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CURRENT TOPICS.

Having proven that Mr. Macrum, late consul of the Transvaal is a liar the state department has now intimated that it may go so far as to show that he is an ass as well. This is altogether needless. The country has already sized him up at his true worth and is ready to drop him. Macrum has answered one purpose. He has succeeded in making a fool of more than one of the Anglophobists who took him seriously when he began to talk. If Mr. Macrum had made his complaints at the state department he might have gotten justice, but he would not have been so freely advertised. He seems to have been seeking notoriety and he got it. The answer of Secretary of State Hay on the questions from the house regarding the charges made by Mr. Macrum were complete and conclusive in every particular. Not only had the department no information as to the opening of letters of the late consul, but Mr. Macrum has been at the department a number of times since his return and has failed in any instance to make any mention of such an unfriendly act. If such a thing had occurred it was the duty of Mr. Macrum to report it promptly. As to the reported alliance between this country and Great Britain, of which Mr. Macrum speaks so knowingly, Mr. Hay sets that at rest in a manner which ought to end all discussion. It will not, however, for the Anglophobists proceed on the theory that a lie well stuck to will answer their purposes as well as the truth and they will keep it up. In the meantime, young Mr. Macrum will do well to hide himself until he is forgotten by the public. They like a clown, but too much of his antics cannot be endured.

Marriageable maidens of various ages and some experienced people have given their views on "How to Manage a Husband." These well-meaning people have thrown a flood of light on the subject, and doubtless blazed the right path for many just entering upon the arduous task. But there is much to learn. A Brooklyn woman furnishes a plan warranted to produce the desired result. Unfortunately, the authorities did not approve, and she was called into court to explain why she did not stick to the gentle methods usually practiced. "Oh," she replied, "I have tried all those, and the only difference is that the wear and tear comes all on the woman. Gentle methods don't do if you're dealing with a man, especially if the man happens to be your husband. I've tried the discipline of tears. There's nothing in it except loss of beauty. I've tried coaxing. There's nothing in that. I've tried scolding. It's no good, except to keep up the fray all night, wake up the children and spoil one's temper. I've tried sitting up for him. It only amounted to loss of sleep. I got no sympathy for it. "I don't want you to think that I whipped my husband for nothing. I didn't mind working for him. A woman expects to do that. But when, after a hard day's work, he got to criticizing my looks and saying I wasn't as good looking as I used to be, and that I was getting old and worn out—well, I thought it was about time to prove to him that I wasn't so old and worn out as he imagined, and so I spanked him." More power to her elbow.

A bill to abolish the army canteen has been introduced in congress by Mr. Bowersock of Kansas, who is the most fitting personage who could have been selected to succeed the so-called statesman, Jerry Simpson. The bill, Mr. Bowersock assures us, is brought forward at the request of a number of good people who never saw an army canteen and who do not even know how the thing loads and fires, but who are certain that it ought to be abolished. Commenting upon the Bowersock anti-canteen bill the Chicago Jour-

nal perty remarks: "The notion that an army canteen is a two-quart can in which a soldier carries his whisky to the wars is erroneous. Among well informed persons it has given place to the idea that the canteen is a sort of co-operative dramshop in which the soldier's irrepresible affection for stimulants is gratified with the least injurious alcoholic and malt beverages, at the smallest cost to himself, and the greatest gain in self-restraint, temperance, discipline and morale."

The selection of July 4 as the day for the convening of the democratic national convention furnishes new evidence of the demoralizing influence of fusion with the populist organization. It was the populists who selected Independence day, 1892, to promulgate the Omaha platform as a second Declaration of Independence. Everything populist must be timed for some spectacular effect by locating conferences, meetings and conventions on dates made notable by historical incidents. Whether transposing this practice on the democracy will prove of any advantage to spectacular politicians will be seen later.

The sayings of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln are quoted on the political rostrum nowadays as gospel truths, but, like the bible, their sayings are often misquoted and misconstrued. We shall presently have to have a book of annotations to explain what these gentlemen intended to say when they did say or write the things attributed to them.

Just as cavalry was supposed to be going out of date it appears to be one of the most valuable agents of military success. The old use of cavalry was to attack infantry and ride it down by rush and flight. The new cavalry is practically mounted infantry, which simply uses the horses to move rapidly. The old cavalry charge is over, but the day of the mounted infantry has appeared.

There is said to be one member of the Montana legislature who did not make any money off of the recent senatorial election. The character of the illness with which he was prostrated is not stated.

A Cleveland minister told his congregation what, in his opinion, was the right kind of girl to marry. Young men will probably go on marrying the girls they love just the same.

