

The Oregonian

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happiness of its people, is the security and neutrality of the inter-oceanic routes which lead through it." In 1852 Secretary Seward wrote: "This Government has no interest in the matter different from that of other maritime powers. It is willing to interpose its aid in execution of its treaty, and for the benefit of all nations."

In pursuance of this theory we have taken active measures. Hamilton Fish, Secretary of State during the Administration of Grant, tried to obtain the accession of the principal maritime powers to the neutralization of the proposed canal. President Hayes and Secretary Evarts thought the canal should be under American control, but neither of them suggested the "fortifying" of it. That was one of Secretary Blaine's ideas. But Secretary Blaine distinctly acknowledged the continued existence and force of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty in 1881, as Secretary Olney did, in Cleveland's second term. In his first term President Cleveland wrote (annual message, 1885): "Whatever highway may be constructed across the Pacific, it will be one of the greatest maritime areas of the world must be for the world's benefit, a trust for mankind, to be removed from the chance of domination by any single power, nor become a point of invitation for hostilities or a prize for warlike ambition."

Blaine is the only statesman in our history who has suggested fortification of the canal, and the quality of Blaine's statesmanship is well attested by the country. What is made clear by the recital of history by Professor Moore is the fact that neutralization of any isthmian canal has been our policy from the beginning, and the idea of fortification has had no support but in the jingoism of Secretary Blaine.

Revival of tariff discussion lends timely interest and value to "The Political Horizon," contributed by Mr. Henry Loomis Nelson to the March Atlantic. This is "Part I" of Mr. Nelson's study, and in it he reviews our politics from 1868 to 1898, only, presumably reserving comment on present issues for another time. The backbone of Mr. Nelson's discussion is the tariff, and this is a political study, rather than other questions revolve like satellites around their sun. He feels that the Republican doctrine of protection was long ago weighed in the balance and found wanting, and that the Democrats have thrown away certain victory by their betrayal of free trade. Starting from this decision, he incidentally concludes that Democratic half-heartedness and double-dealing, coupled with the equal shortcomings on the Republican side, have accelerated if they do not explain the ascendancy of the party boss. They have, also, he urges with more spirit and in greater detail, filled the minds of the masses with the idea that there is no difference of conviction between the parties; that professions of differences are insincere, and that consequently both of the old parties are regarded as the rights of the people, and solicitors for the rights of property and corporations. In a word, the rise of socialism in the United States, and especially of Bryanite socialism, Mr. Nelson lays at the door of the unswerving partisanship, which has kept protectionists in the Democratic party and free traders in the Republican party.

If the tariff is the theme of Mr. Nelson's study, Mr. Randall is its heavy villain. The great Pennsylvania Democrat brought party death into the world and all our political woe. Of him, pre-eminently sings Mr. Nelson's muse. "For Mr. Randall," says our critic, "it was impossible," to believe in the reality of an economic issue in politics. To his mind, a man belonged to this party, or to that, by reason of inherited political affiliations or traditions or personal associations. He saw that the tariff and money questions were dividing the members of his party, and that men who, from his point of view, should have acted together for the purpose of driving the Republican party out of power, were wrangling over an issue which seemed to him . . . to lie quite outside of the domain of politics. Randall, therefore, in Mr. Nelson's system as the prototype and father of all men who, believing in protection, have remained Democrats, or, believing in free trade, have remained Republicans. And he pursues this thought up to the election of 1896, graphically recounting our party history in the 30-year period under treatment, and explaining it altogether through this subordination of principles to party. Democratic grants of power as a low tariff became popular were abused. Free trade was betrayed, by Randall when he lived, and by his successors, Gorman et al., after he was dead. The people concluded there was no honesty in the parties. Election of Democrats to Congress, designed to bring in a tariff for revenue, failed of its purpose. It was no use. One party was as bad as another. Down with them both, was the natural cry. Thus and thus, money, anti-business and anti-order grew up. "Between 1888 and 1892 the Democratic vote increased only 18,685, the Republican vote fell off 254,108, while the Greenback, Labor and Prohibition vote increased from 400,820 to 1,235,325. The 6,500,000 votes Bryan got in 1896 represent the "rage and rebellion" at the betrayal of Democracy by its representatives in control at Washington."

