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THE NEW PENSION POLICY.

The present Administration has been in office now five months, and in this relatively short time has demonstrated that the hopes of the veterans who voted it into power were well founded. There has been an entire change of atmosphere throughout the whole region of official action. While there have been unavoidable disappointments of individual aspirants for office, and very many pension claimants are still waiting that which is long due them, there has been, on the other hand, a vast deal to congratulate ourselves upon. While, unfortunately, all comrades who want office or public employment cannot be gratified, since this is quite limited, and while there is yet a mountain of unadjudicated claims in the Pension Bureau, it is still undeniable that comrades have come to the front everywhere in public places, where they have succeeded ex-Confederates, or others not in sympathy with those who saved the Nation. A very large proportion of the offices—prominent and minor—of the country are now filled by active comrades, and the policy of preferring them for these has been real and vital.

An entirely different spirit has been infused into the pension system, and the good effects are felt everywhere. A system so vast and complicated cannot be made what it should be in a day, a month, or a year, even. It is imperative that haste should be made slowly, but everyone connected with its management is in entire sympathy with the veterans, and has his face resolutely set in the right direction.

At the head of it, of course, the President, whose influence and wishes leaven the whole mass. He has the active sympathy of a real fighting soldier with all who fought and sacrificed to save the Nation. Long ago he announced in no uncertain tones his earnest belief in a policy of justice to the veterans, and every act and word since then has been in entire accord with that declaration. Nothing has been better evidence of this than his placing the pension system under the control of three such good soldiers and active friends of soldiers as Secretary Noble, Assistant Secretary Bussey and Commissioner Tanner.

Gen. Noble, the head of the great Interior Department, was a real fighting soldier, who was in the field and at the front from September, 1861, to August, 1865, as a field officer—most of the time commander—of a regiment which has 55 engagements to its credit, and had 129 officers and men—about one-fifth of its fighting force—actually killed on the field of battle.

Next to him is Gen. Cyrus Bussey—the Assistant Secretary of the Interior—a man of brilliant record as Colonel of a regiment, commander of a brigade, chief of a cavalry corps and division, and Department Commander. He is a man of the finest executive ability, demonstrated in many highly responsible positions, and his decisions in pension cases since entering office have been so able and so just that the hearts of the comrades everywhere have warmed to him as a genuine and sagacious friend in the right place. If they had received no other benefit from the change of Administration they would have ample cause for rejoicing in the fact that a true-hearted Union soldier has succeeded the Bitter Copperhead, Hawkins, of Missouri, who never allowed a pension that he could find a pretext for rejecting.

It is not necessary to tell comrades how truly the heart of Commissioner Tanner beats with theirs. They have known him for a quarter of a century, and from Maine to California have listened to his unsurpassed advocacy of the rights of the soldiers. Now he is at last in a position to give his words practical application, and is striving night and day to do so.

Ex-rebels may rage, and Mugwumps wall, but the good work is going on—not with reckless prodigality, as they would make believe—but steadily, efficiently and right-ly—with careful regard of the law and the merits of every case. Every precaution is being taken that no man shall receive what he is not entitled to, but equal care is exercised that if he is entitled to it it shall not be withheld from him, either upon absurd technicalities, or by unwarranted delay, until he shall be beyond its reach.

Let the comrades rejoice, for the era of justice is at hand, and strict justice is all that they want.

The Free Traders are laboring hard to convince people that the rise in the price of sugar is due to the sugar trust. Undoubtedly the sugar trust would do it if it could, but it is controlled by conditions outside of the United States. The facts are that in her eagerness to push her sugar into the markets of the world Germany overdid the business, and broke down the market. There was no sale for Cuban sugar, except in the United States, and immense quantities remained on the producers' hands. France did her best to protect her own sugar-growers, by drawbacks on what was exported, and the result was that sugar was sold everywhere at ruinous prices. This thing had to end, and so there was a Congress of the Nations interested, a few months ago, when it was agreed to stop the disastrous drawback policy, and, naturally, sugar took a bound upward. It will in the end be beneficial to us, for now we will have a business basis upon which to encourage the production of our own cane and sorghum-sugar and will establish it on as firm a basis as Germany and France have established their beet-sugar industries.

DOMINION OF THE SEA.

