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Weather Forecast for Friday.

Washington, Feb. 17.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Partly cloudy weather; slightly colder Friday morning; northerly winds.

For Kansas: Partly, preceded by rain in extreme southwest portion; colder; northerly winds.

For Missouri: Partly cloudy weather; northerly winds.

THE MAINE DISASTER.

Following the first shock incident to the blowing up of the battleship Maine and the terrible loss of life resulting comes, bit by bit, news pointing to the probability that the disaster was not caused by accident, but with purpose. So far it has not been established that the original cause was outside the vessel, but the improbability of internal explosion, the easy possibility of external access, the well known submarine fortifications of Havana harbor, and the secretly communicated apprehensions of Captain Sigbee several days before the destruction of the ship—all these things give color to the theory that the work was the result of a diabolical plan on the part of some person or persons actuated by hatred for the United States.

While it is not likely that such a plan could have been carried out single handed, it is quite possible that it could have been executed through a conspiracy among a few of those having access to the land fortifications of the harbor. At any rate, the circumstances surrounding the lamentable affair are fraught with grave suggestion and are calculated to arouse serious apprehensions. American people are slow to believe in treachery of any sort, especially such as involves the wanton destruction of life and property. They are characteristically suspicious of the Spanish nation, in view of the conduct of the war against the Cuban insurgents; but no one has dreamed of any immediate danger to the Maine and her brave men.

While the circumstances preceding and attending the disaster indicate treachery, it cannot be believed that such an act was done with the knowledge and consent of the Madrid or the Havana authorities. Spain has so much to lose and so little to gain through the precipitation of war with the United States that it is wholly unreasonable to suppose this extremely hazardous expedient would have been employed at a time when there was no occasion for hostile resentment. If, as Minister DeLoane is quoted as saying, the entrance to Havana harbor is fully protected with submarine torpedoes, the destruction of the Maine might have been accomplished, and perhaps with war justification, at some future time quite as easily as at the present period of peace. It therefore behooves every one to await with patience and calmness the result of official investigation and the exchanges of state messages regarding the affair.

Perhaps the most alarming feature of the situation is the fact that the Spanish people are not always subject to the Spanish government. Although the people of the United States are the aggrieved party in this instance, there is more excitement in Spain over the American suspicion that there may have been treachery than there is in this country over the growing belief that there was treachery. Another illustration of the difference in the temper of the two nations is the suggestion made in Madrid that it would not be safe at present to send a Spanish battleship to New York, as there would be danger of its being blown up in revenge for the loss of the Maine. This in itself shows how little the Spanish people understand our race.

THE JINGOS AND THE WAR SCARE.

It is a significant fact that the so-called jingos, who have from time to time indulged in the most extravagant utterances against Spain, severely criticized the Cuban policy of the administration, and otherwise shown a spirit of intolerance, have so far behaved with most commendable conservatism in connection with the destruction of the battleship Maine and the suspicious circumstances surrounding the disaster.

The gravity of the situation is apparent to everyone. It is readily understood that if the explosion cannot be shown, beyond mistake, to have been an accident, the relations between the United States and Spain are almost certain to become greatly strained. In view of these facts the war possibility has come much nearer than it has been before, and its significance has sensibly impressed even those who have hitherto treated this possibility as a matter of little consequence. The American people are a well poised race in times of real danger, and there is more heroism as well as more humanity in the calm discussion of the news from Havana than there has been in the extravagant utterances of those who have urged, in a spectacular fashion, policies that might have precipitated war long since if they had been put into effect.

If the present crisis be passed in safety, the incident should at least serve as a lesson to the war advocates and impress the people in general more favorably than ever with President McKinley's firm but conservative policy in dealing with delicate foreign affairs.

LIVING UP.

