

The Kansas City Journal.

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Weather Forecast for Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, July 11.—For Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Kansas: Fair, cooler; southerly winds.

For Nebraska: Partly cloudy weather with showers in eastern portion; warmer in eastern portion; southerly winds.

For Missouri: Fair, warmer; variable winds, becoming southerly.

TO-DAY'S PRIMARIES.

The Jackson county Republican primaries, which will be held to-day, will be little more than a pleasant formality. There are no conflicting delegations. The only contest—that of the Third ward—has been compromised. The men who have been announced as candidates for the county convention, which will be held at Fairmount park next Saturday, will, of course, be elected.

Nothing could be more promising of success than this conspicuous harmony in the ranks of the party. There are no factions to contend. The Third ward has been compromised. The men who have been announced as candidates for the county convention, which will be held at Fairmount park next Saturday, will, of course, be elected.

If any differences of opinion exist, they have been left to the convention. That there are no differences of vital consequence is evident from the fact that they have not shown themselves in the primary proceedings. The convention should be a memorable one. It should result in the adoption of a ringing Republican platform, strongly asserting the principles that have done so much for the wellbeing of the nation and for the preservation and strength of the party. That this will be done, there can be no doubt. There has never been a time when Republicans had greater right to manifest party pride or greater obligation to respect party dignity. As in the great epochs of the past, the national body is to-day making history; and it is making it in such a manner as to inspire or compel the respect of the world.

In the making of the county platform, nothing could add to the strength given it by the utterance of strong, unqualified Republicanism. No man should be nominated who will not stand for all that the platform declares. If a high class ticket is chosen at next Saturday's convention, its election is a foregone conclusion. Not only is this a Republican year, but the Democratic organization in Jackson county is helplessly divided by the quarrels of rival gangs and by the dictations of rival bosses, and the public is heartily tired and ashamed of the gross mismanagement of the county offices under Democratic rule.

ICE FOR THE POOR.

The plan inaugurated by Mr. Walton Holmes and the Metropolitan Street Railway Company for the establishment of ice depots to supply the poor of the city at the lowest possible rates has assumed practical form and will be in operation within a few days. It will be in operation within a few days. It will be in operation within a few days.

The management of the ice depots is to be undertaken by the Salvation Army. Much will be learned by the experiences of the first few days, but there is little doubt that the generous scheme will work great good to thousands of Kansas City people. Incidentally, we are again reminded of the continually growing usefulness of the Salvation Army as a medium through which the wants of the poor may be met.

A BURST BUBBLE.

Commenting some years ago the nations of the world were seized with a mania for building torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers. It was naturally meted out by many naval men that the most effective navies of the future would largely be made up of this class of fighting vessels. In Europe the craze took hold on every nation. Screens were written by the naval experts in which the terrors of the new destroyer were pictured in most graphic terms. The ship yards everywhere were set at work to build the boats that were to carry devastation upon the seas and make the huge battleships helpless before their fierce assaults. It seemed to be believed everywhere that they marked an epoch, and that sea fighting must undergo a revolution.

Of all the nations of the earth only one escaped this torpedo boat fever and that was the United States of America. Thanks to our level-headed naval experts we refused to join in the general lull and cry. While the building of this class of vessels was at its height our own Captain Mahan contributed an article to the scientific press in which he declared that "there is no justification for the belief that torpedo boats will revolutionize naval warfare. The battles will still be fought and won by the great ships with high firing power. The torpedo boat has its mission as an instrument of stealth, but no torpedo boat can ever live to approach a modern battleship when its presence is seen or known." In consequence of this sort of expert opinion our navy has less of the torpedo craft than

any European nation with the solitary exception of Denmark, which has twenty-four vessels of the sort, that being exactly the number in our own fleets at the breaking out of the present war. We are exceeded by even Portugal, Sweden, Turkey and some other of the little powers that have made no pretensions to naval greatness. In England the craze resulted in the building of 300 destroyers and 210 torpedo boats, in total 510 craft. Of both classes the remaining nations of Europe are supplied as follows: France 286, Germany 188, Italy 200, Russia 230, Austria eighty-seven, Netherlands sixty-three, Sweden sixty-seven, Turkey forty-two, Portugal forty-eight, Denmark twenty-four and Spain sixty-five.

With the knowledge that Spain possessed nearly three times as many of these vessels as the United States the European wisacres declared at the breaking out of hostilities that our fleets were greatly over-matched. The preponderance which we seemed to have in battleships and cruisers counted for little, they said, when the terrible destroyers were upon the sea. Frightful pictures were drawn of the ease with which the little monsters would dash up to our battleships, discharge their deadly missiles and escape without a scratch. There is no doubt that the American public felt a great uneasiness when this opinion was spread before their view. It may not have reached the naval experts and the actual fighting men, but it surely gained a great hold upon the common people. We have in mind several very scientific articles written within the past three months to show our own folly in building cruisers and battleships instead of torpedo craft, and it was generally the talk that Spain had us somewhat at a disadvantage.

