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The Cuban Fiscal Problem.

The attempts of the Cuban Executive and Legislature to cope with the financial problems which confront them should not be harshly criticized, but ought, on the contrary, to be viewed with sympathy in the United States, because we are largely to blame for the industrial crisis with which the island is at present afflicted.

Had our Congress heeded President Roosevelt's request, and admitted Cuban sugars to our market on terms materially lower than those fixed by the Dingley Tariff, no crisis would have occurred. Sugar could have been produced at a profit, and the output of that commodity would have undergone a signal increase; the island's demand for imports would have been correspondingly augmented, and the income derivable from customs duties levied upon imports at Havana and other Cuban ports would have been proportionately expanded.

The result of our refusal to aid her is that Cuba is prostrate, so far as her principal industry is concerned. She cannot hope to find a market in Europe for her sugar, or to sell it in the American market for a remunerative price before Oct. 1, 1903, when the sugar convention framed at Brussels goes into effect.

Meanwhile the sugar planters of Cuba are positively worse off than those of the British West Indies, for whose relief during the next twelve months the British Government has arranged to appropriate \$1,250,000. Had Cuba been permitted by us to become a British colony, or even to grant Great Britain a decided preference in the insular market, it is probable that the Cuban sugar growers could have obtained a similar temporary subsidy from the British Parliament. It is well understood, however, at Havana that we would permit nothing of the kind.

Even the resource of annexation to the United States is withheld from Cuba for the moment. There is no doubt that the Merchants and Planters' Association of Cuba was ready the other day to present to the Washington Government a petition for annexation, but they are believed to have been informed that the movement would meet with no support at our Federal capital. At all events, the annexation movement collapsed.

In such a grievous dilemma, what is the Cuban Government to do? How can it enable the sugar industry, which constitutes the nerve and sinew of the island, to tide over the interval which must elapse before the sugar convention goes into operation and raises the price all over the world?

One thing is certain—that we ought not to prejudice the matter of the proposed loan. We ought to listen with an open mind and in a sympathetic mood to the arguments presented by the Cuban Government.

The Well-Behaved Bicycle.

Last Tuesday last a man was struck by a bicycle in Asbury Park and received injuries from which he died. The accident was reported to be unavoidable.

A few days ago a boy who was roller-skating in Central Park ran in front of a bicycle and was thrown and badly hurt. The rider was not at fault.

These facts are cited by way of illustrating the character of such accidents as have occurred this summer among the cyclists, and also for the purpose of comparing the wheelmen's present misfortunes with those of the past, as regards their number and severity. Such a comparison is interesting mainly for two reasons. First, it shows the excellent results which the wheelmen have been able to accomplish, persuaded, to some extent, no doubt, by the bicycle police, but largely by their own respect for the rights of other people; and, secondly, it should afford a cause for reflection and also a small amount of consolation to those who regard the invasion of the wheel's rival, the automobile, as a permanent menace to the safety of other vehicles.

Six years ago the wheel was commonly looked upon as a prolific source of danger not only in the metropolis but throughout the land. Bicycle mishaps were of every-day occurrence, and many of them were fatal. It was not unusual for a score of serious accidents to be reported in and about New York during a single week. Some of them were due to the riders' inexperience, while others, apparently, were unavoidable; but a vast majority of the casualties resulted directly from recklessness on the part of the wheelmen.

How to reform the offenders and make them understand the danger of their course was the problem. Fines were imposed to the limit of the courts' power, and, in some cases, the guilty were threatened with a term in jail. Resolutions were passed in several of the more prominent cycle clubs aiming to discourage lawlessness among their members, while non-wheeling citizens resorted to divers methods calculated to bring the unruly to terms. All of these measures were, to a greater or less extent, effective temporarily, and, very likely, they were instrumental in bringing about the desired condition.

There was, however, no appreciable diminution of the number of accidents until the offending wheelmen themselves began to appreciate the deplorable and heinous nature of their acts, and also to understand that their continued lawlessness would, sooner or later, do

irreparable harm to cycling. When this fact became thoroughly comprehended the ranks of the scorchers were depleted, cycling was elevated in the popular estimation, and the wheel was no longer regarded as "an agent of evil." The weekly average of accidents in the neighborhood of New York was reduced to not more than half a dozen in 1898 and 1899; and during the present season, even in the month of July when recklessness usually reaches its high-water mark, the average of such occurrences in this city has not exceeded two a week, despite the fact that many thousands of wheels are in use here daily.

