

DAILY RECORD-UNION

ISSUED BY THE SACRAMENTO PUBLISHING COMPANY

Office: Third Street, between J and K.

THE DAILY RECORD-UNION. A SEVEN-DAY ISSUE.

For one year... For six months... For three months...

UPTOWN BRANCH OFFICES. At Thomas W. McAuliffe & Co's Drug Store...

Weather Forecast. For Northern California—Partly cloudy Monday with showers in northwest portion...

THE STATE LIBRARY DEBATE.

The recent convention of State Librarians in this city brought together a body of men and women of intelligence and the gathering and consultation must result in good for the library cause.

But like most people devoted to a single work and to which all their energies are directed, they are apt to run off with wrong ideas, that which developed in the late convention, that represents that order of thought was a scheme to put the larger portion of the State Library on wheels and cart it about the country in small parcels.

But we apprehend that the idea was pretty well broken down before adjournment. No more uneconomic suggestion could have been made. The purpose of a State library is to make it one of reference, not of reference books only, that is to say, but a reservoir of books to be used mainly for reference. It is a collection made and kept by the State as in all countries, for the augmenting value it develops with every passing month. Great States gather these treasures and make them the source and fountain of technical information, historical intelligence and as representative of the wealth of literature of the ages.

To distribute these books even under infra-library plans would be to promote abnormally their wear and tear; to invite loss and destruction and to break up the repository as a collection. Moreover, it would be very difficult to draw the line between the classes of books to be held, and those to be sent upon itineraries. But above all in a State of such vast area as ours, the cost to users would be greater in a very short time than the price of the books.

Above all these objections rises the greater one that distributing the books among communities would not insure their being read. While the habit of reading is to be stimulated, nay, in some sense created, it is to be done by gradual educational advance and not by merely presenting a group of 50 or 100 volumes for a few weeks at a time to a community for reading by its people. In addition to all which is the objection that such staff leaning destroys self helpfulness and, therefore, a positive evil.

The thing to do is to encourage, stimulate, nay, aid by public money the establishment of county libraries in every county in the State in addition to the city and town libraries. With good books, desirable books, as cheap as they now are, there is not a county in this State that could not, with very little difficulty, establish at the county seat a library under superintendence, say of the Superintendent of the Schools, to which all the people of the county outside of incorporated towns and cities could have access. The beginning would be small in most cases, but with reasonable fostering care they would grow very rapidly.

As to the loaning of books from the State Library to town and city libraries it is even more objectionable than the turning of any part of the State institution into a traveling library. It would confine the use of books thus loaned to a few communities compared to the whole number of county, town and village groups in the State. While the guaranty for return would be stronger if the books were handled by libraries already established, we cannot understand how the loans would appreciably aid the local libraries. They might accommodate a few students and close readers desiring specific works for a few weeks time. But all such loans would have to be of books which, as a rule, are not without the reach of town and city libraries, nor of the readers who desire them. It is safe to say that in this day of lessened cost of books every \$1,000 would give any library 800 volumes. The cost is not, therefore, so great as to render it necessary, in order to meet the wants of the people, to put into a hazardous position the State's collection.

We repeat, a State collection never is intended to be a circulating library. It is made and preserved as a collection where will be reserved the collective knowledge and results of the research for all time. The very purpose is to store that which will become more and more valuable as time rolls on. But such storehouses are always open, under proper regulations, to all the people for examination and reading on the premises. Wherever such storehouses are located there will be distant communities to whom access to the treasure will be a matter of inconvenience. But that is a condition due to physical causes over which man has but comparative control. To attempt to defeat them by distributing the library over the vast area of the State will not meet the need, if need there is. If a special, rare or valuable work or set of works is desired in a certain community, it will invariably develop in naming a class of books which would have to be excluded from the circulating scheme. Only the more indifferent works would, therefore, be circulated, and the resultant benefits would be correspondingly light. We have heard no sufficient rea-

son as yet advanced why the State Library should be put upon wheels.

The fear that the bubonic plague had appeared in the Chinese quarter in San Francisco has been dissipated. The cases reported by Chinese physicians turn out to be those of patients suffering from Bright's disease of the kidneys. Nevertheless it need surprise no one if some sort of an Oriental plague does not some day break out in the midst of the squalor and filth of some of California's Chinatowns. We appear to be able to enforce sanitary regulations passably well among our own people, but are practically powerless to compel Chinese in quarters to observe the commonest requirements of the code of cleanliness. Let a single germ of an Oriental plague lodge in one of these places and it will find ample food to feed upon and multiply with amazing rapidity.

