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UPTOWN BRANCH OFFICES.

At Thomas W. McAuliffe & Co.'s Drug Store, southeast corner of Tenth and J streets, and Harvey's news stand, 721 K street.

OAK PARK AGENCY—Carter's Blacksmith shop, corner Thirty-fourth street and Sacramento avenue.

Weather Forecast.

Northern California: Cloudy and unsettled weather Saturday; occasional showers on the northern coast; colder in the San Joaquin Valley.

THE OUTLOOK.

At this writing, Friday evening, the outlook for a peaceful settlement of the issue with Spain is very discouraging, though hope of success is not wholly given over. It would seem that the country is surely drifting into a war with the European Power. Once entered upon no one doubts that it will give victory to the United States, freedom to Cuba, and entry upon the experiment of self-government there, among a people of classes bitterly hostile and radically divided in political opinion and prejudices.

That the native population will in the end establish the government of the island in a stable form we believe. They have by many years of contention in arms demonstrated capacity for resistance and assault that gives warrant for the belief that they can control the island in peace. But this will not be accomplished without great suffering, much effusion of blood and a struggle fearful to contemplate.

What part this nation will play in that contention, after we shall have forced Spain to release her hold upon the gate of the gulf, it is difficult to forecast. That the United States will in some sort be bound to stand by and support the Cuban patriots in the effort to set up a strong and just government, seems to be the logical conclusion. But that we shall seek to possess Cuba we do not believe is contemplated by American thought to-day, or that it will enter into our future calculations.

Our interests in Cuba and the demands of humanity put upon us the duty of commanding the peace in the fated isle, if need be, through compulsory means. If the nation resolves to employ such means, as is now altogether probable, it will do so successfully. Of that there need not be entertained the slightest doubt. It may cost us some hundreds of millions of dollars to fight out this contest with Spain. It may necessitate war taxation; it will offer as sacrifice for the principle for which we contend the lives of some thousands of our people. But the American Republic will not shrink from these necessities when once resolved upon its course.

It is about to enter upon a struggle, if the present portent does not change, which has for its justification on our side the cessation of a war that has been marked by brutality, and unparalleled offense against the humanity of the age; the freeing of a people who have the right to recognition in their effort to set up self-government, and to shake off the domination of a monarchical rule that has never made colonial control a success, and which is out of harmony with the spirit of the age upon this hemisphere.

ARMS OF NAVAL WAR.

What was an impression, created at first by a statement made by an eminent Russian naval officer, by Captain Mahan and by one of our own shipbuilders, that the day of building great battleships is passed, and that hereafter nations will construct small war craft only, and torpedo boats chiefly, is now largely a conviction. But it must not be assumed from this that no more battleships or great floating batteries will be constructed. There will always be need for these for harbor defense, and sometimes for work on the high seas. But it is pretty well settled among naval constructors that so much cost will not hereafter be made in building battleships in such number.

Complete reliance cannot be placed upon the torpedo boat for all naval war. That naval arm works mainly in secret, mostly at night. It does not often engage in open assault. It delivers its deadly shot and flees. Cruisers and torpedo boats will probably outnumber all other naval craft in well organized fleets hereafter, but the battleship will not be abandoned. As the means of open assault and the delivery of missiles against other large ships, this form of war engine will probably remain as an effective arm that is indispensable.

GENERAL BLANCO'S REPORT.

General Blanco in his statement to the Spanish Minister at Washington, clearly intended for American consumption, attempts to cast the blame for cruelty to the reconcentrados upon the insurgents. He says the latter destroyed so many hamlets that the people were forced to the towns for shelter and subsistence. But how does that statement square with Weyler's order compelling the agriculturists to abandon their farms in five States, but in one of which he was unable to make his order effective?

No doubt the insurgents have committed outrages; no doubt they have retaliated. But it is unlikely that they have made war upon their friends. It was because the reconcentrados are in the main in sympathy with the insurgents, and send their young men to recruit the insurgent army, that Weyler made his infamous order. He justified it as a war measure, on the ground that the reconcentrados gave aid and comfort to the enemy, and that such few as did not, by raising crops, enabled the insurgents to raid them and supply themselves with food.

