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factory type of disappearing gun-carriages, while even now these have been selected only for the 8-inch and 10-inch guns, and not for the 12-inch, the guns of this last calibre which are in position having been mounted on lifts. Possibly also the lack of adequate appropriations for engineering work is responsible for the tardiness in the construction of emplacements for completed guns. But, whatever the facts, the essential point is that, under the present system, in Secretary LAMONT'S opinion, the various factors in coast defence preparation do not enter into the problem in their proper places, and there is great need of general supervision.

That this lack of proper coordination must continue under the present system is further shown by a table of the various components of the new defenses as they will exist next July. It appears that there will be twenty-nine 12-inch guns completed, with only ten emplacements or lifts for them, and only three emplacements on which to put the carriages. There will be forty-five 10-inch guns ready, thirty-three carriages for them, and but sixteen emplacements. There will be the handsome number of sixty-three 8-inch guns, but much fewer carriages for that calibre, and only five emplacements. In other words, out of a total of 137 heavy guns, at the utmost only twenty-four will be in position for actual use.

It is such facts as these that cause the Secretary to declare that "the disparity in the rates in which the different branches of fortification are proceeding furnishes valid reason for the creation of a Board of Central Control," to be composed of army officers, without restriction as to rank or corps, serving without extra pay, and to be selected by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate, should that be deemed wise. The officers of this Board would then be relieved of all other service, and charged solely with the task of directing and supervising the work in its entirety. The Secretary assumes, as he is unquestionably justified in doing, that American ingenuity will soon supply a 12-inch disappearing gun-carriage, so that there is now no excuse whatever for a want of harmony in the different parts of the coast defence preparations.

Satisfactory types of guns, mortars, and carriages have been devised, and sound business sense requires that the operation of construction should be treated as much as possible from the delays necessarily incident to the division of a work among several contractors, current currency with a variety of distracting affairs of large magnitude.

One other plan of arriving at the same end has since been proposed. It is that of making the current appropriation a lump sum, at the Secretary's disposal, since then he could divide it in such a way as to bring forward the parts of the general scheme that are most in arrears by giving them an extra share. This might do well as a temporary device for present purposes, and perhaps it would result practically in the Secretary's appointment of such a Board of Control as he suggests to make the distribution and push on the work.

It is possible, however, that the present bill, if passed, a body of officers such as Mr. LAMONT has proposed should apparently have charge of this great work. Such a Board not only could advise Congress as to what parts of the work are most backward, and must therefore receive the largest rate of appropriations, but it could also devise means for breaking up routine methods and concentrating the Government's resources on the work most behindhand. It might even bring in for a time the aid of private enterprise and manufacturing resources, even at a little greater cost, though probably this would not be necessary. It could act the part of the builder who gets every different trade and every set of workmen that is to take a hand in the structure at work at the right time and in the right degree of force, so that the whole and each part of the whole may be ready in the shortest practicable time.

Delving and Dredging.
The city of New York is fortunate in having in its service a courageous and vigilant official in ASHLEY PARMALEE FITCH, the Comptroller, whose observation of some of the bills sent to the Finance Department for payment by Reform officials is rather more scrutinizing than sympathetic.

It is especially provided by law that no municipal department in the city of New York shall enter into any contract, the amount of which is in excess of \$1,000, without advertising, in order that competitive bids may be offered, and the city, like private individuals or business firms, may gain the advantage of having the lowest available price. This law is binding upon the Dock Department, yet, in violation of it, a double violation in fact, the Dock Commissioners have entered into agreements with one Gombossy, for painting, leasing of wharves, and for letting of the contract, by the device of separating one piece of work so that the items would each be less than \$1,000, while the aggregate sum is in excess of that amount. Gombossy has sued upon his claim for painting, and Comptroller Fitch has withheld payment on the grounds we have stated.

