GENERAL NEWS.

Cuban shipowners ask permission to fly the American flag.

A cyclone in Oklahoma did great damage to property and injured many persons.

President McKinley will take a vacation of two or three weeks at Hot Springs, Va.

The Missouri legislature has passed a law taxing department stores from $300 to $500.

Many discharged soldiers are destitute at San Juan de Porto Rico, and cannot get away.

De Freycinet, French minister of war, has resigned because a speech of his was ill received.

A big plot to smuggle Chinese into this country from Mexico has been unearthed at Austin, Tex.

A fence-wire trust, composed of 14 firms, has been formed in opposition to the steel and wire trust.

Senator Pettigrew says the populists will nominate Bryan, at a convention held before the democrats hold theirs.

The Reina Mercedes, sunk in Santiago harbor last July 4, and raised and repaired, is on her way to Newport News.

W. A. Brandes at Oakland, Calif., was sentenced to life imprisonment at San Quentin for the murder of his daughter. Brandes beat his daughter to death.

Advices from the Northwest confirm previous reports that nearly half of the Yukon fleet is fast in the ice, and will probably be destroyed when the spring freshet comes.

A Chicago young woman, named Mabel Birk, shot and fatally wounded a lawyer named David White, and then killed herself. While claims to be ignorant of the cause.

Alexander Masterson, a New York banker, aged 72, was shot and killed by a man named Plumb, who claimed that Masterson had ruined him, and who is probably crazy.

A gigantic combination, gathering in all the flour milling corporations at the head of the lakes, New York city, Buffalo and Syracuse, has been effected with a capital of $40,000,000.

Fifteen cases of disease in Leclaire, Ia., have been identified by officers of the state board of health as smallpox. The Davenport council has declared a quarantine against Leclaire.

Senator Depew favors Senator Hanna for chairman of the republican national committee during the next campaign. He says the republicans will have practically no opposition.

Many authorities on the art of war declare that there will be no actual results of the peace conference at the Hague, beyond the lessening of the horrors and atrocities of battle.

Moore, the Kansas man who killed his five children and pleaded insanity, was convicted, but may get a new trial on a physician's letter, which says he was a victim of apoplectic insanity.

General Frederick Grant confirms the Paris report announcing the engagement of his daughter, Julia Dent Grant, to Prince Michael Cantacuzene, Comte Speransky, a Russian nobleman.

Lieutenant William H. James, United States army, while awaiting an assignment to duty, died of pneumonia at the Presidio, and his remains have been forwarded to his former home in Kentucky.

Charles Curtis, one of the leading representatives of Kansas, says it is quite likely that General Funston, who has distinguished himself in the Philippines, will be sent to the senate after the next election.

The rush for the Ute reservation lands is at its height. Many who had held places in the filing line left it and joined in the race for good locations. Men are scattered out along the edges for a distance of 40 miles.

The Pullman Company announces another cut in rates to many cities, practically all points west of Minneapolis on the Northern Pacific. The amount of the cut is not known, but it is considerable, and will lead to other cuts.

Wellborn, the San Francisco embezzler, arrested there Wednesday, had enlisted in Texas as a private in the army, and when his regiment was ordered to San Francisco he had to return to the scene of his crimes, and was recognized.

The heaviest rain of the season visited Illinois Wednesday night, bringing relief to winter wheat and corn, which had suffered severely from the dryest April in 28 years. There were heavy rains also throughout Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas, which will be of great benefit to crops.

While General Otis does not request troops, he indicates that more could be used to advantage. It is plain that with 3000 Filipinos near Manila and towns asking for garrisons to protect them, troops are needed. A call for 35,000 more troops might have a wholesome effect upon the insurgents.

It is declared in Washington that the president's nervous condition and ill health are the result of his incessant smoking. Of late, he has smoked from breakfast to bed-time, and while at work he has constantly a cigar in his mouth. He almost rivals the late General Grant as a smoker.

Joseph Drimburn, a brewer of Great Falls, Mont., went to New York to meet his wife on her return from an European trip, and when she arrived he had disappeared, and cannot be found. He left a large amount of money at his hotel, but is supposed to have had considerable on his person.

The French minister, M. Tichon, has demanded mining concessions to the value of 1,200,000 tales in the province of Sze Chuan, one of the largest in China and traversed by the Yang Tse Kiang, as indemnity for the recent imprisonment of a French missionary. The demand is considered exorbitant.

A paper extremely friendly to Alger intimates that if Miles is not relieved upon the publication of the beef report, Alger will retire. This caused a great deal of comment in army circles, and the general verdict is that Miles will stay. Alger will claim a vindication by the court of inquiry, and claim offended dignity.

