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SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1902.

BUTTE CITY POLITICS.

Beginning next Tuesday, the wheels of the political machinery attached to the democratic and labor parties will commence to roll, and in a week's time sixteen candidates for aldermanic honors will be in the field. The labor party candidates will be the first before the public, having decided to caucus Tuesday, hold the primaries Wednesday, and nominate its candidates Saturday. The democrats have outlined a plan which calls for ward caucuses Friday, primaries Saturday and a convention Tuesday of the following week. The smoke of the battles fought in the pre-election mix-up of the other parties will have time to clear away before the republicans come on the field. Their primaries will be held March 20th, and the city convention will take place March 22. When the line-up of these political parties is complete, and if no new ones spring up meanwhile in response to a popular demand for campaign excitement, there will be twenty-four candidates.

In each of the eight wards of the city an alderman is to be elected. The terms of five democratic and three republican members of the city council will expire, and of the remaining members of that body three are republicans, three are democrats, and two belong to the labor party. It is admitted, even in the democratic camp, that the present administration's prospect of securing a working majority in the next council is not bright, while, on the other hand, the chances for republican success are infinitely better than in former years. The labor party vote is something that cannot be estimated with certainty; but the strength of that party little or great, each vote it polls will operate to cut down the democratic majority in the council. As the matter now stands, there is reason to believe that the democratic officeholders will be denied a vote of confidence at the coming election, and the citizens of Butte look forward with confidence to a change in the methods of city government.

The issues of the coming campaign cannot be predicted with certainty. When the conventions meet, the platforms will set forth the party policy, for the will of the regularly chosen delegates is supposed to be supreme in such matters. For the same reason, no forecast of the candidates can be made. It is a matter of current gossip that the names of candidates have been etched on the democratic slate in every ward, and that the city hall officials will leave no stone unturned to have aldermen sent to the council who will support schemes that are ready to be put in operation as soon as election is over. It is hinted also that the Davey administration will not be made an issue if the mayor's party adherents can help it, for the word has gone forth that this is to be a campaign in which, to use the expressive vernacular of the democratic convention orator, "politics cut no figure." The democratic party will resort to those threadbare artifices and other bald political tricks to conceal its distress in the face of the impending calamity. As city hall democratic politicians say, it is simply a "groundhog case" with the party this spring; it has to have a council majority. But how to get the necessary votes—there's the question!

TROOPS COMING HOME.

Substantial proof that the Philippines are fast settling to a peace basis is accumulating and each day brings fresh news of further progress toward an early adjustment of the troubles between the government and the small bands of insurgents still in the field. Steps toward pacification have been so far successful that an order cutting down the fighting force of the army in the Philippines has been issued. The bodies of insurgents who have not already thrown away their guns and turned to peaceful pursuits are such an insignificant force that it is now considered safe to reduce the army to a little over one-half its present size. A year ago the army in the Philippines numbered over 70,000 men; today there are 40,870 soldiers in the islands and the recent order will reduce the number to 26,234. The work of bringing the troops home has been going on rapidly since the beginning of the year and will continue until about one-fourth of the original number of soldiers are left in service there. At the end of the present year, it is estimated, only 15,000 will be required.

If in a year the army in the Philippines can be reduced to a force useful for garrison duty only, those who all along have predicted that the war would drag to interminable lengths will be discomfited. It has been charged in some quarters that the Philippine campaign is a failure; that officials of the

war department have been planning to keep up a large standing army and cultivate a war spirit among the people, while building up a military "bureaucratic ring." This sort of talk will have to end now that the facts prove it false. The work done by the Taft commission has secured excellent results; the Philippine problem may be said to be solved.

POSSIBILITIES OF THE CAMERA.

Albert Decker, undertaker, of Brazil, Ind., is a live man with live notions, if he does deal in dead ones. Mr. Decker had a trusted employe named Bartlett, whose legitimate income failed to satisfy his desire for the luxuries of life and whose conscience was so conveniently elastic that it covered a multitude of sins. The manager was in the habit of taking a dollar from the undertaker's till and tossing it to the ceiling, with the remark: "If it sticks to the ceiling, it's Decker's; if it comes back, it's mine." It invariably came back.

Bartlett played the game regularly and with unerring success, so that between the law of gravitation and the manager's easy conscience Decker's business began to wane and Decker began to worry.

At last it occurred to the undertaker that his man might be sharing the profits, so he decided to watch him, and, secreting himself in the cellar, became an invisible spectator of Manager Bartlett's game of clench.

That there might be no possibility of doubt when the matter came to trial, Mr. Decker devised a cunning scheme, for the man of shrouds was a man of resource. Placing a camera on a shelf in direct line with the money drawer, he attached a string to the slide and betook himself, string and all to a vantage point in the cellar.