Following close upon the heels of this flagrant evasion of the law by the Reform Commissioners of the Dock Department has come another, to which, it appears, the attention of the Grand Jury will be called this week. In the construction of New York docks and in the repairs necessary from time to time wood is, of course, extensively used, and recently the three Dock Commissioners advertised for bids for supplying lumber to this department. Three contractors submitted propositions at the price which now appears to rule in the trade, of \$20 per thousand feet. The Dock Commissioners, or a majority of them, rejected these bids, and then without advertising and without competition bought in smaller lots and to an amount in excess of \$1,000 the same supply, paying therefor \$21 per thousand feet. In this way the law was violated and the purpose for which it was adopted was disregarded, while an extra burden was imposed upon the taxpayers. To this bill also the Comptroller has objected, and to the transaction the attention of the Grand Jury will be called, as we have said.

In estimation of the course of the Dock Commissioners in thus violating an explicit regulation, the President of the Reform Dock Board, a resident of Plattsburgh, as it seems, owing his appointment to the influence of the Hon. JOHN J. BELDEN, has come forward with the announcement that his Republican associate in the Board, Mr. EISENTEIN, who as Treasurer signs the private orders, "will explain everything."

It is to be hoped that he may do this, and it is also to be hoped that no sentiment of political etiquette will prevent Commissioner O'BRIEN from also explaining his share in the transaction, involving as it does a striking injustice to the taxpayers of this city, of whom, as a resident of Plattsburgh, Mr. O'BRIEN is not one. The third member of the Reform Dock Board is Mr. JOHN MONKS, though what he had to do with the evasions of law involved in the acts of his Republican associates, does not clearly appear. His business is that of a dock builder, and he may have some expert knowledge of dock building which might be utilized for the benefit of the city from which he draws a salary of \$5,000 a year.

The two Republican members of the Reform Dock Board have been long rolling both in Albany and New York for some time past to secure the adoption of a law permitting a further expense of \$4,000,000, to be levied on the people of New York, for additional "improvements." If such wholesale expenditures are to be embarked in, in addition to the city's present annual expense on the docks, the good faith of the Commissioners who are to disburse this sum should be at least relieved from such implications as that to be inquired into by the Grand Jury.

If the incompetent Reform Commissioners of Accounts who have been wasting public money of late (expending last year \$54,000 for salaries, \$3,400 for detectives, \$1,300 for "experts") have not been able to ascertain what is going on in the Dock Department, the members of the Grand Jury may have better success, and a scandal in the expenditure of \$4,000,000 of public money will be avoided.

of their country, it could not be expected that either party to the war would mista chance to win because of the existence of the Board of Arbitration, which might deliberate upon the case for years.

Suppose, however, that the Board were to act promptly upon the case, which would not be impracticable, as the question at issue is a plain one, and as all the members would be in telegraphic communication with each other. Suppose that a majority of the members of the Board were to render judgment that the Spanish Government should assent to Cuba's independence, it is likely that Spain would haul down her flag at Havana, withdraw her army and navy from Cuba, give up her Cuban colony, descend another peg, and surrender the ownership of the last of her American colonies? More likely a hundred times that she would demur to the judgment of the Mikado, the Governor-General, and the American citizen of distinction, tell them to go to Morocco, and fling in their face the official paper with which they had insulted her.

Suppose, on the other hand, that the Board of Arbitration were to render a unanimous decision in favor of Spain and against Cuba, determining that the Cubans should submit to the rule of the Spanish monarchy, then the republic should dissolve the army, surrender their persons to Spain, shout "Viva España!" acclaim WYLLIE as the man for them, and swear that they are pleased with martial law, and the decrees of terrorism. More likely a thousand times that the Cubans would prefer death on the battlefield in the last ditch, under the flag of Free Cuba. More likely they would prefer the ruin of their country. They know what Spanish despotism and domination mean, after experiencing them for centuries. They prefer liberty with independence to life under the galling Spanish yoke.

It is a truth, therefore, that we could not look for the success of any Board of Arbitration in the controversy between the Spanish Government and the existing Cuban revolution.

It looks to us as though the struggle must go on until one or other of the belligerents shall win the day. It is our opinion, moreover, that if Spain were to win the day she would very surely lose it at night.

The majority of delegates in the Republican National Convention will, without doubt, be for sound money and its maintenance, meaning money measured by the old and existing gold standard.

The equality of the delegates in the Democratic National Convention will with about equal certainty be for similar money.

