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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Fair; winds north to east and southeast.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MARCH 13.

THE TIME FOR INTERVENTION PAST

If the Boers ever had any hope of intervention in their behalf by any of the great powers of Europe, that time is past. In October, when the Boer ultimatum was issued, Great Britain was unprepared for serious war, but today England is thoroughly organized and better prepared for war on land or sea than she has been since Waterloo. Within three months Great Britain will have in the field available for new operations an army of 200,000 men, disciplined by actual warfare and full of the confidence born of victory. This army would be ample to defend India and the Nile Valley. The recent assurance of the Ameer of Afghanistan that he is ready to fight for England against Russia may be accepted as sincere, for Great Britain has always been sagacious in her treatment of her Mohammedan subjects or allies, whether in India, Afghanistan or Africa. Not only do the English authorities treat the Mohammedan religion with toleration, but on the Mohammedan public feast days the English high officials honor the public ceremonies by their presence and treat the Mohammedan religious teachers and hierarchy with courtesy and respect. The Sikhs and other Mohammedan subjects of Great Britain were loyal during the mutiny of 1857, and since that date the loyalty of the Indian Princes, who are not Mohammedan, has been firmly established.

There is every reason for believing that any attempt on the part of Russia to assault England's Indian Empire would be resisted fiercely by the Mohammedan tribes of Afghanistan and the vast majority of the fighting races of British India. The day has gone by when Russia could cause an insurrection in India, and it is doubtful whether Russia could penetrate the Indian frontier, defended as it would be by a mixed force of 75,000 Englishmen and an equal number of native troops. The advance of Russia through Afghanistan to the Indian frontier would be the signal for a revolt among Russian Mohammedan subjects in Turcomania. The British islands are impregnable to attack by sea. With the Boer war closed in complete victory, Great Britain will be a more formidable antagonist than she has been for eighty-five years. Her colonies are bound by stronger ties of sentiment than they were before the war, for the glory and the suffering of this severe conflict gilds the pages of their colonial history. Australia, Canada, New Zealand, will not soon forget that the blood of their sons has mingled with that of the children of the mother country in defense of the Empire. By this much Great Britain is immensely stronger than she was before the Boer war.

It is too late for successful intervention by France and Russia. If it be said that when Russia was before Constantinople, at the close of the Russo-Turkish war of 1878-79, the powers of Europe called a halt and substituted the treaty of Berlin for that of San Stefano, practically robbing Russia of the just spoils of victory, it can be answered that on this occasion it was all Europe against Russia, but today it could not possibly be all Europe against Great Britain, for the German Emperor is sure to be at least a friendly neutral, and Russia and France today could not afford to intervene in behalf of the Boers at the risk of war with England. Within a week after a declaration of war every commercial seaport in France could be blockaded by the British navy and her trade ruined. Russia could not afford to halt in her Siberian railway, nor suffer the capture of Port Arthur and the nullification of her scheme for commercial expansion on the coast of China. France could not afford war, for the Republic is not yet deep bolted down to the bedrock of nationality, and would hardly survive the shock of a great war.

If France and Russia have ever seriously thought of intervention on behalf of the Boers, they have waited too long, for Great Britain is ready today for a great war as she has not been ready since 1815. She is ready not only in organization, in aroused energy of mind and body, but she is ready in patriotic sentiment and aroused national pride, not only throughout Great Britain, but throughout all her colonies. There is not a spot on the globe where the English flag flies but would applaud with wild enthusiasm the stern negative answer that the home Government would be sure to return to a demand from France and Russia for cessation of war against the Boers. This Boer war is a blessing in disguise for England, for it has made the Empire fit to fight France and Russia. Without intervention there is not likely to be a very long siege of Pretoria, for obstinate defense is only possible when some ulterior purpose can be served by long and dogged resistance. Pemberton could afford to resist, hoping that some disaster to the Union arms under Rosecrans in Tennessee might force Grant to raise the siege of Vicksburg, but when the Boers are once penned up in Pretoria, they will not resist long when all hope of intervention is gone.

It is an impressive exhibit in national activity—these valuable discussions such men as Professor Moore and Captain Mahan are contributing to our colonial and international problems. Service of this sort in the Nation's cause makes all the more humiliating the fact that with such men as Roosevelt and Olney to choose from, the party leaders seem determined to force us to choose between William the Wily and Billy the Blower.

INHERENT WEAKNESS OF TRUSTS.

