

THE WASHINGTON TIMES.

FRANK A. MUNSEY.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1901.

The Message and Cuba.

In a message which, on the whole, is essentially business-like and sensible, the President has adopted an attitude toward the Cuban question which is neither business-like nor wise.

Before the war with Spain the Senate adopted a resolution tying the hands of the United States with regard to the disposition of whatever fruits victory might bring it.

In that resolution, devised by Senator Teller, the Senate undertook, on behalf of the country, "to leave the government and control of the island to its people."

The President informs us that the time has come when Cuba is able to assume that control.

To those of us who had no opportunity to pronounce upon the advisability of that resolution, it is a matter of regret that the President should not only have promised Cuba its independence, but have undertaken to grant it reciprocal advantages possessed by no other foreign independent State.

The war with Spain, by means of which Cuba was freed from the yoke of the Spaniard, cost us, in a single year, six thousand six hundred and nineteen lives and four hundred millions of dollars in money. In return for that we have had the mighty triumph of vanquishing Spain, a nation with an antiquated navy and an unpaid army.

To many of us it must appear that the expenditure in life and wealth which the United States underwent in the endeavor to free Cuba was not unworthy of recompense in territory. The Teller resolution stood in the way, and as a nation more eager of its honor than of its business reputation, we have allowed Cuba to prepare for its independence.

So far there is little to be said in adverse comment, but the President has gone further. He has recommended a reduction in the tariff duties with Cuba. That is to say, he has permitted Cuba to assume a position of independence, independent alike of Spain and of the United States, but he has relieved the island of the burden of independence. It is to be given all the trade privileges of a United States Territory, but is to share none of the responsibility, none of the national burden.

This, in a business sense, is absurd. Cuba, after the war, should have been added to the sum of the United States possessions. It belongs of geographical right to the United States, and it is to its interest to attach itself to the United States. If, however, we grant it all the privileges of citizenship without any of the burdens, we create a false position. We place Cuba in a favored class all by itself. We neutralize the effects of a deadly and bloody war. We grant Cuba privileges it has done nothing to deserve.

The Speaker of the House.

One of the developments in the present session of Congress is likely to be a quiet, subtle, but more or less important trial of strength between the House and the Speaker. Theoretically, of course, the Speaker of the House is simply the presiding officer, without autocratic or authoritative powers to any great extent. Practically, in the time of Reed, it was quite different. Nobody any more thought of disputing the power of that levathan than of having an argument with a cable car.

Speaker Henderson's authority has been exerted in a much more quiet manner, but the reactionary movement has begun, and there are some people in the House and out of it who think that even he has more power than he ought to have. It may be that before many years the general conditions of things in the House will so change that it will never again be possible for a man to wield the personal influence exerted by the "Czar."

There has been a more or less unconscious but very real alteration in methods of national legislation in the last fifty years, and the power of personal presence and magnetism has been growing steadily less and less, while the ability of the diplomat, the silent, persistent, able worker, has been more and more felt. It is now and then possible even at the present day to overthrow in a single speech an orator who has been due in committee rooms, but not often.

In the course of its evolution from a body of talkers to a body of business men, the House is likely to reduce the authority of its Speaker to the vanishing point, and it is about time for the final development to be due. Mr. Henderson may have strength and tact enough to push it a little further away, but eventually it must come.

In a Nutshell.

There is a liquor problem in Maine, and as other liquor problem in New York, but the two problems belong to the same genus. They grow out of the embodiment into law of the desire of a few good people to improve the habits of all. That is, they assume that their own habits are absolutely correct, and then endeavor to compel all others to conform to them. In Maine, the total abstainers have their way wholly; in New York, they have it to a modified degree.

The result is that in most of the cities of Maine the law officers openly violate the really unpopular law by imposing one fine a year on a liquor-selling lawbreaker; in cities where the officers themselves are not law-

breakers, the drunkards are numerous, and the evasions of the law by pitiful devices are discouraging to all admirers of free government.

