

NOT VERY THRILLING.

When a man becomes a specialist he often loses sight of the broader teachings of common sense. The sailor takes a naval view of a policy, the diplomatist looks at little advantages in the game of negotiation, the lawyer recalls precedents.

Senator Morgan has been for many years on the foreign relations committee. In his work there he has rubbed up against diplomatic maneuvers of the old grab-all fashion until he has become something of a jingo. On the deck of the New York Saturday he expressed fear of the territorial acquisitions of Great Britain and advised the United States to look out for crises in the three matters of the Behring's sea fisheries, the Nicaragua canal and the Sandwich islands.

Senator Morgan could not in a speech as long as a Chinese play prove that the United States would lose anything of importance if it allowed the three questions to settle themselves. He could not prove that the "encroachments" of England in Austria and New Zeland have done much for the queen or for the people. He could not show that England would be injured by the annexation of Canada to the United States.

The only loss England suffered when the colonies of America rebelled was the cost of the war entered into to keep the rebellion from being successful. In the immense development of the colonies under local autonomy England has made a hundred millions where she lost one. If she had said when the colonies revolted: "Go in peace and luck go with you," she would have lost absolutely nothing and would have gained from that moment.

Even a senator of the United States and a member of the committee on foreign relations talks of getting possession as if the people of the possessing country were to own the country possessed and would divide it up per capita.

Perpetually preparing for a war is the story of European diplomacy. The English have been blowing about Gibraltar for a century and Gibraltar never paid them a cent. It helped them, perhaps, in a war or two which were declared for nothing and were fought to no tangible conclusion.

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Senator Morgan would have us go into the diplomacy of war preparation. Then we would be eternally on the verge of war for the protection of the preparations. Of all the European wars scarcely one was begun for the moral or material welfare of a people. The ambition of a king to extend his dominion has been one prolific cause, and the rest of the conflicts have been over the possession of strategic points occupied with a view to war.

The United States has no legitimate part in all that costly foolery. Our dominion belongs to the people. We are not interested in aggrandizing a dynasty.

If the annexation of Cuba or the Sandwich islands will add to the wealth and comfort of our own people, we can consent. To become a part of the United States is a privilege every people have good reason to beg for, and we few reasons for granting. We must protect them from outside enemies and internal dissensions, and in most of the possible cases of annexation we would get very little in return.

We are not a colonizing nation. It takes a gifted vision to see the time when colonizing will be an American policy. At present we are not a great trading or a great manufacturing nation except among our own states. We have been making no effort whatever to use our natural advantages to secure foreign trade and to manufacture for foreign consumption. What, then, do we want with a foreign policy of annexations and naval depots?

In the Behring's sea controversy, in the Isthmian canal, in the Hawaiian crisis we can remain free from the grabbing practice. We can take a dignified position of upholding the rights of our people, and the chances are ninety-nine in a hundred that what we demand will be conceded. No nation courts a war with us.

Our foreign relations committee nominally ranks high. Our state portfolio is the first in the cabinet. In fact they are among the least important features of our public business.

A man who attends to his own affairs and builds them up is the most formidable man. The nation which lets others meddle with each other and which develops its powers with the productive arts of peace is the nation most feared. Even from the standpoint of war preparation it is strongest. Wars are fought with money and resources. A naval depot without ships to hold it is worthless and is not worth much if held. The country which can protect its own people from injury

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Vesuvius tests and the completion of the Monterey, are notable naval incidents for February. We are no longer the laughing and preserve its internal resources unimpaired has all the advantages in a war.

The Behring sea case can be settled by the law of nations. Hawaiian annexation is a question for long reflection on both sides. The Nicaragua canal affects us only to the extent that we must have guarantees of unimpeded commercial use. The glory of the United States is its people. We are not working for the renown of a monarch.

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