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CURRENT CRITICAL COMMENT

Culled and Collected from the Happenings of the Past Week Throughout Christendom.

London's Great Panic Causes Distress—Middle-of-the-Roaders Convene for Consultation—West Point in Civilized Disgrace—The New Century Has Begun.

The London financiers are suffering at present from a recent panic in the money market of that city. The great stock exchange, of which the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava was at the head, went to pieces one day this week, and as a result, twenty-eight lesser institutions soon went down with a crash. London has not suffered so from a financial standpoint for a number of years, and it was felt even in the money markets of the United States, from which the exchanges have been purchasing bonds and other securities from the many exchanges of this country. The downfall of these stock exchanges is nothing more nor less than the downfall of great gambling houses, for they are only high-toned gambling dens and their downfall is a blessing in disguise to humanity. True enough, some of the best and ablest financiers the world knows are at the head of these institutions, but they are gamblers, and gambling, whether it be high-toned or low-toned, whether it be in a stock exchange or a tenderloin dive, is all gambling, and is forbidden by the laws of all countries, and their overthrow is always to be desired, though it affects English royalty.

MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROADERS.

Within the last week, the Middle-of-the-Road Pops of the United States have held a conference at St. Louis, Mo., to discuss whether or not the Populist party, as a party, should go to pieces or be absorbed into the Democratic party under the leadership of Wm. Jennings Bryan or some other famous champion yet to rise. It will be remembered that the Populist party first assumed national shape in 1892, when it met in Omaha, framed and issued its famous "Omaha platform," and nominated candidates for the presidency and vice presidency. The Omaha platform, as it was issued, was widely discussed by the parties then and since then. The teachings of that famous platform, if followed out, would have made angels' out of men instead of politicians. It was a useless document so far as any government is concerned, for it is hardly possible that this or any other government will ever reach the state of perfection that it recommended. It made radicals out of men, and from a political standpoint its adherents became the most rabid political radicals that the country has ever seen. The wonder of the whole matter is that it lasted as long as it did. It went to pieces in 1896, was absorbed for the time in the Democratic party, it gathered itself together in 1899 and broke away to some extent from its 1896 affiliations, and again in 1900 put forth candidates for the presidency and vice presidency, but as divisions surung up within the party ranks its candidates received but a feeble support at the polls. Its recent conference discussed and re-discussed the points of vital issue to the party and finally decided to continue as Middle-of-the-Roaders, and fight on for the rights of the famous Omaha platform.

WEST POINT A DISGRACE.

The investigation by the Congressional committee concerning the death of Cadet Booz, who was hazed at West Point, and died from the effects, has developed enough to say without fear of successful contradiction that the students at West Point, aided and abetted by the superin-

tendent and officers in charge, are as crude and cruel as African barbarians. One would expect no worse treatment at the hands of penitentiary convicts, at the hands of professional jail birds in their kangaroo courts, at the hands of any number of ruffians assembled together for the express purpose of displaying their "hardness." That Cadet Booz was killed, or that he was so roughly handled that he died from the effects of the handling, at the hands of the other calets at West Point, goes without saying, and the same has certainly been proven beyond a question of doubt by the investigation committee. It is high time that such brutality be eschewed from schools and colleges, and especially from the most refined military institution of this country. If the young men who desire to seek a military training and those whom the government wishes most to have seek such are to be handled in such a manner by the students already there, and if such is to be handed down from class to class, it will soon so discourage the young men that they will not seek to become students at the highest military academy in the land. Hazing, such as Cadet Booz had to undergo at the hands of his senior brethren, is a disgrace to the civilization of the newly begun twentieth century.

NEW CENTURY BEGUN.