There is no way out of it for Montana. It is either honeycombed with bribe-givers and bribe-takers, or with perjurers. The whole commonwealth should be famigated.

Who shall say that civilization is not progressing? The governor of Kentucky went to church without a military escort.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Many a smart woman marries a worthless man.
Circumstances make some men and unmake others.
Don't worry today if you can put it off until tomorrow.
The man who sits down and hopes for the best seldom gets it.
Many a harmless-looking bottle contains a job lot of snake stories.
The more delusion some people have the more happiness they enjoy.
When a man knows he is in the right it matters not what others think.
Many a man becomes a pessimist when he begins to harvest his wild oats.
Were it not for the dentist many a long felt want would remain unfulfilled.
The golden rule must be a pure one, as it is seldom made to work both ways.
A thumb on the hand is far better than three fingers of whisky in the stomach.
If a man would live to a ripe old age he should get his name on the pension roll.
Every time a woman deceives a man his vanity gets a shock that puts it to sleep.
A student of human nature who knows his business never wastes much time in society.
What a jolly old world this would be if others would share your opinion of yourself.

Every man may have his price, but the majority are willing to allow a discount for cash.
Whenever a man is browbeaten it is usually by the grey matter behind some other fellow's brow.

The Coming Campaign.

The campaign of 1900 is already very definitely outlined. The renomination of President McKinley is absolutely assured and it is no less certain that the democratic convention will again nominate W. J. Bryan. These representatives of the two great parties stand for just what they did in the contest of 1896, so far as domestic issues are concerned. Mr. McKinley still stands for a sound and stable currency. Mr. Bryan is still the incarnation of the free silver heresy and his devotion to that doctrine is greater than to any other of the issues with which he is identified.

The question that should present itself to the attention of every intelligent and thoughtful voter is this: Shall existing conditions of prosperity be maintained, or shall there be a reaction, with the possibility of bringing about a state of affairs similar to that which existed before the present administration came into power? The country is still familiar with what happened under the last democratic administration and grew steadily worse during the continuance of that administration, are facts familiar to everybody. The working man, the business man, the capitalists, or all familiar with the unfortunate experience of that period of democratic rule. A blight was cast upon everything, enterprise was crushed, industrial energy was paralyzed, capital and labor were equally deprived of opportunity. Not a single promise of the democratic party was realized.

The defeat of the democrats in 1896 was immediately followed by a restoration of financial confidence and industrial and business activity, which has been maintained up to the present time. We have seen in the years since that defeat a steady progress of our domestic and foreign commerce, which have reached proportions unprecedented in our history. Our industries have been active beyond all previous experience, labor has been more fully employed than ever before and today the general condition of the American people is more satisfactory than at any other previous period of our history.

These are facts which the American voter will be called upon to consider in the coming national campaign. The thoughtful citizen, addressing his attention to all the issues that will be presented, will ask himself whether there is anything to be gained, whether his and the general welfare is to be promoted, by throwing out of power the party that has built up the prosperity of the nation and transferring the control of the government to the political combination that stands for financial and economic policies which our whole experience has shown to be inimical to the interests and welfare of the American people. Of all the questions of the coming campaign the one of first interest is whether the prevailing prosperity shall be maintained and republican success is necessary to its continuance.

Montana's Corruption.

As the Clark senatorial investigation proceeds in Washington a gradual change seems to have come over public opinion on the matter. At first it was taken for granted that Senator Clark bought his way into the senate, and that his opponents, headed by Marcus Daly, were standing for purity in election methods and were valiant sir knights, fighting against corruption and boldly defending the fair name of Montana. Few have any such notions nowadays, for the outcome of the trial has revealed political corruption deep-rooted, widespread and of a most appalling type. So thoroughly warped are the ideas of right and wrong in Montana that men have been willing to make all sorts of affidavits in order to upset Clark's right to a seat in the senate, and the shocking part of it all is that these self-convicted perjurers have apparently not been ashamed of their own wickedness, but have endeavored to condone it. So deep-seated has the wrong become that new descriptions of lying have been coined,

and the new type of "truth" might be called the Montana standard, for did not one of the witnesses against Clark allege that "falsehood is not a lie when the person to whom it is told has no right to know the truth?"

As to whether Clark is or is not guilty of bribery in a matter that must be left to the senate to decide, but no one can understand the true inwardness of the present controversy unless he be familiar with Montana's past history blackened by such an infamy of corruption such as is seldom equaled. In the fight for the capital it is well known that hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent in the most brazen-faced bribery imaginable, and even whole ecclesiastical organizations were bought up.

