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Why We Are In China.

Since the New York Herald took its flop to anti-imperialism it goes the whole figure. "What business," it asks, "have we to send troops and ships to China?" "None whatever," is its answer, "and the sooner the president gets out of it the better."

No more cowardly question could have been asked by a copperhead during the war of the rebellion. The effort of the New York Herald to make political capital out of the Chinese complications will meet with the condemnation of all good citizens, regardless of political affiliations. "What business have we to send troops and ships to China?" At the head of the American colony in Peking, if he is alive, stands Edwin H. Conger, who offered his life in the defense of the American in the war of the rebellion. If he were there alone he is entitled to the protection of the American flag, which he once defended, if it takes the entire army and navy to reach and rescue him. The flag that will not protect its protectors and defend its defenders contaminates the air upon which it floats. With Conger are other members of the American legation, the missionaries, women and children, and other Americans whose lives must be protected, if possible. There should be no question of politics. The nation has a duty to perform.

Under such circumstances the administration has a heavy responsibility and is placed in a very difficult position. It is the duty of every American to sink political differences and do what lies in his power to encourage and assist the administration in upholding the national honor and performing its sacred obligations to Americans wherever they may be. If any member of the administration betrays his trust by attempting to turn the present situation to partisan advantage the people will have a reckoning with him. So will they with the politician or party organ, on either side, that for the mere purpose of gaining a campaign advantage, seeks to divide the people on a question upon which there should be unanimity—the protection of American life and honor at any cost.

The Commanding Question.

The chief issue in the impending campaign, said one of the republican leaders, is the fundamental one of the people's own interest, welfare and prosperity. The great question that urges itself upon the mind of the people at this time is that which appeals to their individual interests. They are not concerned with academic or abstract theories or propositions. The ideas that are being advanced by certain politicians do not interest them, for the obvious reason that they are not practical. What the average people want is something that will go home to their immediate interests and promote their welfare in the present.

This is the vital fact in the present campaign. What are the questions that present themselves? The intelligent citizen will ask himself whether labor is better employed than it was four years ago; whether it is receiving better wages than at that time, and whether as a class the wage earners of the country have improved their condition during the last three years. When he investigates the facts he will find an affirmative answer to all these questions. He will get statistics which show that under the operation of republican policies there has been a steady growth of industrial development and an uninterrupted advance in the elevation of American labor. He will find that every industrial interest in this country is greater today than it was four years ago. He will find that there is not in this nation to-day a single interest that is not stronger than it was in the period of democratic control and that in the aggregate the welfare of the

American people has been wonderfully advanced.

What is the natural appeal that all these facts make to the American people? What else but to say to them to adhere to the party that has throughout its entire history been the party of national development and national honor and integrity.

Well, whatever may be the abstract possibilities of these extraordinary conditions in our foreign relations, there is one eternal fact that we can rely upon, and that is this, that the administration at Washington will never for one instant compromise or put into a false position the national government. Whatever course other governments may pursue nothing is more certain than that the government of the United States will maintain a policy absolutely free from all suggestion, or even possibilities, connected with territorial aggrandizement.

Faithful to the Party.

Senator Hoar is a profoundly earnest anti-expansionist. He thinks that the president and the republican party have made a mistake in the Philippines. But he does not look to the Bryanite party for a rectification. In a recent statement of his position he says: "I expect nothing from Mr. Bryan. I expect nothing from Tammany hall. I expect nothing from the populace that govern our great central cities. I expect nothing in that direction from the solid south, though the solid south contains now many honest and patriotic men. I expect that what is to be done for freedom and justice in the future is to be done by the party that stood for freedom and justice in the past." The veteran statesman declared that the freedom and equality which had been lodged by the republican party in the constitutional fortress of the American people "will not be dislodged unless the southern democratic supporters of Mr. Bryan and the men he would bring into power with him shall have their way."

Without Their Consent.

"The only movement to govern people without their consent," remarks the Indianapolis Journal, "is that of the democrats in the south. The negro is far better qualified to participate in government than is the Filipino, because he has been familiar with the forms of popular government all his life. Nevertheless the democrats in three southern states have already deprived thousands of colored men of the right to vote without their consent. In three other states the disfranchisement is going on without the consent of those to whom it is applied." Next month the people of North Carolina will vote upon an amendment to the state constitution restricting the right of suffrage. It is frankly admitted that the purpose of the amendment is to disfranchise illiterate negro voters without depriving illiterate whites of the right of suffrage. A leading paper of the state says: "The whites are safe under the amendment. Only ignorant negroes are dealt with." And it is safe to predict that the amendment will be adopted.

Has anybody ever seen in a Bryanite organ any word of condemnation for this sort of thing? Has any of the leaders of the Bryanite party ever raised his voice against this wrong and injustice to the colored citizens in the south? If so we are not aware of it. They will make a great outcry in the campaign about "consent of the governed" in the Philippines, but there will be not a word

in behalf of disfranchised colored Americans.

The Road to Peking.

