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AT THE HAGUE.

The Hague congress is rather slow to come down to practical business. The Russian delegate, M. Nelidoff, in his opening address, took the view, queer for a peace delegate, that universal peace and fraternity between nations is a "dream," an ideal that can never be realized. It is a star that can never be reached, he said. "Nations like individuals," he continued, "are human, and not the most perfect judicial system ever invented could put an end to strife and violence. When honor and vital interests are at stake, regardless of consequences, neither the former nor the latter will recognize any authority except personal judgment and personal feelings."

This is, evidently, only partially true. It will be admitted that among individuals who are still almost untamed by civilization, "personal judgment and personal feelings" govern, and the consequence is fights, murders, and lynchings. But really civilized men and women have advanced beyond that stage. They avail themselves of civilized means of settling disputes. It is the same with nations. When civilization is more than a thin veneer, wars are not lightly resorted to, not even to appease personal feelings. And that ideal is not so high as to be outside the reach of humanity. A united France, a united Italy, a united Germany, an American Federation of states, are only prelude to a federation that will embrace still wider areas and more diversified interests.

So far it appears that the representatives of the various larger powers hope to out-general one another. The contest, it is thought, will be between the United States and Germany. The American policy was outlined by Secretary Root at the New York peace meeting. Part of it embraces to make the Hague tribunal a permanent institution. This, it is said, does not find favor in Berlin. The German military party, it is explained, regards the Hague tribunal as a wedge which the United States wishes to drive into the structure of European militarism. It demands the permanent "Parliament of Man" in which might be developed a comprehensive scheme of international law. Emperor William and Prince von Buelow, it is said, are keenly chagrined at the widespread popularity in western Europe of the American project for peace conferences at stated periods. They fear the ambitions of the friends of peace more than any combination of belligerents their fancy can conjure.

Around these two views, it is believed, the delegates will group themselves.

TOO MANY ACCIDENTS.

Have there not been too many serious street car accidents in this city, recently? Accidents, unfortunately, cannot be entirely avoided. They will happen. But when several follow one another in rapid succession, it is natural to ask whether all is as it ought to be. In other cities street car horrors have multiplied until public sentiment has been aroused and the causes investigated and, as far as possible, removed. It has cost numerous lives. It is not always the fault of the men in the employ of a transportation company, that accidents take place. Children, for instance, will play unaccountably close to the tracks, not knowing the danger. Persons will drive along in close proximity to railroad tracks, thinking that they have ample time to turn away from danger in the last minute. And so it goes. If the public were more careful, many accidents would not occur.

It is all the more important that the men who are employed by transportation companies and whose mistakes may mean death and destruction, should be intelligent, sober, alert, and in every way trustworthy. They have to be awake not only to avoid what may be called natural dangers, but also those arising from the carelessness or foolishness of the public. There are captains who have made numerous voyages without a serious mishap. There are others who seem to be followed by disasters. But it is not all in good luck. Much depends on conscientious attention to duty in every little detail. The little details always count.

OBJECT TO MARCHING.

Nothing could more clearly demonstrate the aversion of Americans to the hardships of militarism than the discontent expressed by enlisted men on account of the practice marches imposed on the soldiers. It seems that the rule now is that weekly marches are to be performed whether the men are stationed in the tropics or in a country where, in winter, they must plod through deep snows. For the infantry there must be twelve miles of marching every week, and for the cavalry and field artillery fifteen miles. It is said, then, every month there must be a three-day march, during which the troops must camp out twice, while once a year there must be service in the field for twenty-one days continuously. These regulations, it is claimed, are causing disgust with military life, and many of the soldiers are waiting for the time to come when they can be released from the service.

