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Those who expressed the hope that this war would wipe out sectionalism will not find much encouragement in Secretary Alger's treatment of Southern soldiers.

While all recognize the bravery and gallantry of Admiral Cervera the movement to present him with a home at this stage of the game is, in the opinion of some folks, supremely absurd. The American crank can not be excelled for originality.

Gen. Ernst, the military brute, who compelled his men to walk twenty miles in the hot sun, resulting in the prostration of 500 soldiers and the probable death of several others, should be court-martialed and punished for his inhumanity.

Those who are inclined to criticize Shafter because he did not spend all his time sending dispatches to Washington should remember that "Pecos Bill" had some fighting to do and he did it.

The London Spectator aptly characterizes the Spaniard as "the kind of a man who always leaves his revolver unloaded, and discovering the fact, walks to his death unarmed lest anybody should suppose he is afraid."

With the peace faction, the war party, the revolutionists, the Carlists, and divers and sundry other warlike elements after him, Sagasta is unquestionably in a bad fix. The fellow who was between the devil and the deep blue sea was in a bed of roses compared with the present predicament of Spain's premier.

One fact which may help to prove the correctness of Grosvenor's declaration that this is a Republican war is that Secretary Alger has not allowed a single Southern regiment or company to participate in this war thus far. It has been decided that no Southern soldiers will take part in the Porto Rican invasion. The Southern white boys can hardly hope to have a square deal from the present administration. Grosvenor evidently knew whereof he spoke when he stated in Congress that this would be a Republican war.

Under the provisions of the new constitution the Police Jury of each parish has the authority to fix the license of retail liquor dealers, practically placing the question of prohibition into the hands of that body. In Natchitoches the Police Jury has raised the license to \$2000. High license is advocated in many States as the best solution of the saloon question, and it is believed that in many parishes in Louisiana it will be given a trial. In Lafayette the cold-water contingent is not very formidable, numerically speaking, and our citizens will in all probability continue to enjoy their time-honored cocktails without visiting the blind-tigers. There is not a perceptible amount of drunkenness in Lafayette, and it is very questionable if the cause of temperance would be enhanced by the adoption of the strictest prohibitory laws.

Much sickness is reported to prevail among the 6000 volunteers now camped at Miami, Fla. This unfortunate condition of affairs is said to be due to the unfitness of the place for camping grounds. There is absolutely nothing around Miami which recommends it as a desirable place for the mobilization of troops. It has been condemned by the medical inspector, but with a reckless disregard for the health of the soldiers nothing has been done by the war department. It has leaked out that a Mr. Flager, a millionaire friend of Alger, owns the place and for that reason it was selected by the department. In the meantime disease is playing havoc among the soldiers and deaths are frequently reported. It appears to be a matter of supreme indifference to the administration what the results may be. Flager must be favored.

MR. ZELL REQUESTS A RETRACTION.

In the issue of July 9 The Gazette published the report of Mr. C. A. Gaines, of New Orleans, who had been employed as an expert to examine and report on the condition of machinery in the Waterworks and Electric Light Plant. The revelations of Mr. Gaines were so sensational that The Gazette could not withhold a few commentary remarks thereon, and to these Mr. Zell has evidently taken exception, as appears from the following letter received a few days since, and reproduced verbatim:

NEW ORLEANS July 16th 1898
H. Mouton, Esqr.
Proprietor The Lafayette Gazette.
Lafayette, La.

Dear Sir,
I request that you publish in your next issue a statement retracting from the statement made about the Water and Lighting Plant, in which you have misled the public that I am criminally liable as the Engineer for the Town of Lafayette for any assumed defects that may be claimed in the plant. After consulting counsel I request that you separate me from any quarrel that the town of Lafayette may have with the Consolidated Engineering Co.
Hoping to have your immediate reply I am yours truly,
ROBERT R. ZELL.

