



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1898.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. DAILY, per Month, \$3.00. DAILY, per Year, \$30.00. SUNDAY, per Year, \$3.00. DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year, \$33.00. DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month, \$2.75. Postage to foreign countries added. Sent by Express, New York City.

For our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication we have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Democratic Canvass.

The expected Republican candidate for Governor of New York, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, is a guidepost for the Democrats, to which as yet they have failed to lift up their eyes. They are mightily mistaken if they think that they can contend successfully, or even creditably, against a clear thinking, straight-speaking Republican like ROOSEVELT, if they put up a non-committal straddler to stand as an apology for the Democratic party rather than to defend it.

The New York Democrats cannot hope to defeat their party platform, the Bryan platform, either by failure to redempt it, or by nominating a candidate hostile to it, or by the winners in either case will be the Republicans. The Democrats must adopt one of two courses if they wish to be able during the campaign even to look the people of New York, particularly the supporters of Col. ROOSEVELT, in the face.

One is to take a Democrat whose adherence to the cause of honest money is so unquestionably sincere that men know that he would scorn to accept Democratic leadership except on the distinct condition of BRITAIN'S condemnation. Here is a sample:

FOR GOVERNOR: W. BOURKE COCKRAN. PLATFORM: Reputation of Bryan and all his works.

The other and simpler way is this, nominating an open advocate of Bryanism:

FOR GOVERNOR: JOHN C. SHEEHAN. PLATFORM: The Chicago Platform of 1896.

If Mr. SHEEHAN is not the choice of the convention, what better man is there for the purpose than WILBUR F. PORTER, who ran for Governor on the Bryan platform two years ago? Any other sort of Democratic campaign than those here outlined will be unconceivable trickery and humbug.

Our Small Loss.

We have been hearing loud outcries from sensational newspapers about the alleged mismanagement of our war with Spain, as shown in the great prevalence of disease in the army. This vituperation proceeds on no better basis than hearsay and unauthenticated evidence furnished chiefly by newspaper reporters. It is well to look at the indisputable facts, so far as they are obtainable, as to the rate of mortality comparatively to that in the Franco-German war, when two States maintaining great military establishments were in conflict.

The Surgeon-General of our army estimates the number of deaths from disease up to this time at about 1,500, including the mortality from disease in Cuba. Our total force was about 250,000, and the deaths therefore have been only about three-fifths of one per cent. That unquestionable authority, the "Conversations-Lexikon," published at Leipzig, tells us that the German army which crossed the French borders in the Franco-German war numbered about 1,100,000 men. Of these the average force in the field was 788,000. The deaths from disease were 14,904, or more than one and a third per cent. of the total force. The "Conversations-Lexikon" puts the death percentage from disease at eighteen in the thousand, or nearly two per cent. According to the Surgeon-General's estimate of 1,500 deaths out of 250,000 in our war, the mortality from disease was only six in a thousand, or six-tenths of one per cent.

The showing in our favor is the more remarkable because the German Army, in the war with France, represented the highest state of military organization in modern times. The war was fought in a civilized country, with military routes in the best state of development, and on ground which had been the scene of battle since the dawn of European civilization. As compared with our war the transportation of troops was over short distances only. Every move had been long considered by Germany and been carefully prepared for; the staff organization was perfect. The arrangements for the mobilization of the German Army in view of this exact contingency had been made in every detail. Everything was ready, arms, ammunition, accoutrements, supplies. Nothing had to be done on the spur of the moment, as was the case with us. It was a war for which the most minute preparations had been made for many years by the most completely organized military nation of modern times; yet, as we have shown, the death rate from sickness was three times what it has been, so far, in our war with Spain. The Franco-German war lasted about seven months, our war up to the present time about five months, but the advantages of the Germans, as we have related, go far to neutralize this inequality in length.

The French Army in the war with Germany suffered frightfully from disease. The Army and Navy Journal, quoting Dr. CHENEY, a French medical authority, gives the number of "sick and frost-bitten," "caused by the pitiful and miserable equipment of our soldiers, and especially their kilt," at the enormous total of 339,421.

The Trans-Siberian Railway and its Influence on Sea Trade.