The congressional committee of both the great parties have organized and the battle of 1898 will shortly be begun. The lines between sound money and that from a depreciated metal will be as distinctly drawn as in 1886. The fact that every advocate of the advocates of free silver made in the campaign two years ago has been disproven by the events of the past eighteen months, and that the prosperity promised by the Republicans through the adoption of protection and sound money has already made its appearance, should strengthen the coming prospects of that party in the coming campaign. There are,

however, no less than seventy-five close congressional districts in the United States, and upon these the Democrats, Populists and silverites will turn their united forces. In an attempt to elect any silver man, no matter to which one of the three organizations he may belong, so long as he can be relied upon to vote in the interests of the silver mine owners. As against this, however, the Republicans will oppose a magnificent prosperity record and the substantial fulfillment of all campaign pledges. The silver forces failed at a time when the time for new experiments. They cannot reasonably hope to succeed when it is prospering and consequently satisfied with existing conditions.

LOP-SIDED ARBITRATION.

The senate committee on education and labor today decided by a unanimous vote to report favorably the bill prepared by the trustees of the country, and recently introduced in the senate by Senator Kyle, providing for the arbitration of railroad strikes by a board of arbitrators to be chosen by the strikers and the interstate commerce commission.

For the credit of the senate committee on education and labor, let us hope that the information contained in the above dispatch is untrue. Any senator who will deliberately endorse a measure of arbitration that is wholly one-sided is either a woful ignoramus or a rank demagogue. The fundamental principle of arbitration is that the interests of both parties affected shall be equally protected, and to this end that either both parties or neither shall be represented in the arbitration tribunal. The absurdity of an arbitration measure which gives one side to a controversy full representation on the board and the other none at all, is too apparent for serious argument.

The interstate commerce commission is an institution set up by the people to protect them from discriminations and extortions of railway companies; it is in no sense an agent or representative of the railroad interests. A board of arbitration, therefore, which consisted of the interstate commission and the people, or any portion of the people, who had a grievance against a railway company would simply be a put up job on the railway company. There would be no arbitration at all of its proceedings and ruling.

If two farmers should fall out about a boundary line, and one of them should propose to submit the matter to arbitration, himself and his own hired hands to constitute the arbitration board, the proposition would be similar to that presented by the railway trainmen and recommended by the senate committee on labor. It is really surprising to find the official representatives of the trainmen asking for such a palpably unfair piece of legislation.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

After a visitor in Washington has seen the capitol, the White House and Washington's monument, his first inquiry is to the Smithsonian institution, and yet it is doubtful if one out of a hundred Americans knows anything more about this splendid museum beyond a vague impression that it is connected with the government and has something to do with science. The Smithsonian institution has been in existence a little more than fifty years and recently issued a book giving an account of its origin and a description of its work. We quote the following paragraphs from the New York Tribune's review of this book:

"James Smithson was the son of an English widower of high rank, Elizabeth Keate Macle; and if his father, Hugh Smithson, had kept his pledges of marriage to her, instead of contracting a matrimonial alliance with the great house of Percy and thus becoming a Duke of Northumberland, there would have been no occasion for this history. James Smithson is credited with having said, with a bitterness that can easily be understood: 'The best blood of England flows in my veins. On my father's side I am related to kings; but this avails me not. My name shall live in the memory of man when the titles of the Northumbrians and the Percys are extinct and forgotten.'"

"The young man, known at first as Macle, but afterward authorized by parliament to adopt his father's surname, was graduated from Pembroke college, Oxford, in 1786, and soon showed so much interest in science that he became a fellow of the Royal society. . . . The bulk of his property was derived, through his mother, from one of her sons by a former marriage. None of his will, after making various small bequests, directed that his fortune should go to a nephew, and if that nephew should have children they should inherit in due season. Otherwise, the United States government was to be his legatee, and the property should be devoted to the founding, in Washington, of an establishment under the name of Smithsonian institution, 'for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.' Smithson did not marry. His death occurred in 1828. The nephew survived until 1853, and died without issue."

