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THE SCANDAL-DODGING POLICY.

This country had a right to expect that the most thorough and searching examination would be made into the administration of affairs in Cuba, not alone in the Department of Posts where rank fraud has already been exposed, but in the other departments as well. The revelations as to Rathbone and Neely have been of such a nature as to unsettle the confidence of the people of Cuba, and of the people of the United States, in the whole Cuban administration. The belief is widespread, and is justifiable, that the half has not been told of the extravagance and speculation that have marked the record of the American regime in the island. If the belief be ill-founded, the fact should be brought out. If it be well-founded, then certainly delay is both dangerous and criminal.

There is no evidence of either a desire or intention on the part of those in authority to make any such investigation. The congressional committee appointed for the purpose—a majority of it being Republicans—refused to sit this summer, though the Democratic minority urged that it take up the work at once. The administration is investigating only the Department of Posts, and that far from vigorously. The investigation was not begun until an army officer exposed the Neely frauds, and has proceeded with the utmost leisure and an exaggerated solicitude to avoid offending the sensibilities of those who have profited by wholesale larceny. There was first the attempt to smother, and then to minimize, the scandals.

How Americans regard this policy is not susceptible of misunderstanding. They will tolerate no whitewashing; they will be content with nothing short of a trustworthy assurance that the representatives of the nation in Cuba are living up to the nation's pledges in the premises. The administration of Cuban affairs by American officials is a most anomalous form of government and it is essential that it should be above suspicion, if it is not to bring shame and confusion to Americans and to excite discontent and foment disorder among Cubans. How do Cubans regard it? One of the leading newspapers of Havana, La Nacion, which is both conservative and friendly to Americans, said in a recent issue:

"The post office scandal is not unique. There would be others if matters were properly looked into. Money is wastefully expended in almost every department of government. And yet there are other things of a more serious character. We have in a general way referred to them in a previous issue of our paper, and we can be more precise if required. We are not lacking positive and concrete facts in support of what we advance.

"We have said it before, and we repeat it now. There is neither principle, system, nor method in what is done here. Laws are disregarded, reformed, modified, altered, and confused ad infinitum. In fact, the only law is the arbitrary will of each chief of department. The sic volo, sic jubeo, is the universal rule."

THE LINE OF CLEAVAGE.

The dispatch from Shanghai stating that the American, English and Japanese ministers favor the restoration of the deposed Emperor Kwang Su and the maintenance of Chinese integrity, while the ministers of France and Russia favor the partition of China, squares so perfectly with previous expectations as to raise the conjecture that it may be based on inference rather than fact. If the matter has gone so far as the dispatch indicates, it puts a graver aspect on the situation than it has yet worn.

The case seems to stand that England is not in a position to demand a fair share of China if the division take place now, and is, therefore, opposed to it. The Washington administration, for political and commercial reasons, is bound to view the contemplated division with disfavor. Japan regards any further encroachment of Russia on Chinese territory with open hostility. Russia, as we have previously pointed out, has the whip-hand. If France stands with her she may be disposed to force matters to an issue, and therein the danger lies.

The inclination of the Dowager Empress to resist the allied forces will give excuse to Russia to land additional troops, a pretext that seems to have been anticipated by the other Powers who are moving to checkmate it by requesting Japan also to land a strong force. If Russia shall oppose the request to Japan, she will disclose her hand and practically avow her intention to dominate the situation. In such a contingency Germany would probably be the determining factor. If she sides with Russia and France there would either be war or a back-down. If she sides with England, America and Japan, Russia would have no choice but to yield, for their combined navies and the army of Japan would be too much for her.

There is no concealing the fact that the danger to all the parties concerned has greatly increased in the last few days. The only guarantee against war between the Powers has been, from the first, a united front against the "Boxers" and the acquiescence of each in a common policy. If the differences of opinion have become so radical as indicated, there is danger not merely of war between Russia and Japan—an outcome that has been probable from the first—but between two several coalitions of the Powers.

Despite the assertions of Washington that Minister Conger has been instructed to act independently, the danger that the United States will become embroiled is not a negligible quantity. If the fall of the Empress for having foreign representatives butchered in the streets persists, and harm befalls the American Minister, an explosion will follow in the United States that will make this country a participant in the subsequent proceedings, be it war or peace.

