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Y. M. AND Y. L. M. I. A. CONFERENCE.

reported recently in the New York Sun. John H. Kirby, of Houston, Texas, who is president of the great Kirby Lumber company, a native of the South, and thoroughly familiar with the situation there, was interviewed by a Sun correspondent. He touched rather upon the social than the political aspirations of the colored people, and said:

"The negro of ante-bellum days is the negro, who, unfortunately, is becoming only a small part of the black-skinned family in the South. Taught by their masters the proper lessons of humility and courtesy; taught a recognition of the social barriers which will forever hedge his progress of the negro beyond the social environment which at present hedges his domain, the old slave negro and his children were well cared for, suffered no want, were faithful, industrious, and were a most important component part of the South, as well as important and faithful factors in the individual white families of the South to whom 'Old Mammy' and 'Uncle Dave' were a part of the home life. They enjoyed the affection and trust of their superiors and returned a humble love and service which were practically unqualified in the history of all like conditions."

"I cannot say that I believe in the doctrine that education ruins the negro, for while it may unfit him in a sense for being a hewer of wood and a drawer of water, it should, if education means anything, force him to an intellectual condition wherein he should more firmly realize his position and recognize the inherent restrictions of his race in regard to the social conditions of mankind."

"There is a great deal of useless and harmful agitation in these discussions of the negro question, particularly by the papers of the North and East which reason by theory rather than by argument based upon even an average knowledge of the subject. The negro of the North is not the negro of the South. His material environment differs absolutely, for, while the former is employed in occupations which keep him constantly and closely in touch with the dominant race, in the South he labors in the field and the farmyard and in channels of energy which, while controlled by the white man, do not necessarily mean an association in any sense other than that which exists between the employer and the employed. Because of the great preponderance of the negro race in the South the South should be let alone and permitted to determine the question by the ethics which govern the situation, viewed from the Southerner's standpoint."

"In politics the negro has always been a distinct factor and is used by all parties, and in the main for vicious purposes. The negro was never intended to test the right of ballot. His enfranchisement was an error of judgment, and today, practically disfranchised by legislative enactment in many of the states, he is content that such be the case, for I believe the race has little desire to meddle in questions the solution of which bears but immaterially upon his existence or upon his future. His official or social recognition by persons or officials in high places affects the negro more disastrously than it does the dominant race, while temporarily inducing a condition much to be regretted and which can have but one solution."

Mr. Kirby claims that in Texas the negro is denied none of his civil rights but at the same time he admits that:

"In Texas as in other of the Southern States, the negro is required to attend his own school, his own church, to ride in separate coaches on the railroads, to occupy separate waiting rooms in the railroad stations, and collectively to keep themselves separate and apart from their white friends who neither seek nor desire their society."

This will strike people in the North as carrying exclusiveness to an extreme, and drawing the line too sharply between the races, tending to foster that feeling of strife that sets them one against the other and occasions much of the trouble to be deplored. Yet we should not shut our eyes to the fact, that the Creator has made a distinction between white and colored human beings that indicates design as to their status, and there are physiological as well as religious reasons why their blood should not be intermingled. Thus there needs to be some wise restrictions in society, that each race may occupy the position for which it was designed and is adapted."

The elevation of the colored race along possible lines, should be kept in view by the whites, and if this is pursued in the spirit of kindness and justice, the negro will not figure long as a "problem" in these United States.

DISCUSSING PROSPERITY.

The question whether our prosperity is secure is interestingly discussed by a writer in the World's Work for May. He takes the view that the indications are all favorable. The bank clearings, he says, form one of the business barometers that can be safely consulted. During the last fiscal year, the clearing house exchanges of the country amounted to \$116,021,518.00, a gain over the preceding year of \$1,201,325.91. Allowing for the reduction in the volume of speculation, there has been a steady increase since then.

The railroad earnings form another such barometer. During the last calendar year, he says, railroad earnings gained \$82,000,000. There has been a constant gain since then. The February exports were the largest on record for that month, as were also the exports for the three months ending with February. While the excess of exports for the seven months of the fiscal year was the smallest in seven years, the gain in the last three months indicates that the excess for the full fiscal year will be nearly as large as last year.

The writer further dwells on the fact that an immense volume of business is being done, and that it is not only active but sound. There are, however, some threatening signs. One is the stringency in the money market. Another is the labor disputes, of which there have been so many, lately.