The troublous times on which the sugar trust has fallen are well worth study, not only because they shadow forth the inherent weakness of the trust as an industrial device, but particularly because the sugar trust's acquisition of properties bears a remote resemblance to the similar operation of the salmon "combine" on the Columbia River. The New York Journal of Commerce has been at some pains to explore the facts in the case of the sugar trust. From its investigations it appears that the original sugar trust was formed under a trust deed dated August 16, 1887. This deed was an agreement between the owners of all the shares of stock of a number of sugar refining companies doing business in the States of New York, Massachusetts, Maine, New Jersey, Missouri, Louisiana and California, by which they assigned their shares to certain trustees called "Trustees of the Sugar Refineries Company." The shares of stock of the corporations were transferred to the trustees, the management of the properties remaining in the hands of the individual corporations. The total capital stock of all the companies that went into the trust was only about $7,000,000, but, in view of their probable earning capacity, the properties were estimated to be worth $50,000,000. The function of the trustees was simply to receive the earnings of the corporations and to distribute them among the holders of the certificates.

This form of combination was adhered to till after the decision of the New York Court of Appeals in the case of The People against the North River Sugar Refining Company. Immediately after the publication of this decision, in June, 1890, the trustees and holders of certificates in the original sugar trust took the necessary proceedings for a reorganization, and the American Sugar Refining Company was incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey, with a capital of $50,000,000. The initial weakness of the combination was not cured under the plan of incorporation, and it was somewhat aggravated by including the Philadelphia refineries in the trust, with the consequent issue of $25,000,000 in common and preferred stock. It was estimated that the whole business of the combination could have been carried on with plants costing not more than $10,000,000, while as a matter of fact stock has been issued and bonds pledged against a considerable number of plants that were shut down and machinery that was left unused. The necessity of paying these their proportionate share of the profits of the business evidently contained in it the elements of dissolution, or at least of new incitements to a competition as ruinous as the old had been.

Here, in brief, is epitomized the burden under which trusts labor in the acquisition of independent properties at inordinate valuations. The burden may be carried for a long time, in fact until competition has time to develop. Then the load is insupportable. So it proved with the sugar trust. The combination remained intact while it continued to be impossible for any dealer in sugar to count on a steady supply outside of the product of the trust or of the refineries which had accepted its rules as to price and distributors' profits. The multiplication of small beet-sugar refineries in the West was the first influence that weakened the trust's control of the market. Then came the construction of two new and well-equipped refineries at New York, run in absolute independence of trust methods, and with it accumulating evidence that the combination between the trust and the wholesale grocers was destined to fall to pieces.

Just this has happened. The "factor" system has been broken in upon by the offerings of independent refineries, and jobbers in sugar can now buy that commodity in the market as freely and competitively as they can any other article of merchandise. Perhaps there is not another trust in the country whose failure to control absolutely its market would be more convincing of the inherent weakness of the trust system than is this failure of the sugar trust. The more excessive the profits of a trust, the greater the incentive to capital to organize competition; and when the trust's properties are overcapitalized, competition has a powerful weapon of effective warfare laid to its hand. If the sugar trust, with all its protection from tariffs and intrenchment at Washington, its vast wealth and multifarious resources, can be dislodged by competition, why may not others, unless, as in the case of the Standard Oil trust, they have a natural monopoly, through control of the sources of supply?

TO SOCIALIZE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

The "equality" colony, located in Skagit County, Washington, with a view to test the practical workings of co-operation, might, it would seem, in view of the failures in this line of effort, find enough to do without looking forward to "socializing" the State of Washington. Yet to assist in this last-named object is the avowed purpose of the organization.

When we reflect that the citizens of the great State of Washington are not unlike those of other sections of the Nation, in that they have strong individuality, are full of purposes of personal achievement, understand thrift to imply the accumulation of property in their own right, and especially to possess and maintain their own homes and direct the education and industries of their own children; and when we remember, further, that the State of Washington contains between 425,000 and 450,000 people, a very large proportion of whom are self-supporting, responsible, self-respecting factors in the industrial life of the commonwealth, we can readily realize the magnitude of the task which the handful of men and women who have gone into the co-operative, socialistic scheme at Equality have set for themselves. The quality of their philosophy may be estimated when it is added that these people propose to console themselves, if they fail (perhaps we should say when they fail), with the reflection that they have but "proved their own incompetency."

