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APRIL CIRCULATION.

W. B. Carr, Business Manager of The St. Louis Republic, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of the daily and Sunday Republic printed during the month of April, 1900, all in regular editions, was as per schedule below:

Date	Copies	Date	Copies
1 Sunday	87,320	16	79,500
2	79,830	17	78,930
3	81,130	18	78,970
4	79,490	19	78,720
5	80,440	20	78,480
6	79,410	21	81,260
7	82,170	22 Sunday	84,290
8 Sunday	85,730	23	79,200
9	79,010	24	80,190
10	79,190	25	78,920
11	78,480	26	79,140
12	79,230	27	79,080
13	78,940	28	81,940
14	81,810	29 Sunday	85,720
15 Sunday	85,430	30	79,400

Total for the month	2,421,260
Less all copies spoiled in printing, left over or filed	48,693
Net number distributed	2,372,567
Average daily distribution	79,085

And said W. B. Carr further says that the number of copies returned or reported unsold during the month of April was 1.94 per cent.

W. B. CARR.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this thirteenth day of April, 1900.

J. F. FARISH,
Notary Public, City of St. Louis, Mo. My term expires April 26, 1901.

WORLD'S FAIR BILL.

Speaker Henderson of the National House of Representatives opposes the passage of the St. Louis World's Fair bill, carrying a Federal appropriation of $5,000,000 for the proposed celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, and says that other Republican leaders are similarly opposed to such legislation.

A failure to pass this measure, owing to the Republican opposition thus disclosed, would, from a political standpoint, reveal a singular lack of Republican appreciation of St. Louis's claims as a Republican city in an overwhelmingly Democratic State, and would indicate that St. Louis's three Congressmen, all Republicans, are not treated with that party consideration to which they are entitled. It would also indicate the difficulty of securing Republican legislation not demanded for the exclusive benefit of the trusts or of the party controlled by the trusts.

Gigantic subsidy schemes, such as that contained in the Hanna-Payne-Frye-Standard Oil ship subsidy bill, imposing a tax of $200,000,000 on the American people for the further enrichment of the syndicates, readily gain the support of the Republican majority in Congress. The St. Louis World's Fair bill, however, does not make the same strong appeal for Republican favor. It is merely for the benefit of all the people of the great Southwest, the Louisiana Purchase Territory, promising only to call the world's attention to the vast resources of that territory and to further develop those resources. Speaker Henderson and other Republican leaders are unable to support such a measure.

The American public will not fail to note the significance of this opposition to the World's Fair bill. The people's claim on the Government as now administered is not equal to that of the trusts. The Hanna-Payne-Frye-Standard Oil syndicate is more potent than the public sentiment of the richest section of the Union. The lesson is somewhat bitter, but it should bear good fruit.

THE PASSION PLAY.

In the unabated interest manifested by nearly the entire Christian world in this year's production of the Passion Play by the devout peasants of Oberammergau there is undeniable proof of quite a strong religious influence exercised by means of this primitive entertainment.

It may not for a moment be reasonably contended that the Passion Play receives this deep attention and respect from the outside world owing to its excellencies as a dramatic presentation. Artistically conscientious as its presentment may be, this would not of itself be sufficient to attract and hold such notice. It is in the religious sincerity of the Passion Play as produced in Oberammergau every ten years that its compelling magnetism is found.

What the so-called Christian world sees in this modern production of the early Miracle Play is that same unquestioning faith and childlike belief in the truth of the story being told which prevailed in the earlier days to keep vital before the eyes of Christians the life and death of Jesus Christ as facts of the world's history. The Oberammergau peasants regard their village performance as essentially a sacred performance. To them every spoken word, every situation, every changing scene, is instinct with the divinity of Christ's story. They take up their work with awe. They conduct the Passion Play as a sacrament.

It is an old and skeptical world which looks on at this novel production—a world quick to sneer at most evidences of a literal faith in the Scriptures, even while itself observing the forms of differing Christian rituals. That the Oberammergau Passion Play escapes this cynical regard is what makes it so distinctively remarkable. There is, indeed, something very pathetic in this phase of its presentment—one can almost imagine the world of "advanced" Christianity contemplating the work of the Oberammergau villagers with wistful eyes, envious of the sweet faith which makes possible the fine sincerity of their work.

ROTTEN AT THE START.

