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W. T. LAMEY, Editor and Publisher

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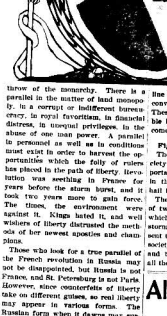
EDITORIAL COMMENT

Looking Backward at Liberty.

The world's progress in liberty during the hundred years that have elapsed since the French revolution completed its work of leveling human conditions is indicated by the situation in Europe today. All Europe is up arms to quell the uprising of the French masses at the closing of the eighteenth century. At the beginning of the twentieth century the governments and the peoples of Europe unite in wishing well of the struggles of the Russian masses to share the liberty which their civilized neighbors enjoy.

For many years, but more especially during the last few months, observers of events in St. Petersburg, Moscow and other centers of Russian population have recalled the situation in France from, say, 1785 to the over-



throw of the monarchy. There is a parallel in the matter of land monopoly, in a corrupt or indifferent bureaucracy, in royal favoritism, in financial distress, in unequal privileges, in the abuse of one man power. A parallel in personnel as well as in conditions must exist in order to harvest the opportunities which the folly of rulers has placed in the path of liberty. Revolution was seething in France for years before the storm burst, and it took two years more to gain force. The times, the environment were against it. Kings hated it, and well wishers of liberty distrusted the methods of her newest apostles and champions.

Those who look for a true parallel of the French revolution in Russia may not be disappointed, but Russia is not France, and St. Petersburg is not Paris. However, since conceptions of liberty take on different guises, so real liberty may appear in various forms. The Russian form may in some ways surprise the world with the manner of its coming and by the largeness of its application. Civilization has made wonderful strides since 1789, and Russia has advanced at least a little bit.

The Everlasting Byron.

The present head of the London publishing house which boomed Lord Byron into his sudden fame, John Murray III., is quoted by the Pall Mall Gazette as saying, "There will be no final life of Byron, as you call it, as long as I can prevent it."

The Murrays have gathered a mountain of Byron treasures, which are placed in a veritable Aladdin's cave of his own works in vellums and crushed morocco bindings with gold and the dazzling as his most glittering companions having an alcove to them selves. In the walls are many portraits of the poet's friends done by the hands of his friends, and these rare presentments have for companions the most celebrated paintings of Byron himself. The last portrait of Byron drawn from life is a crayon which shows him as fat as a lord, with the face of a pirate.

Mr. Murray explains his attitude toward further exploitation of Byron's private life in plain if not saying. "There has been too much nonsense talked about the poet, and I will be no party to lending his name and my connection to anything that tends to perpetuate that kind of a thing." The publisher is consistently honest in his attitude concerning Byron, especially from American correspondents.

Many moons ago discussion was rife in this country as to why the people loved Japan more and Russia less or something to that effect in the crisis of 1904. The questions had various answers, some of which seemed premature, but at this date they strike a writer in the Revue de Paris as having been in the main correct. In this article our pro-Japanese sympathies are laid to three principal reasons—the discipline against pampers, diseased persons, convicts, the insane and feeble-minded. These classes have proved an intolerable burden in England, and still they come.

Fighting Off Hail With Cannon.

The president of the Hail Cannon society of France, Joseph Chatillon, reports some very decided achievements in the way of defending crops from hail by firing cannon.

The report deals with the experience of twenty-eight cannon firing societies, which used 422 cannon in a number of storms. After each storm a report was sent to the president of the agricultural society of the district. It was printed and then distributed for correction to all the farmers in the district visited by

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The thirtieth business anniversary of the "first typewriter girl" is a reminder. Thirty years ago very eloquent tongues and pens were insisting that woman could never catch up with her manifest destiny without the ballot. But the relations "were reversed" instead so fast toward the desired goal that it looks as though she might at any time call a strike for the ballot and stop the wheels of commerce. Industry and even society unless suffrage is granted. And it is far better to be in a position to command equality than to have to beg for it.

Britons note with envy that the United States alone shut out 8,000 undesirable immigrants last year. The London Globe says that this republic has ample room for continental refuse, but that the government must slightly dilute the

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Old Coughs

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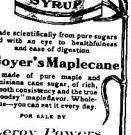
The cowboy element is in no danger of falling out of existence while the horse race suicide, according to recent statistics of Capitol doings in the great range districts. It seems that no fewer than 4,500 white men have taken Sioux brides. Why fancy ladies are chosen in preference to palefaces is not for sociologists to crack. But there seems to be no reason other than a purely social one why Indians and whites should not intermarry. The Indians have been subjugated and are in a measure subject race. In the past, however, Indian blood has made many strong characters among the whites, though they have no social future, the Indians have no chance to degenerate. Intermarriage might prevent total decay and preserve what was best in the race under red cuss.

A proposition of the New York restaurant proprietors to serve a song with music at the dinner hour stirs up discussion as to the relation between music and digestion. The restaurant keepers doubtless took no thought beyond a general attraction for patrons. Whether "concord of sweet sounds" or improved digestion or both resulted up custom, the secret society didn't stop to inquire. If the music no longer pays, as alleged, and has to go, the Sunday law will be invoked to prevent it being served by sending surly waiters and flip fiends into exile too.

The perfect railroad has yet to be constructed. It is said that the "creeping" of the track is an evil which railway men are trying to surmount, says the Railway Age. Hard creep sets the direction of the traffic, except on heavy grades. They creep faster under fast traffic or heavy traffic than they do under slow or light traffic. Among the prime causes are short rails, bolsted supports, inefficient spikes, insufficient spikes.



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