Mr. Nelson's study is interesting, and should be read in full by all students of politics. His discussion is entertaining and his reasoning in great part sound. But in one important respect he is unfair. The baleful effect of Democratic "perfidy and dishonesty" regarding the tariff cannot be disputed. But the disasters of the Democratic party are due, not to Randallism, but to the surrender of the party to socialism, of which silver is a corollary. The Republican party has been taken possession of by the Protected Interests—well and good. But the Democratic party has been taken possession of by the Silver Interests. It is a mistake to assume that the silver dogmas of the Bryanite Democracy were imposed by act of God, or merely rushed in to fill a vacuum, or were forced by the masses out of regard for "bimetallism" theories, or came about in any other fortuitous or inadvertent manner. The Democrats were captured by silver, because silver set them to capture them. Silver laid its plans, organized its forces, sent them throughout the land, and at Chicago in 1896 gathered in the fruits of victory. The story of the propaganda has been told in the "Oregonian" and reveals an intelligent adaptation of means to an end. It is a melancholy reflection, to be sure, that the Democratic party dropped the tariff issue just as it be-

came a sure winner; but that action was not due to Gorman's treachery any more than to Wilson's inexperience or Cleveland's obtuseness. It was due to the deliberate conquest of the Democracy by, and surrender of the Democracy to, silverism. The party was choked by a man very much larger and stronger than himself. The younger Marshall, in the excitement of the moment, went to his brother's assistance with a stick, from a blow of which the assailant died three days later. While from these statements it is surprising that the jurors who now join in the petition for young Marshall's pardon did not acquit him at the trial, it will probably be to the pardoning board that, even if the facts are as stated, somewhat to make out a case, the boy had been punished enough. Certainly few brothers would have done less under the circumstances detailed, though a more prudent or an older man might not have delivered a fatal blow where clearly interference was justifiable.

THE PACIFIC STATES WANT UNRESTRICTED TRADE WITH THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, OR THEY DO NOT WANT THE ISLANDS AT ALL.

The Pacific states want unrestricted trade with the Philippine Islands, or they do not want the islands at all. The notion that the Philippines would come here in such numbers as to compete with our labor is silly nonsense. Natives of the tropics will never leave the "soft, ethereal warmth" to which they always have been accustomed, where nature sows and reaps her crops and man is not required to make provision against cold or hunger, for a country and climate like ours, where labor is enforced by the law of necessity. Appreciable numbers of the people of the Philippine Islands will ever come to the United States. But if free intercourse with our tropical islands will supply us with cheaper tropical products, of which we consume vast quantities, why shouldn't we have it? It will be good for us and for the islands, too. Would cheaper sugar and coffee and tropical fruits be such a calamity to the seventy-five millions of people of the United States?

George Smith was a pioneer Scotch banker of Chicago. He accumulated great wealth and went to London to live. It seems now that the death tax on his estate, that must be paid in England, amounts to \$300,000. As the rate is eight per cent, it will be seen that the taxable estate in England was over \$1,000,000. This was in cash or cash securities. The property of the estate in America is variously estimated. The whole descends to a namesake in New York a bachelor well along in years. When Sir Michael Hicks-Beach presented the budget in Parliament a few days ago he deemed this item from the Smith estate of sufficient importance to entitle it to mention among the sources of revenue to the Government. But it appears that he greatly overestimated it. He said he thought the death tax on the estate would yield \$1,000,000. That, it is now known, is a fifth of that sum. But \$200,000 is not small money.

Sheepowners of Morrow County have found that it pays to protect their flocks from the predaceous coyote. With the price of wool at the top notch, a heavy demand for mutton and a yearning for spring lamb that will become a vociferous cry as soon as Lent is over, it became a matter of individual interest to pursue, capture and scalp the voracious little beast. The whole descends to a namesake in New York a bachelor well along in years. When Sir Michael Hicks-Beach presented the budget in Parliament a few days ago he deemed this item from the Smith estate of sufficient importance to entitle it to mention among the sources of revenue to the Government. But it appears that he greatly overestimated it. He said he thought the death tax on the estate would yield \$1,000,000. That, it is now known, is a fifth of that sum. But \$200,000 is not small money.

In the matter of voting for School Director today the question simply is this: Which of the two candidates would be likely to give the more intelligent, efficient and disinterested attention to the schools and to the business of the school district? Mr. Thompson's record in school affairs is well known. His intelligent and earnest devotion to them is matter of public knowledge. He cannot desire the office of School Director; but when a man of his fitness for such position is willing to undertake it should he not be elected?

Representatives of the Boer states say the only reason why they offer peace to the British is their desire to save the British from further slaughter. This is kind. War has its amenities. But as Uncle Kruger set out with an avowal that he was going to "stagger" humanity, it may be suspected that he relented only because he is now getting his share of the "stagger," with more to come.

