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# The Daily Astorian

FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

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NO. 54.

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## TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE AND CROPS

Drought, Forest and Prairie Fires Devastate the East.

### SEASON WITHOUT A PARALLEL

Manitoba, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Indiana Suffer Intensely—No Rain. No War, Not Weather.

Winning, October 1.—The forest fires that have been raging in Manitoba close to the boundary line for the past ten days have broken out more furiously than ever. Ten or twelve persons are reported to have been burned to death and the fire is rapidly spreading and crossing the boundary line into North Dakota. Settlers have been fighting the flames for over a week trying to keep them from getting into the more thickly populated districts. The flames are driving hundreds of wolves and coyotes into the open and flocks of geese and ducks have been seen flying over the burning forests. Near Whittemouth, H. L. Laundry, a trapper, was burned to death. A German woman living in a small house near where the fire was the most furious yesterday is reported to have burned to death and her children are missing.

A dispatch from Whitehouse states the fire is spreading rapidly. Several settlers had close calls for their lives. A heavy wind drove a mass of smoke which blinded, and a long line of flame which consumed everything in its path.

East at Whittemouth the situation is very critical. The section foreman Darwin and his wife and men were picked up by a freight train and brought to Whitehouse. Roadmaster Horner on a handcar attempted to run from Darwin with his men, but nearly succumbed through suffocation and was compelled to take refuge in a passing freight train.

All the telegraph poles for several miles east of the town are down and trains are tied up.

A dispatch from Manitowish, Wis., says the country is on fire here. On both sides of Broken Head river much damage is being done. The smoke is so thick that it is impossible to see twenty yards, though there is no fire nearer than a mile. Mr. and Mrs. Young, who live eight miles away, lost everything and only saved their lives by standing in the river for twelve hours, when they were able to come out upon the burned ground after the fire had passed. Nearly everyone in the path of the flames lost everything.

At Beaujour, Manitoba, seven persons have been burned to death. Mrs. O. W. Williams, her young son and a daughter had a race with the flames for several miles. They had a team of horses, which they kept on the run. Sparks from the burning timber were blown into the dry ground of a prairie where they were surrounded by flames. The frantic horses started to run straight ahead into the burning timber. Before they had gone far the carriage was overturned and they were thrown down an embankment into a small creek. This probably saved their lives. They were badly burned.

A report from Morris, Manitoba, says a fire has been raging there and that one family of five persons is known to have perished.

### IN ILLINOIS

Mascouah, Ill., October 1.—In the experience of the oldest settlers in St. Clair and adjoining counties the present drought is without parallel. For two months there has been practically no rainfall in this section and the temperature has ranged above 90 degrees almost daily during all that time. The damage done by the drought in southern Illinois cannot be estimated, but it has been great. The heaviest loss to the farmers is on the corn crop, which has been cut down 50 to 65 per cent. It has also done great damage to all late vegetation and to the fruit crop generally. Hundreds of wells, cisterns and creeks have entirely failed and a water famine is threatened over a large area of country. Many farmers residing east of Mascouah are hauling water a distance of six miles. The water in the Kaskaskia river has reached the lowest stage in years. In addition to the severe loss on crops of various kinds, the farmers will have to provide an unusually large quantity of feed for their stock, owing to the parched condition of all the pastures. The stock feeding season begins fully two months earlier than usual, as a result of the drought.

## GEORGE IS THE TRUE CANDIDATE

According to Members of the National Democratic Committee.

### CHICAGO PLATFORM THE TEST

Van Wyck Denounced as the Leader of a Corrupt Fight for Leaves and Fishes.

New York, October 1.—Henry George's claim that he is the regular democratic candidate for mayor of New York has called forth expressions from members of the democratic national committee.

W. H. White, member for Washington, telegraphed to Henry George: "The democratic party of the state of Washington sends you greeting. In the movement you are the representative of Jeffersonian democracy. Your selection as mayor will bring assurance to the democracy of the West and South. Mammoth workshops have not thronged their love for free government in the East, and in 1890, as a reunited, purified party, we will move forward in glorious national victory."

The Herald prints dispatches from democratic national committee men as follows:

W. S. Holiday, Indiana: As a democrat I recognize but one authority in determining democratic policies on questions that are national in scope—the democratic national convention. If the democratic party is to continue national in its policies, and therefore national in its character, all true democrats must accept the platform adopted by the last national convention—the Chicago platform—until the principles and policies set forth in said platform are settled. Democrats throughout the country, I believe regard the result of the pending campaign in Greater New York as being of such national significance that it will affect the democratic party for good or ill in the campaign of 1900. I am persuaded the opinion no democratic faction in any state in the United States will change the purpose of the democratic party as set forth in the Chicago platform. That party in New York which accepts the Chicago platform ought to have the support of all democrats.

