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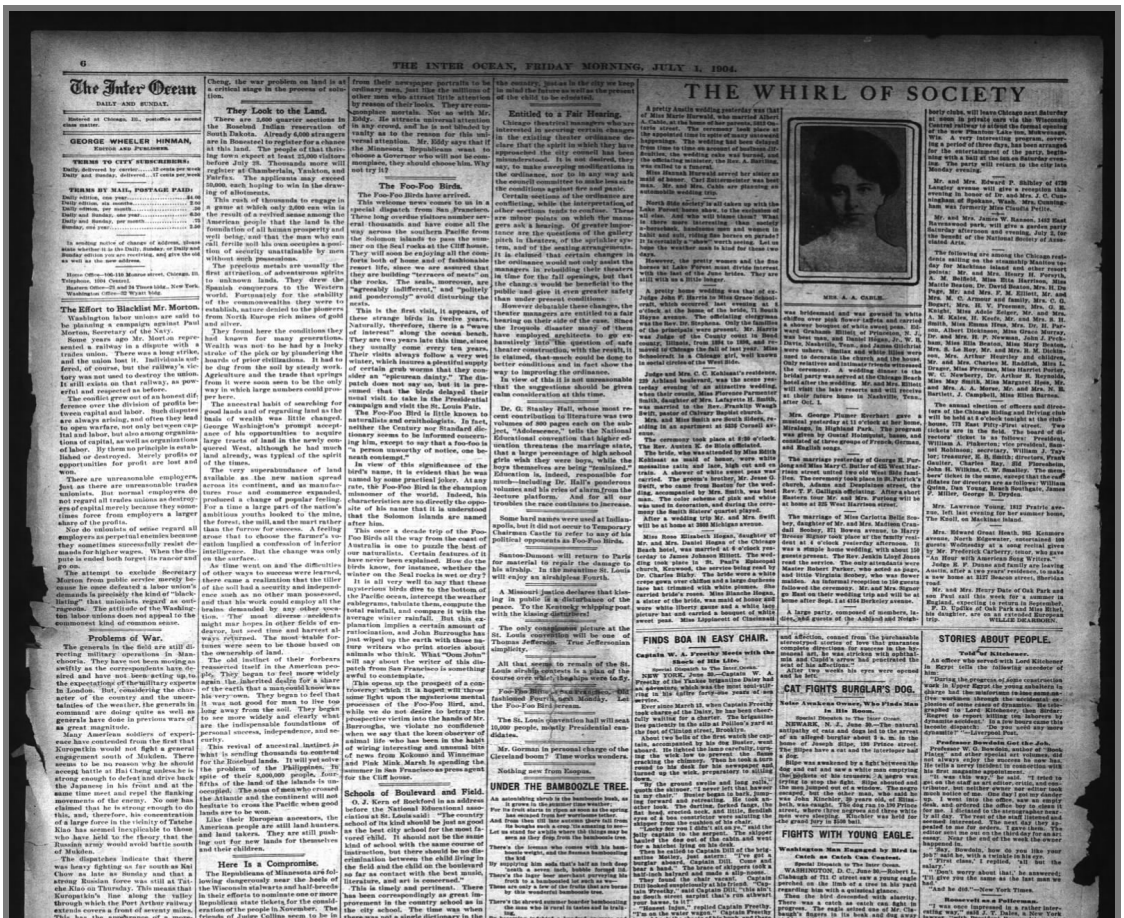

6 THE INTER OCEAN, FRIDAY MORNING, JULY 1, 1904.

The Inter Ocean
DAILY AND SUNDAY.

Entered at Chicago, Ill., postoffice as second class matter.

GEORGE WHEELER HINMAN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

TERMS TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

Daily, delivered by carrier.....15 cents per week
Daily and Sunday, delivered.....17 cents per week

TERMS BY MAIL, POSTAGE PAID.

