare of Wyoming as its next door
neighbor, Cheyenne is easily reached by
rail from Utah points. Our interests are
mutual, our relations are pleasant and
profitable. The "News" circulates wide-
ly in Wyoming. Large numbers of our
friends reside there. We are thinking
of their benefit. From Evanston and
Alamy northward to Star valley and
away in the Big Horn country, they
can more readily reach Cheyenne for
business at the State capitol than they
could at either Lander or Casper, and
they are taxpayers also and so we con-
sider them in viewing this subject.We believe the retention of the Wyom-
ing capital at the great railroad and
business city of Cheyenne will be for
the best good of the greatest number,
and think it would be folly to make the
proposed change, and therefore we coin-
cide with our journalistic confreres who
see the advantage of letting well-enough
alone, and so present the matter to the
calm consideration of our many read-
ers throughout the thrifty and growing
State of Wyoming.

THE PANAMA CANAL.

There seems to be joy in some quar-
ters at the alleged dissatisfaction in
Panama, on account of certain tariff
arrangements. But there certainly is
very little excuse for exultation on that
account. It was not to be expected that
everything could be arranged without
some trouble. It always takes time to
adjust a country to changed conditions,
particularly in the face of the opposi-
tion that has fought the Panama canal,
with all the means at its disposal. Per-
haps the present trouble over its origi-
n to that same opposition, rather
than to the Panamanians.The American people, however, have,
through Congress, issued the ukase
that the canal must be built. No mat-
ter what the difficulties may be, or
even the dangers; it is now considered
a necessity to this nation, and opposi-
tion does not count. The enterprise is
altogether too important to this coun-
try, from both a commercial and a mili-
tary point of view, to be given up at
the demand of corporations inspired by
selfishness.For 400 years commerce has sought
an open road over the isthmus. Final-
ly this country has undertaken to ren-
der the world that important service.
But if it is to be put off until all opposi-
tion, at home and abroad, has ceased,
the work will never be done. There
is something said about the sluggish
who always fears a lion in the road.
But that is not a characteristic of true
Americans.

REFORM MUCH NEEDED.

The question of the remarriage of
divorced persons in the Protestant
Episcopal church in this country, has
finally been settled, by the adoption
by both houses of the convention, of
an amendment to the report of the
committee. According to this, Epis-
copal ministers are not at liberty to
perform the marriage ceremony for any
divorced persons, except the innocent
party in a divorce for adultery, and
that only with certain restrictions.It will be observed that the canon is
not directed against divorce. In its
effects it will act as a bar to separa-
tions for trivial causes. For, if re-
marriages cannot take place, there will
be fewer divorces. That is, the effect
would be as stated, were there only
one church in the country, the Protest-
ant Episcopal, or, had all churches a
uniform rule. But as there are a num-
ber of churches and various rules of
procedure, the effect may be different
from that anticipated. It may drive
persons with modern views of family
relations to other churches, where the
re-marriage question is not considered
so important. And as long as one
church is considered about as good as
another, no one can be severely blamed
for trying to escape from the disci-
pline, by seeking shelter in another fold.
However, the attempt to stem the tide
of looseness in morals is commendable.Clergymen know that there are cases
in which compulsion to live together
would be cruelty. There are instances
in which, whether from incompatibility,
personal peculiarities, or what not, it is
improper and wrong to force a couple
to live together. The canon, as amend-
ed, does not attempt to prevent di-
vorces in such instances. But it bars
them from remarriage, except in cer-
tain cases. It is one thing to permit
people to get out of an unhappy or un-
fortunate position and quite another to
give them license to act as if they
never had taken up the obligations of
marriage. That is a distinction that
must be remembered.That some such restriction is highly
needed, society itself furnishes ample
proof. Only a few days ago a sym-
pathetic dispatch from New York an-
nounced that a certain lady was heart-
broken. Her lover had left her, and gone
to France with another lady, and it was
thought they were about to be married
on foreign soil. The heart-broken lady
had just secured a divorce from her
husband, with whom she had two chil-
dren. In the expectation of marrying
the deserter. This fellow either has
obtained a divorce from his wife, or is
aiming for one—the point is really im-
material—and the lady he ran away
with is divorced, presumably, since she
is referred to as "Mrs." Such tangles
as this, and what are not infrequent,
prove the necessity of earnest endeavors
at the creation of better conditions.
Something is wrong, when people in
the upper strata of society can furnish
such plots for novels. Talk about the
immoral immigration from abroad! And
the purity of the home! What are the
reformers of the country doing?

