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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Increasing cloudiness; northerly winds.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1900.

"We oppose," say the Bryan Democrats, in their National platform, "we oppose government by injunction." What do they mean by this declaration? What they denounce as government by injunction is restraint of mobs and rioters by order of the courts of law. Free riot remains as much a principle of Bryan Democracy as free silver.

On Monday of last week the New York World printed the following special dispatch from Mr. Bryan, in answer to a special inquiry, which we think has not hitherto been printed here:

If by any chance the committee on resolutions decides to report a platform in which there is not a silver plank, there must be a minority report and a fight on the floor of the convention. I will come to Kansas City on the fastest train available, make a fight for free silver on the floor of the convention, and then decline to take the nomination, if the convention omits the ratio. This is final.

Mr. Towne will hang on if Bryan says so; or he will let go. He makes that clear. That was why he was put up. He was to be a convenient instrument for the more complete union of the Populists, Silver Republicans and Democrats on terms and conditions made by Bryan. There was a hitch in this nice little arrangement, growing out of the unexpected truculence of the Democratic convention. Bryan was master, and he carried his boss-ship to the very limit of prudence when he insisted upon 16 to 1 in the platform. He did not dare demand the nomination of Towne. So he endeavored to play out the role of cheerful and complaisant indifference. The matter got into such shape that Bryan would have been satisfied with any nomination but Hill's; but he would have had to accept even Hill, if the latter had lost his head and yielded to the shouters.

In accepting the responsibility of deciding Towne's fate, Bryan takes risks. There were a good many delegates to the Sioux Falls convention who saw a job in the Towne nomination, and vehemently opposed it. Now that it has ended in a sorry fiasco, it cannot be supposed that they will accept the situation with good grace; and those who did want Towne must realize that the action at Kansas City was a blow in the face. The ridiculous vote of the Sioux Falls candidate must have shown them how needless and unimportant it was—so the Democrats felt—to give serious consideration to the recommendation of the Populist party. "This is not a Populist convention," was the open declaration of more than one Kansas City delegation. The turning down of Towne was more than a rebuke to the Populists—it was a challenge and a defiance.

The Democratic convention was influenced in no wise to nominate Bryan by the fact that he had been nominated at Sioux Falls. Its action was simply anticipated. No Democrat regards Bryan as in any proper sense a Populist candidate. But, nevertheless, he stands on a Populist platform, and represents truly the spirit of Populism. For example, the Sioux Falls platform contains this plank:

A further manifestation of imperialism is to be found in the mining districts of Idaho. In the Coeur d'Alenes soldiers have been used to overawe miners striving for a greater measure of independence. And we denounce the State Government of Idaho and the Federal Government for employing the military arm of the Government to abridge the civil rights of the people and to enforce an infamous permit system, which denies the laborers their inherent liberty and compels them to forswear their manhood and their rights before being permitted to seek employment.

The Democrats make no specific reference to the Coeur d'Alene affair. They endeavor to be simply noncommittal. But they uphold the right of free riot by declaring against government by injunction; and we know what they would have done in the great Idaho emergency as we interpret their general attitude toward strikes, injunctions and the use of dynamite as a means of asserting "industrial independence." Bryan will accept the Sioux Falls nomination and the Sioux Falls platform, with its bald expression of sympathy for dynamiters and murderers, and its denunciation of the only possible effective means to be employed to repress anarchy and maintain order. The things done at Wardner by Steunenberg and McKinley would not have been done if Bryan had been President. There is where he stands when he takes the Populist nomination for the Presidency; and that is Bryan, anyway.

David B. Hill has no word of cheer to carry back to New York. He speaks of the "enthusiasm with which the Bryan ticket was received in the West." The Democracy is being made painfully aware of the enthusiasm with which it has not been received in the East, and on the Pacific Coast.

The Tacoma papers continue clamorous for a "thorough, rigid and impartial investigation of Wednesday's street railway horror." "Never in the history of this state, and seldom, if ever, in the history of the Northwest, has the demand for a mercilessly keen investigation by a Coroner's jury been so universal, strong and just," declares the News. "If guilt there be, Right demands retribution." Retribution will not restore the lives of the forty-odd victims hurled to death without warning at a point in the road known to be dangerous. The initial fault was in the construction of the railway. The rails were laid on a grade descending to a sharp turn into a bridge over a deep gulch. The foundations for a tragedy were laid when the road was built. Everybody foresaw it. As usual, the alarm is sounded too late.

HOME POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY.