"The sum of money which thus came into the hands of the government was only half a million dollars, but such wisdom was shown in its management that one of the finest museums in the world has been accumulated, and it is now drawing interest on an endowment of about one million dollars. It is true that certain other bequests have been made to this institution, but the greater part of its accomplishments have been through the original sum."

It is perhaps wrong to speak of the Smithsonian institution as a museum. It has become a marvelous museum through the exhibits gathered within the buildings devoted to it, but its primary object was the advancement of scientific knowledge along certain lines. It has been at the head of the best explorations in this country for geographical, geological and ethnological research. Its expeditions everywhere on the American continent have accumulated a vast amount of specimens, and years ago the national government erected a building for their deposit, now known as the National museum, which is separated by but a few yards from the original Smithsonian edifice.

During the half century of the institution's existence the office of secretary—its executive head—has been filled by but three men: Joseph Henry, its organizer, the eminent electrician, who served from 1846 till 1878; Spencer F. Baird, the naturalist (1878-87), and Professor S. P. Langley, well known for his researches in physical astronomy and latterly in aeronautics, who is now in office. The institution has therefore been happy, not only in the character of its work, but in the eminence of the men who have directed it, and its reputation and authority have been quite

out of proportion to the money spent in its support.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

If it should appear, on full investigation, that a torpedo did the work, there will be a bigger explosion still.

And then again it may be that one of Senator Billy Mason's dynamite bombs hit the Maine by mistake.

It is understood that the Hon. Dave DeArmond has sent a rush order to Missouri for his gun and his sword and his pistol.

In firing a job lot of manifestos at the country in February the free silver leaders show a disposition to crowd the season.

Possibly an erstwhile sneering pupil will now admit the wisdom of General Miles in asking for more gilt on officers' uniforms.

The stories about a short supply of powder in this country, it turns out, are without foundation. We have powder to burn.

The Maine was one of our best boats. It early acquired the habit of doing its floating on top of the water, and kept it up to the end.

Zola's truth on the witness stand is more sensational than his fiction on the news stands, and, to some of the French people, more disagreeable.

However, the silver managers cannot be blamed for acting early. The ground was slipping from under them and they didn't have time to wait.

People talk of prosperity, but there is only one spot in all this great country where the walking delegate is able to find a little—New England.

It is easy to see from tall on the street corners that the Spanish fleet which attempts to cruise up the Missouri will meet with a warm reception.

The American people are much calmer than the Spanish people. Americans are not so hysterical as our congressional jingoes would have the world believe.

Blanco should not be afraid of making his alibi too strong. This is a case where the Spanish skirts cannot be too thoroughly or too promptly cleared.

The Hon. Hannis Taylor is vindicated. If Spain had been wiped off the map three months ago, this deplorable "accident" would not have happened.

Diplomatically the Spanish government may regret the destruction of our battleship, but privately it is chuckling over the best joke of the season.

There need be no uncertainty about Missouri. If hostilities break out Mrs. Stephens will not hesitate to have Lon offer the services of the state militia to the president.

In the opinion of Senator William M. Stewart, the duty of the United States in this emergency is plain. It should adopt the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1.

This country is producing only prosperity at the present time, but any order for calamity that Spain sends in will be promptly filled, and the quality of the goods will be warranted.

The effort of New Jersey bachelors to impose a tax on the old maids of the state looks like a deliberate purpose to add insult to injury—to punish the spinsters for their own unmanly shortcomings.

The situation is not yet regarded as sufficiently critical to necessitate the substituting of General Champ Clark for Secretary Alger as head of the war department.

Senator Allen insists that Speaker Reed is the whole house. Supposing that to be true, the speaker is much more satisfactory to the country as the whole house than Senator Allen is as a noisy and fussy corner of the senate.

We are confident that if the American people would take their eyes off the country at large and focus them on a few square miles in New England, they would agree with Mr. Bryan that gold standard prosperity is all a hollow sham.