One of the greatest obstacles to the successful operation of armies in the recent campaigns has been the condition of the roads and the lack of transportation facilities in the countries through which the armies have passed. The campaign in Cuba came near ending in a massacre of the American forces largely through the inability of General Shafter to get his men and supplies over the horrible roads in the vicinity of Santiago. The insurrection in the Philippines would have been ended in a few months after the fall of Manila had it not been for the impassable condition of the country. In the South African campaign the difficulty experienced by the British forces in getting their supplies forward was of the greatest advantage to the Boers. The Boxers in China will, in all probability, have their day of reckoning with the allied powers deferred for some months for similar reasons. The rainy season is on in China and the road to Peking is practically impassable and will be for some months. One of the London correspondents, in describing the condition of the road to Peking, says: "The rainy season will render a direct advance from Tien Tsin to Peking most difficult, if not utterly impracticable. A veteran of the consular service tells me that the region between the two cities will be under water during the next thirty days if the rains have begun, and that an advance of the allied army will be impossible before September unless there is a phenomenal drought."

Our Opportunity on the Pacific.

Mr. E. T. Chamberlain, United States commissioner of navigation, discusses the subject of ocean transportation to eastern Asia in the current number of the North American Review. He begins by saying that the commercial aspirations of the United States, in so far as they have any geographical bent, are unquestionably turned to-day across the Pacific to the markets of the temperate zone of eastern Asia. He points out that in respect of distance our Pacific coast ports have the advantage, as to eastern Asia, over Mediterranean ports, and a still greater advantage in contrast with the Atlantic ports of Great Britain, Germany, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. But in order to make the difference in distance tell in their favor, steamships from our Pacific coast must carry coal for the entire voyage across the Pacific, with a corresponding increase in expense and reduction in the space which can be devoted to carrying freight money. Therefore ships going by the Suez route have a greater earning capacity than those going to eastern Asia from our Pacific coast.

Mr. Chamberlain thinks that the appearance of large steel steamships in the trade directly across the Pacific will in time revolutionize the relations of the commercial, manufacturing and agricultural world to the uncounted millions of Asia, and if the opportunity is promptly seized by the United States the changed conditions may be made almost immediately the source of enormous addition to our national wealth. "The commercial importance of the new conditions of ocean transportation to eastern Asia," he says, "seems to have been more fully and most quickly realized by foreign countries than by the United States, which in all its interests ought to be the greatest beneficiary of the new order of things. While we are, many of us, chopping over academic theories and discarded or inopportune policies, other nations are contriving to make the best for themselves out of the situation." This is a fact that reflects somewhat unfavorably upon American enterprise, but there is reason to hope that this will not long be the case, for the abundant and increasing capital in this country may reasonably be expected to seek investment in steamship lines on the Pacific, which would undoubtedly be a source of large profit.

Mr. Chamberlain submits that a legislative proposition which has for one of its principal objects the establishment, as soon as practicable, of the best and greatest facilities for transportation between the United States and Asia is

entitled to the careful consideration of every American. He very correctly says that it is of as much importance to the cotton states of the south and the wheat and corn belts of the northwest as it is to the seaboard constituencies. "The mining regions of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and the great lakes, and the factories of New York, New Jersey, New England and the central states are as directly concerned in it as are the commercial exchanges of our large cities. All interests will be benefited by the building up of the Asiatic trade, to the accomplishment of which there is nothing more necessary than adequate transportation facilities."

From all indications state legislators are concocting and drawing up no end of bills which they will try to enact into laws, and it is reasonably safe to predict that some of them are open to suspicion and should be thoroughly scrutinized, for the state legislators who intend to revolutionize our laws according to what they do in some state back east or in the old country want watching. But the bills which are usually gotten up to work a graft are the most pernicious.

The flour trust has been forced to reorganize by scaling down its stock and bonds. The dupes who invested their money in these inflated securities will probably complain there is no prosperity in the land, when as a matter of fact but for the present era of prosperity the concern would have been unable to survive the first interest day.

The political bosses in the republican party of Oregon are cracker-jacks at their business, and they will demonstrate this when it comes to the election of United States senator when they line up their henchmen in battle array. If republicans had an opportunity to cast a ballot we do not think that the parties selected by the bosses would get many votes.

Here's a grunt from the hog to prove that prosperity is no myth. It grunted a calamity grunt in 1896 that the average quotation for hog flesh in that year was down to \$2.83, while if you consult the market returns now it fluctuates somewhere near \$5.15. And the same old hog is grunting the same old tune.

It's a peculiar state of affairs in China. The United States is not at war with that country, although our soldiers have been in several bloody encounters with their henchmen in battle array. If republicans election the powers must be holding over there.

The tax on the workingman's dinner pail is not a subject of democratic discussion this year. Even the time-serving politicians can remember that the work of lightening the dinner pail burden was overdone during the last democratic administration.

It is a sad day for the anti-imperialists when they see the president preparing for constitutional government and freedom in Cuba. They have all along charged that the bad man never meant to keep the nation's pledge.

Perhaps the real question of importance to be decided at the approaching election is whether the people want democratic hard times or a continuation of republican prosperity.

The Boxers must have obtained their ideas about holding up the ambassadors in Peking from the politicians who held up the Oregon legislature.

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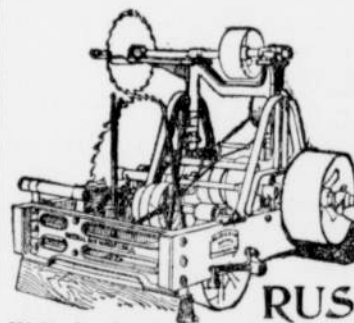
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