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Doles Out Gems of Current Topics and Events.

EXTENDING the contract labor law to Hawaii, where nearly all work is performed by coolie labor, would be a farce. To fence the Hawaiian laborers out of other sections of the United States would be an abridgment of their rights as American citizens.

War is a hard thing to stop after it once gets a good start. In addition to paying Spain \$20,000,000 to admit that she was licked it is now proposed by Senator Proctor to give the Cuban and Philippine insurgents a few thousands to lay down their alleged arms.

The railroads and transportation companies will have no objections to changing the personnel of the garrisons in Uncle Sam's new possessions twice a year, or twice a month for that matter, so long as the national treasury pays the freight.

With 30,000 destitute people in Havana, living in hovels and afflicted with all kinds of loathsome diseases, and yellow fever raging in one part of the city, a good deal of humanity will have to be brought to bear in the Cuban capital. The drain on American philanthropy is very heavy this winter.

The departing soldiers ordered to the Philippines are admonished to prepare themselves for a two or three years' sojourn in the antipodes. Fur-lined overcoats and woolen underclothes may not be necessary, but swimming trunks for the rainy season, electric fans for warm weather and earthquake cellars for emergencies would all come in handy.

Spain has a peculiar way of going into mourning as a nation. The Madrid government has provided black stamps to be attached to each piece of inland mail matter. In order that every citizen shall do his share of the mourning it is further provided that the stamps must be paid for by the user, the amount to be in addition to the regular postage.

SENATOR PLATT, of Connecticut, proposes an amendment to the Declaration of Independence, in order to make that document fit the new policy of imperialism. In reply to the question of Senator Hoar as to whether, in his opinion, "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," Mr. Platt replied: "From the consent of some of them." What proportion of the whole, or who shall draw the line, the Senator did not say. Most Americans, we imagine, will prefer the original declaration.

The signs of the times indicate that the Democratic party is searching for an issue. This is not the first time in its history that it has found itself issueless and honorless. The Democratic bird is a bird of ill omen. It never soars to lofty heights and never seeks prey of its own, but relies upon the carcasses of what better birds have left. At the present time the party is evidently hoping against time. There is every reason to believe that it is awaiting the hour when it can swoop down upon the bimetallic plank of the St. Louis Republican platform and enter the campaign of 1900 with that as a financial plank and anti-expansion as a dominant issue.

The cattlemen of the West are not in favor of the open door proposition in relation to the trade with the West Indies. Colonel Ike Pryor, of Texas, who has had two shipments of cattle to Cuba, says that Cuba alone will need a million and a half head of cattle to restock the island, which is practically cleaned off of all livestock. He says that if Mexico and the Argentine are allowed to enter their cattle they will flood the island with a cheap grade of cattle which will require years to breed up to anything like a standard. If the cattle come from the United States, Cuba will be provided with a good grade of cattle, and Colonel Pryor thinks the possibilities of the island from a live stock standpoint have never been fully appreciated. The feed there is abundant and an enormous number of cattle can be supported there without difficulty.

LIEUTENANT HOBSON is now fairly out of the country en route for Manila. Should the kissing mania be epidemic among the dusky maidens of the Philippines he might find his American record embarrassing.

"NEW YORK is now the money market of the world," proclaims a well known Wall street banker. We suppose that before the census of 1900 New York will be moving to annex London as one of the boroughs of the greater municipal corporation.

It is all very nice to propose that 50,000 volunteers shall be incorporated into the reorganized army. But how many of the national guards who have had experience in camp life in Porto Rico, Manila or Cuba will volunteer for two years' exposure to malaria, yellow fever and all the other climatic ills of the tropics?

The congressional committee to investigate combinations of persons banded together for the purpose of defeating the Nicaragua canal bill for personal gain might well extend its inquiry to ascertain what persons will gain by the passage of the bill and what their profits would be. There is a broad suspicion extant that all who have a financial interest in the pending measure are not to be found among its opponents.

