

This Date In History—March 13.

655—Belisarius, the last great Roman general (of the eastern empire), died; born 505.
 1631—Birth of Esther Johnson, noted unfortunately as Dean Swift's Stella; died 1722.
 1741—Birth of Joseph II., famous emperor of Germany; died 1790.
 1867—Cession of Russian America to the United States. The territory is now known as Alaska. Russia acquired it by virtue of the right of discovery. On July 18, 1741, Vitus Bering sighted the mountain range of which St. Elias is the crowning peak. Russian commercial expeditions established traders there.
 1871—Mrs. Bonaparte Wyse, daughter of Lucien Bonaparte, died; born 1801.
 1881—Alexander II. of Russia assassinated; born 1818; crowned 1856.
 1901—Benjamin Harrison, twenty-third president of the United States, died at Indianapolis; born 1833.

THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

The republicans, in county convention assembled, made a brief and pithy platform, nominated of fit man for state senator, named a fairly good county ticket and endorsed William J. Furnish for governor in no faltering voice.

The convention was not a spirited one, but full of business. There was no windy expressions, no useless and empty appeals of eloquence, no friction and little disappointment. It was apparent that some master hand was steering the republican ship clear of rocks and shoals. The machine worked well, so nicely that even the county delegates had no objections to offer, but served as a crew faithfully to the finish, and the campaign will open without a deserter.

Of course, the ticket is weak in some places. That was to be expected. It will give certain democrats a better chance to be elected. If the republican ticket was without defect, the democrats would not have as much chance to defeat it. As things stand, they have a good opportunity to secure their share of the offices, and that is about all that the candidates of either party are after.

Office itch is prevalent, and here in Umatilla there is every reason for the statement that the disease has reached nearly an epidemic form, for nearly every man one meets is running after office of some kind.

If the democrats should take the hint and nominate men best fitted for the office, choosing only those who would treat a public office as a public trust, making the office seek the man, splendid results would follow and the democracy would be entitled to the support of the voters. Otherwise to follow in the footsteps of the republicans, offering no improvement over them, is to merit defeat.

Excellence in administering office would be appreciated by the people, regardless of political belief, and if the democrats will put forth a ticket that will insure greater excellence in the conduct of office than the republicans, then they may go before the people certain that their cause will win.

ELECTION OF SENATORS

The lower house of congress has again passed, practically without opposition, a resolution to amend the constitution so as to admit of the election of senators by popular vote. Although the sentiment in favor of the change is obviously growing stronger, the senators manifest no more disposition to consider it than they have shown on the three previous occasions when a similar resolution passed the house.

If the senators refuse the fourth time to take action on this proposition it can only be inferred that they believe an overwhelming popular demand for it exists and that they do not desire to yield to it. To secure the necessary amendment to the constitution, even though both houses unanimously favor it, will be a difficult matter. In their efforts to protect the constitution from rash and ill considered changes the authors of that document rendered its amendment extraordinarily difficult. Two thirds of both houses must first approve a resolution for amendment, or else the legislature of two thirds of the states must apply to congress to call a convention to propose amendments.

Any amendment approved either

by congress or by a constitutional convention, must then be ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of all the states. It is not to be supposed that the state legislatures would throw away their most valued privileges lightly or without due consideration of popular feeling. If the senators have any good reason for not submitting this question to the nation they should hasten to make it public.

The fact of the matter is, they have no reason, but they feel that they have greater power under the present form of election than they would under a direct vote of the people. In short, they distrust the people and feel that they must withhold from them for as great a time as possible the election of senators, for in doing so the senate, as now composed, has its only chance of existence. When once the people have the election of senators by a direct vote the servants of mammon will not be so in evidence in that body.

THE VITAL ISSUE.

The vital issue before the American people is this: "What shall be our permanent policy in the Philippines?"

It goes to the root of our institutions. A greater question was never debated among men, for upon its proper determination depends the perpetuity of the republic.

The tariff, trusts, finance, building of the isthmian canal and economy in the public expenses are all important questions pressing for solution; but far-reaching and important as they are they in no wise involve the existence of free government.

Jingo jugglers vociferously and vehemently insist that the overshadowing question of our policy in the Orient was settled irrevocably and definitely by the last election. Not so, however.

A multiplicity of issues contributed to the result of the campaign of 1900. William McKinley's wonderful personal popularity was a large—perhaps the decisive factor—therein.

Mr. McKinley was many thousands of votes stronger than his party. Many men who doubt the wisdom of our becoming an Asiatic power supported Mr. McKinley by reason of his unflinching amiability and his blameless private life. While believing him wrong they had implicit faith that at last he would come around all right. They knew that he had changed his mind on that question radically once, swinging from the American doctrine that "forceable annexation is criminal aggression" to the un-American theory of "benevolent assimilation."

They hoped that he would experience another change of heart and return to his reasonable position.

So far as his influence upon our destiny is concerned, it would have been far preferable for Mr. McKinley to have been a bad man with good politics rather than a good man with bad politics; for it is as true today as when Shakespeare wrote it that "The evil that men do live after them."

No love for him, however intense; no admiration for his virtues, however sincere; no regret for his tragic death, however profound; no eulogism upon his character, however fervid, can alter or palliate the fact that by recanting his first opinion and by throwing the weight of his great name in favor of the Philippine propaganda, he involved the country in dire difficulties and placed our institutions in imminent deadly peril.

For one hundred and twenty-six years we have vaunted ourselves as the propagandists of the idea of government of the people, by the people and for the people. Now we are engaged in rushing a people 7000 miles away, whose only offense is that they desire to practice the theory which we have preached from the housetops.