In Europe they are already beginning to take account of the revolution that the completion of the trans-Siberian railway will make in trade and travel between western Europe and the Far East. M. ANATOLE LEROY BEAULIEU, in the course of some articles he is contributing to the Revue des Deux Mondes, shows how large will be the gain in time and cost of the journey from any point in Europe to eastern China over the present routes. When finished, a traveller from London to Peking will be able to pass over the entire distance in about fifteen days, which, when the line has been consolidated and strengthened by use and its connections working order, should be reduced to ten or twelve days. The Russian Government is preparing to do everything possible to make the trip comfortable and attractive for passen-

gers, and it will be much cheaper than by either the Suez Canal route or the sea and land journey by way of Canada. At present the voyage to Yokohama by sea via Suez takes thirty-four days, and twenty-five by the Canadian route. To Shanghai the shortest duration of the voyage by the canal is twenty-eight days, and by way of Canada thirty-one; and to Hong Kong it is twenty-five and thirty-three days by the same respective routes. Allowing for the sea voyages from Port Arthur and Vladivostok, which will be the first termini of the trans-Siberian line, all the above-named points will be reached in far less time than by any of the existing routes. When the interior lines of railway in China are completed and connected with the Russian road, the steam routes, except for heavy goods that will not bear railway freight charges, will be outside competition. Some approach to the facilities that will be afforded by the railways projected by the Continental Railway, Anglo-Minor and southern Persia to India, and thence through Burma, but in any case it cannot be for many years to come, and the distance will in no instance be less. In the question of fares and freight rates the Russian line will always have the advantage in being under one individual control.

As against the trans-Siberian railway the existing steamship lines from Europe will be powerless to compete except for heavy goods; and the mails will certainly take the shortest and quickest route. It is calculated that, everything included, a traveller by the Russian railway will be able to go from western Europe to Japan or the north of China for \$100 and the south for \$190, as compared with \$300 by the present steamship routes. Later, when the volume of travel will have increased, it is believed that return tickets may be profitably issued for from \$225 to \$250.

On goods freights the new railway cannot fail to have considerable influence. For the cheaper and more bulky class of articles the seven thousand miles of rail would be too expensive a mode of carriage, but for parcels, the more costly products such as silk, the precious metals and similar things, and articles of small bulk generally, the railway will be the natural mode of transit. The finer qualities of tea, also, that are liable to deterioration in the holds of steamers passing through extremely hot latitudes, will reach the European market in finer condition and flavor after a short journey in a more equable temperature by rail.

That the Russian Government means to retain for itself as much of the advantage anticipated from the construction of the trans-Siberian railway as possible is evident from the fact that it is intended to connect a line of steamers with it, especially designed for freight and passenger service, between a Russian Baltic port and British and western European ports. It is hardly possible as yet to estimate the full significance of these projects or their ultimate influence on the present course of trade between the East and the West, but that they are destined at first, perhaps, to damage some existing interests there can be no doubt. The balance, however, would be established so soon as the flow of capital into China and the development of that country had added to the general movement of trade, sure to follow its opening up to a more active life than has been possible under the stagnating rule of the Mandarins.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Boston Republic, makes these curious observations as to the conditions which determine the military service of a distinguished martialist-into from Nebraska:

"Mr. BRYAN went into the volunteer army just as other patriotic citizens went in, from a sense of duty. He went to fight his country's battles, not to do garrison duty. He did not intend to follow the popular opinion, but to do his duty. The emergency has passed. The war is over. Mr. BRYAN, who has obligations and duties in civil life, should be at once relieved from further military service and sent home. An Administration with any sense of duty would do this without waiting for the suggestion made."

The Present Status of the Dreyfus Affair.

There may be no foundation for the report published in the London Daily Mail that a French Government vessel has been already despatched to Devil's Island for the purpose of bringing DREYFUS back to France. It is scarcely probable that an order for the removal of the prisoner would be issued before it was certain that a new trial would take place. Thus far only a first step in that direction has been taken, and, although this commits the Brisson Cabinet to a recognition of the duty of guidance, he has positive responsibilities in this relation which he cannot escape or put aside. To compel his further service in the army, and thus to leave him to his fate, would be to ignore his obligations to the people for political advice and guidance. He has positive responsibilities in this relation which he cannot escape or put aside. To compel his further service in the army, and thus to leave him to his fate, would be to ignore his obligations to the people for political advice and guidance. He has positive responsibilities in this relation which he cannot escape or put aside.

