

The Independent

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EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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The populists will meet at Indianapolis today for the purpose of selecting a chairman in place of State Chairman Cummings, resigned.

KANSAS has taken the initiatory step toward pledging the republican party of that state to enact a law that will reduce sleeping car rates fifty per cent. in that state.

It is announced that notwithstanding the efforts of congress to help the nation out of its dilemma upon the financial question, the president and secretary of the treasury have proceeded to make a deal with the Pierpont Morgan syndicate to purchase another large amount of thirty year bonds.

LONDON papers seem to be having a good deal of fun over President Cleveland's alleged caricatures of President Monroe but it is forced humor and of the British sort and rather dull at that. While the lion shows his teeth in a pretended grin he is quaking in wardly lest his ground for humor may have been unwisely taken.

This is the season of mental evolution, though why we should be regularly confronted by the psychological phenomena of countless good but weak resolutions at this season of such succeeding year is one of the mysteries as yet unexplained by either sage or scientist. But the fact is of yearly recurrence with the evolution of the good resolution now clearly in evidence.

Now, since merchants have had an opportunity to partially reckon up the results of the holiday business preceding Christmas it is found that the volume of trade generally was not so bad as appeared during the trading season. This exemplifies the truth that the popular cry of hard times always expresses an exaggeration of the real facts. Times have been hard, money has been close and the volume of business has been curtailed during the past three trying years but these things give no excuse for magnifying the hardships of the real conditions. The mere assertion that business is dull operates with depressing effect whether well founded or not and when such expressions become general business may be seriously crippled without depressed actual conditions sufficient in themselves to produce such a result.

The house of national representatives at Washington is doing business with a rush. It passed a tariff bill Thursday involving many millions of dollars after only four hours debate. While the passage of that bill is regarded by the republicans as a victory because it was tendered the president as an unwholesome remedy for the depleted condition of the national treasury and while republicans do not doubt its expediency, undue haste in matters of this kind cannot be wisely counseled. Yesterday a rule was presented and adopted, limiting discussion on the gold bill now before the house to 3 o'clock today. This bill involves a prospective interest bearing debt of many millions of dollars and while it is true that the exigencies of the case press for action without unnecessary delay, the masses of the United States who will have to shoulder the debt and pay the interest cannot be assumed to be in favor of acting on a momentary impulse and passing a bill of so much importance without deliberate and wise consideration.

From the gravely threatening dangers of a war with England which sent a wave of patriotic excitement over the United States a few days ago, the country has lapsed into a state of comparative quiet. But patriotism has not diminished. It has merely subsided into inactivity. When not involved by necessity the war patriotism of this nation simply lies dormant but there is, innate in the people of this great American union of the United States, an unquenchable spirit of freedom, of independence and of love and reverence for country which can not be dominated by injustice or oppression. A republican-democratic spirit has been born on the western hemisphere which abhors the rule of monarchs and the distinctive titles and insignia of monarchial aristocracy. This spirit is voiced in the Monroe doctrine almost precisely as interpreted by President Cleveland in his recent Venezuelan message and is not

confined, either, to the United States but has spread itself over the Americas. Behind this spirit and moved by a deep rooted and undying principle is a certain irresistible dynamic force immeasurable in its immensity and unconquerable. That England is beginning to realize this is our best guaranty of continued relations of peace with that country.

The unquestionable assurance of the United States in its justification of the position assumed on the Venezuelan question carries with it a notable conviction to nearly all other nations of the earth. Uncle Sam is usually so good natured and frowns so seldom that his just indignation is not looked upon lightly in any quarter of the earth.

The girls, God bless them all, evidently think, and most lightly, too, that the highest duty of female life is to esteem highly and cultivate vigorously their personal beauty of face and form. Pretty women are the light and joy of life to us all, and the passion for the paraphernalia of the toilet is a laudable one, which the highest good of society demands should be zealously encouraged.

"SPAIN objects to the insurgents' practice of running away." She holds that the warfare in Cuba "has reached a stage approximating high class brigandage." That is all right for Spain and it is evident that high class brigandage is exceedingly distasteful to her. The independence of the United States was achieved by just such "brigandage." The Cuban brigands of today may be the heroes and patriots of a new nation tomorrow.