The intention is, of course, to give

the men the benefit of the exercise, and this, no doubt, is as necessary as any other part of the training that a soldier needs. But the rebellion against too strenuous walking is truly American. Who, in this country, wants to walk? Somebody has made the remark that if there is anything in the doctrine that nature discontinues the production of useless organs, the people of this country ought to develop, in due time, into a legless race, since everybody avoids walking whenever possible. Fancy a German soldier rebelling against any form of athletics imposed upon the army! The American soldiers who took part in the military operations in China for the relief of the foreign representatives in Peking, it is said, did not compare favorably to the soldiers of other nations, as marchers, and this may have suggested the objectionable rules, but they got there all the same. They won distinction in many ways, and that ought to be sufficient. The American soldier may object to hardships for which he can perceive no necessity, but he can always be relied on in the critical hour to do his full duty.

THE PICTURESCAPE PAST.

According to a Berlin dispatch, the German Emperor has expressed the opinion that modern cities have not been greatly improved, from an artistic point of view, by modern business methods and modes of living. He is said to have expressed preference for the conditions that obtained long ago, when the merchant sold his wares, the smith hammered, the shoemaker cobbled, the barber shaved, all in the sight of their fellow men. That, certainly, made the streets picturesque.

It is stated in the dispatch that the Emperor, in conversation with an eminent Berlin architect, regretted that those old days so full of color and healthy simple life had passed forever. He also is displeased that the sky line of the houses are all so even and that the houses rise flush from the streets, without even the alleviation of an area railing, or a front garden. The Emperor is a traveler. He has seen the bazaars of Constantinople, Jerusalem, Damascus, Cairo, and others, with their multi-colored, picturesque scenes, in which masses of humanity intermingled in ever-changing pictures. No wonder that he finds modern streets monotonous and colorless. But how can that be changed? The street car cannot be exchanged for the camel and the donkey. Nor can the modern apartment store be asked to give way for the bazaar, in which the proprietor leisurely smokes his narghah and perhaps invites the prospective customer to a cup of coffee before commencing to talk business.

A PARALLEL.

On a former occasion we have, in these columns, referred to the slanderous stories circulated about Catholics in France for consumption abroad. One of these stories was to the effect that a petition had been sent to the pope, signed by several thousand French priests, asking that the law of celibacy for the clergy be annulled. Such a petition had not been dreamed of, much less signed by anybody.

The Paris correspondent of the New York Mail calls attention to another story, published by the Mail. That wide awake journal had, some time ago, an exposure of alleged shocking conditions in a training school for girls in southern France, conducted by nuns who had escaped expulsion by reason of their charitable work placing them in the category of "mixed congregations." A series of sensational stories told of the shameful, vicious and perverted cruelty inflicted upon young girls of refined and estimable families. An escaped victim was the informant and she was portrayed as an abused heroine, while the superior of the school and four other nuns were arrested.

At the trial, the correspondent says, it was proved that the school was a reformatory for wayward and incorrigible young women; the punishments only such as are usual and necessary to enforce discipline, and the sponsor for the charges an employee of the Mail, whose entrance and escape and subsequent testimony had all been planned beforehand.

Another story which, it is thought, will find credence in American papers as soon as it finds its way there, relates to the alleged sale of a Cardinal's hat. In that story an American is the hero. He pays \$100,000 to the Pope and in return is promised the nomination of an American cardinal.

The writer quoted maintains that the circulation of such false stories is part of a war, not upon the Vatican but upon the Christian religion in general. And in proof of this assertion he quotes the following extracts from the debate in the Chamber of Deputies on the separation bill:

"Minister Briand: 'The republic must be freed from all the lies of religion.'"
"M. Brisson, president of the Chamber of Deputies: 'The separation of church and state is the sole means of consummating the ruin of divinity and the enfranchisement of conscience from all exterior power.'"

"Deputy Beauquier: 'Teaching the catechism to a child constitutes an immoral mutilation of its reason.'"
"Prof. Dohierre, of the University of France: 'All religions are old rubbish which humanity, moving onward, must discard.'"

"Minister Viviani: 'United we (the members of the present government) are engaged in the work of anti-clericalism—that is to say, the work of irreligion. We have wrenched the human conscience from belief; when an unfortunate is seen bending the knee, we have told him that nothing exists beyond the clouds; united, we have extinguished the lights in the heavens, and they never will be relit.'"

