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IN THE PACIFIC.

The cruise of the American battleships to the Pacific has been satisfactorily explained by the necessity of finding out the weak as well as the strong points of our navy. The President, in his message to Congress, added another explanation. "Our coast-line is on the Pacific just as much as on the Atlantic. The interests of California, Oregon and Washington are as emphatically the interests of the whole Union as those of Maine and New York, of Louisiana and Texas. The battle fleet should now and then be moved to the Pacific, just as at other times it should be kept in the Atlantic. . . . Until the isthmian canal is built, I earnestly hope that the battle fleet will be shifted between the oceans every year or two." But this naval maneuver is not, it seems, all there is to explain. Further military activity is reported, which, if considered in connection with the long cruise, appears rather significant.

According to the Portland Oregonian the adjutant-general of the three coast states, Oregon, Washington and California, have been summoned by the War Department to go to Washington, D. C., for a conference at the earliest possible date on the subject of coast defense. The principal topic of consideration at the conference, it is explained, will be that of training volunteer coast artillery reserves to man Oregon, Washington and California fortifications. The subject of perfecting the infantry regiments of the three states in coast defense operations will likewise be taken up. It is presumed that the meeting will result in assignment of national guard troops to coast artillery work, and that the three adjutant-generals will return with the task ahead of recruiting new coast companies for this service.

Of course, Uncle Sam has a perfect right to strengthen his coast defense in whatever manner he deems best, and no foreign power can, consistently, ask any questions as to the meaning of such precautionary measures, but questions will be asked all the same. More money is demanded now for military purposes than ever before. In spite of Japan's protestations of peace and friendship, the demand for immediate appropriations for guns, mortars and mines on the Pacific coast, finds the very highest endorsement, and the President is interested in putting the cities and harbors of the Pacific in a state of thorough defense. Questions will, necessarily, be asked as to the necessity of such extraordinary precautions.

The truth of the matter is, that as near as human wisdom can see, this country is in no danger from any European power. Our Atlantic coast can safely be left exposed. If there is any serious danger the menace is from Asia. The center of political gravity is shifting and the government is wisely taking cognizance of that fact. The Pacific is coming into prominence. But no offense is intended to any Pacific power. If there is any danger in the situation it is from the recklessness of a portion of the American press that deals with questions of international importance without knowledge and without tact.

CROPS FOR 1907.

The December number of the Crop Reporter, issued by the agricultural department of the government at Washington, gives the acreage, production and value of the principal farm crops of the United States in 1907, by states and territories:

The value of the principal farm crops grown in Utah are given as follows:
Corn: acreage, 11,000; yield per acre, 25.5 bushels; production, 280,000 bushels; total farm value Dec. 1, \$202,000.
Spring wheat: acreage, 61,000; yield per acre, 28.5; production, 1,738,500; total value, \$3,431,000.

Oats: acreage 45,000; yield per acre, 45 bushels; production, 2,025,000; value, \$972,000.

Barley: acreage, 11,000; yield per acre, 39 bushels; production, 429,000 bushels; value, \$249,000.

Rye: acreage, 3,800; yield per acre, 20 bushels; production, 76,000 bushels; value, \$49,000.

Potatoes (Irish): acreage, 12,000; yield per acre 100 bushels; production, 1,200,000; value \$780,000.

Hay: acreage, 355,000; yield per ton, 2.1 tons; production, 746,000; value, \$5,222,000.

In the buckwheat, flax seed, rice and tobacco crops Utah cuts no figure, though the value of these crops in other sections of the United States total \$127,000,000.

The other leading farm crops of the United States are reported as follows:
Corn: acreage, 99,831,000; average yield per acre, 25.9 bushels; total production, 2,582,320,000 bushels; value Dec. 1, \$1,336,901,000.

Winter wheat: acreage, 28,032,000; yield per acre, 14.6 bushels; total production, 409,442,000 bushels; value \$61,217,000.

Spring wheat: acreage, 17,079,000; yield per acre, 13.2 bushels; production, 224,645,000 bushels; value, \$102,220,000.

Oats: acreage, 21,827,000; yield per acre, 23.7 bushels; production, 754,443,000 bushels; value, \$324,068.

Barley: acreage, 6,448,000; yield per acre, 23.8 bushels; production, 153,597,000 bushels; value \$102,290,000.

Rye: acreage, 1,828,000; yield per

acre, 16.4 bushels; production, 21,566,000 bushels; value \$23,068,000.
Potatoes: acreage, 3,124,000; yield per acre, 85.4 bushels; production, 267,942,000 bushels; value \$183,880,000.
Hay: acreage, 44,028,000; yield per acre, 1.45 tons; production, 64,877,000 tons; value, \$743,597,000.

STILL AT IT.