Of course, other reasons than those mentioned may be ascribed for the wheel's good behavior in the last two or three years; but the one which we have sought to emphasize cannot be overlooked. Is there any good reason why the automobile, whose use some people are now seeking to suppress on the ground that the machine imperils human life and, consequently, "a public nuisance," should not be able to imitate substantially the career of the wheel?

Long Live the King!

The coronation of EDWARD yesterday had a far broader significance than the crowning of a mere titular monarch.

It was the coronation of modern anti-septic surgery. The Englishman on whose head the crown was placed in Westminster Abbey was really JOSEPH LISTER—the head from which came the discoveries in the application of the antiseptic treatment by which the life of EDWARD and the lives of many thousands of other sufferers apparently doomed to death have been saved.

Churchwardens, Swigs and Centenarians.

It is, and it time has sense, will long remain, our pleasure to review the ranks of the centenarians and such young folks. We love to take the veterans by the hand, to inquire solicitously into their health and habits and to decorate with the Order of Merit that saved and saving remnant. There may be greater virtues than to live to be very old. The theologians and the moralists may look to that. We speak merely as lay students of human viability. Be great old age a virtue or a genius, it is the hardest virtue and the rarest genius; and we make no bones about saying that we have taken it for our own. There stands our map of life. At 70 we buy an annuity. For the next eighty-one years—there's luck in odd numbers—we grow mellow like old wine, and chuckle over the life insurance companies which, after vain efforts and tempting offers to induce us to die or take a lump sum in settlement, end by growing proud of us, point at us as a memorial of the utility of annuities and ask after our health as tenderly as if we were not costing them a cent. In fact, we shall be money in their pocket.

Our portrait, printed as a recommendation of a hundred medicines, whiskeys and tonics, which were never poured into our immitable insides, shows no patriarchal Populist. Patriarchs and Populists are out of style. No, "did you ever see such a young-looking man for his age?" I shouldn't take him for a day over 50. Yet he was in college with my great-grandfather. If we may use so familiar and comparatively juvenile phrase, you bet we were. We are the Oldest Living Graduate, bar none; and had shaved for years before such young fellows as the University of Chicago had down on 'em. We are the Oldest Living Everything. Our hearing is not what it once was, but there is so much noise in New York that everybody is deaf; and we are living right here in this town, my boy, and nowhere else. There isn't anywhere else.

For more than a hundred years automobiles and electric cars have been trying to run over us and they can't do it. Manholes have blown up on our feet; subways have leaped up and tried to make elevated railways of themselves for the sake of spilling us; if you look carefully you will see that we are rather bald on top of our head on account of the number of bricks, iron cornices and blocks of granite and marble that have tumbled on us during our brief pilgrimage, but we live and are glad of it and going to keep it up. We have worn no spectacles since some bungler in the "con" business wanted to bunco us in the City Hall Park in our ninety-ninth year; but we can see better than we could at 40 and hope to be able to read our obituary notice without the help of "specs." It will be a wonder, too. We are not only the Oldest Living Inhabitant of the United States but of the World, and the miserable humbugs in Serbia or elsewhere who pretend to be older than we are liars and swindlers.

Our health grows better every day. We have given up golf because we are the sole survivors of our class, but we ask no odds at pinocle or dominoes, game but gentle games, befitting our prominence. Lobsters ceased to exist in 1950, otherwise we should be glad to eat three broiled live ones a week in the season. We have smoked for 132 years; at present use no stimulants except a little New England rum and water when we are thirsty and a little whiskey and water at meals. As we never give reminiscences and say we never remember ages, never tell humorous anecdotes and seldom fall asleep during the humorous anecdotes of our juniors, we may say without vanity that we are the most popular old boy in circulation. Invitations rain on us. Pretty girls with whose great-great-grandmothers we danced like to talk to us. Even our descendants, knowing we have only an annuity, are not eager for our decease. They take a certain pride in us and borrow money of us as freely as if we were unafflicted.