No one would be unreasonable enough to suppose the Standard Oil company burned any of its books and papers for the purpose of preventing them from being brought into court. Of course they were old and useless documents. Has not that philanthropic monopoly always been ready to take the public into its confidence to show just how it has been able to cheapen the poor man's light by throttling competition?

JOHN BULL is anxious to have the Nicaragua canal built without a doubt. He is also willing to let Brother Jonathan build it, as is evidenced by the unanimous sentiment in England in favor of the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty through fear it might stand in the way of complete American ownership. Our friends over the water are not slow, however, and when it is built, if it ever is, they will probably be found, as in the case of the Suez ditch, holding a large interest which some one else has paid for.

WE BELIEVE the Herefords will ultimately prove themselves to be the best of all the breeds for profitable range feeding, says the Sioux Stock Journal. Their hardiness and their rustling proclivities have been mentioned and these are important essentials in the cheap beef production for which our North-western ranges are now famous. It is claimed for this class that it will yield more beef on the same pasture than any other breed, and it is also claimed that no better yearling or 2-year-old beef is supplied in markets than that yielded by the Hereford carcasses. In this era of "baby beef" the above is no unimportant consideration for breeders. Hereford beef is not only of the very best quality, but these cattle kill better than shorthorns even, because the carcass shows a large percentage of mottled or mixed fat and lean meat on the valuable part of the animal. Hereford backs and lions are the admiration of the experienced buyer and butcher.

The expected has happened. The Democratic minority in the House, through their representatives on the committee on military affairs, define their position on the proposed increase of the regular army. They oppose any increase whatever. Their plan is to keep the regular army at the old figures of about 30,000 and to add 50,000 volunteers from the various states for the period of two years. They follow the usual Democratic line of reasoning that a large regular army would be a menace to the liberties of the people, adding a new charge that the corporate interests want the army increased in order to enforce their demands through "a President nominated by such interests." The Democrats in the House see the trusts even behind the army bills. Not long ago they were howling about army inexperience and incompetence. Now they want to return to a miniature army for fear of corporate interest. The prediction that they would oppose any

improvement of the army has been quickly verified.

AN Atlanta Democrat tells the Washington Post that it would be a graceful act "for a solid South to unite with a solid North, East and West in 1900, re-nominate Mr. McKinley for the high office of President, and elect him without opposition, binding him to no platform save 'the greatest good to the greatest number and full justice to all.'" There is the best kind of sense in this suggestion. A solid South which would display this public spirit and patriotism could give a justification for its solidity which would appeal to all sections. Undeniably, Mr. McKinley has made many warm friends in the South. Less antagonism is shown toward him anywhere than was aroused by any other President in three-quarters of a century. He has hosts of ardent admirers in all localities and among all parties. He has traveled more in the past two years than any other occupant of the White House did in the same length of time. Everywhere he has been received with demonstration of the highest regard, so far as the President is concerned, there is an era of good feeling in the country as wide spread and hearty as there was during the days when Monroe was President.

The New York Evening Post acknowledges that the prospect for currency legislation in the near future is not very brilliant, but it urges that the situation is one which calls for undiminished effort. The Post has been informed by Mr. Snalley, the secretary of the Sound Money league, that he found among congressmen generally a stern opposition to any currency legislation. Mr. Walker, chairman of the house committee on banking and currency, recently expressed the opinion that the adoption of currency reform legislation will not be possible until 1904. The advocates of the bill reported to the house are in favor of doing something, but they constitute a small minority. The large majority appear to be perfectly satisfied to let currency legislation wait and the fact is instructive. A majority of congressmen are satisfied to defer such legislation because there is nothing in the existing situation that renders it necessary. The financial current is running smoothly and safely and there is no reason to apprehend any change from this condition. The legal tender notes, to get rid of which is the chief purpose of the currency reformers, are giving the treasury no trouble and are not likely to. Bankers prefer them to gold for current business and are not generally so eager as they were a year ago to have these notes retired. They find the legal tender notes exceedingly convenient and most bankers are more friendly to them now than ever before.

