

CERVERA'S MISTAKE.

A Statement by Capt. Clark of the Battleship Oregon.

The Spanish Admiral's Best Chance of Escape - Dusk Would Have Been the Time for Him to Leave Santiago Harbor.

In a personal interview, in answer to a question by the editor, Capt. Clark gives in the Century the following opinion of the Spanish admiral's strategy: "Assuming that the Spanish fleet had to come out (and I for one, had given up the hope that it would do so), it is my judgment that Admiral Cervera should have preferred night to day as the time for the sortie, notwithstanding the search-light watch so rigidly maintained at the entrance. He could have placed as guides to the channel, along the shore, and on the smoke-stack or mast of the sunken Merrimac, lights screened toward the sea, so that we could not have detected them. His best chance would have been to get up his anchors and begin to move about dusk, when he would have had light enough to see the shore and the channel marks, timing the moment so that he should dash out just as darkness fell. We could not then have closed in upon him without great danger to ourselves. The firing would have had to be done virtually in the dark, for the search-lights (even supposing that others than the one regularly in use had been turned on) would soon have become ineffective, on account of the smoke and from the shattering force of the guns, which probably would have extinguished them. The direction of the enemy could thus have been masked, and as each of our captains would have been concerned with the risk of his ship being rammed or torpedoed, our onslaught would have had a far different result than it actually had when full daylight enabled every commander to see what all the others (as well as the enemy) were doing, and exactly what was to be done. It was the difference between certainty and uncertainty. In the daytime we were able to choose our distance from the en-



CAPT. CHARLES E. CLARK. (Commander of the Oregon during the Battle at Santiago.)

emy with relation to the danger of being torpedoed. As all his ships were supposed to be provided with Whitehead torpedoes, I determined, unless an emergency required it, not to go inside of half a mile, that being the effective torpedo range, since our superiority in ordnance and armor would thus have been neutralized.

"Considering the courses that were open to Cervera, I should probably, in the circumstances, have done as he did - head to the westward, keeping the fleet together in the hope of destroying any vessel which might be able to overtake me. Cienfuegos was his nearest and natural port, and there he would have been in direct communication with Havana by rail, and, so to speak, would have been in a Spanish environment. If he had intended to go to Havana, it would have been better to go westward than eastward, for, though the distance is somewhat greater, the current would have favored, and there was no additional force to be considered like that at Guantamo. To have divided his fleet, part going eastward and part westward, would have been to leave one-half to Admiral Sampson and the other half to Commodore Schley.

"There remained one other course. The result of the sortie shows that he might have stood a better chance of saving one or two or even more of his ships by the policy of scattering, with an ultimate rendezvous. Only three of our vessels were superior in speed to his vessels, namely, the New York, the Brooklyn and the Oregon - possibly the Texas. Even if each of these could have selected and pursued a Spanish ship, it is possible that not every one of them would have been equal to the task of despoiling her chosen antagonist. The armored cruisers, the Brooklyn and the New York, might have found that they had 'caught Tartars.' They could not have pierced the armor of the Spanish vessels, while the Spanish guns could readily have pierced theirs. There were no orders to our vessels for such separate action, for neither Admiral Sampson nor anyone else could have anticipated such tactics. It is a matter of pure conjecture, but I am inclined to think that the confusion resulting from such a movement would have strongly favored Cervera."

What is in a Watch. The watch carried by the average man is composed of 93 pieces, and its manufacture embraces more than 2,000 distinct and separate operations. Some of the smallest screws are so minute that the unaided eyes cannot distinguish them from steel filings or specks of dirt.

High Living in Japan. In Japan a man can live like a gentleman on \$300 a year. This sum will pay the rent of a house, the wages of two servants, and supply plenty of food.

OUR RICHEST SENATOR.

So the Politicians Refer to Stephen B. Elkins, the Senator Lawmaker from West Virginia.

Although Stephen B. Elkins, senator from West Virginia, has long since won for himself a national reputation as a politician, little is known of him as a business man, and only those who have come in close contact with him realize that he is one of the biggest and broadest men in the United States.

Senator Elkins began life as a poor boy with nothing but a college education, and has worked up to his present financial and political environments without aid from any source.



STEPHEN B. ELKINS. (Senior United States Senator from West Virginia.)

He is a man of strong personality, is full of ideas, and as the late James G. Blaine used to say, "knows more people than any other man in public life."

Mr. Elkins is also extremely fond of literature. He reads the works of the best authors, studies the classics, and interprets the poets. He reads Latin, Greek, and Hebrew in the original, and can quote Tennyson, Browning, Lowell and Longfellow by the hour. Mr. Elkins is very fond of walking and takes long tramps daily, although his stables are stocked with some of the finest breed.