So much of preface to this letter of a puzzled or indignant correspondent, who never orders cakes and ale.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I take great pleasure in reading THE SUN's description of the habits of centenarians. In this morning's issue RALPH BULLOCK (probably brother to the one mentioned as living to the ripe old age of 104. He

puffs his churchwarden or nose burner and takes his swig, but men that neither puff nor swig" pop off at 50 or 60. Does THE SUN believe that the "Blair of Life" is to be found in the "puff and swig"? How many men between the ages of 21 and 50 "pop off" in this mortal coil every day, men that both "puff and swig." Then again, says Mrs. WILLIAMS of Boston, Conn., aged 102, certainly 6 months. Although she has a coachman she says she will not let him drive until she has 10. Every fair Sunday she attends services in the East Methodist Church. This does THE SUN inform us that Mrs. WILLIAMS is still capable of enjoying life, but what has so preserved her to live to this grand old age? Surely she does neither "puff nor swig." NEW YORK, AUG. 2. F. X. MCCARTHY.

O, well, let us be solemn. No, we don't encourage the use of hot and rebellious liquors; and we venerate little ROBERT REED. We meant to say that there is no sure recipe for old age. Moderation seems to be the nearest approach to such a recipe. Some old men and old women drink and smoke; some don't. Take your choice. We have seen old women of an earlier generation puffing away and we remember some venerable snuff takers. To us it seems pleasant to think of a sound and sweet old age smoking its pipe under its own vine and fig tree and able to cheer itself occasionally with the cup that cheers. A little heat in those old veins may surely be had from a "swig" and pardoned. If we forswear Old King Cole ourselves, shall we therefore command everybody else to? We swim easily to our hundred and hundred and fifty years. Let others get there as they can or choose.

The Government and the Cable.

The Attorney-General explained on Friday to the reporters at Oyster Bay the considerations which led him to recommend to the President that the proposal of the Pacific Commercial Cable Company be accepted by the Administration, subject, of course, to the approval of Congress, and that the company be allowed the use of the Government's surveys and soundings.

One of the "concessions" of the company to the Government was thus described by Mr. KNOX: "There is the advantageous condition that the Government is to fix the rate for its cablegrams, that it is to be determined by the Postmaster-General."

Advantageous, certainly, but not unusual. The Government does that with regard to rates on all telegraph lines on which it confers privileges and which it uses for official business.

Mr. KNOX is reported further as follows: "Another concession by the company will be, of course, that Government cablegrams may have priority over all other messages at all times."

Very necessary and prudent on the part of the Government is the provision that at any time it may acquire the property of the cable company, the price paid to be determined by a board of arbitration selected in the usual way.

Now, these three "concessions" are simply the ordinary requirements of the statute which governs the relation of the Government to telegraph companies using any part of the public domain.

That is to say, the law already provides that such companies must carry Government messages at rates annually fixed by the Postmaster-General, must give to Government messages priority over all other business, and must sell to do, at an appraised value to be ascertained by a board of arbitration.

Only five days ago, on August 5, the Treasury Department promulgated the land and sea rates for Government messages as fixed for the coming year by the Postmaster-General on July 8, in accordance with the requirement of the law above referred to. Mr. KNOX will find at page 19 of Treasury Decisions for August 7 a list of not less than two hundred and thirty-five telegraph companies which he refers to as "concessions," and are subject to the provisions of the act of July 24, 1866.

Among the two hundred and thirty-five companies are the Western Union, the Postal Telegraph Company, and the Commercial Pacific Cable Company. The acceptance of the conditions by the last-mentioned company, through Mr. GEORGE C. WARD, Vice-President, was received and filed December 12, 1901.

The arrangement for a Pacific cable contemplated by the Attorney-General and the Administration may be the best possible under the circumstances. In view of the facts as reported, and also in view of the potential development of wireless telegraphy, we are inclined to think that it is better policy than to lay a Government cable. But, certainly, the ordinary and necessary conditions of such an arrangement between the Government and a private corporation, the conditions required by law, ought not to be understood as special and valuable "concessions" on the part of the company.

stitution, 218, or more than 80 per cent., have been lawyers, that is, intellectually trained and educated men. Of the 88 Senators and 364 Representatives in the present Congress, 238 are college graduates, besides a considerable number who passed through a partial collegiate course.