We again refer to the controversy in France, because it illustrates very clearly the length to which adversaries of a religion will go in misrepresentations and misstatements, to gain an end. The people of Utah have been similarly misrepresented, and for a similar purpose. In Utah, too, the ostensible attacks upon a hierarchy that does not exist, is really a fight against religion itself. It is not the Vatican that is the real issue in France. Nor is it the alleged hierarchy that is objectionable to Utah atheists. It is the

testimony that God lives and takes an interest in human affairs that annoys them.

Is a man who rides a hobby horse a faker?

Somehow or other bagpipes never bag at the knee.

After all the swollen fortunes are few and far between.

The baseball bat is the most popular of all the big sticks in America.

Mayor Schmitz's only comment on his deposition is, "Let her go, Gallagher."

People who invested in the umbrella trust didn't get in out of the wet after all.

The Hague peace conference seems to be going along in a most peaceful way.

"Go, get thee to a winery" is the popular admonition in the south of France.

Many a presidential slate that is made in 1907 is doomed to be broken in 1908.

La Touche's "The Bath" goes to Pittsburgh. This would indicate that it is an immunity bath.

The Japanese Progressives have been doing their very best to make themselves the hub of the universe.

Schmitz says that he is perfectly able and willing to perform the duties of mayor of San Francisco. Nonsense! He's barred.

When the various two-cent-a-mile laws are finally passed upon by the courts, it may be that they will not be worth a cent.

When various roads to the coast, that are now in course of construction, are completed, the flowers in the desert will not blush so much unseen as has been their wont.

Asked about a rumor that he was out of the presidential race, Secretary Taft replied, "Just let that interrogation point stand." There are tact, philosophy and fun in that answer.

The mutiny of sappers at Kiev goes to show that the Russian army is fairly saturated with revolutionary doctrines. Outbreaks of a similar nature may be looked for at any time in any part of the army.

Mr. Bryan says that Oklahoma has a better constitution than any of the states, a better constitution than that of the United States. The proof of the constitution will be in the working and not in the wording.

Of all the expositions the country has had, the Jamestown exposition seems to be having the hardest row to hoe by far. This is to be regretted, as its success would mean much to the South, while its failure will be a sore disappointment to and a partial blight upon it.

Governor Hughes has signed the recent bill. It has always been hard to understand Mayor McClellan's opposition to a recount. If he was honestly and fairly elected, a recount will emphasize that fact. If on the other hand he was put in office through fraud and corruption he is not entitled to the office he holds and he should be glad to retire from it. But there should be a recount of the entire vote, otherwise a recount can never settle the question satisfactorily.

JAP TREATMENT INJURIOUS.

Sacramento Union.
The lawless treatment of the Japanese restaurant keepers in San Francisco is not only making enemies for the United States in Japan, but it is making enemies for California in the states east of the Rocky mountains, where no trouble with Japan is wanted. The Chicago Record-Herald serves notice that if there be no other way to restrain anti-Japanese agitation, the East will inaugurate a campaign for the repeal of all exclusion laws. This may or may not be an idle threat, but it will warrant San Francisco in enforcing order lest a most unfortunate issue be raised.

SUICIDE OF THE UNIONS.

Fresno Republican.
The street-car union committed suicide in San Francisco, by a strike against public sentiment and contrary to its own rules. Now the Machinists' Union threatens to commit suicide by repudiating the settlement, already reached, of the iron workers' strike. It begins to look as if the Republican was correct in predicting that this street-car strike would be a precedent in weakening the dictatorship of unions in San Francisco, as the teamsters' strike of six years ago was in establishing it.

A VIRGINIA CLASSIC.

Richmond News-Leader.
Dr. Thomas Nelson Page's poem, "The Vision of Raleigh," which was read by him, Virginia Day at the Jamestown Exposition, was worthy of the occasion, and will live as one of the greatest, if not as the greatest, of Virginia poetical classics. It rises to the height of the argument in diction, imagery, illustration, and dignity. It is an epical concept of striking originality, and the lofty key upon which it is pitched is sustained in thought and in verse from beginning to end, while it makes the additional appeal of carrying a distinct, though subdued, lyric, cadence, and suggestion.