Mr. Zell is without doubt unduly sensitive in this matter for in the article in question no allusion directly or indirectly is made to him. We fail to find any statement that demands modification or retraction and therefore do not propose that anything now said shall be construed as an apology or explanation of the position assumed in reference to this contention. Rather would we repeat the statement to which Mr. Zell evidently takes umbrage and which reads as follows: "The report sets forth a most deplorable condition of affairs and the facts if substantiated disclose not only dishonest practice but criminal culpability in the construction of the plant beyond parallel." Can any one tell us wherein Mr. Zell is held "criminally liable"? The Gazette does not undertake to say who is responsible for the reported condition of the plant, and for ought we know, it may be the contracting company or some employee of the company, or the Council, or it may be that the manufacturing company which supplied the boilers and machinery is guilty of "criminal culpability," or it may be that Mr. Gaines has made a mistake and the whole matter may at last resolve itself into a veritable mare's nest.

Mr. Zell recommended the acceptance of the plant expressing his entire satisfaction as to the machinery in particular, and now comes Mr. Gaines who states that the boilers, etc., are in a "bad and dangerous condition" and should be "torn out." The Gazette knows little or nothing of the standing of either of the two men in his profession as mechanical engineer and has absolutely no knowledge of machinery and therefore does not undertake to pronounce hasty judgment in the matter. The courts have been appealed to and in advance of the decision of that tribunal no opinion is expressed fixing the "criminal culpability" on any particular individual. Considering, however, all the circumstances in connection with the report not only of Mr. Gaines but others competent to judge, there certainly is reason to believe that "something is rotten in Denmark."

Let the judicial investigation proceed fairly and impartially to fix this "criminal culpability" and in the meantime let everybody keep perfectly at ease. There need hardly be any fear that wrong or injustice will be inflicted upon any person who has acted with honesty and integrity. *Honi soit qui mal y pense.*

About the coolest place in town is next to the Moss Pharmacy soda fountain, which is kept busy "fizzing" from morn to night these hot summer days.

RAILROAD COMMISSION.

The Gazette is pleased to publish the following communication. It covers the whole matter so thoroughly and it is so full of good, sound common sense that we will not attempt to add a single word to it. Suffice to say that it has our entire endorsement:

To The Lafayette Gazette:

The time has arrived for the people of this railroad commission district to consider what steps shall be taken to secure the nomination of a suitable candidate for this most important office. The people all over the State have hailed with delight the constitution of a board of control as it were over the railroad corporations and it now remains for the popular will to decide the gravest and most important phase of the problem, i. e., the selection of good, substantial men to carry out the objects of the law, creating the commission. If the people do not attend to this matter others whose interests are vitally affected will undoubtedly seize the opportunity to elect men who are subservient to their wishes and selfish purposes. If the writer understands aright the sentiment of the people on this subject, it is that while the commission shall protect the State against unjust discriminations, and corporate greed, yet due regard shall be had for the vast capital invested in these various concerns. Nothing should be done to discourage the material development of the State. Here plainly arises a necessity for a body of men strong in character, clear in judgment and sufficiently broad-minded to deal fairly and justly in executing the provisions of the law entrusted to its care.

Such men are not to be found so easily as one would suppose and this difficulty will no doubt confront the people in all three districts. The men who are able to withstand the wily diplomacy of corporate institutions, protect the interests of the people, and deal even-handed justice to all concerned, are not to be found every day. True there are many who possess honesty and integrity of character but these excellent qualities must be supplemented by ability to grasp a most complicated problem, and familiarity with the workings of these great corporations to insure faithful and intelligent performance of duty. Lafayette parish possesses a man who has all the qualifications for this office and whose sterling character commands the respect of our entire people—Capt. J. C. Buchanan. If the people of this district desire a man in whom implicit reliance may be placed, they have him in the person of Capt. Buchanan. The captain represented the parish for several years on the State Board of Assessments for Railroads and his knowledge of railroad business enabled him to protect the interest of the State in a most creditable manner. The writer knows not whether Capt. Buchanan would accept the nomination, but feels confident that no better selection could be made if the people want a competent and efficient representative on the board of railroad commissioners. Let the public deliberate upon this most vital question and see that the proper men are selected to carry out the intent of the law.