Bartlett soon arrived, and, finding the office vacant, opened the till and was in the act of pocketing some of the money when there was a click and a shout of revengful joy from the irate funeral man.

The deadly camera had done the work and the undertaker had the picture to show for it. The case was so clear against him that the chief ventured no defense and was given an opportunity to meditate in the state prison upon the vicissitudes of human life and the lamentable progress of modern science.

Till-tappers and such will hereafter do well to view harmless-looking photograph machines with alarm, and to remember that while walls frequently have ears, cameras always have eyes.

THE COAL FIELDS.

The twenty-second annual report of the United States geological survey, which discusses briefly the distribution, development, production and markets of the coal fields of the country, has been issued. It gives interesting facts concerning the area and character of the coal bearing sections of the United States and treats of the quality of the product secured. The coal area of the country is said to be 280,297 square miles, exclusive of Alaska and of the fields of "lignite coal" which does not correspond in quality with the bituminous and anthracite which forms the output of the most productive fields. The coal fields of Montana are of the "lignite" variety. In the states of Montana, the Dakotas and Wyoming, the coal fields comprise 58,000 square miles and an area of equal extent forms a belt running through the states of Georgia, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Of the entire region, exclusive of this "lignite" belt, about 55 per cent is productive. The state having the largest coal area does not rank first in production. The total production for the United States is 241,000,000 tons, while the output of Pennsylvania alone, ranking seventh in coal area, is 122,000,000 tons.

The introductory part of the annual report of the survey is written by Dr. Charles Willard Hayes, an eminent geologist, who discusses the markets at which the coal produced in the United States is sold. He is of the opinion that the increase of the trade from the Appalachian field, during the past few years, indicates a growing demand in the Western part of the country which must in time operate to develop the "lignite" field and benefit the coal industry of the West.

President Roosevelt was made the first and only honorary member of the American Cattle Growers' association at its meeting in Denver. He is probably as experienced in the business as any member of the organization, for he won his spurs in actual service on the range.

South Carolina resents the statement that it will not be safe for President Roosevelt to go to the Charleston exposition and has issued him a special invitation. The Tillmans appear to have secured nothing but cheap notoriety out of the sword incident.

As a dress reformer Mr. Hogg of Texas is not a great success. He views with alarm the tendency of coronation fashions, but by those most interested, his views are not considered valuable.

The news that the democratic party is in a chaotic state will not bring dismay to the public. The organization has been out of commission for years and never will be missed.

When Colonel Bryan says the issues of the democratic platform will not be buried, the Washington Post understands him to mean that he favors cremation.

TELEGRAPHING ACROSS THE SEA

(Philadelphia Ledger.)

Mr. Marconi's announcement that he had succeeded in receiving signals from England while on board the steamship Philadelphia 2,699 miles from the sending station is simply an important confirmation of his previous experiments, in which signals were sent across the Atlantic from Cornwall to Newfoundland. It is, of course, reasonable to expect that messages can be sent as well as signals, and, as a matter of fact, a message was received on board the Philadelphia when it was 1,551 miles from the sending station. It was in Morse signals recorded automatically on a tape. Mr. Marconi brings with him engineers who are to build large towers on Cape Breton and Cape Cod, which are to serve as sending and receiving stations, and in which more powerful apparatus than has yet been employed in this country will be installed. The experiments on board ship seem to give assurance of success, for the distance from Cape Breton to the Cornwall station is less than the distance over which signals were received by Marconi while on the Philadelphia.

Mr. Marconi states, as a result of his experiments on the ship, that the curvature of the earth does not in the least affect the waves, and that secrecy of messages is assured by the adoption of a syntonized device, by which one instrument will respond only to that to which it is attuned. If a message is to be sent to a particular ship, it will be attuned only to the instrument on that ship, and will not affect other instruments within the range of its waves. The inventor quite naturally declines to enter into details, but he states most positively that the secrecy of the system is assured; in fact, he declares:

A LOCAL DISGRACE.

When an athletic contest between two reputable educational institutions of Butte cannot be conducted without disgraceful wrangling over matters which at most are merely incidental to any game of skill—when officials chosen to preside at such contests forget to act as gentlemen, and when spectators, after cheering the winners, adjourn to a convenient vacant lot to watch partisans of the opposing teams fight out their differences with their fists—when such conduct is passed over lightly and taken by the public as a matter of course, it will be time to say that friendly athletic contests should not be permitted by school authorities. But there is a sentiment aroused by the disgraceful sequel to the basketball game of last evening which promises to work a reform in the methods of conducting such affairs. The school officials should promptly condemn and vigorously punish the persons responsible for bringing reproach upon the schools by the disgraceful occurrence of last evening. Public sentiment demands that the matter be thoroughly investigated.