It would savor of vulgar pretence to attempt to discriminate among the men prominent in our public life now or during our whole history by undertaking to pick out those accounted socially as "gentlemen," but even in that narrow sense now discarded by people most entitled to the designation under it—from the days of GEORGE WASHINGTON TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT, refinement and high breeding have always been abundant in the political sphere, and never more than they are at this time. Young men who keep out of that field because they can better find gratification for their tastes and more suitable employment for such abilities as they have in the sports and social diversions to which their wealth enables them to devote their energies, can put forward no colorable pretext for their frivolity in the associations into which politics would bring them. In political life they would be in company more elevated than that they now affect. If necessary contact with our democracy offends against a sense of fastidious reserve distinctive of the American "gentleman," why does not a like squeamishness keep the English "gentleman" from the rudeness of the hustings and the rough and tumble of English politics?

Mr. HACKETT, in a passage of his address which we reprint in another column of this paper, refers to another matter regarding which there is much delusion in social spheres of a critical discernment superior to that of the clique of which we have spoken, and he gives testimony to show that ignorance of the true facts is the cause of it. This delusion is as to the character of our public men and the ability with which they perform their duties, at Washington, more specifically. For thirty years Mr. HACKETT's professional practice has been before the courts there, before committees of Congress and at the departments of the National Government. The notion which he carried to Washington, under the influence of that prevalent delusion, that "most of public men were self-seeking and controlled by a low estimate of duty," was soon dispelled by his experience with them. In place of it he has acquired "grateful" respect for "the purity and the fidelity which has marked their administration of the task laid on them by the people."

The great improvement in the general moral condition of the national capital during the period covered by Mr. HACKETT's professional experience there, we may add, forces itself on the attention of every observer who can compare the present Washington with the Washington of thirty years ago. The whole social tone is better; the new and more beautiful and more stately material city which has grown up typifies a consistent moral improvement.

Another delusion to which Mr. HACKETT does not refer, unless casually, is as to the ability displayed in Congress, in discussion and in the examination of public questions by committees. It is fashionable to sneer at the Congressional Record as a vehicle for the publication of raw and banal speeches. Actually, as its pages bear abundant witness, the debates of Congress are often on as high an intellectual level as are the arguments before the Supreme Court, which sits in the Capitol likewise; and the investigations of committees as reported frequently exhibit a thorough understanding of the subjects to which they relate nowhere else to be found. Naturally, the flamboyant, the eccentric and the superserviceable Congressman thrusts himself more on amused public attention, but the quiet and able and serious work of Congress is not exceeded by that done by any other parliamentary body in the world.

The Publicity of Mr. Devery.

We are sometimes asked by esteemed readers for our editorial reasons for doing this, or for not doing that; and sometimes we answer and sometimes we don't. This is one of the occasions on which we do reply.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—I nearly every day you have some article in your paper, frequently quite a long one, about DEVERY.

Why do you give such prominence to this person and his ignorant, illiterate sayings and bombastic actions? It would seem to be more the province of the yellow journals than that of a reputable paper like THE SUN.

The better way would be to ignore DEVERY entirely, since nothing, even if infamous, is what he seeks and wishes.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9. Mr. DEVERY and his deeds get into THE SUN on the principle of contemporaneous news interest. The news about him is in high degree contemporaneous, and with all respect to our correspondent's opinion, exceedingly interesting, instructive and morally beneficial to the community.

The philosophical and aphoristic utterances of Mr. DEVERY find their way to type *ex proprio vigore*. Massachusetts was settled some time ago, ought to be somewhat civilized by this time, and does puff itself much on account of its high refinement and superiority to the barbarians; yet there was a tar-and-feathers bee in Massachusetts Wednesday, and fifty "Whitesaps" took part. On horror's head horrors to accumulate, this tar-and-feathers horrible took place in Marion, Avon; Marion, the famous of RICHARD HARDING DAVIS, the shrine sought by many venereal young pilgrims, the temple of vice. Tar and feathers in Marion, Mass! We can see soon imagine the Messrs ordering nine portions of tripe and onions. Young LOCHINVAR is still a favorite character to many of us, and all his successful modern imitators deserve honorable mention to the young, however much his medieval folks may sympathize with papa and mamma and their candidate.

