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Senator Jones, of Arkansas, on the Beer Tax.

The first Democratic Senator who pointed out the enormity of the increased tax on beer was Senator Jones, of Arkansas. We copy a portion of his speech:

However these things may be determined, one thing seems to me to be perfectly clear, and that is, that with the most extravagant calculations made by the gentlemen who are in favor of large appropriations, it is impossible to make \$300,000,000 in addition to our ordinary expenses during the next fiscal year. With these extraordinary expenditures to be made, taking the rum for the sake of the argument at \$300,000,000—it can not be made to reach that, even on the extravagant calculations which are made by the Senator from Maine [Mr. Hale] and others—but take that as the necessary amount to be raised, the next question for us to determine is, How will we provide for that \$300,000,000 if we propose to do it at this time and in this bill?

In the first place, it is not necessary that all the expenditures which are believed to be necessary for twelve months shall be made now, when in fact the war may not last anything like a full year after July 1 next? Is it necessary for all the money to be provided for now in this bill that will be expended during the next year? The Congress of the United States is bound to assemble on the first Monday in December next, it is in session now, and will remain in session as long as the public interests require that it shall do so. In addition to that, the President can convene Congress whenever there is a necessity that it shall be done. Hence there is no imperative necessity that we shall provide now all the money which may by any possibility be needed during the next twelve months.

But suppose we do, and it is proposed to raise \$300,000,000. The question is, How shall it be done? This bill as it came from the House of Representatives provided for raising practically \$25,000,000 of additional revenue by an additional tax on tobacco; by an additional tax on beer, thirty-three millions, and thirty millions on stamps. In addition to that, it proposed practically to increase the bonded debt of the United States by the sum of \$50,000,000. True, \$50,000,000 of the bonds were not to be called bonds, but were to be called certificates; but they were to bear interest just as though they were bonds. A promise by the Government to pay a debt at a day in the future and to pay interest upon that debt, no matter by what name called, is practically a bond.

Here was a proposition, then, to expend possibly \$300,000,000 in twelve months. To provide the money necessary for this expenditure \$70,000,000 was to be raised by taxation and \$50,000,000 besides was to be raised by the sale of bonds. Seven hundred millions of dollars was to be raised to meet an expenditure of less than \$300,000,000. Many of us were not willing to pass a bill which provided for a scheme so unreasonable; hence we proposed some changes in the bill.

The plan to raise the \$300,000,000 by taxation had some marked characteristics. It was not to be levied on the property of the country, but was to be levied, almost every dollar of it, upon consumption. The tax on beer nobody will deny is a tax on consumption; the tax on tobacco is also a tax on consumption, and the stamp tax, which was the other great item, was intended to be put upon every article of medicine, upon every "packet, box, bottle, pot, or phial" containing pills, powders, syrups, tinctures, lozenges, cordials, tonics, plasters; upon bonds, debentures, mortgages, deeds, bills of lading, etc., and, while general in its application, bears with greater proportional weight upon small transactions than upon larger ones, and is one of the most onerous, as well as one of the most vexatious, forms of taxation which has ever been adopted in this country in my opinion.

The Senate committee modified many of these provisions and made some additions to the bill which, I think, must commend themselves to the Senate as wholesome and be received by the people of the country with approval.

The first material change made in the bill was a provision for an inheritance tax. Property passing by inheritance or by will must contribute to the support of the Government under which this is done. There is no natural right by which any man can convey his property to another when he comes to die; and if the Government gives him the power to do this and the means of doing it, it is just and reasonable that he should contribute something to the maintenance of the Government which gives him this right, and this is as just as that the man who takes a glass of beer or who takes a chew of tobacco should be required to do so. We believe this to be a just and equitable tax and one which rests upon property.