CITIZEN.

THE NEW PARISH LINE.

The bill which passed the Legislature and was signed by the governor to re-establish the line between Lafayette and Acadia parishes, is, in the opinion of our local attorneys, clearly unconstitutional. It appears that the line as fixed by the act is a new one, and not merely "re-established." Article 278 of the constitution provides that "all laws changing parish lines, shall, before taking effect, be submitted to the electors of the parish or parishes to be affected thereby at a special election held for that purpose and the lines shall remain unchanged unless two-thirds of the qualified electors of the parish or parishes affected thereby vote in favor thereof at such election."

As there seems to be no doubt that the Legislative act in question establishes boundaries which are clearly new and not at all in accord with the old line it is believed that it will be an easy matter to prove its unconstitutionality.

THE PEOPLE MUST PAY.

It is refreshing to know that the war tax which is to be paid by putting a stamp upon all telegrams and express packages was intended to be borne by the companies instead of by the people as is the case. Congressman Burke, of Texas, made a speech the other day and told his constituents that "there was not a member of Congress who dreamed in passing the war stamp law that the people were to pay for the stamps used on telegrams and express packages, as the saddling of that expense on the people practically relieves the telegraph and express companies from contributing to the war revenue."

Now that the law has passed congress and the tax is being paid by the people it will not prove any consolation to those who are bearing the burden to know that all the congressmen who voted for the law did so under the impression that they were actually imposing a tax upon some of the wealthiest corporations of the country.

We have read the law about which there has been so much squabbling and we have failed to find a word in it indicating who is to pay the tax. The passage of this law is a reflection upon the American Congress and will not tend to raise that august body in the esteem of the people. It strikes the average citizen that at least one of the several hundred representatives might have read the law with enough interest to discover such a flagrant defect. The failure to do so is either a sad commentary on their intelligence or diligence.

It is safe to say, however, that had the law been worded to place the burden of this stamp tax upon the corporations it would not have gone through Congress with so much ease. Some one would have found that out in time to prevent its passage.

There seems to be a disposition to make the poor people pay the expenses of this war. They will have to do most of the fighting and Congress evidently thinks that they ought to be made to pay for the privilege of defending their country.

In the meantime the railroad, telegraph and other corporations will go right on raking in the shekels. And yet we are told this government is of the people, by the people and for the people.

THE SOLDIERS AT MIAMI.

The death of Lieut. John Nelson, of Louisiana, at Miami, Fla., and the alarming increase of sickness among the soldiers camped there, are beginning to receive the attention of the Southern press. Over 900 men were reported on the sick list a few days ago and the number of new cases of sickness continues to increase every day.

Several weeks ago Miami has been pronounced as a place thoroughly unfit for the mobilization of troops and it is not to the credit of the war department that it has not already been abandoned.

To give an idea to our readers of the condition of affairs in the camp we print an extract from a letter written to his parents at New Orleans by one of the boys encamped there, followed by what was said by Prof. Metz after analyzing samples of the drinking water used by the soldiers at that encampment. The young man writes as follows:

"I firmly believe that we were sent here to clean up this land, thereby increasing its value. The place is only two years old and owned by a millionaire, and everything indicates he is in league with the government. When I entered the army it was to fight for what I believed (and still believe) to be a just cause, to help a stricken and down-trodden nation, and not to be a laborer for a multimillionaire who is able to pay for the labor necessary to clear up his land. We are forced to dig up pine stumps and grub up palmetto roots. If it were

necessary for us to do this work I would do it cheerfully, but to think of doing it to benefit private parties makes me so angry that I sometimes wish that I had never heard of this war. We have not been treated as men should be who have given up what we have to fight in this way. The boys are pretty sore about it."