Another thing that General Blanco leaves unexplained is the reason, if there was any, why he should have issued an order repealing Weyler's concentration order, but withheld it from effectiveness from November 13, 1897, until this time. Did the General really think the people would be deceived by the bald statement that he made his order of repeal last November? It is certainly true that he made the order then, but it is also true that he fixed a time far in the future for it to take effect.

There are just two virtues in General Blanco's report—it concedes fully that there has been no exaggeration in the American statements of the awful suffering among the non-combatants, and it admits that American relief has been of exceeding benefit. There is one other thing in it for which we have not probably given the Spanish sufficient credit; they have not wholly neglected to render to the reconcentrados the mercy of charity. They have to some extent sent them supplies, and rendered them good offices in hospitals. But measured by the necessity for relief, their efforts have been but as drops in the bucket.

A WESTERN BORDER OFFER.

"Doc" Middleton of Western border notoriety, has notified the Government of the United States that he is ready with 100 rough riders to start at once for Cuba and ride down the throats of every Spaniard in arms on the island and gallop things out of him. Every man of Middleton's band has two tough bronchos, a Winchester rifle, a brace of revolvers, 500 rounds of ammunition and a "slicker," besides a lariat and profane words ad libitum.

Every man is tough from crown to heel, has been engaged in Indian fights, border rows and cow punching, and some of them in train "hold-ups," resistance to Sheriff's and Marshal's posses, and not one is afraid of anything on earth except a glass of cold water. "Doc" says the company will furnish its own rations and live on the land when once transported to the "gem." If any of the Dons want single-handed conflicts he has sixteen men who have fought duels with bowies, nine who have fought with pistols at ten paces, and eleven who have stood in the prize-ring stripped to the buff and with no ounce gloves.

His entire outfit can ride fifty miles a day and not wear off a pound of horse flesh, according to this redoubtable leader. Most of the men, says Middleton, were with Shelby in the Confederate service, but old age has not phased them yet. Some of them were with Quantrell, and all of them have "smelled blood." There is not a coward in the lot, nor a mean bully.

This is sober earnest. The correspondent of the Chicago "Record" says Middleton has been organizing his outfit for a month, and that he has sent to General Coppinger, commanding the Department of the Platte, a letter, tendering the band, fully equipped, to the United States for Cuban service. In answer to the objection that a good many of the men have been recruited from outlaw gangs and bandit groups, "Doc" replies that out West it is not polite to inquire too closely into a man's past life when he offers you his present existence free of charge for good service.

This frontiersman is a picturesque character, and, singular as it may seem, enjoys a goodly degree of popularity in the West. He is a type of a large body of men who in case of war can be counted on for guerrilla work, if denied admission into regular service. We have not the slightest belief in the story that General Coppinger for a moment thinks of recommending acceptance of Middleton's offer. This nation does not need to fight its battles with that kind of material. It will never employ semi-savages to defend its honor, nor turn loose upon an enemy's country a soldiery that will "rustle" for itself, and that belongs of right to the hangman. But the incident of "Doc" Middleton's offer is not without its humor, and it is that which justifies reference to it.

AN ABSURD SUGGESTION.

An Eastern exchange says the Spanish expectation of European support in any conflict of arms with the United States is based upon faith in the antagonism of Europe to the Monroe doctrine. The nations of the European Continent, it is added, will be appealed to by Spain to oppose the clearance from this hemisphere of the last of European power, because it would mean just that if Spain is driven out of Cuba by American aid.

