

"Abandoned farms" and "the decline of agriculture" are familiar terms in connection with the New England states, but now Governor Mount is quoted to the effect that right in Indiana, comparatively a new state and until recently almost exclusively agricultural, there are large tracts of land, in one country alone over 100,000 acres, abandoned and given over to waste.

A French newspaper called La Patrie asserts that from January 1 to August 1898, "Col. Hay, the American Ambassador in London spent more than fifteen millions on the British press." It says that "without the employment of such means the United States would never have succeeded in crushing Spain in the face of a Europe instinctively hostile to their expansion." It can be possible that Mark Hanna fixed the big British newspapers last year the same as he did the big American newspapers in 1896?

The White Man's Burden" in Kipling's rare poetic setting, means volumes. A few weeks ago the phrase was practically meaningless, but to-day it means everything about an important national policy. Mr. Kipling, whose recovery from a recent serious illness is now assured, might render an invaluable service by focusing the light of his poetic genius upon "the honest man's burden." About this season of the year such a poem would be greatly appreciated by the people who are paying the tax dodgers' taxes.

A pathetic statement is narrated in connection with Mr. Medill's love for the Chicago Tribune. When Mr. Kohlssat sold his interest in the Inter-Ocean he asked Mr. Medill to name a price on the Tribune. He finally said he would take \$2,000,000, and to his surprise Mr. Kohlssat called the next day and told him he would take the paper. Mr. Medill then said: "Mr. Kohlssat, I am alone in the world; my beloved wife is gone; my daughter has passed to the other shore, and I have nothing to love or live for but the Tribune; it connects me with the past, and I must keep it; I cannot sell it at any price." Mr. Kohlssat could not meet that style of argument. He recognized that the heart of the old veteran was in the Tribune and the property remained his until he died.

Bryan Refuses to Attend the Millionaire's Banquet in New York.

Perry Belmont's so-called democratic clubs of New York millionaires, are going to hold a great banquet on Jefferson's birthday. They have given it out that their tables will be spread for upwards of a thousand guests, and that the expense will not be less than \$10 per plate, and that all democrats of prominence, not alone in New York state, but in the entire country, will be invited to attend.

Mr. Bryan has already been invited, and has written a long letter to Mr. Belmont declining to accept the invitation. Mr. Bryan is very pointed and personal in his reply. He said in part: "You proclaimed to your fellow citizens in 1896 that my election upon a democratic platform would endanger the nation's welfare; you will pardon me if I suggest that a banquet presided over by you will injure rather than aid in harmonizing personal differences, but differences of principle can not be harmonized, and, in my judgment, no party advantage is to be derived from political communion between the Jeffersonian democrats who stand upon the Chicago platform, and republican allies who masquerade as democrats between campaigns in order to give more potency to their betrayal of the democratic principles on election day."

Mr. Bryan did quite right in refusing to attend a political gathering with the Belmonts, Hills and Cleverlands of the East. Men of their stripe are no injury to any party, because they are political dishonors.

Under our system of government, political parties are indispensable, and it is far better to have two great parties, of nearly equal strength, than to have a number of parties or groups to engage with each other in barter and dicker as they do in some parts of Europe.

The interests of this country are so diversified that no one section can be given all that it desires, and to prevent the formation of sectional groups, compromise must be made between members of the party that happens at the time to be dominant. Nearly all of our national legislation is the result of compromise, and the party representatives from every section of the country, and of every shade of opinion, are in honor bound to loyally help to carry out the compromises they agree upon. Men who wantonly disregard the promises they make, and the compromises they agree upon, are not alone enemies to their party, but to their country also.

Their weak public credit by undermining national good faith and official honesty, they destroy party usefulness and unity, and are not entitled either to party fellowship or the respect usually accorded to honorable opponents.

Mr. Bryan had good reason to believe that many of the men whom he was invited to dine with, had records full of treachery and political bad faith, and he did right in declining to eat with them.

Schley and Sampson.

(Washington Times.) We may take it for granted, we suppose, that the navigation bureau will arrange a wide berth for Admiral Schley when Admiral Sampson is on the seas. For whenever their flagships meet down will come Sampson's blue flag to be replaced by a red one, and all that he does even to taking his squadron away will be done through the courtesy, and after permission asked and obtained, of his superior and better, Admiral Schley. There is poetic justice even in a short session of congress.

A Brain-Twister for Ingersoll.

(From the Hawksville, Ga. Dispatch.) A discouraged editor asks the following question: "If Job Ingersoll insists that there is no hell will the state what becomes of the man who takes the paper three or four years without paying for it and then tells the postmaster that he does not want it?"

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