THE JOURNAL

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FREE TRADE IN NATURAL PRODUCTS

A perusal of the full text of the speech Mr. John Charlton, delivered in the Canadian house of commons on Feb. 24, in support of his reciprocal trade resolution shows that the latter is not so much of a "bluff" as has been inferred from brief accounts of the resolution and the speech heretofore given. The resolution, Mr. Charlton frankly states, contains the threat of what Canada may do if the United States does not awake to the desirability of reciprocity with Canada. It is intended to stir up feeling on the subject in this country. It does not represent the basis of negotiations, but is an ultimatum in case no effort is made to arrange reciprocal trade relations between the United States and Canada. The resolution is as follows:

That this house is of the opinion that Canadian import duties should be arranged upon the principle of reciprocity in trade conditions so far as may be consistent with Canadian interests; that a rebate of not less than 40 per cent of the duties imposed should be made upon dutiable imports from nations or countries admitting Canadian natural products into their markets free of duty; and that the scale of Canadian duties should be sufficiently high to avoid inflicting injury upon Canadian interests in cases where a rebate of 40 per cent or more shall be made under the conditions aforesaid.

As it stands this is practically a threat to raise the Canadian duty 40 per cent if the United States does not admit the natural product of Canada free of duty. But in his speech Mr. Charlton makes it clear that while he is willing to resort to such a measure he merely desires it now as an expression of parliamentary opinion, which may be used as trading stock in reciprocal trade negotiations. Mr. Charlton contends that the United States should, without any further concessions from Canada, grant that country free trade in natural products—that is, he would have neither country levy tariff duties on the natural products of the other. If we don't do that, then he would have the Canadian customs revised in such a manner that, not freely admitting Canadian natural products, we would be confronted by a Canadian tariff about 40 per cent higher than it now is, which would be reduced to the present basis for Germany or any other nation that availed itself of the natural-products provision of the Canadian tariff policy set forth in the Charlton resolution.

In presenting his resolution Mr. Charlton delivered a long and highly interesting speech, which is a carefully prepared history of Canadian and American trade relations for the last 55 years with much illuminating comment thereon. He spoke throughout in good temper and with the utmost consideration of American sensitiveness. He admitted that he had at one time favored a zollervein between Canada and the United States, but that in the course Canadian development had been forced to take by American aloofishness it was now too late to abandon the tariff altogether. He took the ground that trade in natural products would be to the benefit of the people of both countries, and that while it would, in itself, be somewhat more to the advantage of Canada than of the United States he expected that, after all, the annual trade balance in our favor would be large. But in view of the fact that Canada now buys from the United States three times as much as it sells, he holds, and we think rightly, that she is entitled to such revision of our tariff laws as will somewhat reduce this tremendous adverse balance. Mr. Charlton shows that although Canada is looked upon as a raw material country as compared with the United States, it takes at the present time 2½ times as much of our natural products as we take from it. But of course with the great development of agriculture now proceeding in western Canada, this condition would not long remain with free trade in natural products.

As one peruses Mr. Charlton's figures he is convinced of the error American statesmen have made in the past in dealing with Canada. During the period of reciprocity, between 1855 and 1866, the United States was the chief market for Canadian produce and most of Canada's imports of manufactured articles were from Great Britain. Now Great Britain is Canada's market and it spends its money buying things from the United States. We were not a great manufacturing nation then, but now, if reciprocity had been continued as the Canadians earnestly desired to continue it, Canada would be selling almost all her products to the United States and be buying even more than she is. Commercially she would be a part of the United States. At one time a great many Canadians were quite willing to throw in their commercial destiny with that of the American states and territories and take what of prosperity and whatever form of trade and industry the free interplay of the great commercial currents of the continent would give to them.

It is time that we began to retrace our footsteps and correct our error. From a narrowly selfish point of view the policy we have pursued has, as Mr. Charlton admits, been a good thing for us up to this time, since we have had the best end of the bargain, but we are paying now for our dance in having diverted the Canadians from us to Great Britain for a market. If we do not change our policy to a more reciprocal one we may look forward to losing the great advantages we now have in the trade between the two countries without getting anything to compensate us for our loss. We know that there is a strong opposition in the northwest to free trade with Canada in natural products, but without going into the merits of the proposition, from the standpoint of the American producer, we feel that such free trade would, even now, in large measure, make western Canada and our northwestern states commercially one. It would, for instance, tend to keep the control of the continent's hard wheat grain trade in the United States. Without it we may justly fear that the milling and market centers will follow the center of gravity of spring wheat production into the Canadian west, and it is as certain as the rising and the setting of the sun that within a few years that center will be on Canadian soil.

