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The Intervention Agitation.

It is difficult to believe that those who advocate intervention in the Boer-British war are sincere. The act would mean war between the United States and Great Britain, one of the most deplorable calamities that could befall this nation, no matter what the outcome might be. Is there a sane man in all the land who would be willing to precipitate this country into a sanguinary war for the sake of a sentiment? The most loquacious advocate of intervention cannot be more heartily in sympathy with the Boers than is President McKinley. He proved that feeling when he offered mediation and received almost a rebuff. At the same time he elicited the positive assertion from Great Britain that she would not tolerate intervention in any manner from any nation. That closed the incident and ended the cherished hope of this government to restore peace in South Africa.

Let not the advocate of intervention forget that the United States is the only government in the world which has shown the slightest disposition to help the Boers in their pitiable condition, when at the risk of its friendship with its greatest commercial friend appealed for a restoration of peace. France, Germany and Russia, whose press and people have sided with the Boers and denounced England, have not raised their voice once in protest. Nor even responded to Kruger's appeal for their good offices in the interest of peace. They are under less obligations to England commercially and morally than we, but they have remained dumb in spite of Boer representatives.

The advisers of the Boer envoys at Washington have not shown that consideration for propriety incumbent upon them when they allowed the visitors to plan a campaigning tour of this country, with the announced purpose of agitating the intervention question, hoping thereby to force President McKinley to act through political expediency. This is a vain hope, indeed. McKinley's acts are not influenced by any such exigencies. He will never be forced to recede from his position by clamor created by appeals to the sympathies of the American people. But what is more important the American people will not set up any such cry in the face of the facts. They are content to leave this matter to the conservative and just head of the nation. The visitors will be welcomed to the cities of the West as private citizens who belong to a people of splendid courage and superb traits of character. But as creators of a sentiment to force the president into an act fraught with such great peril to the nation they will not be hailed or feted.

Popular Election of Senators.

The proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States providing for the election of senators by direct vote of the people, which passed the house of representatives last winter, has again been killed by the committee of the American House of Lords to which it had been referred. The committee gave no reason for its action, but simply stamped on the back of the bill "Adversely reported with the recommendation that it lie upon the table."

This summary defeat of the proposed reform in senatorial elections is not unexpected. Amendments to the federal constitution providing for the election of United States senators by the people have passed the popular branch of congress three or four times, but each time to be buried in the senatorial graveyard. It goes without saying that the senate as now constituted will never voluntarily submit to popular elections which would mean the permanent retirement of two out of every three of that august body.

The demand for the election of senators by direct vote is by no means a socialistic fad. It has been voiced by

successive national and state conventions and found expression through joint resolutions of legislatures of all parties.

The method of designating the popular choice for United States senators is, however, at best ineffective so long as the people are compelled to act by legislative proxy. The only way to make it binding would be to treat the vote as of the same force as the obligation imposed upon presidential electors. It can only be effective when members of the legislature are made to understand that the popular will as expressed through the ballot box must be carried out by them when they come to cast their votes for United States senators.

Every candidate for United States senator should also be pledged to vote in favor of submitting an amendment for popular election of United States senators. This slow process might, however, delay the reform for many years. The true remedy and the only way to insure speedy action on this proposed change in the method of electing United States senators is a national constitutional convention called by the legislatures of the respective states as recommended by the republicans of Nebraska in their platform of 1890. Such a convention could be held within two years and complete its work before the presidential election of 1904.

The President and the Canteen.

