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SALT LAKE CITY, - JAN. 19, 1903.

AT A CRISIS.

The cheerful news has been spread that the directors as well as most of the stockholders of the North Jordan Canal company had decided to come into line, and aid in the grand work of consolidation which, if perfected, will bring about the immense benefits to the entire community here that have been fully explained. But we hear unpleasant reports to the contrary. There are none so blind as those who will not see, or so deaf to reason as those who will not hear. And some of both kinds seem to be figuring in this connection.

Fortunately, the decision in this important matter does not rest with two or three or a half-a-dozen interested individuals. It is "up to" the whole body of stockholders in the company. The responsibility rests upon them, of permitting or defeating the plans that have been devised, which have met the hearty approval of the leading men among us, for the betterment of water conditions in this and other counties. The consequences are not difficult to foresee.

It is argued by some persons that they have all the water they need for irrigation purposes, and therefore they cannot see why they should enter into a scheme to get more. They look at the matter without the least regard for the welfare of others, or for the possibility that in time to come they may be very glad of a fuller supply, and at any rate of the full assurance that their present rights and needs will be fully maintained if the plans advanced are perfected.

Considering that the North Jordan people are not asked to sacrifice anything, to forego any claim, to forfeit or endanger any right, is it not a little strange that opposition should be encountered at this stage of the proceedings, when the whole question of perfecting the plans proposed turns on their acquiescence? We hope that good counsel will prevail over every factious obstacle, and that our friends whose action is looked for with grave expectation, will unite with their fellow-citizens and agriculturists in securing the advantages that are certain to flow from the means in prospect.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEES.

It was not to be expected that the Speaker of the House, in making committee appointments, would satisfy everybody, or escape censure. It is the policy of some papers to "pitch into" everything and everybody open to criticism. But we do not think the strong unimadness that have appeared in print, of the selections made by Speaker Hull of the chairmen of the several committees, are either justifiable or in good taste.

In attempting to find fault with the Speaker, one paper really insults the gentlemen appointed rather than the object of its attack. It says:

"Some of the heads of committees couldn't tell the difference between a statute and a cross-eyed lethyrasaurus if they had an encyclopedia for reference, and yet they have been selected to frame legislation affecting the lives and property of the whole state."

That is not only severe on these "heads of committees," but upon the people who elected them "to frame legislation affecting the lives and property of the whole state." The Speaker is not responsible, either for the alleged shortcomings of the legislators or the action of their constituents in electing them. He had to use such material as could be utilized, just as publishers of newspapers are compelled to do, and his choice was made of gentlemen who, in his judgment and that of competent and experienced legal and business advisers, appeared to be the best adapted to those positions.

But chairmen of committees are not appointed to "frame legislation." In the way our contemporary suggests. That duty devolves upon the whole committee in each case, and what they do must be passed upon by the entire assembly. A head for each committee is necessary, of course, but he has no more to do with the actual "framing" of the legislation spoken of than other members of the committee have.

It would be fair to other gentlemen of the House, if our contemporary would kindly designate which of the "heads of committees" are so dense, and stupid, and unqualified to "frame legislation" as it describes. We are of the opinion that the remarks were made in haste and should be apologized for at leisure. And also that when weighed in just balances, the heads of committees will be found of sufficient weight for the work required, and that they have been carefully selected with a view of their special qualifications for the posts at which they have been placed. We think Speaker Hull has done remarkably well, and for a new hand at the business has exhibited more acumen than was even expected by his closest friends.

THAT PEACEFUL BLOCKADE.

If the dispatches from Venezuela are correct, the "allied" powers had better been told right now, politely but firmly,

that the blockade should be terminated without further delay. Unless this is done, it is difficult to foresee the outcome.

A German cruiser, it is said, started to shell a Venezuelan fort, without provocation and without any previous notification of an intended bombardment. The Venezuelan report has it that the German commander was obliged to abandon the fight and retreat, after one hour's fight. No damage was done to the fort, and only three of the defenders were wounded.

If this is correct, it is only reasonable to expect that the German commander will be looking for an opportunity of wiping out the shame of defeat sustained in the affair. "Honor," we suppose, demands that. And an opportunity is sure to be found, if it is looked for.

If further trouble is to be avoided, the blockade should be ended. It is generally understood that the questions at issue are to be submitted to arbitration. What is the blockade kept up for, then, since the expectation is that there is to be no war?

And then there ought to be some understanding between the civilized powers as to what constitutes war, and what does not. Diplomats may know, but the general public does not. The world has been treated to the spectacle of a combined invasion of China. Nearly all the great powers sent fleets to Chinese waters and armies to invade the country. Forts were bombarded, battles were fought, soldiers were killed, a wide region of country was devastated, the capital of China was taken, its wealth plundered and its private houses looted. Still we were told that that was not war. And now we have seen two great powers smashing Venezuelan vessels and bombarding Venezuelan ports. But it is not war. It is a "peaceful blockade." Evidently it is necessary to have "war" defined. Otherwise it would appear to be possible to swallow the entire Venezuela without declaring "war" and without contempt for the Monroe doctrine. As the case now stands, Germany assents to that doctrine, but seems to reserve to herself the right of interpretation.