It is entirely logical that continued probing of the Havana postal scandal should develop an additional indication of corruption, pointing to a system by means of which certain persons on the pay roll of the Post Office in Washington also drew salaries in the Porto Rican service.

The carpetbag place-seekers, who are the loudest howlers for imperialism and the most vigorous wavers of Old Glory when imperialism is assailed by consistent Americans, seem to have gone into the imperialist business exclusively "for the stuff." The methods in vogue in the Havana postal service are now shown to have been the methods of spoilsmen pure and simple. The later development of similar methods having prevailed in Porto Rico shows that the carpetbag spirit has obtained there to an equal extent. General Otis himself is on record as charging widespread corruption among American civil officials in the Philippines.

These recent developments will go far to convince the American people of the basic rottenness of the new American doctrine of conquest, loot and booty. The holding of the Philippines is dictated by the syndicates. The infamous tariff taxation of Porto Rico was dictated by the syndicates. The breaking of our solemn pledge for the independence of Cuba is dictated by the syndicates. The organization of our "colonial" service is dictated by the syndicates and controlled by the carpetbaggers.

It will be well for the American people to think soberly about these developments. They are contrary to anything heretofore known in our national history, and infinitely humiliating to our national pride. Are we willing that they should continue? If we are not, we should remove from power the political party which is owned body and soul by syndicates and carpetbaggers, and committed irrevocably to imperialism and the corruption inevitable to imperialism.

THE PARTY OF TRUSTS.

While Senator Foraker was defending the Continental Tobacco Company, popularly known as the Tobacco Trust, in the Supreme Court of Ohio he turned aside momentarily to announce that he had been definitely chosen to place William McKinley in nomination for a second term as President of the United States.

The platform of the Republican party, to judge from the State platforms, will contain a plank denouncing trusts and favoring their regulation or suppression. How the people can place reliance on the sincerity of this declaration, in view of what has happened and is happening, passes comprehension.

When men as high in the party as Senator Thurston and Senator Foraker, while representing States in the United States Senate, accept fees from the trusts for defending them in court; when these men plead for such competition-stifling combinations as the Standard Oil Company and the Tobacco Trust, no utterance against trusts which the party in whose control they share can make will be accepted in any other light than as a snare for the thoughtless voter.

When the trusts contribute a gigantic slush fund toward the prosecution of the Republican campaign it proves that they know where their safety lies. They can see how the protection which the Republican party extends to them in the tariff regulations counteracts completely any half-hearted, ineffective, fruitless threat against them which may be contained in the platform of the party.

Senator Foraker's utterance in pleading for the Tobacco Trust, "We have reached the time when combinations of capital are an absolute necessity," is in perfect harmony with the declaration of Mark Hanna on the same subject: "The trusts do no harm. They ought to be left alone."

WILL IT BE CLOUDY?

To-day clouds will have one of their periodical opportunities to interfere with science and the progress of human knowledge. The clouds to do irreparable damage do not need to be the dark nimbus rain cloud. A fleecy cirrus or a heaped up cumulus cloud unluckily placed at the critical period will make entirely useless all the elaborate work of preparation for the eclipse on which scientists have for years been engaged.

The track of totality of the present eclipse is luckily situated. It traverses a habitable and settled district to which access is easy. This is not always the case. Sometimes the track of totality in a solar eclipse traverses the ocean and astronomers are obliged to pick desolate little islands before unused and uninhabited. They take journeys half way around the earth and endure severe hardships, to reach these desolate spots. Expeditions, planned with every care to completeness of apparatus, commissary and camp equipments, are fitted out. An oversight in the planning of such an expedition might interfere seriously with its work.

Even in the present instance skilled men have traveled from far-removed observatories to get into the line of totality. Their places were selected many months ago. Their cameras, telescopes and spectroscopes have been placed in the best possible places, determined by calculation and observation. Observers have drilled themselves over and over again in the work they must accomplish during the hour and seventeen minutes during which totality will last. Every motion of the hand, has been rehearsed with thoughtful care time and time again. It is a hit or miss enterprise—this observing of a total eclipse. There is no chance to correct errors or to remedy bungling. The men who will man the instruments from which the most important results are expected are not bunglers. The instrument they use is as familiar to their hand and eye as is the thimble to the finger of a practiced seamstress.

