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# THE TIMES

A DAILY NEWSPAPER

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THE TIMES  
Port Limon, Costa Rica (G. A.)

## Control of Foreign Policy.

Mr. Swift Macneil, an Irish National member of the House of Commons and a recognized authority on constitutional law, recently adverted to the slight control of foreign affairs which the House can, in practice, exert. Mr. Macneil drew especial attention to the fact that treaties are made by the King, on the advice of his Ministers, and that the details of the arrangements are not known till it is too late to make effective protest. In replying to Mr. Macneil's remarks, Sir Edward Grey said that no Cabinet could adopt a foreign policy which might lead to war without first asking the House of Commons for supplies, and that the particular policy would then be debated on its merits. But this answer does not meet the case of a treaty which raises no immediate question of war. For example, the Anglo-Japanese treaty was negotiated without formerly consulting Parliament, and yet one can conceive circumstances in which that treaty might embroil the entire civilized world.

The framers of our Constitution cast a sheet anchor to windward by providing that all treaties must receive the assent of the Senate. And it is certain that this proviso has more than once saved us from disastrous entanglements. In republics, as in monarchies, the executive instinctively seeks to extend its field and the legislative branch is apt to be reduced to impotence in the process. Everybody remembers how the German people rose in wrath when it was found that the Kaiser was conducting a private correspondence which might have made peace with honor impossible. The average American knows nothing of what has gone on behind the scenes with regard to Mexico, but he readily guesses that most important steps have been taken without consulting Congress. Such procedure is the more pernicious for us, because Congress cannot eject a President from office, as Parliament ejects a Premier, by the simple method of voting for the government measure. It is bad enough to have to fight when the *casus belli* is clear; it is infinitely worse to draw the sword in the dark.

It may, of course, be argued that a good deal of secrecy must always attach to foreign affairs but there is a limit beyond which secrecy should not go, and it is undeniable that most of the great wars might have been averted, if the masses had understood what the diplomats were about. Forty years have passed since the struggle between France and Germany was precipitated by the complications arising from the Hohenzollern candidature for the Spanish crown. Yet it is only within the last few months that Europa has got a clear glimpse of the tragic embroglio Emile Ollivier, the Prime Minister of that day, maintained that he was hurried to an impasse and that neither the Emperor nor the Cabinet was perfectly frank. So, too, partisans of the Empress Eugénie maintain that she was the victim of backstairs intrigue and that the military experts led her completely astray. But these revelations are of no importance, except as they emphasize the exceeding smallness and blindness of the politicians,

male and female, who cost France two provinces, not to speak of the loss of blood, treasure and prestige. We are happily far from the times when a sovereign could go to war at his own sweet will, but we are always far from the times when issues which touch millions of households will be debated in the open. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," and the first step toward lasting peace must consist in tearing the mask from diplomacy.

## Shameful Scepticism.

The students of the University of California are said to be considerably puzzled because the hide of the elephant given as a souvenir of Col. Roosevelt's African trip shows no sign of a bullet hole. Some of the students are inclined to be wavering in their allegiance and to be almost ready to hand the great American hero as a nature faker—all because forsooth, an elephant has apparently been slain without visible evidence of bullet, sword, ax, bayoning pin or other offensive or defensive weapon. Very sensibly, however, before consigning the contributing hunter to the Anabias Club, the California students cast refuge in the comforting fact that they "have the elephant anyway," no matter how t met its fate. But mere philosophy is not the only or main ground upon which the Colonel's claim-risks. There are more ways of killing a cochroach than by slipping a pinch of potassium into its lunch. There are more ways of killing an elephant, or capturing it, than by drilling a tunnel through its cuticle with an express rifle. Since therefore securing the elephant is, by the California students' own philosophy, the main point, there are sundry explanations to be offered by way of proving that the elephant is in very truth a Roosevelt souvenir and not the palmed-off trophy of another's victory. Why, for instance, might the Colonel not have "stolen on a secure hour," like Claudius in "Hamlet," and "pured some leprous distillment" in his ear? Why may he not have been the David that brought the mighty monster low with a slingshot? Why may he not have fallen in memory of the old Western days, letting nature do the rest? Why may he not have suddenly showed his teeth and scared it to death? Or made a stump speech and choked it with enthusiasm? Or outlined his "new nationalism" and, like the girl Republican which all elephants are supposed to be, did it in an applepie fit? Fie upon the California University students for doubting that the Colonel slew in very truth the pachyderm's reminder of his jungle jaunt. Of course it's a Roosevelt elephant. Who else in all the wide world could slaughter such a beast and yet preserve its hide unoperated for scientific use.