Daily edition, one year.....$4.00
Daily edition, six months.....2.00
Daily edition, one month.....35
Daily and Sunday, one year.....6.00
Daily and Sunday, per month.....75
Sunday, one year.....2.00

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Home Office—108-110 Monroe street, Chicago, Ill.
Eastern Office—Tribune Building, New York.
Washington Office—32 Wyatt bldg.

The Effort to Blacklist Mr. Morton.

Washington labor unions are said to be planning a campaign against Paul Morton, Secretary of the Navy.

Some years ago Mr. Morton represented a railway in a dispute with a trades union. There was a long strike, and the union lost it. Individuals suffered, of course, but the railway's victory was not used to destroy the union. It still exists on that railway, as powerful and respected as before.

The conflict grew out of an honest difference over the division of profits between capital and labor. Such disputes are always arising, and often they lead to open warfare, not only between capital and labor, but also among organizations of capital, as well as organizations of labor. By them no principle is established or destroyed. Merely profits or opportunities for profit are lost and won.

There are unreasonable employers, just as there are unreasonable trades unionists. But normal employers do not regard all trades unions as destroyers of capital merely because they sometimes force from employers a larger share of the profits.

Nor do unionists of sense regard all employers as perpetual enemies because they sometimes successfully resist demands for higher wages. When the dispute is ended both forget its rancor and go on.

The attempt to exclude Secretary Morton from public service merely because he once defeated a labor union's demands is precisely the kind of "blacklisting" that unionists regard as outrageous. The attitude of the Washington labor unions does not appeal to the commonest kind of common sense.

Problems of War.

The generals in the field are still directing military operations in Manchoria. They have not been moving as swiftly as the correspondents have desired and have not been acting up to the expectations of the military experts in London. But, considering the character of the country and the uncertainties of the weather, the generals in command are doing quite as well as generals have done in previous wars of as great magnitude.

Many American soldiers of experience have contended from the first that Kuropatkin would not fight a general engagement south of Mukden. There seems to be no reason why he should accept battle at Hai Cheng unless he is strong enough to defeat and drive back the Japanese in his front and at the same time meet and repel the flanking movements of the enemy. No one has claimed that he is strong enough to do this, and, therefore, his concentration of a large force in the vicinity of Tatche Kiao has seemed inexplicable to those who have held to the theory that the huge host here was held battle north of Mukden.

The dispatches indicate that there was heavy fighting as far south as Sai Chow as late as Sunday and that a strong Russian force was still at Tatche Kiao on Thursday. This means that Kuropatkin's line along the valley through which the Port Arthur railway extends covers a front of seventy miles. This has the appearance of a movement guarding approaches rather than a concentration for battle.

The dispatches say that the two Japanese armies, one moving northward from Sin Yen, and a second moving west along the Peking highway, have formed a junction on a front of 120 miles and are converging on Hai Cheng and Liao Yang, forty miles to the north.

A battle is not fought on a front of 120 miles, nor of thirty miles, therefore. It would seem that the Japanese commander-in-chief is still in doubt as to the plans of the Russians and is holding his tremendous army until he learns of developments. Meantime the Japanese advance has forced its way to within twenty or thirty miles of Hai Cheng, which may be regarded as the center of the Russian line.

At Port Arthur, 140 miles south of Tatche Kiao, another Japanese army is closing in on the stronghold. Developments here, as reported by the Japanese, are to the effect that three outforts have been captured, and that the Russian fleet of six battle-ships, five cruisers, and twenty-four smaller vessels has made a sort of dress parade exercise out of the harbor on two occasions.

What was the object of this passing of the Port Arthur fleet in review before the Japanese fleet? It is simply a revealing of the strength of the Russian fleet to the enemy and a practical demonstration of the fact that it could leave the harbor through an unobstructed channel. Was this demonstration meant to keep Admiral Togo's ships at Port Arthur while the Vladivostok squadron raided Genshu and other points on the east coast?