We propose some other taxes in addi-

tion to those proposed, by the House. One—I will not stop to read it—is a proposition to levy a small excise tax, equivalent to one-quarter of a per cent. on gross receipts of certain lines of business, whether by railroad, street railroad, sleeping car, canal, steamboat, ship, barge, etc., and a like tax to be collected from those engaged in express business, telephone and telegraph, insurance, electric light, etc. A tax of one forty-eighth part of 1 per cent. per month on bank deposits is also provided for. We have levied a large tax, a very large tax, on the people engaged in producing beer; we have levied a large tax on the people engaged in manufacturing tobacco, and we have put a very small tax, an infinitesimal tax in comparison with the other, on the people who are engaged in transportation, banking, insurance and other kindred occupations.

The tax on beer will fall on the beer trade, but what part the consumers of beer will pay and what part of it, owing to the competition among brewers, they themselves will be compelled to pay, and what part of it will be levied upon the dealers in beer even the Senator from Rhode Island, with all his astuteness and his wonderful information about the details of industrial enterprises in this country, cannot figure out. I do not believe the man lives who can tell what proportion of this tax will fall on any branch of the business; but this much we do know, Mr. President, and that is that there is a tax of \$50,000,000 to be levied upon that business—that business involving an output annually, say, of \$150,000,000—a tax of \$50,000,000 is levied upon a production amounting to \$150,000,000 a year; and yet the righteous soul of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. Allison] was vexed on yesterday because of our proposition to levy a tax which would bring \$15,000,000 from the banks of the country upon deposits, which he said would amount to \$5,000,000,000 a year. One is a tax of almost 40 per cent. levied upon an industry; the other is a tax of about one-fourth of one per cent. upon banking. The one is regarded with great equanimity while the other excites abhorrence.

Then, Mr. President, there is a proposition to levy a tax of one-fourth of one per cent on all other corporations. The question was raised on the floor here as to whether that would apply alike to all corporations, small as well as large. It does. I confess that I should be glad to see some arrangement made by which we could exempt the smaller corporations from the tax. The larger ones are better able to pay in proportion to the amount of business they do than are the small ones. Small businesses are always laboring under disadvantages in competition with larger enterprises; and if there could be a way devised to relieve the small corporations from taxation, I for one would be glad to see it done. The great corporations, those that embrace millions of dollars of interest, should pay a small percentage on their gross income to the Treasury for the support of the Government under which they prosper and grow rich.

A Funny Monroe Doctrine.

"The Monroe Doctrine," says the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, "excludes European powers from interfering on the American continent and outlying islands. But it does not limit the United States."

That is, President Monroe said to Europe: "You must not meddle in our affairs. In return we solemnly promise to meddle in your affairs whenever the notion strikes us."

This is something like. This is the kind of a bargain to make and stick to! It is like a jug handle—all on one side.

Why is it that, when the committee's mind was working so well it could not include in its report favoring the annexation of Hawaii some clue to the Hawaiian mystery?

We do not know. We can only state the fact that the committee did not offer a single excuse for annexing the islands, paying their debts and keeping their leprosy serfs in order, when we now have all the benefit from them which we could possibly get.

We ought to control the islands. And we do.

We ought to have a coaling station there. And we have—the only suitable harbor in the group.

We ought to fortify it. And we shall. We shall make Pearl Harbor impregnable, and it will cost less money than would the payment of the Hawaiian debt which would be saddled upon us by annexation.

But we do not want a rotten borough State 2,000 miles away, with two more Sugar Trust and loot hunting Senators.

The Cost of the War.

A fair estimate of the cost of the war for the next twelve months brings the amount up to about \$360,000,000, or \$1,000,000 a day.

But the war ought not to last a year; it ought not to last six weeks. The cost of the war will depend entirely on the vigor with which it is prosecuted.

War on the basis of a "peaceful blockade" might last until the end of the century; war on the Dewey plan would be over in thirty days.

The war will cost whatever the Administration makes it cost.

To Save a Cent and a Half.

Mr. Leiter, a Chicago young man, has raised the price of bread to the 75,000,000 people of the United States and made an immense fortune for himself.

