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#### An Unwise Movement.

It is proposed to organize a negro political party, which will place a presidential ticket in the field with negro candidates and also nominate candidates for congress and state officers. It seriously intended it is a most unwise movement, that cannot possibly have results beneficial to the negro, but on the contrary, in intensifying and aggravating the race issue, would prove harmful to that race and perhaps a menace to the peace of a considerable portion of the country.

There is no more justification for a negro party than for a German, or Irish, or Scandinavian party. Political organizations based on race should not exist in this country. Under our constitution and laws there is no discrimination as to American citizenship or race lines and any effort to make political divisions on such lines is essentially hostile to the spirit of American institutions. The negro has just ground of complaint that in a number of the states he is deprived of his political rights and the tendency is to enlarge this unjust treatment. The policy of negro disfranchisement is spreading in the south. But the remedy for this injustice is not to be found in the organization of a national negro party, that would simply furnish a fresh excuse for the policy of the Tillamook and other champions in the south of the disfranchisement of the negro. There are men in that section who are sincerely seeking a solution of the race problem that will give the colored race just and fair treatment. Their efforts would certainly not be helped by the formation of a national negro party.

The negro race has some very injudicious advisers and none more so than those who counsel it to separate political action. There is nothing to be gained for the negro in such a course and it would be pregnant with danger to that race and to the country.

#### Reducing the Debt.

There is apparently no hope at this session of congress of securing any action looking to a reduction of the war stamp taxes. The agitation for the repeal of the taxes, or a portion of them, was not started until late in the session, and the members of the committee on ways and means feel that it is not wholly safe to make any radical change at this time. However, the administration has taken action which will result in a material reduction of the debt and a lightening of the burden of taxation.

The call issued by Secretary of the Treasury Gage for the \$25,000,000 of 2 per cent bonds still outstanding, the term of which was extended in 1891, will result in a saving of \$500,000 a year in interest and will furnish another illustration of the determination of the administration to reduce the public debt as rapidly as possible. With the cancellation of this \$25,000,000 the nation will have no outstanding bonds redeemable at par, and no further call can be made until 1894, when the ten-year 5 per cent bonds, issued during the Cleveland administration, will mature.

In this connection it is interesting to note the condition of the public debt and its relation to the past two government administrations. At the beginning of President Cleveland's last term of office the public debts had been reduced, under Republican rule, to less than \$600,000,000, on which the annual interest charge was about \$20,000,000. President Cleveland ruled in a time of profound peace yet he turned over to his successor a bonded public debt of more than \$1,000,000,000, an increase during his term of office of about \$400,000,000. The present Republican administration, in face of a costly war and expenditures reaching enormous totals, is now reducing the Cleveland debt, making arrangements to secure large annual

savings in interest charges and increasing the public revenues in a legitimate way to far exceed all possible expenditures. It is a forcible lesson in party ability. Every man who pays taxes is interested in it.

#### More Lawyers.

There is a good deal of truth in a leading article which appeared in the Evening Telegram about lawyers, and in view of the fact that the manufacturing industries offers now greater inducements with a reasonable amount of success assured, it is surprising that so many young men choose law for a profession when the woods are full of lawyers who aspired to be bright and shining legal lights. Here is what the Telegram said:

"A score or so of young lawyers were made early this week. Not considering any of them personally at all, it may safely be suggested that not all of them have chosen wisely in selecting the law as a profession. There are many degrees of success in this profession, but considered from a high, clear point of view, most of them, in one way or other, spell failure. Out of the hundreds of lawyers in this city the really successful ones, from any point of view whatever, are a small minority. The large majority are never heard of in their profession; even an habitue of the court rooms will not see their faces or names there in connection with any business of importance once in six months. With many 'practising law' is a tiresome, wearing, waiting for something to turn up, for business to come that seldom or never comes. The mind rusts, sours, rots. Life is a continual disappointment. If these men are poor, have no other means of support, they drag out for a while a hand-to-mouth existence, and finally are crowded out into some other occupation, wherein they find men better trained to its work than they can hope to become. Others, with more energy and a less scrupulous conscience, resort to cunning devices, tricks of the profession, take advantage of ignorance and credulity, 'work up' business, 'stand in' with dishonorable schemes, and in one crooked path or another, or in many, live and thrive more or less around the shadowy edges of the profession. Nearly all seek to get into politics, and perhaps one in ten, in the course of his life, succeeds in some small way, but of those who do it is only one in ten, again, who rise to eminence and honorable distinction. Neither is the law, as estimated and practiced by the average attorney, either a very useful or an elevating profession.