A public official has rarely made such a surprising admission as that Chief of Police Ames made in The Journal yesterday. In fact we can recall no parallel to such a confession. If the chief of police knows that some of his detectives are "crooked" and is powerless to discharge them—at least he does not—it would be surprising if discipline has not largely broken in the Minneapolis police force.

THE COURSE OF BUSINESS

Two ominous clouds loomed up on the industrial horizon early in the week. Boston was the storm center of one, the other hung over the anthracite coal region. Thirty thousand men were directly or indirectly involved in the freight handlers' strike in Boston, which had reached so acute a stage that the gravest fears were entertained. Every effort was made by the leading merchants, aided by the governor of Massachusetts to bring about a settlement. Sufficient pressure was brought upon the railroads to force concessions, and by securing a slight modification of the demands of the men, a compromise was reached.

In the coal regions there has been nothing as yet more serious than threats and mutterings. It is the belief in Wall street that the difficulties and misunderstandings will not be permitted to grow, as a strike in the coal regions at the present time would be especially bad.

The period of the year is close at hand when labor troubles are most to be expected. It is interesting to note that many large industrial firms are anticipating possible demands by voluntary action. A machinery firm having plants in Milwaukee, Chicago and elsewhere, employing 6,000 men, announces an increase of 5 per cent in the wages of every employe.

The week witnessed the floating of very heavy bond issues in New York, the Pennsylvania company and the Steel corporation putting out bonds aggregating $70,000,000. The favorable manner in which these issues were received gives evidence of stability, and has been taken as indicating a growth of favorable sentiment in general. Still the stock market is a hesitating one, with the volume of business moderate. The public is waiting for something stimulating before coming in. The price ranges remain narrow, except where activity develops in some special stock, or group of allied stocks.

Spring is opening up early this year and the effect of this fact is seen in all lines of business. The outlook in textiles is good except for the fact that labor troubles are in the air and signs of dissatisfaction are seen in the Fall River district as elsewhere. Activity is noted in footwear, shipments from manufacturing centers increasing materially. Agricultural implement manufacturers have been large buyers of bars, and this, with increasing inquiry for structural iron, has brought additional strength into the iron and steel markets. Pig iron advanced 50 cents per ton and the bulk of all the business in the iron and steel trade was on a rising scale. Wool is very firm notwithstanding the adverse effect of the Boston strike upon the wool trade.

Bank clearings at $2,121,197,014 show a nominal increase for the week, gaining about 1 per cent. The country outside New York gained 16.5 per cent. Minneapolis increased by 31.6 per cent.

There has been a decline in wheat under pressure of very bearish conditions. Rains over the southwest took the strength out of the market, and stopped the damage reports that had been coming. Apparently the winter wheat crop is in seasonable condition. Reserves of wheat on the farms are larger than at this time last year, and foreign demand is dull. This latter is evidenced by the fact that exports of wheat and flour for the week were only 2,906,000 bushels, as compared with 4,095,000 bushels in the previous week and 4,690,000 bushels a year ago. It is, however, largely a weather and crop market, and while the outlook may be bearish from the foreign demand or statistical viewpoint, sudden reaction from depression will follow any changes in the favorable condition of the growing crop.

At any rate, congress is now interesting the people. It is a long time since there has been such a curious situation in the lower house as now. The political analyst can find endless delight in dissolving the insurgents into their component parts and examining the motives of each part. There are so many motives involved and such complication of alliances that it is not hard to understand why our Minnesota members think they are pursuing the correct course, even though it is so emphatically at variance with the ideas of the majority of Minnesotans as to what they should do. But we earnestly hope that in the various complications and aggregations of interesters and motives, Cuba is not to be refused her due.

The Journal has received so many communications on the dog-muzzling question that it may yet have to issue a special edition in which to publish them.

EQUALITY BASED ON INEQALITY

The new Australian federation has begun its career with two statutes that indicate how far its people are believers that all men are born free and equal. This young democracy seems to be convinced that equality, political or social, applies only to men of the white races. Being determined therefore to be a thoroughgoing democracy it begins by shutting out all the yellow, black and brown races, with the avowed intention of securing a "White Australia." The Australians, in laying the foundations of their federal commonwealth, differ from our forefathers in their attempt to reconcile theory and practice, rather than in either theory or practice. As a matter of fact the framers of the Declaration of Independence never for a moment considered their slaves as their equals, and scarcely thought of the word "men," as they used it in the declaration, as being applicable to their black bond-servants.