From all accounts, the members of this community are industrious, law-abiding people who enjoy the experiment they are making, preparing to learn from experience rather than history facts as old as civilization and as stubborn as the individuality which they represent. When they have learned that social, industrial and accumulative "equality" is a myth, often pursued by visionaries, but always elusive, they will probably disband as other colonists have done, and it may be hoped on an equitable basis that will demonstrate to this extent the fitness of the name given to their colony.

VICISSITUDES OF PARTISANSHIP.

That always interesting and instructive writer, "Ex-Attache," offers in the New York Tribune a study of politics that may be taken as a companion-piece to Mr. Nelson's paper in the Atlantic. Party politics is their common theme, but while Mr. Nelson depicts partisanship only to censure, the Tribune writer, though he views it with equal disapproval, thinks he can discern a remedial tendency already manifest, both in Great Britain and in the United States.

It is evident that times like these reveal the abysmal dangers of unrestrained partisanship. At this moment both England and the United States, the two countries where party systems have reached the highest contemporary stage of development, are passing through periods of crisis in which opposition to the existing Government becomes a matter of grave responsibility. Party loyalty, that is, antagonism by the party of opposition to the measures taken by the party in power, becomes positively dangerous when the state is engaged in a war with some foreign power or in suppressing an armed rebellion within its borders, and it is the opinion of "Ex-Attache" that "when the prestige and the welfare of the entire nation are at stake, when soldiers are in the field shedding their blood and sacrificing their lives, the party system should be modified to the extent of presenting a united front to the foreign enemies."

This opposition to the Administration has done mischief both here and in Britain. As "Ex-Attache" points out, it may be doubted whether people realize how far party utterances here in the United States and in England have contributed to bring about the Philippine insurrection and the war in the Transvaal. There is not the slightest doubt that the belief entertained by the enemies of America and of Great Britain in the sentiments enunciated by the members of the opposition, as well as the exaggerated importance attached to the latter's remarks, have strengthened their resistance. The Filipinos and the Boers would have been far more amenable to the arguments, diplomatic and other, of the American and English executives had they not in each instance been under the impression that the Government merely represented a portion of the nation, and that a resistance sufficiently long would carry the day through the advent to office of the members of the opposition.

Yet it is plainly to be seen that partisanship has held itself in check in each nation; more, perhaps, in Great Britain, for there the need has been greater for the crisis was sharper. Had our struggle in the Philippines been as severe and critical as the British task in the Transvaal, it is hardly to be doubted that the support of Congress and people would have been nearly as hearty and unanimous as was given at the outbreak of the war with Spain. In England the dreadful onslaughts formerly made in Parliament and pamphlets on administrative measures have been very rare in the present crisis, and it is probably true that "at no time has the prestige of the party system fallen so low in the eyes of the English people as since the outbreak of hostilities in South Africa." So that, with all the doubts British men have felt as to the efficiency of administrative officers, and with all the compunctions as to the necessity or wisdom of the war, the "Government" has had loyal and even enthusiastic support.

In the United States the growth of independence of party leading strings is too plain to be mistaken. Not only in the Spanish war, but in the Tagal rebellion, men in Congress and throughout the country have risen superior to partisanship and declared themselves as determined to support the government as long as its arms are assailed or authority disputed. The present contest over Puerto Rico's status reveals a wonderful degree of independence, not only in Congress, but among our public men generally, and in the almost unanimous voice of the Republican press. Only through exercise of this spirit of independence can parties be purified and taught the danger of trifling with error and injustice. What the Gold Democrats did for their party in 1896, Republicans may have to do for theirs in 1900.

The story of a brave girl who was saved from the fury of a tiger by marching upon the beast vigorously unfurling her parasol represented the essence of courage to the children of a past generation. This story, with the illustration that accompanied it, showing a determined young woman in broad leghorn hat with wildly fluttering ribbons, short skirts distended with hoops, and wide pantalettes falling over her shoetops, with parasol extended, advancing upon a furious tiger, was the awesome delight of myriads of little girls of a past generation who felt within themselves qualities of heroism equal to the most extravagant performance in contemplating it. And now this unforgotten lesson in courage and presence of mind in the face of sudden danger comes in duplicate from Linn County. The heroine, a young woman walking across a pasture to the house of a friend, was charged by a vicious cow. Giving the animal battle with her umbrella, she came off conqueror and uninjured, though not without the demolishment of her weapon. There is no defense in an emergency that equals self-defense, and in view of the dangers which beset the pathway of otherwise unprotected young women who foolishly or of necessity walk abroad unattended, reference to the umbrella as a means of defense may not be untimely. The woman who walks abroad in Oregon is supposed always to be accompanied by an umbrella. That there is a latent power in the umbrella that with presence of mind and courage to wield it could be turned to good account as a weapon, is shown by fact and tradition. Let the next strong-minded damsel who finds her footsteps dogged by a human animal make a sudden rush upon him with her umbrella, and she will be surprised at the precipitancy of his retreat. The story, properly illustrated, of the young girl who vanquished the pursuing tiger with her parasol, and of the woman who put a vicious cow to rout with her umbrella, might with profit find place in the school readers of today. The judicious teacher could readily give it the wider application needed, in teaching a class of girls the value of self-defense in an emergency, and the potency of an ever-present weapon in its exercise.