There will be no issue on bimetalism or monometalism except what can be raised by the stargazers and trouble makers, the Populists; and they won't amount to anything. They will be a man of falling stature. He plays upon the German flute until the birds drop fainting from the trees and the frogs in distant pools sob and weep bitterly. With Governor COVET carrying his flute upon the stump in Connecticut and Hon. TAYLOR fiddling himself into the chair of the Governor of Tennessee, next summer and fall should be a time since the world began for the halcyons and for harmony.

The Hon. BELT WATERS knows football, how to take care of himself, and to win the liking and respect of other young fellows; and he is fuller of sand than any seashore known to the geography books. Harvard is lucky to get such a chap for her Harvard football; it only remains for her Harvard to support him sturdily, and to wish that the crimson eleven may be victorious. It is highly respectable to lose if the loss is borne well, but change is the life of man; and an occasional triumph has a spicy savor even in the most resigned philosophical moments.

The Hon. THOMAS WITHERELL PALMER is suspected, perhaps without cause, of being a candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Michigan. The Hon. PIERRE PISGORE, Mayor of Detroit, has plainly and properly declared his intention of gripping that same nomination if he can get his hands on it. Mr. PALMER, if he really would like to be Governor, and Mr. Everybody else who has a man of falling stature, should be a man of falling stature. He plays upon the German flute until the birds drop fainting from the trees and the frogs in distant pools sob and weep bitterly. With Governor COVET carrying his flute upon the stump in Connecticut and Hon. TAYLOR fiddling himself into the chair of the Governor of Tennessee, next summer and fall should be a time since the world began for the halcyons and for harmony.

As sure as guns, the Bermuda cargo of small arms was landed in Cuba. The ship made for a port very near Havana, at the upper end of the new Spanish trocha, which no enemy except Mexico could approach; and we doubt whether a nearer thing has ever been done by the revolutionists than that which they did to insure the safe landing of the ship's cargo. Knowing about the time when the Bermuda would reach port, they attacked the Spaniards at a place some distance away, making it necessary for the Spanish troops to withdraw with their troops at the upper end of the trocha near Mariel, so as to save the Spanish force stationed and fighting at Pinar. That was the time for the Bermuda to land her arms, and as soon as they were landed the revolutionists, who were in the neighborhood, rushed to the landing place, took possession of the arms, and were again ready for Spain before the Spanish General knew why they had fled from the original battlefield. One despatch has said that it was GOMEZ who set up the trocha in Spain, and another has said it was LARREA; but we guess that both of these men must have put their heads together, though they were more than a hundred miles apart. None of them did it alone, he is the man who ought to have lived in the early years of this century, when Napoleon was striking at the great gates of Europe looking for somebody who could outmaneuver him, whip him, or put a head on him. What is the use of Spain fighting Cuba?

Mr. L. T. McKENLEY of Indiana says: "There is a great deal of talk about the tariff for revenue only. Democratic Administration." (Congressional Digest.)

London public men are discrediting to any extent the Cretan Administration. They have not proposed a tariff for revenue only, never enacted one, and the country has had no experience with one. We have had no disturbing and absurd tariff for deficit, and of that the people of this country, unless they have gone crazy, are heartily tired.

Those Catalans, 12,000 strong, who desire to fight the United States, ask only two favors. The Spanish Government must give them guns and see to it that they are landed upon some part of the territory of the United States. We have tried to think upon what part of our territory it would be safest for them to land. We have a long coast line, both upon the Atlantic and the Pacific, and there are plenty of good landing places between Eastport and Seattle. There is Philadelphia, a quiet kind of place when John Jay was there, and where the British took South Carolina, and we may remark that that man is going to Colorado. There is Texas, an inviting spot, not so unhealthy as Cuba in the last season. Let the Catalans look over a map of the United States. We can only warn them not to do anything that might stir up trouble, and we would be glad to see them if they would be desirable for the land near New York; for they would surely be content and put upon exhibition among the other attractions at BARNUM & BAILEY'S great American and unparalleled circus. Crowds of people who do not care a cent for zebras, elephants and other curiosities, would rush there to see the 12,000 Catalans.

