

The Hawaiian Star.

(Daily and Semi-Weekly.)
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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1898.

STRAWS.

A glance at the European papers shows that they regard war between the United States and Spain as almost certain, going so far as to say that it will commence by a given date. The Continental papers which sympathize with the United States are few and far between. The British press, however, is very favorable to the Great Republic. It is very evident that some sort of understanding is being, or has been, arrived at between the Foreign Office of the United States and that of London. Mr. Curzon's refusal to reply to certain questions in the House of Commons distinctly emphasized the fact, and the tone of some of the influential papers is another indication. A union of the Anglo-Saxon nations of the earth would be of immense strength and would tell more for peace than any other thing. A federation of all English speaking states has been the dream of many a statesman, and it is a dream which might have realization.

The condition of affairs in Cuba excites as much horror in Great Britain as it does in the United States. The Spectator, a very conservative journal—using conservative not in its political sense—wonders whether even the Thirty Years War produced as great horrors as have been perpetrated in Cuba. Senator Gallinger's indictment will go forth to the ends of the earth and find an echo in the heart of every English speaker on the face of the globe. The Spectator will, then, have no doubt about whether the horrors are as great as it imagined or not.

The United States will have the sympathy and support of millions when she finally puts her foot down and says that the condition of matters in Cuba must cease, or if they do not cease, she takes the other alternative and uses force to carry out her scheme of humanity.

Some strong arguments in favor of annexation are printed elsewhere. A large portion of the American press works tooth and nail for the good cause, and will continue working as long as there is hope of carrying it through. The anti-annexationists are in a minority.

POLL TAX.

The question of taxation is one which interests everybody, the poor as well as the rich. Yesterday a considerable amount of time was devoted in the House to this subject, and it was finally postponed for a month. The question was whether the poll tax of one dollar should be remitted. The Finance Committee of the House was against the remission, the Minister of Finance and several members were in favor. The question admits of cogent arguments for and against.

The poll tax is a relic of barbarism, but this is true of our entire system of taxation. It is crude and utterly unscientific. It is one of the oldest methods of raising revenue and in its origin was levied by conquerors on a conquered people for the privilege of allowing them to live. Then Tetullian says of the tax: "Men are degraded if they pay a poll tax, for it is a token of captivity," that was the opinion of the middle ages, and shows the idea of the origin of the tax. There is no more degradation in paying a poll tax now, than there is in paying a land tax, but it is well to see whence a tax is derived.

Poll or capitation taxes have often been the cause of trouble and insurrection. The idea of making all people pay exactly the same sum is at once seen to be unjust. In fact injustice in taxation was the basis of many of the systems, and the injustice always fell upon the poor, as it does to the present day. In France, before the revolution, and that was little more than a hundred years ago, they had the following beautiful theory. The "clergy protected the country by their prayers, the nobles by their arms, and the commons by the taxes they paid." It was a truly beautiful theory, but it finally ended in anarchy and bloodshed. There was a survival of the theory on these Islands, for certain classes of the community were once specially exempt from taxation, if memory serves it was clergy and schoolmasters. We have improved that anomaly out of existence.

Now for a moment look at the effect of the direct taxes including poll tax, upon the people here. They amount to five dollars, no matter

what the income may be, whether it be half a million a year or whether it be nothing, five dollars has to be paid. If the poor devil has no money, put him in the prison gang and let him work out his taxes on the roads. Truly, it is a noble system, and one which in future years will be studied with curiosity. The theory that to have no money is a crime is fully developed.

But we will not consider those criminals who have no money, we will look at those honest men who have a job, say at twenty dollars a month. There are plenty who earn that amount in this country, and who even earn less. Twenty dollars a month means \$240 a year. Five dollars tax paid on this is at the rate of two and five-sixths per cent. Now property owners pay only one per cent upon their property, and they make a considerable kick about that. They get, moreover, an exemption up to \$300 of value for each owner. But the poor devil who has no property, whose sole capital in this world is a pair of brawny arms and an unfeeling appetite must pay at a rate that is close on three times the rate of the property owner. When one looks at direct taxation from this point of view one at once recognizes the iniquity of it. Direct personal taxation of this crude kind exactly reverses what every one now recognizes as the true method of taxation. As you descend from the rich to the poor the rate of taxation increases. The true method would make the rate of taxation increase as you ascend from the poor to the very rich, inasmuch as the object of taxation being to give the means for the protection of property, he who has much, should pay much in proportion.

