

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

POLITICAL prejudices previous to an election invariably border on the absurdity, especially with political writers and speakers, so much so that it appears ridiculous in the eyes of the thoughtful, conservative person. For instance, we hear republicans call democrats, "repudiators," "socialists," "anarchists," "traitors," etc., while the Oregonian last week called them "lunatics," for this is what it said: "When the unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1 was proposed as the great cure-all for human ills, it was promptly designated as the 'silver craze.' The fact that so many otherwise intelligent men remain blind to reason and common sense on this subject ought to be proof of the fact that the word 'craze' was rightly applied, and that, as far as the silver question is concerned, the advocates of free coinage at 16 to 1 are as crazy as many of the inmates of our asylums, who appear to be perfectly sane until they begin to talk upon their hobbies." If this is true, then Harvey Scott could apply exactly the same language to the protective policy of the republican party, and argue that the whole country was insane on two political issues. However much the Headlight may differ with its political opponents, we would not feel justified in calling them "lunatics," "anarchists," etc., for there are no arguments in such epithets as these. It is no uncommon thing to read ably written magazine and newspaper articles showing how far advanced the American citizens are in intelligence, education, refinement and industrial ability above most of the European countries, and this being a fact, we cannot bring our mind to believe that half the citizens of the United States are "lunatics," "traitors," "anarchists" and "socialists" on one political issue, and the other half the same way on another political issue. If this is the case it is a serious state of affairs, for we convict ourselves as being a nation of "lunatics" and the United States an asylum for crazy people. But, happily, politicians are talking for political effect, and in doing so take an unusual amount of latitude and license to score their opponents, which amounts to nothing when analyzed.

ONE of the demagogic deliverances of Bryan, which he is repeating on every possible occasion, is his assertion that the United States has not a good title to the Philippines. In throwing a cloud upon our title to the islands Mr. Bryan, whether wittingly or not, casts discredit upon himself. He admits that he exerted all his personal influence for the ratification of the peace treaty, under whose provisions Spain was to receive \$20,000,000 in consideration of the transfer of its claim over the islands to the United States. If Spain could not give us a good title Mr. Bryan puts himself in the position of forcing the United States to pay \$20,000,000 for a worthless deed. Mr. Bryan knew at the time and knows now that the only title to the Philippines was vested in Spain and that Spain had a perfect right, under the usages and precedents of international law, to transfer its title to another nation, either for a cash consideration or out of pure friendship, as it might see fit. At has been pointed out by President McKinley in his letter of acceptance, our title to the Philippines has not only been unquestioned by any other country, but our undisputed sovereignty over the Philippines, so far as foreign nations are concerned, has been officially recognized. Our title to the Philippines is precisely the same, in ultimate basis, as our title to Porto Rico, Alaska, California, Florida and the Louisiana purchase. It is the title given by treaty between independent nations and will stand any test that may be applied. In reiterating his declaration that the United States has no rightful jurisdiction over the Philippines, Mr. Bryan not only stultifies himself, but impugns the intelligence of the American people, because if our title to those islands were not good our title to a large part of the territory admitted as states into the union would be equally invalid.

THE city of Portland is getting into bad repute in foreign countries on account of the trouble captains have with their crews being inticed to desert by the sailor boarding house keepers. It may not be generally understood, but indirectly the wheat raisers have to pay the fiddler, for as soon as it is known in the shipping world that certain ports "fleece" the ships, there is a disposition to go elsewhere for cargoes, consequently ships become scarce and freights soar high, and as an instance of this a ship was chartered in Portland to carry wheat at the enormous rate of 52s. 8d. per ton. The wheat buyers dot up all these extra charges against Portland when they buy wheat, therefore, it is plain to see who are the sufferers. Take the shipping away from Portland and it would be an exceedingly unimportant city. Instead of placing obstacles in the way of shipping, Portland should induce them to come there, even if it paid for pilotage, towage, wharfage and with an assurance that crews should not be molested, for these are small items when the reputation of a port like Portland is at stake. It may presently dawn upon Portland that the city will have to show a more liberal spirit with shipping, for the prevailing idea with so many people in that city is to "fleece the foreigners" all they can, who foolishly argue that the ship owners, and not the wheat raisers, have to pay for it. Look at it in whatever light one may, the sailor boarding house racket is a disgrace to Portland, a detriment to the shipping of that city and a serious obstacle in the way of farmers receiving fair compensation for their wheat who ship it to Portland.