Even with all these precautions, or it may be because of these precautions, observers are frequently seized with a sort of stage-fright or "buck fever" when the momentous instant arrives. Especially is nervousness likely with a man who experiences his first total eclipse and who has an exalted appreciation of its importance. Astronomers tell of one observer who was assigned to take naked-eye observations of the corona of the sun and its streamers during totality. Ordinarily, the brightness of the sun makes the corona—the luminous envelope of the sun—invisible. Before the eclipse reaches totality the observers shut themselves up in dark rooms or boxes that their eyes may be delicate and accustomed to the darkness of the eclipse. At the moment of totality they emerge and do their work. When the corona observer emerged from the dry goods box where he had been protected from the light he lost his bearings and began to make his observations on the gilt ball of a church spire.

One little cloud covering the sun with the interposed moon during the short period of totality would completely frustrate the plans which the observers have been laying for years. The men who had traveled miles to make their observations would have to return home in chagrin and disappointment.

HE MAY BAG AGGIE.

Again is it in order for Americans to keep an appreciative eye on the movements of the picturesquely attractive Major Peyton C. March of the Thirty-third United States Infantry, now believed to be hot on the trail of Aguinaldo himself in the mountains northeast of the Philippine village of Benguet.

This irrepressible Infantry Major has already more than once distinguished himself in the Philippines by suddenly detaching his battalion and engaging in independent forays into the mountains, which invariably carried panic and demoralization among the native troops. He seems to have the knack of making infantry as mobile as cavalry, and of foraging on the country to an extent which made his remoteness from army quartermasters a matter of indifference to him. For these reasons his little "campaigns on the side" are always well worth watching.

It is a safe prediction that if Aguinaldo is in reality with the band of natives lately fled across the mountains Major March of the Thirty-third will either capture that distinguished personage or give him the foot race of his life. The chase now under full headway is full of dramatic possibilities. Persons who like the dramatic in real life will not fail to keep up with the story now in its first chapter.

Mayor Ziegenhein's declaration that he will never again sign a franchise bill unless it contains a clause providing for arbitration of disputes between employer and employed seems to be in the nature of bolting, barring and locking the stable door after he waked up.

St. Louisans do not take kindly to the suggestion that a private company be allowed to sell water to St. Louis at a "reasonable price." St. Louisans know the schedule of "reasonable prices" which private monopolies adopt when they deal with a municipality.

The War Department, at the solicitation of the lake carriers, is to regulate the flow through the drainage canal works at Lockport and Chicagoans may again get stray whiffs of the fragrance of the Chicago River which they hoped to meet no more.

The country could bear a few side-lights on the "cordial reception" which Secretary Hay says he extended to the Boer Peace Envoys. Was it as cordial as that which a business man extends to the Marshal who serves him with a jury summons?

Present indications are that the attention of President McKinley will be seriously distracted from his campaign for a second term by the necessity of investigating post office frauds in various portions of the country.

"Wait for the Wagon" may not have been the tune the old cow died of, but the local street railway strike is investing it with a killing monotony to the ears of St. Louisans.

It is only necessary to question remotely the attitude of any class of St. Louisans with regard to the World's Fair to elicit the information that St. Louis is a practical unit on that subject.

If the Weather Bureau by its observations during the solar eclipse finds out why it always rains the first time a man wears his new straw hat it will have conferred a boon on humanity.

The Boer peace envoys might know that an administration which is engaged in putting a yoke on a smaller nation would not frown down another nation similarly engaged.

The mobility of the Boers is all right, but Aguinaldo's is a class beyond. He has moved from Hong-Kong to Luzon and from death to life between cable dispatches.

Speaker Henderson stands to lose more than any other interested party in the event of the defeat of the St. Louis World's Fair bill by reason of his opposition.

Joe Chamberlain is now perfecting his plans to become Prime Minister of England. The British-Boer war was the first move in his personal campaign to this end.

If the St. Joe Herald really wishes to benefit Colonel Kerens it will train its guns on the Colonel's enemies in the ranks of the Colonel's own party.

Missouri's Young Republicans must not feel unduly humiliated if the State Democracy turns the approaching election into a spanking bee.

Maybe England will agree to the national independence of the Boers on condition that we grant the same right to the Cubans.

Unconquerable.

Rain in the morning—that's all right,
Afternoon will turn out bright!
Rain comes later—don't repine,
Wasn't the morning fresh and fine?
Rain all day—it's been right dry,
Things'll grow when the clouds pass by!
Rain or shine, or dry or wet,
Never a brave heart grumbled yet!