For years past Marcus Daly has dominated over the whole state, and has used his position as general manager of the Anaconda Copper Mining company to enable him to secure votes to attain his own ends. The much-vaunted freedom of the American citizen has been a mere myth in Butte and Anaconda; for not only were Marcus Daly's employes obliged to trade only at his stores, but they were obliged to vote as he ordered them. So that throughout Montana there has grown stronger and stronger the feeling that the Daly power must be broken if true Americanism is ever to flourish in that commonwealth.

To prevent the collapse of the Daly dominance the copper king would hardly leave any stone unturned in the matter of crushing Clark. In a recent interview Daly said that it was only the young men of Montana who were fighting Clark, and he had nothing to do with it. This is, however, an Irish joke, for everyone in the whole Rocky mountain region knows right well that if the young men are doing the fighting the chances are ten to one that the old man is putting up the sinews of war.

All these considerations must be taken into account when weighing the facts of the Clark case, and it is such facts as these that have raised the very generally existing doubt as to whether Marcus Daly did or did not provide those thirty \$1,000 bills that Whiteside flaunted in the faces of the Montana legislature. There is much ground for suspicions of this kind.

Blasts from Ram's Horn.

The truth needs no apology.
Bitter truth is sweeter than flattery.
Faith begins where the human arm ends.
Dissatisfaction may be the spur to activity.
A smooth and shiny course makes slippery travel.
It takes more piety to bear praise than blame.
The higher life is found in the valley of humility.
Great souls are subject to widely unlike passions, just as great pendulums swing between widely opposite poles.

The White Clover Cheese Factory,

Operated by T. S. Townsend, will begin on February 1st, working up the farmers' milk into cheese by the pound, or on the co-operative plan. Will guarantee first-class article and quick sale; also will guarantee the highest market price when sold. This change has been made at the request of several of my patrons. Call at factory for full information. Come one. Come all.

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HOW LADYSMITH SUFFERED.

Colonel Rhodes Describes the Privations of the Garrison.

London, March 2.—Colonel Rhodes, the brother of Cecil Rhodes, describing in the Times the entry to Ladysmith of Lord Dunderdall and 300 men of the imperial Light Horse and Natal Carbineers February 28, says:

"It is impossible to depict the enthusiasm of the beleaguered garrison. Cheer upon cheer ran from post to post, and staff officers, civilians and soldiers flocked to greet them. The contrast between the robust troopers of a dozen battles and the pale, emaciated defenders of Ladysmith was great.

"General White and his staff met the troops in the center of the town. He was cheered with heartfelt enthusiasm. He addressed the civilians and thanked them and the garrison for their magnificent support through trials which we alone can realize.

"We could possibly have hung on for six weeks longer, but the privations would have been great, and sickness and the paucity of our ammunition would have limited the number of assaults we would have been able to resist. We started the siege with 12,000 troops, 2000 civilians and 4000 natives. Between casualties and sickness 8000 soldiers passed through the hospital. It is impossible to overemphasize the privations of the sick. Since the middle of January, a man once down was practically lost. The reduced rations of the soldiers just sufficed for their subsistence. Daily 30 odd horses and mules were slaughtered and were converted into soup and sausages. From January 15 to now there have been over 200 deaths from disease alone.

"The last fortnight saw the majority of the field batteries unhorsed and the guns permanently posted in our defenses. The cavalry and drivers were converted into infantry and sent to the trenches. A line of defense had been constructed with a view of a possible final contingency if the outer works should be carried.

"Since the investment the total casualties were: Killed or died of wounds, 24 officers and 235 men; died of disease, 6 officers and 340 men; wounded, 70 officers and 520 men, exclusive of white civilians and natives."

On the Point of Giving Up.

The Standard publishes the following dispatch from Ladysmith, dated Thursday, March 1:
"The once dashing cavalry brigade has practically ceased to exist. At the beginning of the year we had 5500 horses and 4500 mules. Before the end of January we could only feed 1100 horses, the others had either been converted into joints, soups and sausages, or had been left to forage for themselves. These poor, emaciated animals—mere phantoms of horses—were among the most painful sights of the siege.

"Had we possessed an unlimited amount to heavy guns and ammunition, we might have made the position more bearable, although not a shot was fired except in dire necessity. There were, February 1, only 40 rounds left for each naval gun, while the supply for the field artillery would have been exhausted in a couple of minor engagements. Fortunately the Boers were ignorant of the true state of affairs. Had they known our real weakness they might have displayed greater daring, with results which, now that we are safe, we can venture to contemplate. We were victorious solely because of masterly inactivity.

"The bombardment was heavy, but on the whole ineffective. It is estimated that during the investment about 12,000 shells were thrown into the town, an average of three tons of explosives daily. Yet we had only 35 men killed and 188 wounded. Our largest losses were from disease."

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