FAMINE STRICKEN NORTHLAND.

At the Scandinavian services in the Assembly Hall yesterday, reference was made, by the speakers, to the distress in the northern parts of Sweden. One of the speakers, Elder Lundgren from Motala, who has just arrived from the old country, told of the causes of the shortage in crops and the extent of the distress. He was listened to with much interest. The appeal made through the Deseret News to the Scandinavian Saints in Utah was also referred to and in all probability the response to this will be both general and liberal. It has been suggested that the Scandinavian committee in this State take the matter in hand, and that similar committees be formed in other States under the supervision of the proper authorities, in order that the needed aid can be gathered in a systematic manner, and quickly, and that appears to be a good suggestion. As previously stated, Elder A. W. Carlson, of Z. C. M. I., is in city, will be glad to receive funds for that purpose, and account for them in the usual manner.

TROUBLE WITH COLOMBIA.

The negotiations with Colombia for control over the strip of land through which the Panama canal passes, are developing peculiar situations. The Colombian government, it is said, proposes to submit the question of compensation to The Hague tribunal, as if the country were menaced by the United States and had a quarrel to settle. That is extremely funny. This country offers to complete the canal, which would be the making of Colombia. It proposes to pay \$7,000,000 first, and then \$100,000 annually for the opportunity of conferring an everlasting benefit upon the country. To this Colombia replies that unless the annuity is made \$600,000, the canal will remain unfinished, and it is willing to "arbitrate" the matter. That is ridiculous.

A report of a more serious character comes from Washington. It is alleged that the President contemplates breaking off canal negotiations with Colombia and proposes to announce this in a special message to Congress. Furthermore, it is said that he will suggest that Congress adopt a resolution declaring that it is contrary to the interests of this government to permit any other nation to construct an isthmian canal, and that any effort in that direction by a foreign power would be regarded as an unfriendly act toward the United States. This would be a notable addition to the Monroe doctrine. It would be a notice to Colombia, that she cannot sell her canal rights to any European power, but how Europe would view this addition to the Monroe doctrine, is the interesting question. That no European power can acquire territory in those regions, is well understood, but does that mean that they cannot invest money in an enterprise looking toward the improvement of international traffic? That will, no doubt, be considered a debatable question.

Everything considered, if the Panama route is found to be the one which suits Uncle Sam best, this country should go ahead and build the canal under the concessions that can be obtained from the Panama canal company. Any little difficulty that might arise with Colombia, could best be settled at the time it should arise. But there would be no serious difficulties. With the canal once completed, Colombia would be very much pleased with the results.

All pay and no work makes Jack a gay boy.

Misfortunes never come singly, and fortunes come singly if at all.

The truth about the St. Louis leaked out at last. She had leaky boilers.

The fight on Indian Agent Myton appears to be largely for the sake of the fight.

Mahud Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, is dead. His sultanic majesty still has several left.

The Colorado legislature is not in the

throes of civil war but it is getting into the throws of mud.

The eastern question—How many more war vessels is Russia going to send through the Dardanelles?

Since war against Venezuela was declared the blockade of her ports has been unusually peaceful and continues so.

The German Panther has been bombarding Fort San Carlos. After a while the British lion may do some shelling in Venezuela.

Nothing better reveals the fact that a man has reached a certain age in life than the fact that he indulges freely in the use of patent medicines.

The new sixteen-inch gun at Sandy Hook has stood the test very well. It isn't every big gun, especially in politics, that can stand the test.

"The solution of the labor problem is an impossibility," says Colonel Carroll D. Wright. That being so all man has to do is to learn to labor and to wait.

One difference between Boston and Indianapolis is that in the former place they eat beans to keep warm, while in the latter they burn them to keep warm.

"The decision of that Missouri court to the effect that a mule is a treacherous animal would appear to come direct from headquarters," says the Plain Dealer. The treachery always comes from the mule's hindquarters.

There is a very fine mix-up in the Colorado legislature. The proposition and counter-proposition to unseat members must make the conservative people of the state cry out: "A plague upon both your houses!"

John Mitchell says he is against strikes and lockouts. It is a right and conservative stand and one taken by the great majority of Americans. They may at times produce some good but their general result is evil.

M. de Blowitz, Paris correspondent of the London Times for many years, is dead. He was probably the greatest newspaper correspondent the world has ever seen. His interviews with great men became even more famous than Nassau Senior's "Conversation with Celebrated Men." His memoirs should prove among the most interesting published in the last half century. They will be awaited with much interest.