His country home is one of the most beautiful estates in West Virginia and is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is inclosed by beautiful flower and vegetable gardens and surrounded on every side by magnificent views. Some years ago Mr. Elkins purchased a mountain which is near his estate for fear some ruthless farmer would destroy one of his views, and mar its beauty by cutting off the trees, and he turned a country road in order to improve the symmetry of his homestead.

In Washington the Elkins family occupy a palatial home and are lavish entertainers.

MINISTER TO PORTUGAL.

President Confers a High Honor Upon One of Iowa's Most Popular Republican Leaders.

The president has appointed John N. Irwin, of Iowa, formerly governor of Idaho, to be United States minister to Portugal in succession to Lawrence Townsend, who has been transferred to Belgium, where he succeeds Bellamy Storer, the new minister to Madrid. W. W. Rockhill, minister to Greece, has resigned and Arthur Sherburn Hardy, of New Hampshire, succeeds him in Athens. William P. Lord, formerly governor of Oregon, is appointed to the post of minister at Teheran, Persia, vacated by the promotion of Mr. Hardy.

Mr. Irwin, the new minister to Portugal, lives in Keokuk, Ia., where he is very popular. Two years ago he was mentioned prominently as a candidate for governor of Iowa. Although



JOHN N. IRWIN. (New United States Minister to Lisbon, Portugal.)

born and educated in Ohio, Mr. Irwin has spent most of his life in Iowa. He started out in life as a lawyer, but abandoned that profession for commerce, in which he has had a long and successful career. Business, however, did not interfere with his active participation in politics. He has been honored by election to the mayoralty of Keokuk on a citizens' ticket without opposition from either party.

President Arthur appointed him governor of Idaho. At that time he won a national reputation by refusing pay in that office. He was later made governor of Arizona by President Harrison. He is 59 years old and has a wife and two charming daughters.

Aluminum Five-Cent Pieces. It is reported that experiments have been carried on at the United States mint in Philadelphia for nearly a year with a view of ascertaining the fitness of aluminum for minor coins. Some 10,000 blanks of the size of the nickel five-cent piece have been delivered at the mint for this purpose. It may be mentioned that congress some time ago appointed a commission of experts to investigate and report upon this subject, and the experiments above referred to are being carried on under the direction of its members.

PORTO RICAN JAILS.

They Have Been Vastly Improved Under American Rule.

Prisoners Are Well Fed, But Compelled to Clean the Streets and Do Other Useful Work - Dirt Is No Longer King.

To improve the condition of the municipal jails and the old government prison has been an important work of Gen. Guy V. Henry in Porto Rico. In October, under Spanish rule, they were as alive with dirt as with prisoners, and under absolutely no sanitary regulations. Frequently the inmates got neither fresh air nor sunlight, but shared the same room and lived in idleness and misery. More than one town, indeed, repeated the story of Cuba. But now, although this house-cleaning work is unfinished still, the jails of Porto Rico have become more like the model similar institutions in the United States.

Like most government buildings, the island penitentiary is at the capital, San Juan. Here, just outside the south city wall, 300 convicts eat and sleep, like a native family, in one big room. They are not confined in cells, but have their liberty, and go anywhere inside the ten-foot wall. Only three prisoners, who have been sentenced to life imprisonment for murder, wear a steel ball and chain. Murder, too, is the most common crime. Out of the 300 inmates, more than 200 were convicted on this charge. One prisoner, 24 years old, whose sentence is 30 years, killed three persons. Every twelfth man in the low row of beds is a guardian over his fellows, and may be identified by his yellow stripes and a small hand cane. Yet, as a rule, the convicts live quietly, make no attempts to escape and give the keeper no trouble. Most of them, who are the half-breed native population, neither read nor write. Only one St. Thomas English negro can be seen in the prison. Two soldiers, convicted of robbery, who were admitted in December, are the only Americans. One year is the shortest term of confinement.

Back in October and November, when the Americans first reached San Juan, the old Spanish warden gave his prisoners an easy life. His 300 inmates then played ball on the roof, took their midday nap and let the carpenter and blacksmith shops get rusty. Then, as the warden spoke no English, a six-foot St. Thomas negro murderer always welcomed American visitors and acted as an interpreter. He translated the explanations and apologies of the cunning old keeper and repeated all questions of the callers. And, at the end of every trip through the buildings, his visitors wanted to know what kind of food the keeper gave the convicts.

"The gentlemen would like to know what kind of food the prisoners get," then repeated the negro in Spanish.