The friends of Admiral Schley have raised a protest because he is given no recognition. Watson, who was at Santiago, but not in the battle, goes to Manila, and another man goes to Mare-island yard, while Schley has an unimportant assignment on one of the many boards in Washington created for naval deadwood.

The United States delegates to the peace conference at The Hague have instructions to advance three leading principles—the institution of courts of arbitration, the extension of the declaration of Paris of 1856 to the non-confiscation of all cargoes not contraband of war, and the extension of the Geneva agreement to war by sea.

One hundred leaders of the New York Citizenship League, including John Jacob Astor, ex-Governor Flower, Morton, and others, plan to give Admiral Dewey, on his return to this country, a $10,000 banquet. Each of the hundred men is to give $100, and the number of guests is to be not more than 125 or 150. The banquet will be at the Waldorf Astoria, and will be the greatest feast ever given in New York.

The grand jury which has been hearing the evidence in the case against Roland B. Molineux, who is accused of the murder of Mrs. Kate Adams by poison sent through the mails, finished its investigation without indicting Molineux. Molineux was arraigned before Judge McMahon and at once discharged. No sooner had he left the court room than he was rearrested on a charge of having assaulted with intent to kill with poison, Harry Cornish.

The claims of the United States against the government of Morocco have been settled.

Tramps touched off a Pottsville, Pa., powder magazine, blowing up 18 tons of powder; loss, $10,000.

Cardinal Gibbons denounces the Belmont-Sloane marriage as a "crime against the law of Christ."

Big Chicago mass meetings indorsed the administration and especially its course in prosecuting the war in the Philippines.

At the peace conference at The Hague, America and England will stand together in favor of international arbitrations of disputes.

It is rumored in Paris that Major Marchand, the leader of the famous expedition to Fashoda, has been killed by a band of outlaws.

The defense of Miss Beilstein, of Pittsburg, who killed her mother because the spirits told her that her dead father was lonesome, will be insanity.

A Porto Rican commission asks for the establishment of civil government in the island, under American control, and for free trade with the United States.

The cruiser Buffalo arrived at New York from Manila with over 500 soldiers. The cruiser made the run via Singapore, Port Said and Gibraltar in 44 days.

The American-Canadian joint commission to settle all differences will hold no more meetings this summer, and its work already done will probably amount to nothing.

The New York Sons of the Revolution repudiate and condemn the action of the Michigan society in giving a dinner, the object of which was to eulogize and land Secretary Alger.

Ex-President Harrison is on his way to France as counsel for Venezuela in its boundary dispute. Ex-Secretary of the Navy B. F. Tracy is associate counsel, and may accompany him.

District Judge Stuart, of Doniphan, Kansas, has refused to grant a divorce to Ellen Phillips from P. O. Phillips, because their marriage was brought about by an advertisement in a matrimonial paper.

The situation at Bluefields is becoming more serious, and American interests are in a critical position. Unless the United States takes aggressive measures, American merchants will be looted and driven out.

A big railroad trust, to control all the lines between Boston and Chicago, is reported as under process of organization. It would include the Vanderbilt system, the Pennsylvania, the B. & O., and many smaller roads.

"The president is commander-in-chief of the army, and my superior. He has approved the findings of the Wade court of inquiry. Therefore, I have no comment to make. It would be an unsoldierly act were I to do so," says General Miles.

Grand Conductor E. E. Clark, of Cedar Rapids, Ia., called the 27th session of the grand division of the Order of Railway Conductors to order Tuesday in Detroit. The total attendance was about 1500. An increase in membership of 200 was reported.

The report of the state treasurer of Tennessee to the legislature puts the deficit for two years at $811,180. To add to the embarrassment of the situation, the assessed valuation of the property in the state has decreased $45,000,000 in the last six years.

The state fair management at Wichita, Kansas, has offered General Funston and his swimming comrades $10,000 to repeat their brilliant Luzon act there in October. The Little Arkansas river will be fortified and the general and his men will swim across, attack and take the fortifications.

KILLED THEM ALL.

The Priests Had an Army of 120 Men Put to Death.

The department of state at Washington has been informed by the United States minister at La Paz, Bolivia, that on March 1, Colonel Pando sent from his army at Sicasica, 120 men, commanded by Arturo Eguindo, to Ayopia, to confer with Mr. Oreillma, as to the best means of attacking Cochabamba.

On arriving at the town of Mohosa, Eguindo demanded a loan of 200 bolivars from the priest of the town, and 100 bolivars from the mayor. The demands being refused, the priest and mayor were imprisoned. Meanwhile the priest dispatched couriers to the Indian villages, asking the natives to attack Pando's men.

