

THE PACIFIC Commercial Advertiser.
 W. N. ARMSTRONG, - EDITOR.
 TUESDAY : : SEPTEMBER 21.
 A DELAYED CANAL.

The recent publication by Hon. James J. Richardson, a member of Congress from Tennessee, of the "Messages and Papers of the President," brings before the public again many interesting events in American history. The Messages published at this time are those of Presidents Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce and Buchanan. The papers of special interest to us, of course, are those immediately or remotely touching our own interests. We all believe, not without strong reasons for it, that the opening of the Nicaragua canal would vastly increase the commercial, and therefore the political importance of these Islands. Steam and electricity may "side track" us, even if the canal is built. But even then, some decided advantages will come to us.

The most important of the Messages prepared by President Taylor is that upon the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, in 1850, which treaty provided among other things, that both America and Great Britain would engage to preserve the neutrality of the canal, if built.

The President would not recommend any national appropriation for constructing it. He said: "Private enterprise, if properly protected, will complete the work, should it prove to be feasible."

Forty-seven years have passed since that message was written and sent to Congress. The country has increased its wealth beyond the dreams of the enthusiasts of that time; its industries have developed on lines that were never anticipated; its population has nearly quadrupled. But the canal has not been built by the private enterprise which President Taylor confidently believed would do it, and the Government of the great Republic is now higgling over granting its promoters a sum of money, in the form of a guarantee, hardly equal to the cost of carrying on the late civil war for thirty days.

There must, therefore, be some all-compelling cause for this hesitation. Why should the development of the national growth, not have carried with it the execution of projects corresponding with that development?

Senator Daniel of Virginia, perhaps answered the question when he said, "we have no use for a canal; we have no commercial marine; why build a canal, and see the British get the profit out of it? When the Republican party in 1863, entered on its career of 'protection,' it left the commercial marine unprotected, and the flag vanished from the seas."

Probably eighty per cent. of the local supporters of our Government are Republicans in political faith. Yet they strenuously believe in the national policy of the United States which has strangled the canal project. If the American marine today was equal to only one-half of that of Great Britain, it goes almost without saying, that the canal would be immediately built with Government aid, just as the trans-continental lines were built in 1867 by Government aid.

The withered limb of the American body politic is, the commercial marine, and it seems to swing pitifully and helplessly by its side. Even the constant medical services of Senator Morgan, as a political physician do not yet restore it to health and action.

There is no better illustration of the effect of "false doctrine," than is presented by the case of a President in 1850, assuming that private parties will speedily build a canal, and forty-seven years later, the President in power sees the national grant grown to a gigantic size,

lazily winking and blinking and yawning at the little affair of a canal. The drug that deadened the sense of the grant was "protection to home industries," without being mixed with the tonic "protection to the commercial marine." So the infant commercial marine has been left as a political foundling, to be nursed and neglected by gipsies, and fed out of a bottle of colicky skim milk, instead of being fed up to become a stalwart youth, dashing through a finished ship canal, and finding in Hawaii one of his regal resting spots.

THE RIGHT TO RULE.

"I have often asked my Radical friends what is to be done, if out of every hundred enlightened voters two-thirds will give their votes one way, but are afraid to fight, and the remaining third will not only vote, but will fight, too, if the poll goes against them. Which has, then, the right to rule? I can tell them which will rule. The brave and resolute minority will rule. Plato says that if one man were stronger than all the rest of mankind, he would rule all the rest of mankind. It must be so, because there is no appeal. The majority must be prepared to assert their divine right with their right hands, or it will go the way that other divine rights have gone before. I will not believe the world to have been so ill constructed that there are rights which cannot be enforced. It appears to me that the true right to rule in any nation lies with those who are best and bravest, whether their numbers are large or small."