Isn't it a little coarse to speak of a Boston woman "breaking her leg"? Better say that Mrs. Jack Gardner has suffered a fracture of the osseous structure of a lower limb, or the dislocation of a fibula, or something of that sort.

Republican prosperity can stand all the paper war bombardments the silver managers may want to touch off. The people may be deceived as to the cause of their distress when they are distressed, but they cannot be made to believe that good times are hard times.

The Eastern press is disposed to poke fun at the movement to suppress the chewing-gum and soda water habits in Kansas. They are so accustomed to great vices in the East that they are unable to understand how these comparatively harmless indulgences can be regarded as crimes. Kansas will get a good "zap" out of this.

KANSAS TOPICS.

"Gene Ware says—and what 'Gene Ware says' is very likely to be earnest, for he went down to the hell of battle and got himself shot full of holes on a recent occasion when the American flag was insulted—that the Americans should at once proceed to blow Mero castle out of existence and then set a chip afloat upon the high seas."

gubernatorial situation stood in Western Kansas, Mr. Glenn said: "I really cannot say. It is a question of the Missouri than anybody else. The farmers out in our country are undoubtedly for him, and this is largely without regard to party lines. They are not disposed to accept his withdrawal from the race as necessarily final. They are a little about the matter of electing delegations favorable to him in the face of his withdrawal."

There was a meeting of New York Life Insurance Company agents in Topeka the other day for the purpose of settling up the company's business on its withdrawal from Kansas. Talk drifted to the prospective war with Spain and every man present valiantly expressed his determination to enlist if war broke out, with the exception of one, who declared that he was over age to go to war. All the others sneered at this man for being a coward, but later it was discovered that he had spent four years in the war of the rebellion and had been wounded three times.

Governor Leedy spoke at Topeka yesterday: "I have received no call from the secretary of war for information about the Kansas militia, as was reported upon the streets yesterday. I don't know whether the Kansas militia would, for I have an idea that it is small and weak, but in case of war Kansas is ready to furnish more good fighting men per capita than any other state in the Union except only Governor Leedy. Down beneath his calamity skin is a vein of patriotism, after all."

Atchison Globe: There is a tremendous row this morning in nearly all the morning newspaper offices. The Kansas City Journal is the only paper that had a fair account of the destruction of the battleship Maine in the Havana harbor last night; consequently the Kansas City Journal, which prints a morning edition, did not have a line about the destruction of the battleship. The Kansas City Times printed the news; the Leavenworth Times twenty minutes later; and the Topeka Daily Morning papers printed about the same account. In Atchison this morning there was a great scurrying around for copies of the Journal, which printed an account up to date of the destruction of the battleship. It is believed that the editors of the other papers will be looking for jobs this afternoon.

MISSOURI POINTS.

Bethany is represented by Mrs. M. U. Vandiver and Mrs. E. A. Templeman at the national suffrage convention now in progress in Washington.

Colonel Switzer has been assured by Congressman Bland that the appropriation for the necessary harbor improvements at the port of Bonneville shall be made if possible.

Pittsburg wants to be classed as a suburb of Kansas City and expects to have a local train service on the Pittsburg & Gulf that will entitle it such a distinction before the summer flowers shall have gone to seed.

The Albany Ledger offers an explanation of Judge Orton's connection with the telephone company, the suggestion that probably he expects to do some long distance talking during the coming campaign.

A man named James Keames, who is thought to be a resident of St. Joe, is being sought for there, word having come from the municipal authorities from an attorney in Galveston that a large fortune awaits him in Texas.

Along with other troubles of their own just now, the Joplin councilmen have on hand a peremptory demand on the part of the women of the Unity Club that a don't-split-on-the-sidekick ordinance be enacted.

The multiplicity of "yellow dog" candidates suggested for the St. Joe mayoralty this spring impels the News to warningly protest that "the party that puts up a yellow dog will have the mortification of seeing a tin can attached to his tail."