SOME MISFIT INFORMATION.

The Richmond Times is spearing the socialistic dragon again. About once a week, on an average, it performs that feat of daring and rescues the Democratic party. When the dragon is genuine there is no objection to this particular specialty, which is, indeed, infinitely better than vaudeville, and is always free. What is objectionable, however, is the attempt of The Champion to evoke the applause of the breathless spectators by prodding the papier mache article of dragon.

Thus in its issue of Friday the Times says the Louisville Dispatch was established by the Bryan Democrats of Kentucky, has always been a staunch supporter of Mr. Bryan, is a representative of the "radical" wing of the Democracy and therefore must speak by the card. Then it quotes the Dispatch as follows, concerning Mr. Bryan:

"His caution, his carefulness to steer clear of the appearance of socialistic tendencies, his socialistic supporters set down as commendable prudence while privately expressing the greatest confidence that he will at the proper time be sufficiently radical to delight even the strictest advocates of socialism. If Mr. Bryan is defeated again the conservatives will have the organization, the Democracy will be a conservative party, the progressive element will go elsewhere, and Mr. Bryan will go with them or cease to figure in national politics. In the event of victory or defeat the Nebraskan must go forward or backward. If he would still be a leader he will be forced to cease his flirtation with what passes as Eastern conservatism."

If this came from a newspaper such as the Times represents the Dispatch to be, it would have much significance. The Dispatch, however, happens to be the organ of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. It was founded by the Democrats of Kentucky when the Courier-Journal went to Palmer and Buckner, but failed to be self-supporting and was "acquired." It has been repudiated by the Democrats of Kentucky along with the malcontents it is alone entitled to speak for, and parades as a supporter of Mr. Bryan for the double purpose of injuring him and of helping itself. In his speech at Lexington, Kentucky, during the gubernatorial campaign, Mr. Bryan repudiated the Dispatch and its propaganda against the regular Democratic nominees. These are facts well known to all intelligent citizens of Kentucky. The Dispatch repays him by masquerading as his supporter, while holding him up as a socialist—and of course the Times characteristically helps the pretense along.

Richmond newspaper refers to Richmond as "sleepy." This is tough indeed.

Prof. Frederick Starr, Chicago University, says that either the Empress Dowager will win or Russia will "bag" all of China. When Prof. Starr goes on to explain, however, that the division of China among the Powers would make of China a World Power he throws some doubt on the validity of his conclusions.

Friends of Hon. Claude Swanson in Washington are reported as very "jubilant" over his gubernatorial prospects. Jubilation being a good thing in and of itself, it cannot, of course, ever be ill-timed or premature.

When the Republican National Committee asks that Southern federal officeholders of like faith and order be examined for "pernicious political activity, it is enough to drive the "culled gemmen" and their leaders to drink.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer thinks the Federation of Women's Clubs "impair its usefulness" by excluding negroes. The improvement in color was, however, very considerable.

The Ice Trust seems to have realized that the baby act is profitless in its case and has gotten down to the old familiar stand up and punch legal battle.

Governor Mount, of Indiana, has demonstrated that he is a more prolific fool than his first performance led the public to conjecture.

The dropping out of Petersburg will enable Newport News to corral a large batch of tail-end laurels in the baseball league.

THE STATE PRESS.

Bedford City is up against the tramp problem, according to the Bulletin. It says:

"Four or five tramps every day is about a good average for this town. The main, the halt, the blind and every variety of the genus homo, they come, annoying the housekeepers and exasperating our business men, besides drawing from the community a certain amount of cash that would much better be bestowed upon our own worthy, needy poor. Every community should support its own paupers, and as it is certain, since they arrive in swarms, that they come from somewhere, the best thing Bedford City can do would be to enforce its ordinances on the subject, and, by keeping them out of her lines, be one factor in keeping them within their own boundaries."

The genuine tramp does not come from anywhere, or rather he comes from everywhere. The only remedy for the tramp is to arrest him for vagrancy and put him to work.

