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SUNDAY FEB. 16, 1902.

NEW FEDERAL BUILDING. The visit of the Chamber of Commerce Committee to Washington on Friday served a double purpose.

The courtesy and consideration shown the Richmonders by the House Committee on Public Grounds and Buildings were all that could have been asked; at the same time those gentlemen prosecuted their inquiry from the business point of view.

It was their duty to ascertain if Richmond really needed a new building, and if so, what expenditure thereof would be requisite. On all these points the Chamber of Commerce committee were fully equipped with proof and argument.

The several gentlemen who were the principal spokesmen for the Richmond delegation demonstrated that what we ask is little less than an absolute necessity of the present, and beyond all gaining an imperative necessity of the immediate future.

When the election of Palma as President of Cuba shall have been ratified by the electors at a Senate and a Vice-President elected, General Wood will proclaim the convening of the Congress, the first business of which will be the matter of acceptance of the treaty with the United States, which embodies, among others, these agreements: That Cuba shall never enter into a treaty with a foreign nation which will impair her independence; that no debt or obligation shall be assumed which the revenues of the island will be inadequate to liquidate; that Cuba shall give consent for the United States to intervene to preserve the independence of the island; that the acts of the temporary military government shall be carried out as far as possible; that the title to the Isle of Pines shall be determined by a future treaty; that the government of Cuba shall sell or lease to the United States lands necessary for coaling or naval stations.

It is said in Washington, however, that many persons doubt whether the treaty will be ratified, unless in the mean time Cuba has been granted reciprocity. Our contemporary admits that horse-hungers, donkey-sausage, and mule-outlets, though shocking to the more fastidious, would not be so bad were it not for the fact that "ring-boned, spavined, and sore-footed nags, and even those that have the glanders," are killed for the trade.

Indeed, the Food Commissioner goes so far as to say: "Hardly a horse, mule, or donkey is ever too aged or diseased to be handled, and none other are slaughtered."

This certainly takes the edge off one's appetite for horse and mule flesh, though it does not disabuse our minds of the deep-rooted idea that hogs are equally as repulsive, even when at their best.

It is maintained that sound and healthy horses ought to supply very good meat, and that there is no objection to their flesh as an article of diet; but the danger lies in the trickery already referred to. In Berlin, Paris, and London horse-meat is regularly sold, and is more or less popular with those who cannot afford to buy more tempting viands.

THE "COLLECTIVE NOTE." The New York Tribune thinks that Great Britain is let out of that second "collective note" hole by the explanation that Lord Pauncefote merely acted as dean of the diplomatic corps, and at the request of others, and was told by the government when he reported the proceeding to have absolutely nothing more to do with the matter. The Tribune is also of opinion that the explanation relieves the German Government of any suspicion of design to make an unwarranted charge.

These views may be all right, but what about all the other Powers, which have been so quick to assure us that they were also entirely innocent in the premises? We fancy we are now about as far from the whole truth as we ever were, but, as we have indicated before,

THE DATE FIXED. April 10th is the date fixed by the City Democratic Committee for the primary election, which is to be held for the nomination of our party's candidates for the offices of Mayor, Auditor, Commonwealth's Attorney, &c., and for aldermen, common councilmen, and justices of the peace. It meets the views of most people and gives general satisfaction.

The committee has done well also in providing that the primary shall be held under the aegis of the law, which provides penalties against unfaithful officers of election.

The municipal canvass here has been lively for some weeks, and seems destined to grow in popular interest. It is believed by many that ten or eleven thousand votes will be polled.

LONG AND THE FILIPINOS. Secretary Long's touch upon the Philippines question in his speech before the Middlesex Club has set the papers and people all over the country to guessing.

And has also, we are told, created a decided stir in Washington. What did it mean? Was it inspired from higher quarters? Was the Secretary sincere? What purpose did he have in his mind's eye? These questions are suggesting themselves and being voiced pretty generally.

Mr. Long, after indulging in various more or less meaningless pleasantries, and congratulating everybody in sight, himself included, turned with almost startling suddenness to the situation in the Philippines, and declared that those islands would one day be "a substantial and vital question."

Then, as if frightened by his own boldness, and desirous of recovering himself, he strayed off into the overworked field of duty, and delivered a homily upon the sin of "abandoning the trust we are now under," and our obligation to pacify the Filipinos and ensure them the same civilization we enjoy ourselves. It proved, however, that he was merely toiling his audience up to a point of preparation for an amplification of his declaration.