Last Tuesday, despite the bickerings of the pessimists, the twentieth century was ushered into existence. For a number of months during the past year, would-be scientists, as well as scholarly persons in this country, have protested that the twentieth century had already begun in January, 1900. That such an assertion was absurd in the extreme every man and woman in the country with any educational qualifications were willing to bear witness against, and those persons that were not willing to concede the fact that the twentieth century began in 1901 were that class of persons who were unable to only get cheap newspaper notoriety, which they were seeking in any other shape or form than by advocating such an absurdity. Albeit the matter has been settled once for all; the new century has begun, and begun in a flame of glory. The world for the most part is at peace. While nationalities may be commercially jealous of each other, it does not run to the extent of wanting to wage war with each other. There is a spirit of peace and good will to all men and to all nations throughout the entire world, irrespective of race, color or condition. The nineteenth century can truthfully be said to have made more advancement from a scientific and commercial standpoint than all the centuries combined since the birth of Christ, and thus left easy sailing for the twentieth. Whether or not the improvements that have been brought into operation during the nineteenth century are of more real value over and above the methods that were used in the eighteenth century is a question. In the rush and push of this age, new inventions are brought to light and then newer inventions are brought to light, and the one is soon discarded for the other, without the former having its real merits thoroughly tested. Whether man could not have accomplished more with less scientific improvements and more useful improvements, as was the case a century ago, is a very debatable ques-

tion. We fly through space at a hundred miles an hour, and we talk with our friends hundreds and thousands of miles from us, as though they were in our presence, and a hundred and one other inventions equally as startling might be mentioned, but do they bring real happiness? is another debatable question. What the present century will bring forth, what will be accomplished in 100 years, what science will have startled the world with in 100 years more, what the complete summary of human investigation will be during the twentieth century, is of all the debatable of debatable questions.

CONGRESS' DYING DAYS.

The 56th Congress has begun its final labors, as it has but two more months to work, when it will become a thing of the past, and a large percentage of the members thereof will retire to private life, perhaps forever, for, as a rule, ex-members of Congress don't ever reappear in public life. Since the last session of Congress began, it has been grinding away at a rapid rate and doing some most excellent work, and it is thought by the leaders in the present Congress that ere the session expires in March it will have passed a number of very important measures giving relief in many instances to those sections and those members of the government needing it worst. The internal revenue laws will have been so modified as to stop the useless accumulation of money in the United States treasury vaults. The \$60,000,000 appropriation for rivers and harbors will have been passed, the enabling acts for Arizona and Oklahoma territories to become states will have been passed, the re-apportionment for the various States will have been re-apportioned according to the reports of the twelfth census, the army increase bill passed, and many other measures of relief will all have been made and enacted into laws, and the signature of the President placed thereon before the present Congress expires.

DE WET IS CAPTURED.

The capture of Gen. DeWet, in South Africa, who has been giving the English soldiers such a chase since the departure of President Oom Paul, is considered the turning point in the South African war. It will be remembered that the turning point in the Philippine war was, when it was reported on reliable authority that Aguinaldo had been killed and was no longer at the head of the insurgent army. The same can be applied to the Boer army, as it will go to pieces now that its most fearless and clever leader has been entrapped by English strategy and persistency. There is no doubt but that if Gen. DeWet had had a sufficient number of men and supplies, he would have eventually so harassed and worried the English army that it would have declared for peace in spite of the protests of the Secretary of Colonies in London. Just what England will do with the South African republics is a question that she herself is unable to decide at present. Whether it will be advisable to reduce them to colonies or to give them a quasi-independent government is a question that is perplexing the minds of the leading statesmen of the English government. It is very apparent that unless the South African republics are made independent governments, to some extent at least, that they will be eternally in a state of warfare, an elephant on England's hands, and to continue them as subjugated colonies it will require a standing army greater than kept by any other nation in the world.

UNCLE SAM'S ISLANDS.

Uncle Sam is having some experience in establishing independent governments with his island possessions at present. Although the Porto Rican legislative functions have been in session now for more than a month no laws have been passed by the bodies, owing to the fact that the higher branch of the legislature, which is appointed by the President, clashes in every instance with the lower branch of the assembly, which

is elected by the voters of the island. In other words, the two are at loggerheads with each other on every point, so much so that nothing will be accomplished by either branch now nor at any time within the near future. It is very apparent that the government will either have to appoint both branches of the assembly or it will have to permit the people to elect the members of both branches that there may be sufficient political harmony brought about to pass the necessary laws for running some kind of a government.