The Leiter Loaf means a great deal to hundreds of thousands of humble homes, where in the best of times there is not too much to eat.

What shall be done about the Leiter Loaf?

One great-hearted public adviser says the best way to break the corner in wheat is for the wives of poor men to bake their own bread and save a cent and a half daily. That is easy to do—over a hot fire that costs more than a cent and a half, while the washing and other work waits and the children look out for themselves. The right way to bring the coal trust to terms should be for the American wife to go down to the river and fish for driftwood, or following coal carts through the street, filling her apron with the droppings. Or she might beg a plank or two where building is going on and carry it home on her head.

Who is this Leiter that has brought a national calamity upon the United States? Just an ordinary young man, a pleasure-loving bachelor, who knows how to gamble and has a rich father to stake him. Were this a lawless country he would in return for the Leiter Loaf be given a rope and a lamp-post. Were we living under a benevolent despotism he would be sent to jail for life by way of example.

But what shall be said of the great American people who have no more sense than to let it be possible for a young Chicago rounder to commit a crime like this of Leiter's? For it is a crime, a colossal and horrible crime, whatever the law may say. Aren't there brains enough in the collective American head to devise legal guards against such modern plunderers as Leiter? His power to skin the poor is not due to his smartness but to the stupidity of the citizens of the Republic.

The right answer for the American to make to the Leiter Loaf is not to order his wife to the oven to save a cent and a half, but to demand legislation (and go to the polls with his demand) which shall make it as unlawful for this piratical young Chicago rounder to rob the whole country—or for any other enterprising thief to do it under the forms of law—as it is now for one man to hold another up on the street and force him at the pistol's point to hand over his money.

The Cause of the Oppressed.

There are still to be found persons calling themselves Americans who sneer privately at the war undertaken by the United States for the liberation of Cuba as "another war for the niggers."

The opprobrious epithet in this case is applied to the whole patriot population of Cuba, regardless of the fact that 65 per cent. of the inhabitants are white, and that this proportion has been maintained in the Cuban army, which is officered by educated men. The percentage of illiteracy is higher in Spain than in Cuba.

But admitting that the Cubans are mixed as to race and are below the highest standard of Anglo-Saxon civilization, did this relieve us of our obligation to the cause of humanity and of freedom when Spain persisted in her policy of oppression and starvation? Was not this obligation made the more imperative by the fact that the Cubans are poor and weak? The powerful need no help. The rich can flee from oppression. The Cubans are all the more objects of our chivalric and unselfish solicitude from the fact that they are helpless and wretched.

A cause for which four hundred thousand people have died, and in behalf of which the remainder are now braving death and enduring starvation, is ennobled and lifted far above the reach of any sneer!

No American deserves his own heritage of freedom who does not rejoice that this great Republic has at last undertaken to secure their birthright of liberty to the Cubans. And no man really believes in the doctrine of our immortal Declaration of Independence who does not wish to see the people of that fair but desolated island enjoying the "unalienable rights" for which our fathers fought.

It is not enough to hope that our arms will speedily win because they are ours. The feeling of every worthy American ought to be:

Then triumph we must,
For our cause it is just!

The Decay of Spain.

