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OUR TROPICAL ISLANDS.

The flag of the United States is flying over Hawaii and Porto Rico in undisputed possession. No one challenges our sovereignty there for all time.

A different situation to some extent exists in the Philippines, where it is practically certain we shall soon exercise full military control.

Cuba's case is more complex. Spain would willingly agree, for certain financial considerations, to cede the island. But we are pledged against the acceptance of sovereignty without the consent of the inhabitants.

EMPEROR'S PRESENT LESSON.

If England win her latest controversy with France, it will be because her fleet is ready for action. The radicals in Paris care little for the fact that under treaties and by right of conquest England has a just claim to Fashoda.

preparedness for war and hopeful of support from Russia, the French extremists would laugh at England's claims and insist that Major Marchand hold Fashoda. But with a victorious Anglo-Egyptian army within striking distance of Fashoda, with the people of England putting aside party differences and supporting as one man the government's policy of no surrender, and with the British fleet ready for action, France will be likely to yield and peace will probably be preserved.

In European capitals outside of Paris the French claims to Fashoda has no standing, and yet the purpose of the French government in organizing the Marchand expedition to the Upper Nile country was definitely hostile to England's plans in the same region. France hoped to have a footing on the Nile before the power of the Mahdi could be broken by England, and in this way to compel a readjustment of the claims in the Nile valley.

In all the discussions of this question in Europe it is noticeable that no reference is made to the Czar's pronouncement in favor of disarmament as a means of preserving peace. The moment the vital interests of nations conflict, the Czar's utterance is pushed aside. Even in the foreign office of Russia it is admitted that it is useless to preach disarmament to the great powers, and that the Czar's rescript can only be applied to the weaker powers.

NAVAL CONTROL OF PACIFIC.

John R. Proctor, president of the United States civil-service commission, has made one of the strong arguments for expansion. In Harper's Weekly for October 22d, he shows why, if we have a coaling and repair station anywhere in the Philippines, it will be expedient and advantageous to take all the islands. If we retain all the Philippine group, our only neighbors will be Japan and Formosa, Great Britain in North Borneo and the Straits Settlements, and the Netherlands in the Dutch islands.

If we retain only a part of the islands, Mr. Proctor says, the remainder will inevitably fall into the hands of the European powers, and such disturbances will result as will necessitate a larger military force to hold one island than, under our sole control, it would require to hold all. If we retain only a coaling station we shall be forced to carry coal in time of war from San Francisco to this station. If we retain all the islands we shall have at our service the coal deposits of the islands of Cebu, Negros and Masbate.

Mr. Proctor contends that it would be supreme folly to retain Manila and the island of Luzon and surrender the coal islands to other powers. This would be putting the United States at the mercy of other colonizing powers. Should we retain all the islands the United States and Great Britain would control the coal supply tributary to the Indian and Pacific oceans, and could confine hostile naval movements of European powers to European waters.

Mr. Proctor's conclusion is that there would be infinitely less danger of foreign complications if we should retain all the islands than if we re-

tain only one or two of them. He, therefore is convinced that the United States should never surrender the right to control the entire group. It would be as easy to govern and develop the group as it was for England to govern and develop Australia and New Zealand. We have in abundance men of large administrative ability, equal to making the Philippines not only self-supporting, but in time wealthy and progressive. Mr. Proctor believes further that the increased responsibility of good government in Cuba and the Philippines will have a most beneficial effect on home government, and provincial politics will give place to a broader statesmanship.

Mr. Proctor does not discuss the question of duty to the Filipinos, but confines himself to the advantages that annexation promises to the United States.

With the Philippines in our permanent possession we should be lodged at the very center of activity in the Pacific area, with its population of 878,000,000 and its sea-borne commerce amounting to \$5,000,000,000 annually. With the Nicaragua canal completed and in our control, with Porto Rico, Cuba, Hawaii, and the Philippines in our possession, we should be in position to secure more of the Pacific trade than any other nation.

And so it comes to pass that a Republican president has honored by name in a public address Confederate heroes. Truly the civil war is a splendid memory, and the bravery of the federal and confederate is the glory of all citizens of the republic. President McKinley has honored himself by paying tribute to valor, whether it moved to battle the man who wore the blue or him who fought under the stars and bars of the confederacy—Memphis Commercial Appeal (Dem.).

A Democratic paper says the Republicans have changed their tone on the subject of new markets away from home. The new markets chiefly under consideration at present are not away from home. They are to be a part of Uncle Sam's territory. Republican expansion is not a theory, but sticks to the ribs.

Missouri's Democratic officials have not yet decided that the Populists have any right to a place on the official ballot. This sequel of fusion is rough on the trustful Populists, who thought to reform the world by joining hands with Democrats.