It has happened up to the present moment should be regarded simply as a proof of a turning of the tide. Premier BRISSON and the majority of his colleagues have assumed a position directly opposite to that maintained by preceding Ministers, who have set their faces inflexibly against revision on the ground that the conviction of DREYFUS was *chose jugée*, or *res adjudicata*. On Saturday the Hon. M. SARRIEN, after learning from M. SARRIEN, Minister of Justice, that his investigation had convinced him that a retrial of DREYFUS was expedient, authorized him to form the special commission prescribed by law in such cases, in order to ascertain whether his conclusion would be confirmed. As the members of the commission are to be designated by M. SARRIEN, their confirmation of his opinion may be doubtless taken for granted, but it will still remain for the Court of Cassation to pronounce finally upon the question of revision. If that ultimate tribunal, which will be controlled by principles of law, and not by political considerations, shall reaffirm the decision of the special commission, a new trial of DREYFUS by court-martial will be ordered.

Even then much, obviously, will depend upon the occupant of the War Office, and upon the influence exercised by his Ministerial colleagues. Should M. BRISSON be Premier at the time, the prisoner's friends could rely upon an impartial selection of the officers deputed to constitute the court, and secure the most impartial consideration of the case. Should the Brisson Cabinet, on the other hand, be beaten in the Chamber of Deputies and succeeded by an anti-revisionist Ministry, not only would every effort be made to prevent or postpone a retrial of DREYFUS, but there is reason to apprehend that should a retrial prove unavoidable, the court-martial would be formed of officers hostile to the prisoner, and that the proceedings would be again secret.

Manifestly, then, the reassembling of the French Parliament in October will be awaited with feverish anxiety by both the friends and enemies of DREYFUS. Even if it be true that there has been a marked change in the current of public opinion in Paris, and that this is now favorable to revision, it does not necessarily follow that the revision will be reflected in the Chamber of Deputies, which was elected last spring when, all over France, there was a tremendous demonstration of feeling against DREYFUS and his champions. It must be remembered that M. BRISSON's predecessor, M. MELLER, was beaten by only a very small majority and that M. BRISSON has since not the support of some of the conductors whose support enabled him to take office.

He has lost M. CAVARINAC, who was his first Minister of War, and M. TILLAT, his Minister of Public Works, both of whom resigned because they are still convinced of DREYFUS's guilt, and are, consequently, opposed to a retrial. The influence of President FAURE, also, must count for something in the Chamber, and he is known to have opposed M. BRISSON's decision in favor of a revision. Should, therefore, a new trial be ordered by the Court of Cassation, the opponents of revision may be expected to make a last desperate rally in the Chamber of Deputies, and it is by no means certain that they will not succeed in ousting M. BRISSON and in replacing him by a Premier pledged to conform to their desires. It will, indeed, be impossible to refuse DREYFUS a retrial, if this shall have been meanwhile ordered by the highest judicial tribunal, but, as we have said, it will still be practicable for an anti-revisionist Ministry to avert a thoroughly impartial inquiry by appointing a court-martial prejudicial against the accused and determined to uphold any cost the so-called honor of the French Army.

It would be incredible that any Frenchman should suppose that military honors would be sacrificed to an innocent man—of course DREYFUS must be deemed innocent until he has been fairly tried and condemned—but for the almost frantic rage with which the decision of the Brisson Cabinet has been received in Paris by certain spokesmen of the anti-revisionists. M. DREYFUS, for instance, actually advises the military authorities to put an end to the Dreyfus affair by shooting the victim of an unjust sentence, and PAUL DE CASSAGNAC cynically inquires what difference it should make to mankind if there should be some defect in the proof on which an individual suspected of espionage and treason is confined on Devil's Island. When men who undertake to discharge the function of leaders of opinion are permitted thus to defy the fundamental principles of justice and publicly to advocate the violation of the laws, there is no telling what the majority of the Chamber of Deputies will do.