"Many lawyers are scrupulously honorable; many do much good in the world; in a large, practical sense they are among the 'leading men' in all our cities; in our present stage of civilization their work and advice and intervention in affairs are necessary; yet the average lawyer must train his mind and conscience so that his opinions will fit either side of almost any case, if the fee is large enough. This is authorized professional license, but there is an aspect in which it may be said that law practice in this regard militates against the free and straight development of the best and truest mental manhood. So, while recognizing the honorable and even noble qualities, mental and moral, of many of our lawyers, who are indeed among our 'best citizens,' the first-class mechanic, the conscientious physician, the enterprising manufacturer, the devoted teacher, the studious, progressive horticulturist, the improver of property and employer of labor, are, on the whole, far more useful when in society, and better entitled to its respect than the average lawyer, who too often is a promoter rather than a settler of disputes, one who encourages rather than checks and suppresses wrangling and wrath of men."

#### Value of Parcels Post.

One of the questions of most practical interest discussed at the late commercial congress which convened in Philadelphia last year, under the auspices of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, was the extension of parcels post system between this and other countries. Coming as it did just after the conclusion of the parcels post convention with Germany this discussion was timely, and as it expressed the view of representatives of many different countries it was exceedingly valuable as well. It was, then, in

the interest of the promotion of our foreign trade, gratifying to observe the National Association of Manufacturers at its annual meeting giving heed to the importance of the question and pledging its great influence to the accomplishment of the end desired.

When such a state of affairs exists, as was pointed out by one delegate, that a sample under ten pounds in weight can be transported by parcels post between Great Britain and Australia for one dollar, while the cost of transportation between Australia and the United States by the reason of the lack of a parcels post agreement reaches nine dollars, it may be taken for granted that the Australian merchant will be far more likely to buy all goods which may be selected by sample in England rather than in this country.

The same reasoning holds with regard to our trade relations with other countries with which no parcels post agreement exists. The matter is important for other reasons than simply because it gives an opportunity to inspect samples cheaply. Commercial houses have grown up in foreign countries which do an enormous mail order business by reason of the facilities afforded them by the parcels post system. Though our convention with Germany has been in force but a few months, it has been shown by post office and custom house records that an extensive mail order business has grown up between this country and the German Fatherland, and it is steadily growing. What has been accomplished there can be done elsewhere.

The American manufacturer has at last entered the markets of the world in earnest. He has a right to demand from his government such rational and obvious assistance as may be furnished by parcels post connection with every civilized country.

#### Coffee the Favorite Stimulant.

The acquisition of a considerable area of coffee-growing territory as a result of the Spanish-American war gives more than ordinary interest to the statistics of coffee consumption in this country. The American people have become, without question, the greatest coffee drinkers in the world. We are not only consuming more coffee than any other nation each year, but statistics show that the amount consumed per capita each year is constantly on the increase. It has become by far the most important item in the American dietary and its consumption is not confined to any class. It is the sustaining solace of the wage-earner and the favorite stimulant of the man whose work calls for a high degree of mental energy.

The countries that consume the greatest portion of the world's coffee crop are Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, the United States and Germany. It is claimed, however, that the popularity of tea, so great in England and Russia, is now on the decline and their consumption of coffee is increasing at such a rapid rate that they will soon rank with Germany and the United States as coffee drinkers.

