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HOUSTON, SATURDAY, APRIL 28.

TEN PAGES TODAY.

GREAT FIRES OF HISTORY.

The terrible conflagration reported from Ottawa, the beautiful capital of the Dominion of Canada, in which between 2500 and 3000 buildings have been destroyed...

IT IS IMPERIALISM.

Here is a strong and in all respects a truthful editorial from the Cincinnati Enquirer: With the enactment of the law giving civil government to the people of the island of Puerto Rico imperial government has been inaugurated.

To state that as a truth is not a mere party fiction. It is a raw truth. It is not the act of an impulse. It is an expression of the will of the people by their representatives in congress assembled.

The outrages perpetrated by a monarchial government—the abrogation of our rights by the British parliament and George III, king of England—awakened 3,000,000 pioneers to a realization of the truth that the mother country had determined that the people of the colonies were to be subservient to the parliament and king of Great Britain.

Another transport from Manila has just arrived at San Francisco with its large contingent of sick and insane soldiers. Undoubtedly the terrible climate and campaigning here caused the most of this wreckage.

Mr. John G. Hunter of Dallas thinks professional promoters of cotton mills may be interested in selling machinery and that the best plan for a town desiring a factory would be to let the State express department purchase or mill them. It is good advice, for however enthusiastic we may be, it is not wise to over-deal with irresponsible parties.

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England control the legislative powers of the colonies as securely as does President McKinley those of Puerto Rico? Can any man name a power which King George assumed which President McKinley does not possess? Has not the president of the United States the absolute control of the island of Puerto Rico, and is not the civil government of that island the personal perquisite of his excellency, William McKinley? What can the Puerto Ricans do in the creation of law, the collection of revenues, the imposition of taxes, the exercise of the functions of government, the enforcement of law, which must not have the approval of William McKinley, president of the United States? Has he assured to the people of that island "the same privileges and the same immunities as the citizens of the different States and Territories of the Union?" Are the Puerto Ricans citizens of the United States?

Does our National constitution cover them? Is the inauguration of a government hostile to the spirit of liberty and in violation of the bill of rights and the organic law the performance of "our plain duty?" Is the placing in the hands of a "council appointed by the president" the granting of all franchises, rights and privileges on the island in accordance with the fundamental principles of a republican form of government? Is not the entire structure of the Puerto Rico civil government a violent assault on the principles for which the government of the United States was instituted to exemplify?

THE POST HAS OFFERED ATTENTION TO THE growing interest in the United States in what is known as the "problem of municipal government." Throughout the length and breadth of the land the people are beginning to recognize the overwhelming importance, in the higher "political" sense, of good municipal government.

How to obtain the best results in a business and social way from the various branches of city government, to secure a protection that will protect, a service that will serve, and at the least cost, to the greatest good to the public, possible, is one of the most interesting and useful questions that can engage our attention. To divorce these virtually business and domestic questions from politics and place municipal government upon the plane of the business management of a great corporation, with faithful, honest and intelligent directors only in charge, is another and vital element in the problem.

For several years past there has been in existence a National municipal league whose object is to bring together the mayors, or other representatives of American cities, in a permanent organization to study the various municipal problems and to better municipal government in this country. This league has been steadily growing and claims that already encouraging practical results have been observed from its discussions and its influence.

Texas, we are sorry to say, has not been represented in this National league as it should have been. To reach similar ends proposed to itself by the National league, and to supply the want felt by Texas in the premises, one of the progressive, energetic and intelligent "new mayors" chosen in this State this year, Hon. D. L. Peoples of Navasota, suggests the organization of a "Texas Municipal League."

First question of importance is that Navasota become the initiator, or originator, of a Texas municipal league; "would be wise, as it would tend to give it a certain prestige and authority." The object of such an association or society would be to recruit, promote and improve all city governments throughout the State of Texas, thereby retaining officers in their official capacity only by merit and not by fraudulent political means. Then, after we shall have perfected such organization, the time will arrive when we can consider whether we will become a member of the National Municipal League or not.

This suggestion is eminently worthy of favorable consideration by the mayors of all Texas cities. Such an organization could undoubtedly accomplish much good and serve to direct more earnestly to the subject of good municipal government the attention not only of its active members, but of the public at large, and to liberally educate both members and public on many questions of deepest concern to all.

It is to be hoped that the mayor of Navasota will take such steps as will result flatteringly to his proposal and that we may soon see a progressive, comprehensive municipal league in Texas working to the higher and better ends of municipal government.