It is probable we shall find it necessary to send a very considerable military force to China—10,000, or even 20,000 men. That will depend on the seriousness of the crisis. But we have no business in China except to protect the lives and property of our own citizens. We are not engaging there in any scheme of "imperialism."

But because it is necessary to take action for the protection of the representatives of our Government in China, and for rescue, if possible, of our citizens who are imperiled there, the Kansas City platform breaks out in denunciation of "the departure which has involved us in the diplomacy of Europe and the intrigue and land-grabbing of Asia." This is shameful. Is not effort to be made to save the representatives of our Government, and the large number of our citizens in China, from massacre? The attention of the whole civilized world is fixed at this moment on the situation in China, where the lives of all foreigners are in peril, if indeed the general massacre has not already been perpetrated. The answer of a political party in the United States is that our Government must do nothing, because any action by it would mean "militarism" and "imperialism." And what is the source of this objection? Demand for a party cry at home, for a political campaign! Let us use no harsh words, but simply ask whether this is a party to be proud of.

Not one step has our Government taken, not one step will it take, toward "land-grabbing" in China. Nor is it involving itself in any way in the diplomacy of Europe. Moreover, it is keeping out of the South African War, into which the Bryan party has apparently been so anxious to plunge it. In relation to all these affairs, we are pursuing the traditional and uniform policy of the United States. We did not turn a hand to help the French Republic in the last century, when confederated Europe was trying to crush it; but, on the contrary, came almost to the point of joining in the war against France ourselves. And Washington was bitterly denounced for his sensible attitude on the questions involved. Russia has never been interfered with by us, though she has long been and is yet building up and extending an absolute despotism. Prussia took two of Denmark's provinces, by most wanton aggression, and we were silent. At the present time Great Britain is at war with two states in South Africa. Admitting that her policy is imperialistic in the extreme, her imperialism is not our imperialism. We have had no right to interfere; and, pursuing our traditional policy, we have not interfered. Our sympathies as individual citizens may go out to one side or the other, but it is folly to press such a matter as a supposed issue in a political campaign, for after the campaign is over, no matter which side may win, we can do nothing whatever about it.

It is not imperialism for our Government to refuse to have anything to do with the Boer struggle in Africa, nor is it imperialism for it to take measures to rescue our people from Boxer perils in China. The Bryan party makes itself absurd. It denounces this course, or demands that, in our policy toward foreign nations, without regard to consistency in our National policy, but with the one only thought of working on the minds of various sorts of our own people, so as to get their votes in a political campaign. In this time of full discussion, great business, grave affairs, cannot be played with, successfully, in this way. Before November it will be seen how hollow this sort of campaign is. No false presentation ever has deceived the American people, when the circumstances were such as to require them to examine and pass upon it.

FLAXSEED AND FIBER.

Frank H. Mason, Consul-General at Berlin, notes in a recent report to the Government an inquiry for flax fiber and seed in Germany and Austria that should serve to stimulate the production of these staples of industry and commerce in the United States. Experiments with flax culture in Oregon in recent years, promoted and encouraged by a number of energetic women, at the head of whom stood the wife of ex-Governor Lord, have proved that flax, as auxiliary to the common products of agriculture, can be grown successfully in many sections of the state, and there is no reason to doubt that it could be made a staple product, with substantial profit to growers.

Returning to Consul Mason's report, we find that overtures have been made by a linen manufacturer of Hirschberg, Silesia, who wishes to establish connections in the United States for the importation of American flax fiber. The raw material for linen manufactures in Saxony and Silesia is mainly imported from Russia and Austria. The amount of flax fiber required for this important industry in these European states is enormous, the imports aggregating a decade ago 49,736 tons, the bulk of which came from Russia. Flax fiber is free of duty under the German tariff. By reason of short supply and high prices for the raw product, Consul Mason suggests the present as a most opportune time to introduce the American fiber as raw material for Germany's linen manufacture, the finished products of which are exported in a large and steadily increasing volume to the United States.

The dream of our flax enthusiasts is, of course, the establishment of factories in the United States, to the end that we may not only become producers of flax fiber, but manufacturers and exporters of the finished products of our home-grown flax. It is manifest, however, that we could not compete, except after sustaining heavy loss incidental to the experimental stage of the industry and the heavy expense of bringing over skilled workers from Europe, with the linen factories of the Old World, whereas the open market and increasing demand for flax fiber created by these well-established factories promises speedy returns to the grower. We shall, no doubt, in due time have linen factories on a scale commensurate with our National enterprise, but we may have a market for our flax products in the rough at any time that our producers choose to enter it full-handed.