The funeral of Dr. Letfwich, the apparently murdered Gallatin editor, took place Tuesday, under the auspices of the Odd Fellows, at his old home in Miami, in the presence of an immense concourse of sorrowing friends and early-day associates.

Some up-country Republican editor who thinks \$5,000 or \$6,000 would be sufficient to provide a fairly good Missouri display at the national exposition, estimates that \$5 each on the commissioners thus far appointed by Governor Stephens ought to raise all the money needed.

Among thirty-nine, who out of 222 applicants for certificates at a recent examination conducted by the Pennsylvania state board of pharmacy were the only successful ones, was B. K. Davis, a bright Missouri boy, whose home is at Maryville.

In Princeton the understanding is that there are no ifs attached to Judge Sullinger's candidacy for Dockery's congressional seat, the recollection there being that Sullinger served notice at the convention in '96 on Dockery's man, Peery, that he would go after the perimurum two years later.

The publishers of the Missing Link, the paper at Wichita, in support of their claim, originally as a future official prominence in the get-up of their paper, can without question say truthfully that they are no other publication in the matter of a name.

Judge Routsong, of Jefferson City, has taken a fancy for mineral specimens and fossils since his court docket has dwindled down to a continuous blank page, the Courier says. The latest addition to his collection is on display in the courtroom and it has been classified as the left fore foot of the Ichthyosaurus. The petrified remains resemble in shape to the hoof of a yearling colt.

Commenting on the announcement that no man, but only a woman, could be appointed, although among the regiment already selected not a single one from Lafayette county has been named, that orthodox exponent of Missouri Popocracy, the Leavenworth Daily Morning says: "Just why the many substantial citizens of this county were ignored is unknown to us, and furthermore we do not care, but we have this to say, that Lonnie can without any effort, and with the aid of Governor Bland, 'insure' as he is concerned in Lafayette county."

Dr. J. S. Dewey, of Breckenridge, has served as notary public in Caldwell county continuously since June 15, 1864, a longer term, perhaps, than any other notary in the state can be credited with. The dates of his commissions and the names of the governors as they appear thereon are as follows: June 15, 1864, Governor Willard Hall; July 4, 1865, Governor Thomas C. Fletcher; April, 1867, Governor B. Grinnell; March, 1870, Governor Charles H. Brown; March, 1872, Governor Thomas T. Crittenden; March, 1876, Governor John S. Marmaduke; March, 1880, Governor David Francis; March, 1884, Governor William F. Stone.

"Everything Missouri is characteristic of Missouri," hypothesizes the enthusiast of the Maryville Tribune. "The Missouri 'possum, the Missouri horse, the Missouri mule, the Missouri hen, the big red Missouri apple—whether Ben 'n' Jay, or Winesap, or Jonathan—Missouri zinc, and lead and iron bear certain national marks and brands that make them recognizable by people acquainted with them. There is a purity or a richness or a greatness, a symmetry or a largeness or a perfection that only the salubrious climate, the sweet waters, and the fertile soil of Missouri can give. The women of Missouri are brave and more generous, the women more charming and fair because they were raised, and perhaps nurtured, in the sweet and beautiful influence, surrounded by such beneficial influences. This article has to deal with the

sweetest, the purest, the proudest, the best, the dearest, the most distinctly Missouri. The milkier way—if the milk was made of it is the human race any relation to cheese and if so, why? Birth of Eve—did it occur on the 13th, and if it did, does it not account for Adam's hard luck? When the light went out was Moses necessarily in the dark? Is it not probable he had another match? In demanding liberty of death didn't the late Patrick Henry exhibit the same logic? Which has done the most good, the Colossus of Rhodes or the Wild Man of Borneo? If the Hawaiian islands are the key to the Pacific, who has the lock? Was not the settlement of the Alabama claims a trite procedure, considering the fact that the United States senate must find something to talk about? Senator Pettigrew will be followed by other senators in short talks about sun spots, the atomic theory, dogs dead and all, are perpendicular lines vertical, etc. These discussions are great educational helps to the senators and highly amusing to their constituents. They also prevent the senators from doing any damage to our country."