In New York, the Sunday closing law has thus far served little purpose except to give to the police an opportunity to blackmail the saloon-keepers. In Maine, the fine imposed is, in reality, a license tax, not recognized as such by the law, but it goes into the public treasury. In New York, the police blackmail pays for a license to do wrong, but the money goes into the pockets of private citizens who are public bosses.

This is the practical side of the liquor question in a nutshell.

The British War Office has instructed its general commanding in South Africa that allegations of misconduct by the Boers, unless fully substantiated, are to be deprecated. In this the authorities have taken a stand which it would have been better to have adopted sooner. Much grave harm and much heartburning among Boer sympathizers has been caused by false reports of Boer atrocities.

As a matter of fact, no war has ever been carried out in a more gentle, good-natured, easy-going way than the war between Mr. Chamberlain and Louis Dothan.

It would be convenient if some men could wear a mental and moral collar to conceal the absence of the things that they do not know.

Reciprocity resembles charity in that many people would like to have it begin at home, and stay there.

The trouble about some politicians getting together on a matter is that when they do, they take too many drinks.

Some people are trying to boom General Joseph Wheeler for the Senate. Cannot they let that venerable body have a little peace?

A small army of bills has already been introduced in the House; but it should be remembered that introduction does not always mean a speaking acquaintance afterward.

It looks as if Captain Diamond, of New York, might turn out to be a paste rhinestone.

The number of Polar expeditions this year is said to break the record. There is also an expedition organized in New York to discover the source of Salt River.

Perhaps nothing would better please Mr. Croker for Christmas than a new Tiger.

Mr. Low does not find it necessary to advertise for assistance in the prospective work of reforming the metropolis.

With the profusion of measures against the cowardly disciples of violence, it looks as though anarchy in this country would soon be as dead as Cozzolus.

CURRENT PRESS COMMENT.

Cheering Assurance.

Atlanta Journal—Secretary Root gives us the cheering assurance that the war in the Philippines is still over.

On a Truck.

Chicago News—Present prospects the appropriation bills to be introduced at this session will have to be handled on a truck.

More Than Ornamental.

Cincinnati Enquirer—It is a great thing to be a railroad magnate, but Mr. James J. Hill has discovered that the Governor of a State is something more than a brass ornament.

The Secret of Civilization.

Buffalo Express—The bow and arrow have been officially discarded as a weapon for the Chinese army. The Chinese have learned that the secret of civilization is to shoot to kill.

Decadence of Diplomacy.

Amesbury Standard—Diplomacy as a fine art of deceit is simply a trifling dead end. The Ambassador of today has little opportunity to exercise the old craft. In constant communication with his chief, he is simply the mouthpiece of his superior. Such stories of his open-and-above-the-board way of doing business will condense many a blunder and will confound many a conspiracy.

Fitness for the Tropics.

New York Mail and Express—It is not the smallest part of our triumph in these tropical islands that, after the ghastly record of Spanish decadence in Cuba and of the forcing of the British troops in Jamaica to the high mountain levels, our soldiers have a better health record on the sea level in Cuba and Porto Rico than they have in the United States. The fact proclaims a fitness for our race for tropical residence and control.

Those Audible Interventions.

New York World—President Roosevelt could not make a surer bid for the popularity that defeats the craft of machines than by his present course of conducting the public business in a public room and in an audible voice. He will offend an occasional "gum shoe statesman." But he will disarm even him by making him ridiculous. And he will win confidence and respect and support from the masses.

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What They Think.

Buffalo Express—The Chinese propose to raise a big fund with which to fight against the re-enactment of the exclusion law. It would be interesting to learn the Chinese idea of the way this money is to be spent.

FEROUS.

North Carolina Red Men.

"Among my constituents are about 2,000 Indians, the origin of whose residence in North Carolina is enveloped in much mystery," said Hon. John D. Bellamy, of that State, at the Normandy.