Now that the war in South Africa is substantially over, we are being told that it will be many years before there can be any real peace and good feeling between the Dutch inhabitants and the governing British. This is the opinion of those who sympathized with the Boers, not so, however, with those who are familiar with England's liberal colonial policy. England has probably nearly 20,000 Boer prisoners, and before these are released perfect order will have to exist, which will soon be brought about by a looting rapid measures. Nor do we think that a guerrilla war will take place, as so many predicted, for President Kruger has skipped the country, taking with him all the treasure he could lay hands, which is not very satisfactory to the burghers who have done the fighting. South Africa will soon be peaceful, which will be brought about by the introduction of far more liberal laws than formerly existed in the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, and the Boers seeing the unboasting magnanimity of the Anglo-Saxon, will readily acquiesce in the new state of affairs.

WE are in favor of expansion and hope the republican party will nail its colors to the mast on this issue. We are well aware of the fact that it is a costly experiment, both in lives and treasure, when annexing land away from our own shores, and more especially so in a tropical country. The large list of deaths coming from the Philippines daily, caused by disease, is no doubt appalling, but it is the experience of all nations which have undertaken to conquer and civilize heathen tribes. Only last week a transport which arrived at San Francisco with invalids soldiers from Manila, reported 14 deaths on the voyage home. But as soon as tropical countries come under modern sanitary methods disease is less prevalent, so it will be in the Philippine islands, for in a few years under American control these islands will become valuable and healthy places to reside, when civilization will blessed the day

when the Stars and Stripes were raised there. But, as we have stated, there will be a large sacrifice of human life caused by disease for several years to come.

WHENEVER there is a strike the newspapers convey the impression that foreigners are responsible for it. This is altogether incorrect, for it is the foreigners brought to this country by the big manufacturing companies who are a menace to American workmen receiving fair compensation for their labor. Besides, these foreigners are brought into the country for the purpose of breaking up labor organizations, and if ever this can be accomplished, then the wages of working men will be scaled down to a pittance.

MRS. LEASE, who was desperately in love—we mean politically—with Bryan four years ago, has gilded the silver-tongued orator and is now infatuated with McKinley. And, woman-like, her hatred is intense against her former lover.

THE next state legislature should be a little cautious about passing a primary law, for, from all indications, it will have to be a carefully drawn up bill which the politicians cannot use to their own advantage.

MR. BRYAN is wasting much valuable time campaigning in his own state. Well, what's the matter with Nebraska, anyway? Has republican prosperity struck it like a cyclone?

Secular Shots at the Pulpit.

A preacher who had his feet in the window of a train on the New York Central the other day had one of them struck by lightning. The rebuke was a just one.

It is said by those who profess to be well informed in the premises that there are too many preachers, more than enough to supply the demand. If that be true, there is a serious fault somewhere, for the theological schools, under denominational control, should not have been permitted to launch young men into a profession where they were not wanted and where starvation would face them.

An Associated Press dispatch, describing the looting of Pekin, says that "the missionaries complain because the Sacred City has not been looted. They urge that the royal family and other high-placed Chinese personages, who were behind all the trouble, should be made to suffer more than those who blindly followed them." Evidently our next shipment of missionaries to China should be to work on the missionaries already there.

A federation of churches in Pittsburg and vicinity has taken up the subject of funeral reform and makes a number of valuable recommendations to that end. Among other things the federation advises that display of all kinds should be avoided, and that floral offerings, if used at all, should be simple and inexpensive. Personal references to the deceased at the funeral should be omitted. Services at the grave are declared to be unnecessary, and in no case should the persons who attend them be expected to stand with uncovered heads. The admission of curious people to view the dead before the funeral is specially deprecated. Finally, a discontinuance of the custom of wearing mourning, is strongly recommended as being "scarcely in harmony with the hope of the gospel." These suggested reforms are clearly in the interest of good sense and refined feeling.

Political Drift.

Young Mr. Vanderbilt refuses to become enthusiastic over politics. He has refused several tempting offers to act as treasurer of campaign committees.