The question that comes up first in the dispute as to the Bering Sea fisheries is as to the jurisdiction of the United States over the waters where the seizures were made. The old principle is that the sea is free for all the world, but this is modified by the provision that each maritime Nation can exercise jurisdiction over a zone adjacent to its own shores. How wide this zone shall be is a vexed question, and one that has led to wars. The generally-accepted rule is that it shall be a "cannon-shot," now stated more definitely as a marine league—three miles. There are exceptions to this, however. Great Britain claims limited jurisdiction for 12 miles from the shore all around her islands, and it has been diplomatically conceded that the whole of the wide St. George's Channel, between Ireland and England, is British water. During the war we claimed control of the Atlantic as far as the Gulf Stream for blockade purposes, and 10 years later we reasserted the same claim for enforcing revenue regulations. Spain claims a belt six miles wide around Cuba. The main dispute has been with regard to partially-enclosed waters—bays, gulfs, archipelagos, etc., and this brings the element of uncertainty into the Bering Sea debate. Originally Russia owned the countries on both sides, as well as the chain of Aleutian Islands, which, running nearly to Asia, make the sea almost land-locked water. She could then regard her control of it as complete as we regard our control of Lake Michigan. When she sold us Alaska she ceded all her rights over the Territory and its waters, including the Aleutian Islands. But it is claimed by some English writers that there being now a different power on either side of the great sea, it must be regarded as open as the ocean. When our State Department is called upon to make answer it will claim jurisdiction to 193° W. under the treaty with Russia, and furthermore it may insist that it can exercise it under the rule advanced by Great Britain in case of certain bays—that of including all the waters inside of a line drawn from cape to cape. A line drawn from Atton Island, the extreme southwestern point in Alaska, to St. Lawrence Island, the extreme northwestern point, would include all the waters in question. This is certainly as just as the boundaries that England has insisted upon in Canadian waters in the fishery disputes.

The position of the United States is believed to be impregnable, both legally and otherwise. The civilized world is directly interested in the preservation of the seal fisheries, upon which depend many important industries in this country and in Europe. The fisheries of Alaska, as shown by an able article by Prof. Elliott in this paper some months ago, are by far the most extensive and valuable in the world. They will be destroyed inside of five years if the depredations of the poachers are allowed to go on unchecked. The laws of the United States provide that only "bachelor" seals—males under six years of age—may be killed, and these only at a certain season of the year. The poachers pay no regard to these regulations, but kill all the animals they can reach, and the magnitude of their operations is shown by the statement that the Kush dispersed one fleet of 25 vessels, and that they had already taken between 4,000 and 5,000 seals, a large proportion of which were females.

Before the cession of Alaska to the United States Russia carefully protected the seals, and we continued her policy, though with less rigor. The course of the last Administration with regard to the seal fisheries was like the Samoan policy. That is, it asserted our rights on paper, but took no steps to back up its assertions. The last Congress, however, passed more stringent legislation, and specifically directed the President to enforce it, which he has proceeded to do.

The Captain of the revenue cutter will probably be found to have acted within his instructions, and the matter will likely end very quietly. The only pretext the poachers have for complaint is that the capture was made on the high seas, outside of United States jurisdiction. Even were this technically so it can be sustained and justified on the broad grounds that it was necessary to do a thing which all the world says ought to be done. But our State Department will undoubtedly be able to demonstrate that the Bering Sea is legally "American waters."

The political ring which has so long been the incubus of Maryland, has another heavy offense charged up against it. One of the most important factors in the commercial and industrial prosperity of the State is the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, which was badly damaged by the floods this year. Its usefulness to the community has always been greatly diminished by its being managed by the ring of politicians which governs the State. The State is now unable to restore it to running order unless it can borrow money, and capitalists refuse to take a dollar of the \$300,000 of bonds which the State is anxious to float for its repairs unless it is taken completely out of the hands of the politicians, which the latter will probably not allow, since that would deprive them of an immense amount of patronage. Meanwhile the farmers, merchants and business men are suffering greatly. The canal is the great carrier of the coal from the mines at Cumberland to Washington, Alexandria, and all places on the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay.

