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NOTE AND COMMENT

Great Britain and the United States have agreed to lay before The Hague Court of Arbitration the Newfoundland fisheries dispute, the colony meanwhile consenting to an extension of the *modus vivendi*.

The Argentine Republic, says Mr. R. W. Perks, is Canada's greatest competitor for British capital. £300,000,000 of English investments are there, and it might be considered a financial province of the British Empire.

The Jamestown Exposition was opened last spring. On the 10th of August the director general issued an "official statement," in which he says that the Exposition, "barring minor details, the be completed within ten days."

During his temperance campaign in Great Britain, Dr. C. M. Sheldon addressed nearly one hundred meetings, and generally had crowded and enthusiastic audiences. With Mrs. Sheldon he is now taking a rest in Norway, and will return to America the latter part of the month.

All advice from Morocco agree in describing the country as given up to anarchy. The actual Sultan, the newly proclaimed Sultan, Mulai Hafiz, the Pretender and Rais Uli each control sections of the empire. France is appalled at the task before her, and is seeking a new agreement with the Powers before taking further action.

The extent to which religious periodicals may and do influence the American people can be judged from the fact that, according to the Department of Commerce and Labor, the aggregate circulation per issue of weeklies, semi-weeklies and tri-weeklies in America is 39,965,685, and of all publications is 138,372,594.

The labor party in England is doing good work for temperance reform. The five officials of the labor party in Parliament are total abstainers. So also are the chairman and secretary of the Trades Union Congress, twenty-nine Labor members of Parliament, and forty-three general secretaries of trade unions. The trend of the Labor party seems to be away from the liquor traffic.

The case against Mrs. Eddy, the founder of the Christian Science religion, has been withdrawn by the counsel for the prosecution. This is practically a victory for Christian Science. It is suggested that the case may be revived in a new form, but for the present Mrs. Eddy is not proved insane nor incapable of managing her own affairs.

Our leper colony at Tracadie has been experimenting with a new remedy of late years, and there is now a strong hope that a cure for the fearful disease has been found. Dr. F. Montizambert, Director of Public Health, reports that since the use of the remedy one patient has been discharged as cured, and another woman is progressing so favorably that she will be set free in a short time. Others who have used the remedy claim that they feel better and stronger. That the remedy may prove to be a real cure will be the sincere wish of every sympathetic man and woman.

The Directors of the Standard Oil Company issue a pamphlet whose object is to assure all interested "of the company's absolute innocence of wrongdoing in any of the prosecutions lately instituted against it in the Federal Courts. Particularly is this so in the recent Chicago and Alton R. R. case, made notorious by the sensational fine of \$99,240,000 imposed on the Standard Oil Company of Indiana." It is singular that a reputable court could impose such a fine as that on absolutely innocent people.

Successful experiments in long distance photo telegraphy between Munich and Berlin, a distance of about three hundred and twenty miles, were carried out one day last week. The roads had loaned a direct wire, and the apparatus was operated without a hitch. Photographs of Emperor William and the Crown Prince and of Professor Stern were received in Berlin over the wire, faultlessly developed. The time will soon come when we shall not only hear the voice but see the face of the man at the other end of the wire.

It is announced from The Hague that the text of the American proposition for the establishment of a permanent court of arbitration has been completed in agreement with Germany and Great Britain and was to come up for discussion August 23. It consists of twenty-six articles. The first article records the desire of the signatory powers to organize an "international high court of justice, easily accessible and free of charge, with judges representing the various systems of the laws of the world, capable of insuring a continuation of arbitration by jurisprudence." The court should consist of seventeen judges, nine forming a quorum, who shall hold office twelve years. The fate of this scheme will be watched with interest.

The New York "Sun" contained quite an interesting interview with Captain E. J. Smith, of the new White Star Line steamship "Adriatic," one of the greatest ships ever floated. After relating in detail the duties of a sea captain, and stating particularly that in all his forty years at sea he had never had an accident and had seen but one vessel in distress, and all ended well then, that he was never in any predicament that suggested disaster in any way, the reporter bade him good-day and started off, when an officer touched his arm and said:—"Don't forget when you write of the captain's 'uneventful' life to put in that it is the great captain who doesn't let things happen." This was a new point of view.

A yellow book recently issued by the British Board of Agriculture gives some very suggestive figures in connection with Britain's food consumption. Last year over \$1,000,000,000 worth of food was imported from the British colonies and the United States. In less than twenty years the importation of meat per head of population has simply doubled. At the same time there is no evidence that the home supplies of meat have decreased in any degree. The importation of breadstuffs, however, has increased in a much less degree; while the home supply of breadstuffs has been considerably reduced. The figures seem to show that the average Briton is now able to secure a larger amount of meat in his diet than has hitherto been the case. This probably indicates more prosperous times for the working man, at which the nation should rejoice.

Under the title of "Murderous America" the Boston Journal says editorially in its issue of August 21 that "for every 1,000,000 inhabitants in the United States there are five times as many murders as in Australia, eight times as many as in Japan, ten times as many as in Canada, fourteen times as many as in England and Wales, and about twenty-five times as many as in Germany. Italy alone, in all Europe, has ever shown a worse record than America. Mexico alone now stands lower in the scale. And America is the one country in the world wherein the proportion of murderers to the million of population is increasing." The access of all classes of people into America may have something to do with this situation, but the evil is also promoted by the uncertainties of jury trial, the appeals that may be taken, and the juggling with law by attorneys who conduct cases on commission.

The Chicago Interior has the following interesting item:—Our missionaries in Korea protest against the common newspaper references to that country as "decadent." They pertinently inquire whether "militant" Japan or "literate" China can show such a record of Christian activity, intelligence, and success as that which has been given the world by the Presbyterian church at Pyeng Yang. This church, with a regular Sunday attendance of from 1,000 to 1,200, a membership of 1,435, and five suburban offshoots, each managed independently since February last, recently canvassed the large city in which it is located and carried a gospel invitation to every individual citizen. It is not only self-supporting, but it plants its numerous missions, and is but one of a presbytery in which twenty-seven out of fifty-two church buildings have been enlarged during the year; while in the same bounds eighteen wholly new edifices have been erected. For every dollar of Board money used in Korean work, the Koreans contributed over \$8 last year.

A Y.M.C.A. news item runs as follows:—"To a committee securing funds for a Young Men's Christian Association building at Lincoln, Neb., this was said: 'You gentlemen have no right to call on me,' said a non-resident of this city, 'for a subscription, and I see no reason why I should make it.' Then he thought a moment, and said, 'But I have a boy going to school in your city, and expect to send another.' It is worth at least \$250 to me to know that my boy can have a safe place to which to go' and he drew his check." That man had realized what many do not, that moral influences and moral atmosphere are worth spending money for. There are too many parents who take great pains to see that their children are well clothed and well fed and who are not niggardly in providing for a good education, who nevertheless do not appreciate the fact that all of these things are of little value unless the boy is taught to make the right use of them. Many a father who has sent thousands of dollars to feed and clothe and educate his boy has lived to see that boy throw away the proceeds of his father's expenditure. Perhaps if he had invested a few hundred dollars for the sake of surrounding his boy with the proper Christian influences, he would not have lost the thousands of dollars which were thrown away because of the lack of character in the boy upon whom they had been expended.