The moral responsibility of the United States for the welfare of Cuba seems to be fully appreciated by congress and it is likely that measures similar to those passed in behalf of Porto Rico and the Philippines will meet with favor in both houses and senate.

St. Louis cleaned the streets over which Prince Henry passed on his visit to that city and now the contrast is so great between the cleaned and dirty sections that citizens demand that the rest of the city be put in order.

Brigadier Fred Funston says there is as much war in Kentucky as in the Philippines. His knowledge of the number of colonels in each place may have brought out this comparison.

Democrats of Seattle who attempted to get to the front in the recent municipal election have been compelled to go to the extreme rear when they were set down upon by the voters.

Prince Henry's stay in the country is too brief to permit him to be made the recipient of doubtful honors from the class of cranks who name their children after notables.

Senator Tillman admits that the people of his state are more civilized than the character of their representatives in the senate would indicate.

The consummate nerve of the American photographer is among the distinct impressions Prince Henry has received.

Senator Tillman says newspapers put words in his mouth that he never uttered. Well, he keeps it open all the time.

So far March has been a succession of sunshiny days; the lion and the lamb seem to have laid down together.

It must be genuine relief for Prince Henry to get down off from his pedestal and have one real good time.

It seems to be the general impression that the evangelization of Bulgaria will be given up as a bad job.

A Calamity Avoided.

(Chicago Journal.) And this is the same Tillman who would have been secretary of state or war if William J. Bryan had been elected.

Not Easy to Find.

(Boston Globe.) "Everybody should wed," says Rev. Dr. M. J. Savage. Why not say that everybody should get rich? Good partners are not easy to find.

"I do not believe it any exaggeration to say that it is now possible to intercept wireless messages."

Mr. Marconi makes another statement of importance. He says that, whereas the speed of the submarine cable is directly affected by length, that of the wireless system is not affected in the least by distance, and that it is just as easy to work at high speed across the Atlantic or across the Pacific as to work across the English channel. There is no reason to doubt this statement. If the system can be worked across the ocean at all, there seems to be no reason why it should not accomplish any labor that it may be set to perform. For if electrical impulses can be sent and received, their effects can be multiplied by the relay system to any desired degree, and there is no apparent room in the wireless system for a static charge to retard transmission.

Mr. Marconi's announcement is, without doubt, the most important of the opening century, for, if his expectations should be fulfilled, the Pacific can be spanned in the short time, a few months at most, required for the construction of instruments, and it is on the Pacific ocean that there is the greatest need for telegraphic service. It is all right to try experiments on the Atlantic, but the Pacific coasts should be the first to have the apparatus installed for commercial use.

In Sporting Parlance.

(Kansas City Star.) It is a matter of time, apparently, when it will become necessary to report the proceedings of the United States senate by rounds.

PERSONAL.

Francis Marion Cockrell of Missouri is the dean of the democratic side of the senate, and was the first native of his state to be honored with selection to that body.

General Eugene Griffin has in his possession the American flag made by the sailors in Lieutenant Gilmore's party out of patches and strips of their clothing, after their rescue from the insurgents in the wildest part of Luzon.

Kramer, Washington county, Penn., is named after Joseph Kramer, who owns the entire village, operates all its business establishments and owns the stage coaches which are the only means of communicating with the outer world. Mr. Kramer has never been outside of Washington county.

Rev. Robert Collyer, the noted New York divine, has his study in one of the big Broadway buildings. When a young man he learned the blacksmith trade, and the anvil on which he hammered out his destiny is at present set up in the study of "Old Trinity" church, Chicago, where Mr. Collyer was, some years ago, the pastor.

By sticking to it for 19 years George T. Gambrell of Baltimore has finally succeeded in collecting \$4.56 from the Baltimore & Ohio road, an overcharge on a wheat shipment in 1881. The company ignored his claim at first, and he finally began to bombard the officials with postal cards, which he sent by the thousand. Then he took to writing dainty scented notes, and that fetched the railroad, which has just settled the claim.

Punish Her Favored Son.

(Mail and Express.) Whatever the senate may do, it will be proper for the state of South Carolina to invite Tillman to a private interview in the woodshed.

UNIVERSAL MILEAGE SYSTEM

(Washington Post.)

One fruit of the consolidation policy adopted by so many of the rival railroad lines in competitive territory is an increased restriction upon the privileges of travelers. The total inducements to patronize one road to the exclusion of its chief competitor such as the excursion ticket at reduced rates, have become less necessary, and in some cases have been set aside altogether as useless.

