

THE NEW AGE

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EDITORIAL
KEEP THE FAIR OPEN SUNDAYS

The statement was recently made that the St. Louis fair had lost a million dollars by being obliged to keep its doors closed on Sunday. This statement ought to be a warning to the managers of the Lewis and Clark fair to avoid this piece of foolishness. It is true that quite a good many good people insist that the fair should be closed on Sunday, but all people cannot have their way about this, and the interests of the majority should control. The people who subscribed money to the fair, and the taxpayers who will have to foot the \$500,000 bill, have a right to be heard, and to such a management of the fair as will bring in the most money.

This consideration might be set aside if Sunday opening were to be conducive to immorality or vicious practices, but such is not the case. On the contrary, closing the gates of the fair would send multitudes of people to worse places, where they would come in direct contact with the worst forms of vice. If the crowds are kept out of the fair grounds on Sunday, they will not, as the ministers seem to figure, go to church or keep the day holy to any greater an extent than they would if the gates were open, at least during the afternoons. Those who desire to go to church, and to observe Sunday religiously, will do so. They will not be obliged to attend the fair because the gates are open, and they will be entirely free to act on the promptings of their consciences and in accordance with their scruples.

Another thing to be considered is that a great many working people will not find time and means to visit the fair on week days, and they ought to have the privilege of taking it in on Sundays.

Congress, it is believed, will leave this matter to the state, for the government has no direct supervision over anything except its own exhibit. If the government wants to close that portion of the fair on Sunday it can of course do so, but the rest of the show, which will be educational and not immoral, should be open to the public. The opponents of Sunday opening do a good deal of talking, but if it were left to the people at large there is no doubt that a very large majority would vote for open Sundays, during the afternoons and evenings.

SUPPRESSION OF GAMBLING.

The crusade against all sorts of gambling and all devices therefor is pretty sure to end as all such crusades do, sooner or later. After a while the public becomes weary of carrying on the contest, concludes that it does not pay, and lets the gamblers have their way again until for one reason or another a fight against gambling is again inaugurated. What to do about gambling and gamblers is a question that vexes every municipality, more or less, and there seems to be no solution of the problem. The policy of, practically licensing gambling has been tried in some cities, including Portland, and is perhaps as good a solution of the problem as any, although it is not to be denied that there are serious objections to it. A city ought to be ashamed to work in concert or partnership with men who violate the laws, and open gambling undoubtedly tempts some people to act foolishly and lose their money who would not do so if the open resorts were not in vogue; and yet it remains true that about such a proportion of men will gamble, in one way or another, and prohibiting it altogether only acts upon some people as an additional incentive to indulge in this species of vice.

The New Age has no fault to find with the public officers who are attempting to enforce the laws, but judging the future by the past it supposes that these efforts will be in a large measure futile. There will be an unusually urgent demand next year for a rather wide open town, on account of the fair, and public sentiment will probably sustain this policy, inasmuch as public sentiment man-

ifests itself. A great number of business men who do not gamble, and who would like well enough to see it suppressed, will not declare themselves, for business reasons, whether good or bad reasons, and so those who seek to suppress gambling and other vices are not well supported, and after awhile lose their zeal and give up the fight for a time.

Wide open gambling may not come into vogue again in Portland, as it flourished for awhile, but we shall see gambling really suppressed about the time that the prohibitionist party wins an election.

WHY DEMOCRATS CAN'T WIN.

One reason why the democratic party has no chance of success is because it is radically divided into two hostile elements or wings. In New York and other eastern cities the Hill-Belmont-Parker element is in control, and it is quite as hostile to the Bryan-Hearst portion of the party as the republican party is. There is some appearance of pulling together, temporarily, and Bryan himself is campaigning for Parker, but neither element has any love for the other, and they will fall out and abuse each other avagely as soon as the election is over. The eastern managers of Judge Parker's campaign are trust and corporation men, and have no use whatever for the radical and reformatory element of whom Bryan is the chief apostle and Thomas E. Watson is the bold and consistent populist leader. Great numbers of western democrats have no confidence in or respect for the eastern goldbugs and corporation attorneys like Gorman and Sheehan, and many of them will either vote for Watson, Debs or Roosevelt, or will not vote at all. No party can succeed when it is thus divided into hostile camps.

Another reason why the democrats will be very badly beaten is that they have no issues or principles on which they are agreed. Some are against imperialism, others side squarely with the republicans on this question. None of them have any definite policy about the trusts, of which they talk a good deal, and they do not agree even about the tariff, on which subject they have all sorts of opinions, ranging from a belief in absolute free trade to the highest sort of protection.