Thomas McKee, Arkansas: The Chicago platform is the latest authentic declaration of democratic faith, and I believe it the duty of all democrats to support candidates who stand upon it in preference to those who ignore it.

J. M. Head, Tennessee: I certainly believe that the compliance with the Chicago platform should be insisted upon. Any organization claiming to be democratic which refuses to endorse the national platform, has no claim upon the support of the democratic voters. I am not sufficiently advised as to the rules of party organization in your state to venture an opinion as to who is the regular nominee, but Mr. Van Wyck certainly cannot lay claim to it.

John Gilbert, Shantkin, Indiana: Were I in New York I should support Henry George, because he is the only exponent among the candidates for mayor of the principles decided on at the Chicago convention, absolute loyalty to which is the test of true democracy.

J. G. Dudley, Texas: The democrats who fought the battle of 1896 should insist that the support of the Chicago platform and its nominees should be the test. I cannot see how democrats who supported the Chicago platform and its nominees can vote a ticket nominated on a platform which ignores the Chicago platform and especially when there is a ticket in the field reaffirming the Chicago platform. They cannot afford to compromise principle.

George A. Inslee, Idaho: Every democrat in New York should support Henry George. A candidate who does not stand up for or endorse the Chicago platform has no claim to democratic support. Such men elected McKinley, and to be consistent they should support Tracy. Their pretense of being democrats is but a repetition of the masquerading in the lion's skin.

J. H. Townsend, Oregon: I believe the Chicago platform represents the principles of the democratic party and know of no reason why any organization other than a national convention should presume to chafe the principles of the party.

Benjamin R. Tillman, South Carolina: The present situation in New York city is most interesting and of national importance. The result will show whether there is patriotism and manhood enough in its people to give themselves honest government and save themselves from slavery to money. Van Wyck does not represent democracy, but was nominated

## ANOTHER BIG CUBAN BATTLE

Conflicting Accounts as to Which Side Was Victorious.

### CUBANS LAUGH AT AUTONOMY

They Claim Now to Be Better Prepared for an Active Campaign Than Ever Before.

New York, October 1.—A dispatch to the Herald from Havana says: A big battle occurred October 2 in Camarones hills, not far from Matanzas, between the Spanish under General Molina and the rebels under command of Betancourt, Sangulilly and Raoul Arango. The fight began at 9 o'clock in the morning and continued all day. The official report published here states that Molina attacked the rebel position and drove the rebels out with great loss. The report says that General Molina had his horse shot under him.

The Herald's correspondent at Matanzas has obtained an account of the fight from a Spanish officer who was present. From this it appears that the rebel infantry were strongly entrenched in an almost inaccessible position in the hills, and all efforts to dislodge them were futile, resulting only in heavy losses for the attacking force. The insurgents had only a few men killed, and jeered and taunted the Spanish during the whole engagement. General Molina narrowly escaped death. Enraged at his failure, he returned to the attack the next day, but with no better success. A large number of wounded Spanish soldiers were brought into Matanzas. General Castillo left Puerto Principe September 2 with heavy reinforcements, for the purpose of attacking the Cuban government headquarters in Guayamarillo, but heavy rains and bad roads prevented him from carrying out his plans, and after long marches he returned to Puerto Principe with 108 of his men ill.

General Ruiz, while escorting a convoy from Puerto Principe to San Nicholas, was attacked by rebels September 30. The rebel leader, Juan Duasas, has crossed the Mariel-Matana trocha with a large force and is now operating with General Castillo.

El Pais publishes a statement to the effect that up to date 2,000 of the 6,000 reconcentrados in the town of Jaguay Grande have died of hunger.

### LAUGH AT AUTONOMY

New York, October 1.—General Carlos Roloff, secretary of war of the republic of Cuba, has sent the following letter to Gonzales de Quesada, Cuban charge d'affaires at Washington: "We are now better prepared for an active campaign than at any time during either the present or the late war. We are informed here that Spain will probably try to please the American government by offering us autonomy more or less ample. I need not tell you, my friend, that we laugh at such offers, for already we are at the hour of our liberation.

"Should Spain seriously offer us autonomy, it would prove the full extent of her weakness, and we will fight with renewed ardor until she shall recognize our independence. Imagine our delight should Spain thus confirm us in our belief that the end is fast approaching.