A correspondent last week was quite indignant with us, says the London Spectator, for saying that there must be in the Spanish character, otherwise a very strong one, some root of inefficiency; but how else can he explain the continuous decline of Spain? Greece was conquered three separate times—first, by the Macedonian clansmen fused together by two men of military genius; secondly, by the disciplined strength of Rome; and thirdly, after a wonderful revival in the Eastern Empire, by a warlike Tartar horde which had turned a tribute of children into a most efficient standing army. Rome was conquered after two hundred years of battle by the incessant invasions of half barbarous white tribes, who were individually bigger and braver than the free Romans, who were probably as a whole more numerous, and who found invaluable allies in the crushed and miserable population of white slaves that performed the manual labor of the empire. The Tartars, whose realm was once wider than that of Rome, and who seemed for a few years about to master the world, were "warred down" by the Slavs in a struggle which lasted nearly as long as that by which the barbarians subjected their Roman foes. Spain, however, the next claimant to worldwide empire, was never conquered. She was defeated once at sea by Elizabeth's fierce privateers, but she was never conquered, and in 1580 she was by far the greatest Power in the world, owning all she owns now plus Portugal, the Milanese, Naples, including Sicily, the Low Countries, and the whole of the two Americas south of the 34th parallel, a dominion to which neither that of Great Britain, nor Russia, nor the United States can, in some respects, and especially in respect of potential wealth yielding power, fairly be compared. The Empire, too, rested on strong foundations. It lasted in Naples for two hundred years. The people of the Low Countries only threw it off by an effort that was like a martyrdom, while the Spanish ascendancy in America was so deeply rooted that to this hour the creed, the language, and the civilization of every land that belonged to Spain remain essentially Spanish. Nevertheless, some change, real or apparent, did pass over Spaniards, and from 1600, the history of their country has been one of continuous misfortune and slow decay. Why? There are men among us who attribute it all to Catholicism, as Macaulay was inclined to do; but France, while she was Catholic, persecuting Catholic, did not decline in that way, and we do not see any good reason why the Spanish Church should enfeeble the Spanish people any more than the Russian Church does. There are historians who say that the valor of the people decreased; but Napoleon's marshals did not think so, the guerrillas often fought as if Cortez had been leading them, and in the still more recent American wars the Royalists often accomplished prodigies of valor. Individually the Spaniard, by the consent of all who know him, is as brave as anybody else.

The American Spaniards did not rebel out of any self-developed perverse hatred of Spain, but because they were unable to bear her treatment. The Spaniards themselves say the cause is a kind of accident, the perpetual recurrence of inefficient Governments; but they had the power to make and undo their Governments like every other race. Why did they not create one which, up to the limit of the national strength, could at least succeed, which, for example, could give them a fully organized army, a strong fleet, a treasury as effective, say, as that of far poorer Prussia? Spain ought to have absorbed Portugal long since, and to have been a wealthy nation of thirty-five millions, with colonies in Asia, Africa and America, with the trade of the Mediterranean in her hands, and with a country as insatiable from invasion as if it were an island with an armed population. There was, that outsiders can see, nothing to prevent her, and yet she has declined until she is probably by 1900 be a weak kingdom or republic, with only a part of the peninsula in her possession, with scarcely seventeen millions of people, with a broken treasury and a divided army, unfeared in Europe and unremembered in the great struggles of the world. That seems a hard destiny, and we confess we see as yet but an imperfect explanation of it. The Spaniard, we

maintain, is a strong man; and therefore, then, is a nation of Spaniards ineffective? It is very easy to say that a race wears out like a family, but even if that doctrine is true, which we doubt, not seeing evidence that the Jews, who are the oldest of races, are worn out, or that the Parsees are feeble than the fire worshipping Persians from whom they descend, the wearing out takes a long time, and Spain has taken, on the hypothesis, less than three hundred years. She was at her highest point during our Elizabethan period, and it would be hard to prove that, except perhaps in the power of producing first class poetry, the Victorian English are at all inferior to the Elizabethan. They are certainly as efficient for all the different tasks of life, which is the point we are now discussing, and more efficient both as administrators and industrialists. Spaniards are not, and it seems to us a matter of keen interest to discover a reasonable explanation of the difference. * * * Why Spaniards do not increase faster in numbers we can not even guess, but the same fact was observable in our own Elizabethan period, the total result being that they seem in the presence of advancing Europe, and especially of the energetic, uncontented, pushing Anglo-Saxon, to be standing still. They will fight in this war, as we shall see, right well, and with a great wish for victory at any cost of danger; but they will always be late, always half organized, and always baffled when they are most in earnest by the want of a certain capacity in their agents for taking infinite trouble. The true motto of the Spaniard, as of our own brave Highlander, is "I canna be fashed," and it is a motto which, in an age when trouble-taking races are in front, means disaster if not death.