"When," he went on to say, "the time comes that that trust is executed and the ability of self-government is assured, then the question of their political status will be for the people of those islands themselves to decide. Whether they will walk alone and independent, or whether they will walk hand in hand with us, as Canada walks with England, they—whoever they shall then be—will decide. And as England respects the wishes of Canada in this regard, so shall we then respect, and ought to respect, the wishes of the Filipinos."

Apart from his being a Cabinet officer, Secretary Long, when he made his speech, had just returned from a conference with the President, who was at the bedside of his sick son. His references to the Filipinos contained the first tangible suggestion from a member of the administration that the independence of the Filipinos was even a possibility of the future.

They virtually carried approval of the policy advocated by Professor Schurman, first president of the Philippine Commission, whose Cornell address, urging that "if the Filipinos wanted independence they should have it, when qualified to exercise it," had been pronounced "incendiary." The Secretary practically condoned "anti-imperialism" speeches in Congress, which the avowed annexationists had denounced as "treasonable." We are not surprised to learn that Secretary Long caused his hearers to prick their ears and cast wondering glances at one another.

In all the circumstances there can hardly be a doubt that the Secretary got his cue from higher quarters—that is, from the President. If his deliveries were not insincere we must conclude that President Roosevelt proposes to be the champion of the doctrine of "consent of the governed," and thus take issue as to the Philippines with a powerful element in his party. If he was insincere, we cannot avoid the deduction that the speech was intended to break the rising wave of public dissatisfaction with our present policy in the Philippines, and turn aside the stream of criticism of that policy. Nor, if he was not sincere, can we escape the conviction that another motive was to deceive the Filipinos, thereby weakening resistance to our arms, and inducing such confidence in us as will materially clear the way for riveting our grasp upon them.

For it is certain that his remarks will be given currency in the islands, just as was Professor Schurman's. We would fain hope that Secretary Long was sincere, but shall await with interest not unmixt with a good deal of dubiousness for some sign or word from the President which will make all the real inwardness of the Middlesex Club performance entirely clear.

The State Assistant Food Commissioner of Illinois announces that the sale of horse and mule meat is no uncommon thing in Chicago, and that he has located four slaughter-houses where these animals are killed for the market. He consoles the public, however, by declaring that "real beef is never handled in these places, but their delivery-wagons run to the markets, restaurants, and free-lunch saloons with great regularity."

It seems from this that there is no deep-rooted objection on the part of the inhabitants of the Windy City to consuming this rather unusual food; and when one stops to think, a horse or a mule—if cleanliness counts for anything—certainly should furnish diet equally as palatable as that supplied by a hog.

The trouble, according to the Record-Herald, lies in the fact that well-preserved horses and mules are not apt to be killed for food purposes. Our contemporary admits that horse-hungers, donkey-sausage, and mule-outlets, though shocking to the more fastidious, would not be so bad were it not for the fact that "ring-boned, spavined, and sore-footed nags, and even those that have the glanders," are killed for the trade.

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CONVENTION'S GREAT DUTY. An Open Letter to the Member from The Hon. J. C. Wyster.

Dear Sir,—Permit me to say that I enjoyed reading your speech on the Corporation Commission article very much, and as I am a believer in many pleasant things as possible about people and to people whilst they are alive and capable of enjoying them, I think it not improper to tell you that in my judgment your speech was one of the best I have ever heard of for being interlarded with many witty and poetic passages, while at the same time it was strong and incisive. One of the greatest duties of William B. Giles (styled the Chatham of America), once said that he found it expedient not to attempt to hold the attention of a popular audience to a complex argument more than fifteen minutes at a time without relieving the tension by throwing in something bright or witty, and this is an evidence of his wisdom.

I have not been able to keep up with the news of the progress of the Convention to the merits of the question, but it is certainly well worthy of the attention being given it by the convention. As I have complimented you in all sincerity, I will not venture to offer any criticism, and will not express beautiful and poetic sentiments about our old mother, Virginia, most love her and all her people, and yet I have been struck with the beauty and grace of the address which you have spoken of the suffrage question—the greatest question—the most difficult and dangerous question—in my judgment, that ever engaged the attention of the people of the Roman Empire, enumerating the various causes of that event, assigns the first place to the enfranchisement of the liberated slaves of the provinces. It is the remnants of the old world, the slaves were not negroes, but were prisoners taken in battle from some of the most warlike and virile races of the earth, and the descendants of those prisoners. 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