Another transport from Manila has just arrived at San Francisco with its large contingent of sick and insane soldiers. Undoubtedly the terrible climate and campaigning here caused the most of this wreckage, but it is also likely that disinfection has played an important hand in it. It is as much as the white man can do to keep his health in such a country as Luzon, even when he is temperate and careful. The testimony is all to the effect that excessive use of stimulants in tropical climates quickly causes insanity and death. This is a matter the war department should more energetically take in hand. It is a pity to see good men going that way in such numbers.

But never mind, it will quit raining after a while. Blanche Walsh, the gifted actress who became such a favorite in Texas, is to sever her business relations with Melbourne McDowell next month and retire for a time from the stage. The causes are loss of faith in the further possibilities of the Sardan plays, combined with a distaste for them, and also her own impaired health.

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party and a Jeffersonian democratic party and concludes: "We are for Mr. Bryan. We are for him in deadly earnest. We are going to do our best to elect him."

Those Mississippi republicans who characterize the Puerto Rican bill as the "wisest legislation" should stop kidding hereafter about government in the Southern States without representation. The negro has opportunities and rights that are denied to the Puerto Ricans.

The British and Boers will be switched off the first page soon if they can't give us something more sensational than recent developments.

Old Senator Pettus of Alabama is acquiring quite a reputation as a wit in the senate. It must be remembered, however, that any devotion whatever from the solemnity of debate in the senate sounds exorbitantly funny, especially the gait of an octogenarian.

The Ohio and Massachusetts republican planks against trusts demonstrate that the devil has forgotten the old trick of rebuking sin!

Dallas county is thinking of sending both J. C. McNealus and Farmer Shaw to the legislature. When "Bill" and "Mac" get opened up, good and hard, front seats in the senate will be in demand. It may be remarked that gallery seats are the safest.

The National Association of Manufacturers has endorsed the ship-subsidy bill. This is complimentary to the liberality of the manufacturers in so far as it indicates a willingness to divide the spoils.

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by the editor when his blue pencil needed sharpening. The criticisms against General Ota came originally from the correspondents and soldiers themselves in the Philippines and until such men who were or had been on the ground indulged in their very serious and open charges of Ota's incompetency, the American press had treated him with marked kindness. Nor have the criticisms at any time been made by only those of one political faith.

The Times would be pleased to give the fellow who thinks that an editor has nothing to do with the trial in the harness just to confine him to the error of his judgment—Yokum Times.

A day wouldn't be a large enough dose. Most any fellow is chock full of notions and vim enough to make things hum for a few hours. Put your smart nose to the steady diet of thirty quail in thirty days and repeat the treatment monthly if you want to observe something artistic in the way of zoning.

Many sections of the State are going into the fruit and melon business on a large scale this year. The Oklahoma country has every advantage possessed by other truck raising sections, but her people can not yet see their way clear to put any dependence on anything but cotton—Oklahoma Sun.

Why does not the editor of the Sun or some of his enterprising and wide-awake friends set the ball of truck raising to rolling? Men everywhere are a good deal like sheep—they need to see the bell-wether or some other conspicuous leader lead the bars successfully before following. The figures of this season's returns to the region about Corpus Christi from cabbage raisers ought to make the all-cotton raiser green with envy.

The world needs more optimists. Men who start out in a campaign of almost any sort with a pessimistic outlook are bound to lose and pain dark pictures of impending danger. Let us hear more of hope and less of despair and we shall have more heart to work—Oklahoma Sun.

If the Ennis News would see optimism clothed in rosyate hues and hope literally affixed to it only turn from the campaigner's pleas for endorsement to his views of the success—before the votes are counted out! Oh we are not short on optimists in this glorious home of the free and land of the brave offesceker.

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SCOTT WAS SEATED.

Senators Morgan, Pettus and Turner the Only Ones Who Voted Against Him.

THE SOUTH'S BIG INDEMNITY CLAIMS

Senator Money Offered an Amendment to the Bill for Collection of Indemnity.

Washington, April 27.—The senate today voted on the resolution declaring Nathan R. Scott to be entitled to his seat in the senate from West Virginia. The number of voters in the negative was only three, being cast by Messrs. Morgan, Pettus and Turner.

At the conclusion of the routine business Mr. Money (Miss.) called up the bill to amend an act to provide for the collection of abandoned property and the prevention of frauds in insurrectionary districts within the United States. He offered an amendment in the form of a new section restricting the provisions of the bill to cotton sold under the act of 1863.