As a favorable sign it is mentioned, that speculation is beginning to lag, because there is so much talk about the danger of hard times. "A pain feared is a pain averted," and on this principle it is concluded that our prosperity is safe!

This is a comfortable view of the situation. At the same time, as was pointed out at the late conference in this city, people will do well in not venturing too far out from the shore. Summer is approaching with its amusements and temptations to spend money in various ways. People should be careful in such things, as well as in wild speculations on projects without solid basis. We can all do without a great many things, and put the money thus saved away for the future. If the hard times do come, they do not find us entirely unprepared then. If they do not come, it is all the better. But pre-

perity comes in waves. Like everything in the world, it partakes of the nature of rhythm.

WAR PREPARATIONS.

The latest reports from the Balkan region say that the outlook there is more peaceful. Turkey will not go to war, unless compelled to do so, because she has nothing to gain by a conflict. She will not be permitted to acquire any new territory, and a war would therefore mean only sacrifice of money and men, even if Turkey were victorious. Nor does Bulgaria care to commence a conflict, because the powers would not permit her to annex Macedonia, or any other territory. It is therefore thought that the danger of a conflict in that quarter is remote.

It is not quite so peaceful in Manchuria, although Russia has protested her innocence as to any intentions of violating existing treaties, and China has declared herself satisfied with the assurances made. Recent advices from Japan state that both that country and Russia is preparing for war. The Japan Advertiser says the arsenal of Japan are working day and night with increased staffs and vast amounts of naval and military stores are being turned out. It is also shown that Russia is busy in that region. She is storing big stocks of coal and provisions, and the Russian squadron is engaged in naval maneuvers. This squadron is quite a large fleet, the aggregate displacement of the squadron being about 130,000 tons. The final sham fighting is to take place near Tsushima Straits, and after the maneuvers the squadron will be divided into two sections, one going to Port Arthur and the other to Vladivostok.

The sentiment in Japan is expressed in numerous mass meetings. The tone of the discussions in those gatherings can best be understood from a lecture given by one of the University professors. This was wildly applauded. The speaker said in substance that the Manchurian problem could be solved by no other means than war. He said that despite the talk of publicists, Japanese military and naval forces were ready for the encounter. Finance was not a stumbling block, and if Japan had a famine in the northwest, Russia was also troubled by failure of crops along the Amur. He held that if Japan failed to make itself felt, China and Korea would throw in their lot with Russia.

The speech was, of course, not approved by the authorities, but the people approved of it, and that is, after all, the important point in such matters.

A big war in the orient would be deplorable, but if it must come, the sooner the better. The sooner it commences, the sooner it will be over. And it should be the last in that region. The principles of peace and arbitration should be far enough advanced to obviate further wars among civilized nations.

Britain's drinking up of the Persian gulf does not appear to have been a bitter draught for her enemies.

Yale has abolished Greek as an entrance requirement. Which shows that Yale, like the world, "do move."

It was a splendid concert, a splendid audience, a splendid cause. And each was worthy of all, and art of each.

J. P. Morgan has an eighty-thousand dollar gold table service. He can well afford to hand his favors around on a gold plate.

Some of the Southern Pacific boiler-makers have gone on strike. They seem determined to bust their own or someone else's boiler.

During his long career Stuart Robson played seven hundred parts. "And one man in his time plays many parts, his acts being seven ages."

An Iowa, Kas., physician is suing a patient for a hundred dollars for absent treatment. A case where absence seems to make the fee grow more dear.

"There is no such thing as genius," says Fra Albertus. Possibly not, but there is something that goes by that name and which is very scarce indeed.

Mrs. Cleveland is very strongly opposed to the ex-President being a candidate again. The result of her opposition will show who's who in Princeton.

That Tennessee rural free delivery mail carrier was Alleged, while the masked men who set upon and warned him to discontinue in the service, were all bad.

Those Moros who attacked the rear of Pershing's column made as grave a mistake as the man who attacked the wasp's rear, both meeting with a stinging repulse.

A Great Falls, Mont., trained nurse attempted suicide the other day and failed. She couldn't have been very well trained or she never would have made the attempt.

The record in the case of the United States against the Northern Securities company covers seventeen hundred printed pages. Like the merger itself, there is nothing small about it.