The murder trial of A. C. Gilligan is still in progress. He admits the killing of Mr. Turner, and then proceeds to defend the fair name of the murdered man's daughter. Such a procedure should be hung, and no other verdict should satisfy the good people of Isle of Wight—Culpeper Enterprise.

Is it not always better to leave it to the jury, who have all the evidence before them, to decide whether the accused shall hang? In the Riddick case the press of the State kept most commendable silence until the verdict was rendered. It was a precedent worth sticking to.

The Suffolk Herald thinks the town council made a mistake in taxing manufacturing plants.

"The action of the Council of Suffolk in taxing manufacturing and industrial plants has been severely criticised by many of our citizens. We fail to understand the fair name of the taxed such enterprises as Suffolk does, and such methods are not calculated to attract or encourage manufacturing enterprises."

Speaking of the proposition to make the proposed suffrage qualification of the new constitution apply to all classes alike the Blackstone Courier says:

"The Norfolk convention settled that question when it declared in favor of granting the right to all who possessed it prior to '61 or to the descendants of those. This was one of the compromises made by the opponents and conceded by the supporters of the convention question. The Democratic party is therefore committed to this provision as much as to any other matter promulgated at their State convention."

Has the Courier not learned that a small thing like a party pledge never troubles some people?

The Southampton Democrat ridicules the attempt to select the president and secretary of the coming constitutional convention offhand. It adds:

"If the constitutional convention is divorced from machine politics in the election of its members, as it should and must be, the very ablest men in every county and city of the State will sit in it, and if this is the case, not less than fifty of the hundred men who will probably compose the convention can easily be found to fill the presidency with distinguished ability."

If the Democrat don't want to get into the bad graces of the peart politicians it had best have a care.

The prosperous city of Norfolk is still on a boom. You can see improvements on every street being made. What causes this? Easily answered. They have the public spirit and push and energy, and this will accomplish it for them. It is not in vain that the Council of Norfolk on last Tuesday appropriated \$10,000 for her sidewalk. This will be money well spent, and everything seems push and vim.—Petersburg Post.

The Post is kind and acknowledgments are made. Still just a little more "push and vim" wouldn't "bust the blar" even in Norfolk.

There is always a class of people who, when they read a healthy and honest criticism on public questions, will raise their ire and heap abuse upon the editor of the journal in whose columns it may appear. Although they may not be directly connected with the question at issue, they call the editor all kinds of names, without

making the slightest effort to disprove his statements—Cape Charles Light.

Give 'em a dose of No. 11 boot. It is much more efficacious than adjectives and will affect a cure in nearly every instance.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

WARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN THE EAST.

(Charleston News and Courier.) The following is a list of American war vessels available for use in Chinese waters in case of an emergency: Battleship Oregon, sixteen guns, Capt. Wilde, at Hong Kong; cruiser Brooklyn, twelve guns, Capt. Jewell, at Manila; cruiser New Orleans, ten guns, Capt. Longnecker, at Manila; gunboat Bennington, six guns, Commander Arnold, at Manila; gunboat Concord, eight guns, Commander Ackley, at Manila; gunboat Marietta, six guns, Commander Beach, at Manila; gunboat Monocacy, six guns, Commander Hinchel, at Manila; gunboat Petrel, four guns, Lieutenant Commander Cowles, at Manila; gunboat Princeton, six guns, Commander Knox, at Manila; eleven small gunboats, 50 to 200 tons each, captured from Spain, at Manila; monitor Monterey, Captain Fignat, at Manila; monitor Monadnock, at Manila; gunboat Castine, eight guns, Commander Very, at Shanghai; gunboat Yorktown, Commander Sperry, at Shanghai.

THE WHEAT CROP.