THE REFORM OF THE BALLOT.

The question of improvement in the form of the ballot used in elections in this State is exciting much interest and enlisting in its discussion the press generally. The San Francisco "Chronicle" sustains the position taken by the "Record-Union" from the outset, years ago, namely, that the names of party nominees should appear upon the ballot in party columns, with a designation heading for each. This is the form of the ballot in Indiana, Iowa and some other States, and in such States its use is satisfactory.

The majority of the press now agrees with this position, but there are some holding to the contrary, the leader of such contention being the Los Angeles "Times." Its argument in brief is that the grouping of nominees by party classification will prove advantageous to sub-bosses and the buyers and sellers of votes; that the professional politicians all favor the new adjustment for the reason that it enables the purchasable "gang" to more easily deliver the goods.

The contention is that the alphabetical grouping of candidates under position titles with party designations appended to each name, requires of the voter intelligent examination of and search through the ballot, and since there is no heading by which he can vote a ticket straight, he is compelled to exercise his judgment in the matter and to pass upon each group of candidates in succession. The present form, according to the "Times," is perfect; it affords an ideal method by which the independent voter can express his wishes, and at the same time it compels the careless voter to inspect his ballot more carefully than he would otherwise be obliged to do. Every voter should at least know the names of the candidates for whom he votes. But if the voter is permitted to vote for them in a lump—a job lot, so to speak—in many cases he will not take the pains to inform himself as to the personnel of the ticket which he votes, and will not even know the names of all the men he votes for.

The answer to all this is that the law cannot advance the intelligence of the voter nor compel discrimination and the exercise of wise judgment by any processes it may provide. The elector who goes into the polling booth resolved to debate his ballot, complete the deal made, and deliver the goods, will not be restrained from so doing by the ballot form. Nor is it thinkable that the form of the ballot will compel any one to give study to the claims and qualifications of candidates. All that is done, if at all, long before the voter enters the voting booth. Even if disposed to read profoundly study the matter, the time allotted is and must remain insufficient for any such purpose.

But it will be well for the "Times" to consider the important fact that grouping by party columns in no wise prevents or hinders the study of the several nominees' names. While the nominations will appear in several columns to party, yet the several columns will stand abreast, so that the voter will find all the nominees for a given office upon a horizontal line running across the whole face of the ballot, instead of in vertical lines as under the present system. So, then, there will be no more difficulty in ascertaining who the candidates are, and in considering their fitness, in the one case than in the other.

As to the straight voting, we take it that it will prove a distinct advantage. It will facilitate the election in the matter of time saving. It will prevent blundering now so common. It will enable the stalwart party man to vote the entire ticket by making a single mark in the square opposite the party designation. At the same time, if the voter is disposed to divide his favor and distribute his markings over the ballot, he can do so in the one case just as easily as in the other. Perhaps under the vertical column and party grouping system he can do so with least liability to error, since he will not mistake the designations used to indicate the politics of the nominees, nor by inadvertence or nervousness place the stamp opposite a name his judgment has not fixed upon.

Under the present system when the voter reaches, say the group of nominees for Secretary of State, he finds four, five or six names in alphabetical arrangement, one over the other, and close together. From among these he must choose one. In the proposed ballot arrangement he will find the six names on a common horizontal line, but each well separated from the other, and each in its own party column distinctly designated by the heading and party design.

As a matter of fact something like 80 per cent. of the electors who go to the polls vote straight, adhering to party nominations throughout. It follows, therefore, that by the party column arrangement the larger body of voters will be accommodated and voting by that much quickened. If an elector desires to vote a straight ticket what gain is there to purity of the ballot in compelling him to pick out his party nominees from among a host of others massed in a perpendicular column? What benefit is derived from a method which tends to prevent free expression by strict party voters.

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

EXTRACTS FROM EDITORIAL EXPRESSIONS.

State and Coast Opinions on Subjects of Living News Interest.

Lompoc Record: The Republican party is by no means a unit on the proposition to acquire the Philippines.

Los Angeles Times: At the recent election in the State of Washington, a constitutional amendment in favor of women suffrage was voted upon, and was defeated by a heavy majority.

