

The Scranton Tribune

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Those who hope to engineer a successful bolt in Pennsylvania next fall will need to take out an injunction against the war-with-Spain spirit.

The Proper Penalty.

It seems to be believed by every person in Washington who has had facilities for obtaining trustworthy information that the Maine's destruction was the work, not of accident but of design.

In some quarters it is intimated that a money indemnity, with expression of regret, would constitute a sufficient atonement.

There are others who contend with warmth that if Spanish treachery has done this infamous deed Spain should be obliterated from the map.

As between these extreme opinions our sympathies go out to the latter but we recognize that its realization is not now expedient.

Dr. Swallow gently intimates that the Wasmaker brand of political reform is worthy of suspicion.

England and the United States. In an article in the Washington Post which has every indication of being inspired announcement is made that "whatever may be the outcome of the present situation in Cuba the United States will have the friendly support of Great Britain, but will not ask nor accept her material aid."

"An offensive and defensive alliance with Great Britain," said Senator Davis, the chairman of the committee on foreign relations, "would be at variance with our policy from the days of Washington."

"We do not want any alliance," he said, "for while we would be glad if England gave us her sympathy, we do not need her aid."

The Post asserts that the administration holds a similar view. "It has always been," that paper remarks, "the policy of the United States to hold aloof from alliances with foreign nations of any character whatever."

is much reason why the United States should not put in that attitude toward Russia, especially for the reason that the transcontinental railway now building across the Siberian steppes, is being constructed very largely of supplies in the way of lumber and other material shipped from the United States.

Great victories are not won in a day. It is something to have effected within so brief a time, as British diplomacy has lately done, the disarming of that Anglophobic sentiment, once so vociferous in this country, which held it to be the chief end of virile Americanism to be ready to scrap with England at the drop of the hat.

It takes experience to teach an effective school. Some of the once loudest kickers in congress against \$400-a-ton armor plate are now the most anxious to get armor plate built rapidly at \$400 a ton.

The Term of Congressmen.

The house committee on the election of the president, vice-president and representatives in congress, in its favorable report on the proposition to amend the constitution so that members of the house of representatives should be elected for four years instead of two, offered these reasons:

"First—The people have almost invariably elected a house of representatives in harmony with the partisan policy of the president in presidential campaigns, but unfortunately for the tranquility of the people and the safe development of our commercial and industrial industries, the theory of governmental administration upon which the people elect the president, cannot be successfully inaugurated and put into practical operation before the members of the house are compelled, under our constitution, to enter another election, and thus keep in constant agitation the business interests of our country."

"Second—Every intervening congress since 1872, with a single exception, has been hostile to the administration of national affairs until the intervening congress has become famous only for the things it does not do, rather than for the good accomplished."

"Third—The evils of frequent elections are a constant menace to our financial and industrial industry."

"Fourth—New members are required to give the principal part of their time during the first session to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations of the house and preparing for the political campaign in the midst of their term."

"Fifth—The present amendment would tend to secure greater stability and tranquility in public affairs. With a president and house working in harmony, with a term of four years of continued exemption from political turmoil, we may justly hope for harmony in the administration of public affairs, the creation and execution of wise laws, the restoration of business tranquility, advancement in industrial and commercial enterprises, and the prosperity and happiness of the people."

"These arguments are not without force, although it is our belief that upon the whole the disadvantages of the present system of biennial elections are more than counterbalanced by the opportunity which that system affords to the people to interpose between presidential elections an expression of opinion upon the executive's work and policies. The committee from whose report we have just quoted evidently assumes that a president and congress elected simultaneously for four years would, during those years, work together harmoniously and intelligently for the public good. This assumption views only the optimistic side of the picture. What if the congress and president should not agree, or, if in agreement, should be partners rather in iniquity than in wisdom? In that event—and it is not in our judgment a supposition much more improbable than the other one—the people would be likely to appreciate the chance, now offered at two-year periods, to lay new instructions before the government."

