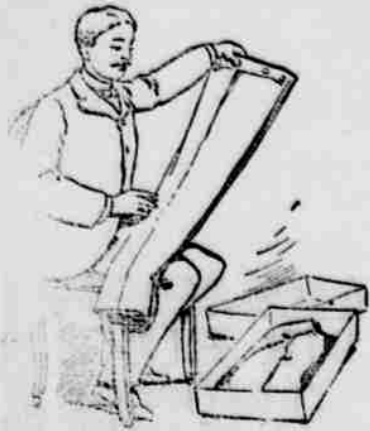


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TUESDAY - - - APRIL 10, 1900

ADMINISTRATION POLICY JUSTIFIED.

The plea urged by Republicans in justification of the Puerto Rican tariff bill is entitled to candid Republican consideration. They insist that until a local system of government is organized no other way of providing for the immediate and pressing necessities of the island is possible. Puerto Rico is more densely populated than any country in Europe. Of its million inhabitants 800,000 derive their living directly from the soil, and 900,000 can neither read nor write. A widespread and grinding poverty, unknown in Europe or America, has prevailed under Spanish rule. In a majority of families the heads are unmarried because under Spanish rule they had not the money to pay for the marriage ceremony. They have no roads, no school houses and no public improvements. They live in huts consisting of one room, and have work only during the coffee, tobacco and sugar season at wages of from 10 to 30 cents a day. They subsist principally on fruits and most of them have never known bread and meat as they are known to the very poorest Americans. The land is owned in 43,000 estates and the owners are mostly Spaniards, English and other foreigners. Their principal exports are, in the order of their importance, coffee, tobacco and sugar. Just as the introduction of American methods had begun to produce beneficent results a calamity occurred that has no parallel as affecting the whole people of a country. A hurricane swept the island and destroyed nearly the whole of the coffee plantations and brought widespread, although less serious, disaster to the sugar and tobacco plantations. The coffee planters being, all of them, in debt had no credit and no resources with which to repair the ruin the hurricane had wrought. In twenty-four hours 800,000 people were left without occupation or means of support, and the planters without credit or means to clear their farms or employ the labor that was clamoring for work to keep them from starving. Had not the island been under the generous care of the United States there would have been suffering and starvation that would have appalled the civilized world. It was under these conditions that it became necessary to provide means for conducting the government of the island; for providing work for the people; for repairing as far as the government might the waste and ruin the hurricane had wrought; for building school houses and making other public improvements that existing conditions made imperative.

How shall this necessary revenue be raised? That was the question. No one proposed that a draft should be made on the United States treasury because no one wanted to turn the Puerto Ricans into an island of mendicants. Two other methods were at the choice of the administration. A custom duty on imports and exports between the island and the mainland, or a direct tax in the form of internal revenue. The former method was adopted for these two principal reasons. To collect a direct tax off the islanders required elaborate governmental machinery that was not in existence. To organize this machinery required time, and immediate relief was imperative. But an adequate direct tax was, under existing conditions of distress and ruin, an utter impossibility. General Davis, governor of the island, testified before the committee that, "A general system of taxation to produce revenue enough to carry on the government of the island would amount to confiscation." Other testimony confirmed that of General Davis overwhelmingly and the administration, that had contemplated immediate free trade with the island, was compelled to yield to the force of circumstances and adopt an 85 per cent reduction of the Dingley tariff till such time as a local government has been established in the island when absolute free trade will rule. We submit in all honesty and candor that the administration could not have acted otherwise than as it did; that the bill is most considerate and generous and that the opposition to it, where its history is properly understood, is in the highest degree factional and unreasonable.

If the sugar and tobacco trusts are so dreadfully anxious to have their imports of raw sugar and tobacco from Puerto Rico taxed why don't they ship at once the two crops of these products the associated press correspondent says they hold in the island, and pay the entire Dingley rates as they would have to do at the present time? If they want taxed raw materials, as Democrats and certain alleged Republicans say they do, what in the name of goodness are they waiting for? And why are they suing the government for the \$2,000,000 of taxes paid by them on Puerto Rican imports since the annexation of the island?

A subordinate scribbler in the Oregonian charges THE CHRONICLE with having made several "attacks" on Senator Simon. THE CHRONICLE has not "attacked" the senator. It has impugned his judgment as a young member of the senate in deserting his party and voting with the opposition. The right of the senator to join in the unreasoning and senseless clamor against the policy of the party that created him and thus put the administration "in a hole" is conceded.

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Rev. W. E. Sitzer, W. Canton, N. Y., writes, "I had dyspepsia over twenty years, and tried doctors and medicines without benefit. I was persuaded to use Kodol Dyspepsia Cure and it helped me from the start. I believe it to be a panacea for all forms of indigestion." It digests what you eat.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
LAND OFFICE AT VANCOUVER, WASH. D. C.
March 24, 1900.
Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before W. B. Freshy, United States Commissioner for District of Washington, at his office in Goldendale, Wash., on Monday, May 7, 1900, viz:

John G. McDonald,
H. E. No. 1093 for the northeast quarter, section 15, township 2 north, range 13 east, W. M.
He claims the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz:
Samuel L. Courtney, Harry Pennington, Ed G. Copeland, of Harland P. O., Wash.; and Nelson B. Brooks, of Goldendale, Wash.
W. B. DUNBAR, Register.

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Tuesday	Monday	Monday	Tuesday	Monday	Tuesday
Thursday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Wednesday	Thursday
Saturday	Friday	Friday	Saturday	Friday	Saturday
Arr. Portland at 5 P. M.	Arr. Dalles at 5:30 P. M.	Arr. Portland at 5 P. M.	Arr. Dalles at 5:30 P. M.	Arr. Portland at 5 P. M.	Arr. Dalles at 5:30 P. M.

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