Our Astonishing Commerce.

The April report of exports and imports additionally emphasizes the phenomenal trade situation of the country.

During the ten months ending with April we exported more of our own productions by \$144,920,292 than we did during the same period last year.

During the same time we imported less foreign goods by \$89,008,058 than we did for the corresponding period last year.

In other words we increased our favorable trade balance by the enormous sum of \$144,905,495 over the highly favorable balance of last year, making a total excess of exports over imports for the last ten months of \$144,245,495, or more than half a billion to the good.

These figures explain our great influx of gold. During these ten months we have received from abroad \$99,315,501 in gold, and we have exported of that metal only \$14,836,003. We have thus added to our gold supply from this source alone \$84,479,498, besides keeping at home the product of our own gold mines, amounting to about \$50,000,000.

It is not Dewey's victory alone that has awakened Europe to the consciousness that a new world power has arisen here that must henceforth be reckoned with. Our grain is a surer reliance than our guns for our greatness.

THE proposed increase in the price of bread is a simple extortion. At the present price of flour the baker makes less profit than he made a few months ago. But he has been making too much profit. A barrel of flour (196 pounds) makes 220 pounds of bread. At five cents a pound this means \$11 to the baker on flour that costs him \$8. If the extortion of charging six or more cents a pound for bread is persisted in it will be the duty of every housewife to make her own bread.

England and the Philippines.

Conquests are sometimes embarrassing, and there are already signs that the people of the United States hardly know what to do with the Philippines. Innumerable solutions of this grave problem are put forward. A very small party is for holding them; others, again, are for selling them to a friendly power; while many go further, and name the friendly power—England. The Philippines are to be offered to England to cement the Anglo-Saxon alliance; and in exchange we are to give the Americans a base at Manila, or else certain of our West Indian colonies. We cannot but feel flattered as a nation by this fresh proof of friendship from the people of the United States. The mere suggestion shows that they trust us implicitly. But the trouble is that we do not want the Philippines. In view of our daily increasing empire in Africa, and of our obligations in China, we shall do well to avoid unduly stretching the bow.

OUR FOREIGN NEWS.

Translated and Selected from leading European papers for the SENTINEL.

ENGLAND.

THE FALL OF MANILA.

Times—London, May 4.

The crucial interest of the situation has been shifted, since the news of the American victory at Manila, to Madrid. It is possible that a strong and self-reliant nation—even if it had been caught, as it should not have been, unprepared—would not have been cast down by the destruction of the weak squadron which had to encounter a far more powerful enemy under the inadequate protection of the guns of the Cavite forts. But whether the defeat could have been avoided or not by the greater vigilance and more effectual preparations, or whether it involves all the consequences that are anticipated in some quarters, the recognition of the fact that the Americans have been victorious in the first encounter has had, as it was bound to have, a profound effect in Spain. The significance of the proclamation of martial law in the Spanish capital is obvious to all, but especially to those who are familiar with the history of Spain since the restoration of the Bourbons at the close of the Peninsular war.

Standard—London, May 4.

It need hardly be said that the occupation of Manila and its dependencies by the United States would be much more agreeable to us than their possession by any other nation, and that such an arrangement, if permanent, would open up the prospect of a lasting balance of power in the Far East of a kind distinctly favorable to the interests and policy of Great Britain. Certainly, no discouragement will come from this country to any manifestation of American opinion in favor of retaining the Philippines. But, at the same time, it would, without question, involve the States in an entirely new scheme of foreign policy and of naval defence, to which thoughtful Americans cannot have regarded themselves as committed when they entered upon the task of liberating Cuba. That enterprise might quite conceivably be completed without necessitating the entrance of the American Republic into the number of first class naval powers. The possession of the Philippines would unquestionably require that revolution, the consequences of which are of incalculable significance.

