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THE SOUTH AND PANAMA.

In seeking to array his party against the Panama canal treaty, Senator Gorman evidently misjudged both the temper and interests of the south, says the New York Tribune. In his opinion, apparently, the president's canal policy could be turned to signal partisan advantage. Opposition to it might offer a leading and adequate democratic issue for 1904. So the Maryland leader planned to use the solid democratic vote of the senate to defeat the new canal convention. At first glance, such a program might have seemed both specious and attractive. The democratic party is so bereft of issues that it can scarcely be censured for grasping at any and every fortuitous straw. But it is rather surprising that a shrewd and experienced democratic manager like Mr. Gorman should have been tempted to exploit a policy so unwelcome to the section to which the democratic party owes nine-tenths of its present political power.

Historically, the south has been the most eager advocate of those views of American trusteeship in the region of the Caribbean which has been avowed and acted upon in the administration's dealings with Colombia and Panama. The doctrine stated by Secretary Cass and quoted by President Roosevelt in his recent message to congress had the enthusiastic endorsement of southern opinion in 1858. It has the equally enthusiastic endorsement of southern opinion now. The south, through its leaders and spokesmen, has constantly adhered to its policy of territorial expansion. It invented and applied the theory of "manifest destiny." It advocates the assertion at every opportunity of our virtual guardianship of the western world. What good ground was there for thinking that the southern people, in response to Mr. Gorman's emergency summons, would suddenly abandon all their rooted political prepossessions and ideals?

Interest weighs even more in politics than tradition. Mr. Gorman made the grave error, therefore, of ignoring the south's material concern in the construction of an isthmian canal. No section has more to gain than the south through the shortening and cheapening of transportation routes to the Pacific. No section has more to lose through delays in the completion of a transisthmian waterway. Could the south reasonably be expected to sacrifice its commercial interests and prospects to furnish the democratic organization with some dangerous and doubtful campaign ammunition for 1904?

There is nothing equivocal in the south's repudiation of Mr. Gorman's leadership. The legislature of Louisiana met in special session a few weeks ago to make an appropriation for fighting the cotton boll weevil. Its attention was directed to Mr. Gorman's manoeuvres, and both houses passed, without dissent, a resolution instructing the Louisiana senators to support the canal treaty. Mississippi's new legislature met this week, and one of its first acts was to give similar instructions to Senators Money and McLaurin. In the state senate the vote was 31 to 1: in the lower house the vote was 86 to 37. No other southern legislature has had an opportunity to express an opinion on the merits of the canal treaty. But in Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Texas commercial bodies have enthusiastically favored ratification, and public sentiment, as voiced in the newspapers, runs almost unanimously the same way. The south wants the canal and sustains the policy which has made its construction possible under conditions exceptionally favorable. It repudiates an undemocratic and unpatriotic obstructive program devised only for temporary partisan profit.

POLITICAL DIFFERENCES.

The failure of the democratic party to make good with its "anti" planks has evidently impressed leading democrats, who are manifesting a disposition to refrain from fighting the good things the republican party has accomplished. Here in Oregon we have lately had an example of this. At a "harmony meeting", Governor Chamberlain expressed the new sentiment, while Chairman Sam White, of the state committee, could see no particular reason for the democrats letting up in their plan of attacking indiscriminately the policies of the republicans. Former Governor Geer, discussing the matter in the Statesman says:

At the harmony meeting the other night Governor Chamberlain said: "the democrats should not fight the good things the republicans have done." Suits us. If the advice is followed it will put the democrats out of business before the first tap of the bell. In political acumen the governor is easily the first democrat of the state. But there was Sam White, Captain Sam, who, in his speech which immediately followed, didn't seem to have heard of anything good the republicans had ever accomplished. In vaguely hinting that there might be something of good the republicans may have done, the governor entered a domain the very existence of which never dawned on the bewildered mind of the belligerent captain. Indeed the good things which the republicans have done which the governor mentioned were the very things the captain named as being especially worthy of unceasing and unmeasured denunciation.

The governor specifically mentioned the Philippine policy and the attitude of the republicans on the Panama question as being "good things which every democrat should support." while the captain declared his kind of democracy by saying: "I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, but I will foretell that before many years we will be forced to give those islands back."

So there you are. Although, as we were saying, While the utmost divergence of opinion prevailed on all questions, and no two of the speakers seemed to agree upon any one proposition, save that the republicans are still to be viewed with the same degree of alarm that stamped them as rascals, even during Lincoln's time, yet the prevailing sentiment seemed to be that if the democrats can be induced to "fight like cats"—"within the party"—the republicans may be called upon next spring to meet a foe with all the belligerent characteristics of the unmixed Maltese strain. And the fur may be turned the wrong way. Who knows?

When a senator enters an elevator in the senate wing of the capitol, he is carried directly to his destination, without regard to the intentions of the other passengers. This senatorial prerogative delayed the president's message to congress recently in an amusing way. Mr. Barnes, the assistant secretary to the president, stepped aboard a senator elevator from the ground floor. In a portfolio under his arm he carried a message from the president of the United States to congress. "Senate floor," said Mr. Barnes, as the conductor shut the door. Just then there were three rings (the senator's signal) of the bell, and the indicator showed that a senator wanted to be lifted out of the terrace. The elevator went down instead of up, and Mr. Barnes went along. The senator in the terrace only wanted to go to the ground floor. As he stepped off, however, there was another senatorial ring from the terrace. This senator wanted to go to the gallery floor, and the elevator went there without stopping. As the car started down there were three rings from the ground floor, and again the car failed to stop at the destination of the president's secretary. Fortunately for Mr. Barnes, this senator wanted to get off at the senate floor, and the congress, after long delay, received the message from the president.

Senator Gorman is said to be worried over a report that the X-rays can turn negroes white. If the color line were obliterated, the Maryland aspirant for the democratic nomination would lose his political capital.

It is no doubt a great consolation to Br. Bryan to think that if he had been successful in the last campaign he would have been deprived of his trip to Europe.

Chances of leading the democratic ticket next fall are about evenly divided between the Jim Crow and Yellow candidate for the nomination.

Colombia has become less warlike. Perhaps she feared the invasion of troops carrying a flag that is likely to stay put.

For a long time war between Japan and Russia has been inevitable, and many people think it will remain so.

Senator Morgan's canal speeches occupy more time than attention in the house.

The south has become strenuous—in its demand for the canal.

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