Argentina is to be congratulated if her President has asked the Hon. JULIUS STEINLEIGH MORTON of Nebraska to spend 1890 in organizing a department of Agriculture and furnishing general bucolic and agricultural information. If Argentina is determined to raise and study pocket-poggers, from no deeper fount than Mr. MORTON can she draw experience as to those gifted burrowers. Agriculture, as the Department of Agriculture showed when MORTON was Secretary, rests upon pocket-poggers.

Fame is a careless jade and doesn't take any pains in keeping the books. Over many conscientious journals in the South and West would not speak of WHARREN "PARKER." Middle-of-the-road candidate for President, who will be nearly two years, however, in which to rectify the errors of his administration. Such is the advantage of an early convention. In two years the people can learn about Mr. "PARKER," familiarize themselves with him, and grow up to him.

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Democrats Who Learn Nothing.

The Democratic platforms of Missouri and Texas oppose a large standing army. The doctrine of the hunker Democrats, who have learned nothing from the war, was thus asserted by the Hon. JOSEPH WILSON BAILEY of Texas in the House of Representatives last May:

"If we are creating offices or providing armies to meet an emergency, the offices and the armies ought to go out of existence with the cessation of the emergency."

Mr. BAILEY and his fellow Bourbonians cannot grasp the idea that the army should be ready for the emergency. In spite of the lessons of the war as to the absolute necessity of trained forces on the land as well as on the sea, these Democrats wish that the main military reliance of the country in the case of another war shall be on improvised and undisciplined levies.

The Silver Colonel.

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polley will make apiritless beggars among the people and bring the end of free institutions." Mr. MOON will still be left, and Mr. MOON must be a free institution, although he is well worth a reasonable price of admission. The people cannot be beggars while they have Mr. MOON. MOON is rich.

The Hon. W. E. STANLEY, the Republican candidate for Governor of Kansas, thus describes the financial inquisitions conducted by the agents of the Hon. Wm. McNALL, the celebrated Superintendent of Internal Affairs in that State:

"The Populists say they have compiled the insurance company accounts. But all that has been done is the extracting of a law which gives the Insurance Commissioner, Mr. McNALL, power to send agents to Eastern companies for an examination. These agents go to the company's head office and examine the books, and then they come back with the fee is \$500. If the company pays the fee the agent pockets it and reports the company all right and entitled to do business in Kansas. If they refuse to put up the money, if they refuse to be blackmailed, the report is not favorable."

As the Kansas Populists want the State to go into the hands of the Hon. Wm. McNALL, they are investigating private insurance corporations intelligently. Doubtless his agents have something of their own activity. How active he is may be judged from the story of his industry in charging mileage when he was a deputy Sheriff at that time he used to ride a horse popularly known as Old Finks, a record breaker in the mileage line. It is said that Deputy Sheriff McNALL's mileage bills showed that in one day he and Old Finks had travelled 962 miles. Can the soulless insurance corporations expect to pull the wool over the eyes of a traveller like that?

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Wear the Philippine Button.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—It has become apparent to me that, notwithstanding the very great preponderance of public sentiment in this country in favor of retaining the Philippines and all our other trans-Pacific acquisitions, there seems, nevertheless, to be a very great tendency to shy at the far as an act of expedition on the part of the general public is concerned. Aside from the very commendable and energetic attitude assumed by the leading newspapers of the country, there seems to be a sort of condition of coma on the part of individuals, and in fact on the part of commercial bodies, who view the acquisition of the Philippines as a vital importance which is to be maintained by the President, Commissioners and upon the Senate, which must ratify the latter's actions, the emphatic fact that the people of this country realize that their duty to humanity is as great in the Philippines now as it was in Cuba before this war of emancipation, and that the Philippines is a country which is to be maintained by the President, Commissioners and upon the Senate, which must ratify the latter's actions, the emphatic fact that the people of this country realize that their duty to humanity is as great in the Philippines now as it was in Cuba before this war of emancipation, and that the Philippines is a country which is to be maintained by the President, 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