However, they went on reading the great document and sounding its praises, but even while its strong sentences were stirring the blood in their veins they were buying and selling and whipping men and women and children. The Australians, profiting by our sad experiences in trying in our later years to live up to the declaration that all men are born free and equal, have found that the simplest way is to keep out of their country all non-assimilable race elements. They want no coolie contract labor on the plantations of Queensland, and they want no quiet, submissive, alien and always alien, free workmen, like the Chinese. If Australia's resources can not be developed without that class of labor they shall not be developed. Developed or not, Australia purposes to escape the embarrassments of a democracy based on the theory of equality, and yet confronted by a condition in which the dominant race firmly believes it is and, as a matter of fact, is superior to the minor race. They purpose to attain equality of population by primary legislation that frankly confesses the inequality of races.

Curiously enough this first federal legislation in Australia resembles the constitutional, "grandfather" and "ability-to-read" amendments to southern state constitutions adopted for the purpose of putting the negro out of politics without naming him in the act. It is not that the Australians are at all squeamish about cataloguing in their statutes the races they wish to keep away, but that just as southern constitution makers have to keep an eye on the federal constitution the Australian law-makers have to frame their legislation with a view to its effects upon the international relations of the great world-empire of which they are a part. If the Japanese and Chinese were specified in the act they would complain to the imperial authorities and the law would be vetoed in London. They may complain anyway, but they will not have so good a prima facie case when they are confronted by an innocent-looking law which merely requires that the immigrant shall be able to write his application for admission in one of certain named European languages.

It will be interesting to observe as the years go by what effect legislation that bars from an almost uninhabited continent the teeming and industrious millions of China, Japan and India will have on those countries in the future. If their renascence proceeds much farther they may yet fight for admission to Australia—for an opportunity for racial expansion.

The idea of Congressmen Fletcher and Stevens that the Minneapolis flour interests will not be affected by Cuban legislation is not very reasonable. It makes little difference whether Cuba takes soft wheat or hard wheat flour. The more of the former she takes the larger will be the domestic market for the latter. And the more prosperous Cuba is the more American flour she will take, as well as more of other American manufactures.

FAVORITE BOGEYS

Mr. Burleson of Texas is a type of an element of our population which esteems it a religious duty to hate the British government and all the British people, and to proclaim, with tragical air, if our government fulfills its international duty toward Great Britain as it performs that duty toward other nations, that it is grovelling and kowtowing and degrading itself before John Bull.

The charge that our government is "pro-British" is with them the most damnatory epithet which can be applied to the administration. Our ambassadors to England in the performance of the most ordinary social duties of their high position are mercilessly assailed as "traitors" to their native land. The scholarly and patriotic Lowell was denounced as a lickspittle and fawning sycophant. The commissioners to be sent by our government to witness the coronation of King Edward VII., in the performance of a customary international courtesy, are set upon by congressmen as deserving the contempt of the nation. The proper and strict observance of our duties as neutrals during the Anglo-Boer war is condemned fiercely as wicked and inhuman. Mr. Burleson went all to pieces in the house in his violent emotion while assailing the administration for observing the neutrality laws and directing Americans sympathizing with the Boers to the proper and lawful channels of sending clothing and medicine to the Boer women and children, such as the Red Cross society. Under international law, recognized by all civilized nations, the proposition of Mr. Burleson has no standing. In our civil war it had no standing.

According to Mr. Burleson, our state department is "so saturated with pro-British spirit that it can no longer respond to the common dictates of humanity." The statesmen who adhere to this view fiercely demand that our government shall immediately take steps to prevent Americans from selling horses and mules to English buyers for use in South Africa. There is not the slightest violation of neutrality laws in such action. A citizen or citizens of a neutral state may sell horses, mules and merchandise, including provisions, to a belligerent, and even sell a vessel, completely armed and fitted to act as a man-of-war, as soon as it receives its crew, for it is a legitimate subject of commerce, and the seller may undertake to deliver it to a belligerent, either in the neutral port or in that of the purchaser, always subject to the right of the other belligerent to seize it as a contraband, if he meets it on the high seas or within his enemy's waters. It may readily be recalled that, during the past two or three years, or since the Anglo-Boer war commenced, many shiploads of supplies have been sent from this country to the Boers through Lourenzo Marques but nothing has been said against these shipments and deliveries by those who are very greatly opposed to the selling of supplies by Americans to the other belligerent, Great Britain, for use in South Africa. Americans have a perfect right to sell to either belligerent, the latter assuming the risk of capture by its enemy.