These words of Froude's are true, whenever we come to the last analysis of government, whether it be that of a Republic or a Monarchy. De Tocqueville, who told the Americans, many years ago, much about themselves that made them angry, told them that there was a despotism of the majority that was just as grinding and domineering as the rule of a despot. And the reason was that behind that majority was force, the power to compel, the rule of the bayonet. When the Southern States seceded, the North did not apply any reasoning forces, but simply "blood and iron." If the South, being in a minority, but with better guns and with more warlike men and appliances, had not only protected itself, but had dictated to the North what it should and should not do, it would have illustrated Mr. Froude's theory, and have done just what has always been done since man lived on the earth, and just what we did on these Islands several years ago.

The growth and maintenance of moral right we usually attribute to Providential rule. Napoleon, however, said that moral right to rule went with the strongest artillery and proved it in his own case, when Wellington and the Russians destroyed his right to rule, by his own method of relying on artillery.

These words of Froude's may clear up some doubts in our minds as to the ethics of our revolution of '93.

PERSONAL AND PECULIAR.

Dr. A. Robinson, a dentist, of Grand Rapids, Mich., has a bull terrier of which he is very proud, and the dog recently lost two front teeth in a fight. Robinson fixed the dog up in his chair, filled the teeth with pretty gold fillings and the terrier is again on the war-path.

The greatest test of character is to be found in what is common, rather than extraordinary. It is easier for the soldier to be faithful in the rush of battle, when sustained by a catching

enthusiasm, than to maintain a high tone of consistent principle under the many trials of daily drill.

Mr. Appleton, Secretary of the British and Foreign Arbitration and Peace Society, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment by the Maryland Police Magistrate for assaulting and beating a housemaid.

During the fiscal year ended June 30 last the value of bicycles exported from the United States was \$7,005,323, against \$1,898,012 during the preceding year. Of this large total Great Britain took \$2,375,000 worth and Germany \$1,025,000 worth. The rest literally went to every part of the world. This large sale was due to the fact that the best wheels are made in the United States.

United States Treasury officials declare that counterfeit 1-cent pieces are being widely circulated.

The Prince of Wales spends many hundreds of pounds a year on diamond and other pins, brooches and so forth. They are presented to all sorts and conditions of men and women for trifling services, and eat largely into the royal private income. Most leading railway officials and theater managers and actors have received presents of this kind from royalty.

A woman has just died at Teignmouth, in Devonshire, England, who was certainly one of the most logical and consistent of her sex. One evening in 1858, when she was 38 years of age and in perfect health, she retired as usual. Next morning she said that bed was the most comfortable place in the world, and announced her intention of remaining there for the rest of her natural life. This determination she has calmly carried out.

The Dutch have a delightfully original way of collecting their taxes. If, after due notice has been given, the money is not sent, the authorities place one or two hungry militiamen in the house, to be lodged and maintained at the expense of the defaulter until the amount of tax is paid.

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TIMELY TOPICS

ANNEXATION Is near at hand, we are told, and the arrival of Senator Morgan and Representatives Cannon, Landenslaeger, Berry and Towney seems to point in this direction. With annexation an unprecedented wave of prosperity is expected to sweep over the land, bringing with it dinners and feasts and merrymaking.

We have quietly been preparing for this event and laid in a stock of articles useful and ornamental for the festal board.

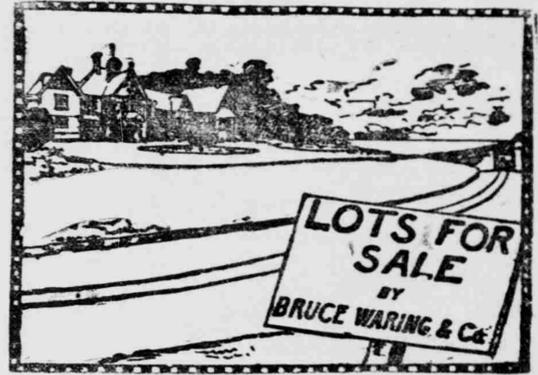
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