A Democratic paper in St. Louis charges that the Populists of the state are Republicans in disguise. This is a queer reward for nearly fifty thousand votes for the Democratic ticket in 1896.

A fading Spanish hope is that of European intervention in the settlement between the United States and Spain. There will be only two parties to the Yanko-Spanko negotiations.

Hobson's trolley built from the shore to raise the Colon is a fresh illustration of the electrical age. The Yankee devices may be equal to the task of saving the whole of Cervera's fleet.

Many of the Democratic state platforms are silent on expansion. The business men of America will govern themselves accordingly on election day.

CHRISTMAS IN FAR OFF LANDS.

As the Time Approaches Let us Remember the Loneliness of a Soldier's Christmas.

Only those who have spent months or years from home and friends realize just how much is conveyed in a small package or a letter bearing the postmark of home, nor with what eagerness is the wrapper unfolded and the contents therein devoured. Even the newspaper, which at home is thrown aside with the expression, "There's nothing in it," is the most welcome of visitors, and its every line receives our undivided attention. The most trivial occurrences at home increase in magnitude, until they become all important when viewed from far distant lands. Absence truly makes the heart grow fonder and the dear ones at home grow dearer as we think of the mountains, rivers and lands which separate us from those we love.

Particularly does this feeling of homesickness take possession of the wanderer

when the Star of Bethlehem is seen to approach and Christmas tide, with all its home cheer, is to be spent among strangers. Then do we in imagination see the yule log burning brightly and the old folks at home gather round, and as we picture the vacant chair and wonder if as they meet we are missed, a "feeling of sadness comes o'er us that our souls cannot resist."

But what of those who have left all to fight for their country? who have faced shot and shell and braved the pestilence of foreign lands that the Christmastide might not find our land dishonored, but that they might offer as a present to the United States the lands which they have bought with their blood? In return ought we not to do the little which lies in our power to cheer their loneliness and remind them that in the hearts of those at home they have an abiding place? In fancy we see them anxiously awaiting the ship which bears the Christmas mail, and watch them with tearful eyes remove the wrappings and press to their lips the loving gift of father, mother, sister, brother or perhaps "another, not a sister in the happy days gone by."

Some are too weak to open the packages, but are no less anxious to behold the contents, the sight of which seems to cool the fevered brow and bid the aching heart be still. Have we made the side lights thrown on the picture too heavy? should they have a brighter hue? The happy look on the faces of those who receive the Christmas boxes from relatives and friends will brighten up the darkest picture which could be drawn, and even lend its splendor to the Christmas star which shines over Manila. Let us not forget the brave hearts in far off lands who long for a token from home when the thought of the greatest gift ever given to man takes possession of us. Have you not a son, a brother, a lover or a friend, or do you not know of some one who has neither kith nor kin to whom you can send a Christmas greeting? The day will dawn the brighter for you in the thought of having made others happy.

THAT WOOLEN MILL AGAIN.

Is It Too Late, or May We Not Yet Stand a Show?

The Goldendale Sentinel evidently has no doubt as to the validity of the dispatch published in a Seattle paper regarding the establishing of a woolen mill in our city, for it says:

"A woolen mill is to be established in The Dalles. At last the citizens of that place have aroused enough interest to induce capital to start the most needed enterprise of any. The large woolen mills which were destroyed by fire at Tacoma, will be rebuilt at The Dalles."

After reading the dispatch as published in THE CHRONICLE Tuesday, some of our citizens were loath to accept it as a mistake and began questioning to find out whether some of our capitalists had not arranged the matter as a surprise to those of us who seem to be doing nothing but waiting for them to start the mill rolling. Some of the most enterprising ones have gone so far as to correspond with the owners of the Tacoma mill, inquiring as to the possibility of yet securing the mills at The Dalles.

Is it too late to make this dispatch not a mistake, but a glorious reality? Surely if definite arrangements have not been made to remove it to Dallas, the managers would be made to see the superiority of The Dalles over any place as a site for a woolen mill.

The largest wool-shipping point in the United States certainly ought to receive some consideration when it comes to a question of the most profitable place in which to rebuild the mill. If the Commercial Club were to take the matter in hand and place before the owners the advantages which this place has over any other city in the coast, laying before them every detail as to water power, etc., it may be we might yet receive recognition in the matter; and if we do, Dallas and every other contestant will be in the shade.

Those Christmas Packages.

A number of the relatives and friends of the soldier boys at Manila were disappointed last evening when word reached here from Portland that Christmas packages would have to be in Portland today at noon in order for the senders to receive the benefit of free transportation. It had been previously supposed that they would be given until November 9th in which to prepare their packages; but at about 4 o'clock Dr. Rinehart received a telephone message from her sister in Portland to the contrary. As many as could be reached were informed, but very few were able to ship their boxes today.

