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M. T. LAMEY, Editor and Publisher.

Friday, April 7, 1905

Armed in Retreat.

A general who can save the morale of his army in retreat sometimes has an advantage over the most brilliant strategist or tactician. Every commander plans his retreat before every battle, but of course the situation is constantly changing, and the head of the army, if defeated, must decide instantly and make the right move of panic and destruction are inevitable. Napoleon did just this in his famous retreat from Moscow that he did in fighting at Waterloo. Famine and cold helped the Russians in the work of slaughter, but nevertheless the Russians hustled the poor Frenchmen into the pitiless storm. The great matter at war was not right when things went his way, but in adversity he lost his nerve.

General Kuropatkin made a masterly retreat from Liaoyang to Mukden, but his withdrawal from Mukden was the more difficult problem of the two. He was compelled to fight on either flank and in the rear and to maintain a front of forty or fifty miles. Naturally his strongest columns moved close to the railroad in order to guard the line from attack. The cavalry guarded the extreme flanks to prevent the Japanese from beating in the rear for Kirta. The main body of the retreat to the pass, a distance of forty-five miles, was made in four days, which shows that the pursuit was slow, and that means that Kuropatkin was armed for defense at all points. The greatest opportunity for a telling stroke that can cause a complete retreat when some mishap overtakes a retreating army. Then the lines are not set, discipline is lax, and the assailant has the advantage. The fact that Kuropatkin has twice retreated in the face of the same general and not been caught unawares shows him as a military genius of a high order. Marshal Bazaine at Metz, in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, had much the same conditions to face as Kuropatkin at Liaoyang, and the Prussians overwhelmed him as the Japanese expected to overwhelm Kuropatkin.

One of the famous retreats of history was that made by Sir John Moore, the British leader in the Spanish peninsula, in 1808. Sir John marched for a month from Astorga toward the sea and, reaching the port at Orona before the arrival of ships to take his army away, lost the battle under Sir Marshal Soul, dying almost at the hour when embarkation was completed. Soul himself made a skillful retreat from Oporto, Portugal, across the mountains into Spain during the same war. During the civil war General Robert E. Lee conducted a remarkably skillful retreat with troops defeated in battle. After the conflict in the Wilderness, May 24, 1863, his army fought in retreat for a month, finally bringing up in front of Richmond and forestalling Grant, who had two armies, threatening the place from two directions. The Richmond campaign of 1864 has been called a race for Richmond. Three times during the march Lee outmarched Grant and formed his army along a river to dispute the passage. Although beaten in the end, Lee added fresh laurels to his crown by the masterly handling of the Army of Northern Virginia in the retrograde movement from the Rapidan to the James in May, 1864, and prolonged the war a year.

Italy's King and the Farmers.

It is to be hoped that the farmers' world congress which the energetic young Italian King, the Emperor of India, is gathering will do more for the land of its sponsor than did the peace congress for the czar's people. Whether the czar was in earnest in preaching peace in 1900 or otherwise, his country needed peace if ever a nation did. Among other reforms, Italy, as the world understands it, is sadly in need of agricultural development and, above all, of government initiative and cooperation.

King Victor Emmanuel's idea that the agricultural classes are the mainstay of nations is a sound one, and along with it goes the proposition that if international congresses are good for other departments of activity the farmers should get in line and sway notes like other people. And, by the way, this royal scheme for promoting agricultural prosperity and stability did not originate in a palace, neither in sunny Italy at all, but was hatched in the brain of an American citizen, David Lubin, formerly of California. He thought it was a big contract and would be the better for a kindly "send-off" and the stamp of "foreign" approval. Perhaps he was right.

Bedford Kipling ought to pick up flesh in South Africa now that the land is at peace and the climate favorable for his kind. The author is described as "very thin" and old looking. He has done a lot of work with the pen and is still within Dr. Osier's pre-

scribed limit for great achievements, being under forty.