Taxpayers are interested in reports from the State Reform School, which indicate an effort to run that institution upon an economical basis. While it is a fact that the state's bad boys are better clad, better housed and better fed than the sons of two-thirds of the farmers who rustle up taxes for the maintenance of the institution, there seems to be no help for it, since the reform school is a political institution as regards its management. This means that it pays big salaries and plenty of them, and renders a large bill of expenses, after the manner of officialism. It is a matter of gratification therefore to learn that the milk and butter for the small army of boys and the big army of officials are produced by the state's cows; that a part of the meat that supplies their tables is furnished by the state's hogs, and that the state's acres produce forage for the stock. Whether the boys do the "chores" of the farm, including milking, churning and feeding, or whether these duties which are performed by the industrious sons of responsible fathers everywhere, are performed at the Reform School by titled farmers, dairymen, swineherds and others, who draw salaries for the work, we are not informed. The question may be fairly stated thus: If the boys do the work there are more "bosses," as shown by the payroll, than are necessary to control the working force; if they do not do it they ought to.

Recognition of the fitness of Mr. Thompson for the position of School Director has caused his election. No man, in the history of Portland, has shown a deeper interest in or more intelligent devotion to the public schools. Of Mr. Finley's repeated efforts to obtain this position, The Oregonian has little to say. But why should any man want it? Willingness to serve the public, disinterestedly, should be the only motive. Mr. Finley, in a communication printed yesterday, said he was a taxpayer, but not a large one; which was a proper remark. But when he attempted a slur by the statement that he had not been able to buy a $300 library for a school named in his honor, it becomes pertinent to say that he has spent more money in the effort to be elected School Director than it would have taken to furnish libraries for several schools; and since he talks about his merits as a taxpayer, it may be remarked that he has spent more money in these efforts than all the taxes he has ever paid.

Five hundred bronze and brass cannon purchased in Cuba by American speculators and brought to this country to supply the demand of cities, towns, colleges, schools, etc., for war relics will have to pay a duty of forty-five per cent, the Government having decided that they come under the head of manufactures of metal. If this decision holds, the venture is not likely to prove a very profitable one. Little sympathy, however, will be wasted upon the speculators, for the reason that the Spanish War relic idea has been worked beyond its legitimate basis. These guns were not used in the Spanish war at all, having long before been condemned as obsolete. The imposition is a palpable one, and it is not a matter of regret that the promoters of the scheme are not likely to make it largely profitable.

A local article in yesterday's issue of The Oregonian descriptive of improvement in conditions in the North End neglected to mention one element in the good work done there, which should not be slighted. The various missions and rest places maintained there have done much in advancement of the tone of "Whitechapel." This is especially true of the mission conducted in the old Coliseum Theater building, under the auspices of the First Presbyterian Church, by Rev. J. E. Snyder. The best results in such matters are obtained through co-operation on the part of police department and philanthropy. This joint effort has been made in this case, and with gratifying results.

With clear judgment Senator Simon favors free commercial intercourse with our new insular possessions. He feels that it would be unjust to make the discrimination proposed in the House bill, and that the Republican party cannot afford to do it. With the subtleties of the constitutional argument he does not much concern himself. In these positions he is right, and Oregon will sustain him. We shall hope to see Senator McBride take the same position.

CAN'T ESCAPE NATURAL LAWS.

Flour and Sugar Trusts Developing Proof of Weakness.

Philadelphia Times.