If Russia has eleven battle-ships and cruisers and twenty-four torpedo craft ready for action at Port Arthur, and four cruisers and a torpedo flotilla in the waters between Japan and Corea, the naval problems of the war has not been solved. If Kuropatkin has not withdrawn from points south of Hai Cheng, the war problem on land is at a critical stage in the process of solution.

They Look to the Land.

There are 5,000 quarter sections in the Rosebud Indian reservation of South Dakota. Already 6,000 strangers are in Rosebud to register for a chance at this land. The people of that thriving town expect at least 25,000 visitors before July 28. Thousands more will register at Chamberlain, Yankton, and Fairfax. The applicants may exceed 30,000, each hoping to win in the drawing of allotments.

This rush of thousands to engage in a game at which only 2,500 can win is the result of a restless sense among the American people that the land is the foundation of all human prosperity and well being, and that the man who can call fertile soil his own occupies a position of security unattainable by men without such possessions.

The precious metals are usually the first attraction of adventurous spirits to unknown lands. They drew the Spanish conquerors to the Western world. Fortunately for the stability of the commonwealths they were to establish, nature denied to the pioneers from North Europe rich mines of gold and silver.

They found here the conditions they had known for many generations. Wealth was not to be had by a lucky stroke of the pick or by gambling on the hoards of prior civilizations. It had to be dug from the soil by steady work. Agriculture and the trade that springs from it were seen to be the only way in which large numbers could prosper here.

The ancestral habit of searching for good lands and of regarding land as the basis of wealth was little changed. George Washington's prompt acceptance of his opportunities to acquire large tracts of land in the newly conquered West, although he had much land already, was typical of the spirit of the times.

The very superabundance of land available as the new nation spread across its continent, and as manufactures rose and commerce expanded, produced a change of popular feeling. For a time a large part of the nation's ambitious youths looked to the mine, the forest, the sail, and the mart rather than the furrow for success. A feeling arose that to choose the farmer's vocation implied a confession of inferior intelligence. But the change was only on the surface.

As time went on and the difficulties of other ways to success were learned, there came a recollection that the title of the soil had a security and independence such as no other man possessed, and that his work could employ all the brains demanded by any other vocation. The most diverse accidents might mar hopes in other fields of endeavor, but seed time and harvest always returned. The most stable fortunes were seen to be those based on the ownership of land.

The old instinct of their forbears reasserted itself in the American people. They began to feel more widely again the inherited desire for a share of the earth that a successful house was his very own. They began to feel that it was not good for man to live too long away from the soil. They began to see more widely and clearly what are the indispensable foundations of personal success, independence, and security.

This revival of ancestral instinct is what is sending thousands to contend for the Rosebud lands. It will yet solve the problem of the Philippines. In spite of their 1,000,000 people, four-fifths of the land of the islands is unoccupied. The sons of men who crossed the Atlantic and the continent will not hesitate to cross the Pacific when good lands are to be won.

Like their European ancestors, the American people are still land hunters, and land takers. They are still pushing out their new lands for themselves and their children.

Here Is a Compromise.

The Republicans of Minnesota are following dangerously near the heels of the Wisconsin state and half-breeds in their efforts to nominate one or more Republican state tickets for the consideration of the people in November. The friends of Judge Collins seem to be in control by reason of the assistance of Governor Van Sant, and the friends of Mr. Dunn are ready to bolt because they feel that they have not been fair treatment from their rivals. There may be two conventions, two Republican state tickets, and two Governor as the result.

It would be idle to advise either faction in Minnesota to yield to the other. They would scorn such advice, and continue the fight. But there should be a solution for this factional trouble. It could be made a beauty contest, and the candidate for Governor made to appear before the convention today, not as lawyers, as statesmen, as Republicans, but as men relying on their personal appearance for success at the polls.

In such a contest neither of the leading candidates will win. The palm of victory will go to ex-Congressman Eddy, who while a member of the House was