A large crowd of Indians came and the arms of the soldiers were taken away. The men were subjected to revolting treatment, and locked inside the church for the night. In the morning the priest, after celebrating a so-called "mass of agony," allowed the Indians to take out the unfortunate victims, two by two, and 103 were deliberately murdered, each pair by different tortures.

HIS NEW BROTHER.

Say, I've got a little brother,
Never teased to have him, rather,
But he's here.
They just went ahead and bought him,
And, last week, the doctor brought him.
Wa'n't that queer?

When I heard the news from Molly,
Why, I thought at first 'twas jolly,
'Cause, you see,
I s'posed I could go and get him
And then mamma, course, would let him
Play with me.

But when I had once looked at him,
"Why!" I says, "My sakes, is that him?
Just that mite?"
They said, "Yes," and "Ain't he cunnin'?"
And I thought they must be funnin'—
He's a sight!

He's so small, it's just amazin',
And you'd think that he was blazin',
He's so red;
And his nose is like a berry,
And he's bald as Uncle Jerry
On his head.

Why, he isn't worth a dollar!
All he does is cry and holler
More and more.
Won't sit up—you can't arrange him—
I don't see why pa don't change him
At the store.

Now we've got to dress and feed him,
And we really didn't need him
More'n a frog.
Why'd they buy a baby brother
When they know I'd good deal rather
Have a dog?

—Joe Lincoln in L. A. W. Bulletin.

A Remarkable Operation.

A remarkable surgical operation, said to be the first of its kind, has been performed on John Tokokka, a Finnish fisherman, at St. Mary's hospital in San Francisco. He suffered from chronic indigestion, and his stomach was of abnormal size. In order to reduce its proportions the surgeons literally took a reef in it, by making a double fold which was sewed together. The opening necessarily made in the body was then closed, and the patient, whose stomach is now of usual size, is rapidly recovering, being able to digest substantial food.

Exchange Privileges.

It is stated that the Northern Pacific railroad is longing to go to Portland down the river. With this end in view, that road has offered to exchange track privileges with the O. R. & N. people. The idea is to allow the Northern Pacific trains to go direct to Portland over the O. R. & N. tracks, and allow the O. R. & N. trains to go to Seattle over the Northern Pacific tracks. This would give Portland additional roads to the Inland Empire, and to the Sound. It would be on a basis, too, which would ultimately give that city better passenger and freight rates in both directions.

They Were Safely Conducted.

A letter from Samuel H. Knowles, a California volunteer, says that a party of Tennessee troops being charged with the safe conduct of 60 Filipino prisoners, arrived in Manila with but three and lightly admitted having slain the others. The Oakland Tribune indorses the writer as one "whose motives and candor and accuracy are above question."

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT.

Oh, republican simplicity, there are many humbugs in this world, but none to which you need take off your hat.—Mark Twain.

"Know thyself," that historic admonition of the ancient sage, is often quoted, but seldom followed. It seems to be a universal trait for a man to make a careful study of others and to know as little as possible about himself. Like the ostrich, he sticks his head in the sand when he wishes to hide from his own observation and then announces that he can see nothing wrong. But when it comes to knowing others he seeks the widest possible horizon and looks with all his eyes.

This applies to nations as well as to individuals. There is not nearly enough self-study in this world and the consequence is we go on day after day making blunders which would never be made did we indulge in a little more introspective study. We accept a certain principle or doctrine or policy as good and for fear some person may point out weak spots in our pet theories we keep constantly crying at the top of our voices that they are without flaw and are the best in the world. As a result others see where we are weak and make attacks on these points, following the well-accepted military axiom that no fortress is stronger than its weakest part.

Take democracy, for instance. According to the standard definition democracy means government by the people direct. It is a "system of government in which the sovereign power of the state is vested in the people as a whole and is exercised directly by them or their elected agents." It means political and social equality in general. Taking such a definition as correct, the question not unnaturally rises, To what an extent is the United States a democracy? And the more the matter is pondered the more does the student run across certain things which, masquerading under the cloak of democracy—of equality and government by the people—must be put down as the veriest humbugs.

Do the people of the United States govern themselves as freely and as directly as they should in a real democracy? That is, do the people directly, or even through their elected agents, make their own laws just as they wish them to be? The people elect representatives to the state and national legislatures and they send them to the legislative halls with instructions to follow a certain line of policy, to enact certain laws, to be all the people would have them. If these representatives do not do what the people demand, if they enact laws the people do not want and fail in legislation that is deemed essential, what recourse have the voting citizens? They cannot force their servants to obey them. They must simply wait two years until another election gives them a chance to replace the faithless stewards with those who may prove faithful. Is this government by the people direct? Is it not a humbug to say the people govern themselves when they have nothing to do with the matter except at stated intervals, and must stand helpless while all sorts of maladministration of public affairs make a reproach of their legislative bodies?

