

THE INTER MOUNTAIN

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THE PENALTIES OF WAR.

IS IT a fact, as has been asserted, that the conduct of nations is governed pretty much as is the conduct of individuals? Theorists who have established reputations in the field of political speculation aver that under a given set of circumstances governments will be found doing exactly as the individual would do under the same conditions. This argument is frequently used to bolster up the contention that nations grow more pacific as their national debt increases. Examples are cited from history to prove that the tendency to wage war diminishes as the burdens incident to carrying on military operations increase, and the people are constantly reminded of the penalties attached to transgressions against the rules of peace. It is predicted in many quarters that the increase in the national debt of England will have a tendency to recall that country from the fields of military activity and give a more peaceful aspect to her operations abroad. Debts seldom serve to render existence more delightful in individual instances, and if the load of taxes bearing down upon a nation will work a useful end, the result is cause for congratulation. War, it appears, is not only as the late General Sherman described it, but it is exceedingly costly as well.

France is given as an illustrious example of the influence of a huge national debt upon a war-like spirit. In the magnitude of her public debt France stands at the head of all other nations. In round numbers she owes \$6,000,000,000. This is supposed to have a tendency to keep the nation in a peaceful mood and cause the statesmen of the country to think twice before engaging in any enterprise demanding heavy expenditures. The debt of France has been taken up by the wealthy people of the nation and in the event of disaster, growing out of international troubles, financial loss would fall heaviest upon the people at home. For this reason the holders of national bonds in France comprise a formidable peace party, that will stand firmly against whatever tends to increase the national debt to imperil their securities.

England has a national debt at present of \$3,196,000,000. This will be increased \$300,000,000 as soon as the war loan recently voted can be made. The hard lesson that is represented by this costly experience in South Africa, will, in all probability, teach Britain caution and be useful in influencing the future policy of the nation. The income tax of England will be a constant reminder of the cost of war. The recent increase has brought every person whose income is over \$500 per year within the scope of the law. The sum of \$10 is assessed against the smallest incomes touched by the tax. In the United States, confident as we have grown to be, this rate of taxation would be considered too great a price to pay for the glory of war. The debt of the United States is \$1,400,000,000. At the close of the Harrison administration it was 20 per cent less than that sum. Arguing upon the basis of war expenses, it is plain we have a license to fight for a number of years before we are reminded of our national pugnacity by too grievous burdens of war debts.

THOSE MINSTREL MEN.

THE MAN who made two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, has been outdone. His performance is eclipsed and his record cast in the shade. The sum he added to human happiness looks small and insignificant compared with the huge consignment of joy that Butte has received during the present week. The Overland Minstrels have contributed jokes innumerable to the gaiety of the city and the Elks have organized an expedition to Anaconda to witness the annual clinic of the Copper City school of humor. The Butte minstrels have confidently guaranteed to raise a laugh for all who were able to raise the price of admission. They have kept their promise and also kept the box office receipts. The Elks of Anaconda will keep open house and let it go as that.

The jokes perpetrated by the minstrels of Butte and those in process of incubation for the Anaconda exhibition comprise a rare old collection. Many of them were familiar to the ancient jesters who flourished about the time the fatted calf of the Prodigal's day was beginning its career. The claim that the minstrels of either Butte or Anaconda have new and original jokes should be looked upon with suspicion. As a matter of fact, no jokes have been invented since Adam's time. As it was in the beginning so it shall be with the end time of amateur minstrelsy. The old jokes have been given a new flavor, however. Punctious young men who might jest as well on the professional stage as behind the foot lights, in Butte, manage to make the old saw's veritable buzz saws under their skillful manipulation. They are doing excellently well and the sale of comic papers has fallen off appreciably since the season of minstrel gaiety began.

DEMOCRACY'S BAD JUDGMENT.

