

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER.

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AMUSEMENTS TODAY.

SEATTLE THEATER—Frederick Wards in "The Duke's Jest". THIRD AVENUE THEATER—"Quo Vadis". GRAND OPERA HOUSE—"A Turkish Bath".

SEATTLE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31.

Seattle's Opportunity.

Probably no more momentous proposition has been placed before the people of Seattle for their consideration than that which is contained in the complete statement with reference to the building here of one of the United States battleships.

The situation is explained fully in our local columns. It is assured beyond any question that the contract for one of the sheathed battleships will be awarded to the Moran company of this city if their bid can be so modified as to bring it within the limit of cost fixed.

The navy department desires to avoid the delay incident to re-advertising for bids, and to make contracts with the present bidders if possible. The Morans wish to secure the contract. As the measure of what they feel that they can do safely and in justice to themselves to win it, they are ready to accept the contract for one ship at the figure previously named in case they had the building of two. That is, they reduce their bid in the amount of \$114,000.

The Moran company feels that it has done all that it can or ought to do. It cannot, as a business proposition, make the further reduction required to assure the contract. Within a few days at most a direct answer will have to be given to the department whether a contract on these terms will or will not be entered into.

It is a strictly business proposition that is contained in the suggestion that the people of Seattle agree to make up the balance. The building of a battleship here would be of incalculable advantage to the city and all its business interests.

It means an enormous and constant addition to our industry. It means the expenditure here of millions of dollars within the next three years. It means the addition to the payroll of our industries of at least 80 permanent employees, at an average wage, counting in all forms of labor, of \$3 a month. At least \$3,000 a month will be paid out in wages, or more than \$2,000,000 before the ship is completed.

ties, including local products. The item of coal and coke alone will be a large one.

The advantages are so palpable, and so great that the whole community has hung with interest upon the progress of letting these contracts at Washington. Now, with the possibility that the chance may be lost, the plan has been advanced by some of our people of guaranteeing to the Moran company the \$100,000 additional which it must scale its bid in order to win.

The Chamber of Commerce will take the initiative at once. A special meeting has been called for 11 o'clock this morning, and there should be a full attendance. Large as the sum is, our people are so enthusiastic and their ardent local pride and liberality have been so well approved that success is wholly probable.

British critics laughed a good deal over our army beef scandal, and they should not be offended if some people on this side of the water take some satisfaction out of the Colville inquiry.

The Blunders in South Africa.

Maj. Gen. Sir Henry Colville, who has been invited to resign from the British army on account of the blunders which he made while in South Africa, has declined to obey the request of the war office, and has demanded a court-martial. He says he does not propose to be the scapegoat of the army.

If there is to be full inquiry into the conduct of the war in South Africa, as will probably be the case soon or late, possibly as the outcome of the court-martial which Gen. Colville has demanded, that inquiry might start off with the attempt to find out who was responsible for the selection of Ladysmith as the depot for a vast amount of stores, and as the strategic point for the British defence of Natal from the Boer invasion which was certain to follow the outbreak of hostilities.

Yet it is evident that Sir George White was not responsible for the selection of Ladysmith as a defensive point. On his arrival at Natal he found a great depot of military stores existing at that place. It was not practicable to remove these stores to a point south of the Tugela.

Here was the initial blunder of the campaign, and beside it all the others were slight. Had a strong defensive position south of the Tugela been taken up, Buller would not have been forced to divide his force and advance along two lines, one towards Ladysmith, the other towards Kimberley.

It was the theory of the constitution, the presidential electors were chosen to one of the highest and most responsible positions for which provision was made in

very slight reinforcement. Buller could have operated with his entire force along the line subsequently followed by Roberts. A great many of the disastrous blunders of minor importance were due to the initial blunder which antedated the actual commencement of hostilities.

Prof. Herron, at the Middle-of-the-Road Populist gathering in St. Louis, said that one reason why Mr. Bryan was not elected was because he is not a radical man. People generally have thought that Mr. Bryan was defeated because he was too radical.

Buying Securities Abroad.

The inquiry has been frequently made why it is that, with the enormous trade balances in favor of the United States shown by commercial statisticians, there has not been a correspondingly heavy importation of gold from abroad in settlement of those balances.

"Assuming that the estimate of the balance of trade in favor of the United States during the past four years which is generally accepted is approximately correct, the United States on its exports realized a profit of something like 100,000,000 sterling a year; and there has not been the importation of European commodities which might have been expected, and which was usual in former periods of prosperity.

That is a part of the solution of the question, which the Democratic free trade newspapers that propounded the inquiry, have ignored. The country has not only been paying its debts contracted in previous eras, but it is replacing foreign capital in the ownership of American stocks.

The balance of trade in favor of the United States has brought this country in a very few years into as strong, if not a stronger, financial position, than Great Britain. That position bids fair to be still more strengthened in the future, provided the same policies are pursued as have built up the industries and the commerce of the United States, within the past few years.