In dealing with their own territorial problems the people of the United States, will do well if they adopt the motto "One step at a time." A part at least, of the discussion that certain well-meaning gentlemen had endeavored to arouse while the treaty of peace was still under negotiation concerned problems that may arise for future generations of Americans to solve, but that have not yet made their appearance in the practical and concrete form. The ratification of the treaty must at least precede some other questions. That the treaty will be ratified, no person of sane judgment and good opportunities for observation has ever for a moment doubted. The argument that the United States is not empowered by virtue of its Constitution to exercise the powers of sovereignty outside of the United States is to be set down merely as an intellectual diversion. It lies essentially in the nature of the modern state to grow and expand as it has reasonable opportunity. To suppose for a moment that a great nation like ours, of more than seventy million people, is in some way stopped by certain forms of words—agreed upon more than a hundred years ago by a relative, by small number of people who are all of them now dead—from obeying those same laws of growth and development that inhere in the very nature of our race and of our political organism, is to ascribe to the written Constitution a character that none of its framers ever thought of giving to it. Many of the mistakes that the French have made in trying to establish colonial possessions

have grown out of their fondness for regularizing everything and their desire to make all their acquisitions fit into some logical scheme of colonial organization and admiration. We shall be strongly attempted to fall into the same error. Already the flood-gates have burst, and the country is being inundated with a perfect torrent of metaphysics touching the nature of political sovereignty and the transcendental significance of annexation.

The convention of representatives of the towns of Porto Rico, assembled to express the popular will in regard to the future of the island, declared for a territorial organization with a view of statehood at an early date. Immediately after the American occupation of Porto Rico some of the prominent citizens of the island made known their desire to be accorded all the political privileges of American citizens and their can be no doubt that this is the expectation of the better class of the people of Porto Rico. They do not wish to be kept in a colonial relation to this government, but desire opportunity to govern themselves, with a view to ultimately being represented in the United States senate and voting for president. What response will we make to the aspiration? A considerable number of the people of Porto Rico are undoubtedly capable of self-government. Shall we say to them that they must not have it, but will have to be satisfied with government from Washington? And if we say this, will they be satisfied? Can we expect to have an unequalled loyalty of these people if we deny them the political status they desire and hold them in practically a state of vassalage? Of course we shall treat like the people of all the new possessions. If Hawaii and the Philippines are not to be accorded a political status from which statehood might ultimately come Porto Rico cannot be given such status. But we cannot reasonably expect under such circumstances a satisfied and contented people. It will not be promotive of loyalty to the new sovereign or love of the flag that brings them no political elevation.

CORN CROP SHORTAGE.

A Chicago grain commission firm has figured out there will be a shortage of corn crop supplies on March 1, 1899, of 217,000,000 bushels, leaving the market without a bushel in its reserves on November 1, 1899. This conclusion is based on the average monthly consumption from March 1, 1897, to March 1, 1898, of 190,000,000 bushels, and comparing this with the government's crop report for 1898, 1,925,000,000 bushels added to 138,000,000 bushels, the amount in farmers' hands on November 1, 1898. The situation, therefore, is this: Unless there is a decrease instead of the expected increase in the home consumption, together with a most improbable decrease in the export demand, this shortage will have to be met by the substitution of some other feeding stuff for corn, and a substitute that can only be brought about by an advance in corn values that will force such a substitution.

This is a condition that effects the live stock industry more than any other single interest. It was the great crops of 1896 and 1897 that created the strong demand for cattle. As a rule, stockmen prefer cheap feed, and heretofore corn has usually been the popular grain because it was cheap. An undoubted shortage in the supply of corn will advance prices rapidly, and corn is already too high to feed at a profit when the present market value of beef is considered. The same is true of sheep and hogs, and Nebraska, with 40 per cent less sheep on feed than a year ago, is preparing to ship their half-fattened stuff to market rather than finish on such expensive feed. While there are plenty of substitutes for corn, none of them are as cheap as corn, and the only possible result, assuming the prediction of a corn shortage to be true, is an advance in stock prices all along the line.