Daily News—London, May 4.

With the capture of Manila the control of the Philippine Islands practically passes into the hands of the United States. What will they do with them? The President is receiving voluntary and spontaneous advice from almost every part of the world. He is recommended to exchange them for the West Indies with Great Britain, to sell them to keep them, to restore them, and to give them away. As it would be quite impossible for the British Government to cede Jamaica or Trinidad without the consent of the inhabitants, and as it is extremely improbable that such consent would be given, we may dismiss that solution of the problem as beyond the range of practical politics. Nor do we see how the Philippines could be bartered for Cuba when the resolution of Congress signed by Mr. McKinley expressly declared that Cuba would not in any event be annexed to the United States. To surrender them in return for Cuban independence would be giving them away, because the independence of Cuba was the avowed object of the war. To keep them would be a violation of the Monroe Doctrine or policy, which was exclusive as well as inclusive, and implied the restriction of American sovereignty to the American Continent.

Daily Chronicle—London, May 4.

The American ships have achieved a brilliant victory indeed; but they are left precisely because of the brilliant swiftness of their operations with a difficult responsibility. As we found ourselves in Alexandria, a sudden bombardment without the power of landing a sufficient force may easily lead to anarchy and massacre. There are rumors, which may or may not be confirmed, that President McKinley intends to equip and send on as speedily as possible, a real army of occupation, proceeding by fast steamers from San Francisco. But we know how long it has taken to organize even a small expeditionary force for the original and long foreseen plan of the occupation of Cuba. * * * Already there are mischievous rumors as to some possible "startling action" by Germany. The Gefion has gone to the scene of action, and it, as is very possible, there be danger to life and property, there is no saying what class of German might suddenly make, on the plea that they have the largest share in the Manila trade—next to ourselves. But whatever our helpless Government may or may not do, they must see that no European interference of the kind that is hinted at is allowed. If any one is to help in the policing of Manila, it is we who have the best right to do so, and we alone could do it by friendly arrangement with America, and without any suspicion of self-seeking in the matter.

Westminster Gazette—May 4.

Europe can inflict no serious blow on America, if Great Britain stands aloof. America may materially help Great Britain, if Europe is against her. These tendencies are in the nature of things, and will, we hope, be fostered by statesmen. If anything practical is to be done in the immediate future, the best first step, it seems to us, will be to revise the arbitration treaty, which made shipwreck in 1895, at the first convenient opportunity when peace is restored.

Daily Gazette—Birmingham, May 4.

The sins of the nation—sins of omission and commission—have found them out, and Spaniards are paying dearly and bitterly now for years of unwisdom, corruption, procrastination and all those vices of indolence and thoughtlessness which sap the foundations of society and of the State. In this hour of peril and despair no man can turn to another with confidence, or rely upon him to do that which is dictated by his own integrity and disinterestedness for the common good. There is no real stability in a nation whose very heart has been gnawed at by the cankerworm of corruption and bribery.

Herald—Yorkshire, May 4.

Spain has lost a whole fleet of ships in an engagement in one of her own harbors with the enemy, and the capital of her possessions in the Far East stands at the enemy's mercy, if it has not already surrendered. After such a reverse Spain cannot, with any show of reason, keep up the struggle. * * * If Spain postpones the overtures for peace which she must sooner or later make until Cuba has fallen, she will both add more bitterness to the war and inflame still more the discontent of her own people.

St. James's Gazette—London, May 4.

One of the immediate results of the American capture of the Philippines is to increase Spanish ill feeling towards Great Britain, and indirectly the anti-British tendency among Spain's Continental friends. The American papers, with remarkable unanimity, contemplate the transference of the islands to us, and this is, not unnaturally, resented. There is great indignation in Spain even at our offer to protect the Chinese in the Philippines. This offer has been interpreted as a sort of claim to a protectorate, whereas it was entirely justified merely by the preponderance of our interests and our ability to maintain them. If Spain chooses to be "nasty" to us in her downfall, a considerable change will soon come over the sympathy hitherto so widely felt in this country for her.