On a few lines where the custom has become so well settled that, even in the absence of necessity, the railroad companies concerned hesitate to give it up, the privilege of stop-over has been abolished, and one can buy a ticket at reduced rates only under a stipulation that he shall not be permitted to halt anywhere on the way; and that means, of course, that, no matter how much it might add to his pleasure or convenience to do otherwise, he must travel only by through trains in both directions.

This last restriction is aimed not alone at the bona fide traveler who wishes to get the greatest amount of sight-seeing for the money he has to spend, but quite as much at the scalper who makes a living by buying what remains of a traveler's ticket after it has been used in part and selling it again at a lower figure than the carrying company itself charges; as a matter of fact, however, the effort falls short of both ends.

The traveler who wishes to stop at any point midway of his journey needs only to buy one excursion ticket to the midway point and another from there to the terminus of this train, and he will get the benefit of the reduced rates in both instances, at the cost of the trifling additional inconvenience of carrying two tickets with him instead of one. As for the scalper, he can continue to buy and sell return coupons, which, although they may not be quite so merchantable as those he handled under the old system, answer the purpose of his trade pretty well.

It may appear like carrying coals to Newcastle for a newspaper to offer suggestions on such a matter as this to pro-

MONTANA CURRENT NOTES.

Inspect State School. Missoula.—The members of the state board of education are inspecting the state university today.

Herbert Foster Dead.

Deer Lodge.—A message has been received telling of the death of Herbert Foster, a former resident of this place, at Phoenix, A. T.

Simpson Resigns.

Deer Lodge.—County Attorney Simpson has resigned and J. C. Smith has been appointed in his stead. Mr. Simpson will remove from the state.

Home Burned.

Bozeman.—The residence of W. B. Bowen was scorched by fire yesterday. A stove started the flames. The loss will be about \$1,000. Partially insured.

Elks Bunched.

Helena.—Elks from all over the state are in this city today making plans for the big trip to Salt Lake in August. Officers from the various state lodges are in town.

Attempt at Suicide.

Great Falls.—Vincent Konesk is in a hospital here suffering from a gunshot wound that tore away part of his face. He attempted suicide while working on a ranch near Sandusky.

Teachers for Spokane.

Missoula.—Miss Kate Shelley, county superintendent, and Oscar J. Craig, president of the state university, will go to Spokane next week to attend the meeting of teachers to be held there.

Woman's Defense.

Billings.—Mrs. Iretta Orcutt, who killed her husband a few days ago, is still in jail and will make a plea of self-defense at her trial. County Attorney Hathorn has not yet begun proceedings.

Killed a Calf.

Glasgow.—John Flowerday is on trial here charged with killing stock. He admitted on the stand that he killed a calf belonging to the Meiner Cattle company. He swore a man named Geubo told him to shoot the calf.

Hunter Murder Trial.

Phillipsburg.—The Hunter murder case began in the district court today. It was postponed yesterday on account of the absence of one of the witnesses, William McIntire of Victor, Mont., will be an important witness for the state.

Rather Hard Lines.

(Milwaukee Sentinel.) If Benjamin Daniels of Arizona has been a law-abiding citizen for many years it is rather hard lines that imprisonment for larceny in his youth should disqualify him for the office of marshal now.

Good and Bad Memory.

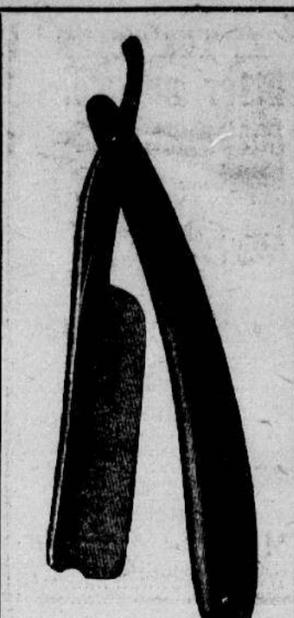
(Chicago American.) Often a child is said to have a very dull memory when the main trouble is failure either to make the child thoroughly understand what you want it to remember or failure to interest it in the information which you impart.

Dogs and Sheep.

(New York Tribune.) In the year 1870 there were in the state of Tennessee 800,000 sheep and 200,000 dogs. Thirty years later, in 1900, there were in the same state 200,000 sheep and 800,000 dogs, while, apparently, it is only a question of a few years when there will be millions of dogs in the state and no sheep at all.

After the Facts.

(Philadelphia Ledger.) Secretary Shaw is going about the business of correcting customhouse abuses in a business-like way. His circular letter, calling for detailed information, and sent to the persons who complain of the treatment they have received, is calculated to bring out the facts; after which he may be expected to take such action as seems to be required.



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