This is a grave mistake on the part of Spain if her statesmen entertain such a belief. The United States has not manifested any disposition to assert the Monroe doctrine in this Cuban matter. It has not given Europe any reason to believe that the doctrine goes to the extent of driving anybody out of their possesions. All the greater powers of the other hemisphere, except, perhaps, Russia and Austria, have possessions near by to the United States waters washing our shores, and upon one or the other of the Western continents. It is a mistaken notion that the Monroe doctrine cuts any figure in this Cuban matter, or that the American nation contemplates any notice to European powers to vacate their possessions in this hemisphere. The idea is absurd, and it is unlikely that Spain or any other country harbors any such a fear.

THE QUESTION OF SELF-GOVERNMENT.

In opposition to demands for the freedom of Cuba it is frequently urged that the people of the island are incapable of self-government. That is a weak and a speculative argument. Is their right to try it to be limited by our estimate of their capacity? Is that right a human and inviolable one, or a limited and debatable one?

It is to be borne in mind that there are many people who dare to say that the American people are incapable of self-government, that they have failed in their experiment in that direction. But are there any so bold as to say that therefore we should never have been given the opportunity to prove our mettle? There have been more mistakes made concerning the estimate of the capacity of people to govern themselves than by people in experimenting in free self-government.

There are some millions of us who hold that the people of the United States have succeeded well in maintaining free government, yet before we achieved independence there was but one power on earth that conceded our capacity to govern ourselves.

SUPERIOR COURT.

(Department One—Hughes, Judge—Friday, April 1st.)

G. C. Simmons vs. J. H. Parkinson—Judgment for plaintiff in accordance with stipulation on file.

Estate of Manuel Dubois, deceased—Decree of due notice to creditors.

Joseph Bories vs. Union Building and Loan Association—Demurrer overruled and twenty days to answer.

Thomas H. Kelly vs. Union Building and Loan Association—Same order.

Thomas Hague vs. Jerome Haas, et al.—Demurrer overruled and sixteen days to answer.

Estate of C. Strothman, deceased—Claim of Luce & Glover allowed.

Estate of F. M. Watts, deceased—Order allowing sale of personal property.

Estate of Elizabeth Miller, deceased—Petition to sell real estate withdrawn and decree of distribution entered.

All other cases continued.

(Department Two—Johnson, Judge—Friday, April 1st.)

Estate of E. C. Jones, deceased—Order for sale of personal property.

Estate of Marie Calio, deceased—Will admitted to probate; appraisers, E. Greer, A. N. Buchanan and Frederick Cox.

Estate of Mary Crawford, deceased—Order for sale of personal property.

Estate of George V. Ewing, deceased—Account of Trustees approved.

Estate of Mary E. Humphrey, deceased—Order settling third annual account.

Estate of Thomas O'Brien, deceased—Order settling first annual account.

Estate of Mary Townsend, deceased—Petition for payment of appraisers dismissed.

Estate of James McNasser, deceased—Final account settled; administrator's attorneys allowed $2,250; petition for distribution granted.

Estate of James Lane, deceased—Real estate ordered sold at public auction.

I. B. Cooledge, et al., vs. Robert A. Eastman, et al.—Commissioner's return of sale confirmed.

Albert H. Starr vs. L. Kreuzberger, et al.—Clerk ordered to issue execution on April 4th.

Estate of Annie F. Hammond, deceased—Order for final discharge of administrator.

Estate of Emma R. Farr, deceased—Decree of due notice to creditors.

Frank Thomas vs. Tony Christ—Judgment for plaintiff for $330 and costs.

All other cases continued.

What It Costs.

If no men were lost, if no ships were destroyed or even damaged, it would cost $2,000,000 or $3,000,000 for ammunition alone to fight a first-class battle with modern arms and projectiles, and a large part of the $50,000,000 appropriated yesterday will go for powder and shot. An ordinary allowance of ammunition for one of the big guns costs about as much as the gun itself, and anyone can realize that we will need an enormous amount of powder before our navy goes to war, for it takes nearly half a ton every time one of the big thirteen-inch guns is fired. There were 250 tons of powder on the Maine when she went down, and her magazines were only half filled. The big battleships and the first-rate cruisers should never go into action without a supply of from 500 to 800 tons, or, say, an average of 700. There are eleven of these battleships, which together require 7,700 tons. Then there are sixteen second-rate ships which ought to have 500 tons each in their magazines, or a total of 8,000 tons; forty-two third-rate ships which should have at least 300 tons each, or a total of 12,600 tons, and seven fourth-rate ships which should have 200 tons each, or a total of 1,400 tons. It requires about 30,000 tons of powder to fill the magazines of our navy before it would be safe to send the ships into action.