A third reason why they have no chance of success is that the country is prosperous, and most people are contented with the times. Prices are good, labor is in demand, nearly everybody is doing pretty well, and few are demanding or desiring any change. Under such circumstances a party in power has a tremendous advantage over its opponent party, even if the latter were united on anything of importance.

COLORED MEN FOR ROOSEVELT

Not many colored men will vote for Judge Parker. Their votes will go almost solidly to Roosevelt, the man who believes that a man is a man in spite of his color. In the South the colored voters are practically all disfranchised, and probably they would be in the Northern States also if the democrats were in power. The Solid South is one reason why the North is also practically solid, and the colored voters help to keep it so, and thereby show their good sense. Not that there are not many democrats who are individually friendly to the Negro race, but the attitude of the democratic party is historically and chronically one of opposition to the colored people. The democrats in public life are nearly all Southerners, who defy the constitution of the United States and refuse the Negro the right of citizenship, while using the Negro population of the South as a basis for representation in congress, in the electoral college, and in national conventions. The Negro surely has nothing to gain by helping to put the democratic party in power, and is not going to do so.

If the election in some of the Northern States should be close, the colored voters would hold the balance of power, and they may be trusted to use it on the right side. In local elections it may be well for colored voters occasionally to vote for democrats, but the time has not yet come, and may never come, when it will be wise for them to help vote the republican party out of power and the democratic party in. The colored voters are all right for Roosevelt, and will help his majority in Oregon, and may save New York, New Jersey or Indiana for him.

SHALLOW PRETENSES.

Some of the democratic leaders and managers, notably Chairman Taggart,

are talking quite bravely about their prospects of carrying New York, New Jersey, West Virginia and Indiana, and some of the Rocky Mountain States, but these are only a common species of campaign bluffing which deceives few people. There is no present prospect that Judge Parker will carry more than one or two small Northern States, in addition to the Solid South. Of course it is within the range of possibilities for him to carry New York, but the chances are many to one against such a result, and nobody of good judgment supposes that he can come anywhere near carrying Indiana, Colorado and Montana may be considered doubtful, but they have only seven votes, and it will be very surprising if West Virginia goes democratic just to please Grandpa Davis. The New Age will be surprised if the whole North is not practically solid for Roosevelt, giving him a tremendously large popular majority as well as many electoral votes, more than he needs. Taggart and others are merely whistling to keep their courage up, and incidentally to get as much campaign funds as they can.

FIRST SUCCESSFUL PIANO.

Two specimens of Cristofori's Work Still in Existence. It was a harpsichord maker, Cristofori, in the employ of the Duke of Tuscany, who in 1711 made the first successful piano. As curator of Ferdinand de Medici he had a splendid collection of Belgian, French and Italian instruments to look after, and this undoubtedly aided him, though the model was so crude that the inventor could never have dreamed a monument would ever be erected in his memory.

There are only two grand pianofortes of Cristofori in existence, says a writer in the Housekeeper. One, decorated in gold and Chinese figures is in Florence and the other is in the Crosby-Brown collection in the Art Metropolitan Museum. Three documents attest the authenticity of this last instrument which was purchased from Signor Diego Martelli. From this feeble beginning a long list of names could be mentioned of men who helped perfect the piano. But factors alone could never have achieved without royalty to encourage and virtuosos to play. Frederick the Great ordered five pianos for his palace where he can be seen at the present day. Marie Antoinette was a patron of the art, and Clement in England and Mozart in Germany introduced the instrument so it became a part of life. It was in Playel's concert room that Chopin played, and our later firms have brought out a long list of artists, Joseffy, Paderewski and others.

What a story in the unfolding of this art! First, Apollo bow in hand; then a monk offering to God his keyboard. The scene shifts and years later Cristofori is explaining to Duke Ferdinand his invention; Bach, the guest of Frederick the Great, is playing on the harpsichord; Mozart is suggesting changes in the instrument. Finally the scene of advanced action in America, the New World.

OPIUM SMOKER AND CAT.

This photograph, taken in San Francisco, shows a Chinaman who makes his living by smoking opium and a cat that revels in the fumes of the drug. Nearly every visitor to San Francisco goes to Chinatown, and is taken the guide to see opium smoked. The Chinaman in the picture smokes for



CHINATOWN'S STRANGE SIGHT.

the edification of visitors, and so lives by practicing the vice. The opium is in the form of a thick, viscid liquid like treacle, and a globe of it, taken up on the point of a short metal rod, is heated in the flame of a spirit lamp for a few seconds. It is then placed in the metal bowl of the pipe, the smoker takes a few deep inhalations and drops back on the couch. The cat inhales the fumes of opium with evident pleasure, but draws back in disgust if the smoke of a cigar is puffed in her face. The photograph was taken by flashlight, the opium dens being underground, so that no ray of sunlight or breath of pure air ever penetrates their murky depths.