If democracy in its pure sense existed it would be possible for the people to change their servants just when they failed to do that for which they were chosen. It is undeniable that public opinion, voiced by the press, often exerts a powerful influence on a legislative body. It has been known to kill bad legislation and to force the passage of just and proper laws; but there is nothing to prevent our lawmakers paying no heed to this voice. There is nothing to compel them to do the will of the people if they are minded to do the opposite. It is a humbug to speak of a "government of, by and for the people" when the people are powerless to prevent their representatives passing unjust and undesirable laws. They may "put the rascals out" after the harm is done, but that is small comfort and does not embrace the sort of remedy contemplated in a true democracy. This may all argue for the referendum, but if so it cannot be helped. Few will question that the facts are just about as stated. The people do not govern as they should, by and for themselves.

Then there is the humbug of social and political equality which is supposed to be an essential of democracy. There is no country in the world today where money and position count for more than they do in the United States. Better proof of this could not be given than the interest shown in the recent Vanderbilt-Fair wedding. For days preceding the ceremony every newspaper in the country gave columns of space to detailing the most trivial and often personal features connected with the groom and bride to be. And the papers gave this much space to this "function" because their readers wanted it. Why did they want it? Because the Vanderbilt-Fair wedding meant millions of dollars, the prestige which wealth gives in the land of freedom; because social equality does not exist here despite all our assertions that this is a democracy.

Would there have been the same interest in this wedding had the principals not been worth millions? Was there anything, aside from their money, which made them more deserving of notice than any other well-favored, intelligent, law-abiding and consistent citizen of a republic? Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt are most estimable people, no doubt, but so are thousands of others who simply lack a sufficiently large bank account to cause the great American people, supposed believers in democracy, to prostrate themselves at their feet. It is simply another of our humbugs, nothing improper about it, perhaps, except that it is so diametrically opposed to what we preach from every pulpit, sound from every platform and keep marching through column after column of type every day in the year. It is a humbug because we say we do not believe in it yet do it. It is one of the weak points we refuse to see in ourselves yet ridicule when we notice it in others.

The humbugs of democracy are many—one of the lesser ones being the growing customs of giving the name of this principle to a political party which has often violated the most essential elements of true democracy. These things must be changed or we should find some other definition for our form of government. If it is to be of, by and for the people, then let us make it so the people can govern indeed. If there is to be social and political equality, then let us show by our words and acts that such a thing exists. But let us stop this preaching about direct popular government and equality till there can be no question that both these are enjoyed by the people at large. It is a good thing for us to get away where we can take a look at ourselves from a distance. Mark Twain lived awhile in Germany and other foreign countries. He studied himself and his countrymen from an unbiased view point and then he exclaimed: "O republican simplicity, there are many humbugs in this world, but none to which you need take off your hat." A little self-study on the part of Americans would reduce the list of these humbugs so that it would be difficult to find one of them.

MAY BE AN UPRISING.

No one can fortell the result of the next presidential election. Entrenched in power, with all the advantage of influence and patronage, with a successful war to point to, McKinley should under ordinary conditions have a walk-over. It may not be so. There are several issues that may arise to foil him. These are:

Embalmed beef, the bad management of the armies, the coddling of pets, the setting back of those who dared speak out, the obstinate clinging to Algerism.

The imperial policy, implying a departure from traditions and practice and danger of embroilment in old world controversies.

The growth of the trusts, with no serious effort to check them.

The evident purpose to retire the greenbacks and other government notes, to be supplanted by bank notes.

Municipal ownership of public utilities.

These questions will enter largely into the campaign. There is much unrest in the public mind. The better times do not satisfy the people. There is possibility of a tidal wave.—Tacoma News.

VACCINATION AND CANCER.

Dr. W. B. Clarke, of Indianapolis, surgeon-major of the Red Cross Society, and editor of the Medical Debates, of New York, the organ of the American Health Resorts' Association, now touring Oregon, Washington and California in an inquiring turn of mind, and an avowed anti-vaccinationist. He advances the startling proposition that the principal cause of cancer is vaccination, and supports his theory with statements, the main points of which are as follows:

"The malignancy and fatality of cancer and its Indian-like or long-continued torture of its victims, justifies the popular horror of its very name, and its increase may well challenge the closest attention of the medical civilized world, for cancer is a disease of civilization, entirely developed in the last 100 years, being entirely unknown in Africa and all other countries where vaccination has never been enforced. Vaccination came in vogue about 100 years ago, and has been introduced quite generally for 50 or 60 years. Statistics show that the deaths from cancer have doubled in this country, England and Germany in the last 40 years, and quadrupled in the last 40. They are twice as large in England and Germany as with us, because they began enforcing vaccination earlier than we did. Stop vaccinating right now and cancer deaths will go on 40 or 50 years, and then decline to few or none.