The sea coast defenses, with their monstrous eight, ten and twelve-inch guns require several times as much. The four-inch rapid-fire rifle requires sixteen pounds of powder to carry a projectile weighing thirty-three pounds four miles. The five-inch gun requires twenty-five pounds, the six-inch rifle fifty pounds, the eight-inch rifle 250 pounds, the ten-inch 500 pounds, and it costs $1,000 every time one of the thirteen-inch rifles is fired. There are four of these guns each on the battleships Indiana, Iowa, Massachusetts and Oregon.

A few weeks ago the Ordnance Department of the army made a contract for 5,000 loaded shells at a cost of $600,000, and within the last few days contracts for 11,000 more shells have been made at a cost of $1,250,000. There are four factories at which these shells are made. A four-inch shell loaded weighs seventy-five pounds; five-inch, ninety pounds; six-inch, 110 pounds; eight-inch, 325 pounds; ten-inch, 525 pounds; twelve-inch, 900 pounds; and thirteen-inch, 1,100 pounds.—Chicago Record.

Dreadful Appearances.

One of our soldier readers sends us a story of one of his comrades, a private, who recently found himself an inmate of a military hospital. Immensely pleased with his altered conditions, and blissfully conscious that his pay was steadily running on, he felt positively grieved one morning to find himself feeling as well as ever he did. The doctor paid his usual visit with the clinical thermometer, which found a resting-place under Tommy Atkins' tongue.

While the physician's attention was distracted, however, the instrument was gently transferred to a basin of hot tea standing near, and after a few moments deftly returned, and finally handed back with the mercury rigid at 120.

"Great heavens!" exclaimed the doctor, aghast, his professional calmness rudely shattered. "You ought to be stone dead, man! Nobody was known to live at anything like that. Get to bed quick! Your case is a desperate one."—Weekly Telegraph.

Just a Trifle.

Railway Clerk—Another accident on the road to-day, sir.

Manager—Indeed? What now?

Clerk—Man dislocated his neck trying to read our new time-table.—Tit-Bits.

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

EXTRACTS FROM EDITORIAL EXPRESSION.

State and Coast Opinions on Subjects of Living News Interest.

Fresno Republican: It is an ill wind that blows no good. If we have war, it will become necessary to put some of the lying publishers and correspondents of the yellow newspapers in jail and keep them there.

THE POLL TAX.

Tulare Times: The Legislature of Iowa has had the good sense to abolish the poll tax in that State. In this State the people are gradually throwing off some of the iniquities in our system of taxation and the poll tax will probably be the next to go. We do not tax growing crops, and fruit trees and vines are exempt until they are four years old. In several counties the Supervisors have abolished the road poll tax, all of which shows that the current is setting in the right direction.

CATTLE AND QUARANTINE.

Oakland Enquirer: We notice that some of the newspapers are still publishing articles based upon the assumption that the Federal quarantine regulations forbidding the movement of cattle from Southern California to the northern portions of the State, across the splenetic fever line, are still in force, although it was published but a few days back that the Department of Agriculture had waived the regulations and would permit the movement of cattle, provided they are first inspected, to give assurance that they are not diseased, and that afterwards they are kept separate from other stock. These requirements do not seem burdensome, especially as the second of the two is likely to be more a form than anything else.

HOW TO MANAGE BURGLARS.