IN BEHALF OF FINLAND.

George Brandes, the noted Danish
literary critic, has appealed to the uni-
versities of Europe, to take up the
cause of Finland, in the form of pro-
tests to the Russian government,
against certain proceedings. The fact is
that Finnish students have refused to
comply with the Russian conscription
laws forced upon the country against the
constitution of Finland, which the Czar
once swore to respect—and perjured him-
self. For this stubbornness the students have
been most cruelly punished. The regents
of the University in Helsinki then di-
rected an address to the late vonPieve, protesting against the punish-
ments meted out. The university re-
spectfully represented that the action
of the students should "not be regard-
ed as the result of youthful caprice or
defiance," and that "the reason for it
lies in the idea of right and duty of an
entire people expressed unequivocally
by the national representatives of this
people." Yet for taking a stand declar-
ed by the academic senate to be mor-
ally unimpeachable, because in accord-
ance with their idea of the sanctity of
right, "the students see the way to all
employment closed to them. They
even find themselves debarred from con-
tracting marriage under legal forms.
They must either fly the country or
they are seized bodily and, after an
imprisonment of arbitrary duration,
enrolled in the disciplinary companies
outside Finland—a punishment worse
than death.For this remonstrance the most dis-
tinguished professors of the university
were deported, and the harsh treatment
of the patriotic students continues.Mr. Brandes holds, that "all uni-
versities of Europe ought to feel the cruel
iniquity which has overtaken one of
their number. All ought to protest.
Then public sentiment will be aroused,
and the idea will gain ground that those
who represent free investigation, the
disinterested searchers for truth, are
perhaps the most valuable guardians,
the best upholders of the sense of
right." Mr. Brandes' idea is that num-
erous protests from the centers
of learning would bring Russia to re-
alize that it is in danger of placing it-
self outside the pale of civilization. He
calls first upon the students and pro-
fessors of the Scandinavian universi-
ties to show their sympathy and to pro-
test against the violence and ill-treat-
ment of which their brethren at Hel-
sinki are the object. He believes
that the movement then will spread
from one institution to another: "First
the universities of England and Ger-
many, perhaps the universities of
France, surely the universities of Italy."The Boston Transcript is authority
for the statement that this generous
movement has met with favor, not only
in Scandinavia, but also in Germany.
In France, we are told, it has received
the endorsement, among others, of M.
Clemenceau, in L'Aurore, and of Louis
Havet, who gently chides Brandes for
being doubtful about the stand of the
French universities, saying, "the more
truly French they are the more hearty
will be their indorsement."This is as it should be. Science
knows of no country, no entangling al-
liances. Its devotees are the followers
of liberty and the rights of man, where-
ver man dwells.But why should the American insti-
tutes of learning be left out of the
ranks of this army of human brother-
hood? We hope that from every uni-
versity here a protest will be directed
to the Czar, in the interest of the
University of Helsinki. If that institu-
tion is crushed, the night of oppres-
sion will fall dark indeed upon Fin-
land's bloodstained soil. It would be
to extinguish the star of hope. It is not
probable that this outside protests will
be heeded, unless the Lord Himself un-
dertakes to humble the proud hearts of
the Russian rulers. Once before the
Czar simply refused to receive a depu-
tation in behalf of Finland. But the
protest should be made anyhow, for it
would not be entirely lost, whether
acted upon immediately, or not. Let
Americans join in the good work.

To hunters: Beware the bear.