MOVE SLOWLY IN CUBA.

According to the press dispatches, Cuba is also having much trouble in framing a constitution and bylaws, for an independent government for that island. The constitutional convention has been in session now for more than a month, and while it has framed and passed a number of measures, yet the most important ones are still under debate, and not only under debate, but are so antagonized by one side or the other as to jeopardize the final passage of them one way or the other. Just what kind of a republic that island will have, or whether it will have any at all, is very questionable just now. Some of her leading citizens want a republic after the fashion of the French republic, while others want it shaped after the fashion of the United States, and still others who want it shaped after any old thing, to meet the wishes of a few of its leading and aspiring politicians. Whatever kind of government they form, it must meet the approval of Congress before it becomes a reality, hence, even after they have formed their government, it may be rejected by Congress. For great nations to have protectorate republics seems almost a waste of energy and vitality, and certainly a waste of finances and deliberation. If Cuba is to be under the protectorate of the United States, it should be a part of the States of the United States, just as is Maine or Mississippi. Only that and nothing more.

IGNATIUS DONNELLY DEAD.

The world, perhaps, was startled last Tuesday morning at the announcement by the Associated Press of the death of Ignatius Donnelly at his home in Minneapolis, Minn. Aside from Mr. Donnelly's political off-color, he can be truly said to have been one of the great literary scholars of the nineteenth century. That he should have passed away at the close of the century to which he had added so much from a literary standpoint was rather striking. Mr. Donnelly was in his 70th year, and though he had reached a ripe old age, until a short time before his death, it was generally considered that he would live many years more and furnish the literary world with many more valuable contributions for its edification and general benefit. He has written more books—that is, readable books—than any other writer of recent years. He was quite a figure in national political circles, as he has more than once been a candidate for the presidency of the United States, nominated by one of the lesser parties of this country. Politically speaking, Mr. Donnelly was a fanatic, but in every other respect he was an able and fearless American that not only believed in right, but was ready to stand for right at all times and on all occasions.

If you wish to spend an evening of rare enjoyment that comes but once a year, see the elegant entertainment at the Third Avenue theater next week, opening Sunday matinee, when Isham's "King Rastus" company, with such famous favorites as Smart and Williams, Mallory Bros. and Brooks and thirty others. "King Rastus" has proved to be one big novelty of the season, and flattering reports are heard from everywhere.

LEGAL NOTICES

At reasonable rates wanted for publication in
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THE QUEEN CITY NEWS

Moves in Mysterious Ways—Wonders Performed

An Excellent Annual Review of the City—Moran Brothers Must Have the Big Contract—Griffin Got Goody—Seattle Is to Have a New Telephone System to Handle Its Big Business Boom.

The Post-Intelligencer is to be congratulated on its interesting statistical number concerning Seattle and the State of Washington in general. No paper in the State or in the Northwest, for that matter, seems to put forth the same amount of energy, push and money to properly advertise the Northwest as does the Post-Intelligencer. It not only has done this in this particular instance, but it has repeatedly done so in the past, and as a result no paper in the Northwest is so widely known throughout the North, East, South and West as is the P.-I. Last Sunday's issue did not fall below the standard of its previous issues of the same kind, and persons interested in the up-building of Seattle will show their appreciation to the medium which is struggling to advertise the city by sending large numbers of copies of last Sunday's P.-I. to their friends throughout the East. As a reference, even for those persons living in Seattle, nothing that can be found in print can one-half compete with the data that the P.-I. furnished in last Sunday's issue, which it is pleased to term its annual review of Seattle and its surroundings.

TO HELP MORANS OUT.

An effort is being made by the Chamber of Commerce to help the Moran Bros. secure the government contract to build a battleship at this port. To secure such a contract it would mean the distribution of \$60,000 a month in the shape of wage labor to persons living in Seattle. The Moran Bros. scaled their original bid down \$116,000, but this still leaves them within \$100,000 of securing the government contract, which they are compelled to do in order to get the work. They do not feel able to scale the original price down another \$100,000, and will throw up the contract before they will do so. The Chamber of Commerce, ever alert to the best interests of Seattle, has interposed and asks those citizens of Seattle who are interested in Seattle, to come forward and raise the necessary \$100,000 by popular subscription, and thus bring this gigantic amount of work to Seattle, which means the expenditure of \$3,600,000. The citizens of this city have often contributed to less deserving industries, and they should not hesitate in rushing to the rescue of this ship building company within their gates and subscribe the necessary \$100,000, thereby bringing to the city millions of dollars' worth of labor.