New Orleans' Novel Experiment. From the Chicago Record. New Orleans is proposing to undertake a rather novel experiment in the administration of its local affairs. For some time the people of that town have been hampered by a number of inequalities and irregularities in their municipal government. It is to remedy these that they have brought before the constitutional convention now in session the plan to alter the framework of their local laws. The proposed improvements are various and comprehensive, but the project now under discussion comprehends nothing less than the appointment of a body of citizens, well known as the board of public works. It is not intended that these citizens shall participate in performing the usual duties of the regular city officers or the council, but it is proposed that when public improvements are to be undertaken, or when bargaining with private contractors or undertaking the work on its own account, shall act on the instance of the board, which will see that all the necessary work shall be done at such a price only as will justify the cost of the work in view of its maintenance. In this way the board will devote as to the operation of all plans for sewerage, main drainage, public lighting, water supply, the paving of the streets and similar matters.

Measures which the New Orleans Municipal Improvement Association has prepared for this purpose is sweeping and comprehensive. It not only provides for the establishment of the board of 100 citizens, but actually names the citizens who are to be chosen as the members of the first board. It provides that twenty of these shall hold office for twenty years, twenty for sixteen years, twenty for twelve years, and twenty for eight years. After the expiration of the four years all members shall be elected by popular vote, their term being twenty years. At first glance the plan seems cumbersome and extravagant, but it is not so. It might do much toward securing an absolutely economical and business-like administration of the city's municipal affairs. It is a non-partisan measure, and the city will be exempt from the fluctuations of political contests. Whether as a fact it is not too rigid and inflexible to suit the needs of democratic government is a question which New Orleans must settle for itself. The fact that there is an apparent need for some such sweeping action is a deplorable commentary on the incompetence of municipal government in Louisiana as elsewhere in the United States.

The Silver Pronouncement.

The Democrats, silver Republicans and Populists have united in addresses to the people, sounding the usual jargon on the gold standard. The text of their last pronouncement is that bills have been presented in a committee of the house which have not and will not pass either branch of congress, and which have not been even reported. On this statement of fact they continue to harp, and insist that prosperity can never return. Thus they rival Mrs. Partington's great act of attempting to keep back the rising tide of prosperity with the worn-out, old broom of free silver argument.

This is done with the usual collection of misrepresentations, one of which is enough to quote as a sample. The political apostles of cheap money quote President Andrew as asserting that the debt of the debt of \$2,750,000,000 could have been paid with 25,000,000 tons of bar iron, while years ago, when the debt had been reduced to \$1,250,000,000, it would take 82,000,000 tons of bar iron to pay it. We do not know whether President Andrew ever said anything of the sort or not, but it is certainly one of the typical free silver slovenlinesses.

Two points will sufficiently indicate the silliness of this claim. The person who actually declared this comparison and taken enough trouble in the line of accuracy to figure out the average cost of iron before it had been inflated by the immense consumption of the war he would have found that at the price fixed by the market it would have taken nearly 69,000,000 tons of bar iron to pay the amount of the national debt of 1865. The reduction from 69,000,000 to 25,000,000 is very nearly in proportion to the reduction of debt from \$2,750,000,000 to \$1,250,000,000.

But this is not the whole of the misrepresentation. Every well informed man knows that the great reduction in the price of iron, as in the price of most other commodities, is due to the progress of machinery, by which a ton of finished iron is now produced at one-fifth to one-quarter the labor of forty years ago. But the free silver crowd utterly ignore that fact and perpetrate the logical vice of attributing the reduction of price to this showing to the assertion that the national debt of to-day is as great a mortgage on the labor of the country as the national debt of 1865. The fact is exactly the opposite. It is the labor in the staples produced by labor to pay a dollar of debt now than it did in 1865, because machinery enables labor to produce a great deal more.