And then came a swift succession of anti-climaxes that proved the torpedo boat to be a pretender, a fraud and almost a hoax. Dewey sent a couple of them to the bottom with the same facility with which a bald-headed man brushes aside a fly. At Porto Rico a passenger ship with a few small guns mounted on her decks destroyed the pride of the Spanish navy without even a respectable fight. At Santiago—God save the mark!—a little pleasure yacht, equipped with a few six-pound guns, utterly annihilated two of the best destroyers ever set afloat, and had time in the interim to plug a few holes in a Spanish battle craft and accept the surrender of an admiral and his crew.

The exhibition given in this war of the weakness and ineffectiveness of the torpedo boat must convince Europe that America was right, and that successful navies must continue as they have been. The submarine method of attack may be all right in its way, but the battles are to be fought and won by armored ships with powerful guns. Our experiences with the Vesuvius may open a vast field of progress in aerial torpedo service, but the experiences of Spain up to this point are not calculated to revive or sustain the little boat craze which swept the nations of Europe.

WHITE MEN IN HOT COUNTRIES.

It is in testimony from those who have made researches into the subject that Northern white men can people the tropics without any great sacrifice in health. This is a complete reversal of common opinion and report, and yet it cannot be denied that the scientific men have given us some most conclusive data in support of their opinions. For example, it is pretty hard to get over the reports of the English surgeon general who gives voluminous statistics to show that there is less mortality among the English children in India than among the native Hindoo children. To be sure, the surgeon general attributes this circumstance to the better sanitary conditions which prevail among the whites, but that in no wise affects the general conclusion that the white race may thrive and enjoy average health in countries close to the equator.

It is the statement of Dr. Sambon, the savant of European reputation, that there is nothing in the equatorial climate in the way of plagues or diseases that is not due to parasites which may be found in almost all the climates of the earth, the difference being that in the tropical countries the bacilli thrive wonderfully under the favoring high temperature. Science is making strides in the direction of successfully combating disease organisms, whether they be found in great or less numbers, and it is not an overly venturesome opinion to say that the time is approaching when all the plagues of the earth will come under hygienic and medicinal control. More than one scientific man has pointed out that the even temperatures of the tropical regions do not demand so hardy a constitution as is required by the long cold winters and the fierce hot summers of the so-called temperate zones, and it should not be forgotten that the hot climates of the earth were the original home of the human race.

Undoubtedly the public mind has greatly overestimated the heat, rainfall and other climatic elements in both Cuba and the Philippines. We have before us pamphlets issued by the United States department of agriculture, division of climatology, which contains in its pages all that is authoritatively known of the climate in both of these countries. The general belief is that in Cuba the heat and rainfall are infinitely greater than in any part of this country; whereas, in reality, the average summer temperature of Havana is but little higher than that of New Orleans, while its rainfall is actually less. Continuing, this report says: "The climate of the low coast lands of Cuba is that of the torrid zone, and in the rainy seasons doubtless exercises a pernicious effect upon the health of unacclimated white men. The higher interior of the island offers a more temperate atmosphere. Once acclimated the white man is as free from disease as the residents of any of the Southern states."

Referring to the Philippines, the report says: "The average temperature of Manila is 80 degrees F. The months of April, May and June are the hottest part of the year. May, with an average temperature of 84 degrees F., is the hottest of the three. The highest thermometer reading recorded is 100 degrees F., and this was observed in May. The average relative humidity is 78 per cent. The average absolute humidity is 8.75 grains in a cubic foot. The average rainfall is 75.6 inches, of which 43.69 inches, more than 57 per cent, fall during the month of July."

All of this becomes of unusual interest because of the certainty that many Americans will seek new homes in the lands that have been or will be conquered from Spain. The indomitable energy and the venturesome spirit of the Northern white man has taken him into every corner of the globe where a promise seemed to be held forth, and the allurements of the rich conquered provinces are sure to command his attention. In this connection, however, it should be remembered that the readings of the thermometer and the records of the rainfall are not sufficient to indicate all the

depressing effects of a tropical climate. The farmer in Western Kansas, who worked from sunrise till sundown in his harvest field while the thermometer registered more than 100, need not think he can do the same thing in the Philippines because the mercury goes no higher. Air currents, humidity, elevation, all these have to do with the actual effects of a tropical climate, and there is more in the character of the heat than in its registered intensity. The Northern man who has gone to equatorial regions has signally failed when he sought to apply the energetic methods of his Northern climate to the tasks before him, the South, but his adaptability is great, and he soon strikes a pace that is harmonious with his changed conditions. In example of this it is held that a vigorous New Englander, who at home can hardly sit still long enough to have a photograph taken, need only remain two years in the Hawaiian climate until his habits are largely composed of the hammock, the cigarette and the dolce far niente.