(N. Y. Journal of Commerce.) The officially estimated increase of spring wheat is a little larger than a year ago, and the condition promises 7 of a bushel per acre less. Translating the condition figures into bushels we have a probable decrease of 7,000,000 bushels in the field. The condition on June 1, then, amounted to 53,000,000 bushels more of winter and 7,000,000 bushels less of spring wheat than the condition figures of June 1, 1899. The crop last year, as officially stated, was 3.6 per cent. less than the promise on June 1. A like shrinkage in the figures for this year is probable. But the actual wheat crop of 57,000,000, or fifty millions more than last year. In view of the unfavorable news since the first of this month it may be anticipated that the shrinkage will be considerably greater than the year ago. But the condition figures on June 1 pointed to a crop of 615,000,000 bushels; the harvest of last year, as stated by the Department of Agriculture, was 547,000,000. It would require a shrinkage of 11.6 per cent. to bring the condition on June 1 down to the official figures of the last harvest.

DEMOCRATIC PRESS CONSISTENT.

(Houston Post.) The Democratic newspapers of New York City, notwithstanding the municipal government is in the control of Democrats, has grappled with the American ice trust and will destroy it if the Republican government and the Republican attorney general of the State of New York but do their duty. The Republican press meanwhile has been either silent or quite indifferent to the city of New York, and has fought against the people of the metropolis by the ice trust.

These facts are significant. They show that the war by which the trust is to be made odious and by which it must be eventually undone is the creation and purpose of the Democratic press. The idea that the trust is the expression of progress in business and industrial development is held in favor by the Republican press. What can be more natural? The Republican party owes its control of the national government to the campaign contributions of the men whose millions are engaged in trust operations, and by these must it expect to perpetuate itself in power. It is not reasonable therefore, to calculate upon Republican organs being arrayed against the trust against the source of their party's strength and the hope of its preservation.

THE ESSENCE OF THE TROUBLE.

(Baltimore News.) The essence of the trouble between Great Britain and the Republicans has been the conflict between the claims of an absolute imperialism and national rights of a self-governing people. We side with the Boers not because their government is more Democratic than that of England, but because they are a brave and sturdy race of freemen, loving the instructions under which they have grown up in a land which they have made their own through generations of struggle and hardship. They have a right to work out their destiny in their own way; and the pretension that because they are a few decades behind England herself in certain matters now regarded as essential to liberal government, therefore England has a right to put an end to their national existence, is a pretension full of veil in itself and portentous of greater evils to come.

MCKINLEY AS AN EDITOR.

(Pittsburg Post.) The Republican National convention will be held at Washington, and no other national convention ever has been, and control on the floor of the convention will be largely in the hands of administration Senators. The correspondent of the Chicago "Tribune," a well-informed Republican paper, says that the program is now engaged in reading and editing the speeches of Senator Walcott, who is to be temporary chairman, and Senator Lodge, who is to be permanent chairman. After the President has put on the finishing touches copies will be made and the two chairmen will stick closely to the printed text. Each speech will be about an hour long. Walcott's will be "a flowery oration," not referring of course to the way McKinley, after sending him to Europe as the head of the silver commission, stabbed the movement in the back and defied any other arrangement that brought the declarations of Secretary Gage for the gold standard while Walcott was pretending to negotiate for the double standard.

ALL FOR POLITICS.

(Philadelphia Ledger, Rep.) General Otis, in his anxiety for campaign purposes to dismiss the Philippine problem as a mere trifle, speaks of the cost which we are paying for grabbing the islands as a "baratelle." The United States had lost up to June 1 just raised 2,655 American soldiers dead, and 2,156 wounded, or a total of 4,811 men, exclusive from the troops involved in malaria and fevers and soldiers in hospitals of insane asylums. The cost of maintaining 55,000 soldiers is over \$47,000,000 a year, and as according to General Otis himself we shall be compelled to keep that army in the islands indefinitely, it is a convincing case, constituting a grievous burden upon every man, woman and child in this country, imposed for the sake of allowing foolish and wicked politicians to play at the game of "world politics."

THE HUB. 374 MAIN STREET, NORFOLK, VA. WE ARE STILL HARPING ON MEN'S, BOYS' AND YOUTHS' BLUE SERGE SUITS. A good story cannot be too frequently told. The remarkable values we are offering in BLUE SERGE SUITS bears frequent repetition. No preceding season were serges taken so kindly to—no materials became so popular. Of course we are showing the "cream" of this season's Suits—at prices that pale into insignificance any attempted competition. The values are marvels of economy and pregnant with true worthfulness and overflowing in fashionable details.