If there is any basis of truth behind the ostentatious threats of dire disaster to British forces in the Transvaal, it must be supposed their realization will be found in mines exploded under advancing British columns, or other forms of massacre. The warning should produce for the British officers sufficient precaution to avoid holocausts of this kind.

General Roberts' arraignment of the unaided actions of the Boers will carry great weight with reasonable men everywhere, because it comes from a brave man and one of the really greatest soldiers of modern times. No other confirmation of these oft-repeated charges is needed. It casts a sickly glow over the pretensions of the so-called republics.

All the trouble in Kentucky harks back to the conspiracy of unscrupulous politicians against the right of the people to choose their officers. Nothing but a "strong" majority in the legislature was to be overthrown. Naturally they who were to be made the victims of the conspiracy are resisting with every resource they can summon.

The Voice of the Press. The New York Post, Inc. The revolt in the Republican party against the abandonment of the McKinley Administration of "our plain duty" gains force every day. Nothing like it has been seen in the memory of the present generation. We punish elsewhere a striking article in the Chicago Tribune, edited by an intimate friend of the President, which warns him that he has committed an "almost irreparable mistake," which is "big with the possibilities of serious disaster for his party." No less significant are the extracts from articles in the Indianapolis Journal, the leading Republican newspaper of Indiana, which declares that "nothing the Congress may do will cause it to change its views," and

which pronounces the bill that Mr. McKinley forced through the House last week "a violation of good faith towards the helpless and impoverished people, a subordination of justice to mercenary considerations, and a political blunder of the first magnitude." We cannot recall such contemptuous treatment of any previous President by the chief organs of his party.

BRITISH SHIPPING SUBSIDIES.

They Furnish No Analogy for the Present Hanna Scheme.

An article on British shipping subsidies, by L. W. Root, in the Atlantic Monthly for March, appears to furnish an effective refutation of the claim sometimes made that British shipping has an advantage over that of the United States in the payment of subsidies out of the British National treasury, or, indeed, that the British system in this respect furnishes justification for shipping subsidies now proposed in the American Congress. The Hanna bill provides for heavy gratuities from the National Treasury; the British system provides for no gratuities—only a reasonable sum for actual service rendered.

Mr. Root states that "the growth of British shipping has been due entirely to natural causes, and shipowners complain that so far as government or parliamentary action is concerned it has been rather in the direction of hampering than of assisting the industry. Freedom to manage their ships and work their business in their own way is all they have asked for, and, if this has not always been granted them, it is because the less scrupulous would take advantage and be less careful than they should be of the public interest. They are committed to their charge. There are no subsidies or grants of any kind paid in Great Britain to shipbuilders. Those who make ships there pay for them entirely themselves. The government does not aid from the government, in which it will be recognized that they differ widely from the men who are claiming this at the hands of the American Congress. The great majority of British vessels take their chance in open competition with the whole world, and rely entirely for what they earn upon the freight and passage money that they receive. This is public in the ordinary way of business.

But we shall be told that there are the contracts for carrying the mails, and that this arrangement is practically a subsidy. It is not. It is a contract, and it is not a subsidy. It is a contract for the purpose of aiding British shipping. It is purely a business arrangement, open to all, to be let by contract to the lowest bidder. It is not a subsidy. It is a contract for the purpose of aiding British shipping. It is purely a business arrangement, open to all, to be let by contract to the lowest bidder. It is not a subsidy. It is a contract for the purpose of aiding British shipping. It is purely a business arrangement, open to all, to be let by contract to the lowest bidder.

When good faith is bargained away, when principle is cast out, and when truth and honor are trampled down in the councils of the Republic, the majority in Congress and the people are deceived. The one great policy of the party today—the mere question of unanimity or division in these shameful performances is too trivial for second thought. The only question which interests the American people at the present time is whether they or the lobby shall prevail in Washington. If the lobby prevail the punishment which will be meted out to the recent representatives will not be as severe or mitigated on account of any manner or means by which this base betrayal of trust shall be accomplished.

Secrets of Steamships.

Providence Journal. The steamship situation in the port of Boston is becoming serious. The British Government has drawn into its service many of the largest and fastest vessels, and the United States is left with a fleet of only 23 this month against 38 in March of last year. Boston has suffered more than other ports, it is said, because it has superior vessels. These are not for the most part distinguished by speed or power. It should be said, though most of them carry a limited number of passengers. They are twin-screw freight steamers of great capacity and good speed, but they are not for the most part distinguished by speed or power. It should be said, though most of them carry a limited number of passengers. They are twin-screw freight steamers of great capacity and good speed, but they are not for the most part distinguished by speed or power.