The flour trust has gone into bankruptcy because no flour trust could be formed big enough to prevent competition. The sugar trust has just been compelled to reduce its dividends one-half for a similar reason. For years it has been paying a 12 per cent dividend on a grossly inflated capitalization, but the Arbuckles and other sugar refiners would not go into the trust and could not be driven out of business. Dividends have dropped one-half, and sugar-trust shares have fallen below par, and people are asking which of the trusts will be next to go into a receiver's hands or to reduce dividends.

There is nothing about these indications that trusts are subject to the same relentless, inexorable business laws that furnish or refuse success to individual and ordinary firms in business life that should surprise any thoughtful man. Combining a dozen firms or corporations into one under the name of a trust does not change the laws and principles under which business success must be achieved. Big dividends earned as a result of a temporary suppression of competition only invite other big aggregations of capital into the same business, and the new competitors always enter the field with the advantage of using the newest and most economical methods of production and without a dollar tied up in outdated and unproductive plant or machinery.

The germ of final failure to most industrial trust aggregations lies in the dead and inflated capitalizations of these concerns. Invention has introduced and is still introducing new economies into the refining of sugar, the making of steel, flour and other articles of trust manipulation. It follows that at any given time there is a large amount of dead capital in each of these industries invested in out-of-date and useless construction. A trust combination in either of these industries means the issue of shares to cover all of the nonproductive capital, and in many instances a liberal addition of water besides. The moment a new concern, capitalized on a sound basis and employing only the newest and most productive methods, takes the field, the trust aggregation is at a disadvantage, and sooner or later must absorb its new rival or go to the wall.

It is becoming very evident that the trusts are not such a menace to legitimate individual business enterprise as many have supposed. Trusts are a new development, and very few of them have been in existence long enough to demonstrate their ultimate effect upon business methods. A sufficient number have come to grief, however, to show that they are not above and beyond the influence of the economic laws that have been in force for centuries. The trust idea is new, but the laws which govern successful business enterprise are as old as civilized humanity, and the trusts can no more escape their operation than water can run up hill.

"FORM" AS A MEANS OF GRACE.

Good Taste a Powerful Safeguard for the Young Man.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

There is one period in the experience of every father when anxiety comes upon him very strongly, and that is the period when he has finally to send forth his son into the world to make his own way, to learn the lessons of experience for himself and to meet temptation. It is inevitable; but this fact makes it no less fearful to the one who has up to this time tried to prepare the young man for contact with actual life. Religious teaching there may have been in abundance. Practical morality may have been inculcated in every possible way. Yet, nevertheless, there must always be a feeling that these things will break down and cease to be an efficient safeguard against the stress of passion, the promptings of curiosity, the infection of example, the intoxicating influence of freedom and the charm of novelty. Well it is for such a father if he has been able, in addition to the precepts of religion and morality, to imbue the mind of his son from childhood up with that true refinement and unerring taste which shrink from what is coarse and vulgar and low; for this taste will not only supplement and support the other teaching, but it will often stand in the place of it to restrain, to counsel and to save. Many a young man, with all a young man's dread of seeming to be priggish, will be ashamed to say that he will not do a certain thing because it is not right; but no one is ever ashamed to say that he will not do it because it is bad form. It is, indeed, in early manhood that taste is most effective as an ethical agent, since it is taste above all else which teaches one to turn aside from the temptations of pleasure in their cruder and coarser forms. To the young man the subtler lures make no strong appeal, for no young man is ever very subtle. The more seductive, and, therefore, the more dangerous, forms of pleasure will not as yet appear to him attractive; so that if his innate instinct for what is fitting and refined has been sufficiently cultivated to tide him over the first few years of his apprenticeship to the world, experience and observation will then come to his aid, and he will be shielded and guarded by that knowledge of good and evil which enables the great majority of men to go through life unshaken and unharmed.

CARTER'S CURIOUS COURSE.

This Paper Must Have Read Senator Simon's Speech.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

The attempted explanation of Senator Carter, of Montana, why he voted against the admission of Corbett, of Oregon, and can now vote for the admission of Quay, is not very tenuous. Of course, every one who knows Carter knows that, like Quay, he votes without regard to principle and solely with reference to the political interests with which he is allied. But since he has undertaken to make an explanation of his voting one way in one case and the directly opposite way in another, it is pertinent to note that his theory of action, if it has any force, operates fatally against the Quay claim.