Mr. Money explained that the bill, if passed, would afford opportunity to owners of private property to establish their proprietorship of the cotton that fell into the hands of the authorized agents of the United States during the civil war. The doors would not, he said, be opened to a general raid upon the treasury. The amount involved would be less than \$5,000,000. He said the money realized from the sale of the cotton had been placed in the treasury as a trust fund and asserted that under the law of civilized warfare and of nations, money so received rightfully belonged to the owners of the seized property.

Mr. Chandler said that half the money which the government had realized on the sale of the seized and abandoned property had been returned in times past to the people of the South. It had cost the United States government \$600,000,000 and 300,000 lives to carry the civil war to a conclusion. He thought it well to place this little pittance as a set-off against the enormous expenditures of \$600,000,000.

Mr. Money said he had no doubt of the position of Mr. Chandler and fully expected him to act in accordance with his judgment, but there was a right in this case which no man ought to disregard. He appealed to senators opposed to the measure to permit it to come to a vote. The bill was laid aside.

Mr. Chandler gave notice that on next Wednesday he would ask the senate to take up the case of Senator Clark (Mont.), adding that if no one should desire to speak in opposition to the report of the committee he would have nothing in support of it. The senate took up the Alaskan bill and Mr. Keim (Utah) spoke on the rights of aliens in mining locations.

After a brief executive session the senate, at 5:15 p. m., adjourned.

GRISCOM'S INSTRUCTIONS.

Washington, April 27.—Beyond the statement that Mr. Griscom, United States charge d'affaires at Constantinople, has been instructed to press vigorously for the payment of the American claims for indemnity, the officials here decline to divulge the nature of his instructions. They say that Mr. Griscom does not need express instructions to forward the claims, for he had of his own volition taken a rather advanced attitude in the matter, and the representations he is now making, though this time by express instructions, are in no respect more presumptuous than his own previous deliveries to the Turkish government.

Novel though the proposition was from a diplomatic standpoint, yet it is learned to be true that the effort was made by the port to pay this American claim under cover of an order for a warship to be built in the United States for Turkey. The reasons for the failure of the project were several. The United States government has no warships for sale and it is not authorized to build any for foreign order. Then there is no warrant of law for entering into an arrangement with a private shipbuilding concern for the collection of an international obligation in the manner proposed. Lastly, judging by the appearance of concern that have dealings with the Turkish government, any shipbuilder accepting the order from Turkey would require a guarantee from the United States, and the net result of the transaction might be the assumption by the United States of an obligation as much larger than the original claims, as the price of a battleship exceeds the \$30,000. Even if these obstacles were overcome, the scheme would be an after failure as concerned the accomplishment of the prime object, namely, the secret payment to the United States of the indemnity, with a view of avoiding demands from other nations for the payment of their claims, for under the open method of business the transaction would have to be a matter of official record.

One effect of this sudden application of pressure upon Turkey is a renewal of the application from American holders of other claims against Turkey for the satisfaction of their cases. Save the miscellaneous claims, the \$90,000 indemnity claims only one small allotment of about \$100,000 in benefit of the family of Cyclist Lenz, who was killed in Turkey while making a circuit of the globe. But it is believed that however well founded the other outstanding claims may be, the present time is not regarded as propitious for urging them upon the attention of the port, and it is expected that nothing would be done to divert the negotiations from this missionary claim as the main issue.

ST. LOUIS WORLD'S FAIR.

A Hearing Was Given to Representative Men on the Bill. Washington, April 27.—The house committee room on insular affairs was filled to overflowing today with a distinguished body of representative men from the West and Southwest, who appeared to make formal presentation of the project for an international exposition at St. Louis in 1903 to commemorate the Louisiana purchase and the resulting development of the Mississippi valley and its vast tributaries. Bills already have been introduced in the senate by Mr. Cockrell and in the house by Mr. Lane, giving a National aspect to the enterprise and providing a \$5,000,000 appropriation in its aid. This has attracted the attention and encouragement of the sections throughout the Middle West and the delegation now appears to urge the magnitude of the project from a commercial and National standpoint and to give it a status which it is hoped will secure favorable consideration in the present congress.

The delegation was made up of governors, ex-governors, mayors of leading cities, former cabinet officers and men prominent in public and business life. Ex-Governor Francis of Missouri opened the hearing and made a strong speech for the appropriation.

Mr. Francis was frequently interrupted with questions by the members of the committee, showing in the main a sympathetic spirit toward the enterprise. Governor Jones of Arkansas followed, urging the opportunities of the exposition vast development of the Louisiana Purchase empire.

At the afternoon session Colonel J. R. G. Plinke of New Orleans, president of the Transmississippi Congress, spoke for the interests represented by that organization.

WHEELER MAY OFFER

As a Candidate for Congress at the Special Election.