This racket over the pension given Senator Mansfield recalls another pension, given to a man in similar circumstances, at which the papers which are now abusing Gen. Mansfield smiled approvingly. Among the very first applicants under the Mexican pension law was Gen. John S. Williams, one of the wealthiest men in the State of Kentucky, who had been Governor of the State and Senator, and was and is a candidate for reelection to both places. He was likewise a Brigadier-General in the service of the Southern Confederacy, and after intriguing and plotting with Breckinridge to drag Kentucky into Secession, left the State at the head of a brigade of Kentuckians, and fought as hard as he could for over four years to destroy the Government whose pension he was so prompt to claim and accept.

CRUCIAL No. 4, by Department Commander Michael Brown, of Michigan, gives a table of the rates from different points in the State to Milwaukee and the amount of overcharge if the railroads insist on a one-rate fare. These run from \$3.89 for the comrades standing from Alpena to \$1 for those from Ludington and Manistee. The average extortion would be in the neighborhood of \$2, and Commander Brown estimates that it would take about \$10,000 from the pockets of the Michigan comrades.

THE BEING SEA AFFAIR.

The constantly-recurring troubles with piratical seal-killers in Bering Sea have been brought to a focus by the forcible seizure July 11 of the Black Diamond, a schooner flying the British flag, some 70 miles from land, by the United States Revenue cutter Kush. Ample evidence of guilt of the vessel were found in 106 kinds of seals which had been killed in violation of the law and the President's proclamation of March 21. A non-commissioned officer was put in charge of the Black Diamond, and he was directed to take her to Sitka. Her Captain and crew, however, were too strong for the prize-officer and took her to Victoria, B. C., where she is owned.

The seizure made quite a commotion in Canada, mainly stirred up by the men in British Columbia who are engaged in the profitable business of poaching on our seal-preserves, and for a few days there was strong talk of war, in which they were aided and abetted by the ultra-English Mugwump papers of New York and Boston. But there will be no war, nor any serious disagreement between our Government and that of Great Britain over the affair, for the sufficient reason that England has quite as strong pecuniary reasons as we have for desiring that the seal-piracy shall be stopped effectively and at once.

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"WHO PAY THE PENSIONERS?"

Under this caption the New York Times says editorially: The pension policy of the Government is often discussed as if the millions of money distributed to the soldiers every year did not come out of the pockets of the people. It seems to be assumed that the Government has independent resources, derived from some peddling business of its own, which it may dispose of as it pleases without costing anybody else anything. When the President told Commissioner Tanner to be "liberal with the boys," he not only assumed that his action was not strictly regulated by law, but seemed unconscious of the fact that the money in the Treasury belonged to anybody but those entrusted with its disbursement. It is proverbially easy to be "liberal" with other people's money, but it is not always honest. The confusion of ideas on this subject is largely due to our system of national taxation, which, as the President said in his message of last year, draws taxes from the people without their knowing when and how they pay them.

But the people are gradually acquiring knowledge on the subject of tariff taxes. They are learning that all taxes, under whatever guise concealed, are paid out of the proceeds of their industry. They are finding out that when they pay high prices for what they buy in consequence of duties which not only enhance the cost of imported articles, but of those made in this country as well, they are contributing to the profits of combinations of capital in protected industries and paying out of their earnings the money that goes into the National Treasury. The \$60,000,000 a year and more that is distributed in pensions comes out of the people, and it is not drawn from them in proportion to their ability to pay, either. The poor, whose entire earnings are spent for the support of themselves and their families, pay a good deal more than their fair share.

In the rare intervals when the Times temporarily quits downright lying for a pretense of rational discussion, we are pleased to enter the arena of debate with it. This question of who pays the pensions is one that we are always eager to discuss, however, with anyone. It is a matter which we are anxious to have the people of the country examine thoroughly, for the more they know of it the better will the matter of pensions stand.

The Times's argument rests upon the false assumption that the money from which pensions are paid is drawn from the people for the express purpose of paying pensions. This is not true in any degree. The people themselves have demanded the imposition of the customs duties and internal revenue taxes for economic and other purposes, without any reference to pensions. For example, there was \$864,140 raised from oleomargarine last year. This was enough to pay the entire pensions of 23,000 pensioners on the list who received from \$1 a month up to \$3.75. The Times will surely not say that the oleomargarine tax was imposed to pay pensions, or that the needs of the veterans had the slightest connection with it. It was laid at the urgent demand of the farmers of the country for the protection of their dairy products. They insisted on the tax being laid and rigidly collected. What was done with the money so raised was a matter of little importance to them. As a rule they would prefer its being used to pay the Nation's debt to its savors.