Visitor—What a racket the steam makes clanking through the pipes! Flat Dweller (shivering)—Yes. It reminds me of one of Shakespeare's plays. Visitor—Which—"The Tempest"? Flat Dweller—No. "Much Ado About Nothing."—Town and Country. One of the Requisites.—"I dunno but what Josh 'ud make one o' these here literary folks," said Farmer Corn-tassel. "What makes you think so?" asked his wife. "Every time he gets his photograph took he looks so kind o' faraway an' foolish."—Washington Star.

Too Sudden. "It seems to me you run your auto at an exceedingly high rate of speed." "Yes," replied the Rev. Mr. Skorchner; "I can't bear the idea of causing any one to swear." "Eh? I don't grasp the idea." "Well, you see, when I hit any one going at top speed he doesn't get time to say anything."—Philadelphia Press. Not in Evidence. Belle—Miss Fanny has been quite ill. Is she likely to recover? Gladys—She thinks so. She says she has youth on her side. Belle—Huh! If she has it must be on the inside.—Philadelphia Press.



Was Washington once the site of a great city, long forgotten, unknown to the modern archaeologist? Did there live and thrive on the North American continent a race prior to the Aztecs? Are there treasures of art buried under the soil of this capital? Wherefore, then, the mysteries of stone just unearthed in the digging for the foundations of the new building for the House of Representatives? Far below the foundations of the houses destroyed to make room for the new edifice these fragments have appeared, and the memory of man today runs not back to the time when such structures were there as to call for these deep-laid bases. Nor do the oldest inhabitants know of any one who remembers having seen or heard of such. Washington was built upon virgin soil, so far as city creation was concerned, in the judgment of its founders. Here were farms and small dwellings, a manor house or two, and an unbroken record of freedom from the inroads of the city-makers. The North American Indians did not build cities. They did not dig into the soil to found their structures. Here, then, is a problem for the historians and the archaeologists to solve.

The first payment of \$2,000,000 on account of the purchase of the friars' land in the Philippines, has been authorized by the War Department. There has been on deposit in New York since last December the fund of \$7,250,000 realized from the sale of bonds authorized to be issued in purchase of the friars' lands, and a draft for this first payment will be made on the Bank of England, which will pay over the money to the Sociedad Agricola del Ultramar. The completion of these purchases has been very much delayed, as great difficulties were experienced in securing a closer title from the friars, owing to the fact that in many cases the orders attempted to convey their lands to private individuals and business corporations to prevent their seizure at the time of the Philippine insurrection.

Secretary Hay has forwarded to the secretary of the foreign section of the Young men's Christian Association in New York a recommendation from the American minister to Panama that branches of the association be established in Panama and Colon for the benefit of the men working on the Panama Canal. The minister says that the two hundred young civil engineers and the four hundred marines on the isthmus have no attractive place for recreation when they are off duty, and that some provision for them should be made. His recommendation will doubtless be acted upon, as the managers of the association are well aware that before many months there will be thousands of men where there are now hundreds needing a place of recreation in wholesome surroundings.

The attention of Colonel Edwards, of the insular bureau, was recently called to an advertisement appearing in the newspapers offering to furnish reliable and exact information to securing remunerative employment with the government of the Philippine Islands at Manila. This advertisement states: "This information cannot be obtained from Washington or any other source." Colonel Edwards states that all necessary data to enable one to make intelligent application for examination with a view to appointment in the insular government service will be promptly furnished, gratuitously, either by the insular bureau of the War Department, at Washington, or by the United States Civil Service Commission, also at Washington, upon request.

From the report of Commissioner Ware, it appears that there were 994,792 names on the pension rolls of the United States July 1, a loss of 1,783 during the year. The cost to the government for the year was \$144,712,787, which was about \$3,000,000 more than in 1903. One widow and two daughters of soldiers of the Revolutionary War, and one survivor and 918 widows of soldiers of the War of 1812 are now on the rolls.

R. M. Arango, a graduate of one of the American technical schools, has been appointed consulting engineer on the staff of Chief Engineer Wallace in the Panama Canal construction. He is charged to assist in building an aqueduct to supply the City of Panama with water. It also is proposed in the interest of the health of the employees to lay pipe lines to supply fresh and pure water to the great force of laborers at the Culebra cut and at other camps along the line of work.

Nevada has fewer pensioners than any other State in the Union, according to the latest report of the Commissioner of Pensions. Pennsylvania, with nearly a hundred and one thousand, heads the list, and is followed by Ohio, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan and Kansas in that order, with the rest of the States and territories following, till Alaska is reached, with sixty-one soldiers drawing government money.