Portland Oregonian: Well and truly said: "Political suffrage for woman is a slowly dying cause, and is dying because it is without excuse for further existence. The real wrongs of women which existed when Lucy Stone began her agitation in 1847 have mostly been redressed by legislation. Men of humane, common sense said, 'We do not think it necessary enormously to enlarge the suffrage in order to redress women's legal wrongs and remove unjust disabilities.' To-day every political principle advocated at the outset is enjoyed by women, save full suffrage, and every legal right sought by Lucy Stone has been granted to women. They are even treated with partiality by the laws, compared with men."

Oakland Tribune: Owing to the closing down of the State Printing Office there is evidently going to be considerable trouble about getting out the reports of the various departments and commissions. There is no way in which money can be obtained for printing them in outside establishments, and there are no places willing to do the work and take chances about getting paid by the Legislature afterward. Some way will have to be found out of the difficulty, though, or else the Code Commission, Voting Machine Board and the committee appointed to investigate the various State institutions will have no way of presenting the results of their labors, to say nothing of the blockade in all the regular departments.

HAD A GOOD EFFECT. Red Bluff People's Cause: President McKinley's journey last month to St. Louis, Omaha and Chicago, across the States of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, had an excellent effect on the country in general, and most of all where the people were brought face to face with the Chief Magistrate of the nation. The President's addresses were so earnestly patriotic and so cleverly in accord with the American people, that they tended to induce all good citizens to support the Government in settling the war. It was not as a partisan that he appealed to his audiences. The themes were chiefly the unity of the country in arranging terms of peace with a foreign enemy, the responsibility of the whole body of voters, and the unfolding of new national problems.

OLD SOLDIERS. Tulare Register: If we had our way about it Uncle Sam would take good care of every old soldier and every soldier's widow, until she married, and every soldier's orphan until it became of age, if the financial condition of such person made such care necessary; but he would cut off the pension of every one of them whose financial condition does not make help needed. There are thousands of pensioners who are making just as much money as other people and so do not need a pension, but when the veterans get old and their earning power is no longer sufficient to enable them to live without deprivation, then is the time a pension should be granted, and a liberal one, too.

AFTERMATH OF THE WAR. Riverside Press: The desire to retain the Philippines is not confined to the West. In the conservative New England State of Vermont the Legislature has unanimously adopted the following resolution: "Whereas, The war of the United States against the Kingdom of Spain was waged in the cause of human liberty, and as the fortunes of war have placed in our possession the Philippine Islands with their millions of oppressed and misgoverned people, thereby imposing upon the American people the duty of protecting and conferring upon them the blessings of peace and freedom; "Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives, that in settling terms of peace with Spain the United States ought to retain these islands, and that the course of President McKinley in demanding their retention of Spain in the Paris conference is heartily approved."

Commenting upon the passage of this joint resolution, the "Daily Journal" of Montpelier says: "Vermont is Republican, not merely in name, but in fact to the national duty and the national policy in Spanish-American questions. This resolution and its adoption by the Senate and House of Representatives without a dissenting vote sets the final seal of Vermont's approval upon a national policy dictated by every consideration of humanity and every respect of national honor."

Just before the resolutions referred to were passed, Senator Proctor, who had been re-elected for another term, addressed the Legislature in joint session, and said: "Many wise and patriotic men in the country—many in our State—believe that we should retain the territory or control in the Philippines beyond a coaling station, or, possibly, a single island. I recognize the cogency of their arguments, but have failed to see clearly any practical way of carrying out their views at least, any probability that such would be the verdict of the country. And if we assume any jurisdiction in these islands, there is no logical stopping place short of the whole. To establish a divided govern-

eighty, a part of the people under Spain and a part under American jurisdiction, would be to invite trouble. No half way step is safe."

AN UNDERSTANDING. San Jose Mercury: The declaration of an open door policy in the Philippines shows that there is a friendly understanding between the American Government and Great Britain. This policy will be advantageous to the other European Powers, but so jealous are they of the United States and England, and so strong are their sympathies with Spain, that they will manage to find some excuse for harsh criticism.

AN AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE. Santa Barbara Press: One of the direct results of the war with Spain has been a revival of American interest in commerce, and the up-building of an American merchant marine. Several fine vessels for the Hawaiian trade are building on this coast, and it is but the beginning. With the Philippines under American control, the strides will be still greater. Now foreign vessels carry our grain and bring our coal; in a few years these commodities will be taken to and from our ports under the Stars and Stripes.