Fate herself can't help but grin
At a happy soul that won't give in!
And bad luck turns to good straightway
When such a soul sits in to play!
Wet or dry, rain or shine,
It's in the heart where the weather's fine!
Sun or cloud, gray sky or blue,
It's the soul's mood makes your day for you!

RIPLEY D. SAUNDERS.

CONTESTS ARE ON IN TWELVE WARDS.

Brady and Jefferson Club to Renew Their Fight in Cape Girardeau Convention.

DECISION OF GREAT VALUE.

Precedent Will Be Established for State Meeting—Both Sides Gather Evidence—Delegates Depart.

Contesting delegations will be filed at the Democratic Judicial Convention at Cape Girardeau to-morrow by the Brady and Jefferson Club factions. The contest, which will take place before the Committee on Credentials, promises to be a hot one. The result will determine which side will have a majority of delegates and the precedent for the State nominating convention will be established.

The anti-Jefferson Club element, composed of the Brady, Carmody, Lemp and other forces, will file contests as a result of Saturday's primary in seven wards, viz: Sixth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Fifteenth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third. The Jefferson Club will file contesting delegations in the Second, Fourth, Ninth, Tenth, and Twentieth wards, and possibly one or two more. If the Brady delegations are seated it will give them a total of 52 votes in the Cape Girardeau convention, or a majority of four over the Jefferson Club. If the Jefferson Club delegations are permitted to take part it will give them a combined strength of 68 votes.

The Brady followers will contest the seats in the convention on the general ground of police interference. It will follow along the line of the fight made at Moberly last Tuesday by the Kansas City delegation headed by Joe Shannon, resulting in the seating of his delegation.

The Brady and Jefferson Club forces spent the day yesterday gathering evidence to be presented to the committee on credentials at Cape Girardeau. Each side is determined and some interesting times are in store for the delegates from the country.

The filing of the contesting delegations promises to result in prolonging the convention. The situation between the candidates, Messrs. Wood, Biggs, Good, Dillon and Peers, is such that it is impossible to predict the result. All of the candidates depend on a portion of the St. Louis delegation for their final selection, and with matters in such a chaotic condition, not one of them can cast the necessary majority, 174 votes. The make-up of the Committee on Credentials will be the first point on which the different sides will have to score and some hard work will be done before the convention meets.

Quite a number of delegates arrived from counties in North Missouri yesterday. More are expected in this morning and to-night. The St. Louis delegation will go to Cape Girardeau to-night. Part will take a special train over the Iron Mountain, starting at 8 o'clock, while others will go down the river on the regular packet, which will delay its departure until after the evening trains arrive. Still others will go over the Illinois Central to the scene of the convention.

DELEGATES ELECTED.

Proceedings of St. Charles County Democratic Convention.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

St. Charles, Mo., May 27.—The Democrats of St. Charles County met in convention here Saturday and elected delegates to the State, and Judicial conventions as follows:

St. Louis Court of Appeals Convention at Cape Girardeau, May 29: T. P. McFarlanod, A. C. Eisenbath, William M. Castlio, A. E. Hucker and John A. Goddard.

State Judicial Convention at Sedalia, July 17: Louis H. Breker, T. A. Foster, J. H. Martin, Doctor G. L. Closemeyer and W. L. Lackett.

Resolutions were adopted indorsing the Chicago platform, William J. Bryan and the State administration. Opposing the colonial policy of the McKinley administration and the trusts, and expressing sympathy with the Boers.

The resolutions indorsed ex-Governor William J. Stone, Governor Lon V. Stephens, Senator F. M. Cockrell and David A. Ball for delegates-at-large to the Democratic National Convention at Kansas City, July 4, and also indorsing Dockery, Cook, Crow and Gantt, for their respective offices.

A resolution was also adopted indorsing Carr Edwards as a delegate to the National Convention.

The following County Central Committee was also elected: Earl R. Britt, chairman; J. M. Brueggeman, secretary.

State Nominating Convention at Kansas City, June 5: C. W. Wilson, J. P. Ogrady, Doctor W. L. Freeman, Captain Henry Reiteke, William Gray, Charles J. Walker, Benjamin Herrington and B. B. Flursmeyer.