Carter asserts the "belief of Senators" that the Oregon Legislature was prevented from organizing by a conspiracy in which Corbett was a part, in order to secure his appointment. He produces no evidence of this fact, and only asserts the "belief." While by its own statement, therefore, there is no clear proof, what is beyond the shadow of a doubt in the Quay case is that the meeting of the Legislature, called for directly by the state constitution, and indirectly by the United States Constitution, has been prevented by the Governor of the Quay machine for the express purpose of serving the Quay interests. There is no doubt that the United States Constitution limits the Governor's appointment till "the next meeting of the Legislature," referring to state enactments the time when the next meeting of the Legislature shall be. There is no doubt that the state constitution, in accordance with this provision, enacts that the next meeting of the Legislature shall be a special session, called by the Governor. It is also indisputable that this provision has been nullified by the Governor, to the end that the Quay tenure under his appointment may be indefinitely prolonged.

If Carter could vote against Corbett on account of a suspected and unproved conspiracy to prevent the organization of the Oregon Legislature, how can he vote for Quay in the face of a clear and indisputable nullification of the Constitution to prevent the meeting of the Pennsylvania Legislature, which, by both the National and State instruments, is charged with filling the vacancy? Only by virtue of the well-known fact that principles are unknown in the actions of Senator Thomas Carter.

A SERIOUS MISTAKE.

Refusal of the Democrats of Kentucky to Modify the Goebel Law.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Democrats of the House have voted down a bill repealing the Goebel election law, some of them explaining that, while they may be in favor of amending it, they are opposed to its outright repeal and a return to the old law.

Very well. But what has been done to amend the Goebel law? The Senate has passed the Johnson bill, which does not touch the evils of the Goebel law. So far as the present session of the Legislature is concerned, the Democrats have evidently made up their minds to let the Goebel law alone.

This is a very serious mistake. The Democrats may let the Goebel law alone, but the Goebel law will not let them alone. It was all they could do to carry the state once under the handicap of that law; how do they expect to carry it a second time, when the opposition to the law increases rather than diminishes?

Mark this prediction: If the election next fall is held under the Goebel election law, and if the vote of Kentucky is necessary for the election of a Republican President, Kentucky's vote will be counted for the Republicans, it matters not what the returns may show.

Nothing in future politics is surer than this.

Justice in the Quay Case.

Philadelphia Press.

Senator Simon, of Oregon, yesterday spoke against Mr. Quay's claims. Certainly, if Mr. Quay has a right to a seat by appointment, Oregon was treated with great injustice when Mr. Corbett was refused a seat on a still better title. What reparation will the Senate make for the injustice done Corbett if it now says by seating Quay it was wrong in refusing Corbett a seat? Will there not be some back salary due to Beckwith, Allen and Mantle, who were refused their seats on their Governors' appointments in 1893 because their Legislature, having had a chance to choose a Senator, preferred a vacancy? What gross injustice and indecency to vote one man in and another man out on exactly the same case. If the rule of good fellowship is to let one man in and lack of good fellowship to keep another man out, the see-saw will be perpetual. Every session will raise the point anew, for the question of good fellowship varies with the individual selected, and cannot be determined in advance. A Senator seeking to succeed himself will always have an advantage over a new one, as the former has had a chance to prove his good fellowship to most of the Senators who will pass judgment on his claim. That this rule of action is certain to destroy respect for the Senate and its decisions may or may not be an argument against it. The Constitution must be enforced, and good fellows must be admitted to the Senate on appointment whenever they fail of election in their Legislatures.

War Taxes to Pay Subsidies.

Philadelphia Ledger.

It is announced from Washington that an arrangement has been arrived at between the Republican opponents and advocates of the subsidy shipping bill. The representatives of the beneficiaries of the proposed gifts having hit upon a working plan for the division of the people's money, the question now is simply whether Congress and the President will yield to the powerful influences that are at work and give millions of dollars a year for a number of years of the public money as gratuities to rich private business concerns. Is there any need for this expenditure, and does the condition of the Treasury justify it?

The estimates of the Secretary of the Treasury for the present and next fiscal years indicate that the two sessions of this Congress will reach a total of something like $1,500,000,000, leaving the $1,000,000,000 Congress, which a few years ago excited wonder and alarm, far behind. The Pacific cable project is knocking at the doors of Congress, asking for a subsidy; the Nicaragua Canal will require, if it is built, $140,000,000 or more; the new navy estimates call for an expenditure of about $75,000,000; the army is still on a war footing, and the war taxes, which were resorted to merely as an emergency burden upon the people, are likely to remain indefinitely and, perhaps, permanently. No matter how these taxes are exacted, or by what method they are levied, the people, directly or indirectly, pay the cost in increased rent, in higher prices for commodities, and for everything that enhances the cost of living, and the burden falls most oppressively upon the poor, who can least afford it.