The same is true in a vastly larger degree of the tax on wool and woollen manufactures, which last year realized \$32,213,121, or nearly four-fifths of the annual value of the invalid pension roll. The sheep growers, carpet and cloth weavers, and others interested in this important product demanded that the tax should be imposed and carefully collected. They are arguing that it shall be made still higher, and the justice of their claim is so palpable that both the great parties pay respectful attention to it. For the protection of the flax and hemp growers \$10,302,095 was collected last year. Our rapidly-growing and profitable barley production was protected to the extent of \$1,082,068. The orange and lemon growers of Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas received \$5,000,000 of protection. The sorghum and cane fields were protected to the extent of \$2,000,000. The tobacco planters got \$9,734,987. So we could go on through the entire list.

Not a dollar of this is imposed or maintained to pay pensions. Every tax is the result of a public demand for it, entirely independent of the use of the proceeds for the payment of pensions, or for any other National purpose. Nor is it true that this is a drain upon the pockets of the consumers of the country. Except sugar, every article taxed has been rapidly cheapened to the consumer since the imposition of the protection, and the process is still going on with undiminished alacrity. This is simply undeniable. The whole country is vastly richer than it would have been but for this protection, and every man, woman and child shares in the benefits.

THE LOGAN MONUMENT FUND. The following additions to the Logan Monument Fund have been received since the last report: P. P. Hudson, Prattville, Cal., \$20 25; R. T. Johnson, Kansas, Kan., 25; N. W. Johnson, Post, No. 296, Springfield, Mo., 5 00; Mountain, O., 5 00; John H. Johnson, N. Y. city, 2 00; Hutchinson Post, No. 64, Hutchinson, W. Va., 1 00. Total, \$31 50. Previously acknowledged, \$1,018 41. Total, \$1,050 91.

WORK OF THE PENSION OFFICE. During the week ending Aug. 3, 1899, 5,286 claims were received, of which 1,368 were original invalid; 551 widows; 5 war of 1812; 6 bounty land; 40 navy; 5 old war; 54 on account of Mexican service, and 3,257 applications for increase. The names and postoffice addresses of 4,003 officers and comrades were furnished for the use of claimants. The number of cases detailed to Special Examiners was 1,079; 927 reports and cases from Special Examiners; cases on hand for Special Examination, 15,906. Report of certificates issued during week ending Aug. 3, 1899: Original, 776; increase, 1,095; reissue, 51; restoration, 16; duplicate, 30; accrued, 98; arrears, 3; act of March 3, 1883, 2; order April 3, 1884, 1; act of Aug. 4, 1885, 6; supplemental, 20; arrears June 7, 1888, 4; Mexican war, 26; total, 2,019.

It is a duty you owe to your comrades to get at least one new subscriber for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

THE St. Louis Republic is practicing the worn-out old trick of publishing letters signed "Veteran," "Old Soldier," etc., viciously abusing Corporal Tanner and the pension system.

CHICAGO papers concede that New York is a good deal of a city, but regret that it is so terribly out of the way. TRIBUNETS. SLOGGER SULLIVAN and his trainer Muldoon have been industriously painting Long Island City a lively red, and slogger Kilrain and his bottle-holder Murphy have taken a larger contract of the same kind with reference to Baltimore. Shining ornaments to society these lights of "manly art of self-defense" are.

TOOK HIS CHOICE. BELKINS: "Theodore Roosevelt says that there is not an idea in a whole hundred of beer. Nothing but beer. On the other hand a bottle of whisky's full of 'em." NIKKINS: "Well, as the idea in a bottle of whisky run silly to wicked, I think I should prefer stupefaction."

PERSONAL. Commodore MacFarlan, Palmer and Backus, of Low Benedict Post, No. 5, Albany, N. Y., have been traveling in Europe and visiting the French Exposition at Paris. A letter from them dated June 23 at Interlaken, Switzerland, states that they are well and having a royal good time. On the evening of the 22nd they crossed the Alps, the thermometer rising to 10 above zero. They made faster time than Napoleon did when he crossed the mountain. While journeying up the Rhine they saw on its bank a magnificent castle, and flying from its tower the Stars and Stripes, a sight that made their hearts thrill with joy to think that the old flag that they had helped to defend in the days of '61 to '65 should be so honored. They returned on the "Staubli" to Paris the last of August.