However, a shortage in the feed supply works two ways. The finished product is higher, but the decreased demand for stock for feeding, as a rule, results in lower prices, or, in any event, it is difficult to secure an advance. It means, in short, that the range in prices between the finished cattle and the stock cattle

must offer margin enough to enable the feeder to pay the increased price for corn. For the past two years, under the influence of cheap feed, the stockman has been getting the benefit. With feed advancing, the farmer will get the benefit, and the best the stockman can hope for is a continuation of present prices.

A COMPLICATED PROJECT.

The debate on the Nicaragua canal bill in the United States senate showed that there are such complications controlled by the government that a new start will have to be made. The indications are strong that no bill can be passed which recognizes the Maritime Canal company, the concession to which will expire next October. There seems to be no doubt that there is a majority in both branches of congress in favor of building a canal, but the feeling is quite general that it should be constructed directly by the United States, without regard to the maritime company. It is a question, however, whether the government could assume charge of the enterprise and ignore the concession to the canal company, the United States having no concession from Nicaragua and Porto Rico. It would certainly seem to be necessary as a first step to repeal the charter of the company, as suggested by Senator Turpie, following this action by a treaty with Nicaragua and Porto Rico giving the United States the right to construct and control the canal.

Opposition to the Maritime Canal company is based upon the belief that the corporation has not acted in good faith. A great many concur in the opinion that that company expressed by Senator Turpie, who said that his object has not been to build a canal, but "to cut a channel of easiest communication between the treasury of the United States and the empty coffers of that corporation in New York, by which they can be replenished and repeted." He cited the fact that when asking congress for a charter the company declared it did not want a dollar of money or an atom of credit from the United States, yet within two years thereafter it went to congress asking a subsidy of \$70,000,000 and some years subsequently it returned asking government aid to the amount of \$100,000,000. Now for the fourth time this company is again endeavoring to secure a subsidy from congress and while there are stronger pressure than ever before in favor of the construction of a canal, there appears good reason to believe that congress will not do anything from which the Maritime Canal company can derive any benefit. A bill has been introduced in the house by Mr. Hepburn, chairman of the committee on commerce, which provides for the construction of the Nicaragua canal by the government and there is a much better chance of its passing than there is of the senate bill passing through.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of S. J. Cheney & Co. doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that the firm will pay the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1898.
A. W. Gleason,
Notary Public.
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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.
Land Office at Oregon City, Ore., December 22nd 1898.
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 P. D. Newell, U. S. Commissioner, at Nehalem, Ore., on February 15th, 1899, viz:
JASPER S. LESLEY;
H. E. No. 11057, for the S 1/2 of Ne 1/4 and N 1/4 of Sec. 26, Tp. 3 N., R. 3 W.
He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz:
Louis Nyström, John Hollin, William Batterson, C. W. Schilling, of Nehalem, Ore.
CHAS. B. MOORES, Register.

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So They Say!

That every man is generous to a fault if it is his own fault.
That one of our most lasting delusions is that our experience can be of service to others.
That progress is made in circles, and if you keep still long enough you will find yourself in the van.
That when a man is prosperous his friend see him afar off, but when he gets short, his friends become short-sighted.

Devious Definitions.

Divorce—The cold lunch that follows love's banquet.
Humility—The uniform worn by hypocrites on dress parade.
Whistling—The transformation of a popular air into an ill wind.
Abuse—The penalty an eminent man is compelled to pay the public.
Love—Something that makes the heart flutter and the tongue flutter.
Critic—A man who can see no merit in anything he doesn't do himself.
Anxiety—The cause of more brain trouble than anything else except love.
Logician—An individual who can figure anything to his own satisfaction.
Language—Something used by lawyers to conceal the thoughts of their clients.
Timetable—The one you acquire by paying for it on the weekly installment plan.

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