It is these same sophistries as these that the free silver crowd is desperately attempting to bolster up its cause. But its misrepresentations are all exploded by the fact of the steady and unexampled commercial activity that has set in since the threat of silver was removed.

Two Reverses for Suffragists.

From the Chicago Times-Herald. It was unfortunate that the woman suffrage meeting meet reverses in two states while the thirtieth annual convention of the national association of woman suffrage in Washington. It would have been cheering news for the venerable leader who presided over the deliberations of the national organization to learn that the legislature of Iowa had voted to allow the suffrage amendment to be submitted to a vote of the people.

But the national convention will have to gather its inspiration from the victories of the past. The word "male" will not be struck from the constitution of Iowa, this time. The resolution for the submission of the amendment to popular vote was lost by one vote. The disappointment over the defeat is made keen and bitter by knowledge of the fact that two members who had promised to vote for the resolution were absent on the day of the vote. One of the members who was an acknowledged friend of equal suffrage objected to an amendment, forced to passage by the Democrats, which exempted the women from military duty.

The defeat in Massachusetts was the repeated one of an old story. For twenty years past the legislature of the Bay state has given the same annual verdict on the suffrage question. In Iowa, however, the suffragists have the strongest state organization in the Union, and they confidently expected to win.

The suffragists are disappointed but not dismayed. They are disappointed, but not discouraged. They will fight it out again in the next legislature of Iowa. A cause that has advanced in the face of so many reverses will not stand by, and such a promising field as the hawkeye commonwealth.

Defeat of the Dispensary System.

From the Philadelphia Record. The perennial liquor question in South Carolina has probably been quieted for the time being by the defeat of the bill placing in the state government the control of all liquors brought into the state. The bill was introduced in the legislature in the provisions of the interstate commerce law and selling it in the original packages in spite of the state dispensary law. If the original package business continues it is destined to nullify in large measure the state law. The latter has not proved satisfactory to either the people or the authorities. The former has not standing the strict regulations surrounding the sale of liquor and the latter have been disappointed by the comparatively small revenue returned. It was expected that the bill would yield about \$500,000 a year, but the last report showed that from April 1, 1896, to December 31, 1897, a period of twenty months, the total revenue to the state, counties and towns was \$268,624 or about half the estimated revenue. Unless better returns are had in the future it is probable that the dispensary system will be abandoned or radically amended.

Important Discussions in the Senate.

From the Chicago News. Whatever the rest of the world may be doing, the United States senate is attending to matters vitally important to everybody. The usual routine of the day after the interests of the solar system. On Monday Senator Pettigrew delivered the third installment of his speech on the Hawaiian question. He dealt with the overthrow of monarchy and the establishment of the republic under President Dole. There are sixty-eight more installments, after the delivery of which Senator Pettigrew will take up his long and interesting story of the world's history and discuss them

to a standstill. We are privileged to outline a few of the more important ones.

The milkier way—if the milk was made of it is the human race any relation to cheese and if so, why? Birth of Eve—did it occur on the 13th, and if it did, does it not account for Adam's hard luck? When the light went out was Moses necessarily in the dark? Is it not probable he had another match? In demanding liberty of death didn't the late Patrick Henry exhibit the same logic? Which has done the most good, the Colossus of Rhodes or the Wild Man of Borneo? If the Hawaiian islands are the key to the Pacific, who has the lock? Was not the settlement of the Alabama claims a trite procedure, considering the fact that the United States senate must find something to talk about? Senator Pettigrew will be followed by other senators in short talks about sun spots, the atomic theory, dogs dead and all, are perpendicular lines vertical, etc. These discussions are great educational helps to the senators and highly amusing to their constituents. They also prevent the senators from doing any damage to our country."