IN SEASON and out, the democratic party has claimed to be "the party of the people." Whatever issue was calculated to catch votes from the great majority of the citizens of the country has been adopted from time to time by the party, and the platforms of the various campaigns have all been drawn, so it was said, with the laudable purpose of benefiting the toiler steadily in view. It is one of the strangest chances of history that the democratic party has never hit upon an issue that could attract the very elements to which it has constantly appealed. During nearly half a century it has been in the power of what the democratic party terms the "common people" to turn the affairs of the nation over to bourbon domination and put to the test the professions of their self-appointed champions. Only once in 45 years has this been done, however, and once was enough. Lincoln must have had in mind the "common people" to whom democracy constantly appeals when he observed that the task of fooling all the people all the time was among the impossibilities.

Behind this distrust of the democratic party there must be a reason strong enough to offset the frantic avowals of affection that are periodically made by the party leaders. There can be but little doubt that the men who have guided the destinies of the democratic party have displayed a lamentable lack of judgment in choosing the lines of policy best suited for a party that is endeavoring to secure votes from the class of very sensible persons who comprise the "common people." Big and question the vast ma-

majority of the common people are immigrants. They came to the United States because they believed it was the best country upon the globe in which to exercise their individual rights. They are glad they came to live under the stars and stripes and would, if asked, advise all ambitious persons, of whatever nation, to cast their lot with this progressive country. To people who are so abundantly convinced that they were benefited by coming here the democratic party appeals upon the proposition that the people of the Philippine islands will be forever undone if they follow the example of immigrants to this country and join forces with the United States. A more hopeless task than democracy has undertaken could not well be imagined. It would be fully as easy to persuade the immigrants now happily situated in this favored land to return to the countries from which they came. Democracy's judgment is full of flaws.

THE NEW PARTY.

ALL SIGNS point to a season of unusual activity in political circles. Advances from eastern and southern states are to the effect that a number of new political parties will be formed during the present summer. A combination has been effected between what is known as the Social Democracy and a variety of other political interests and these elements of the voting population will take a fresh start at the great work of saving the country for a share of the proceeds. The most significant information comes from the home of the redoubtable Ben Tillman of pitch-fork fame. It appears that a certain democratic leader named McLaurin, has determined to establish another democratic party and has opened his recruiting station in the immediate vicinity of the fiery democrat, whose prowess with the pitchfork brought him into national fame. There will be an exciting time in South Carolina when the political feud of McLaurin and Tillman gets well under way.

Attempts to bring a semblance of order out of the existing chaos in the democratic party are liable to be met with extreme marks of disfavor by the school of democracy of which Bryan is the chief exponent. The democracy that had its birth in Chicago in the summer of 1896 is extremely self-sufficient and poses as a model of excellence. It attracted a great deal of attention and, to the leaders at least, this was convincing proof that the party was on the high road to success. The noise and bluster, however, did not carry sufficient weight to prevent an overwhelming political landslide and reasonable members of the party began to cast about for a brand of democracy that would make less noise and confusion and get better results. The McLaurin democracy is said to fill the bill admirably. It is understood, however, that from tests made of the new democracy in the office of the Commoner, at Lincoln, Neb., Mr. Bryan has decided the McLaurin product to be a cheap imitation of the original. The editor of the Commoner persists in the opinion that no democracy can be pure that has not been filtered through Jeffersonian principles.

MONTANA WILL EXCEL.

YESTERDAY'S incidents of the journey taken by the presidential party through the state of Texas were pleasant and inspiring. The president spoke to the people of the south, who are supposed to entertain views opposite to his on almost every phase of politics. His speeches were well received—in fact, if the dispatches give an accurate description of the scenes, the hearty welcome given the president by the citizens of Texas approached a degree of enthusiasm seldom witnessed in any section of the country. The president's speeches were frank—hearty talks to a people whose ways he understood, and whose opinions were no secret to him. He spoke of empires. The governor of the state of Texas alluded to the Lone Star state as an empire, and the president pleasantly remarked that he had not thought to apply that designation without waiting for the governor to use the term first. "Texas is an empire under the dominion of the sovereign people," said the president, and this definite appeared to delight his hearers. Then in enumerating the industries of the state, the president neglected to include the recently discovered oil wells. When reminded of his oversight by a voice from the crowd he jocosely said it was generally conceded that things would run along much smoother if the old industry prospered.