Nor have we preached in vain, for following our example and harkening to our voice, twenty-six nations have shaken off their royal masters, broken their shackles and established for themselves governments modeled upon ours.

At this very moment the Boers of South Africa, inspired by the words of Jefferson and the deeds of Washington, are making the most heroic fight for freedom recorded in the entire annals of the history of the human race. To our ineffable shame be it said that while England has been murdering those brave little republics we have stood by consenting like Saul at the stoning of Stephen.

Wherefore? Because we are engaged in the same sort of bloody business in the Philippines. We appear to have entered into some sort of tacit agreement with John Bull that if he will not interfere with our foreign conquests, we will not raise our voice against his foreign conquests.

Nor is it true. On the one issue of permanently retaining the Philippines and ruling them by the sword, democrats would have swept the land from sea to sea, for let it not be forgotten

that in 1900 it was in the east that we made substantial gains and it was in the east that imperialism was most exploited as the dominant issue.

The same per cent of gains spread all over the union would give us the victory. If we hope to win we must ex necessitate secure recruits from the republican ranks. That's plain as the nose on one's face.

Are republicans a unit on this question? By no manner of means. True that not long since "Uncle" Joe Cannon, chairman of the committee on appropriations, in the heat of debate, with frantic gesture, yelled at the top of his voice: "We intend to keep the Philippines forever and a day;" but it must be remembered that on that occasion "Uncle" was in a hole and fighting to get out.

Republicans are constitutionally unfit to successfully or economically administer colonial affairs. Proconsular government has been notoriously corrupt, unjust and tyrannical since the world began, and will continue so till the end of time. All history, sacred and profane, demonstrates the truth of that proposition. It matters not whether the Proconsuls are Romans, Britains, Spaniards or Americans. The corruption, injustice and tyranny grow inevitably out of the Proconsular system.

It is written that "Evil inventions return to plague the inventors;" and the corruption, injustice and tyranny that we inflict upon the Filipinos by our Proconsular government will at last be practiced upon ourselves. We are progressing after the manner of the crab—backward.

Already one of our military satraps in the Philippines has said: "The constitution is played out. There is no use to discuss it." Another has declared that men have been sent to prison in the Philippines for such utterances as those of Professor Schurman in his Boston speech.

Yet another has pronounced the Declaration of Independence to be a "damned incendiary document"—which is precisely the opinion of it entertained by George the Third and Lord North.

Considered for military purposes the Philippines would be a source of weakness—just as they were to Spain. Were we engaged in a war with a great power—as we may at any time be—the Philippines would be the place of attack, and we would be compelled to do our fighting seven thousand miles from our base of supplies, which would place us at a great disadvantage, doubling the cost and quadrupling the chances of defeat.

Why should we run such desperate risks when we have all to lose and nothing to gain?

The basic principle of republics—"Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed"—is true, or we, as a nation, have no raison d'etre.

If that proposition is not true Washington and the other revolutionary heroes were rank traitors. If it is not true, John Hancock, old John Adams, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and their compeers were pestilential disturbers of the peace of George the Third.

If it is not true, Theodore Roosevelt is exercising powers usurped from King Edward the Seventh and the congress of the United States consists of 451 rebellious brawlers.

This miserable Philippine business familiarizes the American people with the idea of a large standing army. General Chaffee says that we will need fifty thousand soldiers in the Philippines alone for five years. Judging the future by the past we will need that many there until the judgment day.

We are told that, waiving the quantum of the sin of subjugating a distant people, we must hold onto the Philippines because we want their trade. It is not denied that trade with the Filipinos and every other people is desirable.

Democrats are as anxious for trade as are the jingoes, but they place liberty and good conscience above money.

Democrats do not believe that we must own a man to trade with him. The dollar argument is the most sordid of all, but let's take it up on that low basis and see how the matter stands.

The Philippines, to say nothing of the loss of life and the huge pension load we are fastening on our children's children, have up to date cost us nearly three millions in cold cash. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, we expended in the Philippines nearly ninety million dollars.

During the same period our profits from trade with the Philippines, allowing for ourselves 20 per cent profit on all we exported to and imported from those islands, were only the beggarly sum of \$1,085,541.

Expending ninety million dollars a year to get one dollar profit may be solarwalk statesmanship, but to a plain man who understands arithmetic it appears to be stark idiocy. The only reason such an insane policy does not bankrupt the United States is because the United States is so rich. No other nation on earth could stand, and we can't stand it long without disastrous results.

Our institutions were indeed bought with a great price. Shall we now recklessly jeopardize them through greed or vainglorious ambition for foreign conquests? I do not believe that the American people will so decide.

It surely cannot be that the spirit of Seventy-Six is entirely dead in the American heart. To that spirit and that heart democrats confidently appeal in this crisis of our country's fate.

A merchant who had a store in each of two small neighboring towns recently tried an experiment. He put a bargain counter in each store, containing the same articles at exactly the same prices. In the newspaper of one village he advertised his special counter. In the paper of the other he did not advertise. He sold goods amounting to \$984. In the store the same month where he did advertise he sold goods amounting to \$1,723. In commenting on the result of his experiment that merchant says: "The people who got the advertisement pass by one of my stores and drive miles to the other for what they could have gotten at the same price at my store at their doors."

Very little is known in this country of Canada, our big neighbor on the north. Canada is so big that there is yet eighteen unexplored areas in it each ranging from the size of Ireland to one-half the size of all Europe.



Men who look much older than they are never appear to such disadvantage as with the wife who keeps her matronly beauty. The secret of health and the manly vigor which goes with health is nutrition. When the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition are diseased there is loss of nutrition, and corresponding physical weakness.

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