State Delegate Convention at Jefferson City, June 14: Carr Edwards, Curtis McClure, Joseph Brass, K. Bernard Wessmann and Benjamin Fulkerton, Charles J. Walker, A. C. Eisenbath, I. M. McCormick, Okeley Edelen, Doctor W. L. Freeman, Doctor Mitchell Castlio, Theodore Borber, A. M. Studer and A. E. Hucker.

DELEGATES ON THE WAY.

Talk Over Chances of Judicial Convention Candidates.

A large number of county delegates to the Democratic Judicial Convention at Cape Girardeau arrived last night. Most of them registered at the Laclede Hotel, and the advance guard was busy discussing the chances of the various delegates. R. L. Goode's delegation from Springfield arrived, and with them came a number of friends of Mr. Goode. Among them were Perry Allen, Emmett Newton, E. Barber, T. H. McGregor, A. H. Wear, L. K. Anderson, G. M. Sebree, F. B. Evans, "Dad" Stephenson, F. M. Wolfe, Clyde Blesett, Louis Pipkin, Judge Neville, C. W. Hamlin and John Allman.

Other delegations which arrived last night included E. A. Glen and E. Pearson of Louisiana; J. E. Thompson, T. F. Hurd, F. W. McAllester of Paris; H. Clay Heather, Palmyra; E. L. Alford, Perry; G. D. Biggs, New London; W. N. Evans and Bob Tyree McPherson; ex-Senator Harrison, D. Knox, E. F. Mitchell, Sr., O. G. Strobach, W. N. Lenox and T. J. Powell of Rolla.

Boone County Returns.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Columbia, Mo., May 27.—More complete returns from yesterday's Boone County Democratic Primary change the results in only one instance. Judge W. F. Roberts of Hallsville is nominated for Representative, Frank C. Bradford for Sheriff, W. B. Cauthorn for Surveyor, H. H. Banks for Treasurer, J. H. Reid for Public Administrator, J. C. Hall for Assessor. For County Judge, Southern District, W. S. Wilson, Collector W. J. Mayer, Prosecuting Attorney J. H. Murry; Judge Northern District, W. S. Woods.

Clay County Ticket.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Liberty, Mo., May 27.—At the Democratic primaries in Clay County yesterday the following ticket was nominated: Representative, John Williams; Prosecuting Attorney, Frank H. Trimble; County Judge Western District, Handel Vance; County Judge Eastern District, J. C. Cooper; Sheriff, John King; Collector, George C. Waller; Treasurer, P. D. Anderson; Assessor, R. P. Chanslor; Surveyor, Ed Main; Coroner, George P. Lingenfelter; Public Administrator, E. P. Donovan.

Democratic Ticket.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

St. Genevieve, Mo., May 27.—The Democratic primary in this county yesterday resulted in the nomination of the following county ticket: For Representative, Peter H. Houck; Sheriff, James F. Berry; Collector, Henry Vaelh; Prosecuting Attorney, Stuart M. Wood; Treasurer, Louis Naumann; Assessor, Thomas B. Stranghan; Surveyor, A. H. Chadwell.

A. H. Chadwell was elected Congressional Committeeman in this (the Thirteenth) Congressional District, and is for a primary for the nomination of a candidate for Congress.

WILLIAM J. ATKINSON,
The new General Manager of the St. Louis Exposition. He succeeds Frank Gaiennie, who, however, will retain the presidency until next November.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN'S SIMPLE FARM LIFE.

Interesting Character Sketch by a New York Candidate for Vice President.

BRYAN LOVES THE COUNTRY.

Prefers Pastoral Life Close to the Soil, the Plain People and the Problems of Honest Toil.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

New York, May 27.—Doctor John H. Girdner, one of the prominent Democratic candidates for Vice President, who has just returned to New York from a visit to Mr. Bryan, in Lincoln, writes as follows:

"If you would look upon American manhood in its highest state of development go to Mr. Bryan's farm in Nebraska, as I did a few days ago, and see the greatest statesman and leader of the Western Hemisphere living the life that he loves best, close to the soil, close to the plain people, close to the great problems of honest toil and its just rewards, which lie behind the smoke and flame of party warfare in the great money centers of the country.

"As he goes about his barn or walks through his fields he gives one an impression of almost immeasurable physical strength and endurance. His muscles are hard and his eyes and complexion are clear, the inheritance of a temperate life. Notwithstanding the tremendous drafts which have been made upon his vitality during the last four years, he is still younger in physical strength than most men are at 40.