Take the case of the Hon. HARDY MORRMAN, a bold Hoosier now or formerly employed by the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad. Mr. MORRMAN made love to a widow, a doctor's daughter, living with her parents in Allen county, Ind. He found favor in her eyes, but not in papa's. Papa looked out a man from a town of offensive name, Bluffton, and ejected or forced the widow to give MORRMAN the mitten and promise the hand to the Blufftonian. Well, the guests were met, the feast was set, the clergyman was ready to earn his fee. Mr. MORRMAN stepped in without an invitation. He carried a revolver as a guarantee that he meant business. He forbade the ceremony, took the lady by her milk-white hand, led her to his horse and team: "He whipped up his plug and he trotted away. 'It'll be next autos that follow,' said MORRMAN."

The man from Bluffton is still sulky. Papa is still boiling. Mr. and Mrs. MORRMAN are at home in Hilldale, Mich. Indiana is now and ever will be the country of old-fashioned romance.

How terrible is a raging lion? Is Old Nick more than a humbug when he seeks to devour in that form? Some years ago Mr. PHIL ROBINSON showed or sought to show that the King of the Forest and of Beasts is a foolish and cowardly fellow, a mere painted terror and thing of whiskers. Menageries lions may not be fair specimens of the class maligned or justly scorned by Mr. ROBINSON. An escaped and ravaging lion was caught in New York Friday by the proffer of a piece of milk toast. Why didn't TARTARIN of Tarascon know that lion?

The Hon. CARTER HARRISON sets his foot on Kings and prefers the Brown Florida to diadems, coronets, brooches, pearls and diamonds. Why did he receive no decoration from the German Emperor, who he calls "the Emperor of Germany"? Why is there no "high decoration" on that noble chest? From the jungles of northern Michigan Mayor HARRISON writes that Prince HENRY offered him the "high decoration" and he declined it with thanks. A portrait he took. He doesn't think that American officials should accept such tokens. Bull by CARTER! He is full of plain Democratic simplicity, and the next Democratic National Convention will please observe and preserve. Still, he must have a good many American buttons, decorations and titles. It is the use of every ambitious politician to be a "member" of the highest order of many societies and organizations as he can. He needs all the friends he can make.

St. Louis or St. Lewis?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—In view of the forthcoming exposition to be held at St. Louis it seems fitting that the proper pronunciation of the name of that city should be settled. At present the two pronunciations in use are the Gallic and the Anglicized forms of Louis. Of these the former seems to be the correct, for the reason that the name is primarily, and is present, French, and therefore LOOSE, and not LEWIS, must be the correct rendering. For illustration, let us suppose that the English at some time founded and named a town on French soil, St. James. It would be equally logical for the local French, while retaining the English spelling, to call it St. Jacques, as it is for some of the inhabitants of St. Louis, while retaining the French spelling, to call their city St. Lewis. NEW YORK, Aug. 8.

The Children of King William III.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Your editorial article of to-day on the relations of England with Holland, and the gentlemen who are wholly unacquainted with the pen or memory which I cannot let pass unnoticed, and which, I believe, you will be anxious to correct.

The statement is that in 1666 King William III was married to a French girl. At that time the said monarch had two sons, Alexander Frederik Karel Hendrik, Prince of Orange, born at The Hague, Sept. 2, 1640, who died at Paris June 11, 1879, and Willem Alexander Karel Hendrik Frederik, known as Prince Alexander, who died at The Hague Aug. 28, 1819, who died at The Hague in 1881.

Prince Alexander became Prince of Orange at the death of his elder brother, the title belonging to the eldest son of the reigning King. The same name must be retained, Queen Wilhelmina is Princess of Orange.

NEW YORK, Aug. 8. Thirteen. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Thirteen established a record for itself last Thursday which the spirit of evil ought to be proud of.