"The greatest pathologists from Billrath and Virchow down fail to tell us the cause of cancer, and none give us a reason for its dreadful and rapid increase. Virchow's greatest work was his classification of tumors, and his creation of the doctrine of the system of cells and cellular pathology. He taught that man is not an entity, but made up of cells, each organ and tissue being thus composed, but each having characteristic and distinctive cells; that tumors were also of cells, peculiar to themselves, and differing from those composing the tissues was a disturbance of the equilibrium of cell life.

"Now, cancer is peculiarly a disease of rapid cell growth, its inception being due to irritation or interference with normal cell action. Vaccination is only a form of septic poisoning—mild or severe, as the system bears it. To insert the cells of a rapid growing animal (the cow,) one that matures in three or four years, into the cells of a slow-growing animal (man), one that takes 21 or 25 years to mature, is but to invite disorganization, disparity, disarrangement; in short, create a predisposition to rapid cell growth of an abnormal and pathological character, which eventually, late in life, ends in cancer.

"Of course, all this is only theory, but there is much to substantiate it. It is certainly entitled to as much respect as any other theory—and theory is all we have as to the cause of cancer. I will only say, further, in its support, that I have known of hundreds of cases of cancer in my own practice, and in that of brother practitioners in various parts of the United States, but have never yet seen a case of cancer in an unvaccinated person.

"It is high time to call a halt in the reckless assassination of the blood of our children, via school board rules or health board police-power pretext. If there is anything in this world that a man really owns it is his own blood, and he has the right to defend himself from all onslaughts against it or against that of his children, whose natural protector he is, either from the highwayman's butcher-knife or the vaccinator's lancet. Vaccination is really the Jenneration of disease, but the elucidation of this proposition would require more space than you might care to devote just now. And we must stop the wholesale 'scientific' assassination of the blood of our domestic animals, especially the cow, the horse, and the dog, now going on, for it is sure to boomerang disastrously upon the welfare of the human race."

GOLD IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Precious Metal is Found in Many Localities.

At this distance and with the slight exploratory work which has been carried on in the Philippine islands, the minerals that can be profitably exported are best known. Mr. George F. Becker in his recent investigation has given a very clear view of the present mineral exploration in the Philippines, and has shown that gold is found in a great number of localities in the archipelago, from northern Luzon to central Mindanao. In most cases the gold is detrital, and is found either in existing water-courses or in deposits now deserted by the current. It is said that in Mindanao some of the gravels are in an elevated position and adapted to hydraulic mining. There are no data at hand which indicate decisively the value of any of the placers, but the fact that they are washed largely with cocoanut shells for pans by the natives is an indication of either rich deposits or quite coarse gold. In the province of Abra, at the northern end of Luzon, there are placers, and the river Abra itself yields auriferous gravel. In Le Plantobere are gold quartz veins as well as gravels, and here also is the best developed deposit of copper ores, although these are also reported from a great number of localities on the islands of Luzon, Mindoro, Capul, Masbate Panay, and Mindanao. This last island is practically unexplored and full of possibilities.—Dr. David T. Day, in the Engineering Magazine for May.

MURDERED HER MOTHER.

She Closed Her Mother's Mouth Forever.

Mrs. Augustus Styles, after waiting two hours in a dark recess of a hallway at the entrance to Wallatt's hall, in Chicago, Wednesday afternoon, shot and killed her mother, Mrs. Catherine Schultz. Mrs. Schultz was to attend a meeting of the Martha Washington Fran Verein, which was held in the hall, and the daughter lay in wait for her until she came. Five shots were fired, three taking effect.

Mrs. Styles, who is 35 years of age, said she was driven to the act by her mother's revealing a closed chapter of her early life to Mrs. Styles' daughter, 16 years of age. The child's parents were not regularly married, and Mrs. Schultz is said to have disclosed this fact to her grandchild. Mrs. Styles was arrested.

Fired Him Out.