Well might the Methodist general conference refuse by an overwhelming vote to criticize the president for his action, or lack of action rather, in the matter of the anti-canteen rule in the United States army. If the conference had taken any other action in the face of the plain facts it would have done much to injure its reputation as an impartial and conservative deliberative body. The president has done everything that one of his power and discretion could be expected to do in this affair. He has caused to be made thorough examinations of the extent, operation and effect of the canteen in the field and barracks. These inquiries were made by the army officers upon whom such duty devolves and in at least one case by a civilian. These inspectors were unanimous in their opinion that the canteen was not only harmless to the morale of the army, but was essential to the discipline of the service and beneficial to the men individually. The canteen is not a saloon or grogshop. It is a place where the soldier can get a light lunch, beer, tobacco and other refreshments without obtaining leave of absence in order to go into the cities. It is the soldier's club, the place of amusement and recreation. There he finds the papers from his home, perhaps, and there he rests and enjoys freedom from the restraint and tedious cares incident to the exacting routine of his life. He will have it as anyone must have it for he has no home in which he can find complete abandon and rest. But for the canteen he would obtain a leave of absence, as he is entitled to it, go into the city, beyond the pale of the influence of the service, and having more time, would be apt to yield to a much greater extent to the indulgences invited by his surroundings. The opportunity for an extension of these indulgences would be afforded in the cities and villages and he would plunge into dissipation when he only wanted and sought recreation and diversion.

The results of the investigations into the canteen rule have shown that where the canteen is allowed and patronized there are fewer cases of drunkenness and courts-martial and less infractions of the army regulations in general than where it is prohibited or where it is not the custom to conduct it. Besides, it is left to the discretion of the heads of commands whether the canteen shall be allowed and the matter in must cases regulates itself.

In the face of these facts would it be incumbent upon the president of the United States to say the canteen must go because "I say so?" If he could prohibit the use of intoxicants by members of the army and navy absolutely that would be another matter. He could no more do that than the Queen of England could stop the habit of swearing among her army in South Africa by an imperial edict at Windsor castle. The Methodist conference has increased its fame for conservatism and justice by saying to the world the president is not deserving of

criticism for his action in this matter, and it ought to set at rest for all time the silly carping which the subject has elicited in the past few months.

One of the most frequent methods of reducing manufacturing expenses has been to find a sale for the by-products resulting from the work of the factory. In the business of manufacturing electricity for public supply, where steam power is used, the only available by-product is exhaust steam. This steam contains much of the heat of the furnaces which are fired to produce it when it is discharged into the air and is entirely available for steam-heating purposes. In certain towns in the western states, notably in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where the winters are long and severe, the electric light stations have laid systems of underground pipes and have supplied steam heat and hot water to citizens through them. The experiment has been an unqualified success, the citizen receiving the service being freed from the slavery of the furnace, while the electric light companies have enjoyed a considerable revenue from an otherwise wasted residuum. It is thought that many electric light and railway stations in the colder half of the country will install pipe systems for the utilization of their waste steam in this way next winter.

There has been much talk in the press and by politicians of the liquor business in Manila. The charge has been made and repeated that the city is one vast collection of saloons and that drunkenness has increased at a remarkable rate since the American occupation of the Philippines. Official reports just made show the utter falsity of these charges. It appears that under Spanish rule there were more than 3,000 wine shops in Manila, each of which paid a yearly license of \$4. The principal liquor sold in these joints was the deadly "bina," which played such havoc with the American soldiers. Since the Americans assumed control, the saloons have been reduced from 3,000 to 400. It was the repetition of the false charge that led to the introduction of the question in the Methodist conference. The lie was circulated for campaign effect, but it has fallen flat in view of the official report dealing with the subject.

Tillamook is not the only county in Oregon where the disgruntled, rule or ruin, republicans will be remembered with a big "d" two years hence. Happily they cut very little figure in Tillamook county, for the simple reason that when the test of strength came it turned out they had considerable bluffing wind but with only a few votes to sustain them in their rule or ruin tactics. This is how the Forest Grove Times summed up the situation in Washington county after the election: "It is a sight not often seen, but we had it here Tuesday, men who called themselves republicans rejoicing over a democratic victory. These same men participated in the republican primaries, agreed to support the ticket and then went and knifed it. Likely they'll be at the next republican primary asking to take part. What constitutes party allegiance, anyway?" We'll let the disgruntled, rule or ruin, republicans in this county answer the question.