The Elections Committee of the House of Representatives has aimed an iron bolt at one of the greatest members of that body by voting to unseat the Hon. JAMES E. CONN, who has represented the First Alabama district in three Congresses and held the office for four years. Mr. CONN is struck down to make room for a Populist, but he will get up again. He is up already, on his feet, alert, alive, immortal. His fame is secure. He won it fairly, by a stroke of official genius, and it will not be taken away from him. He will go to sea again, and his noble holds good. From his lips came the great inquiry, "Where am I at?" and with that inquiry smiling in wonder from his lips, he will stand in the hall of history as long as history is able to hire a hall.

The Better Element in New York and Pennsylvania sought to sleep soundly now that the Hon. COLLIER PLATT and the Hon. STANLEY QUAY have left their native haunts and are wandering on strands remote. It is an accepted proposition among the Better Element that all the wickedness, troubles, failures of the latter element, are the result of Mr. PLATT and Mr. QUAY. The temporary migration of these workers of woe ought to fill out many deeply belted wrinkles and clothe with comfortable flesh many lean and anxious bones. Mr. QUAY and Mr. PLATT are not only able to appear, but they know what their interior sufferings are? Who can estimate Mr. QUAY'S pains when the Hog Cumbe rose up against him? Who can judge what has been the cost of the Union League to Mr. PLATT

In intellectual wear and abrasion of the feelings? Will the HAINES license in the window be sufficient humorous satisfaction to him for Mrs. DICKSON'S comment on his attitude toward the unwearied workers within that palace of the best Republican thought?

As for the incorrigible PLATT and QUAY, it is said that they are already organizing the alligators.

The Hon. RUDOLPH KLEBERG, nominated by the Democrats in the Eleventh Congress district of Texas, is a man of solid gold in his financial views, and these are his principles regarding the tariff, as stated by the San Antonio Daily Express: "The tariff plank adopted by the Convention which nominated KLEBERG for a tariff for revenue only with incidental protection. It is almost impossible to provide sufficient revenue for the Government without extra tariff on raw materials."

Mr. KLEBERG returns here to the platform of the Hon. SAMUEL J. HANCOCK, but he would have been more accurate if he had said that a tariff for revenue only must necessarily impose a tariff on raw materials. That doctrine requires that one thing should be taxed as much as another.

The Rev. Dr. BISHOP of St. Louis prophesies that the most momentous strike in the world's history will soon be inaugurated.—Boston Globe.

Tickle the eye and pipe the lay; let drum and trumpet boom and baw, while all the nation yells Hoory! The baseball tide, as it is called in Boston, comes with at least thirty-five feet and hands, which make a shadow of the sky. The masks are on; the pads and buffers and various other infernal devices are in place; the umpire has been called to the spot; every man on the field has assumed an attitude of ferocious concentration and evident agony. The bleachers groan beneath their load of dialect. The watchers on the benches and treeps and hilltops are getting hoarse with waiting already. The boy with the clubs is regarded with reverence by everybody of his age. The policemen never looked more noble and stern. The Indians are wondering if they are to take home the score cards as souvenirs, or give them up at the gate as they go out. The peanut man is sowing wide and deep the seeds of a ravenous thirst. The mascot feels the eye of nations turn to him with reverence. The umpire is in the center. Play ball! Play ball! The most momentous strike ever struck will be heard through the game. The Hon. BEN ARON is about to fulfill a long-made threat and hit the ball.

It may be gloomy tidings for the Hon. JOHN ANDERSON PORTER, but it is genial tidings for all the other members of the House of Representatives to hear that the Hon. GEORGE V. COVET is likely to consent to be a candidate for re-nomination to the Governorship of Connecticut. Mr. COVET seems to have been an excellent Governor, but he is more and more unpopular. He plays upon the German flute until the birds drop fainting from the trees and the frogs in distant pools sob and weep bitterly. With Governor COVET carrying his flute upon the stump in Connecticut and Hon. TAYLOR fiddling himself into the chair of the Governor of Tennessee, next summer and fall should be a time since the world began for the halcyons and for harmony.

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FOR DISCRIMINATING DUTIES.
The Proposed Revival of a Policy Abandoned Seventy Years Ago.
WASHINGTON, April 6.—It may be recalled that recently Senator ELKINS introduced into Congress a bill which provides that, fifteen months after its enactment, "a discriminating duty of 10 per centum ad valorem, in addition to the duties imposed by law, shall be levied upon all goods imported in this country in vessels not belonging to citizens of the United States." The date of fifteen months ahead was doubtless set because our country is under a year's notice of the abrogation of the treaties must be given. Such a notice is provided for in Senator ELKINS'S bill.