At a meeting in Washington of the Loyal Legion, an organization of officers and ex-officers of the army, the highest patriotic organization in the country, Brigadier General Charles P. Egan, formerly commissary general of subsistence, forfeited his membership in the legion by a vote of 100 to 40. The meeting was presided over by Justice J. M. Harlan, and the question of expelling General Eagan from the order, which action it really amounts to, was hotly discussed, the general finding some defenders among the members present. This is the greatest humiliation General Eagan has yet suffered.

THE CZAR—TOM REED.

The Verdict, the widely known New York weekly, discourses thusly on Tom Reed:

There should be general joy, for that there's general gain. Reed has abandoned a public for a private life. From Maine he seeks New York; from congress he comes to the law. He will shake the dust of legislation from his feet and tread the courts. As speaker, Reed was a disaster. He despoiled the house of its powers. From a mere moderator of debate, the speaker became the dictator of house action. When Reed departs, the house will regain itself. There is none to duplicate his rule; no Nero to follow him. There must be a genius for tyranny, and none on the house rolls save Reed possesses it. The gavel will remain, but its poison will have departed. Scanderbeg's sword must have Scanderbeg's arm. Thomas's hammer must be swung by Thomas; Reed will leave no one behind of sinister, villain force enough to follow his example. He was a vast peril: this Man from Maine. With his going there will be a brightening risk that the house will relapse into some half-righteousness of legislation. While he stayed the future showed black indeed. As a speaker, Reed was narrow, bitter, trustless, invincible, and of a sort of honest venom, which even bitten Right admired as it died.

Reed hath an acrid wit. Nor was any caution born twin to it. Reed speaks any salty, smarting word that rises to his misanthropic lip. Once Pickler, a peculiar form of house idiot common among republicans, was performing in a pension speech about as valuably as a cow in a bed of tulips. Reed, responsible for house republicanism, was wroth. Meeting Savres—now Governor of Texas—in the lobby, Reed observed, with three-ply causticity: "Savres, I never fully understood the scriptural phrase 'A wild ass's colt,' until that man Pickler came to congress." Pickler heard of it and bluntly hates Reed to this day. Which, however, does Reed scant scathe. Again: Springer, a weak and wabbly publicist from Illinois, once retrieved himself from the claws of Reed by remarking: "Well, at least I'm right now. And speaking of right, let me say that I'd rather be right than be president." Reed looked up with his beady eyes: blue and little and fat, like a seal's eyes. "The gentleman need take no alarm," he sneered: "the gentleman will never be either." Reed, aside from a warm fashion of build, gives one a marine impression. His walk is like a ground-swell; and though big and heavy, there is the restlessness and murmur of the ocean about him. Reed's avoirdupois doesn't pitch camp far from three hundred pounds. And he's a bit bashful and sensitive concerning it. Once that small Ajax, General Wheeler, late of Santiago, asked: "Mr. Speaker, how much do you weigh?" This was on a private corridor occasion, when the two chanced to meet and paused to chat. Reed blushed dimly in a dull, congested way. "No gentleman, general," drawled Reed, "ever weighs over 200 pounds." That was as near as he'd go to it. There was a day when Washington wagged the startled tongue of gossip over the fact that Hill was suddenly and unexpectedly at dinner with Cleveland. No one could make political head or tail out of this canvas-bag reconciliation, proceeding with knife and fork at the White House. Reed was asked what he thought of this new peace between Cleveland and Hill. "What do I deduce from Hill and Cleveland getting together?" repeated Reed. "Nothing save the vast truth of that proverb which says 'Misery loves company.'" As both Hill and Cleveland were in party irons at the time, the jibe told. While finance was being paraded for discussion during Crisp's time, Reed was leading the bicker for the republican minority. In the course of debate, Reed coined a word to since gain general use: "The American bugologist of finance," observed Reed, "will find that we have three different and distinct bugs of money. We have the gold bug, the silver bug, and the straddle bug." Again, in the tariff debates on Springer's "penguin bills," during the same session, Reed gave forth a good and scoffing truth. Some one had tried to put him to flight with a quotation from our "earlier statesmen." Reed swelled with a great, practical contempt at this. "The gentleman bears heavily upon us, Mr. Speaker," drawled Reed, "with quotations from folk long past gone, whom he is pleased to call statesmen. And because they are 'statesmen' we are supposed, in the face of their utterances, to stand mute. Mr. Speaker, what is a statesman?" This with a shoreless sneer. "I'll tell you what a statesman is, and all he is. A statesman is a dead politician."