The threats made against Mr. Cudahy with a view of compelling him to withdraw his reward for the apprehension of the abductors of his son show to what end kidnappers may go in their attempt to extort money from rich men, and emphasizes the necessity for providing severe punishment in such cases.

The Election of President.

On the second Monday in January the president and vice president of the United States will be elected in the manner provided by the constitution. That is the date established by law for the presidential electors to meet in their respective states and go through the ceremony of formally selecting the future president.

In the theory of the constitution, the presidential electors were chosen to one of the highest and most responsible positions for which provision was made in

the organic law. They are presumed, after due consideration, to select from among the public men of the country the person whom they believe to be most pre-eminently qualified as head of the nation. This constitutional prerogative is still vested in them, although, simply by popular will and by machinery which has grown up outside of the constitution and the laws, the actual selection of president is made in a method which the constitution does not recognize and never contemplated.

Nothing save deference to public opinion prevents any presidential elector from refusing to vote for the candidate of his national convention, yet that in itself is sufficiently strong to relieve the matter from even a possibility of a doubt as to the manner in which the electoral votes will be cast. In the most critical election crisis which the country has ever witnessed, that of 1876, when it required the creation of a new and extraordinary national tribunal to determine the result, when the election of the president turned upon one vote in the electoral college, thought was scarcely given to the possibility that any one of the electors chosen would be false to the trust imposed upon him by the members of his own political party.

As the constitutional manner of selecting the president has been entirely changed and as the electoral college simply becomes a piece of obsolete machinery for recording a result arrived at by the popular vote, does it not seem that it would be exactly as easy to change the manner of electing United States senators if there were any overwhelming popular demand for such a change?

In several of the Southern states the United States senators are substantially chosen by votes in the Democratic primaries. The result of the primaries is accepted, and the vote of the legislature is simply a formality. The contests are fought out entirely before the legislature is chosen, and do not in the slightest degree interfere with the work of the legislature, when it finally assembles.

The Democratic party in other parts of the country is on record as favoring the election of senators by popular vote. That system is in practical effect in some of the Southern states already, at least as much so as in the election of any other officers. There is nothing in the constitution or the laws to prevent the Democratic party of any state from nominating a candidate for United States senator in state convention; and it certainly should not nominate a man for the legislature who would be likely to go back on a solemn pledge to support the party nomination so made.

Mr. Bryan has said labor has no use for a cross of gold, but when it comes to a sovereign pan full of gold nuggets from the Klondike it is probable that a free silver candidate for the presidency will not object to receiving the gift.

They are now attempting to work up a corner on beans at Chicago. If it succeeds, and so soon after the pork corner, it is likely to raise consternation in some of the family circles of Boston.

It would seem that when Lord Roberts said the war in South Africa was at an end, he meant that it was only as far as he personally was concerned.

There is always some one man who is the talk of the country, and at this time Mr. Pat Crowe seems to be the honored individual.

Winston Churchill has been referred to as the Richard Harding Davis of England. This is discourtesy to the stranger within our gates.

The chief burden of Mr. Bryan's song in the near future will probably be "Now is the time to subscribe."

Richard Le Gallienne says he came back to this country because he liked it. This is a blow for America.

It seems that it is a Gamble who will be the senator from South Dakota to succeed Pettigrew.

This is the last day of the nineteenth century, and it does not differ much from any other day.

Mr. Bryan is learning to set type. His experience in pi-making is already large. You will never have another opportunity to swear off for a whole century.

The scene of hostilities seems to have shifted from South Africa to London.

It has been known all along that Gov. Pingree believed himself to be a great

man, but it was not generally supposed that he thought himself bigger than a regularly constituted court; and it will probably be demonstrated that he is not.

It will take a long while for the notion that DeWet is captured to soak in.

A man has now about twenty-four hours before he swears off.

MR. CLEVELAND'S LETTER.

There is no sign in sight that the new Democracy is going to shed its novel garments and rehabilitate, by crawling into its old clothes, as Mr. Cleveland advises.—San Francisco Call.

In this there is a stern rebuke to those "old line Democrats" who, at various times since the election have publicly assumed that they were to be the salvation of the party and that they must unite as leaders to cut out, root and branch, every portion of the party which did not yield them implicit obedience.—Omaha News.

The rank and file will assert itself, and the present prospects of the party are, perhaps, as bright as they have ever been after a defeat. Reorganization, Mr. Cleveland says, is not necessary—and, above all things, a reorganization by those who opposed the party and aided in its defeat.—Baltimore Sun.

Mr. Cleveland's suggestion is: "Give the rank and file a chance." This is an excellent suggestion. The brigadier generals and major generals have shown their incapacity for leadership. Perhaps the rank and file will listen respectfully to what their old leader has to say.—Chicago Tribune.

He appeals that the rank and file shall have a chance. They have now and will continue to have, and he who runs may read their judgment. It differs from the select few who draw their political inspiration from Wall street or the council rooms of trusts and syndicates. What Mr. Cleveland calls "the rallying call of true Democracy" does not emanate from this source, and never will.—Pittsburg Post.