"This discussion, however, is wholly academic. Neither the president's term nor that of congressmen is likely to be changed in the near future. Whether desirable or not a change is improbable—particularly a change involving constitutional amendment. But there is one good remedy for most of these and similar complaints which the people have already in hand. That is, when they find a creditable and efficient representative in congress, to keep him there. Then the newness of green congressional timber will not constitute, as at present, a continual hindrance to the effective transaction of the public business."

Francis C. Moore, of 46 Cedar street, New York, has written to President McKinley: "I stand ready to send you my check for \$1,000, payable to your order, as a loan to the government, without interest, to be repaid at its convenience, or not at all, to be used by you in your discretion for the national defence. There are 100,000 men in the country richer than I am, and if

each of them will do likewise you will have \$100,000,000 in cash to be used without restriction or conditions, and Spain will have a significant object lesson of a united nation of loyal and self-sacrificing citizens, supporting a discreet and vigorous executive, which will be more potent than battleships to admonish her that peace is desirable and that war would be a mistake. We have only one life to live and only one country to love, and I would rather have my name on your receipt for this fund, so far as my memory and posterity are concerned, than to have it carved on the proudest monument money could buy."

Senatorial courtesy is a queer thing. For example, Henry S. Williams, of Aberdeen, S. D., owns a newspaper which in his absence contained an article criticizing Senator Pettigrew. Thereupon, when the president had named Williams for postmaster of Aberdeen, Pettigrew donned war paint and had the senate reject the nomination. No other reason for rejection has been offered. It was simply a case of the senate of the United States humoring one irascible member's personal pique. Yet the senate wonders why it has become unpopular!

The London Statist is worried over the probable cost of a war with Spain. The Statist needn't worry. It won't have to pay the freight.

Since Feb. 25 \$16,700,000 in foreign gold has started for New York, not a bad showing for a country with a war scare on its shoulder.

Bryan Bumps Into Some Hard Facts

Washington, D. C., March 12. R. BRYAN'S trip through the south last week is understood here to have been made with the purpose of trying to strengthen the waning cause of silver in that section and at the same time to encourage fusion, which has been coldly received by the Populists of the south. The tone of the Populist press has been far from satisfactory to the authors of the fusion scheme, and anxiety is felt among the friends of silver in this last attempt to unite the voters of the three parties in its support will prove an absolute and recognized failure. The Populist press of that section is insisting that the party cannot march under Democratic banners and is carefully omitting the active support of the fusion cause which characterized the earlier history of the party and press. The rapid improvement of business conditions in the south and the consequent rise in prices of farm products generally, in the face of the steady fall of silver since Mr. Bryan's nomination, is causing the average citizen to lose confidence in those assertions which were the entire basis of the silver campaign of 1896.

Notwithstanding the claim that prices could not rise without free coinage of silver, there has been a steady advance in practically all farm products since the date of Mr. Bryan's nomination. A list of the prices of the staples of the south, which were the entire basis of the silver campaign of 1896, is given below:

These tables, which show the range of prices in silver and various farm products, are too lengthy to reproduce in full. It is practicable, however, to present in a single table the history of the upward course of prices in all classes of farm products in the face of the downward course of silver during the period since Mr. Bryan's nomination. These facts, coming to the surface as they do, just at the time of Mr. Bryan's tour through the south and his prospective visit to Washington, are especially interesting and make the table one well worth the study and preservation of everyone interested in the coming campaign. The articles selected represent the three great classes of farm production,—wheat, cotton, and wool, while other articles of the classes thus represented have advanced in an equally marked ratio.

Table showing advance in prices of various farm products, and coincidental fall in the price of silver from July 10, 1896 (date of Bryan's nomination), to March 10, 1898:

Table with columns: Wheat, Pork, Wool, Silver. Rows: July 10, 1896; November 25, 1896; April 17, 1897; September 15, 1897; December 15, 1897; March 10, 1898.