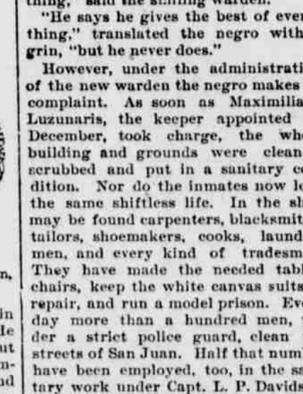
"Tell them I give the best of everything," said the smiling warden.

"He says he gives the best of everything," translated the negro with a grin, "but he never does."

However, under the administration of the new warden the negro makes no complaint. As soon as Maximiliano Luzanaris, the keeper appointed in December, took charge, the whole building and grounds were cleaned, scrubbed and put in a sanitary condition. Nor do the inmates now lead the same shiftless life. In the shop may be found carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, shoemakers, cooks, laundrymen, and every kind of tradesman. They have made the needed tables, chairs, keep the white canvas suits in repair, and run a model prison. Every day more than a hundred men, under a strict police guard, clean the streets of San Juan. Half that number have been employed, too, in the sanitary work under Capt. L. P. Davidson. Outside of work hours many prisoners find time to knit stockings, which easily sell to visitors as a souvenir. Since January an evening school has given the prisoners instruction in reading and writing. An optional course in English also has been introduced by a Porto Rican interpreter. In this school work the men seem to take an interest and show a desire to learn, especially in the English class.

Women Who Shine Shoes. In Paris and other large towns in France, female bootblacks are increasing in number. They wear a peculiar garb, not unlike that of sisters of mercy, which renders their appearance neat and attractive. Not a few among them to attend to their work with gloved hands.

When Moses Was Paddling. Egyptian boats more than 4,500 years old have been exhumed from the banks of the Nile in perfectly good condition. They are of cedar and float as jauntily as if they had been paddled but yesterday.



THE TAXIMETER. (It Measures Distances and Indicates Amount of Fares.)

that whereas without a register of distance the pessimist passenger gives more than his fare in the fear that he may otherwise be underpaying and thus provoking a dispute, the optimist passenger, who always gives himself the advantage, minimizes the distance and imagines that he is doing the benefactor when, in fact, he is paying only what is strictly due. To both these classes the taximeter will be an instructor; and the cabman, if he loses in one case, will gain in another. For the really needy person who is obliged to take a cab, and for the country cousin, the advantage and security given by the registration of distance are an obvious gain; and the cabman will increase his custom from a class whose confidence the taximeter has come to restore. These are considerations which ought to abate the hostility with which the introduction of the taximeter has been greeted by the Cabmen's union.

A LEADER OF WOMEN.

Mrs. Celia Osgood Peterson and Her Work for Education in the State of Colorado.

Mrs. Celia Osgood Peterson, deputy state superintendent of schools for Colorado, is a brilliant woman, who is devoted to the cause of education and a writer of note along educational and progressive thought lines. Mrs. Peterson was appointed entirely upon merit, and without any political pull whatever, she being a democrat, while the state superintendent, Mrs. Grenfell, is a republican.

Mrs. Peterson is an eastern woman, born in Exeter, Me., and brought up in



CELIA OSGOOD PETERSON. (Deputy State Superintendent of Schools for Colorado.)

Medford, Mass., where she was graduated from the high school in 1879 as valedictorian. Her parents removed that year to Denver, Col., where she attended the high school and graduated from that institution the following year. She began teaching in the fall of the same year, and the following year was appointed a teacher in the Denver public schools, where she has not missed a year, until, in June, '98, she resigned to marry Joseph E. Peterson, a merchant of Denver, formerly of Chicago.

In addition to her regular duties as teacher, she has for the past four years been instructor in methods in the summer school and in institute work of the state. In September, '98, she accepted the position of teacher of methods and of United States history in the Denver normal and preparatory school, from which position she was called to that of deputy superintendent of public instruction.

Aside from her interest in educational matters, Mrs. Peterson has taken an active interest in the Woman's club, of Denver, one of the largest and most influential clubs in the United States, and says that she considers it one of the greatest honors of her life to be chosen by them to represent Colorado as a speaker at the biennial convention of the Federated Clubs of the United States, which met in Denver last summer.

HARD ON THE CABBIES.

The Taximeter, Recently Introduced in Europe, Does Away with Overcharging.