There are Americans who continue to demand that our government shall intervene directly in this war in behalf of the Boers. That would mean war with Great Britain, for it would be the extreme violation of neutrality laws. Our government will stand by its neutrality obligations, and, in doing so, it is no more "pro-British" than is the most earnest protagonist of the Boers. It stands for precisely the way it would prefer being treated by a neutral if it was a belligerent itself. The people of the United States are, to a large extent, sympathetic with the Boers, for they are making one of the most heroic fights for their country in the history of the world—unsurpassed, indeed, in valor, by such struggles as those of the Montenegrins under Iskanderberg and of the people of the Caucasus under Schamyl against the overwhelming numbers of the Turks and Russians respectively. But because Americans are strongly sympathetic with the Boers it does not follow that there is resting any obligation upon them to trample under foot international law and deliberately start the flames of war raging over the civilized world.

The sheriff's office seems to be inseparable from ways that are dark. Putting the sheriff on a salary has not rid us of the petty patronage intrigues.

FUN WITH KIPLING

A contributor to the Bookman takes a philosophical view of Kipling's poetical effusions on political and technical subjects, whether the result be the "Islanders" or "McAndrew's Hymn." He concludes that they are merely vacation-time productions, not worthy to be ranked as literature and not to be classed with Kipling's real work. If Kipling had any respect for the critics he would eliminate these periods of simple production and would, like our steady-going American authors, be hard at work, when not in the public view, producing another book that the public will like. But Kipling is Kipling and he will do what he feels like doing. He cares not whether the public likes his work or not. The fact that he scored a success with "Kim" does not prompt him to sit down and strive to score another success. On the contrary he plunges into the explanation of Britain's poor success with the Boer war and in "The Islanders" savagely attacks his own people, dealing out colossal chunks of advice on a subject of which he may know nothing, except as the conceited man—and Kipling is in the front rank of this class—always thinks that he knows it all and is ordained to instruct the unfortunates who wander in ignorance.

The Bookman calls attention to some good parodies and replies that have been called out by "The Islanders." The Westminster Gazette suggests that the list of sports in "The Islanders" could well be rounded out by the addition of the following lines:

The rubber-shod rough with a racquet, the ass on the asphalted path;
The half-witted hurler of hammers, the lubber that leaps at a lath;
The ruffian riding in red, and the gaby in gaiters that shoots;
The fatuous flapper of flies, and the scoundrel with skates on his boots;
The lout that loafs on the links with his lingo of "lies" and "the like";
The blundering bent-backed bounder that buckets along on a bike;
The bare-legged boobies in boats, each bent on becoming a "blue";
The crass-headed crocks playing croquet, the crapulous cad with a cue;
The maniacs mounted on motors that murder a man every mile,
(And I think you will freely admit that I've bettered my earliest style).

And across "the continental oceans," from far Australia, comes a roaring, swinging reply to Kipling by W. Munro Anderson, the first two stanzas of which are:

Lord of the loud-lunged legions!
Prince of the Purple Press!
Are we but pigmy people
Lost in the wilderness?

That we of the younger nations
Should call back our fighting men
At the blast of your tin war trumpet,
Or the scrawl of your scratching pen?

Referring to Kipling's conscription remedy Mr. Monro concludes his attack by repeating Kipling as advising "the war-horn horseman," thus:

Bidding him rule the people
By aping some foreign cur,
Whose marketplace is silenced
By the clink of the bully's spur.

Mr. Kipling makes troubles for others, but he has his own.

The intelligent way in which congress deals with the Cuban reciprocity question encourages us greatly as to Canadian reciprocity and reciprocity in general.

AMENDED LAWS OF WAR

The senate yesterday, apparently without any serious attrition, ratified the war code formulated out of the points agreed upon at The Hague peace conference in 1899. When this convention is ratified by the twenty-four governments which are parties to the proceedings at The Hague, there will have been achieved a notable advance in the progress of the world toward the removal of the inhumanities of war.

The new war code is a natural corollary of the establishment of the international tribunal of arbitration. There was needed a precise and authoritative code of laws internationally consented to, regulative of the conduct of war. The discussion of the subject after the Franco-Prussian war, developed the great differences of opinion. The French charged the Germans with carrying on the war like savages. The Germans retorted. There is no doubt that in that fateful war the Red Cross had been used to cover offensive operations; surgeons were killed while attending the wounded; explosive bullets were used; ambulances were appropriated with their personnel and equipment; there were bombardments of open towns. In the Russo-Turkish war the same complaints were made. The Declaration of Paris, the Geneva Convention and the Czar's declaration against explosive bullets and other merciless practices, proved ineffectual and the Brussels conference of 1874 endeavored to bring the nations to an effective consensus, but it failed.