"When on his farm he has the jocose spirit of a man out for a holiday. There is nothing in his manner to indicate that the greatest responsibilities of political leadership in the present questions are resting upon him.

"It is doubtful whether any other great leader can so easily dismiss from his mind its customary burden of care and annoyance as Mr. Bryan when he wants to sleep or play. This is due to his evenly balanced mental qualities and perfect physical health, to intelligent self-control and to a conscience void of offense.

"He seems to breathe in the very breath of the farm and to be a part of it; he is so simple, so natural, so unconscious of himself, so interested in everything that grows—in the horses, the chickens, the red cow and its calf, the well, the windmill, the farm overseer and the rolling landscape. I have rarely seen a man with so great a capacity for enjoying the simple beauties of nature. His tastes have not been vitiated by the excitements of city life or the stock ticker.

"Those who have only seen Mr. Bryan in the heat of a campaign thundering against the wrongs which press upon the plain people can have no idea of the quaint, delicate, Lincoln-like humor that runs through his conversation when he is off duty. He has a good sense of proportion and enjoys telling a story, even when the joke is on himself. He can even joke about his military record, a thing that few men can do.

"The other day, in Lincoln, he showed me his black 'war charger,' and in a tone of mock gravity said:

"'I rode that horse all through the Spanish-American War. He was in every battle I was in. Do you wonder that I am attached to him?'

"On a rising slope of the farm, which commands a view of miles in every direction, stands the little Bryan farm house and on this spot he intends to build his permanent home.

"'Some day,' he said, 'if I am ever able to, I will put up a comfortable stone house here where I hope to spend my declining years in peace.' That modest ambition of a man, who, by abandoning the cause to which he has devoted his life might acquire great wealth, gives a better idea of the real Bryan than could be conveyed in a volume of words."

Maries County Democrats.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Dixon, Mo., May 27.—The Democracy of Maries County, in primary election, nominated the following ticket yesterday:

Representative, John G. Holmes; Circuit Clerk, Louis N. Hawkins; Collector, L. F. Parker; Treasurer, Robert S. Heelton; Prosecuting Attorney, John W. Ersell; Sheriff, J. D. Huffman; Assessor, J. B. Ragan; Surveyor, I. H. Burns.

Telephone wires into the county seat were cut in the evening, causing a delay in returns from some parts of the county until noon to-day.

Railroad Party at Hot Springs.

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Hot Springs, Ark., May 27.—A prominent party of railroad officials arrived in the city this morning over the Little Rock and Hot Springs Western Railway. The party is composed of General Manager Russell Harding, General Superintendent E. A. Peck and Division Superintendent J. D. Moore, Missouri Pacific Railway, accompanied by Vice President John G. Lonsdale and General Superintendent H. G. Fleming of the Little Rock and Hot Springs Western Railway. After a drive over the city, the party departed this evening in their private car for the North.

IRISH INVINCIBLES ORDERED EXCLUDED.

Fitzharris and Mullett Are Barred Out of the United States.

SERVED TERMS IN PRISON.

They Were Adjudged Guilty of Participation in the Phoenix Park Murders Seventeen Years Ago.

New York, May 27.—James Fitzharris, alias "Skin-the-Goat," and Joseph Mullett, the Irish Invincibles, who were recently released from prison in Ireland, where they were sentenced for complicity in the Phoenix Park murders in 1882, were to-day ordered excluded by the Board of Special Inquiry at the Immigration Station, and ordered deported. The exclusion was made under the interpretation of the law which forbids any one being admitted to this country who has been adjudged guilty of a "felony, crime, infamous crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude."

The two men were recently pardoned by Earl Cadogan, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, from a sentence of life-imprisonment, and reached this city among the steerage passengers on the Lucania Saturday last. After a conference with Commissioner Fitchie, the men were ordered back to Ellis Island to await the action of the Board of Special Inquiry. This board was composed of William Weihe, chairman; H. E. Moller, James A. Toner and Major Charles S. Sensny.

The two men were taken before the board at Ellis Island this morning. The inquisition was secret. The only one at the barge office to meet the two men, and who showed any interest in their behalf, was Rocky Mountain O'Brien.

After the meeting of the board it was learned that Fitzharris was the first to be examined by the members. He admitted he had served nearly seventeen years in prison. After being asked the usual questions as to his age, nativity and residence, Fitzharris was asked of what crime he had been convicted, and answered: "Treason."