The question, then, is simply, Is there any justification for taking millions of dollars for a long term of years from the public funds, wrung from the people of this country, in order to give great gifts to rich corporations for the extension of their private business?

Literary Warriors.

Chicago News.

Many of England's military men are authors in their spare time. Of the Generals in South Africa, Lord Roberts has written "The Rise of Wellington" and "Forty-One Years in India." Lord Kitchener has contributed to Blackwood's Magazine, and is, besides responsible for part of "The Survey of Western Palestine." Sir H. E. Colville's works are "A Ride in Petticoats and Slippers." "The Accursed Land," "History of the Soudan Campaign," "The Land of the Nile Springs" and "The Nick of Time; a Musical Romance in Three Acts." Sir C. F. Clery is the author of the well-known "Minor Tactics."

Major-General Hildyard translated from the German "Studies in Troop Leading"; he has also written "Historical Record of the Seventy-First Regiment, Highland Light Infantry". Major-General Hart is the editor of "Hart's Army List." Hart is the editor of "Hart's Army List."

Among Sir Charles Warren's productions are "Underground Jerusalem," "The Temple of the Tomb" and "Jerusalem." Colonel Baden-Powell has written much, notably "Cavalry Instructions" and the recently published "Aids to Scouting."

Poker Demoralizing Vienna.

New York Tribune.

The ravages of American poker in Vienna exceed those of the bubonic plague, and the government and the police are obliged to interfere to protect society from disintegrating under the action of a solvent so pernicious and powerful. Women have been carried away by its seductions as well as men, matron and maid coming alike under its spell. It has drowned out all other social interests; there is no longer any talk in the salons of Shakespeare, and the musical classes, all conversation being limited to the terminology of the game. As the Vienna intellect is so constructed that it can never learn when to lay down two pair, the financial consequences of the pastime there are destructive to a degree not known in the country of its origin, and it is no wonder that government feels itself called on to interfere.

Helping the Standard Oil.

Indianapolis News.

It appears from Senator Frye's report in favor of the subsidy bill steal that even the Standard Oil's tank steamers are to share in the government bounty if the steal goes through. The Standard Oil is supplying the greater part of the world with illuminating oil. Out of the business it is making dizzy millions of profit every year. Its dividends are so large as to pass the bounds of credibility. And yet, actually, our able Senators and worthy Representatives are calmly proposing to give this odious monopoly a bounty on every cargo of oil it ships abroad!

What the American Spirit Requires.

The Outlook.

The Outlook does not stand with Mr. Littlefield in his opposition to the constitutional right of Congress to impose a tariff on the Puerto Ricans, but we are heartily in accord with him in his protest against the tariff as a policy; for we believe that the American spirit requires that we regard the wishes of the inhabitants if Puerto Rico, and that justice and expediency confirm their judgment in favor of free trade.

Duty the Same as Three Months Ago.

Washington Post.

It it was our plain duty three months ago to give to the products of Puerto Rico free access to our markets, it is our Rico duty today. The President summarized the ethics of the situation. Our obligation has been in no wise lessened since the message was written.

We Owe Generous Treatment.

Washington Star.

We owe the Puerto Ricans not only good government, but generous treatment. We should invite their fullest confidence and co-operation in all that we may do for them. They are within our authority, and completely in our power.

The Duty That Is Near.

Washington Star.

"Whut gits me," said Uncle Eben, "is de way some people kin fin' time to sympathize wid nations 'way off yonder when dar is so many po' folks right aroun' de corner who is fightin' temptation on an empty stomach."

Stands a Deal of Dunning.

Boston Transcript.

The world owes every man a living, it is said; but the world will not pay its debts, except under compulsion. In other words, you have got to work for all you can get out of it.

Use for the Gold Whistle.

Philadelphia Record.

Bingo—I understand that Aguinaldo carries a whistle as a badge of office. I wonder what that's for.

Jingo—Probably he uses it to keep his courage up.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The trees are already decorating for St. Patrick's day.

Possibly, Candidate Finley neglected to re-hearse his part sufficiently.

The Prohibitionists say they are not going to take water this year.

We can still speak of him as Director Finley when we remember his calling.

Mr. Bryan says he felt humiliated once, and did not allude to November, '96, either.