Kurepatkin must have taken some-
thing for that retiring feeling.Great Britain's demands on Russia
were couched in the King's English.The school boy lays more store by the
"fall dinner pail" than does the work-
ing man.At the head of the Russian naval de-
partment is a master of the art of how
not to do it.The airship Arrow being cigar shaped
the tobacco trust is quite likely to lay
claim to it.It could hardly be said of the airship
Arrow, "I shot an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth I knew not where."About the only person in Russia who
isn't more or less exercised, over the
Far Eastern situation is the Czar-
witch.If the Russian and Japanese troops
are only a few hundred yards apart,
they should soon be falling over each
other.The only thing that saved the Hull
fishing fleet from annihilation was the
poor marksmanship of the Russians.
It was almost as bad as their judgment.If the shot that was fired at the Czar-
witch was not heard around the world
the news of it was as soon as a telegraph
office could be reached.The politicians and campaign orators
have been speaking, but on election
day they will be silent, for on that day
the people speak, and what they say
"goes."Possibly Mr. Carnegie intends to buy
the Congressional library and present
it to Mr. John Morley just as he bought
the late Lord Acton's library and pre-
sented it to him.Young hoodlums are making it "liv-
ely" for various neighborhoods. They
should be promptly suppressed. If
they are not, it means a fine crop of
criminals at no distant day.Chinese junks continue to make oc-
casional visits to Port Arthur, much to
the annoyance of the Japanese. The
Japanese have not given up the idea of
making junk out of Port Arthur.Mr. Carnegie wants the boundary
line between Canada and the United
States obliterated. There is no objec-
tion to admitting Canada on an equal-
ity with the Thirteen Original States.Rojestvensky (What a name! And
what's in a name?) is said by Lieuten-
ant-General von Roventow to be anextremely nervous man, who is thrown
into violent excitement through trifles.
He certainly has succeeded in throw-
ing both England and Russia into a
state of violent excitement.

TROUBLE IN PANAMA.

Springfield Republican.
The President's letter directing Sec-
retary Taft to proceed to Panama and
there confer with the local government
concerning its grievances against the
United States reminds us that this par-
ticular chicken insists very early upon
coming home to roost. Most people
will experience a sensation of surprise
that trouble should have arisen so soon
between the great incubator of 30-min-
ute republics and the isthmian bant-
ling. Not satisfied with some \$10,000,000
which was paid to her by the United
States not long ago, and with the be-
ginning of canal construction, by a
million-dollar country right through
her middle, Panama now demands her
sovereign rights. Sure enough, here she
comes screaming—for what? Why, just-
ice!

New York Evening Mail.

The canal commission decided to put
the United States customs tariff in ef-
fect at the zone. This was necessary in
order that American materials and sup-
plies for the construction of the canal
should be free to cross. Whatever fric-
tion has arisen is due to this extension
of the United States tariff to the strip.
Some of the Panama merchants think
that it will draw all their business to
the zone, and take the commercial life
out of Panama. If it does the canal
will be the result of conditions which
can surely be escaped.

Portland Oregonian.

The national spirit is the one typified
so accurately and splendidly by The-
odore Roosevelt, and its attitude toward
the inhabitants of the isthmus is per-
fectly personified in that great-minded,
generous natured statesman, Secretary
Taft, who has gone there to make peace
and explain to them the infamy of
those who have sought to stir them up
against us by charging us with grave
crimes we never thought of committing.
When the truth is known it will prob-
ably be found that the isthmian diffi-
culties are largely the creation of the
same forces that so long resisted canal
construction in other ways. This is the
last stand of the obstructivists, and it
cannot be held for long.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The account of the fight the actors
made against the Theatrical Syndicate
given in Leslie's Monthly Magazine for
November, will interest theater-goers.
There is a study called "The Business
Side of the Japanese system of self-
defense is instructive in its text and
attractive in its photographs, and the
account of the Socialist, Prohibitionist
and Populist candidates for president
will be as widely read as any article
of the month. There are eight short
stories—football stories, animal stories,
humorous stories and tales of love and
adventure—and a number of shorter
bits of verse and little amusing articles.
There is also an account of the Battle
of Naushan by a Japanese officer.—
Leslie Publishing House, New York.Harper's Bazar for November opens
with an illustrated story, "For All
These Thy Sins," by Octave Thanet.
It is a reminder of the approaching
season. This is only one of several ex-
cellent short stories. The number also
presents poems, essays, and articles on
fashions, costumes for the street, etc.
There is also a pattern sheet. The
various departments are brimful of
good reading, and the illustrations are
that art can make them.—Harper
& Bros., New York.

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