Tulare Register: If you wake up in the night and find a burglar in the house do not grapple with him. The chances are ten to one that he has a knife or a pistol in his hand while you have nothing. If you are sure it is a burglar and not a member of your own family and can get hold of a gun, shoot and shoot to kill. Or, throw up the window and yell bloody murder, rouse the neighborhood, and the burglar will generally skedaddle. If you can't do any of these things just ask the burglar if there is anything he would like, and if there is let him take it and go. It is better to be generous than to be dead.

A FROST STUDY.

Martinez County Paper: A destructive frost in a State like California is a very serious proposition, and it is no wonder that there is general alarm this season, owing to the continued cold weather. A conservative estimate places the capital invested in oranges and lemons at $43,000,000. In Los Angeles County alone it is estimated that $12,000,000 are invested in citrus fruits. In prunes, peaches, olives, pears, apricots and other small fruits, it is said that about $80,000,000 are invested. Thus a frost in midwinter that is destructive to citrus fruits followed in March or April by a like low temperature destructive of deciduous fruits may ruin the income on invested capital of about $120,000,000. Fruits are not dependent upon rainfall, owing to the rapid development of irrigation facilities, and the scientific annihilation of pests. Frost is now the great destructive element to be feared, so far as fruit is concerned. This season frosts have been particularly severe both to citrus and deciduous fruits, but as the reports are generally exaggerated it is too soon to make up an estimate of what the harvest will be. Frost is fatal in spots, and the fellows who are nipped make a pretty loud noise, and it is not safe to estimate this noise as being universal.

BETTER PAID HERE.

San Diego Sun: The "Railway Age" says that 26.5 per cent. of the earnings of English railways is paid out for labor, while in this country it amounts to 40.7 per cent. Evidently railroad employes fare better under a protective system than they do under free trade conditions in the matter of wages.

HOW THEY WOULD PAY.

Los Angeles Times: In the event of war this country might have to borrow money. Of course it would be gold money, every dollar of it worth a dollar, but we do not doubt that some future William Jennings Bryan, or "Ole Bill" Stewart, would want to pay the money back to the lenders with dollars worth about 43 cents. And such is some men's idea of common honesty as between man and man.

SUSPENDED JUDGMENT.

Los Angeles Herald: We are still asked to suspend judgment upon the Dingley tariff law, and will reluctantly consent to do so, pending the settlement of this Cuban business. But is not a suspension of payment under it inevitable? The day of settlement cannot always be deferred.

WEED SEEDS AND RIVER WATER.

Colusa Sun: A question was asked at the Farmers' Institute as to the advisability of using the river water for the irrigation of wheat because of the amount of weed seeds in the water. Afterward we heard it asserted that the constant watering from the river caused weeds to spring up in the grass plats about town. There is not a thing in the world in it. There can be but few seeds in the river water, and there is always a great abundance of seeds in the ground. Weed seeds keep for years in the ground and are sprouted by the exact conditions that surround the season. We see some years the wild sunflower taking a field of grain and then for years that same field will be free from it. The seeds are there, however, by the bushel and by the ton, and the same climatic condition will bring them up. Everyone at all familiar with the valley knows that it sometimes happens that an entire section of country will all at once come to wild oats, and that where no man ever saw oats before. Clover will come in places where it has been a stranger for many years. Constant irrigation will cause certain weeds to spring up, the seeds of which have been lying there for many years. The late Mayberry Davis once told us about burning a log pile on a piece of ground, so that the earth was burned down several inches. He plowed the land and just where that log pile was burned there was a thick growth of mustard. He had turned up seed buried below the effect of the burning. It is rather the effect of the peculiarity of a season that brings up certain weeds at certain times than the transportation of seeds by water or other means.

TO BE HOPED NOT.

Fresno Republican: The San Jose "Mercury" says that the disgrace of yellow journalism cannot be permanent. It is to be hoped not, but it must be admitted that it has lasted longer and gone to greater extremes than any one not an absolute believer in P. T. Barnum's philosophy would have thought possible.

NO POLITICS IN IT.