THE "OPEN DOOR." Fresno Republican: The informal announcement of President McKinley's policy in the Philippines will be pleasing to those who believe in basing a practical decision on practical facts, but somewhat a disappointment to those who prefer to base it on abstract theories. The first announcement in the Chicago "Times-Herald," which has been taken as semi-official, was that the islands would not, for the present, a military and not a territorial government, and the second, in the conditions offered to Spain, is that we will open the islands to the commerce of the world on equal terms.

Both propositions are eminently practical; both are accused of being illogical. A colonial government is the only one at all workable in the Philippines and the alleged consistency of applying old ways to new conditions is like that of the man who would use bird shot to kill a bear simply because he had been shooting birds all day.

The tariff policy in the Philippines follows the same argument. In spite of the assurances of the McKinley administration, there is no inconsistency at all in exacting such distant colonies from the privileges of free trade which the States of the United States enjoy with each other, or in charging a revenue tariff on American imports into the islands. Industrially the Philippines are as separate from us under American control as under any other. We can derive our profit from them, as England does from her colonies, while permitting them to have a tariff policy consistent with their needs and not necessarily consistent with our domestic policy.

NO JOKE, PERHAPS. San Diego Tribune: The manifestations of friendship on the part of the English are of intense interest now as to cause surprise which might be called almost suspicious surprise as it relates to the report from London of a desire to erect a statue of George Washington on Trafalgar Square. Such a report, evidently, emanates from the brain of some journalistic practical joker.

LOOKING AT HOME. Los Angeles Herald: Isn't it about time for some foreign Power to intimate that the "cause of humanity" demands interference in the United States? Lawlessness and rioting go unchecked in the "race war," shooting and lynching are reported from various quarters, and in some places there are conditions of local anarchy. This lamentable state of affairs has been going on for several weeks. It is about time for some member of the European class to hold up a finger and remark that the United States needs enlightenment, and needs it bad.

VIGOROUS EFFORT NEEDED. San Diego Union: There are ample indications that the coming winter is to witness a tremendous struggle in Congress over the Nicaragua Canal question. While the sentiment of the country, and of the Administration itself, is unquestionably in favor of immediate and decisive action for building the waterway under Government control, there are unmistakable signs that the opponents of the measure are united and that with the aid of a well-paid lobby they will make a strong fight.

Under these circumstances, friends of the Nicaragua Canal cannot afford to trust their cause either to popular sentiment or to the well-known wishes of the Administration. There must be a united effort to overcome the combined opposition. It now only lacks a few weeks of the meeting of Congress. This is the time when the American Nicaragua Canal Association should do its hardest and most effective work. It should have a powerful representation at Washington during the coming session, and to that end it should lose no time in urging chambers of commerce and other bodies favorable to the canal to see to it that men shall be on the ground, who will meet at every point the efforts of the opposition.

THE VOTING MACHINE. Los Angeles Times: The report of the voting machine commission, appointed by the Governor in April of last year, in accordance with an Act of the preceding legislative session, will, it is said, soon be in the hands of the members of the next Legislature. There is a natural prejudice against the use of mechanical devices for voting because of the fact that they are called "machines." Nevertheless it is not only possible, but probable, that a more expeditious and reliable system of expressing the will of the people than now in vogue can be devised through the use of machines.

The French Retort Effectual. The French Ambassador of the day complained to a bright Englishwoman of high rank because her country failed to intervene in the Franco-Prussian war, ending his diatribe with the remark, "After all, it was to be expected. We used to think you were a nation of shop-keepers, and now we know you are." "And we," said she, "used to think the French a nation of soldiers, and now we know they are not."—Argonaut.

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GILT EDGE BEER. Seventy-two members of Battery C, Heavy Artillery, California Volunteers (Sacramento boys stationed at Fort Canby), have signed a letter to Capt. Frank Ruhstaller thanking him for his "generosity, good will and patriotic feeling" in sending them GILT EDGE BEER. The "Best in the World" is none too good for our soldier boys, says Captain Ruhstaller. City Brewery, Twelfth and H Streets.

A distributing agent, living at Catskill, N. Y., describes the severe case of a near neighbor who was completely prostrated with God only knows what. "She was just alive," he says, "and had been sick for over a year, and had paid out a great deal of money for doctors and medicines, but could not get any help. The doctors had given her up," he says, and thereupon he induced her to try Ripans Tablets, and after taking them one month she could ride out in a wagon, and after two months she was entirely well.

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