Daily Telegraph—London, May 4.

Lord Salisbury's memorable warning at the opening of the session, addressed to the most powerful nation on earth, applies with infinitely greater force to a country in the position in which Spain finds herself today. "However strong you may be," he said, "whether you are a man or a nation, there is a point beyond which your strength will not go. It is courage and wisdom to exert that strength up to the limit to which you may attain, it is ruin and madness to allow yourself to pass it." There is no dishonor in bowing to the inevitable, and there is more dignity in meeting your resignation reverses which are not due to treachery or cowardice, than in frantic endeavors to find scape-goats or to lay the blame upon fortune. The rehabilitation of France after a crushing defeat might point to Spain the safest and most honorable method of retrieving disaster.

The Tortugas Islands and Key West.

C. F. Holder, in the "Scientific American."

Dry Tortugas is an erroneous term applied to the group of keys or islands which constitute the extreme outer Florida reef. Key West is the most important as regards inhabitants, now boasting a large Cuban or Spanish-American contingent. Continuing to the southwest, we come to the Marquesas Islands, and finally, about sixty miles from Key West, lies Garden Key, on which is situated the finest fort of the old class in the United States; a magnificent structure, three tiers of brick masonry, filled in with concrete—the whole forming a defence which, while it would not much service to-day against modern guns, was, during the late war, considered a formidable fort. The Tortugas Islands have been almost neglected since the war when Dry Tortugas obtained a somewhat unenviable reputation of being used as a military prison. Tortugas was not so disagreeable a place as it was painted. For thirty years it has been almost deserted. The old guns are lying where they were left by the troops, some unmounted, the carriages rusting in the sun and rain, and the fort has an appearance not creditable to the Government that has expended millions upon it. But now indications point to the belief that the old fort will be rehabilitated, and the garrison which has been commanded by some of the best known officers in the army, will again assume an air of life and activity. * * * It is a singular commentary on the inactivity of the Government for the past three decades that this post or fort, the most strategic position in the south, the key of the Gulf, the Gibraltar of America, should have been left in charge of a sergeant all these years and practically ignored.

A New Field for the British Merchant.

Consular Journal.

Mr. Lionel Carden has gone carefully into cotton manufacturing in Mexico, and has prepared an interesting report on that industry, which has just been issued by the Foreign Office. He gives a brief history of the origin and growth of cotton spinning in Mexico, and shows that, at the present rate of progress, the Mexican factories will be able to supply the entire country's wants. This will mean a big loss to the English cotton trade, but not one to occasion any concern, except to the cotton exporters themselves, for countries, like individuals, have the right to give up dealing with certain tradesmen whenever they like, especially when there is no need of further supplies. We can only expect to feed a country until such time as it is able to feed itself. However, where business is lost in one quarter it can generally be made up in another, and speaking about the eventual exclusion of low grade English cotton goods from the Mexican market, Mr. Carden says: "English manufacturers, however, should bear in mind that the capacity of the ordinary Mexican operative is limited, and that, in order to produce goods of superior fineness or of a variety of textures, skilled labor—usually foreign—has to be employed, which, while not unsatisfactory, is always expensive, and adds very materially to the cost of production. In such materials, then, a field was yet but little explored—is open to British enterprise, and if merchants, instead of being content to supply goods for which there is already demand, were to exert themselves to introduce new articles direct to the consumers, and especially those of the poorer classes, it might well happen that the resulting trade would prove far more important than that at present existing."

The other side, of course, to this loss of trade following on industrial development is the impetus it gives to the machinery trade, and as we have never ceased to point to the Mexican market as one which British manufacturers should steadily cultivate in order to secure the large orders for industrial machinery which the rapid development of the country has rendered necessary, and will to a still greater degree render necessary, we are very glad to see that our countrymen are reaping a fine harvest of orders for machinery.