A Curious Political Situation.

Boston Herald. The curious situation is presented of the Democratic party having the opportunity this fall of electing President of the United States, and yet being in a position to lose the chance because its leading members have not the discretion needed to put forward a candidate, and the Republican party, on the other hand, is in a position to elect a weak, and, to the leading members of his party, undesirable candidate for the Presidency, because the Democrats do not force him by putting forward one of their strongest men as a candidate.

A Realistic Novel.

Brooklyn Life. Mrs. Blansy—I've just been reading "A Sea of Troubles." How true to life it is! Mr. Blansy—Do you think so? Why, I looked into it and thought it dull. There's no plot, little incident, and less interest. "Yes," so true to life.

Another Intelligent Dog.

Cleveland Plain Dealer. "I taught that bulldog of mine to put on his own muzzle." "What?" "I suppose you taught him to take it off again?" "No; he taught himself that."

The Weather Prophets.

Yonkers Statesman. Bill—I see it only rains about once a year in Lower Egypt on the coast of the Mediterranean. Jill—And I don't suppose they weather check out there can locate that day.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Mr. Finley ought to be able to put up a "stiff" fight.

Of course, Rev. Mr. Sheldon will have his paper set up with golden rules.

With his usual conservatism, Cecil Rhodes prefers to be on the safe side—of the English Channel.

The British say they do not want to make a hero of Cronje, and in the same breath talk about sending him to St. Helena.

Emperor William is not the only man who makes a specialty of omniscience, as the speeches of David Starr Jordan will testify.

All peaceful and calm in Kentucky tonight. Exact as you can, then a stray colt. Gets shot in the lung in a bit of a fight. And drops off to slumber eternal.

Tasso's paintings have been set to music. If this thing is to become general, a good many rag-time airs can be worked off on the masterpieces of the impressionists.

A Chicago poetess says she has lost manuscript poems which took her five years to write. Unfortunately, A. Austin inscribes his productions on the tablets of his memory.

Now Pettigrew wants the Government to withdraw from Hawaii. It would gladly withdraw from South Dakota if the inhabitants of that commonwealth were all like Pettigrew.

Aguiñalbo has promised to support Bryan, but as it is generally understood that he went broke supporting his pretensions to the title of Washington, he may have some difficulty in making good.

General Roberts is described by the correspondent of an English paper as the flower of courtesy, and Kitchener as a man of business. A staff officer of engineers told General Roberts that he could do certain work assigned to him in the course of a fortnight. "I am sure," said General Roberts, "that you will do as well as you can." General Kitchener asked the same officer how much time he would require for the job. "A fortnight," was the answer. Kitchener smiled grimly. "Either you will do it in a week," he said, "or you will be sent home." The work was finished in a week.

The canine population of Portland, increased in numbers about as rapidly as the human population, or the attendance at the public schools, and exhibits a much greater variety of species. The number of dog licenses issued during the current license year, which began on September 1, 1899, is 270, including 215 female dogs. This is nearly 700 more than were licensed last year, and is still several hundred under the actual number, as untaxed unlicensed dogs are to be seen on every corner. The lonely wretches of the night are made cheerful to the sick and wakeful by the barking of countless howling watchdogs, which answer one another from all quarters all night long, and streets and public places are thronged with these pet nuisances, which range from the clumsy St. Bernard or useless mastiff, the size of a box-car, down to the toy terrier, the size of a pound of soap after a hard day's washing. Now that Spring is at hand and the glad sunshine is drying up the mud on the back streets it might be expected that the poundkeeper would get out and gather in some of the unlicensed dogs, but there is but little hope that he will have any time for this sort of thing, till after election.

Wheat and flour are not the only things which Oregon furnishes for feeding the people of Europe, as will be seen from the fact that on Saturday the following articles were cleared at the Portland Custom-House to go East by rail: Corned horse meat, 67 tierces, weighing 28,500 pounds, consigned to Copenhagen, Denmark; for Hamburg, Germany, 85 boxes, containing 23,700 pounds of frozen salmon, valued at \$4000; one keg containing 13 pounds of caviar, valued at \$25, and 12 boxes of frozen salmon, containing 845 pounds, valued at \$200. This is a clearing out of the stock of these articles on hand, preparatory to beginning a new season's business. The salmon fishing season on the Columbia will open April 15, and then shipments of frozen