It is not merely the Venezuelan question which is involved in the declaration of the administration on the Monroe doctrine, but the Alaskan matters are also involved. England has for some time been encroaching on our rights in Alaska, and it is time that not only England but all the world should know that the American people will allow no interference by any foreign power with any of the territory or any of the affairs of the nations on the Western Hemisphere.

The wealthy Christian gentlemen of the Oak Park Congregational church, Chicago, consented to the allotment of seats for the coming year by chance. The lots were cast and with unpardonable perversity Fortune gave the best seats to poorer members of the church and sent the wealthy Christian gentlemen, with their wives and daughters, to obscure positions in the fashionable edifice. The wealthy Christian gentlemen are now praying with all the grace they can muster under the circumstances for a restoration of the old order of things by which each gentleman was given precedence before the Lord according to his wealth and social standing.

The axiom "It's an ill wind that blows nobody good" finds verification in all that is being said and written regarding the fad of the new woman. Regardless of how far ultra-representatives of the new woman type have departed from the captivating sweetness and winning graces of femininity the "new woman" fad is not without promise of benefits to womankind. The reversed positions of men and women in story, narrative and verse predatory of the "new woman" are serving to interpret the golden rule to many who never before have had its full significance borne in upon them. Men and women too, are beginning to see that there is really two sides to domestic questions and that the marriage bond does not give to either party the right to dominate in affairs which are interesting and important alike to each. If the new woman shall teach us lessons of consideration and forbearance with the result of making home life happier and more attractive, may she flourish and be called blessed until her time of usefulness is ended.

AN INDEPENDENT NATION.
The United States as a nation comes as near being absolutely independent of all the world outside of its own limits as any nation in the universe. We have now a population of seventy millions, with territory sufficient to support well, without overcrowding, three hundred millions. We are bounded on either side by oceans, and our territory extends through all the productive degrees of longitude and latitude. We can, and do grow, nearly every product of the different zones. There is hardly anything that enters into the consumption of a civilized people that is not capable of production in our territory. We can raise wheat, corn, potatoes, rice, and other cereals sufficient to feed the world, and cotton, flax, wool and silk enough to clothe all mankind. We

have timber enough to build and fence the whole country, and coal fields sufficient to warm us for time illimitable, our coal oil and natural gas fields are inexhaustible, and our gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron and other mines already developed are sufficient for our own needs, no matter what demand may be made on them, and our fisheries of all kinds are sufficient for our present and future wants. Our national development has exceeded that of any nation that ever existed. Our railroads, steam transportation, electricity, telegraph lines, telephones, and means of communication with all parts of the land and of the world, are magnificent and wonderful. Moreover, we are able to manufacture for daily use all the immense natural products of the land, and there is no need of sending any of our products abroad, to be made into clothing, or shoes, or machinery, or artillery. The inventive genius of Americans has produced and is ready to produce everything in the way of machinery, from the finest and most delicate watch, to the most ponderous engine, and there is absolutely nothing the people of the land may need, either for the actual necessities of life, the luxuries of advanced civilization or the requirements of national defense, in the manufacture of which we have not outstripped all the rest of the world. We are in fact the richest, most comfortable, most prosperous, most intelligent, most capable nation under the sun, and there is no reason why we should not be the most independent. We are able to live within ourselves, independent of all other nations or people, if it should become necessary.

IS RIGHT.

It is hinted in some quarters that President Cleveland's message on the Venezuelan question may have been prompted by selfish motives. Such suspicions are surely unfounded and are ridiculous in the extreme. It is a serious matter to bring this nation to the brink of war, and President Cleveland has too much sense to take steps in that direction without first having abundant reasons for so doing. The president was with out a doubt moved to make his official declaration on this question by motives broad and patriotic.—Walkerton Independent.

The Independent is right. President Cleveland's message embodied sentiments that found immediate response in almost every American heart. There is corruption in politics. The partisan world is full of it. But the feeling against corrupt politicians should not be permitted to go so far as to accuse the country's chief executive of other than the purest of patriotic motives in the promulgation of such as were expressed in the president's Venezuelan message. Republicans and democrats alike approve the stand President Cleveland has taken and as the author of a document touching one of the most cherished principles of new world government and fully in accord with the people's sentiments Grover Cleveland is regarded by them, not as a democrat but as president of the United States.