On track No. 18 in the Broad street railway station at Philadelphia, an accident occurred which came near killing a score of people. The train failed to hold on a train that was backing into the depot and the rear car crashed through the barrier and landed on the platform, crowded with passengers. Only by a miracle was the crowd forced back in time to escape death.

A terrific windstorm which passed over Carolina Beach, a seaside resort on the coast of North Carolina, completely wrecked a hotel and injured thirteen of its guests, some of whom, it is believed, will die.

Two trains, a construction train and a freight, collided at a crossing near Chicago, Michigan, and Paul Railroad and thirteen persons were killed outright.

At Blossburg, in New Mexico, a cloud burst Sunday, thirteen persons, including two infant children, were drowned.

On the same day a racehorse named Molly Grant which ran in a field of thirteen starters at Saratoga and a 100 to 1 shot, on which one of her owners wagered \$100,000 at 20 to 1, finished second and was afterward disqualified for fouling.

AMERICANS IN PUBLIC LIFE.

The True Character of the Men Prominent in National Politics. From an address by Hon. F. W. Hackett of Wash.ington before the PM. Bee Kappa Society of Hobart College.

For thirty years it has been my lot to pass the greater part of the time at Washington. Here, in the practice of my profession before the courts, before committees of Congress and at the Departments, I have continuously, during this period, been brought into contact with men prominent in public life.

Upon first coming to the national capital I was firm in the belief that most of our public men were self-seeking and controlled by a low estimate of duty. I imagined, in fact, I thought I knew, that these officials were chiefly occupied in looking out for their own personal advancement, and what they might gain by dealing out the spoils of office, rather than guided by a just conception of their public obligations.

I must confess that it did not take me long to discover that I had much to unlearn. I found myself mistaken in the views which I had so positively held, of the motives and aims of public men taken as a class. From that day to this I have not ceased to be grateful to this class of men for the purity and the fidelity which have marked their administration of the task laid upon them by the people. The great majority (and of those most influential it is safe, I think, to say all) have been and are honest, hard-working, conscientious men, alive to a sense of duty, and bent upon doing all in their power to serve their country well.

The keenest, no less than the fairest, person to pass judgment upon the capacity and character of a public servant is, after all, to be selected from among those who have been associated with him in the performance of his duties. When a man of opinion has thus been observed, you will discover that it puts a high estimate upon the character of the average public man.

The other day, accidentally falling in with the Secretary of Agriculture (the last President McKinley) I questioned him upon this subject. Secretary Wilson expressed himself as being in complete accord with the views just here advanced. In confirmation he related the following incident: "From 1873 to 1875," he said, "I sat in Congress next to Rockwood Hoar of Massachusetts. We got to know each other very well. I was originally a great Hoar. The last day of the session Judge Hoar turned to me and said that when he was elected he had an idea that members of Congress were far from diligent in their work. His experience in the House had taught him a lesson. He had changed his mind, and had learned to respect them and to think highly of them."

John C. Foster, of the Civil Service Commission, recently said to me: "After an experience of nine years, I give it as my opinion that public men here at Washington in the Legislative and Executive branches of the Government, both in the highest and in the subordinate places, are doing their work faithfully and zealously." He emphasized the conduct, as a rule, of those of every grade, as being diligent in their work, and how cheerfully, doing their full measure of duty, and in some instances even more. No one has had larger facilities for getting into the heart of the character of men of observation, or has been more directly concerned to lay hold upon it than Mr. Procter.

gentlemen of still longer experience in public life, a close observer, who exercises rare powers of discrimination, is the Hon. Carroll D. Wright, head of the Labor Commission. He has lately used very nearly the same language in reply to a question of mine upon this subject.

It will be generally admitted that no man more prominent before the country has constantly held in his mind the standard of public duty as applied to the discharge of public duty than Senator George F. Hoar of Massachusetts. This is what that accomplished statesman wrote in the Forum in April, 1897:

As many good and wholesome laws are enacted to-day as have been at any other period of our history, and it is probable that never before, never, and I believe that the two houses of Congress have ever done more for the people now, as much as they ever did.