General Chaffee wants the soldiers to learn to swim. While he is about it why not make proficiency in the art of swimming one of the qualifications of recruits? It's hard to teach an old dog new tricks, and the swimmer who wishes to say useful purpose is usually one who takes to water like a duck.

Prussia's plan for canal extension is not a new device. Since 1882 she has spent \$500,000,000 in cutting new canals and canalizing rivers, and in proposing an additional expenditure of \$700,000,000 is only keeping pace with the times. In the last thirty years France has devoted \$100,000,000 to the construction of free canals and proposes to expend \$100,000,000 in the same manner. Germany now has 9,000 miles of navigable inland waters and France 10,000 miles. And the cry is for more.

Canada will not let the United States immigration boom die out if she can help it. The authorities across the line are preparing to welcome this year a record breaking procession of settlers from the northwestern states.

Supervisor's Report

STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF COOK, A. H. BOELMER, Supervisor, Office of Supervisor.

The following is a statement by A. H. Boelmer, Supervisor of the Town of Barrington, Cook County, Illinois, on the 28th day of March, 1905, showing the amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of said fiscal year, the amount of public funds received and from what sources received, the amount of public funds expended and for what purposes expended during said fiscal year, ending as aforesaid.

Table with 2 columns: Description and Amount. Includes items like Public received and for what purposes expended, and various taxes and fees.

The said A. H. Boelmer, being duly sworn to, deposes and says that the foregoing statement by him subscribed is a correct statement of the amount of public funds on hand at the commencement of the fiscal year above stated, the amount of public funds received, and the sources from which received, and the amount expended, and purposes for which expended, as set forth in said statement, and that A. H. BOELMER, Supervisor, Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 4th day of April, 1905.

F. H. FIVE, Justice of the Peace.

How to keep young is a question that has worried no end of people into gray hairs. Now along comes a German professor with the cheerful dictum: "We are only as old as our heart and arteries. The hygiene of the heart is the art of remaining young." This authority adds that abnormal drafts upon the heart's activity must be avoided. Care and moderation should be observed in eating, drinking and bodily exercise.

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On the Reading of Books.

The decline of the novel is said to be in evidence, and while awake observers are trying to divine the future of reading. It seems to be taken for granted that people will read books in the future set forth in all departments of literature by newspapers and periodicals. The publishers' lists indicate that books are bought, yet individuals and even families who "never buy books" are not ashamed to say so, and the fact cannot be disputed.

Making all the allowance for non-literary motives in book buyers, the hope of finding interest in a volume is the chief cause for purchase, and demand moves up or down with the measure of interest. It is a complaint heard on every hand that novels, as a rule, are disappointing. It is a complaint, however, new complaint. It was not so in the days of the classic writers whose names are household words. Readers of the masters had only praise to offer and gave good reasons for their opinions. And readers returned the modern fiction form to the past when they want something "worth while." Probably the jump from the romantic to the realistic and the historical school of fiction has taught the reader to ask questions. Pure re-

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manus gave ideal pictures good enough to be true. The realist, likewise the historical romancer, sets out with the assumption that he is true to life and to historical facts. This is a challenge to every page.

The chief charm in the historical novel as handed down by Miss Mulholland, for example, was the great personages presumably pictured from life. Leaders were not able, as a rule, to criticize the portraiture. The characters were strong and their actions and sayings just what might be expected. Modern historical writers have come closer to the people's mind and knowledge. They now and then strike this too.

Works of biography where great men and women appear upon the page glowing with life have all the attraction of the best fiction. They treat the general history of an epoch with a light touch, yet nevertheless make the reader acquainted with the important events swayed by the talents or the passions of their subjects. It is life as some one remote in time or in distance actually lived it, which, after all, puts human interest into books. The strongest novels are those over which the reader exclaims, "People must have lived just so." The theme of the biographer is life that was actually lived and no doubt about it.

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