"They are known as the Croatan or Hatteras Indians, and there is almost certain evidence that they are the descendants of English colonists who, under the auspices of Sir Walter Raleigh, were left on Roanoke Island in 1572. It was on this island, in August of that year, that Virginia Dare, the first white child born in America, saw the light of day. To this day no one knows the fate of those colonists, for a succeeding expedition found for them in the immediate vicinity were murdered by the savages in a tolerably certain, and that the women were taken as slaves by their captors is the only theory on which we can account for the presence of blue-eyed Indians who have borne names that tally with many of the last proteges of Raleigh.

"These Indians have traditions of ancestors who married white women, and though they have the copper color and high cheek bones of their race, they never had the mummified habit of the red man. In many ways they are a remarkable people and have always preserved a separate racial existence. They are honest, brave, intensely religious, true friends and true enemies, and are willing to try to get a bill through this Congress to provide for the education of their boys and girls. Our State has done something in this line, but the General Government is better able to give the desired aid."

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The bride wore a stylish gown of emerald green crepe de chine over tulle of the same color. The waist was trimmed with blue panne velvet, touches of lace and chiffon. A large hat of lawn and white panne velvet was worn and a bouquet of white roses was carried.

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IN SOCIETY.

Miss Fannie Loring Andrews and Mr. Edward F. Caverly, both of this city, were married at noon yesterday at St. Andrew's Church, Rev. J. B. Perry officiating.

Mr. L. Whiting Estes escorted the bride up the aisle and gave her away in marriage. They were preceded by the usher Mr. B. I. Sapiro, Mr. R. K. Goodland, Mr. T. B. Gardner and Mr. W. O'Hannan. Dr. Frank E. Gibson acted as best man.

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MISSOURI FACTIONAL FIGHT.

Midwater State Republicans Eager for President's Decision.

Close observers are just a bit puzzled to know what is deferring the decision of the President in the contest for the control of the Republican party in Missouri between R. C. Kerens, national committee secretary of the Interior. It is now some time since the best factions first began to press their claims before the President. The Hittcheek people claim that they have won, that Kerens and his political friends will be turned down, and that their overthrow will be signified by the appointment in short order of W. G. Boyd as surveyor of the port of St. Louis, in place of H. C. Smith, a Kerens man.

On the other hand the Kerens people, though somewhat loath to talk, assert vehemently that the President has as yet come to no decision on the matter, and that the worst that can happen to them is the appointment of a compromise candidate.

To all appearances the political evidence, the endorsements pro and con, was all in a week ago. But yesterday, the Missourians descended on the White House again. With the situation thus opened up again, it is hard to predict when the President will give the word which will throw one side into political supremacy and cast the other to the ground. It is practically certain that this word is not far off, but it is difficult to say exactly when it will come.

Half a dozen prominent Republicans from Missouri, representing the younger element of the party in that State, called by appointment on the President yesterday, and expressed the wish that Mr. Kerens be left at the helm of the Republican party. They presented this request in written form, with their signatures attached. Walter Decker, leader of the Republican party in Kansas City and Jackson County, who is a valiant Kerens worker, headed the party. It consisted of Louis P. Aloe, a prominent merchant of St. Louis, who was for three years—1898-1901—President of the St. Louis Merchants' League Republican Club, and who is a member-at-large of the State Republican committee; Harry D. Train, President of the Missouri Republican Club, of Kansas City; W. K. Amick, ex-city attorney of St. Joseph, and a member of the Missouri State Assembly when the obnoxious Neill election law was passed; Ralph D. Stauffer, of St. Joseph, member of the executive committee of the State Republican committee; C. D. Morris, proprietor of the "Trenton Tribune," and President of the Association of Young Republicans of Missouri, an annual dinner association, and a member-at-large of the State committee.

The delegation reported a cordial reception by the President. Mr. Aloe protested against the statement of the Hittcheek faction that the situation was all settled and that Mr. Boyd was to be appointed surveyor; that the Kerens supporters had the word of the President that the appointment had not been determined upon. Mr. Aloe said: "The worst that can happen to us is that the President will not appoint a man in either faction."