RISE OF THE TARIFF ISSUE.

St. Louis Republic.
That the tariff issue will be an important factor in the politics of next year, if not indeed the dominant factor, is indicated by the increasing frequency of tariff discussion in the press generally. Tariff is "in the air" as it has not been in years. And discussion develops no two opinions about it—talk is all one way. The tariff ought to be revised. The only organs who keep deadly silence upon the subject are a few trust-owned organs; the others are voicing a popular demand which promises political action.

JUST FOR FUN.

Obeysed the Judge.
"Now," said the magistrate, "you must testify only to what you know, no hearsay evidence. Understand?"
"Yes, sir," replied the female witness.
"Your name is Mary Bright, I believe; now, what's your age?"

"I won't tell you. I have only hearsay evidence on that point."—Philadelphia Press.

Legal Amenities.

"The learned counsel for the defense," accurately announced, "the plaintiff's attorney, 'appears to be afraid of losing his case. No? Then why isn't he ready to go on?'"
"I've got a good excuse," retorted counsel for the defense.
"I don't believe it. Ignorance of the law excuses no one."—Philadelphia Press.

She Struck Home.

Husband—I wish I had some of those good old-fashioned biscuits like mother used to make for me.
Wife—And I wish I had some of those nice, new-fashioned clothes like father used to buy for me.—Chicago News.

Proof Positive.

"I really don't think I can let my daughter marry you, young man."
"But, why not, sir? We love each other most truly."
"Yes, I know, but the fact is you have very expensive tastes."
"How do you know that, may I ask?"
"Because you want to marry my daughter!"—Tit Bits.

Pudding.

Towne—Well, well, the idea of his marrying Miss Goldley. Why, he's a dyspeptic.
Browne—What has that to do with it? She's got plenty of money, and so.
Towne—That's just it. She'll never agree with him; she's too rich.—Boston Record.

The Eternal Present.

"Did I hear you say, old chap, that marriage has made a new man of you?"
"That's right."
"Then, that wipes out that ten I owe you. Now lend me five, will you?"—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Times Change.

Mrs. Benham—You used to say that you would give your life for me.
Benham—That was when I was sick and expected to die, anyway.—Baltimore World.

All Broken Up.

"Anything new in your neighborhood?" asked the young reporter of a farmer he met at a market square.
"Yes, the whole neighborhood is stirred up," replied the man addressed.
"What's the cause?" asked the reporter eagerly.
"Plowing," dryly answered the farmer.—Chums.

Cheaper.

Wife—Karl, when I go to the Riviera I will dream of you every night.
Husband—I would rather you stayed here and dreamed of the Riviera.—Meggendorfer Blätter.

The Billboard Brand.

Some of us are made on the order of billboards: a flashy front with a vacant lot behind.—Hogswallow Kentuckian.

Redeeming Feature.

The nice thing about a baby is the way it puts its sticky little hands on your \$49 suit.—Oklahoma Capital.

Had to be Shown.

According to the Missouri papers they had a hallstom recently in that state where the hallstons were big enough to crack men's heads. Of course a lot of Missourians went out bareheaded and tested it in order to be shown.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Had to See the New Baby.

A colored man was sitting in one of the superior court juries on a civil case last week. The case began at the morning session, but when the afternoon session began, though the judge and 11 jurymen were in their places, there was no sign of the colored man. Court officers hurried upstairs and downstairs looking for the absentee, and even tried shops in the neighborhood of the courthouse, but to no avail. Finally when the judge, tired of waiting, was about to order a new jury selected, in comes the colored man all out of breath with his jacket on his arm and mopping huge drops of sweat from his brow. "Excuse me, yo honor," he called out to the judge. "I'm sorry to keep yo all waiting, but I just runned off home for 'nother look at dat lil' honey child was born at ma house dis morning."—Boston Record.

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