Postmaster General Payne said the other day that the postoffice officials of Great Britain and Germany had agreed to co-operate with him in persuading the next postal congress, which meets in March, to agree to a reduction of the rate of international letter postage to two cents a half-ounce. If he succeeds in getting the rate of postage on foreign letters reduced it will mean considerable to hundreds of thousands of foreign-born Americans, who still correspond with the old folks at home. Old papers for sale at this office.

FIRST OF AMERICAN COINS.

Half Cents Pleasantly, but Few Are Presented for Redemption. The treasurer of the United States on May 8, 1903, redeemed two half-cent pieces. This is the first time in the history of the country that any such coins have been presented for redemption. It is more than a century since the first half-cent piece was coined and it is nearly fifty years since the government discontinued minting them.

Possibly not one person in a thousand now living in the United States ever saw a half-cent piece. The last annual report of the director of the mint, page 82, shows that 7,895,222 of these coins, representing \$39,926.11, were issued. For almost half a century each annual report of the Treasury Department has included them among the "outstanding" obligations of the government.

The half-cent piece was the coin of the smallest denomination ever made by this country. It enjoys the distinction also of being the first coin issued and also the first whose denomination was discontinued. The United States mint was established in 1792 and copper half-cents and cents were issued in 1793. Half the total number of half-cents issued were coined previous to 1810, after which year their coinage, with few exceptions, was limited. None was coined for circulation from 1812 to 1824, nor from 1830 to 1848. Finally, in 1867, their coinage, with that of the big copper cent, was discontinued. On account of their limited issue in the last years of their coinage they practically had disappeared from the channels of trade.

The needs of adopting the half-cent as the lowest value-computing factor for a coin were made in the early days of the republic. Colonial half-cents and British farthings of the same commercial value were then in circulation and many articles were priced and sold in half-cents. With the progress of the nation values rose and the needs for a half-cent disappeared and their use following the first decade of the century was almost entirely confined to multiples.

While all other discontinued types and denominations of United States coin have found oblivion, the half-cent is the only one of which the treasury reports do not record some portion of the issue redeemed. This singular and unexplained fact has been one of frequent comment and inquiry from mint and treasury officials.

Large quantities of half-cents are to be found in the stocks of coin dealers. The most common dates are sold at a good premium and the extremely rare ones are worth their weight in gold. Ferran Zarbe of St. Louis was the man who sent the two half-cent pieces to Washington for redemption. He now prizes highly the little voucher calling for "1 cent," and which was sent to him with that amount of current coin in exchange for the two half-cent pieces he had forwarded.

BY A THREAD.

One of the greatest dangers of mountaineering is from falling stones, yet the number of fatal accidents from this cause is as few as the narrow escapes are many. As exciting an experience as can well be imagined is described in the Alpine Journal, and quoted by the author of "Adventures on the Roof of the World." The party consisted of Horace Walker, G. E. Foster and two guides. The climbers wished to ascend Alguille du Midi from the Montanvert, and he had to go down the steep face of the mountain on the Chamounix side. All at first went well, and soon they began to cross the face of the cliff to gain a rocky buttress that offered a likely route some hundred feet below the top of the wall. "Jacob was leading," writes Mr. Foster, "Walker next, I followed, and Baumann brought up the rear. Only one was moving at a time, and every one had the rope as taut as possible between himself and his neighbor. Jacob was crossing a narrow gully, when suddenly without any warning, as though he had trod on the loose stone of the wall, the whole face for some forty feet above him peeled off, and with a crash like thunder, hundreds of tons of rocks precipitated themselves on him. In an instant he was torn from his hold, and buried down the precipice with them. "Fortunately, Walker was able to hold on, though the strain on him was something awful. From our position it was impossible to see what had become of Jacob, and only the tight rope told us that his body at least, living or dead, was still fastened to us. In a voice singularly unlike his own, Walker cried out, 'Jacob!' and I trust my readers can imagine the relief we felt when the reply came back, 'I am still living.' "Walker craned over the rock, and then turned round. 'I see him. He is awfully hurt.' After a moment Jacob managed to recover his footing, and then untied the rope with trembling fingers, and crawled along the face of the cliff to the other side of the gully. We bound up his wounds as well as we could. He had had a marvelous escape; no large fragment had struck him fully. He was badly bruised all over, but no bones were broken, and after a quarter of an hour's rest he said he was ready to start again. "On taking hold of the rope to tie him on again, we were awestruck to find all its strands but one had been severed, so that his whole weight had hung almost on a thread. "The Baccalaureate Sermon. The New York Sun suggests that the day when the baccalaureate sermon served any purpose of essential importance is past. It is a survival from the time "when religion was foremost in the higher education and the presidents of our American colleges were uniformly clergymen." It's funny to watch them, and note the different ways men have of tipping their hats to women. "He's all right," said a man of a merchant to-day, "if you want to buy something of him."

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