He was then questioned as to this charge, and he told the board that he had been arrested about nine months after the famous Phoenix Park murders, in company with twenty-three others. These twenty-three were accused of having been accessory after the fact, while Fitzharris was charged with having been an accessory before the fact. Three months later he was brought to trial, with others of the accused. Five of them were sentenced to be hanged, and Fitzharris was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

While telling his story to the board, Fitzharris declared that at the time of his trial he was offered £10,000 by the English Government if he would turn informer against the other members of the band. This he refused to do. Of his life sentence he served about seventeen years in the Mount Joy, Chatham, Donawpatrick and Marybone prisons. Eight months ago he was pardoned. Fitzharris said that he and Mullett had about $30 between them when they reached this port.

Fitzharris asserted that while he was on British soil he was compelled to report to the police every month as to his doings and whereabouts.

"I came to this country," he added, "because I want a chance to rest and recuperate. I wanted to stay here about three months and then go back to my family."

Mullett indignantly refused to answer any of the questions put to him by the board. He declared he was not being accorded proper treatment by the Government.

His examination lasted only a short time, as he would not respond to questions.

The men were then sent to the "excluded pen."

The case will possibly be appealed to the authorities at Washington. If not, Fitzharris and Mullett will leave this port on Saturday on the Lucania.

TO CONTROL THE PRUNE CROP.

California Association Appeals to the Growers.

San Jose, Cal., May 27.—The California Cured Fruit Association is making a final attempt to control the prune crop this season. A last appeal has been sent out to growers in the shape of an address suggesting that the packers modify their contracts in the following particulars:

1. Strike out the provision guaranteeing prices when once made by the board and leave the same to be changed from time to time in his discretion.

2. Waive their demand for 50 per cent of the crop and leave the question of per cent of the crop to be secured to the decision of the management of the association.

3. Agree not to deal with any broker or jobber who would not limit his dealings in or sales of prunes to those controlled by the association.

4. Do away with the incentive to cut prices and simplify the transaction of their business with the association by agreeing to organize into a corporation and deal with the association as one person.

SAW IN A GUNBOAT A HOSTILE RAFT.

Mistake of an American Army Officer Caused an Exciting Chase.

CREW'S HOPES DASHED DOWN.

Thought They Had a Prize, but the Steamer Had Fled Only Because of a Landsman's Blunder.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

Manila, April 19.—The small gunboats that the United States bought or captured from Spain, vessels of the Leyte, Samar, Mindora and Palimbana type, are commanded by young naval officers, and do patrol duty along the coast. The Mindora, Ensign McCarthy commanding, has just returned from the northwest coast of Luzon, where for two months she had been steaming back and forth, looking for filibusters. Such duty is monotonous to a degree, a heavy sea or a hot sun being about the only differences from one day to another, but now and then excitement does come to this patrol, and the weary work of months is forgotten in the hope of a good capture or a good fight.

Two weeks ago, at 2 o'clock of a misty morning, the vigilant watch on the Mindora, cruising north of Aparri, spied a steamer's lights, and the gunboat was headed to cross the stranger's bows. No especial interest was attached to the strange vessel by the crew of the gunboat, for the coastwise traders are always slipping in and out of Aparri. Still, it is the duty of the patrol to ascertain what all vessels are doing, as any one may be on illegitimate business. The Mindora was running without lights. She had come to within a mile and a half of the stranger, when the latter suddenly changed her course, and the heavy clouds of smoke that rolled from her funnel told those on the gunboat that she was going to run away. Then hope dawned in the hearts of the coast patrol. After waiting and watching for two months, perhaps they had at last found an enemy. The jingle-bell rang in the engine-room, and the Mindora gathered headway for the chase.

Hopes Raised High.

"Fire a shot well across her bow," commanded Ensign McCarthy, and the six-pounder barked its arbitrary order to the stranger. She paid no attention.

"Give her another well clear," came the order from the bridge. But the second summons was unheeded, like the first.

"Drop one over her this time, so she'll hear it pass," ordered the ensign, and the gunner obeyed. The stranger answered this third and decisive summons by putting out her lights and throwing back a roll of black smoke that hid her from the view of the pursuing gunboat. To say the crew of the Mindora were hopeful and jubilant but faintly expresses their enthusiasm. The stranger had given every proof of being an enemy. Her disregard of the third summons to halt branded her as such, and the instructions given to the sea sentry are like those given to the sentry on land—"Fire if the third order to halt is disregarded."