Some long bygone history is revived by this proposal. A little over a century ago the act of 1780 established discriminating duties, and the beginning of Washington's Administration. It continued also for nearly forty years. A summary of the discriminating duties fixed by the law of 1780 is given by Seaboard, based upon the statements of Capt. W. W. Bates's work, called "The American Marine."

It appears that tax on tea, China ware to be taxed as follows: Opium, 6 cents; on suchong, 10 cents; on hyson, 20 cents, and on other green tea 12 cents per pound. The charges on tea in American ships from Europe were 8, 13, 20, and 10 cents per pound respectively, and on tea imported in any other way than by foreign ships 10 cents per pound. It is further asserted, according to the same authorities, that "in other trades than the Chinese and East India a rebate of 10 per cent. was made on all import duties," with the same purpose of favoring American ships.

The bill was passed by the first Congress, and six years later a second bill was approved, which declared that on either American or foreign built vessels, if owned by citizens on May 20, 1780, the tonnage dues should be 6 cents per ton, on vessels which should afterward be built in the United States, partly or wholly owned by foreigners, 10 cents per ton, and on all other vessels, 20 cents per ton. It is further asserted that at that time American ships were actually built more cheaply than foreign, although the latter could underbid the former in freight.

Five years later, it appears, the duty on imported foreign ships was changed, and became 10 per cent. in addition to the regular duty. The first section of the act read as follows: "That an addition of ten per cent. shall be levied on the duties on all goods, wares, and merchandise, which, after the said last day of May, 1780, shall be imported in any vessel not built in the United States." It is worth noting here that the ELKINS bill is intended to reduce the duty on foreign ships to 10 cents per ton, although it is still on the statute books, its character has been essentially altered by subsequent legislation.

Another ten years passed, and then, when the tariff law was revised, the act of 1780, the 10 per cent. additional duty "in respect to all goods in ships or vessels not built in the United States, partly or wholly owned by foreigners," was repealed, and the results were favorable to American shipping.

The summary of the discriminating duties levied by Congress were not in the least modified by discriminatory acts directed against American ships, and in 1815 it was determined to withdraw the discriminating duties on American ships whenever other nations should withdraw theirs. The principle has been embodied in the act for that purpose, embodying the principle of what was known as "reciprocal liberty of commerce." The principle has been embodied in the act for that purpose, embodying the principle of what was known as "reciprocal liberty of commerce." The principle has been embodied in the act for that purpose, embodying the principle of what was known as "reciprocal liberty of commerce."

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WOMAN'S VIEW OF IT.
A Letter from Elizabeth Cady Stanton.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—For some weeks I have been suffering from one of the "natural shocks that flesh is heir to," and have been unable to have the contents of THE SUN read to me. But now, once more, I have that pleasure. Just prior to my illness I read your eloquent words in favor of liberty for all colored at the meeting held by the Cuban patriots. Now, with returning health, reading the MONITOR and EVENING SUN, three thoughts suggest themselves to me:

I. If the women of this nation, true descendants of their Revolutionary forefathers, sit, as they should, in the halls of Congress, their sole bolth would be, "Cuba must be free!" "Equal rights everywhere for man and woman."

II. Our sympathies should be extended to the inhabitants of Armenia and Abyssinia; the one, struggling against the unscrupulous Turk for religious toleration, the other, against the Italian invader, for health and home. True, Menelik, King of Abyssinia, in his letter to Missionary Clarke, published in THE SUN of April 2, insists that Christians should not abandon the teachings of the Old Testament, but we should not be so foolish as to insist on the "Mistakes of Moses" and "The Woman's Bible" not yet having been submitted to the royal eye. I have caused a copy of "The Woman's Bible" to be forwarded to his Majesty, and, when he reads, he will, undoubtedly, modify his views as to the laws of Moses being used as a rule of civil conduct.