San Diego Union: The professional politician rarely neglects any opportunity that may be turned to his party's account, and doubtless the leaders of the various political organizations are keenly watching the present complications between this country and Spain with a view to making capital for the autumn elections. Fortunately, however, the rank and file are not viewing the situation from a partisan standpoint. All through the recent emergency there has been a general disposition to lay political questions aside. With the exception of one or two-fault-finding speeches in the House of Representatives—where anything almost is liable to be said—the President has had the support of Democrats and Populists as well that of Republicans. This is really the most encouraging feature of the entire situation.

DENSE IGNORANCE.

Alameda Encinal: The dense ignorance that prevails in many portions of the East with regard to California is marvelous. It prevails, too, in quarters where one would look at least for some degree of accuracy. Thus a recent number of a prominent agricultural paper ("Meehan's Monthly"), in speaking of the navel orange, says:

"Not only in size, but in quality, the navel orange is achieving a wide popularity. This is recognized to a great extent by orange growers, and a party in Riverside, San Bernardino County, Cal., has forty acres of them now coming into abundant bearing."

Just think of it! "One man at Riverside has forty acres of them." There is something like 10,000 acres of navel oranges at Riverside, a large share being in bearing, yet the editor of a great agricultural paper does not know it.

AGAINST WAR.

Stockton Independent: The country has just emerged from the severest and most protracted depression ever experienced. Prosperity has returned to all branches of business—to the farmer, the laborer, the tradesman, and to the manufacturer. The tremendous energies of production are all in action. Gold is flowing to our country from every quarter of the globe. The bank reserves, the treasury balance, the volume of exchange, the revenues of the Government and the state of trade all testify to the soundest conditions that ever before prevailed in any land since the beginning of authentic history. We have recovered from the effects of the Civil War—just recovered. What an inexcusable crime is it, then, to urge this country to precipitate another war unless the justification is as complete as when secession tried to destroy the Union. We cannot undertake to right the wrongs of the world. We have no occasion to declare war against Spain unless it is proven that Spain has designedly insulted us and then declines to make the usual amends.

High Lights.

Worth makes the man, but he picks out his clothes himself.

All the world cherishes a grudge against people who always have a good time.

Listening is a lost art; conversation is making sixty miles an hour, just as usual.

A woman's work is never done, because she always has to stop to wait on some man.

Woman buys something she doesn't need, and then economizes by putting more hot water in her husband's coffee.

A man asks his wife what she has been doing all day, and then reads his newspaper while she is trying to tell him.—Chicago Record.

An Astonished Cabby.

"Princess street, sir?" said a cabby outside a Yorkshire railway station to his fare. "Why, that's only half a minute's walk from 'ere."

"Never mind, drive away," answered the gentleman.

"But I can't charge you less than eighteenpence, sir; that's the legal fare."

"All right, my good man; only start quickly, and I'll give you a couple of fares."

Cabby jumped upon the box with a beaming face, flicked up his horse, and shouted jocosely to an imaginary wife:

"Don't wait dinner if I'm late, Mary Ann. I'm takin' the King o' Klondike to his himperial habode."—Weekly Telegraph.

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"After a time I was taken with a flooding, that I was obliged to keep my bed. Finally, in despair, I gave up my doctor, and began taking your medicine, and have certainly been greatly benefited by its use.

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"I am now able to do my own work, thanks to your wonderful medicine. I was as near death I believe as I could be, so weak that my pulse scarcely beat, and my heart had almost given out. I could not have stood it one week more, I am sure. I never thought I would be so grateful to any medicine.

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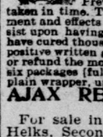

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS.—ESTATE of MARY S. ORCUTT, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Frank L. Orcutt, the administrator of the estate of Mary S. Orcutt, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them, with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said administrator, at the office of McKune & George, No. 401 J street (up-stairs), Sacramento City, the same being his place for the transaction of the business of the said estate in the County of Sacramento, State of California.

FRANK L. ORCUTT,
Administrator of the estate of Mary S. Orcutt, deceased.

March 5, 1898.
W. F. George, Attorney for Administrator. ma5-5tSa