The Hague conference has been the most successful of all peace gatherings, in that it has brought twenty-four governments to consent to soften the evils entailed by war and it is to be hoped that the code will be faithfully actualized in all present and future wars. It covers the questions of martial law, retaliation, enemy property, protection of women, treatment of prisoners, hostages, spies, flag of truce and safe conduct, exchange, parole, armistice, explosive bullets, respect for ambulance and hospital badges, etc. The general adoption of the code would surely minimize the evils of war. The limitation of the choice of means for the destruction of an enemy to a belligerent is commendable: indeed, the use of all arms and projectiles calculated to inflict superfluous injury on an enemy should be prohibited, as was proposed in 1868 by the St. Petersburg declaration. All wanton destruction of property is forbidden by The Hague code,—such destruction as England perpetrated in the Crimean war by bombarding every locality along the shores of the Baltic and burning all the stores of wood which could be found, entailing severe suffering upon the poor people who had gathered them to keep themselves from freezing.

Turkey is a party to this compact to modify the inhumanities of war. The fact necessarily provokes a smile, yet Turkey may be restrained in the exercise of her passion for cruelties. There are other powers in Europe which need restraint also. Let us hope for real betterment of the conduct of war. Even that bluff old warrior Von Moltke, who believed that without war the world would stagnate, and declared that "perpetual peace is a dream and not even a good dream," warmly approved the philanthropic efforts to abate the cruelties and inhumanities of war.

The Nonpareil Man

Casually Observed.

The first airship—The cow that jumped over the moon.

Since Kubelik began bathing in lithia water, the Cherry sisters are said to perform their ablutions in spanked cream.

Mrs. Astor's definition of a gentleman bars Ben Franklin and Abraham Lincoln, but lets in Harry Lehr and Ward McAllister.

Miss Stone is said to be negotiating with a certain magazine for an article on the Bulgarian alderman who captured her.

The Boers let Methuen go. They know where he will do the most harm.

Don't forget to put in the sweet peas at once, if you have to use an ax.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox advises the ladies, when they have inattentive husbands, to make themselves attractive to other men. Ella's pen ought to wear a muzzle if it really wrote that.

South Texas is shipping strawberries and the old gag about the bottom of the berry box has reached Kansas City.

The ice baron has just hoisted the price a nickel in Boston. Funny how far away the baron can detect the signs of spring.

Two Not Equal to One.

To the Nonpareil Man:

I have recently read in this column the algebraic "proof" that 2 equals 1. This proof is well known, and has appeared in print many times during the last 100 years; but, for many times a hundred years it has also been known that, if zero occurs as a factor in any term, the whole term reduces to zero. This being so, it is not proper to cancel only the factor x-y on each side of the fifth equation, unless it is remembered that the remaining factor in each case reduces to zero. First by subtraction, each member of the fourth equation is made equal to zero; and when these members are factored in the fifth equation, an identical factor, that is equal to zero, appears in each. Now the remaining factor in each case is equal to zero, so that we have 0-0, every expression on each side having vanished. The solver's error consisted in assuming that 0 times a quantity is equal to once that quantity, or that quantity multiplied in unity. The false assumption was made when x-y was canceled out of each member, and the remaining factor on each side was neither stricken out nor put equal to zero. —X. Y. Z.

The Spring Breakup.

Sudbury Revelle—While Mrs. Stephens was at the mothers' club her 4-year-old child fell down an open cellar way and was badly hurt.

Lowenstein Weekly—We are happy to announce that the factional troubles in the Local Daughters of the Black Hawk War have been settled by excluding from the club the great granddaughter of Ezeriah H. Hawkins, who was seriously kicked while carrying supplies to the army in the field. The club decided that the Hawkins accident did not come under the head of "patriotic disability."

Pawtucket Review—Mamie Jones' linen shower was a great success. She scored 217 towels and a tidy.

Billville Eagle—Our popular milliner, Miss Fanny Tuthill, has gone to the county seat to lay in her spring stock of Easter hats and notions and incidentally to have that troublesome tooth extracated. There is a handsome new dentist at the Falls. Ah, there, Fanny.

Rayvenna Eaglet—Rev. Ray W. Hollister will supply here until the first of July when he expects to make his home in the interior of China. Gossip says he is looking for a wife.

An Attractive Family.

The Williamson family had hardly left its flat and taken up quarters in the new house before a fine night blooming cat which had been heard around the neighborhood looked the place over and decided to adopt it for a home. The older members of the family did not care for a cat, but she insisted, and as the children liked her, the affair seemed to settle itself.

The next week Sunday a nice, brown, open-faced dog smelled the place over and settled down on the sunny side of the house, wagging his tail when anyone came out and manifesting strong sense of approval at the gift of a bone which he spent the morning wearing out. To make a long story shorter the dog finally adopted the place as a home and became a fixture in the shed.

