

The New Age.

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NECESSITY FOR TACT.

The nation's present experiences in Cuba and Porto Rico will not have been entirely in vain if they bring the government officials to a realization of the practical value of the quality known as "tact." According to the latest advices from Porto Rico, the people of that island have been ruffled considerably by the American governor's administration of the taxation laws and his abrupt course in following policies and making appointments regardless of popular sentiment. In Cuba, where the United States seems destined to secure all that it needs in the way of supervision of foreign relations, there is similar needless friction. It is declared on good authority that the Cubans, if approached properly, would have been willing to grant the United States substantially all that it desired. As it is, they are inclined to resent the manner in which these terms were forced upon them.

So far as the phrase "shirt-sleeve diplomacy" applies to the policy of direct and straightforward dealing, it has been used with excellent results in recent international negotiations. But shirt-sleeve diplomacy need not be bad-mannered diplomacy, and in negotiating with the dependent islands the government has made difficulties for itself simply by the failure to exercise a little tact.

In dealing with a weaker people, who can be forced to accept a policy if they should happen to refuse to accept it, it would seem to be eminently wise to win their acceptance rather than to compel it. It is lack of sympathetic regard for the islanders' sentiments and possible prejudices that has hampered much of the government's recent work and is likely to obstruct it still more in future.

Lack of tact in the Philippines, in Cuba and in Porto Rico has been responsible for no small part of the nation's recent embarrassment.

THE COMMISSIONER MUDDLE.

The joint decision of the circuit judges of this district holds that the new act creating a county board, to consist of County Judge Cake and Commissioners Showers and Mack, thereby destroying the official place now held by Commissioner Steele, is constitutional. This is Commissioner Steele legislated out of office. It is the constitutionality of this new law which Mr. Steele proposes to test in the supreme court. He holds that election to office by popular vote for a stated term of service ought to be regarded as an act of the sovereign people, which, except for cause, no party, official organization or legislative body can destroy at will.

The circuit judges, however, declare in their decision that "no legislature has power to fix for future legislatures any limit of power." "To hold a public office is not necessarily to possess a contract right which cannot be impaired by subsequent legislation. Generally the public can remove an incumbent and the incumbent can at any time resign at his pleasure." It also holds that it is competent for the legislature to abolish a public office, to shorten or to lengthen the term, or to increase or decrease the compensation of the incumbent.

Mr. Steele's friends, however, believe that they have discovered in this act an element of evil politics which should by no means be permitted to embarrass or otherwise disturb the public service thus disordered by it. They claim that, in the absence of cause for Mr. Steele's removal, the act is destructive of the very purpose it apparently seeks to promote. Commissioners Showers and Mack will probably take their place as members of the new board without further rebellion against the judgment of the court.

THE "AUNTIES" DEMI-GOD.

Fifty thousand warriors in the tribes of the Philippine islands were killed in their rebellion against the authority of the United States throughout the archipelago before Aguinaldo was captured. They fought by his order and at his command. Once in the custody of United States officials, however, the "Aunties" modern George Washington, the young and determined leader of the insurrection, the stripling

who sought a sequestered mountain fastness for safety, while his soldiers fought for that peculiar kind of independence which would give to their secluded commander the crown of a monarch under which they would be slaves, expressed his surprise to find the United States government so grand and great, so patient and forgiving, and immediately signed his name to a manifesto in which he adjured allegiance to all the governments of earth except that which held him a prisoner, adjuring in impressive language his followers to lay down their bolos and sharp sticks and accept the sovereignty of Uncle Sam.

A great head has this modern Washington who sought a hiding place in the brambles of tropic swamps when he heard the enemy's guns go off. Brave leader he who seeks the mountain top to escape the shot and shell of his pursuers while he commands his helpless subjects to fight on to the last ditch and then fight to their final doom. The "Aunties" ought to be proud of the sublime character of their half-savage demi-god. And yet Aguinaldo, by his last act, although done in prison, has shown a degree of diplomacy and tact and broad intelligence superior to that of the superannated simpletons who tried desperately to rend the country with the cry of brutal oppression in the Philippines.

SPRINGTIME AND NEW ENERGY.

Springtime has opened with a burst of sunshine that makes all nature smile joyously. It excites activity in every form of life and encourages the business community to don appropriate attire and to manifest anew active evidence of its existence. It inspires alertness in every avenue of traffic and gives vigor and animation to the movements of trade.

Along with the advent of this grandest of all our Webfoot seasons come the homeseekers from the East and Middle West—and from the South, as well. This throng of immigrants increases as the season advances, and we already have evidence that the population of the state will be augmented this year as never before in the history of Oregon.

In addition to this, extensive preparations have been planned for the substantial development of our material resources—extensive beyond the measure reached at this early period of any new year in the history of the state. Not alone will this be in the matter of mines, oils, railroads, fisheries and enterprises of that class, but it will include all of the industries in which men and women may engage for improvement, comfort and profit. The year 1901 is destined to mark a new era in the advancement of the leading interests of our great commonwealth.

"HEMPED INTO ETERNITY."

A preacher of the hard-shell variety, declaiming from a Mississippi pulpit a few days ago, referred to a recent lynching of a negro in that community, and said: "It may not have been established beyond all doubt that Harmon was guilty of the revolting crime for which he was humped into eternity, but the treatment he received while merely under suspicion ought to serve as a warning lesson to others of his race that this species of crime must cease if it requires the sacrifice of the life of every negro in the South to stop it. If giving them their liberty be only an experiment, the cost should be taxed to them."

The "minister of the gospel" who uttered these words is both a fool and a knave. He is a dangerous blatherer who ought himself to be restrained of his liberty. He is a brazen hypocrite in his profession and a vile sinner at heart. He condones, in one sentence, the crime of assassination which his brethren committed in brutally destroying a neighbor's life, and in the next he utters a threat against the life of every negro in the South.