A CONVERT TO REPUBLICANISM.

In another column of to-day's issue of The Journal is published a letter from Mr. A. W. Flora, of Nowaday county, who for a number of years, has been a prominent Democrat of Northwestern Missouri. The letter is a formal announcement of Mr. Flora's withdrawal from the Democratic party and his intention hereafter to affiliate with the Republican organization. It is an honest confession and an honest declaration. It is respectfully commended to all sound money Democrats, and to the many who swallow their pride and stultified their consciences in espousing Bryanism, and have suffered remorse ever since.

Mr. Flora could not stand for the Chicago platform and the demagogues who were instrumental in foisting it upon the party, and consequently cast his vote in 1896 for Palmer and Buckner. He has since, during election, been reviewing the political history of the country and has naturally come to the conclusion that the right place for a man who believes in conscientious citizenship is in the Republican party.

His estimate of the Democratic party, which he reviews at some length, is summed up thus: "It seems to me that it has been its fate, for the last forty or fifty years at least, to espouse the wrong side of nearly every question. Its past is a veritable grave of dead issues. We must not speak too harshly of these obsequies, for, along with thousands of others, we have stood about these open graves and mingled our tears." Again he truthfully declares: "The attitude of the party on present issues is in keeping with its past." He is doubtless sincere when he says that he does not believe that one-tenth of the leaders of the free silver movement believe one syllable of the doctrine. "Shame upon any man who makes a cloak of his fellow men's poverty," he exclaims, "continually preaching a false doctrine intended solely to stir up men's passions and prejudices, causing those whose lots already are hard enough to believe that every man's hand is against them and that even the mercy of God has been turned aside!"

Mr. Flora, in his determination to unite with the Republican party, recognizes two facts: that the sound money Democracy cannot be made sufficiently strong to become a dominant party, and that its doctrines are so nearly akin to those of Republicanism that there is no reasonable excuse, for doctrine's sake, at least, why sound money Democrats should not affiliate with the Republicans under existing conditions. Although Mr. Flora does not say so, he evidently believes that the Republican doctrine of protection, which has stood in the way of many original Democrats who might otherwise have united with the Republican party, has recently had such a new and glorious vindication that its justice and efficacy must be acknowledged, even by those who, by political education, have been prejudiced against it.

The Republican organization, in addition to its history and its accomplishments, offers new attractions for those courageous Americans who refused to become political mongrels in 1896. The party has declared for territorial and commercial expansion, for a stronger army and a greater navy, and for other policies that will lead to the advancement of the nation from a position of insularism to one of vastly greater influence among the powers of the world.

KANSAS TOPICS.

A Wichita composer has written a "chigger waltz." It ought to be easy to write a chigger waltz.

When Bent Murdock asked an Eldorado man whether his daughter had made her debut yet, the man replied: "No, Mariah never was forchased. She has to have all her things made at the dressmaker's."

The Eagle says that when Governor Leedy visited Wichita the other day nineteen guns were fired in his honor, and three police commissioners.

An Eldorado man who is careless of his figures of speech declares that he and Commodore Schley used to eat beans out of the same canteen.

"Schley made a dinner of the Spanish at Santiago," says a Kansas paper, which might have extended its metaphor to include the hot bird and cold bottle.

A man told the mayor of Great Bend that he did not like to beat his way on freight trains for so many people mistook him for a tramp.

"One thing is sure," said an Alchison woman as she settled herself in a pew for the thanksgiving service. "It won't do any good for the enemy to pray, for the Lord don't understand Spanish."

Without naming him, the chaplain of the Twenty-first Kansas writes that a private of the regiment is to be court-martialed for sleeping at his post.

The wife of Chaplain Biddison has gone from St. Mary's to visit her husband with the Twenty-second Kansas at Camp Alger.

the East that the Western fellows can shoot other things besides their mouths.

A correspondent at Fort Scott writes to us as follows: "Coming out on the present voyage of the Monterey to the Philippines, which, of course, is the longest, will you please inform me what is the greatest distance any other monitor has traveled? The voyage of the Monterey is not the longest, and made it by way of Mexico. In 1865 the Monitor, not the vessel bearing that name at the present time, but a monitor of the type used during our civil war, made the trip from Hampton Roads around Cape Horn to San Francisco, a distance of 14,000 miles, while the distance traveled by the Monterey will be less than 10,000 miles, and the voyage will be made by naval men that the monitors have no seagoing qualities, or that they would be the prey of ordinary storms. Their design precludes high speed or large coal capacity, and their low free boards are supposed to make them very unseaworthy. 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