THE GRAVE OF LITTLE FISH. BY T. C. HARRISON, CARSTOWN, O. One gentle Summer day I stood Where all around was fair; A little thrush from leafy bow'rs Made music on the air. A sapphire gleam in the glades Of Arlington so still; A moment stopped, methought, to kiss The grave of Little Fish. Beneath me blue Potomac flowed In beauty to the sea; Behind me lay ten thousand men Who died for Freedom's sake; And in the fair sunlight that touched The cedar-guarded aisle, I stooped and dropped a tribute on The grave of Little Fish. Methought I heard the roll of drums In Sherman's glory; Methought I saw his eagle again; Before his gallant men, Not 'neath his banner, but o'er, Around him in glory guards The grave of Little Fish. No longer waves his peerless sword Upon his grave the flag of Freedom; No more his shout of victory stirs The dark Virginia pines. But Fame forever his name has linked To river, mound and hill; And Arlington's hallowed bosom sleeps The grave of Little Fish. O, white and red his flowers were; That fell upon the chief; And 'twixt them nestled, like a babe, A fragile little fish. 'Twas sweet to see them lying there Upon the sacred sod; Their soft leaves mingling gently on The grave of Little Fish. O, let him sleep, forever crowned By deeds that cannot die; His brave white deathless name A gleam on glory's sky. And for a thousand years to come, Upon the cedar's hill, The flag of stars shall float above The grave of Little Fish!

RECENT LITERATURE. Harrison. Women's Prisoners. Published at New York. Price 5 cents a copy, or \$2.50 a year. The exceptional character of the subscription is the Journal of the United States Cavalry Association, published quarterly at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and devoted to the discussion of matters of interest to the Cavalry. The subscription fee is \$1.00 a year, and includes a copy of the journal. The journal contains translations from European publications of essays by the first soldiers and military writers of the day, besides valuable and interesting articles on the history of the Cavalry, and the importance of the Cavalry branch of warfare. The price is 50 cents a number. The Catholic World is as good as over. It is always a very interesting magazine, readable by all. Though Catholic (Roman), it is so catholic that Protestants enjoy its pages. The last number is in the general tone of that scholarship which has all along marked the Catholic World. Every one who can find time should read the spicy articles of the July number. Joel Chandler Harris has written a new novelette for the Century—"The Old Bascom Camp"—which will be published in the August number, and will be complete in three installments. It is a "reconstruction" story, and is said to be in Mr. Harris's most delightful vein. The Century Co. will shortly bring out a handsome book for young folks, "Daddy, Jack, the Runaway," and other stories, by Joel Chandler Harris, illustrated by Kumbia. The August Century will contain a "symposium" on wood-engraving, including a number of papers written and illustrated by a group of well-known engravers. The articles are, "Wood-engraving," by Frank French; "Originality in Wood-engraving," by E. B. Kingsley; "Painter-engraving," by W. B. Closson; and "The New School of Engraving," by John F. Davis. Fourteen new engravings, of unusual interest, are contributed to the series. Godey's Lady's Book for August is now on our tables. Among the home journals, none enjoys greater shares of popularity than Godey's. Though it is one of the oldest, it is constantly abreast of the times, and its publishers spare neither trouble nor expense in making it at once readable and instructive. Thus insuring it an ever-heavy welcome. Send 15 cents for a sample copy, and we are quite sure you will subscribe for a year. Address the publishers at Philadelphia, Pa. Table Talk.—Devoted to culinary and household topics. Published monthly by the Table Talk Publishing Co., Philadelphia. Price, 10 cents a number or \$1 a year. The National Artist Monthly Fashion Journal.—Published at 17 East Fourteenth street, New York. Price 50 cents per annum. This is a first-class fashion periodical and very cheap.

Hon. Jeremiah Rank for a third term as Governor of his State.

Gen. John F. Hartman was taken so ill in the performance of his duties as Commissioner for buying the Cherokee lands, that he was compelled to return from Tahlequah to his home in Philadelphia, and his physicians say that he will not be able to resume his duties for two weeks at least. Gen. N. M. Curtis has declined a place on the New York Republican State ticket. He is content with his place in the Assembly