The same reasons that compel linen manufacturers of Germany and Austria to look abroad for flax fiber have shortened the supply of flaxseed for consumption in those countries. Hence this product, which is largely imported, is deficient in supply, and usually high in price. Germany alone imported in 1897 262,254 tons of flaxseed, the bulk increasing last year to 366,619 tons, of which only a mere bagatelle of 805 tons came from the United States.

This is excusable only upon the ground that our people have been too busy raising the great staples, wheat, corn and cotton, to push out into the flax field and bring its surplus up to the requirements necessary to meet the large possibilities of a foreign demand. It is not probable that there will be an important surplus in the United States with which to meet the demand for flaxseed and fiber in European markets this year. But, as Consul Mason suggests, it will be well for those interested in supplying with raw materials the demands of these important foreign industries, that are firmly based and constantly reaching out for business, to study the requirements of the German and Austrian markets, to the end that we may in the near future add one more great staple for export to our agricultural products.

CIVIL WAR IN CHINA.

The latest news from China indicates that the foreign Ministers are not entirely without defenders among the imperial troops at Pekin, and the action of the Viceroys in refusing to obey the orders of Prince Tuan inspires belief that there is a Manchu palace insurrection raging, which does not command the support of the Chinese people outside of the circle of Manchu influence. It seems that there is a civil war really in Northern China, which is likely to be put down at no very distant date by the powers, aided by a very large anti-Manchu party in China.

Since the Manchu conquest in 1644, the imperial administration has been divided between the great Manchu nobles of the imperial clan and the Chinese who have risen by competitive examination to the highest posts of the empire, the Manchu nobility holding supremacy by command of the Tartar Army at Pekin. These Manchus are anti-foreign in sentiment. They brought on the Tai Ping Rebellion fifty years ago by filling the provincial Viceroyalties with Manchus, and carried the the Chinese Government into war with England and France in 1860. The great Chinese officers, like Li Hung Chang, deem it possible to give Chinese ideals new life by opening China to foreign civilization in arts, arms and trade. The Chinese Minister at Washington is an advocate of this enlightened policy, but when the young Emperor in 1898 adopted these Chinese reform views, he was promptly seized by the great Manchu nobles, headed by the Empress mother, and has ever since been a prisoner. The leader of this party was Prince Tuan, at whose instance six great Chinese officials were beheaded. Italy was prevented from seizing territory, and English concessions canceled wholesale. The army was at once reorganized, and Manchus were appointed to all the high places of the empire. The Governor of Shansi, a friend of the English, was removed. The old Manchu Governor of Shan Tung was restored and promoted.

In November, 1899, Li Hung Chang, known for his foreign tendencies, was ordered to Canton, and a Manchu Vice-Governor was appointed to keep track of him. A Manchu was placed in command at Tien Tsin, and Tartar troops ordered there. The great Boards of Imperial Administration were all given to Manchus, and anti-foreign Chinese Generals were brought to Honan and to Pekin. This was the situation at the beginning of the current year, and on January 24 the son of Prince Tuan was made heir-apparent in a proclamation which suggested that the imprisoned Emperor had never really occupied the throne. This proclamation met with a furious protest from the people of South China, and since then Prince Tuan has boldly seized the reins of power in Pekin and begun a fierce struggle at the head of the Manchu party against foreign influence, supremacy and invasion. In ordinary times the intrigues of Prince Tuan would have failed without much public excitement, had it not been for the Boxers, but the Manchu reaction in Pekin, and Manchu appointments all over the empire, have raised a strong opposition in the Chinese, whose effect is seen in the desire and determination of the Viceroys in Central China to separate themselves from the Pekin Government through the agreements they have proposed with the powers. The fanatical organization of the Boxers has helped Prince Tuan by giving a Chinese backing to his Manchu Pekin intrigues for the exclusion of foreigners.

In other words, there is really a civil war in China between the Manchu and the Chinese factions, and this fact accounts for efforts made by some of the Imperial troops to protect the Ministers. The probable outcome of the matter will be that the European powers, nominally acting for the imprisoned Emperor, will occupy the capital, restore order and reorganize a government under a foreign protectorate, which will maintain peaceful relations with the peaceful provinces; that is, the powers will do for China what Great Britain did for Egypt when she crushed Arabi Pasha's rebellion—restored the Khedive and sent Arabi Pasha into genteel imprisonment in Ceylon. That this is the real situation is shown by the fact that war does not yet exist, in the eye of international law, between the Chinese Empire and the treaty powers of the world, for not a single Chinese Minister residing in a foreign capital has been dismissed.