Statistics published by the Interstate Commerce commission show that during the three months ended September 30, 1902, there were 263 persons killed and 2,619 injured in railway accidents in the United States. That was \$7.25 per person killed and \$1.00 per person injured every month. Really the figures are truly appalling. No other country can show such a pre-eminently bad record. It shows that the United States leads the world in some things that are not exactly counted as progress along the lines of higher civilization.

The Tribune says: "The News the other night professed to be unable to parse something it found in these columns and called attention to the fact." The Tribune appears to be "unable" to tell the truth and also to abstain from falsehood, in its vicious attacks on this paper. Examination of the remarks of the "News" concerning that "something found in Tribune columns," will show that the "News" did not "profess to be unable to parse" the meaningless sentence in question. Try again Trib, and if you can't be truthful endeavor to be comprehensible.

The New York Catholic School Board reports a total of pupils receiving instruction in the parish schools in the boroughs of Manhattan, Bronx, and Richmond, as \$1,149, and the yearly cost of their maintenance, \$34,234.60. The board also appeals for state aid in the maintenance of these schools. The board recognizes that public funds cannot be used for the teaching of religion, but it has a way out of this difficulty. It proposes that the schools themselves stand the expenses connected with the religious instruction, and that the state furnish the money for the secular instruction. That is ingenious. But why should the state maintain district schools for all, and parish schools besides for those who do not care to patronize the district schools, on account of their non-religious character?

The Syracuse Telegram heads a very fair and courteous write-up of a "Mormon" meeting in that city as follows: "Many Women Wish the Mormons Success." The heading evidently refers to the following paragraph in the body of the article: "At the close of the meeting the Elders distributed their literature among the audience and exchanged social greetings with them. There were many women in the audience, and several of them were seen to walk to the front of the hall and shake hands with the Elders and wished them success in their work here."

AS TO AMBASSADOR VON HOLLEBEN.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

The story that Ambassador von Holleben is recalled because he could not force President Roosevelt to accede to Germany's desire for the arbitration of the Venezuelan trouble in this country instead of in Holland would make the popular German minister seem to be the victim of caricature. If the emperor expects to hold his ministers strictly accountable for the conclusions of the rulers to whom they are accredited, he would show consistency by appointing none but professional hypnotists.

San Francisco Call.

Germany appears to be dissatisfied

with the conduct of its distinguished diplomat at Washington. Baron von Holleben, in connection with the Venezuelan row. Germany should take unto herself the deepest congratulation for every error of omission on her part regarding that interesting affair.

New York Evening Post.

Should it prove true that Dr. von Holleben is not to return to Washington on the expiration of his sick leave, the diplomats at the capital will lose their dean, while the United States will miss a foreign ambassador who has labored in season and out to keep the peace and bring about friendly relations between the two countries. Whether or not his retirement is due to friction with his government, there can be no doubt that Dr. von Holleben's services have been of very great value to both nations.

Worcester Spy.

The announcement that Dr. von Holleben, the German ambassador at Washington, has been relieved from duty by the appointment of Baron Speck von Sternberg, consul at Calcutta, as charge d'affaires, has given rise to various reports. Ostensibly Dr. von Holleben's retirement is but temporary and is the result of his failing health. But the idea seems to prevail in Washington that he will not return, and that Baron von Sternberg will succeed him as ambassador. There are rumors to the effect that Dr. von Holleben has not given entire satisfaction to the German emperor, but as there are no tangible facts to support them they may be entirely unjust.

Springfield Republican.

Among the curious stories in circulation to explain the change in German ambassadors is that one which credits the Kaiser with a desire to be represented in America by a man who can acquire personal popularity. The American success of Wu Ting-fang, it is supposed, has impressed the Kaiser with this aspect of an ambassador's mission. The German emperor, doubtless, would like his ambassadors to acquire so far as possible the regard and even the favor of the inhabitants of the state to which they are sent, but it is highly improbable that he expects them to make the acquisition of personal popularity a part of their business. Popularity is a fickle thing, and usually it is gained by a diplomatic agent in foreign parts only through the combination of extraordinary circumstances with an unusual personality. Wu Ting-fang owed much of his personal success in America to the peculiarities of his race and his costume, together with an exceptional brightness of mind, which made him a real attraction as an after-dinner speaker.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Harper's Bazaar for February appears with an interesting list of contents, including the following: "The Women of Some Famous Portraits," Gustav Kobbe; "Do You Know?" poem, Bliss Carman; "Twentieth Century Letters," J. Love and Quarrelling; Margaret Deland; "The Training of a Boy King," Luis de Figueroa Perret; "The Ultimate Moment," a novel, chapter II, William R. Lighton; "Man at Work," John A. Beckett; "Street Commerce," "French Lingerie," "Smart Frocks at Small Expense," "Fashion Novelties," "The First Baby," Mariabona Wheeler; "Home Dressmaking," Rosa E. Payne; "How to Reduce Flesh," Louise Richardson; and "Domestic Tonics," Margaret Hamilton Welch—Harper & Bro., New York.

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