The Emergency Corps does the shipping from Portland, the O. R. & N. steamships carrying the boxes freight free to San Francisco, where they are put on the government transports. The name of the soldier for whom the box is intended is marked upon it, his company and regiment, and Manila. A red cross must also go on every package, so the ladies of the Portland corps have been keep very busy.

It is unfortunate that our people could not have been informed at an earlier date, as many will no doubt be compelled to forego sending presents, as the freight charges would be enormous. The corps in this city, however, was not in the least responsible for the occurrence, having received no hint of the change in the date for their shipment.

The Racket Store.

We invite the most rigid examination of the quality and cost of our goods. We do not give you money, but we do claim we can save you money on each purchase made at the Racket Store. This is possible by reason of our cash system. No books; no book-keeper. The estimated loss to Merchants that run on the credit system is 30 per cent, and it is necessary that this 30 per cent be added to the purchase price or the merchant must of necessity fail in business. The Racket Store saves to its customers this 30 per cent. Is that not an object? Still we manage our business to even do more, and so it is to those who buy our goods are saved money.

READ SOME OF OUR PRICES.

Table listing various household items and their prices, such as Corsets, Corset steels, Eight hundred Parlor Matches, One dozen Clothes Pins, 30 feet Clothes Line, Copper Bottom Wash Boiler, Galvanized Tub, Copper Ringer, Oil cloth, 1 1/2 yards wide, per yard, Shell oil cloth, per yard, Best machine oil, 4 oz. bottle, Coffee pots, 2 1/2 quart granite dish pan, Granite preserving kettles, Granite ware of all kinds, Steel curry comb, One dozen good glass tumblers.

And so the whole stock goes in all kinds of notions, such as ribbon, lace, silk floss, side combs, fishing braids, belts, dolls, purses, etc., etc., also tinware, spring balances, fish, spider levels, hand saws, bits and bit braces, lamps, china ware, etc., etc. Goods exchanged for fresh ranch-eggs.

Second Street Near the Court House.

THE DALLES, OREGON.

Market For American Wheat.

The estimates compiled by the department of agriculture represent the wheat crop of the world, this year, as the largest on record, though its magnitude is somewhat offset by the small amount carried over from last year. The yield in Europe, as a whole, is found to be far in excess of the previous season, though there is evidence that the crop is short in Russia, an important source of supply, but one from which it seems to be impossible to procure accurate figures. One of the best evidences that Russia has no wheat to spare this year is found in the report, persistent though unofficial, that the export of wheat from that country will soon be prohibited, while another significant fact is the chartering of a steamer to load grain in this country for Russia. It is reported that, despite the favorable showing of the Eastern crops, more than sixty steamers have been chartered within the past ten days to carry grain across the Atlantic, which is another indication that Russia will not be able to furnish its usual quota. More than that, it seems to show that the American farmer is sure of a foreign market, no matter what may be the condition of the world's grain crops.

Wheat.

Yesterday's wheat report says: With buyers providing cargoes for ships at 31s 33, 36s 9d and 37s 6d, all at the same time, it is a difficult matter to tell just what is an accurate quotation for wheat. Taking the price of cargoes in Liverpool yesterday and the rates paid for ships, and the actual track value of a bushel of wheat in Portland for export was not over 61c for Walla Walla; but

Advertisement for GARLANDS Just Received. New Line of GARLANDS. No. 7 Woodland cook stove \$7.50, No. 8 8.50, No. 8 Wood Garland, jr., cook stove 15.00, No. 8 Wood Garland, jr., reservoir and base 25.00, No. 8 Bridal Garland 23.00, No. 8 Bridal Garland and reservoir 33.00, No. 8 Home Garland cook stove 25.00, No. 8 Home Garland cook and reservoir 35.00, No. 8 Home Garland range 40.00, No. 8 Home Garland range and reservoir 45.00, No. 8 Empire Garland steel range 45.00. Also a full line of Cole's Hot Blast Air Tight Heaters just received. Everybody knows that "Garland" stoves and ranges are the world's best. They combine elegant finish, durability, and convenience, with economy of fuel, and in spite of all competition hold their station far in advance of all others. We take pleasure in calling attention to our list of stoves on hand. Sold exclusively by MAIER & BENTON, Hardware and Grocery Merchants, The Dalles, Or.

Money Saved is Money Earned.

Advertisement for WM. MICHELL. Money Saved is Money Earned. Wishes to inform the public that he is still in the UNDERTAKING AND PICTURE-FRAME BUSINESS. And persons needing anything in these lines can save money by calling on him before dealing elsewhere. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Third and Washington Sts.