Theodore Roosevelt is a member of the American-Irish Historical Society, which was organized three years ago to "promote by union in a common high purpose a sincere fraternity, a greater emulation in well doing, a closer confidence and mutual respect among the various elements of the Irish race in America, that, by putting behind them the asperities of the past, they may unite in a common brotherhood with their fellow-citizens for the honor of the race and the glory of the republic." The society "has no concern for any man's race, color or creed, measuring him only by his conduct, effort and achievement," and numbers among its members Protestants and Catholics. Roosevelt's reply to an invitation to attend the initial meeting of the society, in January, 1897, breathes the hope that the day will come when this country will have done with hyphenated patriotism. He said:

We are a new people, derived from many race strains, and different from any one of them, and it is a good thing to have brought before us our diversity in race origin. Like most New Yorkers, whose American ancestry goes back for more than two centuries, I have an ancestral right to belong to several societies of this kind, and I enjoy equally attending the dinners of the Hollander, the Huguenot, the Scotchman and the Irishman. It seems to me the one lesson to be remembered always by those who belong to these associations is that in time their descendants will most surely have the right to belong to many other similar associations; for in time the different strains of blood will all be blended together, English and Irish, German and French. When that time comes, and before it, the chief thing for all of us to keep in mind is that we must be good Americans, purely as such, no matter what be our creed or ancestry in Europe.

The records of the United States Life-saving Service, dry to appearance as statistical dust, are alive with that which stirs emotion and excites admiration. They show in a striking way that suffering, danger and death are not taken into consideration by ordinary men when the service to which they are called is an honorable one. They show that for such paltry pay as the patrol service of the beach commands, men will take any and every risk to save life from the deadly sweep of the "downstreaming sea." They show, moreover, that volunteers offer themselves with alacrity for this service, without thought of recompense, when occasion demands. The story in detail is one of suffering and danger on one side, and of stalwart service that takes no account of personal peril on the other—a monotonous story, but one instinct with the very essence of humanity. It is the business of these lifesavers to risk their own lives, if need be, and at all times to disregard their own comfort, so long as other men and women are in distress which calls for assistance. How well they discharge this duty the records of the Lifesaving Service, as published from year to year, faithfully tell.

Says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat:

In the election in Oregon a month ago, just after Bryan had stumped that state, in which canvass the two chief issues of expansion and honest money were at the front, the Republicans had four times as large a majority as McKinley gained in that state in 1896.

Just a correction or two. In 1896 McKinley had a plurality of 2040 over Bryan in Oregon, and a majority of 144 over Bryan and the Gold Democratic and Prohibition tickets. In 1900, Wolverton, Rep., for Supreme Judge, carried the state by 10,637 plurality over Greene, Dem., and by a majority of 6100 over all. Wolverton's plurality in 1900 is over five times as large as McKinley's was in 1896, and his majority more than forty times as large. Oregon heard Bryan's speeches in April and voted the Republican ticket in June. It now hears the Democratic platform, a reflection of those speeches, and will vote against it in November.

The drowning in the Willamette at Salem of one of the Oregon State Guard, now at Camp Geer, was a casualty that, though not expected, is not surprising. Full of life and vigor, restless and eager for sport, boys are prone to become reckless, and are more than likely to regard a call for help from a comrade in the water as a part of the programme, rendered "for fun." A few days of drill and camp discipline will reduce danger from this source to the minimum, though to prevent the possible recurrence of such a catastrophe, an order forbidding the soldiers of Camp Geer to bathe in the Willamette has been issued. No one was to blame for the sad occurrence, so sincerely regretted by the late comrades of Roy D. Gage and by all who have pride in our citizen-soldiers.

China, a vast empire held together by no one knows what, unless it be the worship of ancestors and reverence for antiquity, is aptly compared by the Christian Register, of Boston, to "a vast human pudding." It may be stirred and divided, but as the disturbing influence passes it quickly runs together and coagulates. Dismemberment of such a substance, if subsiance it may be called, is not an easy matter. Such attempted division, poetically expressed, is—

Like the oar strokes in the water,
Which the drops make haste to fill.

The problem offered to the civilized world by the present animated condition of this "human pudding" is one that may easily, in its attempted solution, swallow up armies and distract and disgruntle nations.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is a year behind with its reports, but the statistics offer rich material for comparison between prosperity and Bryanism. Gross railroad earnings for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, were $1,318,310,618, an increase of $163,141,242 since 1896, the date of the first coming of Bryan.