Were ever such wicked words uttered from a colored preacher's pulpit? Is there the least modicum of Christianity in such sentiment? It is this sort of vicious harrangue; this encouragement of outlawry, this extraordinary exhibition of cold-hearted brutality that incites the Southern mobs to burn negroes at the stake for pastime. Such public utterances are intensely mean, cowardly and wicked. No one less than a criminal himself could speak them.

PSYCHOLOGY OF CRAZES.

Some crazes which occasionally spread over the country are apparently inexplicable on any ordinary theory of the tendencies of the human mind. The present "Buffalo" craze

is a case in point. It is quite as senseless as its wholly meaningless name. If there is anything essentially humorous in "initiating" an unsuspecting friend by asking him for 11 cents and then refusing to return the change due him from the amount he turns over, it is not to be discovered. Even the practical joker's humorous explanation that it is a matter of principle with a "Buffalo" never to give change loses its savor after it has been repeated several hundred times. The vogue which the craze has gained, especially on its recent revival, is therefore all the more a curious subject for the psychologist and sociologist. Perhaps it is just because of the patient senselessness of the proceeding that it evokes an unwilling grin even from its victims. The joke may lie in the fact that as a joke it is so hopelessly pointless. It is a joke on itself. The growth of the craze, however, must be attributable to something else—partly, perhaps, as to a curious fellow-psy as to what constitutes good-fellowship.

The chief difficulty encountered in the effort to find a suitable name for the Lewis and Clark centennial celebration in this city in 1905, in which two continents are interested, is to select a phrase sufficiently strong and comprehensive to cover the real purport of the affair. It will be an anniversary celebration of the courage, valor, foresight and enterprise of that brave party of men and women, led by the peerless pathfinders, Lewis and Clark, who opened the valleys and wilderness of the West to the sunlight of civilization; and it will at the same time properly commemorate the patience, industriousness and courage of those who followed them and made this grand Pacific empire to blossom as the rose.

In the main, however, it may be regarded as another indication of the strength of the initiative tendency among human beings. There are fashions in fads and jokes as well as in clothes, and the knowledge that a considerable number of his fellow-mortals are all following a given craze is a strong incentive to many a man to take it up. The "Buffalo" mania will wear itself out, but not so long as any initiated "Buffaloes" can find unexploited territory to work in.

The Portland summer carnival proposition appears to be materializing in a substantial way. There is no doubt of its success if competent men are delegated to manage it. Plans are already being developed in a way to assure us of this result. The Elks' carnival last year set the pace.

Elaborate preparations are being made for the reception of President McKinley and party on May 22. Now, if we can induce the weather regulator to pack his infernal machine and lie away to the mountains about that time of the month, everything ought to pass off serenely.

Some Connecticut iron foundrymen struck because the foreman insisted on being addressed as "Mister." The king of England is not the only man who has troubles about matters of public formality.

Even the yellow journals of America haven't the courage to reproduce the cartoon of President McKinley for which the Discusstione of Havana, Cuba, was recently suppressed.

The United States indemnity claim against China is only \$25,000,000, and it may be reduced to half that before we obtain a final settlement.

J. Pierpont Morgan has gone to Germany to form a trust, but there is no reason to suppose that he will incorporate in New Jersey.

The first patent medicine company that induces the czar of Russia to write in praise of its nerve tonic will have a good thing.

We haven't heard much lately about the concert of the powers. This may be due to the fact that they are out of tune.

Columbus, Ohio, seems to have the only democratic mayor-elect who is not being mentioned for the presidency in 1904.

Dr. Gatling, the gun man, has invented an improved plow. He must think that things are going to take a new turn.



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IN HIS FOOTBALL RIG.

Reason She Wished Him to Assume His Gridiron Toga.

"Tom!" "Well, what now?" The lion with long mane and muscle growled his disapproval at being interrupted from his sporting sheet. "Tom, I wish you would put on your football pants." "What for?" "To please me." Without another word he left the room. When he returned his limbs were incased in white pads. "Now your chest protector, Tom." "See here—"

"It is no trouble. There it is under the table." He fished out a yellow object and attached it to his person. "Now your shin guards." "Say—"

"They are right in that corner." He laced on these protectors while she watched him. "Get those arm guards, Tom." "I have not the time to—"

"Then I will get them and assist you in putting them on." She had the guards on his arms before he had time to protest. "I guess I might just as well submit. What next?" "Here is the rubber to shield your nose." "Is this all?" "Don't forget your ear protectors." He adjusted the last of his armor and waited further orders. She massaged his hair with her hand to make him look all the more formidable.

"What now?" "Tom, do you know the little woman down the court. The one that comes up to scrub every Saturday?" "Yes." "Well, her husband is on another tender. He's up in bed now." "He ought to be at work." "Well, the last time he went on a spree he saw sights. Not snakes, but big demons with long hair and strange noses."

"Did, eh?" "So she says. And, Tom, if he sees any more of them it will frighten him into signing the pledge." "Well, how is he going to see them?" "Look in the glass." "What—"

"Yes, I mean you must go up in his room. One glimpse of your wild hair, rubber nose and ears and unnatural size will make him swear off for life. Soon after he sees you give that awful college yell. It may cause him to jump out of the window, but it will cure him. Will you do this?" "Well, I guess not! What would the team say if they heard their captain was scaring drunks?"

And he rushed out to remove his gridiron togs.—Chicago Daily News.

School Boys as B rompt re. It looked like rain, and naturally he had on a pair of light shoes and carried no umbrella. The car stopped on the far side of Girard avenue and a young lady got in. She bowed, and sat down beside the Saunterer, who recognized in her a school teacher friend.

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