As long as the National Tube Company raises wages, its achievements will not all be hollow.

It appears that there were several moanings of the bar when the Republican lawyers put out to sea.

Another woman has given a child a revolver to play with, and she never found out in this world that it was loaded.

It is said that the Rev. Mr. Sheldon's fighting editor resigned because he couldn't stand for turning the other cheek.

If the French people want to do Cronje a real favor, they will beat that sword they are going to give him into a plowshare.

On the railroads in Kentucky
While the present quiet reigns
All the floating population
Has to ride in armored trains.

The Chicago News says that salt meat was first known when Noah took Ham into the ark. It forgets to add that the same day Japhet constructed the first chestnut bell to ring the next time Shem got off that joke.

The Maryland Democrats have about made up their minds to give up the idea of disfranchising illiterate voters, because, while of the 44,923 such, 26,616 are negroes, yet the 18,307 who are whites are so placed in the eastern shore and the tidewater counties of the western shore that their removal from the lists would seriously endanger Democratic majorities.

A century and a half ago "fun," a word of Irish origin, was considered "shockingly low." "Mob," too, was a word "no self-respecting gentleman would use" till Pope boldly wrote, "the mob of gentlemen who write with ease." Of "humbug" a writer in 1750 said: "I will venture to affirm that this 'Humbug' is neither an English word nor a derivative from any other language. It is, indeed, a blackguard sound. It is a fine makeweight in conversation, and some great men deceive themselves so egregiously as to think they mean something by it."

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has decided that a court of equity has not power to enjoin a legislative body. This is a case where the injunction was leveled against a corporation grab, and the corporation with its grab accordingly escapes. The men in contempt of court were the Mayor and a majority of the City Council of Milwaukee, who locked the doors of the council chamber in order the more easily to jam through a very unpopular measure, extending the franchises of the street railway monopoly. They had been enjoined from doing this, and the present decision of the higher court purges them of the contempt.

Most of the songs that are just now popular in the London music halls are, of course, "patriotic," and as poor examples of verse as most made-to-order songs. One or two others, however, are worth quoting in part. The first recounts the love affairs of a certain contrary May. It asserts that, in the case of this young lady,

Her first was a curate, seraphic but slow,
The other men called him a softy;
His views, I believe, were remarkably "low,"
His aims were remarkably lofty.
He wanted Miss Mary to wed him and come
To live in a Bermondsey lane,
Instructing the sinners that dwelt in the slum—
Which frightened Miss Mary Maclean.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,
Sent him away with speed;
She liked the sinners that give you the dinners
And not the poor sinners you feed.

A Chicago manufacturer of mining machinery says: "Were it not for the boom in mining in other portions of the world, the war in South Africa would have been quite a serious blow to mining machinery men. As much expensive mining machinery has been sent to this section as any place in the world. American factories furnish most of it. But just as this market was closed we had the demand in British Columbia, an increased demand in the United States and an impetus in mining in other places in the world. Our business is booming. When the war is over all the mining engineers and machinery manufacturers in the world cannot supply the demand. The Boers will blow up the mines and destroy the machinery as fast as they have to abandon them. If there is a surrender before the English reach Johannesburg the Boers may not do this, but the men in our business who are very well posted are not looking for this. It will require millions of dollars' worth of machinery to replace that destroyed and to be destroyed."

Little Puerto's Steppa-Dad.

Baltimore American.

I'm just-a
De little-a fel'—
Not make-a so much-a de mon'—
Not scrappa, not fighta,
Not go out
At nighta,
But always I have-a de fun
Hispano,
He once-a my
Dad.
He make-a me
Cry all-a day.
Uncle Samma,
He come,
Bring-a gun, bring-a drum—
He drive-a de mean dad
Away.
Uncle Samma,
He say: "By de gosh!
I make-a dis place look-a
Glad!
Cheer-a up, Little Port',
An' be-a
One sport!
You gotta de new
Steppa-dad!"
But now
Uncle Samma, he say:
"Here-a boy!
Make-a de chase!
Go getta
De job!
Now, quitta de sob,
Or I give-a
De push on de face!
You gotta to
Make-a de mon'—
An' bring-a
De ol' man de head—
You gotta to pay
Your-a board right away—
Yo hearu
De new steppa-dad!"
Ah!
Liberta—it is
Sublime!
It make-a de hearta
Moe' glad.
But,
Hully-de-gee!
No-a Lib' can I see—
I've gotta
De new
Steppa-dad!