If Bryan should be elected, the United States Treasurer will have the new duty thrust upon him of issuing a monthly, perhaps daily, statement, declaring the actual value of the silver dollar. The quotation will never be 100 cents, as it is now.

The Chinese, it is said, have this proverb as to foreigners: "First the missionary, then the Consul, then the General." Here, it must be admitted, is sententious truth, forcible as brief.

Possibly Mr. Bryan consented to push anti-imperialism to the front just to show that there are other paramount issues on which the Democrats can't win.

The gentlemen who were licked into line at Kansas City are returning via Lincoln to assure Mr. Bryan that they enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

"Cyclone" Davis has also moved his storm center on to Lincoln, Neb. Lincoln is a powerful magnet for statesmen.

These hot days in New York serve to keep fresh the memory and achievements of the ice trust.

The Hill-Croker Row.

New York Post.

David B. Hill and Richard Croker had a difficulty at Kansas City yesterday. Sharp words passed between them, and Croker brought against Hill the heinous charge of not being a Democrat, in spite of Hill's public declaration years ago that he was one. Croker won the round be defeating Hill as the New York member of the committee on platform. This was a victory of matter over mind. A searcher of hearts would perhaps not find much to choose between the two men in point of morals, but Hill is a man of ability and some culture. Although a trickster by nature, he held his own very well as a debater in the Senate and made a presentable appearance on the floor. One could only shudder at the thought of Richard Croker filling any such place. The victory of the latter means another step toward Avernus in the Democratic party of New York. The result is taken to signify that Hill will cease to fight against a 16-to-1 plank in the platform. He could make things very interesting even now, if he should put himself at the head of those opposed to 16-to-1, and make a fight on the floor of the convention. But Hill is not that kind of a fighter. He prefers to win by underground methods, even where boldness would serve his turn better.

AS TO KANSAS AND POPULISM.

The Conditions That Made Kansas a Populist State.

Kansas City Journal.

Commencing in 1855, Kansas took on the most disastrous "boom" that ever came to afflict any people. Money became so plentiful that agents were running over the state actually soliciting people to borrow sums far in excess of the value of the property which they had to offer in security. The years 1885, 1886, and 1887 were years of comparatively small crops, particularly in the western half of the state, which was another inducement to borrow. Thousands of homesteaders in the arid sections of the state where people had gone to open farms without a chance of success, deliberately mortgaged their lands, considered it a sale, and left for other parts of the country. The spirit of speculation also ran riot. We have in mind a little town in Western Kansas where a corner lot sold in 1886 for $5000, but which today would not bring $50. Foreign capital came pouring into the state until one fine morning the people of Kansas awoke to find that they owed about $250,000,000 in real estate mortgages, given to secure notes which drew a high rate of interest. The census of 1890 gave this mortgage indebtedness at $343,146,000, and to this must be added a vast amount of personal debt, perhaps as much as $100,000,000.

This then was the condition of things when the Kansas boom burst. Men found themselves unable to pay the exorbitant interest which they had contracted to pay. Values went out of property like water out of a squeezed sponge. Foreclosures began to be made by the hundreds and thousands. Fully half of the population in the western half of the state pulled up stakes and left for other sections, where they could start anew. The opening of Oklahoma offered an alluring invitation to those who had become crippled in the financial reaction. Colorado and other Western States, also drew from the Kansas population. Between 1885 and 1888 the population swelled with the boom perhaps 200,000. With the departing boom between 1888 and 1890 as many or more went away, and this exodus continued for several years thereafter.

With the coming of hard times the Populist party was born. It was organized by men who sought to escape the payment of their legitimate debts. They went about preaching the doctrine of confiscation of capital. They attributed their own and the state's misfortunes to the policies of the government. They invented schemes to dishoner obligations and impede collections. They evolved the octopus and the money devil. They taught that legislation could take the place of industry and thrift. They sought to overturn the immutable laws of living and of life.

And when the Populist party gained power it frightened every man who had capital invested in Kansas securities. The result was that the hard times were made harder by a wholesale movement to call in all Kansas investments. The Populist party ruined thousands of men by bringing their creditors down upon them. It is responsible for the quickest and most ruinous readjustment ever known between creditor and debtor. In less than 10 years the mortgage debt of Kansas was practically swept from the board, but the men of Kansas saw desperate hardships while the unduly hastened process was taking money out of their state.