Mr. Roosevelt says that when he leaves California he will be a better American than when he entered the state. Which is almost as much as to say that California is the ne plus ultra of Americanism.

The Berlin convention signatory powers have informed the Sultan of Turkey that Bulgaria is not responsible for the outrages in Macedonia and that no extreme measures against her will be permitted. This makes the Bulgarian situation look not unlike thirty cents.

The Commercial Club and Professor J. J. McClellan are to be congratulated cordially on the financial and artistic success of the grand concert in aid of the public schools. The whole city joins in approval of the effort and rejoices in its results.

There has been an immense amount of malicious misrepresentation about Russia's intentions and doings in Manchuria. Happily it has all been officially discredited. Those who start such

wicked rumors are common enemies of mankind, and it would be none too severe a punishment to declare them international outlaws.

The accidents at the Lucin cut-off are very regrettable, but is it not a little bit mean to say that stories of them are sent out from Salt Lake because this city wanted the road and is jealous? This is the view taken by such respectable papers as the Springfield Republican, based on the chief engineer's denial of the accidents. Was yesterday's accident caused by Salt Lake's jealousy?

Whatever can be said against the practicability of Socialism, it must be admitted that its adherents in Europe are laboring for the peace of the world. Today, the strongest force in France in opposition to militarism and in favor of peace is French socialism. The same may be said of Germany. In this respect Socialism is really Jeffersonian, for that philosopher was at heart an enemy of military display.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Brigham, chairman of the government Board for the World's Fair, has a plan which will prove a valuable object lesson to our foreign visitors, says the Brooklyn Eagle. He has secured the use of a sunny slope of ground of eight or ten acres near the government building, which will be laid off like a map of the United States. Every state and territory will be clearly defined, and the boundary line will be a convenient pathway, so that the visitor can walk around each separate commonwealth. A very excellent idea, the origin of which should be credited to ex-Senator Frank J. Cannon of Utah.

ENGLAND AND RUSSIA.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

After all the babbly about the Bagdad railway, the outlook now is that it will not be built. The enterprise seems to be of the kind which men with capital can make money by keeping out of. The whole length of the line, it is now figured, would be 1,500 miles. Eight years would be required to build it, and it would cost approximately \$90,000,000. A large part of the line runs through a desert, and at the outset the business would not warrant the running of more than one train a week. Germany, which broached the project, aimed to control it, but to get other nations to provide the capital. The foreign capitalists nibbled at the bait, but would not swallow the hook, and the plan for beginning the enterprise has been postponed. Now comes a warning growl from the British lion that may put a quietus upon the whole thing.

Boston Transcript.

In other words, if the Persian Gulf is to be anybody's "lake," it must be a British one. This declaration, while addressed to Germany, is rather for Russia. It is a declaration of warning and protest which Russia will certainly heed, at least until Great Britain is in her next difficulties. To check Russian preponderance in Persia it is a warning not "too late a week," but several years. For a long time Persia has been, in all but name, a Russian satrapy. The Persian army has been "reorganized" by Russian officers; the Persian finances by Russian bankers. Persian foreign relations are controlled by Russian diplomatists, who have exacted an agreement from the shah, which has at least six years to run, that he will grant no railroad franchise in his dominions without the approval of the czar first being obtained.

New York Evening Sun.

Lord Lansdowne's warning that England would regard the establishment of a naval base or fortified port in the Persian gulf by any other power as "a grave menace to British interests" means that she has come to the parting of the ways: She must either sit with her hands folded and let Russia repeat in southern Persia her performance in Manchuria and on the Liaotung peninsula, or be prepared to fight for the control of the Persian gulf and the Indian ocean. Diplomatic representations interfering with her policy of expansion are politely received and calmly ignored by Russian ministers, but an alternative of war gives them pause. England has sometimes shown a resolution to proceed to extreme measures if her warnings were not heeded, as in the matter of the Pamirs and the northern frontier of Afghanistan. Only then has Russia bled an inch.

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Ladies' Walking Skirts, \$2.00 kind for	\$1.25	All kinds of notions at 25 per cent less than you can buy elsewhere.	
Ladies' Walking Skirts, \$4.00 kind for	\$3.00	Boys' \$2.50 School Suits for	\$1.75
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