"Tell the American government that to enter into diplomatic discussions with Spain in the hope that we will accept autonomy is useless. We should simply thank it for its trouble, but manfully decline to end the war on such terms. We know that both Palma and you have often made this plain to the American government and public, but we wish you to reaffirm it."

### NO REPLY YET

Madrid, October 1.—A cabinet council at which the queen regent presided was held today. When the ministers separated the premier, Senor Sagasta, announced to the newspaper men that no final decision had been taken in regard to the reply which Spain will make to the note of the United States, handed to the Duke of Tetuan when he was minister for foreign affairs by the United States minister.

### JOURNAL'S AND WORLD'S POLLS

New York, October 1.—The Journal's poll of Greater New York votes now includes 8,469 names. Of these Henry George, Jeffersonian democrat, has 27,127; Van Wyck, Tammany, 26,431; Seth Low, citizens' union, 20,062. Tracy, republican, 13,900. The World's poll of 35,596 voters is as follows: Van Wyck, 25,156. Low, 19,256. George, 13,873. Tracy, 12,900. Gleason, independent, 4,229.

A sweetheart will write two notes a day to the object of his admiration, even though he sees her every evening, but when he becomes her husband and is separated from her for weeks at a time he hastily scribbles one once a month, is about all he feels able to write.

## ENGLISH FEAR OF RUSSIA AND JAPAN

Reasons for Salisbury's Withdrawal from the Seal Conference.

### Sherman Will Probably Agree to a Separate Meeting with the English Representatives.

New York, October 1.—A dispatch to the Herald from Washington says: The administration proposes to make clear to Great Britain the embarrassment caused this government by her refusal to participate with Russia and Japan in the proposed conference on the sealing question. A note is now in course of preparation at the state department which will deplore the withdrawal of the British government at such a late hour, and call attention to the fact that the communication of May 26, which Secretary Sherman addressed to Lord Salisbury, stated that Russia and Japan would be invited to take part in the conference. The British government has no reasonable ground at this time for refusing to participate, when she had already accepted an invitation to take part knowing that Japan and Russia would be represented in the conference. It is also understood that the administration will yield to the inevitable and ask Great Britain to send representatives to meet those of the United States.

There is no intention, however, to abandon the proposed conference with the representatives of Russia and Japan. These gentlemen will reach the United States in a few days. The latter conference will be held, it is thought, after representatives of the United States and Great Britain have had a meeting and reached a conclusion, and the delegates of Russia and Japan will then be asked to ratify the action of the Anglo-American conference. The determination to send the above referred delegates followed the issue of an official announcement from Ambassador Hay that Great Britain had refused to take part in these conferences. In view of the representation therein which Russia and Japan would have.

The real reason behind Great Britain's withdrawal is traced by the officials to Canadian interests in the sealing industry and the fear of the British and Canadian authorities that the United States, Russia and Japan being in the majority, will outvote her representatives on all important matters which may be considered.

### UNITED STATES SHIPPING REPORT

#### LARGEST DOCUMENTED ANNUAL TONNAGE IN 21 YEARS.

In 1861 was the Largest Tonnage in Our History—Merchant Marine Never So Efficient as Now.

Washington, October 1.—The annual report of Mr. Chamberlain, commissioner of navigation, which has just been submitted to the secretary of the treasury, shows that the total documented tonnage of the United States on June 30, 1897, was 4,790,229 tons, and is the largest for 21 years, except in 1881, when it was 4,802,911 tons. Our largest documented tonnage was 5,328,312 tons on July 30, 1861. Considering the speed and number of trips of steam vessels compared with sailing vessels, our merchant fleet has never been so efficient as it is this year. The total construction of the year—221 vessels of 222,333 gross tons—is the largest annual output since 1881.

#### HOPE FOR REFORMS.

Havana, October 1.—El Diario Marina, organ of the reform party, commenting on the new Spanish cabinet in its leading editorial, says: "The fall of the headless and discredited conservative party means a transition from a dark night to a sunny day; it means a radical transformation of methods. The list of ministers is a clear indication that the platform of the new cabinet is pure and logical autonomy for Cuba. We have absolute confidence in a prompt re-establishment of peace. The rise in Spanish securities in Europe shows that the public in Spain and abroad has great confidence in Senor Sagasta's cabinet."

The Union Constitutional, organ of the conservative party, says: "The change in the Spanish cabinet is of minor importance, as all true Spaniards must have the same patriotism in defending the high ideas of the nation."

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