III. In THE EVENING SUN of April 3 you ask, "What will Mrs. Stanton and Miss Anthony have to say" to Mr. W. E. H. Lecky's objection to women entering politics, on the ground that they are "more impulsive and emotional than men." I have to say, Mr. Lecky, that you are undisciplined and misplaced compassion, to the neglect of the larger and more permanent interests of society; that they have not "a due sense of the proportion of things, and adequate subordination of impulse to reason, and habitual regard to the ultimate and distant consequences of their actions." Words, words, words. The principles of home rule, religious toleration, equal rights for all, are interdependent.

If the women of this republic were voters, Cuba would be free. If women were free in Turkey, there would be no Armenian outrages. Injustice begets injustice. When woman is recognized as the mother of the race, and is honored as such, then, and not until then, will peace and justice be of all, for all. With great esteem,

ELIZABETH CADY STANTON.

SUNBURNS.
A citizen of Bideford, Me., who failed to be elected Mayor of the town at the recent election, has sought the indignity of getting sunburned. The fire Department of America, Ga., was called out one evening last week by a watchful citizen who caught a glimpse of his home just as its side came up above the horizon.

A "sea-sickness" of Oregon is held by a man in Dallas, who swallowed twenty-five raw eggs in a few seconds under two minutes. The best previous record was made by a Portland crank, who took twelve minutes to swallow twenty-five raw eggs.

Mrs. Margaret L. Watson, a woman suffragist, is running for the office of City Secretary of Beaumont, Tex. The lawyers of the town have decided that a woman may hold the office, and Mrs. Watson has a manly supporter, black and white, who is working hard for her election.

Conductors on the principal street car line of San Francisco may not indulge in fashionable vagaries in the matter of linen. An order issued a few days ago expressly forbids them from wearing shirts, collars, or cuffs, and further specifies that they must wear white shirts, collars, and cuffs while on duty.

California has been shipping oranges to Florida for some time, and the industry is getting only a meagre return. The Californians should show some little self-satisfaction in this remarkable victory over a once strong competitor. A steady supply of California navel oranges has been shipped every week since February from Pomona to Jacksonville and St. Augustine, destined mainly for consumption by tourists at the big Florida hotels. Ten car loads of oranges were shipped last week.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.
Liverpool policemen have been ordered to learn shorthand.

An Englishman named Jefferson has started on a 6,000-mile bicycle ride to Irkutsk in Siberia. His machine and baggage weigh about nine hundred and thirty pounds, and he has a tank of kerosene of about 150 gallons, and about nine and a half miles, before it came down from Cambrai.

England now has the spy mania. Three Russian naval officers have been fined \$50 each for trespassing on the Hong Kong fortifications and making sketches.

England is so shy of her transportation service since the expedition sent out to relieve Khartoum, that she has made a contract with a tourist agency to transport the Egyptian forces to the Sudan by the Suez Canal.

Before the 80-knot torpedo boat destroyers have been tested, the British Admiralty is demanding a speed of 83 knots in the contracts for the latest vessels of that class. The horse power needed will be very high.

Mr. Arthur Balfour seems to have had luck with his bicycle. He recently appeared in the House of Commons with his right arm in a sling and a "mow-shaken" appearance, having collided with a "mow-shaken" woman. A short while ago he was knocked out of the Old Kent road by a baker's cart, and during the winter he was upset in Whitechapel and taken home in a cab.

Frenchmen from the South, like their brethren, are very fond of the automobile. When President Faure stopped at Arles on his recent tour and could he would suspect the hospital there the authorities were in a fix, as there happened to be no patients. They sent out a call for volunteers, however, and within a few minutes the hospital was found all the beds occupied by convalescents.

London shipbuilders have been complaining that they get no Government contracts. Mr. Goschen has pointed out that it is the effort to maintain the standard of private firms to go to the Type and the Clyde. For repairing the Humber the Londoners were \$120,000, while the Admiralty had the work done in the north for \$45,000.

Electoral reform in the United States is being discussed in Vienna. The Emperor has a constitutional crisis. The Emperor has a constitutional crisis. The Emperor has a constitutional crisis.

Partnership Unwarmed.
"Seen Bill down the Common's Engineer." "Seen Bill down the Common's Engineer." "Seen Bill down the Common's Engineer."

Personal.
"How did you do, the actor, come to change his name?" "How did you do, the actor, come to change his name?" "How did you do, the actor, come to change his name?"