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NATIONAL POLITICS.

It is fully time that we had a national government and not a mere party administration of national affairs. All good and disinterested citizens should unite in the desire to see the rancor of partisanship give way to admit the consideration of broader views and to encourage the general prosperity of the whole United States.

The mass of American voters are not politicians, even though they may be strong partisans; they probably have little idea of the dishonest tricks that are often practiced upon them, and little understand the schemes and plots, conspiracies and rascalities that are made use of to win elections.

We can think of no greater blessing to befall the American people than to see the civil service reformed; to see competent men retained in office; merit made the chief cause of promotion; to see party fealty ignored and see Senators and Congressmen deprived of all control of official patronage, and their recommendations only received for what they are worth.

As to the action of the President with regard to the South, we fully sustain the withdrawal of the troops and consider it proper that the Southern States should be left to work out the problem for themselves. Certainly, the presence of the army can do nothing towards establishing either peace or prosperity there, and it is sure to exasperate the whites and make them more bitter and unrelenting toward the blacks.

It is a question whether the blacks or the whites shall rule the South, and it needs no argument to show that ignorant negroes are not fit for law-makers. It was a terrible mistake to endow the negroes, just liberated from slavery, with suffrage. It is only natural that the superior race should soon be able to control the negro vote, in one way or another, and we must concede that the longer the struggle is kept up the more the blacks will suffer.

What the country needs,—what the South especially needs—is the restoration of national feeling and identification with national interests in the fullest degree. If partisans demand a course that shall uphold party at the expense of national prosperity—such a course as has been too often pursued—surely a national sentiment irrespective of party, will uphold the President. It is time that each party had a policy developed that should control its course, and that the desire for spoils should cease to be the ultimatum of party hopes. As soon as the South is left alone to govern itself we may expect to

see questions of policy arise in the nation that will employ the minds of the people and to some degree disturb the present status of parties. When that time comes the whites of the South will divide on questions of public policy and the color line be to some extent obliterated.

Fish Culture.

Some two years ago shad spawn were brought from the East, and the young shad were launched in the waters of the Sacramento river, California, and this year young shad weighing two pounds, have been caught in that river. This demonstrates the fact that shad can be propagated in Western rivers, of which there was no reasonable cause for doubt. To show the effect of artificial propagation we need only to cite the facts in relation to Eastern rivers, where the shad had become so scarce as to be a luxury beyond the reach of the poorer classes.

The shad, it must be remembered, is the finest fish that swims, superior to the salmon when eaten fresh from the gridiron, and to show the superiority we need only cite the ancient New England laws that required fishermen to catch a proportion of salmon to so many shad. Now, for a trifle, we can possess all the best fish of Northern seas here in Oregon. Fish culture is an easy science, so easy that a trifling annual outlay will be sufficient to stock the Columbia system of streams with various varieties of fish. This is being done elsewhere and why not have it done for Oregon? Let our Congressmen interest themselves in this matter and we will give them shad for breakfast, one of these days, when they come home, and they can, at their leisure, compare the shad of the Columbia with those that are caught in the Potomac.

The War Cloud Thickens.

Two weeks ago it seemed as if the peace of Europe was not to be disturbed. The five Great Powers had agreed upon a protocol which set forth the necessity of reforms in Turkey and the manner in which those reforms could be accomplished, in the opinion, at least, of the Powers. It seemed to be taken for granted that Turkey would accept the interposition and dictatorial advice of England, France, Austria, Germany, and Italy, as positive law and adopt the course recommended and give the guarantees required, as necessary to preserve the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, but for once the Great Powers reckoned without the host, for Turkey positively and deliberately refuses to accept the stipulations of the protocol.

Had Turkey accepted the situation and bowed submissive to the will of the great Christian nations of Europe, it is not easy to see what excuse Russia could, with any show of right and reason, have had for commencing war. The contemptuous refusal of Turkey to accede to the terms offered her amounts to a defiance, and gives Russia all the excuse she desires to commence war for an object that has been a tradition among the people of Russia for two centuries. The Greek Christians of the Russian empire are at the mercy of the Moslem rulers, and Russia, as the head of the Greek church, claims to be their protector. Constantinople was the first home of that church, and it is safe to say that Russia will fight the coming battles to re-establish its supremacy there, and with it the supremacy of the Muscovite power on the Bosphorus. The Greek cross and the Russian eagle will be apt to make their home together.

Gen. Sherman predicts a struggle that will cause the loss of a million lives and involve other nationalities. Such a war cannot end in one year and may last several, though modern warfare has acquired a skill and proficiency that make war a more dangerous and rapid game than in former ages. The Turk will be officered by Europeans in a great measure, and he is armed and equipped with all the modern appliances. He is stubborn and bigoted in defence, and will fight to the bitter end. In his case it will be a war of religious fanaticism, and the Moslem zealots are the most intolerant on the face of the earth. They will therefore fight with barbarous courage and with all the dull faith their fanaticism inspires. At first view we may suppose that Russia can easily overmatch the Turk, but evidently the latter does not think so, and may have resources and allies more than we are aware of.

So much for the peace of Europe.

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that appears to be endangered beyond a hope of preservation. The effect on Oregon and on the whole United States, if war prevails in the other hemisphere, must be to create a market for all things saleable we can produce or manufacture. It brings to us in Oregon the promise of at least a fair price for our forthcoming harvest, and that harvest seems to be passing through the crucial tests of the Winter and Spring, in a manner to encourage belief of a more than abundant yield.

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