Reed comes to New York. His purpose is two-fold; he comes for plunder and a presidency. He is tired of being poor and being speaker. He has but one lust, money; one ambition, the White House. And he comes in quest of both. And it's of high likelihood he may have a round success. Of riches he stands reasonably sure. Long has he been in trust leading strings; long has he worn the collar of Monopoly. Even protection in the Fifty-first congress was rather Reed's child than McKinley's. Yes: Reed will heap up treasure in New York. He is prime favorite with such as Huntington and Havemeyer—with Insurance, Sugar, Railroads, Beef and Standard Oil. And the Cramps dote on him. And leaving rogues of commerce for rogues of politics, Reed is strong with Platt. McKinley will be renamed in 1900; to do less would make a party plea of guilty. Moreover he has been told as much by Hanna, and as well by Platt. Reed was a speaker of perverse precedents and a stiff-necked past. There were many needed supple White House things he couldn't do. As speaker he was a rock in the channel, and the administration in its house efforts might go to crashing ruin on him at any moment. High tide or low legislation, there came no stage of water in the house when a president cruising for favors was not in peril of this reef of Reed. And Hanna, navigating McKinley, knew and shuddered. It kept the Buckeye boss taking soundings most of the time. And wearying of it, he sorely fretted. Hanna made a deal. Reed lays down the gavel. A White House puppet will take it up. Reed will practice law richly for five years. Then if Platt's word and friendship hold, and Hanna keeps his bond, Reed is to have a presidential nomination. It's a long shot and a limb in the way. The trail is steep; that day of 1904 is distant. Much water runs under a bridge in five years, and currents clear today may be turbid then. Still, Reed is wise enough in what he does. His speakership is no longer an aid. Politically it's a disaster, financially a drain. Reed does well enough to take Hanna's word; is wise in his deal with Platt. His selected path through New York privacy and law will take him nearer a presidency than any drift of the gavel. Aside from that, Reed should have more comfort here. There are worse men than Reed among New York republicans; a condition which does not exist in the house. This may give to Reed some moral uplifting and help sustain his soul. True happiness as a rule consists in the discovery of some fellow worse off than one's self. Reed in his public role is in moral rags and tatters. The picture of Platt, however, whose rascal wickedness of politics stands a hundred feet without a knot or limb, should fill him by comparison with a large, ample joy.

LET'S FREE TRADE.

Trans-Pacific Trade Depends Upon Return Cargoes.

If a vessel is to be useful to her fullest capacity, and therefore remunerative to her owner and an encouragement to other builders, she must come home fully laden as well as go fully laden. This is a law no local experience is needed to demonstrate. But conditions on the Pacific coast will give it peculiar emphasis. We are trying to build up a trans-Pacific trade. But the goods we bring from the Orient are subjected to higher and higher taxation. The Dingley law raised the duties on raw silks from 20 per cent ad valorem to a specific duty of 40 cents a pound, equivalent to about 30 per cent ad valorem; on spun silk from 30 per cent ad valorem to 58.51 per cent; on woven fabrics in the piece from 45 per cent to 50 per cent at least, and running as high as $3.25 and $4.50 per pound. The war tariff puts a tax of 10 cents a pound on tea, hitherto free.

Trans-Pacific trade depends for return cargoes on nothing more than on floor matting. This is a cheap product which does not run into money very fast in invoices. In 1896 we took $2,700,000 worth of it; in 1897, about $3,500,000 worth. But under the Dingley tariff we have taken, in the ten months so far reported in government statistics, only $1,714,033. The Dingley law subjects this matting, formerly free, to a complicated schedule of specific and ad valorem duties, from 3 to 10 cents a square yard and from 25 to 35 per cent ad valorem. This is why the imports fall off, and why ships coming this way are hard up for profitable cargoes. Nobody makes matting in this country. The revenue derived is hardly worth the trouble of its collection. But there the duty sticks, and it is proposed to take this added tax on the covering of the poor man's floor and pay it to some shipbuilder to induce him to build ships. The proposal is the same regarding tea, which nobody grows but everybody uses in this country, and for the cheap silk we import from China and Japan which nobody in this country grows but almost everybody uses.

Why don't Americans handle the trade between the United States and Asia, and a good share of that between European factories and consumers and Asiatic factories and consumers? We build the best ships. We can build them cheaper than England or Scotland can, Mr. Sewall says, and he proves it by getting rich at the business. It is maintained by some, and indications are that a majority in congress shares the view, that the reason is we are waiting for the government to raise some money by taxation and give it to shipyards and shipping lines. Before this is done, the shipping community should be given a chance to show what it can do with a fair chance for return cargoes.

If the farmers and lumbermen of Oregon and Washington are going to market their products across the Pacific, they certainly do not want navigation made difficult or burdensome. Nor do they want to pay taxes on tea and matting to support shipbuilders. They want governmental burdens on our shipping removed, so that low rates can be made on trans-Pacific trade. The less it costs to get flour and lumber to China, the more there will be for the Oregon logger and wheatgrower.—Portland Oregonian.