Here was a prize in their very grasp. She was surely a filibuster trying to land arms, or a steamer conveying the fugitive Aguinaldo to Hong-Kong. No such capture had been made in a year, and the patient waiting and watching of the Mindora were at last to be rewarded. There were the best of good reasons to believe this. Why should any honest ship run from the third summons to halt, knowing, as all ships do, what comes after?

The Mindora was doing her eight and a half knots and the stranger was a mile ahead, hidden by the smoke from her funnel.

"Can you get a sight on her?" asked the bridge of the gunner.

"No, sir; nothing but her smoke."

"Open fire on her—three thousand yards;" and following this order the six-pounder sent shot after shot into the cloud of smoke ahead. After the fifth shot there were three sharp reports from the direction of the stranger and three bullets sang over the gunboat's deck.

Then the crew of the Mindora positively cheered, they were so happy. They cleared the ship for action and brought on deck their twelve-pounder and a liberal supply of ammunition for all her guns.

There was no doubt of it, now; here was the best chance that had ever come to a coast patrol since the work began.

After the eighth shot from the six-pounder, the stranger blew long blasts on her steam whistle and then slowed down. The Mindora ran through her trailing smoke and in a few minutes was close to a black-painted steamer, her lights again lit and her decks crowded with men. Ensign McCarthy called away a boat with an armed crew and prepared to board. As he left the Mindora's side a voice from the stranger called in good English: "Are you an American ship?"

McCarthy, not wishing to give the supposed enemy the advantage of any information concerning his identity, especially when one-third of his available fighting force were an easy mark in an open boat, replied:

"I will speak with you when I board you."

At length Ensign McCarthy mounted the stranger's gangway, and on reaching her decks he noticed they were crowded with frightened and astonished Filipinos.

"Tell the captain of this ship I want to see him up on the bridge, at once," ordered the American officer, and he walked forward. At this moment, a man in pajamas overtook him, and introduced himself as Major Whitely of the Sixteenth Regiment.

"I am Ensign McCarthy, commanding the United States gunboat Mindora," announced the naval officer. "I am very glad to meet you, sir."

Major Whitely's Mistake.

Major Whitely, Ensign McCarthy and the Spanish captain of the Compania Maritima's steamer Tarlac, for such the vessel proved to be, then proceeded to the bridge, and the incomprehensible matter was explained.

The Tarlac was bound from Lasoag, on the west coast, to Aparri, on the north. She had on board fifty Filipinos, for the latter port, seven American soldiers and Major Whitely, who had been out ten days in the islands, and was joining his regiment at Aparri. Before the Tarlac left Lasoag, Major Whitely heard a story to the effect that the fifty Filipino passengers contemplated mutiny and the capture of the steamer before she reached her destination. They were, it was alleged, to act in conjunction with men on the coast, who, at a designated point, were to board the Tarlac from an armed raft and help in the fighting. So Major Whitely was very careful and watched closely for the promised raft.

When the Mindora was sighted she was mistaken for the raft, and Major Whitely told the captain of the Tarlac to steam away. This was done. Later it occurred to the Major that it would be a good plan to ram the raft, sink it and drown the enemy. The Spanish captain declined to attempt this, giving as his reason that no raft could steam eight knots an hour and fire shells from a six-pounder, and he was not going to try to ram an American gunboat. This did not convince Major Whitely of his mistake. As an American officer on a chartered transport, he was in command of that vessel, and by virtue of his authority he made the Spanish captain continue his flight from the supposed raft until after the eighth shot from the Mindora. This was the explanation of the Tarlac's curious behavior.

"And now may I inquire why three shots were fired at us?" asked Ensign McCarthy.

"I ordered a soldier to fire them," answered Major Whitely, "thinking you were this raft I have been speaking about."

"Very well, sir; that is sufficient," replied Ensign McCarthy, and he bade them good-night, expressed his regret at having interrupted their journey, and was rowed back to the Mindora.

Back to Weary Watching.

While Ensign McCarthy was on board the Tarlac, Cadet Welchert, second in command of the Mindora, had all guns trained on the stranger and was ready for action should occasion demand. A few words from Ensign McCarthy explained the situation to the still-expectant and hopeful men on his ship, and then the gunboat steamed away to further months of vigilant watching.