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WEATHER BULLETIN. WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—For lower Michigan: Generally fair, slightly warmer in eastern portion, southwest winds.

HERE'S AN IDEA.

Philadelphia is not noted for being the most enterprising city in the country and it is seldom that the rest of the world gets new ideas from her. Yet here is one this time, sure. The business men there have really awakened from their proverbial sleep and have set about to advertise their city. This they will do, to the north, south, east and west. But in addition to that comes the "new idea." Arrangements are now being made to follow the incoming of the New Year with a "Trades Week." Special trains will be run on the railroads and low fares are to prevail to boom the business of the town for "Trades Week" and for the benefit of the people in the surrounding towns and country. Now what is to prevent Grand Rapids from having a week of this kind. Merchants would certainly be willing to make low prices on goods and the railroads might be induced to offer low fares. Store windows could be made attractive by displays of goods by day and electric devices by night. Attractions of different kinds could be provided and the week made a gala week of "trade and triumph." If it is a good thing for Philadelphia it might be a good thing for us. The co-operation of the papers would be necessary, but that could be counted on if the idea meets with favor from the merchants and the railroads. Gentlemen, what do you think of the idea anyway?

SILVER ABOVE PARTY.

A majority of the delegates to the silver conference which met in Washington last week finally decided they were not called together for the purpose of organizing a new party, but to recommend a line of action which the friends of silver could follow, each within his own political party. The conference recommended that the friends of silver everywhere be urged, through the legislative and other channels, to support those candidates for congress who would pledge themselves not to be bound by any party caucus that would restrain them from writing with others, who are in favor of the free and unlimited coinage of both gold and silver on the ratio of 16 to 1, as before the act of 1873. The sentiment of the conference was that all paper currency should be issued by the general government direct, without the intervention of banks and against the issue of bonds to buy gold. Further, candidates will be requested to pledge themselves to vote and act in the fifty-fourth congress to further these ends especially in the organization of the house and in the election of speakers. The recommendations of the convention if faithfully followed means mischief to the old parties and is best summarized in the words of A. J. Warner, the president of the league, who said: "That to achieve results the silver men must not only stay silver men after they reach congress, but they must then unite and, putting silver above party, work incessantly to accomplish the object for which they were elected."

WELL WRITTEN PLEA.

A certain well known local democrat and lawyer yesterday expressed the opinion that the recent message of President Cleveland on the Hawaiian matter was well written; he recognized in it Mr. Uhl's style and phraseology. No matter if the guess is right or not the paper must be admitted to be the best brief of the case, the administration tried to make against ex-President Harrison, yet presented. If the paper was evolved from the brain of Mr. Uhl the assistant made a better plea than his chief. Evidence was well presented and the argument was adroit. The people, however, do not forget the animus of the efforts to restore Queen Lili. The only action for the president's contemplated action is found in the testimony of the one man Blount, and his evidence

has been contradicted from every other source that has furnished information on the subject. The colonists would never have received the sympathy they did from all over continental Europe and among Englishmen themselves, if the history of the revolution had begun from the battle of Lexington. There is an unorganized crowd of sympathizers unlawfully drove a large body of troops back to Boston. But a continued agitation for constitutional rights and high aspirations for liberty long years before the battle of Lexington made it possible for the struggle begun that day to culminate in a successful revolution. The president sent Mr. Blount with "paramount authority" to secure evidence to condemn the Harrison administration. He was a faithful servant and did his work well. He brought back and probably found while there only such evidence as his master wanted. All consideration of the present matter seems to be confined to four days, January 14 to 17. All evidence against the queen was either taken or conveniently suppressed. All provocation for a revolution is overlooked. The intelligent and civilized portion of the islands must be satisfied with the change in government or it would not have been tolerated so long, even if accomplished with the aid of Mr. Stevens. The people there wanted a republican form of government and the people of this country sympathize with them in their efforts to get it. The country will not accept as an impartial judgment, the legal pleadings of the lawyers in the case, who are known to desire that a permanent stigma attach to the name of Harrison.

MR. STEVENS' RETORTS.

As was to be expected ex-Minister Stevens has not remained silent under the bitter aspersions cast upon his integrity as a man and a diplomat by President Cleveland's recent message. In the statement which he gave out yesterday, Mr. Stevens points out the weak points in the special pleading made by the president and shows how partisan malice has warped the facts of the Hawaiian revolution, in order to cast discredit upon the preceding administration. The more the light is let in upon this question, the more prominent becomes the fact of the usurpation of power by the present administration. That the chief magistrate of this great republic should descend to the tricks of a shyster lawyer, in his eagerness to make out his case, is in condition of affairs calculated to bring the blush of shame to the face of every true American, and this is just what Cleveland has done.

EPISCOPALIAN REVIVALS.

The impression seems to generally prevail that the Episcopal churches never hold revivals, and in fact are much opposed to them on general principles. It is true we never hear of their engaging any professional evangelists or of their conducting revivals, and on that account it is felt that the denomination is peculiar, cold and formal. It has been a standing criticism that the Episcopal is "a church which never meddles with religion or politics." It is true that this church is not given to hand-wagon methods of publishing its work, and it does not conduct religious campaigns after the manner of the politicians, but it does hold each year revival services lasting forty days. These are known as Lenten services. They begin with "Ash Wednesday," and close with Easter Sunday. During these forty days the rector conducts three services daily, which are strictly revival services, though not so designated. Their purposes, like the Mills revival, is first to revive the church, and then through the church those outside the church. The stately, beautiful, ritualistic nature of the Episcopal service gathers to that church a class of people who are not attracted by the more simple services in other churches. The communicants are by no means restricted to the rich as is usually supposed. Nor are they unemotional, though their emotion is restrained by the intellect, and by a sense of propriety, and by the feeling that the higher and more sacred emotions of the soul are for the privacy of the closet, or home, rather than for public exhibition. The Lenten services, or revival meetings, are followed by confirmation, which is simply the ceremony of receiving those desiring to enter upon a Christian life, into the fellowship of the church. The practice of circulating cards for the candidate to sign as an expression of his desire for church fellowship has long been in vogue in the Episcopal church. These explanations seem proper in view of some late semi-official utterances concerning the attitude of this church toward the Mills meetings. Surely, a church which claims to trace its unbroken origin to the Apostle John, and which properly boasts of the brightest minds in the Christian world, and has held steadily on its way for centuries, has sufficient claims to entitle it to the respect and confidence of all who bear the Christian name.

IS THE COUNTRY TO HAVE FREE TRADE?

Is the country to have free trade? Free trade is the open door of the United States wide open and done with it. Free trade, if it means anything, means to make everything free. The Wilson bill does not, but favors one industry and destroys the other. Let us have fair play.

THE APPOINTMENT OF WAYNE McVOUGH.

The appointment of Wayne McVough is a better one than that of Van Allen, but it will be more pleasing to rump-wumps than to union pore democrats.

How will the soft money wing of the democrat party like Mr. Carlisle's proposition to issue gold bonds? Will they hear from them at the polls.

Will you be a big one.

Will you be a big one.