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Measures which the New Orleans Municipal Improvement Association has prepared for this purpose is sweeping and comprehensive. It not only provides for the establishment of the board of 100 citizens, but actually names the citizens who are to be chosen as the members of the first board. It provides that twenty of these shall hold office for twenty years, twenty for sixteen years, twenty for twelve years, and twenty for eight years. After the expiration of the four years all members shall be elected by popular vote, their term being twenty years. At first glance the plan seems cumbersome and extravagant, but it is not so. It might do much toward securing an absolutely economical and business-like administration of the city's municipal affairs. It is a non-partisan measure, and the city will be exempt from the fluctuations of political contests. Whether as a fact it is not too rigid and inflexible to suit the needs of democratic government is a question which New Orleans must settle for itself. The fact that there is an apparent need for some such sweeping action is a deplorable commentary on the incompetence of municipal government in Louisiana as elsewhere in the United States.

A Decaying Power.

From the Indianapolis Journal. A Madrid cablegram states on the authority of a Spanish newspaper that the last great descendant of the Catholic Columbus are now occupants of a poorhouse at Cadiz. There seems to be a sort of historic fitness in the fact that the last descendants of the discoverer of America should be closing the eyes of the once powerful Spanish empire in a poorhouse, while the feeble and decrepit remains of the empire are hastening toward bankruptcy in a vain effort to retain one small island out of its once vast possessions in the Western hemisphere. The parallel runs still closer, for Cuba was almost the first land discovered by Columbus, his son was the first Spanish governor, and his own remains after two or three removals, were finally deposited in the cathedral at Havana. If Spain should lose the island almost simultaneously with the death of Columbus' last descendant, the dramatic unity would be completely preserved. It has been just a hundred years since the remains of Columbus were removed from San Domingo to Havana, as if to establish for all time the connection between his discoveries and Spanish possessions in America. But although Spain had lost the Netherlands and Portugal, she still retained control of more than half the Western continent—far more than all other powers combined. Almost from the time that the remains of Columbus were conveyed with great pomp to the cathedral of Havana, Spanish rule in America has declined. Four years after that event Spain was forced to cede back to France the vast territory of Louisiana, comprising more than a dozen of the present states of the Union. A little later the South American colonies rebelled, and in 1819 she relinquished all claim to Florida, ceding it to the United States. In 1810 Mexico, which had been ruled by sixty-four Spanish viceroys since 1519, revolted and secured its independence in 1821. Other states followed at intervals, Bolivia, in 1824, being the last. Her island possessions have been reduced to two, Porto Rico and Cuba, and from present indications will not hold much longer. The Spanish empire is a parallel to this steady, continuous and rapid decadence of a great power. The descendants of Columbus now in a poorhouse are in hard luck, but they may yet live to see Spain deprived of the last of her colonies in the New World which she discovered, and which she once so largely owned.

New York's New Dance.

From the Chicago Times-Herald. The interesting information that the Misses Hewitt, daughters of ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt, will give a "vegetable dance" next Thursday evening, to which have been invited the most conspicuous members of the "49" and "many representatives of foreign nobility," is something new. Oshkosh, Kalamazoo and Kankakee thus far have experienced little difficulty in keeping before the public the matter of social entertainments. Vaudeville was in full swing at Red Dog and Painted Post long before it invaded Astoria. Cakewalks delighted the rural brother for years before William K. Vanderbilt won his cakewalk in New York. Later R. Bishop's domino dance, which delighted Gotham recently, seems to have been merely a very weak imitation of the masquerade dances of the crossroads hamlets.

"But the vegetable dance is a genuine novelty. No vegetable balls ever impersonated a bunch of apparatus as a social gathering and no Western bean ever has capped gaily through the dance disguised as a pumpkin. The forthcoming Gotham function ought to prove a pleasant supposition, but if those "many representatives of foreign nobility" enter into the spirit of the occasion