This paper, some years ago, in discussing the smoke nuisance in the valley, stated that "the smelter smoke must go." The courts, from the lowest to the highest, have said so, too. Now the Salt Lake Tribune deliberately misquotes the "News" and changes the sentence, "the smelter smoke must go," into, "the smelters must go."

The reason for its persistence in this deliberate forgery is, as we have noticed in a former article, that the paper hopes by false testimony to arouse enmity against the Church. The paper is paid to do that kind of work.

But we are highly mistaken, if the Tribune has not another reason just now for persisting in parading its forged quotation before its readers. We are mistaken if its purpose is not also to draw public attention away from the heartless discharge, in the middle of the winter, of workmen in mines in which the chief owner of the Tribune is interested. The ante-election lies told by the Tribune are beginning to be revealed to the deceived voters. Prosperity has fled, though Salt Lake City was "rescued" from hierarchical oppression. The mines have been closed down and the men mercilessly turned out in the cold, though the conspirators were triumphant. This Tribune evidently hopes to cover up its miserable ante-election lies by another lie, and lay the blame for unfavorable industrial conditions upon the Church. But in this it will not succeed. Gradually it will so entangle itself in its own contradictions and falsehoods, that extrication is out of the question.

No one regrets more sincerely than we do the closing of mines and smelters at a time when work is as scarce as it is now. Some time ago, when laborers were few compared to the jobs, the calamity would have been less than it is now. Many workmen who have tried to pay for little homes of their own, will lose, we fear, what they have saved up. The situation calls for the sympathy of all classes of citizens, but it is surely only made worse by the falsehoods of a paper that neglects no opportunity of agitating in the interest of hatred. Unity of effort for the amelioration of existing conditions ought to be the aim of all, but that is not possible until the agitator who prospers by falsehoods is silenced and treated with well deserved scorn.

CALAMITIES PREDICTED.

With the new year comes, as usual, various predictions relating to the immediate future. The world has several individuals claiming the gift of clairvoyance, and they are generally heard from about this time of the year. What the prognosticators hope to gain by their predictions that generally fall, is not quite apparent, but they never neglect an opportunity of pretending to know the mysteries of the future.

One of these forecasters of coming events is Mr. Spangler of York, Pa. According to the New York World, his forecast for 1908 is rather gloomy. Large cities of the United States are to be destroyed; the sea is to boil with a great noise, kingdom shall rise against kingdom, and "all plagues that are written in the Bible will be brought forth." There shall be "great wrath among the people."

Mr. Spangler has predicted some things that have come true, while he has missed the mark just as often. In December, 1906, he said:

"Many men in the business and financial world will commit suicide because of their wrong-doings."
"The year 1907 will be filled with warnings to the whole world of its impending doom."

"People in many countries will be killed by thousands by hunger, illness, the sword and the beasts of the earth. There will be earthquakes in diverse places. Islands will disappear and mountains no longer will be found."

These predictions came near enough the truth to command attention. But the following missed the mark entirely, unless labor is responsible for the panic:

"The United States will become involved in another war, but will be victorious. Labor will rise up and bring business to a standstill. Revolution will spread from shore to shore. The Sultan of Turkey and the Czar of Russia will be killed."

Mr. Gustave Meyer belongs to another class of forecasters. He is an astrologer, and he, too, finds that the year will be one of disasters. "There will," he says, "be financial panics, failures of banks, bank robberies, riots and strikes in all trades, calamities below, on and above the earth, and great loss of life and property on land and sea, and shipwrecks will be quite numerous."

There will also, he says, be a considerable number of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and disastrous atmospheric disturbances. Great storms will do much damage all over the country, and great fires will sweep the country, especially the East and West, and New York will bear the brunt. The militia will be called out to suppress strikes and riots, causing much bloodshed and bitterness.

Concerning the world outside this country, he says:

"Great uprisings will occur in Russia and in Germany, and the star of Russia is positively setting, and I predict that within five years Russia will be a republic. Turkey will follow in the footsteps of Russia. I fear that the Czar of Russia will be assassinated during, or not later than, the summer of 1908, as he has reached the most critical period in his career, and at the same time I also fear that the Emperor of Germany will be in grave danger of passing away, brought about through cancer."