TOM JOHNSON AND THE SINGLE TAX.

I have disposed of every conflicting interest that would interfere with the devotion of my time, my entire energies, my fortune, in fact, my life, to this movement to secure justice to all by adopting the single tax.

The single tax proposes to abolish all taxes placed on consumption, to do away with all taxes that fall on men measured by what they consume. Sugar doesn't pay taxes: steel rails don't pay taxes. Men and women pay taxes. When you measure how much they shall pay by what they consume you have adopted a scheme that operates unjustly, for it is not a tax on an exclusive privilege as it should be. It taxes the head of a family more than an old bachelor, though the latter may be enjoying opportunities denied the former.

Single tax proposes to abolish every scheme of license tax and every indirect tax, for freemen have a right to know what taxes they are paying, how they are levied, and how they are expended. Living under such circumstances would be doubly easy.

The next scheme would be to abolish the tax on personal property and the tax on improvements and leave the tax on the land values from which we now raise a part of the revenue. We say raise it all from that source. We propose leaving land in the private possession of individuals with full liberty on their part to give, sell it, or bequeath it; simply to levy on it for public uses a tax that shall equal the annual value of the land itself, irrespective of the use made of it, or the improvements on it. Taxing personal property makes it harder to get; taxing land makes it easier of access. A low rate of tax on land values permits speculators to hold land out of use for speculative purposes, to the detriment of the public. Taxes on personal property or improvements take by force what belongs by right to the individual; they increase the price of what some have to sell and others must buy; they corrupt government; they make oaths a mockery; they shackle commerce; they fine industry and thrift; they enrich some by impoverishing others.

I am convinced that the single tax is the only remedy for existing evils, and am willing to dedicate the remainder of my life to advocating the cause.

TOM JOHNSON.

FAVORS A STRADDLE.

President McKinley is Said Not to Favor the Single Gold Standard.

Just before President McKinley left Washington Monday night for Hot Springs, Virginia, where he will remain ten days for his health, a proposition was submitted to him reflecting the views of the republican caucus committee, showing the party's intention to drop bimetalism in any form and come out for a single standard. The points of the proposition are: Specific declaration for the single gold standard; when greenbacks are paid in for gold, they shall not again be paid out except for gold; organization of national banks with a capital of $25,000 instead of $50,000, as at present; issue of national bank currency to the face of bonds deposited.

The president is said to think the declaration for a single gold standard is too radical, and that some straddle should be devised.

NEW FRUIT PEST APPEARS.

Young Buds Eaten off as Fast as They Appear from the Graft.

A new fruit pest, which is unknown to anyone hereabout, has developed in the Candaleria fruit orchard, says the Salem Journal. It is a small bug similar to what is known as the pea weevil, and gets in its work on the buds of new grafts. They are gray and about the size of a grain of wheat, and eat off the soft buds of grafts as fast as they come out. Mr. Wright, who has charge of the farm, says this new pest is destroying the grafts on a thousand trees just started. He has sprayed them with a strong solution of Paris green but it does not appear to affect them. They are about the color of the bark on the trees, and difficult to see. They have multiplied very rapidly, and Mr. Wright now proposes to try a spray of lime, salt and sulphur. Any one familiar with this pest should speak up, as it is important to the fruit industry to check it.

The G. A. R. encampment of the department of California and Nevada in session at San Diego, Calif., passed resolutions upholding the course of President McKinley in the conduct of the war.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE

Or Chronic inflammation of the Kidneys is a very common ailment. Like all chronic diseases the symptoms come on insidiously. If proper treatment is obtained in its early stages, Bright's Disease may be cured. **HUDYAN** will cure it if it is taken in time. **HUDYAN** will relieve all the symptoms. Do not delay too long. Don't wait until your case becomes incurable. Begin the use of **HUDYAN** now, while you may be cured.

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4-5. PALE, DOUGHY COMPLEXION. **HUDYAN** will restore the circulation to its normal condition and cause the cheeks to become red and rosy.

6. WEAKNESS OF THE HEART. **HUDYAN** will strengthen the nerves and muscles of the heart and make it strong and regular in its beatings.

7-8. WEAKNESS AND PAIN IN THE REGION OF THE KIDNEYS. **HUDYAN** will cause the kidneys to perform their functions properly, thereby relieving the pain and weakness.

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From a Political Prison.

Fort Scott, Kan., May 10.—After a confinement of six years in a political prison in Colombia, Archie M. Carter, a civil engineer and contractor of this city, has just been liberated and returned here.

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