The proposal to drop a dollar off the personal taxes by abolishing the poll tax will still make the \$240 man pay at a higher rate than the property owner. He will pay at the rate of one and two-thirds per cent for the privilege of living, instead of two and five-sixths per cent, and he ought to be satisfied with that as a beginning.

But there are arguments against the reduction which will have to be considered and which The Star will try to set forth on a future occasion.

TURN ON THE X-RAYS.

This is an age of light. In utter defiance of the mossy old theories, we now photograph the coins inside of a pocketbook and the bones in living bodies. Similarly the light of intelligence shines upon certain antiquated notions in medicine. The intellectual X-Rays have shown the fallacy of the idea that sick people had no alternative but to take nauseating doses of cod liver oil—or die. The wonderful success of

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disproves all that. Here is a medicine made from Fresh Cod Livers, containing to the full all the virtues of Pure Cod Liver Oil—the very essence and potency of it—without a sign to indicate its presence; yet it is here to nourish, strengthen, build up and cure. In Scrofula, Fevers, Bowel Complaints, Lung and Blood diseases, it acts as sunlight and sweet air do on dying vegetation. Combined in it are the Extracts of Malt and Wild Cherry, and other constituents which contribute to the noble result. Every dose effective. Palatable as honey. Sold by chemists everywhere.

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 ROOM 12 SPRECKELS' BLOCK, HONOLULU, H. I.

Timely Topics.

March 25, 1898.

A Blue Streak.

This is an old expression, "going like a blue streak." The Tribune bicycle people have taken it up and are manufacturing a bicycle by that name. It is all that its name implies, being painted a bright shade of blue, and so easy to run that the rider looks when passing like a blue streak.

We received a shipment of them by the last steamer, and they are now ready for inspection and sale. They come in three models for ladies and gentlemen at \$65, \$85 and \$100. It is not necessary to reiterate what the good points of the Tribune wheels are. Every bicyclist knows that they are a standard make and one of the best wheels ever put upon the market. They will stand more hard usage and more rain and mud than any other make.

Our stock of TRIBUNES is complete. We have them in Black, Blue and in Black Striped with Gold.

While we advise all customers to pay a little more money and get a standard make, yet for those who do not wish to put so much money into a wheel we have imported a Columbus wheel, ladies' model, and a Zimmy, man's model, which we can sell you at a much lower price. They are very good wheels, strong, and made of good material.

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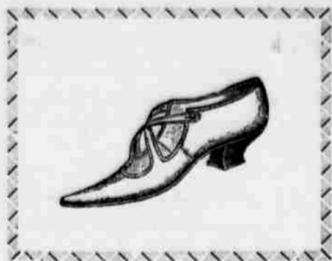
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A Strong Testimonial.

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Mr. J. G. Spencer, Pacific Hardware Company, Honolulu, H. I.

DEAR SIR: The Secretary Disc Plow I purchased from you is giving us satisfaction. We are using it to plow under a crop of lupins. They are three feet high and very thick. Your plow turns them completely under, at the same time plowing the land fourteen inches deep.

I feel satisfied that with this plow the draft for the same quantity and depth of work is as six to eight. That is, with the old plow, to do the same work, it takes eight good mules; with your plow it takes only six, and they are less tired at night.

Please send me another plow by the first schooner leaving for this.

You are at liberty to use this in any way you may see fit. Yours truly, A. LIDGATE.

GREAT FIRE SALE! Additional Bargains!

The balance of the Goods having arrived on the Zealandia, they will be offered at the following Low Prices:

- Brown Cottons, 25 yards, \$1.
- White Cottons, 20 yards, \$1.
- New Organdies 10 yards, \$1.
- Prints, new patterns, 30 yards, \$1.
- Printed Dimities, 15 yards, \$1.
- White Dimities, 20 yards, \$1.
- Fine English Lawns, 10c per yard, former price 15c.
- Brown Sheeting, 10-4, per yard, 18c.
- Bleached Sheeting, 10-4 per yard, 20c.
- Brown Sheeting, 9-4, per yard, 16c.
- Bleached Sheeting, 9-4 per yard, 18c.
- Brown Sheeting, 8-4, per yard, 14c.
- Bleached Sheeting, 8-4 per yard, 16c.
- Handkerchiefs 20, 25, 35, and 50 cents per dozen.

Ready-Made Clothing.

Complete Suits \$4.50 to \$15.00
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