In nine years the people of Kansas probably paid, including interest in their lonas, more than $300,000,000. This was the consequence of the wild dance they had danced a few years before. The birth of the Populist party was an incident. The downfall of Ingalls was an incident. The temporary defeat of the Republican party was an incident. The mad notion that a people might escape the penalty of their own folly was an incident. But back of it all was the money-borrowing craze which had seized a reckless population.

We may speak frankly of these things because the day of trouble for Kansas is over. And with the coming of better times she has given over her Populistic fads and fallacies and is dividing politically as other communities do. She is no longer listening to doctrines such as that advanced by her Populist Chief Justice when he said that "the rights of the user are paramount to the rights of the owner." She no longer is sending men to the Legislature with the wish that they may devise some way to avoid the payment of an honest debt. She no longer is exploiting the subtreasury or any other patent scheme to make men rich without toil. She isn't even voting for free silver or any other sort of wind money. She has become virtuous and sane, and dwells like a saint among the truly happy.

Lincoln to Carl Schurz.

The New York Herald recently contained an interview with Carl Schurz, in which he assailed President McKinley as the author of an immoral policy, and said of the coming campaign:

The American people are to determine whether they will stand by the Declaration of Independence and the teachings of Washington and Lincoln or abandon them to support McKinley and his policy of criminal aggression, conquest by force, perfidy to allies and military rule over distant populations.

Referring to this, the New York Sun quotes a letter written by President Lincoln to Mr. Carl Schurz on the 24th of November 1862 from the authorized life of Abraham Lincoln by John H. Nicolay and John Hay. This is the letter:

I have just received and read your letter of the 20th. The purport of it is that we lost the late elections and the Administration is failing because the war is unsuccessful, and that I must not flatter myself that I am not justly to blame for it. I certainly know that if the war fails the Administration fails, and that I will be blamed for it whether I deserve it or not. And I ought to be blamed if I could do better. You think I could do better; and, therefore, you blame me already. I think I could not do better; therefore, I blame you for blaming me. I understand you now to be willing to accept the help of men who are not Republicans provided they have "heart in it." Agreed. I want no others. But who is to be the judge of hearts, or of "heart in it"? If I must discard my own judgment and take yours, I must also take that of others; and by the time I should reject all I should be advised to reject, I should have none left, Republicans or others—not even yourself. For, be assured, my dear sir, there are men who have "heart in it" that think you are performing your part as poorly as you think I am performing mine.—("Abraham Lincoln: A History." Vol. VII, pp. 363-64.)

Worshiping a Ratio.

New York World (Dem.).

From the devotion shown to "16 to 1" by some of the delegates at Kansas City one might almost think they believe it to be something sacred—that it came down from heaven engraved on a tablet of stone, like the decalogue.

This is really not so. It is very human, and originally was purely mathematical—not political. The United States has had at different times different ratios for the coinage of gold and silver. The first, adopted by Congress on April 2, 1792, was 15 to 1. Various propositions for fractional changes were made from time to time as the commercial value of the two metals fluctuated, but nothing was done until 1834, when the ratio of 16 to 1 was adopted. Other nations have fixed the ratio at 15 or 15½ to 1.

But—and this is the point for the fetish worshipers—the statesmen who adopted the ratio never claimed that it was sacred or unchangeable. They did not fix upon it either to appreciate silver or to depreciate gold. They chose it, as Mr. Jefferson said, because it represented "the true proportions between the values of gold and silver," which he declared to be "a mercantile problem altogether."

The worship of an obsolete and changeable ratio of coinage is a very foolish idolatry in American politicians.

TOWNE SUPPORTERS ANGRY.

Silver Republicans in Colorado Will Vote Against Bryan.

Denver Republican, 3ll.

The defeat of Towne, when taken in connection with the retirement of free coinage from the foremost place which it occupied in the Chicago platform four years ago, to a position "below the salt," like a poor relation at a feast, or an "also ran" in a racing summary, will cost the ticket a good many votes all over the silver-producing section, and the rabid assault upon the policy of expansion, which the platform declares to be "the paramount issue of this campaign," will prove still more unpopular throughout the entire West. . . .

Silver coinage has been made a minor issue, and Towne, one of the great champions of silver, has been turned down. Anti-expansion has been pushed to the front as the dominant question of the campaign, viewed from the Democratic standpoint, and Colorado is an expansion state. Colorado Silver Republicans believe in a greater America, and with silver coinage pushed to the rear and the former associate of Grover Cleveland elevated in Towne's place, they will find little to induce them to support the Democracy. The Democracy, giving merely nominal support to an issue which Silver Republicans approve, and vigorously opposing one that they indorse, will probably present less attraction to them than the old Republican party, standing with them on the dominant issue of expansion and the greatness and glory of the Nation.