The governor-elect of Arkansas is Jefferson Davis. The secretary of state, elected on September 3, is named Crockett and the state auditor is named Monroe.

Women will vote for president in Idaho for the first time this year. Between 1896 and 1898, through the extension of the suffrage, the vote in Idaho increased 50 per cent.

This is a great year for war heroes. A major, two colonels and a general are running for congress in one district of New Hampshire. General Apathy has no show there.

The four great republican spellbinders whose names will be seen frequently in the papers during the next few weeks are Henderson, Hepburn, Dalzell and Littlefield, all congressmen whose re-elections are sure.

Notwithstanding Mark Hanna's expressed fears about the electoral vote of New York state, betting down there stands at 2½ to 1 on McKinley. Gamblers know a sure thing and are accepting all the Bryan money in sight.

Four states have populist governors at present—Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota and Washington. In Washington, Minnesota and Nebraska Governor Rogers, Governor Lind and Governor Poynter are candidates for re-election on fusion tickets. In South Dakota Governor Lee is a candidate for congress.

Blasts from Ram's Horn.

Love only can lighten labor's load. The worst things are always corruptions of the best.

The better days will come only as you do your best today.

The value of a painful piety depends on who had the pain.

The church without a prayer meeting is a body without a heart.

The more intensive your faith the more extensive your influence. Too many preachers are thinking more of salary than of service.

He who groans most in prayer frequently loans the Lord least in charity.

Tapering off a bad habit is but spinning out a rope to hold you till the next siege of the temptation.

The spirit of the meeting is not greatly helped by the people who say: "I will be with you in spirit."

The raven who failed to return to the ark is a picture of many Christians who, being saved, never look back to say so.

Personal Pointers.

"Let no guilty man escape" is Germany's present attitude toward China.

In spite of the fact that the price of coal has gone up people seem more anxious than ever to get it.

Bryan is addressing the stockyards and Roosevelt the cow-punchers, so the round-up seems to be fairly complete.

There is no string attached to the recommendation of the Agricultural Department that our farmers should turn their attention to raising hemp.

Senator Hoar is a believer in the theory that rest and sleep prolong life. Whenever he is able he takes an hour's nap in the afternoon and nightly retires at 10, rising at 7 in the morning.

Prospects of peace in China will not be affected by the reported activity of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of Boston. The Ancients are merely burningish up for their semi-monthly bean feast.

General John A. McClelland, who died the other day, was one of the last two survivors of the twenty-eighth congress, which met in December, 1843. Ex-Governor Ramsey of Minnesota is the other.

Daniel A. Lamont, secretary of war in President Cleveland's last cabinet, is on a visit to the Pacific coast on railroad business. He is vice president of the Northern Pacific road and declares himself out of politics.

The home of the Bradley Martins in New York, 18 to 22 West Twentieth street and 23 West Nineteenth street, has passed into the hands of a real estate firm and this marks the last step in the expatriation of the family.

Joaquin Miller, the poet, has been much annoyed by the recent reports of his failing health. "I am feeling better than I have felt for ten years past," he said the other day, "and I can see no reason why I should not live for ten years to come."

In Bellevue hospital, New York, experiments are being made which, according to the New York Herald, seem to point to success in producing a mosquito which, instead of stinging human beings, will devote all its time to attacking other insects.

Governor Lind, of Minnesota, speaking recently at a meeting in St. Paul in celebration of the landing of the first German pioneers in America, said that "under ordinary circumstances" he did not approve of the observance of foreign national holidays by American citizens of foreign extraction.

Some surprise is expressed by unknowing people over the achievement of a Chicago woman, who put her foot down on a burglar and held him until a policeman arrived. The wonder is that the villain retained his breath. Great feat? We should smile.

Former Secretary of State John Sherman placed on record in Washington a deed conveying to his adopted daughter, Mrs. Mary E. McCallum, his handsome marble front mansion and his adjoining property on K street in that city. The consideration named in the deed \$100,000 and affection.

Charles B. Stenver, a millionaire banker and brewer of St. Louis, does not propose to have lawyers fighting over his estate after he dies. Mr. Stenver has just distributed his fortune among his six children, reserving \$50,000, which he intends to give away by will. He came to this country in 1849, being then 20 years old, and began life as a farmer in Clinton county.

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