Another difficulty which Mr. Bryan encountered in his tour through the south is the remarkable advance in manufacturing industries in that section in the face of the fall in silver. Even during the past year, with silver galloping down hill at the rate of 15 per cent. reduction per annum, cotton mills have sprung up all over the south and are running over time, sending their goods to all parts of the country and all parts of the world and paying dividends from 10 to 25 per cent. per annum. In the calendar year 1897, thirty-seven new cotton mills, with more than a quarter of a million spindles, were erected in the south, in the preceding years the increase has been equally great. Here is a table showing the increase in cotton manufacturing in the south and the money invested in them during the past seven years in the face of a constant fall in silver during that time.

Table showing increase in the number of cotton mills in the southern states since 1890, with number of spindles and looms and capital invested:

Table with columns: Mills, Spindles, Looms, Capital. Rows: 1890; 1891; 1892; 1893; 1894; 1895; 1896; 1897; 1898.

price of silver controls in any way the price of cotton, shows that the average price of middling cotton in New York fluctuated very greatly between 1890 and 1897 while the price of silver remained practically unchanged. The following are the tables in question, taken from the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph:

Table showing the average prices of silver and cotton in New York prior to act of 1873, and fluctuations in prices of cotton while price of silver remained unchanged. Columns: Bullion value, Middling of 2 1/2% cotton, Grains pure silver.

GIVE IT TIME.

From the Washington Star. There should be no impatience on the part of the public respecting the movements of the naval court of inquiry. There is every reason to believe that it is proceeding with all the diligence the occasion calls for. It is entirely competent to determine the amount of time necessary for the investigation. It alone is in possession of information. The public, so far, has only theories and speculation, prepared for it in some instances solely for some purpose. The responsibility of this naval court is very great. Hasty or hurried conclusions would not only discredit the court, but increase existing international complications. All essential obtainable facts relating to the cause of the Maine's destruction are expected. Much of the work is very difficult. The ship is at the bottom of Havana harbor, and it is proving to be no easy matter for the divers to explore the wreck. But the divers are at work, the wreck is under American control, and as soon as may be the story will be brought up.

And even after the court shall have reported there must be time for the president and his advisers to digest the document. It is not to be assumed that he will be able to read it one day and be ready to act on it the next. It would be as little to their credit to hurry or jump to conclusions as to that of the court of inquiry. What is being sought is not a pretext for war with Spain, but the truth about the destruction of a vessel of the American navy while riding at anchor in a harbor controlled by Spain. There is ground for the suspicion of foul play, but suspicion affords no ground for a declaration of war. It is to be held to accountability the case must be able to bear calm examination.

The question is not one of time limit. The courage of the American people will keep. They will be found ready to uphold the honor of the flag whenever the occasion calls for it. Neither the court of inquiry nor the administration needs to be prodded. The only necessity now existing is for patience. The country's case is in safe hands, as events will show.

ONE EYE ON THE GOVERNOR-SHIP.

From the Washington Post. Representative Tate, of Georgia, who returned to his city yesterday from a visit to his home, says that ex-Representative Candler will undoubtedly be the next nominee for the governorship. A nomination is equivalent to election. Mr. Candler is well remembered here as the Independent who fought Emory Spowers, at that time the leading member of the Georgia delegation. He is a genuine colonel, having lost an eye in one of the battles of the war. He is an able and bright man, and many stories are told of his ready wit when he was in congress. One of Mr. Candler's latest sayings, by the way, is said to be the cause of his certain nomination. Down in Georgia, a possum supper is synonymous with a political conference, and to one of these occasions Mr. Candler was invited. He knew that the men at the supper were not altogether favorable to him, and he decided not to present. "A political possum supper," he wrote to the host of the occasion, "is not the place for a one-eyed man."

THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR.

A Fishing Jingle. The day of all the glad year Which I love best; The one I think the most of, More than all the rest. The one whose coming brightens My face, and makes it shine. Is the early day in April, When I first cast a line!

You may talk about your Christmas, (And I'll join in praise of that) You may welcome blooming Easter, With its big new hat; You may rave about your birthdays Of the men who did their best— Give me the first day's fishing, And you may have the rest.

I've been waiting long since August, For this April day; I've dreamed about it many a night, And thought of it by day; Patriotic and religious moods Have been colored by the wish That the wheels of time would hurry With the first day to fish.

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