It is a striking fact that the United States Government to-day has in its employ an army of able and long-trying men, many of whom are public-spirited, and who, in the discharge of their duty, are doing their work with remarkable talent, at a cost to the public treasury much below what private interests are glad to pay for like services. I am speaking, of course, of the higher grade of employment, such, for example, as that where an officer-civilian has, besides other duties, the direction of the disbursement of more than a hundred millions of dollars a year, or the management of an annual salary the sum of \$4,500.

NO PLATFORMS IN MISSISSIPPI.

Effect of the Primary Law by which the Voters Nominate Candidates. NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 9.—The campaign for Governor of Mississippi has a ready begun. It will be a singular one in consequence of the adoption by the State of the primary plan, which prohibits the nomination of any candidate by convention. Instead, the candidates are selected directly by the people at the primary election.

The only difficulty presented by the law under which the primary is held is that no provision is made for the adoption of a platform. No satisfactory way out of this difficulty has been found. It has, therefore, been decided under the extreme democracy policy accepted in Mississippi that for committee, convention or other body to be authorized to speak for the people, either in the way of naming candidates or in enunciating party principles.

This greatly simplifies the work of framing a platform and permits of great elasticity. The people can select a platform or throw overboard an objectionable plank without the slightest difficulty. The Kansas City and Chicago platforms will not disturb the Mississippi Democrats at their next State election, and they will not have to approve, dodge or oppose them.

As a natural result of this system the candidates for Governor are each running upon some pet issue or plank. So far there are three candidates in the field and each represents a distinct idea. Thus, Senator Noel is the author of the present Primary Law. He will make his campaign on this issue. His success, therefore, will mean the extension of the principles, so popular in Mississippi just now, that all political power should come direct from the people without the intervention of the central body, or other body. His election means the adoption, rather than the extension by Mississippi of a system of radical democracy, such as prevails in some of the Swiss cantons.

Editor Vardaman has entered the gubernatorial race on a platform which has greatly disturbed the conservative whites of Mississippi. The chief plank calls for a division of the State into negro and white wards, and negroes on the basis of the tax paid by them. This means the closing of nine-tenths of the negro schools in Mississippi, and the practical condemnation of the negro race in this State to illiteracy.

Mr. Vardaman does not believe in education for the negroes, and his views meet with approval among the poorer whites, who are not so much interested in competition in the field of labor. His platform is vigorously disapproved by the better class of people. The planters are opposed to it because any hostile legislation by the State will probably drive their negro labor out of the State.

Mr. Vardaman is the third candidate for Governor. He has been made known to the people of Mississippi. On this issue he makes his fight.

MISS TAYLOR'S DISMISSAL.

Secretary Root's Answer to Her Petition for Reinstatement. WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Secretary of War Root to-day filed an answer to the petition of Miss Rebecca J. Taylor, asking the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to compel her reinstatement as a clerk in the War Department. Miss Taylor was discharged on June 9 for writing an article, which was published in various newspapers, criticizing the policy of the Administration in the Philippines. Miss Taylor contends that her dismissal was in violation of the Civil Service Law.

The answer of the Secretary of War is signed John C. Scofield, chief clerk of the War Department, and sets forth that Miss Taylor was appointed a temporary clerk in the office of the Adjutant-General of the army and was afterward transferred to the classified civil service. Secretary Root says he did not dismiss Miss Taylor because of her political or religious affiliations, which were published in various newspapers, criticizing the policy of the Administration in the Philippines. Miss Taylor contends that her dismissal was in violation of the Civil Service Law.

NOT SO EASILY WON.

Henry Clay's Correction as to the Work He Did in a Trial. From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Mr. James Sandusky, who is an old and well-known traveler, and who has recently settled in Chicago, while coming yesterday afternoon, told an interesting story about Henry Clay, the great Kentucky statesman. Mr. Sandusky in his youth lived in Henry Clay's district during the time when Henry Clay was at his prime as a lawyer.

Henry Clay was once being tried for murder, said Mr. Sandusky, and his case looked hopeless, indeed. He had, without any seeming provocation, murdered one of his neighbors in cold blood. Not a lawyer in the county would touch the case. It looked as though it would ruin the reputation of any barrister.