Good-Bye, Web.

Kansas City Journal.

The Hon Webster Davis has abandoned the Republican party to its fate. Mr. Davis disliked to do this, because the old party has been very kind to him in the past and came very near making him all he is. But the party would not obey Mr. Davis, so what else was there to do? It has only itself to blame for its present awful predicament.

Parties, like individuals, must learn by experience, and if peradventure the Republican organization should survive its deprivation—and there is a chance that it may—it will know enough in future not to turn a deaf ear to the Hon. Web Davis when he comes around offering to write its platforms.

In the meantime, it may be proper to wish the distinguished pro-Boer agitator a long and happy sojourn among his new political associates—especially a long one. Good-bye, Web. Take keer o' yourself.

Not a Party of Imperialism.

New York Times.

Imperialism is a word foreign to our political vocabulary, as the practices it describes are foreign to our institutions and our Government. Let the Republican party make it known to the American people that the word shall never be naturalized, the practices never be adopted, so long as the power to make and execute laws remains in their hands. They know that they are not a party of imperialism. Men who consider the acts of the Republican Administration with the candor that belongs to an open mind know that no imperialistic designs have turned it aside from the true path of American policy.

Bryan Is His Platform.

Brooklyn Eagle, Ind. Dem.

Bryan himself is his platform, he is his record, he is for free silver, for the surrender to the Filipinos, for war on property, thrift, order, security, investments, prosperity and law. The Eagle is glad that Mr. Bryan makes support of himself definable beyond doubt and opposition to him obligatory to those to whom he is not Democracy, but the reversal of it, in every respect.

Hanna a Small Boss.

Chicago Journal, Ind.

The Democratic party today is absolutely controlled by one man, and represents nothing except that man and his notions. Mr. Hanna is a very feeble autocrat in comparison with Mr. Bryan.

Sixteen to One.

Memphis (Tenn.) Scimetar, Dem.

Sixteen to one means that the Democracy has put away the hope of carrying debatable states at the demand of its master.

Speaking of Dictators.

Kansas City Star (Ind.)

But, speaking of dictators, what trivial and puny satraps are Hanna and Platt and Quay as compared with Bryan!

Some Warm Day Reflections.

Josh Wink in Baltimore American.

They say
It's the humidity
That makes us feel so
Hot.
They say
We're really not so warm,
That most of it
Is thought.
They claim we'd all be
In a state
Of slightly warm
Frigidity,
Did we not have to wrestle
With a whole lot of
Humidity.

This rather humid
Argument
Cannot put out
The fire.
We know we heat up
When we see
The mercury go higher.
There may be truth in what
They find
By using a
Hygrometer,
But every man feels
All the heat
When he sees a
Thermometer.

He may feel
Cool,
And calm and nice,
Until he takes a peep
At that slim tube,
And sees how
High
The mercury can creep.
That always has
The same
Effect
As lighting a
Gasometer.
He's hotter than he was before,
When he sees a
Thermometer.

Thermometers have
Sudden ways
Of thawing one's algidity,
But
Other folks
Must lay the blame
On "this intense humidity,"
There's nothing
Heating
In a look
At any old barometer—
But you find out
How hot you
Are,
When you see a
Thermometer.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It will soon be hot enough for us at this rate.

The seaside hotel-keeper is now getting ready to Kansas Cityize his guests.

It is learned from South Africa that there is a war of some kind down there.

St. Louis has arisen in her might and demands her war correspondents back again.

A Presidential ticket which was not founded on a Hill can be easily snowed under.

There are already four Presidential tickets in the field, with Aguinaldo yet to be heard from.

His own front porch will be the most substantial platform Bryan will stand on this Summer.

It was a ghastly joke to exhume Stevenson for chief mourner at the Bryan funeral next Fall.

Did any of the delegates to the Kansas City convention hear the name of O. H. P. Belmont mentioned?

Of course, the Boxers are willing to fight the whole world as long as the whole world is elsewhere.

An eight-day clock doesn't know anything about striking when compared with the St. Louis street-car men.

The Congressional Record is at last open to the charge of being yellow. It is printing Pettigrew's speeches.

Wouldn't it simplify matters to let Russia take China away from the Chinese, and then let the other powers take it away from Russia?

It is estimated that the repairs to the Oregon will require three months, but the ship has a habit of getting things done long before any one expects her to.