A few mornings later Mr. Williamson found a barytone cow with her head over the gate. He drove her away but she came back and was taken into the shed and milked. An advertisement was placed in the paper. But no one claimed her and the cow likewise joined the family.

A week or two later a horse with a Vesuvian cough was found grazing on the lawn. It also refused to leave on request. That same night very late the bell rang and it was found that someone had left a baby with a fine open countenance on the doorstep. This seemed to be the limit and the baby was taken to the station, much against the will of the children and also of the baby, which lifted up its voice and emptied out a barrel of complaint that shook the roof beams.

The next night some one threw a bushel basket of empty tins over the fence into the back of the lot. The tins also showed a disposition to stay.

The family is now wondering what is to be the next. The children are hoping for an escaped elephant when the circus comes next summer. Incidentally the English sparrows are occupying the porch and there is a strong—a very strong—suspicion that there is an animal under the barn that must not be annoyed. —A. J. Russell.

Lost in the Distance.

Philadelphia Press.

Colonel Bryan is advising the democracy to watch events. The difficulty is the democracy never sees an event until it is pretty nearly out of sight and efforts to catch up with it are fruitless.

MINNESOTA POLITICS

The Washington rumor of Joel P. Heatwole's retirement has caused a flutter in political circles. The congressman from the third is not one of the retiring kind, and if the report should prove correct that he will not seek renomination, the belief is that he will be a candidate for governor himself.

The Northfield man seems to have set his heart on the defeat of Governor Van Sant. He has been trying for two months to get a candidate in the field, without success. It is evident that the opposition cannot beat Van Sant without a candidate. The bushwhacking campaign that has been carried on has not gained any ground, and is even beginning to lose. The reason for it was well put yesterday by a well known politician.

"I am not a Van Sant shouter," he said, "and I do not owe the governor anything. If a better man comes out against him, then I'm for the better man. But unless you have a candidate to talk for, stop knocking Van Sant. That is no way to get ready for a campaign. It would not hurt to have a clean contest for the nomination, but it is bad party policy to knock the only candidate in sight."

All efforts to drag State Auditor Dunn into the field have failed. C. A. Smith and J. T. Wyman have refused to hear the call. Congressman McCleary only smiles and shakes his head. If he would beat Van Sant there seems to be just one hope for Heatwole, to get into the game himself.

There are several gentlemen who have ambitions in the direction of the governor's office, who do not care to oppose Van Sant this year, or to make a campaign in an off year against Lind. They are not likely to give aid and comfort to any other candidate. What they want is to give Van Sant his second term, leaving the field clear for all comers in 1904. They will not look with favor on a new candidate, who would be asking a second term two years hence if successful this year.

Politicians agree that the extra session did not hurt Van Sant any. A republican senator put it this way:

"I am not a Van Sant man, but I don't want to hear anybody using the extra session as a reason for being against him. That is our fault. We asked him to call it, and we are responsible for what it did."

The Litchfield Review looks at it in this wise:

There is an inclination to abuse the governor for the shortcomings of the legislature and to charge him with all the blame for its acts of commission and omission. It is true that he need not have called that body in extra session, and no doubt would not have done so had he known what was to follow. Didn't we, as a dominant party, following the regular session, point with pride to the legislature and sound its praises both loud and long? The governor had no inkling that it would compel a revision of this opinion of it held by the public. The governor is not to blame for this sudden burst of incompetence.

There is a story that the democrats in the legislature got together before adjournment and made out a slate for a state ticket. Senator Baldwin of Duluth was agreed on as the candidate for governor in case it is impossible to press John Lind into the service. Senator John A. Johnson of St. Peter was the choice for secretary of state, L. A. Rosing of Cannon Falls for state auditor and Senator Julius A. Coller of Shakopee for attorney general. Aside from Baldwin, it looks like a third district ticket.

Anti-Buckman newspapers of the sixth district are getting desperate in their search for a Moses. A boom has been started for John J. Boobar, librarian of congress. There is plenty of sentiment for C. S. Mitchell of Alexandria, but he cannot be brought into the fight. A. N. Dare likewise refuses to think of it. There is a persistent call for August Koerner, which he does not seem to hear.

The Elbow Lake Tribune (populist) says:

J. T. Schain of Browns Valley wants to be the republican candidate for senator in this district, to which there seems to be no objections, but Herman Hillmond will likely be the opposition candidate, which means that he twill also be the senator.

Traverse county had no representative in the legislature the past session, as Mr. Hillmond beat the republican candidate from that county, and Grant landed both house members.