This delightful meeting took place, it must be remembered in a state where the people entertain political views extreme and positive, and not at all calculated to temper their greeting to the president with warmth. Indeed, had other public men ventured into Texas under like circumstances it is altogether likely we would have heard the announcement that an invasion of "the enemy's country" was about to take place. The president, however, knows nothing of such disagreeable distinctions as have been used so unguardedly by others. To him the south is as is the north or west, or the section in which his journey began. His former democratic colleague in the house of representatives, now governor of Texas, welcomed him to the state; he met numerous old friends, and the warm heart of the southland gave him its most cordial welcome. Citizens of Montana observing these things may know the manner of reception the president will receive in the Treasure state. If it goes beyond the enthusiasm of the Lone Star state it will be a cordial welcome indeed, and, be it remembered, Montana always excels.

A FLAG WIDOW.

"Womanhood" tells how in Sumatra if a woman is left a widow, when she gets home after the funeral she immediately plants a flagstaff at her door, upon which a flag is raised. So long as the flag remains untopped by the wind the etiquette of Sumatra forbids her to marry, but at the first rent, however tiny, she can lay aside her weeds and accept the first offer she has. That awakens a rather mean suspicion that a good many flags in Sumatra are made of very gauzy stuff, and that the staff is erected on the windy side of the house, because some widows are so grief-stricken that there is nothing for them to do except to either die of a broken heart or to marry again right away.—Salt Lake Tribune.

The rivers of Montana have begun to emulate the state's reception committees and are up and doing.

The railroad grades are suffering much more severely from the high water than are the stockholders from watered stocks.

The Lone Star state's lone hand is of the warmest glad hand variety to-day.

The homeseekers have decided that, be it ever so humble there is no place like Montana.

The delivery of young Mr. Farris, who won the oratorical contest at Bozeman last evening, must have been of the special delivery stamp.

There are seven cars in the train in which the presidential party has begun the eleven thousand mile jaunt. Towns along the route will consider this lucky combination of seven come eleven as among the most fortunate chances of the year.

"The Telephone Girl" company has been quarantined at St. Paul and the manager and members of the company are suffering from an acute case of short circuit.

The Chinese have come to the conclusion that the powers' demands for indemnity following the Boxer outbreak are decidedly in the nature of finishing touches.

HOW WE LOOK.

They wear their breeches in their boots
Out West;
Their jewelry's the sort that shoots,
Out West;
The men are toughs with fighting sand,
The women holy terrors, and
The girls are fresh to beat the band,
Out West.

There's lightning in the booze they drink
Out West;
The friendly glass they never clink,
Out West;
They fill it till it overflows
And raise it up beneath the nose,
And say, "Here's how!" and down she goes!
Out West.

The preachers get their Sunday "tips,"
Out West;
In faro bank and poker chips,
Out West;
And Monday 'round the games they trot
And cash in the collection pot,
And buck the tiger, like as not,
Out West.

The maidens all wear cowboy hats,
Out West;
And wear no corsets on their slats,
Out West;
And when a lover seems to feel
Too shy to make the sweet appeal,
They pull a gun and make him squeal,
Out West.

The women vote the same as men,
Out West;
Preach politics with voice and pen,
Out West;
And if a husband makes a play
To take that sacred right away,
He grows baldheaded in a day,
Out West.

And yet we love those ratty cranks,
Out West;
We get the gold to fill our banks,
Out West;
They dig it up in every yard,
And that is why we try so hard
To hold them in our high regard,
Out West.

—Denver Post.

Era of improvement.

Every indication seems to point to brighter prospects for Forsyth than were ever before presented to this place. While there is no particular boom on and people are in no manner over-optimistic as to the future of the town, there is a healthy demand for realty and a natural stimulation in the real estate business. Sales of lots for building purposes are of frequent occurrence, and the many contemplated improvements have attracted the attention of outside contractors. The demand for buildings of every sort is still strong and there is not a vacant house in town to meet this demand.

It is not at all likely that Forsyth will ever suffer from a boom, but all signs appear to justify the belief that before the snow whitens the surrounding hills next winter the town will have experienced the greatest era of improvement in its history. There is much to be done this year, new store buildings are needed, more dwellings, sidewalks and all the other appurtenances of a growing community are needed, and the construction of these will furnish employment throughout the summer for all our workmen.