GRIFFIN GOT FINED.

Recently Daniel Webster Griffin, the erstwhile editor of the Seattle Bee, was charged with assaulting a woman with a deadly weapon with intent to do her great bodily harm, a crime for which, had he been convicted, would have sent him to the penitentiary for a number of years. This the friends of Griffin knew quite well, so they asked the county attorney to allow him to plead guilty to a simple assault, which he did, and was fined \$75 and costs for the same. The Republican has no hesitancy in saying that any man that will strike a woman, even with his fist, is a brute in human garb, and it therefore has no hesitancy in saying that a man who will hit a woman with a gun or any other deadly weapon, and especially a man of Griffin's stature, is deserving of a life sentence in the penitentiary. There are no probabilities, suppositions or hy-

pothesis as to his guilt in this matter, for he himself has pleaded guilty and has been fined by the courts for the same. Just what young colored men have in mind, who will shoot one woman to death, and that in the back, and another that will club another into insensibility, is more than this paper can explain, and it is high time that the law be enforced on such lawbreakers to its fullest and utmost extent.

NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Another twenty-five-year franchise for the construction and operation of a new telephone system in this city has been granted by the City Council and approved by the Mayor. The cry for a second telephone system among Seattleites has been heard loud and long, as they believed a second telephone system would bring about such a sharp competition between the companies the patrons of telephones would get them at reasonable rates, which, they believed, they were not getting at present. Within the past year differences arose between the Sunset Telephone Company and its patrons, and, as a result, over three thousand were ordered out and equally as many more stood ready to follow suit had the trouble not been amicably settled by all parties concerned. It was then thought that the Automatic Telephone system, which has been granted a twenty-five-year franchise by the City Council, would soon be ready to begin operations and thereby cause the Sunset Telephone system to reduce its exorbitant rates and also raise the salaries of its operators, who were receiving the poorest kind of compensation for the best kind of work, but somehow or other the Automatic system did not materialize, and those holding the franchise not taking advantage of the opportunity given them by the city, allowed it to lapse and become non est. It is hoped that those holding the new franchise will at once string their lines in the city and be ready to give good service before the present year expires. It would be better for the city to have but one telephone system, providing such a system would give adequate service, charge reasonable rates for its machines, and pay liberal wages to its operators, but, where such system will do neither of these, then a duplicate, if not triplicate, telephone systems should be put in operation.

PERSONAL

News from Mrs. Leonard reports her safe arrival at home and the dangerous illness of her mother.

Mrs. W. H. Johnson and Mrs. L. H. Wheeler were visitors to Portland one day last week and are expected home within the next few days.

Mr. W. P. Sawyer, who has been in California for a number of months, has returned to his post of duty and is to be found in the counting room of the P.-I., with his usual smile.

Senator Oliver Hall, of Colfax, will visit in the Queen City during the coming week with Hon. Edward B. Paimer and other friends prior to going to Olympia to attend the seventh session of the Legislature.

Mr. Austin Anderson has decided to not put in an application for a position in Olympia, and has indorsed the application of Mr. W. H. Taylor, who will be the only Afro-American applicant from this county.

The open house held by the ladies of the city at Masonic Temple hall New Year was well attended and proved to be a most pleasant affair. It was followed by a dance in the evening, which lasted till an early hour in the morning.

Mr. Frank Alfred, who is in the employ of the government at the Bremerton dry dock, spent a few days in the city during Christmas, taking in the ball both the 26th of December and the first of January.

Mr. John A. Whalley, who spent the month of December in California visiting with his family, where his wife has been for the past two months or more, returned last Tuesday and is again at his desk going over his accumulated mails.