A permanent organization was effected at Temple Court last evening of the republican clubs of Hennepin county. The object is to promote mutual acquaintance and make effective work possible in the campaign. Henry Hanke was elected president and B. F. Ward secretary. A committee of seven was appointed to draw up a plan of permanent organization, as follows: Chairman, James A. Kellogg of the Union Veterans and Sons' League; J. W. Nash, secretary of the Hennepin Republican Association; Otto Greeley, treasurer of the county campaign committee; C. A. Dalby, president of the Viking League; Adolph Peterson, treasurer of the Monitor League, president Hanke and Secretary Ward. Others present were James A. Peterson and John H. Steele, both of whom made brief speeches. The latter condemned the primary election law in set terms. —C. B. C.

STRANGE PHENOMENA IN SOUTH AFRICA

Washington Post.

Behind all this there is a mystery which baffles every looker-on. It expands into terrible and grotesque suggestion as we contemplate it. Never for a moment has its shadow been absent from any British disaster. Whether Englishmen have lost the warlike instinct or whether, to use Henry Seaton Merriman's phrase, they have been drugged by the fumes of Africa, the fact remains that Kitchener's officers and men behave in a manner wholly inexplicable upon any military theory. We need not go back to the earlier calamities for illustration. The mystery in question presents itself as clearly now as it ever did then. It has been the inseparable attendant of British operations in South Africa from first to last. Has any veteran commander of our civil war considered this astounding phenomenon? Take the latest disaster for example. General Methuen, one of the bravest and ablest officers in the British army, with 1,200 men and four guns—a compact, thoroughly equipped and organized force—is attacked on the march, not surprised in bivouac, and put to utter rout within a few moments. Here is the mystery. That 1,200 or 1,300 Englishmen—for the guns must have been manned—can be stampeded, transformed from seasoned and disciplined soldiers into frantic insensate fugitives, reduced to panic and pitiable helplessness, almost at the first alarm!

Is there any parallel for this in the history of our civil war? Did any one ever hear of an American force, more than 1,200 strong and well seasoned in active service, breaking into wild flight, throwing away their arms and accouterments, and stampeding like so many crazy cattle? Our men on both sides in that gigantic conflict suffered defeat at times, had to fall back—often at the double-quick; but who ever heard of either a union or a confederate body of 1,200 well armed and disciplined men taking to their heels in frenzied panic at the first fire from the enemy? It now appears that General Methuen's casualties were only about 100 in killed and wounded. The other 1,100 or 1,200 seem to have run away without even trying to make a stand.

What is the matter with Kitchener's armies? Nobody can be made to believe—in this country at least—that the individual Englishman is less than a gallant fighter. What, then, can be the explanation of these astounding performances, this indescribable demoralization?

The Old Order Changeth.

Alexandria, S. D., Herald.

Because a republican believes that the time has come for a revision of the tariff schedule, is no sign that there is a reaction against protection. The principle is as valid and as valuable as ever, but it is arrant nonsense to say that the old schedule should remain intact when there is not only good reason for revision, but a positive menace in retaining some of the items. Protection leaders in both branches of congress are awakening to this fact.

CHINESE ART STUDENTS

With money they earned themselves, two brothers, Jung John and Jung Fine, Chinese, have paid for a course of instruction in the Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. They presented themselves for enrollment in the class formed on Feb. 3, and since then have applied themselves diligently to their studies, making rapid progress. The brothers are the first Chinamen to study in the academy.

NEW YORK COMMENT ON MERGER

New York World.

It is simple justice to Attorney General Knox to say that his opening of the government's case for the dissolution of the Northern Securities company is characterized by remarkable originality, aggressiveness and ability. He charges directly that "the Northern Securities company was not organized in good faith to purchase and pay for the stocks of the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific Railway companies. It was organized solely to incorporate the pooling of the stocks of said companies and to carry into effect the unlawful combination or conspiracy." And he affirms that the company "does not have and never had capital sufficient to warrant such a stupendous operation."

Mr. Knox points out that "the individual stockholders of these two independent and competing railway companies were to be eliminated and a single common stockholder, the Northern Securities company, was to be substituted," promoting the interests, "not of one system at the expense of the other, but of both at the expense of the public," thus creating a monopoly and circumventing the law by the old device of "whipping the devil around a stump." If the law can be so evaded, says the attorney general, "all transcontinental lines, indeed the entire railway systems of the country, may be absorbed, merged and consolidated, thus placing the public at the absolute mercy of the holding corporation."

The decision of the court on the various motions for an injunction will be awaited with widespread interest. The case involves the whole principle and policy of "merger," which is taking the place of a trust as the basis of an apparently inevitable consolidation of great business enterprises. As the World said when the suit was brought, the sooner it is decided the better for all concerned.

The Final Question.

New York Sun.