With characteristic enterprise the credit for the first addition to the business portion of the town under the new order of things can be claimed by a newspaper. The News comes out this week in its commodious new quarters on East Main street—Rosebud County News.

BRIGHT IDEAS OF MONTANA EDITORS

Advertise the Treasure State.

One law that was passed last winter by the legislature was an especially good one and will result in advertising the Treasure state more than any other one thing. We refer to the one providing for the printing and distributing of some 50,000 extra copies of the report of the commissioner of agriculture, labor and industry. It is in charge of State Auditor J. H. Calderhead, who compiled the report as commissioner of the bureau. Everyone should send for a copy and mail it to some distant friend.—Bergus County News.

Billings Cyclists.

A gentleman who is in the habit of taking his children out for a stroll was making a whistle for one of them the other day while walking out. A sidewalk bicycle crank came flying toward the man and his little flock and almost unconsciously the latter threw out his hand. There was a severed bicycle tire, a dismounted wheelman in the dust and two very angry men. Bloodshed was not far away—just because a fool, in violation of a city ordinance prohibiting the same, insisted upon using the sidewalk for a bicycle track. It would not be right to advise persons to carry knives to use on bicycle tires. Why should a bicycle be injured? It isn't to blame. A good stout club for the rider is what is needed. This pedestrians should bear in mind: Do not give the fraction of an inch to a bicyclist on the sidewalk; give him half or all the road if necessary, but not a hair line on a sidewalk. He has no business on it, and should be arrested and fined every time he violates the ordinance.—Billings News.

Whoop 'Er Up.

With charming naivete the Monitor this week tells of a big mining proposition over the range where a company is organized for a million and a half to operate the Big Show, Iron Mask and Quartz Wonder mines. Madison county is coming to the front all right, capital is finding its way out, and while this particular section doesn't seem to be making very great strides in the direction of "enlisting capital, we don't envy our sister camp her good luck. Our turn will come in good season. There is consolation in the proverb: "Hope deferred maketh the heartsick, but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life." Sheridan also comes to the front with good luck stories, and we can almost hear the locomotives whistling for the station at Alder Gulch. That Madison county is almost the leading county in the state is a foregone conclusion, and if we all keep whooping 'er up it won't be long until Silver Bow is reached and passed.—Pony Sentinel.

Newbro

TA K I N G medicine is a serious business. Suppose you shouldn't get what the doctor ordered? That might be serious as to health, if not fatal. The best way is to be sure. Take no risk. The sure way is to go where the biggest prescription business is done; that means in Butte the biggest drug store; that accounts for the size of this store. If you want to be absolutely sure that you are getting the right medicine, bring your prescription to

Newbro

Dry Weather.

Although cattle and sheep wintered well and the spring is well advanced the ground is very dry in some sections and a shortage on the water supply is already apparent. It is a little too early to look for rains, but unless May and June should prove record breakers in the fall of moisture great injury is likely to befall the ranges as well as crops. Stock may suffer considerably in some parts of the county.—Fergus County Argus.

Crees Must Go.

A report is in circulation that the government will shortly round up the Cree Indians and deport them back to Canada.

This time they must stay or suffer the penalty of imprisonment if they return. It seems that many towns along the line of the Great Northern railroad have suffered from depredations of these Indians and have made a protest to the government. It is claimed that they are a nuisance in the country along the railroad from Havre to Spokane, and on their account, settlement by white people has been retarded.

The Cree are a renegade tribe of Indians belonging to Canada, and the government has twice before deported them across the boundary. It is to be hoped that if they are driven back this time, that steps will be taken to prevent their return, as they are one of the most filthy and degraded class of Indians in the northwest—Malta Enterprise.

IN THE HOTE LLOBBIES.

Nine students of mechanical and electrical engineering at the Montana Agricultural college at Bozeman, accompanied by Prof. W. M. Cobleigh, assistant chemist at the college, arrived in Butte this morning and are registered at the McDermott. They are here to gain information relative to their studies and expect to consume a week in their research. According to arrangements, they will return to Bozeman either on Thursday or Friday.