The remarkable feature is that many persons who positively refuse to believe divine revelations, eagerly accept the pretended revelations of astrologers and soothsayers, though many of them are disposed to be false. During the Moslem dispensation a false prophet forfeited his life. If he predicted a calamity in the name of the Lord, and it failed to come to pass, he was certain of severe punishment. When Ahab contemplated the siege of Ramoth-Gilead, Mi-

chah prophesied evil, and the king became angry and ordered the prophet executed. Micalah accepted the challenge and said: "If thou return in peace, the Lord has not spoken by me." Micalah then was to be held a prisoner until the return of the king in peace, and then he was to be put to death. He agreed to this. He was so sure of his divine commission and of the truth of the word of the Lord through him, that he had no hesitation in staking his life on the outcome. The king went to Ramoth-Gilead, but was slain in the battle, and the prophet was vindicated. Our modern soothsayers do not realize the responsibilities of a true prophet speaking through divine inspiration, whether in the form of instruction in doctrine, or exhortation to repentance, or revelations as to the future, or the past.

A little girl was born Saturday on a Pullman car at Topeka.

A man who "suits" a mine isn't of the salt of the earth.

In effect the countless says that the earl is a Yarmouth bloater.

Senator Foraker declares he will be bound if he is bound by the call.

Those East Side tenants are tenants at will—not of the landlords but of their own.

A school boy doesn't care what is the cause of a vacation. With him the "play" is the thing.

The Wig Makers' union has won its first strike, but it won by a hair's breadth only.

Mount Vesuvius is active again. It is as hard to keep a good volcano as to keep a good man down.

If the Indiana legislature were in session in Muncie the place could hardly be more riotous than it is.

As yet the New York tenants' war has not assumed the proportions of the Peasants' war; but it may.

The Thaw murder trial and the Countess of Yarmouth's divorce suit coming simultaneously is giving the people the double cross.

It is to be hoped that the men working to rescue the miners entombed in the Alpha shaft will very soon reach Omega.

The Yarmouth-Thaw courtship was brief; the halcyon days were brief; and now a lawyer holds a brief from the countess for a divorce.

Two juries have refused to believe Harry Orchard's story. A third one may, in his own case, believe it and hang him.

When the Ambrose channel in New York harbor is completed the great liners will be totally indifferent as to whether time and tide wait for them. They will be able to ignore them.

U. S. District Judge Pollock of Kansas has decided that his court has no jurisdiction in the "Incubator baby" case. It is strange and good for a United States judge to hold that he hasn't jurisdiction in everything.

"Perhaps that beautiful auburn hair of Mrs. Glyn, that is such a charm and lure to the eye, lends a quickness to the temper and ardor to the blood that are hard to control; at all events it does not make for violet modesty or calm self-control. Hence the amazing attack upon the women of the club, because she had missed an opportunity to advertise her—well, very unpleasant book," says Clark Morris. And maybe that the glint on that beautiful Glyn auburn hair is the work of dyes and art and not of nature.

A correspondent of the Boston Herald writes: "I understand that some, where in Massachusetts there is an organization known as the 'Rattlesnake Club.' This club is composed of scientists and medical men, who annually go on a hunt for rattlesnakes. They extract the poisons, oils, etc., and use the same for scientific and experimental purposes. I would like to communicate with this club or some member of it, but do not know exactly where they are located." The proceeds arising from the sale of poisons, oils, etc., probably go to the "reptile fund."

TIME TO REPAIR INJUSTICE.

Newburyport News.
The testimony to the effect that the bullets found after the raid at Brownsville was not government ammunition, this being shown by careful chemical analysis, puts another light on the case, and is a strong card in the defense of the colored troops who have been forced to bear the blame for this escapade. This ought to give impetus to the suggestion that is being made for a reinstatement of the men of the colored regiment who were so summarily sent out of the United States employ after many years of good service. There is in the minds of a great many people the feeling that the action which has resulted in the stigma being cast upon the troops at Brownsville was unjust in every way, lacking both fairness and constitutionality. If there is any way in which the error can be corrected that way ought to be found.

LEAP YEAR.

Boston Herald.
According to the accepted authorities leap year is so called because it contains 366 days, or leaps over a day more than a common year, giving to the month of February twenty-nine instead of the usual twenty-eight days. This is exact and precise enough for all practical purposes. The trouble with it is that it fails to explain why a leap year possesses the significance attached to it, particularly by bachelors and maidens. Why is it that it will be the privilege of a woman to usurp the masculine function of popping the question tomorrow and during the year that will then be ushered in? We pause for reasonable and adequate replies to this fascinating conundrum.

HOUSES AND HOMES.

Uncle Remus' Magazine.
There have been and there are today, in the various lands of the earth, many people who have no houses, and nothing that you could call furniture, even of the antique variety. But there are no doubt that they are far happier than many who are comfortably housed in mansions which contain everything that money can buy.

A SERMONET FOR WORKERS

(For the "News" by H. J. Hapgood.)
Prosperity augments or diminishes in a direct ratio proportional to the value of crops. This is the fundamental principle of the economic system under which we live. Plot a mathematical curve, showing the rise and fall of business conditions during the past century in this country. There will appear points on the curve where the times were more bountiful than the average, and points showing a marked depression. Both these extremes are occasioned by some such cause as a big political boom, or a war scare.