Hygienic and dietetic authorities will doubtless view this increase in the consumption of coffee with much apprehension. They stoutly maintain that coffee drinking is injurious to the race. They trace all sorts of digestive derangements to the excessive drinking of coffee. Other authorities, however, are disposed to regard this increase in coffee drinking as a hopeful indication of an increasing tendency to abstain from alcoholic stimulation. Indeed, there are many who adhere to the belief that coffee is a specific for alcoholism, and that any marked increase in its consumption means a decline in the use of spirituous liquors. It is noted in this connection that Germany, the most extensive consumer of malt liquors, is next to the United States the greatest consumer of coffee. Whatever diverse views may be entertained regarding the hygienic or food value of coffee, there is no denying the fact that it appears to be essential to meet the dietetic requirements of modern American methods of living.

When the presidential campaign is at its height the contest will be waged mainly upon one or two issues, and to them most of the oratory of the spellbinders will be devoted; but it is probable the determining factor in the

struggle will be the popular recognition of the abounding prosperity we now enjoy under Republican legislation. The contrast between the conditions of the people now and those which prevailed four years ago constitutes so strong an argument in favor of the administration it is hardly likely the people will consent to make another trial of government by the party of hard times and depression. So remarkable has been the change from the panic years of Cleveland to the prosperous years of McKinley that a simple statement it sounds like a fairy tale. Ray Stannard Baker, who has recently compiled an interesting volume on the industrial and commercial statistics of the past year, says: "Webster defines romance as a series of extraordinary events; the year 1899 may well be termed romantic. The fact and figures set forth in the statistical reports of the government, of banks and clearing houses and of the trades have been so remarkable as to draw superlatives even from the columns of trade journals and the financial departments of the newspapers."

Senator Lodge is one of the most careful and thorough investigators of the expansion question in all of its bearings. He has just been examining the growth of our trade with Hawaii, and finds that five years ago, in 1895, the total Hawaiian trade with the United States amounted to only \$11,500,000. Last year it reached \$33,500,000, having increased almost threefold within five years, and most of this increase has occurred within the past eighteen months. The senator says we may not think that a business of \$33,500,000 amounts to very much, when our foreign trade is now running up into the billions, but to compare our trade with the Hawaiian islands, with their handful of people, with our trade with some of the larger countries of the world, gives a better idea of the value of colonies to the United States.

So far as known only fourteen of the men who formed the first republican convention, which met in Philadelphia on June 18, 1856, are now living. It was a thoughtful act of Chairman Hanna, on behalf of the republican national committee, to send these veterans a special invitation to attend the convention of their party which meets in Philadelphia on June 19, 1900. These men saw their party's beginning, with a total vote of 1,341,264 popular and 114 electoral votes, and they saw it cast a total of 7,014,779 popular and 271 electoral votes in the last national contest. It is eminently fitting that they should be brought together again on the scene of that great beginning of forty-four years ago.

It is stated that the three independent sugar refining companies which have been consolidated into a New Jersey corporation were capitalized altogether at \$5,000,000. In the consolidation they will appear as possessed of a capital value of about \$20,000,000. If such a thing exists as an honestly capitalized industrial combination, it has not been generally heard of up to date. But the trusts already in the field are finding out that it is vastly easier to inflate capitalization than to earn dividends on the same.

One of the characteristics of a great man is his quickness to avail himself of a good thing no matter who originated it. Here, for instance, is Mr. John G. Rockefeller, who, in humble imitation of the gifted Mr. Gates, is tying up his whaleback fleet with a view to squeezing the ore skippers until they descend from the perch with proper celerity and humility. For a gentleman of eminent piety Mr. Rockefeller displays remarkable aptness in the devices of wicked men.

Senator Wolcott, of Colorado, is authority for the statement that during three years of free trade, from 1892 to 1895, there was a shrinkage in the value of sheep in that state to \$2,320,000 and in the price of the wool clip of \$1,150,000 a year, while since the election of McKinley the value of the flocks has increased \$4,226,000 and that of the yearly wool clip \$1,124,000. Such facts as these are far more impressive than boy oratory.

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