The statement is made by friends of Mr. Kerens that of the fifteen Congressional nominees ten are on record as supporters of Mr. Kerens; three, including Representatives Joy and Barthold, are opposed to him; one is absent from home on a hunting trip, and his sentiments are not known, while the other is neutral.

It is said that the chairman of the city central committee of St. Louis, has arrived in Washington. He carries with him an endorsement of Mr. Kerens, signed by twenty-five of the city's eight members of the committee of which he is the head.

John B. Ivens, chairman of the Twelfth Congressional district committee, is said to be similarly authorized to endorse Mr. Kerens.

Before the Kerens people saw the President yesterday, Joy and Barthold talked with the President, and departed with expressed confidence that the President would decide the contest in their favor. Secretary Hittcheek was at the White House a little later, and as he departed he intimated that the situation had taken on a tinge satisfactory to him.

TARIFF FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

Senator Lodge Offers a Bill Confirming Present Duties.

In accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court that only Congress has power to prescribe a tariff between the Philippine Islands and the United States, Senator Lodge yesterday introduced a bill confirming the tariff duties fixed by the Philippine Commission on merchandise imported into these islands.

The bill also provides that merchandise coming into the United States from the Philippine Islands shall pay the rates prescribed by the Dingley tariff act on goods coming from foreign countries.

Another section of the bill states that until otherwise provided by law the statutes of the United States shall not be in force in the Philippine Islands except as adopted by military order or by the Philippine Commission. The bill also provides that all duties and taxes heretofore collected in the Philippines or to be collected hereafter shall not be covered into the Treasury of the United States, but shall be used and expended by the government of those islands.

SPECIAL BANK TAXES.

Capital, Surplus, Undivided Profits, and Borrowed Money Included.

John W. Yerkes, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, held yesterday that for purposes of special tax bankers must return for taxation capital, surplus, undivided profits, and borrowed money used in the conduct of banking.

Mr. Yerkes said that "capital and surplus include all funds employed by the bank in the business of banking, and that temporarily used by the bank, are of necessity withdrawn from the banking business through the payment of dividends, taxes, ascertained losses, or fixed charges of whatever character."

THE TURKISH INDEMNITY.

Ninety Thousand Dollars to Be Distributed by State Department.

The Secretary of State has determined on the character of the distribution of the indemnity, amounting to about \$90,000, received from Turkey for indemnities paid to American citizens and their property during the Armenian disturbances in 1901. Forty-one claims were allowed and twenty-nine granted. The State Department will distribute the individual amounts to be distributed.

Documentary Stamp Ruling.

The much-discussed question of refunding documentary internal revenue stamps has been decided by the Comptroller of the Treasury.

Mr. Tracewell, in reviewing the question, said that "the provisions in the act of Congress of May 12, 1900, prohibit the allowance of any claim for the redemption of documentary internal revenue stamps unless presented within two years after the purchase of said stamps from the Government."

Republicans in Congress Not

All Pleased With the Message.

Since members of both houses have had an opportunity to mentally digest the President's message they are disposed to pass more than perfunctory comment upon it.

That the message has caused a division in the ranks of the Republican members there appears to be no doubt.

The President's stand on the subject of reciprocity meets with greater opposition than anything else in the document. It is regarded as a body blow to the high protectionists and to those who have opposed the proposed trade treaties with foreign countries. They do not look with favor upon the proposition to extend special advantages to Cuba.

On the other hand, those who have been advising modification are delighted with the President's attitude. The Eastern leaders are the ones who are most displeased with the reciprocity recommendations.

But there is division upon other matters.

The Eastern and the Western members are wide apart upon the irrigation proposition. The former, whose idea of irriga-

tion does not go far beyond the sprinkling pot and the garden hose, do not look with favor upon the suggestion of spending a large sum of money to water the vast arid plains of the West.