The taximeter cab was bound to come to London. Other capitals have preceded England's in the employment of an instrument which will mark the revolutions of the wheel and register the mileage so that the passenger may read it and reckon his fare accordingly. The 50 cabs whose drivers are proclaimed by their white beaver hats may raise a smile from comrades of dingier headgear; but, even among cabmen, the laugh is at last with those who win the most custom. Already the taximeter cab has a secured popularity; and the experience of its driver is not a wholly dismal one in the matter of "tips." An extra sixpence is not always denied him. The truth is



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Advertisement for Castoria 900 Drops. Includes text: 'Vegetable Preparation for Assimilating the Food and Regulating the Stomachs and Bowels of INFANTS CHILDREN. Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. NOT NARCOTIC. A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep. Fac Simile Signature of Dr. J. C. Altman, NEW YORK. 16 months old. 35 Doses - 35 CENTS. EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.'

Advertisement for Castoria. Includes text: 'CASTORIA For Infants and Children. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Altman. The Kind You Have Always Bought. CASTORIA THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.'

Advertisement for Ely's Cream Balm. Includes text: 'Ask your Druggist for a generous 10 CENT TRIAL SIZE. Ely's Cream Balm contains no cocaine, mercury nor any other injurious drug. It is quickly absorbed. Gives relief at once. It opens and cleanses the Nasal Passages. Allays Inflammation. Heals and Protects the Membrane. Restores the Senses of Taste and Smell. Full size 50c; Trial size 10c. Druggists or by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 50 Warren Street, New York.'

Advertisement for Liverita. Includes text: 'LIVERITA THE UP-TO-DATE LITTLE LIVER PILL CURES Biliousness, Constipation, Dyspepsia, Sick-Head-ache and Liver Complaint. SUGAR COATED. Sold by all druggists or sent by mail. Nervita Medical Co., Chicago. 50 boxes contains 15 pills. Sold by Meyer Bros., druggists, Bloomsburg, Penna. 4-18-99'

Advertisement for Quick Communication. Includes text: 'Facilitates Business. Use the LOCAL TELEPHONE and Communicate. Direct with persons in Berwick, Catawissa, Danville, Riverside, Rupert, Willow Grove, Almedia, Lightstreet, Lime Ridge, Millville, Millville, Rohrsburg, Nescopeck, Orangeville, Stillwater and Benton. Also long distance lines to nearly all the towns in the different States. Rates reasonable. Local exchange over Postoffice.'

Advertisement for Central Penna. Telephone & Supply Co. Includes text: 'JOHN KENYON, Manager.'

Advertisement for Sewing Machines. Includes text: 'We handle Genuine Singer High Arm SEWING MACHINES. \$5.00 down and \$1.00 per month. We also handle the Demorest Sewing Machine, from \$9.50 and upwards. Sewing Machine Needles and Oil for all makes of Sewing Machines. Best makes of WASH MACHINES, FROM \$4.00 UP TO \$9.00.'

Advertisement for J. Saltzer. Includes text: 'J. SALTZER. Music Rooms - No. 115 West Main St., below Market, Bloomsburg, Pa. 3m11-3'

Advertisement for Fine PHOTOGRAPHS and CRAYONS at R. B. GROTZ, Bloomsburg. Includes text: 'The best are the cheapest.'

Advertisement for TID-BITS FOR MA' HONEY! Includes text: 'and tender little juicelets for the children, are all right, but papa and "the boys" want a good, big, juicy steak, roast or chop when business or school duties are over, and we can cater to them all. Our stock of prime meats is unexcelled for quality, and we send them home in fine shape. J. E. KEIFER.'

Advertisement for THE MARKET'S. Includes text: 'BLOOMSBURG MARKETS. CORRECTED WEEKLY. RETAIL PRICES.'

Table of market prices for various goods like Butter, Eggs, Lard, Ham, etc. Includes text: 'Butter per lb. .12, Eggs per dozen .12, Lard per lb. .09, Ham per pound .11, Pork, whole, per pound .06, Beef, quarter, per pound .07, Wheat per bushel .92, Oats " " .40, Rye " " .50, Wheat flour per bbl. 4.00, Hay per ton 9 to \$10, Potatoes per bushel .90, Turnips " " .25, Onions " " 1.00, Sweet potatoes per peck .40, Tallow per lb. .05, Shoulder " .09, Side meat " .08, Vinegar, per qt. .05, Dried apples per lb. .05, Dried cherries, pitted .12, Raspberries .12, Cow Hides per lb. .31, Steer " " .05, Calf Skin .80, Sheep pelts .75, Shelled corn per bus. .60, Corn meal, cwt. 1.25, Bran, " 1.00, Chon " 1.00, Middlings " 1.00, Chickens per lb new .11, " " old .11, Turkeys " .12, Geese " .14, Ducks " .08, COAL. No. 6, delivered .26, " 4 and 5 " 3.25, " 6 at yard .235, " 4 and 5 at yard .360. Try the COLUMBIAN a year.'