CAN HAVE HIS SEAT IF HE WANTS

It Is Said That He Preferred Method to a Contest in the House.

(Special to The Post.) Birmingham, Ala., April 27.—A note to the Age-Herald from New York says: A personal friend of General Wheeler is authorized by the statement that the general will be a candidate to represent himself as congressman from the congressional district for the ensuing term and also for the new term which begins December 1, 1901.

SOUTH AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

Cartagena Has Fallen Into Hands of Revolutionists.

Washington, April 27.—The state department has received confirmation of the press report that Cartagena has fallen into the hands of the revolutionists. The information comes from an indirect but reliable source. The taking of the town is regarded as a matter of the greatest importance, for Cartagena is the principal seaport of Colombia and collects most of the customs revenues of the country. Consequently its capture will greatly strengthen the revolutionists. It is probable that the navy department will dispatch one of the smaller gunboats to cruise in the vicinity of the town in order to insure American interests against loss. It is not possible to communicate with the American minister at Bogota, the capital of Colombia, owing to the breaking of telegraphic communication from the coast to the interior.

The Colombian government has received information tending to confirm its contention that Nariaguano are at the bottom of this last rebellion. It is asserted that the revolutionists have fitted out a Nicaraguan gunboat, named the Ruro, flying the Nicaraguan flag, which is now at Maracaibo, Venezuela, preparing to operate against Colombia.

TOM WATSON REFINES.

States Emphatically That He Is Not a Candidate for Any Office.

Atlanta, Ga., April 27.—The chief of the populist convention in several States informing Hon. Thomas W. Watson of Georgia and naming him for the place on the ticket has caused some place of a stir in political circles all over South. The association of Watson with his rumored re-entry into politics took the form in one instance of a report that he had decided to accept the nomination and was considering who should send his name. Watson has stated many times tersely and emphatically he was not a politician, but in view of recent connections him prominently with the populist nomination, the distinguished Georgia man was asked for a final declaration. Under no circumstances would he accept any nomination or office. Please do not let me among the politically dead, let me be born again in peace.

HANNA TO RETAIN CONTROL.

Cleveland, Ohio, April 26.—Gov. Charles F. Dick, in an interview here, quoted as saying he felt certain that Governor Hanna would again accept the chairmanship of the National committee, would direct McKinley's campaign for election.

A PARISIAN VIEW OF IT.

Paris, April 25.—The Figaro refers to the reported intention of the United States to make a naval demonstration in the Mediterranean in connection with the indemnity claims, saying: "It would be interesting to know if a foreign power should act quite opposite to her usual policy, without a previous accord with the European powers who signed the treaty of Paris. If Russia has really advised the United States to use more moderation in the matter, it would be a great advantage to Russia rather than other powers."

The writer of the article, says that he has solved this mystery, says that the question is in the following way: "The United States has an extraordinary interest in keeping up good relations with the United States and in relation still closer the political friendship between the two powers. The president McKinley has an extraordinary interest in London. It would be an abusive use of Russia's name."

CUBAN INSURRECTION.

Madrid, April 27.—A commercial agent has received a dispatch from Cuba that Jesus Rabi, the Cuban leader, headed an "insurrectionary movement" in the province of Santiago, which the object of the dispatch believes to be "supported by the chief towns of the province."

FOREIGN BRIEFS.

LONDON.—The prime of Wales acknowledges the sympathies and congratulations from all parts of the world on his recent escape from assassination in the train just made public.

SHORT NEWS STORES.

MACON, Ga.—A bad wreck occurred at Fort Valley, thirty miles from Macon, on the Southwestern railroad, in which several people were fatally injured.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark.—Adolphus, a well known in sporting circles at Hot Springs, died here at noon from consumption of the brain, and it is believed was a victim of the influenza epidemic.

NEW YORK.—The layman's mission meeting of the Episcopal church, which was largely attended. Hundreds were expected to get into the building. The meeting attracted the audience with several addresses.

PITTSBURGH.—The fourteenth annual banquet of the American Society of the commemoration of the late Hon. John S. Grant, was held at the Hotel Grant. The guest of honor was Mrs. Julia Grant, widow of the great general and statesman.

Divisions Have Been Made. Texarkana, Texas, April 27.—The train dispatchers' division of the Missouri and Gulf railroad, extending from Meza, Ark., to Shreveport and Natchitoches, La., has been organized. The division was largely headed by George Geizer, an able and experienced man, who had charge of the Shreveport and Port Arthur division, and retained in the dispatching office as a place as assistant. The change will effect May 1.