AGAIN THE CENTERBOARD.

Yacht of the Old Type Will Try for the Cup.

The most surprising news connected with the defense of the America's cup is that a centerboard yacht is to be built at Quincy, Mass., to compete for the honor and responsibility of defending the cup. Not only is the management going back to the centerboard type, but it will build a wooden yacht.

The builder is to be the Hanley Construction Company, which has built many of the best boats in the world. Mr. C. C. Hanley, of the company, is still a stout believer in centerboard yachts. In an interview Thursday he said that since the Americans began trying to beat keel boats with keel boats, the competitors have come to be as alike as two peas. This is true enough, but whether the change to keel construction is unfortunate is a different question.

Mr. Hanley's own opinion is interesting and it is to be hoped that he will have an opportunity to build the yacht he has in mind. A wooden centerboard contest, for the place of defender of the cup, will be a novelty—so fast have changes come in the ideas of what a winning boat must be. If he should build his yacht and win it, he would be the first to revolutionize yacht-building again in this country. It has changed so lately within a few years. Mr. Har hopes to see it changed back.

ONE TONGUE FOR ALL MEN.

Beauties of Language Obscured Through Diverse Speech.

Chicago American. Do you suppose that all language will ever develop that shall comprise all the beauties and none of the defects of the Babel collection now talked on earth? That question might interest you. It would be too long to discuss here fully. It seems a pity that human beings should go on forever talking different tongues, compelling the great in one language to acquaint themselves with the other languages or miss the good work of other greatness.

We are inclined to the belief that all men will use the same tongue some day, instead of saying as at present: In London: "To be, or not to be, that is the question."

In Paris: "Etre, ou ne pas etre, voila la question."

In Berlin: "Sein, oder nicht sein, das ist die Frage."

You will notice in the above collection that the English is superior to the French, and the German far better than the other two. Why? Because the great thing to be desired in language is power, and that the German language possesses. If you want to make your English powerful, make it all English. Use as little outside trash as you can. Be simple, be brief; read Hunyan.

Pacific Cable Needed.

Chehalis Examiner. Second only in importance to an isthmian canal is a Pacific cable. Opposition to the former is conceivable; opposition to the latter is not. It is absolutely necessary that the outlying territory of the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines should be placed in close communication with the mainland. The cable should be laid without the consent of any other nation.

Hyponized by Seattle.

Whitcomb Hevelite. An agent of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company is visiting the various ports of Puget sound preliminary to a report upon the advantages of each as the home port of a line of steamers which this company expects to operate on the Pacific. Seattle has as usual got the man hyponized so he cannot see anything beyond or outside of Elliott bay.

Fleeing From Nebraska.

Sumas Sentinel. A car load of immigrants from Nebraska City, Neb., passed through this place yesterday for New Watcom. Poor old Nebraska! If Billy Bryan won't emigrate, the rest of the population feel that they must.

Tacoma Will Not Benefit.

Tacoma Sun-Democrat. The Nicaragua canal may be a good thing for Mobile, Ala., but to save us we cannot see where Tacoma will get any benefit out of it.

TODAY IT'S REDUCED PRICES ON ALL CAPES, JACKETS, SKIRTS, SUITS AND FURS—MUCHLY REDUCED—A RARE CHANCE. Wednesday Is the First Day of Our 7th January Sale

And in thinking about it, don't lose sight of this fact: Practically Everything Is Reduced In Price, and You Need Not Buy One Thing You Don't Need in Order to Get What You Do Need. If it's for your husband, your son, your daughter, the baby, for yourself, it will cost you less during January than during any other month of the year. You get the profits and in many instances more than the profits.

BAILLARGEON'S Acceptable Gifts. Diamonds, Fine Jewelry, Watches, Sterling Silver, Cut Glass, Purses, Ebony Goods, Opera Glasses, Umbrellas, Bronzes, Clocks. This store is replete with articles suitable for gifts during time or any occasion. Albert Hansen, 706 First Avenue. Gifts purchased from Hansen's are always satisfactory, for the quality is superior and the prices more exclusive.

ROYAL Restaurant, 818 First Ave. You can have the best service in the city. Business Lunch from 11 to 4 p. m. French Dinner, main room, 50 Cents. Annex, 75 Cents.

MUSIC FOR THE HOME. During the long winter evenings nothing will take the place of music in your home. We have a few rare bargains in string instruments, which we will continue to sell until the line is exhausted. \$10.00 Mandolin and Guitar outfits for \$8.50. Imported violin outfits for \$10.00. Don't buy until you have seen our stock. WINTER & HARPER CO., 903 Second Ave., in the Burke Building, Seattle, Wash.

CALENDAR Reduced to HALF PRICE. LOWMAN & HANCOCK 616 First Ave. BUY THE TYPEWRITER. That will give you most service out of the least cost. E. C. NILES, REMINGTON DICTATOR, 28 Cherry Street.