Ex-Governor George W. Peck, of Wisconsin, author of "Peck's Bad Boy," was running a little country weekly in the early '90s. It was an unimportant sheet, save for one column of jokes which Peck wrote each week. This department caught the eye of "Brick" Pomeroy, who was then printing his Democrat in La Crosse, Wis., and one day he wrote to Peck asking him whether he would be willing to go down to La Crosse and work for the Democrat at $25 a week. Three days later Mr. Pomeroy got this telegram: "I accept your offer quicker than instantly. For heaven's sake don't withdraw it!"

A story from Kingston, Jamaica, says the inhabitants of the British West Indies have been laughing very heartily over a recent article in the Paris newspaper, Le Monde Illustre. The article says that in the near future, after the Boers have driven the British Army into the sea, the Queen's Empire will be dismembered. The probable fate of each colony is stated. Jamaica apparently is to became the appanage of Cuba. British Guiana is to be annexed by Venezuela. The Daily Chronicle, of Georgetown, accepts the fate with comparative resignation, remarking: "It is something to be thankful for that we are to have nothing to do with malodorous Cayenne, where the toffy men come from."

F. S. Dunning, on East Alder and East Sixth streets, has a great curiosity in the shape of a cat, which has taken up its abode with the chickens, in the rear of the house. The cat is a tramp, and when very young walked into the chicken yard, and henceforth became a chicken. He roosts with the rest at night, but does not crow. He comes off the perch the same as the others and takes his food with the rest of the fowls. At first the chickens objected to him, but now it is a common thing to see the cat and a chicken cuddled up together. The cat is a scrapper. The other day a big rooster from a neighbor's yard came over into Mr. Dunning's hennery, and started in to clean out the ranch, but the cat waltzed into him, and in less than a minute the rooster flew over the fence with his vanity gone, a big chunk of his comb missing, and minus all his tail feathers. Mr. Dunning says that no $10 could buy the cat.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Natural Sequence.—At this point of the story our heroine swept across the room. There being nothing else for our villain to do without violating the unities, he got up and dusted.—Indianapolis Press.

The Retort Courteous.—"Excuse me, sir, but have you a corkscrew about you?" "Sir! Do I look like a man who opens bottles?" "Well, no; you don't. You look more like a man who empties them."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Mrs. Brown—What awful times we are likely to have in China. There's no telling how many thousands of people will be killed and how many other thousands will suffer from want. Mrs. Green—And just as like as not tea will go up to a dollar a pound!—Boston Transcript.

A Fourth of July Dinner.—"Have you ordered dinner, sir?" asked the waiter. "This isn't dinner,' said the man who is nothing if not patriotic. "I beg your pardon—luncheon." "It isn't luncheon, either. This is a Fourth of July celebration. I want you to bring me some red snapper, some white perch and some bluefish."—Washington Star.

Out of the Ordinary.—"I think we ought to give this wedding a display head on the first page," said the city editor. "Out of the ordinary, is it?" asked the managing editor. "Well, I should say it was," answered the city editor. "Why, there was no 'bower of roses,' no 'floral bell,' no 'wide-spreading canopy,' no 'blushing bride,' nothing 'beautiful in its simplicity,' no 'solemn strains' to the wedding march, no——" "Enough!" cried the managing editor. "Double lead it and give it a scare head. It's the only one of the kind."—Chicago Evening Post.

MEN AND WOMEN.

Dr. Ernst Juch, who recently died in London, was the founder, with Gottfried Kinkel, of the Londoner Zeitung, the aim of which was to bring about a union of the German States.

Major Esterhazy has returned to Paris, and is again appearing in public. He seems well-to-do, yet is not engaged in any business, so that rumor says he gets a government pension.

A substituted forefinger was shown by a Koenigsberger doctor at a surgical congress in Berlin. He had cut off the patient's second toe and sewed it to the stump of the missing finger. Primary union followed, and the new finger could be moved by its owner.

The oldest living recipient of an honorary degree from Harvard is ex-Governor George S. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, who received the LL. D. degree in 1851, when it was the custom to so honor the Governor of the state, a custom which stopped with the election of Benjamin F. Butler.

The German historian and novelist, Gustav Freytag, declared shortly before his death that the trouble with Germany was that through the death of Kaiser Friedrich the generation that had grown up with him was deprived of the realization of its ideas in favor of the younger generation represented by the present Emperor.

Charles J. Hunt, of Detroit, a graduate in 1846 of the University of Michigan, has given the university a tract of timber land in California, estimated to be worth $25,000. Interest on the money obtained for the land is to go to Mr. Hunt and his wife during their lives, and then four-fifths will be retained by the university for followships.