The high level of the curve, however, illustrating the generally sound condition of the nation, a period of some months, will be found to be coincident with a season of good crops. On the other hand, the low level of the curve will be observed to be a direct result of bad crops.

Bad crops means hard times and good crops point to prosperity. A passing financial flurry may be accounted for by a number of causes, but a real panic or a genuine business depression occurs only after a season of bad crops. In our economic history we have never experienced a period of hard times that was the effect of anything else. Crops alone are responsible for business conditions, and when crops are good prosperity abounds.

Now listen, those of you who have been talking panic and hard times.

Up to November 1, the yield of America's farms for 1907 was as follows:

Corn: \$1,375,000,000—nearly two hundred millions greater than last year.

Wheat: \$531,000,000—twelve millions more than last year.

Oats: \$333,000,000—thirty-three millions more than last year.

All other products: \$1,717,000,000—a hundred millions greater than the year before.

All these figures show an increased value over 1906 of \$324,000,000.

Does that look like hard times? Cease this foolish panic prattle, and everybody get together and boost.

JUST FOR FUN.

"Sometimes I think," said Mr. Timm, "if I only had some money I might get married." "Couldn't you borrow some?" suggested Miss Passay, eagerly.—Philadelphia Press.

Misses—Malvina, do you know anything about dill pickles? New Girl—I think I met him at dance once, ma'am, but I haven't any acquaintance with him.—Chicago Tribune.

"What's become of the old-fashioned lying fisherman?" is asked by a journalist who has not noticed that the new-fashioned lying alienist has crowded him out of the limelight.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I wish I had enough money to invest in some of the mines that are advertised." "You'd be a fool to do it." "I wouldn't do it, I'd buy a Winter overcoat."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Rollie—Mr. Allmonney is all smiles. Molly—Yes, he has captured a griddon heroine. Rollie—A griddon heroine? Molly—Yes; a college girl who really knows how to broil beefsteak.—Judge.

Vicar's Wife—No, the vicar is not in just now. Mrs. Microbe—What would he like me to give him when he returns? Old woman (cheerfully)—Please, mum, Martha Higgins would like to be buried at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.—Punch.

Mr. Microbe (reading the Daily Germ)—Horrible catastrophe! Ten million lives lost! Mrs. Microbe—Goodness gracious, Mike, what happened? Mr. Microbe—The First National Bank, without a word of warning, sterilized a dollar bill.—Puck.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

The following are among the many good things that are found in Harper's Bazar for January: "The Whole Family," a novel in twelve parts by Twelve Authors; "Individuality in Dress," Part I. Worth of Paris, "The Comforted," a poem, Theodosia Garrison; "Right-About Face," a story, Lawrence Housman; "The Whole Family," part 2; "The Old-Maid Aunt," a novel by Twelve Authors; "Mater Dolorosa," a poem, Ada Foster Murray; "How to Train the Speaking Voice," second paper, Katherine Everett; "The Girl Who Comes to the City," a symposium; "Hostesses of Royalty," W. G. Fitz-Gerald; "Five Kinds of Love," Charlotte Perkins Gilman; "Savings on a Small Income," Katherine Louise Smith; "In the Public Eye," illustrated, and "The Housemother's Problems,"—Harper & Bros., New York.

McClure's has gone up in quality as well as in price. "The Needs of Our Navy," by Henry Reuter, gives some facts about our battleships, and our preparation for war. "Great American Fortunes," by Burton J. Hendrick, sums up the history of the Metropolitan Street Railway and its effects on the city. "The Man and His Town," by Marion H. Carter, is an account of a man who practically grew a town and gives some new and amusing first-hand anecdotes of the greatest American. There is a discussion of the relation of Hypnotism to crime and disease by Prof. Munsterberg. John La Farge, America's foremost artist, begins a series of "One Hundred Masterpieces of printing and Ellen Terry, continuing her Memoirs, tells "What Henry Irving Did for the English Stage." Mary Stewart Cutting's new serial, "The Wayfarers," which has been most favorably received, runs into the second instalment. There is plenty of good short fiction—"The Elopement," by Fiedling Ball; "The Color Bearers," a new Ezekiel story by Lucy Pratt; "The Commodore," a touching child story for grown-ups by Anna E. Finn; and "South of the Line," a story of adventure in the South Seas. Rosalie M. Jonas contributes a poem, "A Sermon in Black and White," and Louise Imogen Guiney, "His Angel to His Mother." The cover design is by Lyevecker, and Alice Barber Stephens, Eric Pape, and Frederic Dorr Steele, and other popular artists have contributed to the completeness of this number.—44-46 East, 23rd St., New York.

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