The question which first arises is: "Is the petition so faulty in its construction, or so defective in its material allegations or averments of fact, as to be demurrable, and to warrant judgment of dismissal on the plaintiffs' statement?"

The bill is strong and clear, and this is said without expressing any opinion as to what may be the decision of the court as to its form or the sufficiency of its statement should such questions be raised. Also:

First—Are the alleged facts stated sufficiently in detail?

Second—Are some of the averments mere conclusions or inferences?

Third—If carefully and correctly pleaded, and even if admitted, do the facts alleged constitute any infraction of the federal statute?

These questions of pleading may be so interwoven with the merits of the case as to depend for their ultimate disposition upon the actual trial of the suit in equity after the joinder of issue.

It is manifest that the filing of a bill in equity so ably drawn and invoking so drastic a remedy creates a situation which cannot be regarded lightly. But it would seem to us that in reality and in essence, no cause of action against these defendants exists, and that the proposed merger cannot ultimately be enjoined or prevented.

The final questions to be decided must be: Cannot any citizen, for example, John Pierpont Morgan, buy and possess shares, to the extent of his purse, in the Northern Pacific railroad or in the Great Northern railroad, or in both? And cannot any other citizen, say the Northern Securities company of New Jersey, do the same?

An Ingenious Petition.

New York Post.

Of the attorney general's petition, formally opening the case of the government against the Northern Securities company, it must be said that a high degree of legal ingenuity is displayed. The two main points on which Mr. Knox elects to present his case are these. First, that the Northern Securities company, by its absorption of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railways, has effected a combination in restraint of trade; second, that the Securities company, having been organized solely as the machinery of a merger, and having given no consideration for the stocks acquired, beyond its own certificates, "was not organized in good faith to purchase and pay for the stocks." Whatever may be the judgment of the courts on the second of these contentions, its adroitness must be manifest. Resting on it, the government's lawyers may at least evade the strong contention of the defendants, that to forbid purchases for bonafide investment by a stockholding corporation must logically be followed by forbidding, under similar circumstances, such purchases by private individuals. If the attorney general's second point were to be sustained, he would probably answer that the Securities company's acquisitions could not be compared with purchases by an individual who draws bank checks for what he buys; that, in fact, the acquisitions were not purchases at all, but merely a voluntary merger. We do not, of course, profess to foreshadow the decision of the court on this highly interesting point. We shall await with great interest, however, the rejoinder of the defense. For it is clear to every one familiar with recent moves in high finance, that the whole theory of corporate combinations, as at precent practiced or designed, is now in question.

A "Trust" Adviser for Federal Control.

New York Press.

The arguments for national incorporation of interstate combinations advanced by James B. Dill in his Harvard lecture are none of them new. But coming from the most prominent of the "trust" lawyers in the country they receive an authority which was wanting, perhaps, even in the message of the president on the same subject and to the same purpose. The lecture is important principally as a piece of advice from the organizing counsel of some of the greatest corporations in the country to accept, and indeed invite, the federal control which some of them have bene anxious to avoid.

This is only one, though perhaps the most striking, of signs of the times that legislation by congress for the decent and seemly regulation of "trusts" is not the difficult matter that it has bene supposed to be, particularly by congress itself. If the "trusts" come to the door of the capitol asking law which will regulate and supervise their action, while relieving them from the embarrassment of crude and conflicting state legislation, will congress grant it? The answer to the query cannot be postponed long after the decision of the Northern Securities antimerger suit, whichever way that decision turns.

The Law Applies.

New York Times.

It is, of course, unprofitable and impertinent to speculate as to what may be the outcome of the suit against the Northern Securities company undertaken by the department of justice. But we think that almost any layman, reading the argument of the government and comparing it with the antitrust law, must receive the impression that the case as stated comes within that law.

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We have ourselves no doubt that the law, as it reads to the ordinary mind and as it was intended by its authors and suporters in congress to read, does forbid processes of combination and organization which are necessary to the progress of the transportation interests and of many others. We are persuaded that the law cannot stand in its common interpretation and that the needs of the whole country will sooner or later demand its repeal. We think that it would be much better that it should be so repealed than that its force should be nullified by judicial interpretation or its intended purpose in any way evaded.

THE BEET SUGAR CONFUSION

Boston Herald.

The local feature in the present discussion of the tariff issue is that the northwest section of the land has developed an infant industry for which it asks protection. That industry is beet sugar. Poor General Hancock was much ridiculed for calling the tariff question a local issue, but the whole tendency has been since—as, indeed, it was to not a little degree before—to sustain his statement. Pennsylvania had begun demonstration in this way, and it has carried it out since to a degree that has created Quay and practically destroyed the democratic party in the state. Louisiana has taken the tariff so much to heart as a local