

The Dalles Daily Chronicle. The only Republican Daily Newspaper in Wasco County.

SATURDAY. - - - NOV. 14, 1896

EASTERN OFFICE—230 to 234 Temple Court, N. Y. City. E. KATZ, Agent.

THE TRAMP PROBLEM.

The tramp problem has caused, is causing, and will continue for an indefinite time to cause comment as to his whitherness. That he is an unmitigated nuisance is undoubted; that he is a source of danger at all times, a threat to property and a menace to peace is freely conceded by all; that he is often a dangerous criminal, always a petty one, his history shows.

What then to do with him, and how to control him have become important questions. The remedies suggested have been multitudinous, ranging from the rock pile and enforced work to a great national home for him, where he may be sent and cared for until his moral nature gets thoroughly renovated and he becomes a good citizen, by contagion.

The tramp disease, like leprosy, once contracted is incapable of cure. It goes from bad to worse, eating into the morals, into the manhood of the victim until disease or a slip from the break-beam sends him into the beyond.

It seems to us that the proper way to deal with the tramp is to prevent him, and we believe this can be done easily. We premise that the great mass of tramps were not born to that condition, but made so; that they were not born with criminal instincts, but acquired them through circumstances. The only difference, after all, between your moral citizen and the criminal is a half dozen or so meals. When hunger makes the demand, crime will, if necessary, furnish the supply. What then is the remedy? By making steady employment possible, the first step in tramping will be avoided. How can this be done? By stopping immigration, or so controlling it that it will be reduced to a minimum.

With \$50,000 to 1,000,000 people coming here annually, besides our own natural increase, the supply of labor outruns the demand. The result is steadily decreasing wages, trending ever to the level of those in Europe, and forced faster and faster to that level by the sharp competition of the labor of Europe imported and competing with that already here. The laborer, accustomed to certain wages and to the mode of living permitted from them, becomes disheartened as year after year his wages decrease and the practice of the most rigid economy is forced upon him. He refuses to work for the reduced wage and takes a tramp seeking some place where he may better his condition. The European laborer, accustomed to lower wages, goes to work willingly, for to him it is an increase in pay. The result is that the new immigrant is employed; the older one and the American becoming idle and tramps. The mining regions of Pennsylvania and Ohio are in consequence practically foreign countries.

The tramp cannot be cured by punishment, but he may be prevented by wisdom. Have we as a nation the latter quality?

A MORAL DUTY.

The dispatches yesterday lead us to believe that the administration foresees the possibility of trouble with Spain, and the probability of being compelled to interfere to settle the struggle in Cuba. That this government has no right to interfere in the affairs of Spain or Cuba is freely admitted. It is a matter between the parent government and its colonies. The only excuse for any interference must be based upon the man-

ner in which the war is conducted.

Higher than international law or international courtesies is moral duty. To take part in the war is beyond us; to stop the butchery of women and children is our duty. Warfare at its best is a bloody butchery of men, but civilized nations have certain well-defined rules that govern the conduct of all wars. One of these is that non-combatants shall not be disturbed. Another that prisoners shall be treated humanely. Spain has violated both of these rules, and has turned her licentious soldierly loose to rob, to ravish and to murder. As long as Spain conducts war against the rebellious subjects, according to the rules of civilized warfare, it is none of our affair; but when she resorts to the methods of the savage, it becomes our duty to stay the red hand of murder. This sentiment is shared by fifteen millions of free men in this country, and it is high time the head of the government discover this fact. Let Spain stop her butchery of babes, or let her be swept by the strong hand of free America from her last foothold on this side of the Atlantic.

The English government acceding to the demands of the United States for the arbitration of the Venezuela boundary lines, is more of a victory than it at first seems. It is not the concession in this particular case that is of importance, but the acknowledging of the principles expressed in the Monroe doctrine by the greatest government on earth, except our own. It was not Venezuela's border lines that were in issue, but the question as to whether the United States, looking after its own interests and providing for its own protection, might interfere between the governments of Europe and those of South America, or rather of this continent, and compel the submission of differences to arbitration. The United States, in England's opinion, at least, has this right, and the far-reaching effects of this admission can scarcely be estimated.

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