## Siberia has Sudden Spring.

Alexandrovsk, Government of Arhangel.—Reports from western Russia and Siberia tell of the sudden arrival of spring. The ice has broken up in rivers, and with the melting snows has caused abnormal high waters, which are doing great damage.

## Philippine Independence.

Cox Heads Movement to Make Question a Party Measure.

Washington.—Representative Cox of Ohio, is at the head of a movement of Democratic congressmen to make the Philippine and their independence a party measure at this session of Congress. At the next meeting of the majority caucus he will ask that a resolution calling upon the War Department for a statement showing what the islands have cost the United States since the American occupation. This resolution Mr. Cox regards as an entering wedge toward neutralization of the islands. "The Philippine situation," said Mr. Cox is the most important problem of the future will not ever land in the Orient.

"If the people could see what the Philippines have cost, I am positive the islands and their future would be considered seriously and immediate consideration. Neutrality of the islands could be arranged for by treaty."

## Germans Object to Neutral Point.

Berlin.—A proposal that the negotiations in the German-American potato controversy be conducted in Brussels as a neutral point will be refused by the German syndicate, according to an inspired communication appearing in the press. Presumably the Germans will demand that the American representatives meet them in Berlin.

## Literature

### Concluded.

And now let us ask what relations any work of literary art ought to have to our lives of toil. If it merely gives us a picture of our actual lives it cannot be interesting or amusing, since we want to get away from ourselves, and exercise new faculties and have new experiences. On the other hand, we are interested only what we live, and if we get too far away from our experiences we are equally at a loss. The scene is a work of literature should give us ourselves idealized and in a dream, all we wish to see that could be, all the hope, all the beauty, all the high degree, and our first test of a work of literature should be to ask the three questions—Is it beautiful? Is it true? Is it noble?

## Military Display.

We are asked by the Committee managing the Military Display that is to be held on Coronation Day to publish the following: Subscription for the Military Display on Coronation Day, 22nd June, can be handed to the following gentlemen: Samuel C. Nation, Henry D. Hunter, James Parmentier.

Men who are able to play the flute, drum, and bagle are wanted to join the drum corps for the Coronation parade. Parades continue every evening at 6 p.m., but we expected to have seen a larger gathering of old soldiers than what we saw the last three evenings. We hope this is not from a want of true British spirit on the part of our discharged men. The civilians are indeed showing great spirit, and are already coming forward for the occasion. Be up and doing brave soldiers and show up in true British spirit what we have always had the privilege of doing to our ~~own~~ ~~benefit~~.

## Current News

### Worker of the Black Art.

The s.s. "Prinz Joachim" is expected to-day from Jamaica via Savannah. The steamer's route has been changed this trip.

The s.s. "Pacana" consigned to the United Fruit Company arrived from Manchester yesterday morning with the following passengers: H. M. Graves, L. Young, J. Wood and H. R. Ernest. She brought 14 sacks mails.

The s.s. "Carraig" was despatched on Wed. a day evening by the agent of the United Fruit Company Line of steamers for Colon with the following passengers: Maria de Aylar, Julia Barr, A. A. Weickert, J. Greenwood, W. H. Hesketh, A. G. Milack and 24 cokers.

The s.s. "Carraig" is expected to arrive from Colon early to-day, bringing mails and passengers. She will sail in the evening for New Orleans with a cargo of bananas.

The captain of the "Santaros" was assaulted and beaten by a man on Wednesday last, opposite the International Drug Store. It appears that the captain owed him some money and he asked him for it and not receiving same he struck him several blows with his clenched fist. The man was put in charge of a policeman who carried him to the cartel, then before the judge, where he was fined \$10.

"Edu'n's Villa" Port Limon, 5th May 1911.

To the Editor of the Times.

Dear Sir—At a meeting which was held at the named dwelling, presided over by Mr. Peter Noel, it was agreed that your help be asked to encourage and advance from time to time anything that would be found necessary to inform the public.

It is intended to have a grand display of loyalty on Coronation Day and that the retired soldiers, militiamen and constables from Jamaica, residing in the Corners of Limon take part. Inasmuch it is agreed to have a battalion formed and have, practically, daily, for the honour of saluting the Flag in presence of the British Vice-Consul on the grounds of Plaza de Toro, you are called upon to place the idea before the public.

Thanking you for all consideration in this matter.—I am, etc.,

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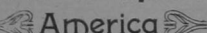
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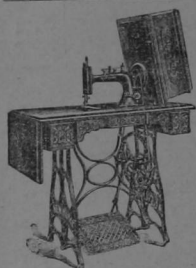
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Limon, 4 de febrero de 1911

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