Mr. Thomas, our minister to Norway and Sweden, now in this country on leave, has exposed the secret of a large and profitable traffic between the United States and King Oscar's dominions, the existence of which heretofore has been but half suspected on this side of the Atlantic. He states that thousands upon thousands of barrels of salted horse meat go from our ports to Stockholm and Christiania, where their contents are smoked and sold to the Swedes and Norwegians as their national delicacy—reindeer meat. The inference is that as the automobile increases in favor on this continent "reindeer" will grow plentiful and cheap in Scandinavia. It is a horse on the Vikings.

A few months ago the ready-made statistic men among the octopus hunters decided that 35,000 commercial travelers had been thrown out of a job by the trusts. Now the figures have been raised to 350,000. By midsummer they will be 3,500,000, and by October they may be 35,000,000. Nothing is easier

than the multiplication of these fantastic estimates. Meanwhile, how many first-class commercial travelers are out of work? Mighty few, we fancy. It is impossible for business to be good and leave many of those energetic and persuasive geniuses idle.

In the political scrimmage in Oregon for United States senator did not the result of the election in Multnomah county put another nail in ex-Senator Corbett's aspiration? It is just as well for those who have been boasting him to give up the fight now as any other time, for he is too debilitated and advanced in years to look after the interests of a growing state like Oregon. From the complexion of the make up of the state congress it looks as though Mitchell has more show than Corbett, although one would hardly like to predict that Mitchell could be elected. However, politics takes strange freaks at times.

Tillamook was the only county which Dr. Bernard Daly conceded to the republicans before the election. We thought he was giving us some of his Irish blarney, which was only tantamount to Oom Paul's bluffing. Returns show that Daly only carried two counties—that of Lake and Linn. So Tillamook county, Dr., is not the only pabble on the beach in the first congressional district.

The Sugar trust has annexed a few more rival sugar refining plants and the price of sugar has gone up only one-tenth of 1 cent per pound. This advance seems insignificant, but on a carload of 40,000 pounds it means \$40.

Secular Shots at the Pulpit.

An Atlanta minister who was editorially attacked claimed the right to "pulpitorily" reply. Then he proceeded to pound away at the editor.

If the average minister could hear all the Sunday dinner comments made on his Sunday morning sermon would he ever have the heart to preach again?

A new brewery gave so much offense to a clergyman in Monroe county, Pennsylvania, that he prayed publicly that disaster might befall it. Soon after the brewery was struck by lightning and destroyed. And now the owners have actually brought a suit against the preacher for inducing Providence to destroy it! As a question of damages, the case would seem to involve too many elements for an ordinary court to pass upon.

In Kansas the trustees of a church in one of the minor towns are advertising for a pastor who must be well recommended and over six feet tall. It isn't a high churchman they are after, but an exhorter of large physical attainments, and while the reason for this demand isn't given it may be that the church is one of those unfortunate cyclone-stricken structures that have been canted forward at such an angle that the pulpit end is down and the middle section is up and it takes a tall man to see across the ridge. If it isn't for this reason, for what reason can it be?

Elasts From Ram's Horn.

True courtesy is of the heart. Saints are not made by publishing sinners.

A lost opportunity never finds its way back.

An honor bought dishonestly is a dishonor.

A thing is not necessarily true because it is new.

You can usually tell a man's prospects by his aspect.

The hero is he who does what others dare not do.

The greatest coward is the dead lion most heartily.

Readiness in criticism often marks ignorance of task.

The rattle of the wheels of life is call for the oil of prayer.

The men who deny the existence of sin still go on locking their doors and taking receipts.

Before some preachers will throw a stone at sin they want to know who is hiding under it.

Every time a man invents a good scheme some other fellow comes along and makes a fortune out of it.

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