The students in the party are Frank Wilson, C. D. Flaherty, G. T. Morris, J. A. Davidson, Harvey Sloan, W. T. Sloan, W. A. Flaherty, F. W. Schmidt and H. B. Walters.

Professor Cobleigh stated that the students would devote their entire time while in Butte and Anaconda, which place they will visit in a day or two, to studying the natural mineral resources of the state. They will also, he said, devote particular attention to the smelters, the methods of handling ore, the precipitating of copper, etc. He said the students were interested in the fuel product, refractory materials, precious metals, and in fact all else that will be of assistance to them in their study of industrial chemistry.

Professor Cobleigh added that as the students were mechanical and electrical engineers, rather than mining engineers, their greatest interest was in the handling of the metals rather than in the metals themselves. He said arrangements had been made whereby they would be able to visit the Butte & Boston smelter and others.

The students are much pleased with their trip, and say they expect to be much benefited by it. They are all naturally interested in their work, and say they have been looking forward for some time to an opportunity to visit Butte for the purpose of getting a practical knowledge of the study, which in later years they will make their business.

They say the opportunities offered them in Butte for gaining the knowledge they are in search of, are better than anywhere else. The managements of the various smelters and mines to be visited by the students have extended every courtesy to the searchers for knowledge, and the boy will be offered every advantage possible.

H. D. Rucker, who is registered at the McDermott hotel, has in his possession a letter which he says was written by Carrie Nation, of barroom-wrecking fame, and of which he is very proud. Mr. Rucker says he received the letter from the hatcher welder in Peoria, Ill., when he was putting on in that town the show "Ten Nights in a Bar Room." The letter, he says, was in answer to an invitation extended by him to Mrs. Nation to be present on the stage during the performance.

"You see," said Mr. Rucker, speaking of the letter, "that she declined the invitation. That part of it is all right, but she later accepted, and was on the stage for ten minutes while the performance was going on. It was a great card, and how the papers poked fun at the woman for her action. I did not care, however, as all I wanted out of her presence was the advertisement it gave me.

"It came about in this way. When we struck Peoria we at once became interested in the paper Mrs. Nation was conducting there. We had a barroom production, as the title would indicate, and I conceived the idea of having Mrs. Nation on the stage during the performance as a drawing card.

"When the fact became known that she was invited to show herself, the papers at once began to make fun of the project. Then Mrs. Nation declined the invitation. That fact was published too, and more fun was had at the expense of the saloon wrecker. The papers said she was afraid of the ordeal. "That riled Mrs. Nation, and after declining the invitation, she knocked me

into a cocked hat, by declaring that she would show the (fun pol) s that she was made of by presenting herself at the play as I had asked. She was as good as her word too, and stayed with the performance for ten minutes. The crowd received her well and she made the hit of the evening.

"Oh, no; there was nothing sensational about the affair. Mrs. Nation was quiet and everything went smoothly. The fun came afterward when the papers began to ridicule her.

"Am I proud of the letter she wrote me? Well, no; proud is not exactly the word. I am inclined to prize it, however, and think I have good reason for so doing."

Prof. Rowe of Missoula University is registered at the Butte. He will remain in the city for a few days.

Charles Schatzlein of Chicago, who had been registered at the Butte left for his home last night.

Butte arrivals—William Heggum, Minneapolis; George L. Hutchins, Portland; A. R. Hall, Denver; G. Clay, N. Y.; John V. Harkness, N. Y.; D. Bonnell, Baltimore; T. M. Smith, Boston; Duncan McIntosh, Boston; Wallace Fritz, Cincinnati; L. G. Smith, Anaconda; D. A. Morrison, Whitehall; C. H. Reynolds, Sheridan, N. Y.; H. P. Keen, Chicago; L. Cohen, Ashland, Wis.; Mrs. C. P. Dye and Miss Grace Dye.

McDermott arrivals—J. H. McMillan, Ogden; R. L. Warner, Kansas City; Miss Effie Smith, Garner; J. E. Funston, Cherokee, Iowa; J. M. Martin, Salt Lake; Charles E. Everett, Denver; Mrs. F. Wrogerstein, Basin and Jerry Connolly, Granite.

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