For a Fallen Brother.
Miles H. Tibbett's Post, No. 290, G. A. R., has adopted the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the death messenger has, for the fourth time within a twelve month, visited our camp and taken from our ranks an honored member; therefore, be it

Resolved, that in the death of Comrade Daniel B. Armstrong, Miles H. Tibbett's Post, G. A. R., has lost a member who was faithful to every trust and loyal, in the extreme, to his flag and country; one who rendered valuable service, sustained painful wounds and endured hardships, unflinchingly and uncomplainingly, in his country's service; and in the Post was faithful to every duty, courteous in his dealings with his comrades, and conscientiously honest in all his business transactions.

Resolved, that in his death the Post has sustained an irreparable loss, the community a respected and worthy citizen, and the family a devoted and loving father.

E. K. BARNHILL,
J. H. BENNETT,
B. C. SOUTHWORTH,
Committee.

Found No Place to Die.

LaPorte furnishes a sickening picture. Last week a Polish family living near Rolling Prairie and about twelve miles from LaPorte drove through the rain to that city with a sick girl about ten years of age. The child was sick unto death and was taken to Doctor Meyer's office for treatment, when the doctor disclosed the fact that it was a case of malignant diphtheria of the very worst kind and that the child was dying of the disorder, the child having been so long neglected that it was past all medical aid. The child could not be kept in the doctor's office and he went forth and hunted the city over for a place in which to permit it to die and he found none.

The alternative left was for the parents to take the dying child in their wagon and start for home, though the rain was falling in torrents, which they did with all the assurance of having a corpse before arriving home. Here is

an opportunity for thought. The Herald says: "A city of ten thousand Christians and no place in which to die. Where is your hospital?"

Assumed a Warlike Tinge.

Friday night saw about the first ripple of excitement Plymouth has felt since the Fourth ward decision. It was about 9 o'clock and Mike Spieshoffer's saloon on Michigan street was the scene of the affair. Three men—Charles Cressner, Charles Galloway and Charles Parrish—were together in the saloon and evidently under the influence of liquor.

A quarrel started between them, the war spirit rose high and finally Cressner inaugurated a new deal and presented the cold, steely glitter of an ugly revolver. The entrance of this new factor into the game intensified things somewhat and when Cressner shot there was a break for safer ground. Fortunately, no one was injured by the bullet.

The man behind the artillery then assumed the reins of authority, made the proprietor close the saloon and then took him safely home.

No arrests have yet been made, and it is not known whether any prosecutions will follow.

To Solve the Prison Problem.

The special committee appointed at the last session of the legislature to solve the prison labor problem has commenced work on the draft of a measure which will be presented at the next session. It is said the bill will provide for the establishment of an intermediate prison or reformatory, where will be confined the younger convicts, men whom the officials believe can be reclaimed. The work of the two prisons will also be changed, the plan being to provide trades for all the convicts and thus put them in a position to make living wages when dependent on their own efforts for a livelihood. The question of putting the men to work on the public highways is receiving serious consideration. It may be decided by the commission to recommend the shipping of the stone to the prisons and having it prepared within the prison walls to be placed upon the roads. Another proposition is to station convicts at a certain place and there crush the stone preparatory to putting it on the roads by free labor. These plans will be discussed by the commission at its meeting in Michigan City.

Templars Choose Officers.

The Plymouth Commandery, No. 25, Knights Templar, elected their new officers Friday evening. Afterward they were installed by George H. Thayer, Jr. The complete list is as follows:

- Louis McDonald, eminent commander.
- R. A. Chase, generalissimo.
- H. E. Corbin, captain-general.
- W. W. Raymond, prelate.
- J. O. Gordon, senior warden.
- W. E. Leonard, junior warden.
- O. G. Soice, treasurer.
- L. Lauer, recorder.
- C. Z. Rowe, standard bearer.
- C. S. Cleveland, sword bearer.
- C. R. Hughes, warder.
- A. P. Elliott, guard.

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GENTLEMEN—Private diseases, Venereal, Taint, Gonorrhoea, Syphilis, Seminal Emissions, Weakness of Sexual Organs.

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