The above picture is no doubt true, but such a disgraceful condition of affairs almost challenges belief.

Samples of the water used at Miami have been sent to Prof. Metz for the purpose of analysis. Speaking of the analysis Prof. Metz said to a reporter:

"I have received a sample of well water and a sample of hydrant water from Miami, and find that the well water is contaminated with the decomposition of sewerage; that the free ammonia, albumenoid ammonia, the nitrites and the nitrates are high; and that the hydrant water contains a large proportion of vegetable matter. Full details will follow to the authorities at Miami."

Anything need be said to show that there has been almost criminal culpability somewhere? We think not. Let us hope now that the unfitness of the place for purposes of encampment has been shown beyond all cavil the authorities will take the proper steps in this matter and our patriotic young men will not be compelled to remain in a place so prolific of all kinds of diseases.

LILY WHITES IGNORED.

At last the contest for the Federal pie in Louisiana has been decided. McKinley has recognized the claims of the regulars and completely ignored the Lily Whites. Wimberly and Kellogg have triumphed and such eminently respectable gentlemen as the Pughs, the McCalls and the Howells have been turned down. This action of the president should convince the white Republicans of Louisiana that they have no business in the ranks of the G. O. P. Every time they have shown themselves they have been unceremoniously kicked out. They were denied admission into the St. Louis convention and a nigger layout were received with opened arms by their brethren from the North. This ill-treatment did not suffice to cool their Republican ardor, for they came back to Louisiana and worked for the success of the St. Louis ticket. Now that they have been again discredited it will be interesting to know what course they will pursue. The policy of conquest recently inaugurated by the Republicans is a direct attack on the sugar industry. If it is carried out to its legitimate conclusion there can be no doubt of the fate of the American sugar produce. He will be driven to the wall. He will be helpless with competition against tropical countries which means certain ruin to the home producer. And that is exactly what the Republicans propose to do.

Now that the Lily White's hope of building a respectable Republican party in Louisiana has been irretrievably blasted, and the avowed policy of the Republican party is territorial expansion, which means the destruction of the sugar industry, if there is anything else for our former allies to do but to return to the good, old Democratic party, we don't know what it is.

Thanksgiving at St. Peter's Church.

The people of Carencro in pursuance of a proclamation by President McKinley, followed by a circular letter issued by Archbishop Chapelle, will celebrate on Saturday, July 30, at 9 a. m., a solemn mass of requiem for our brave soldiers who have fallen in battle and to beseech by united prayer the continued success and glory of American arms. Father Laforest and a number of prominent ladies and gentlemen of St. Peter's parish are making arrangements to have a grand ceremony to exhibit on this occasion

the combined sentiments of Catholicity and patriotism.

There will be a sermon appropriate to the subject, music by the Carencro band, salutes by one hundred guns, decorations, etc., no efforts being spared by the projectors and the parishioners to render it a memorable event.

Friends of Carencro from other towns are cordially invited to be present.

In cigars you can take your choice at 5, 10 and 15 cents—all standard brands—at the Moss Pharmacy.

Parish Assessment.

Assessor A. M. Martin and his efficient deputy, Sam Plonsky, have just completed and filed with the Police Jury the assessments of the parish together with a recapitulation by wards. By reference to the minutes it will be seen that the work has already been accepted and the assessor will now proceed to make the tax roll for the calendar year of 1898. No complaints have been filed and we believe very general satisfaction is felt as to the assessment which will exceed that of the past year by \$100,000. This increase is not the result of any very material changes in old assessments, but is due to natural increase in property and valuations. Assessor Martin recognizes the real condition of the people and has wisely refrained from imposing any greater burden of taxation than was actually necessary to meet the ordinary expenses of the parish. Below is submitted the recapitulation as furnished by the assessor and which will prove of interest to all:

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Ward 1, white | \$145,483 |
| 2, white | 104,512 |
| 3, white | 276,439 |
| 4, white | 206,603 |
| 5, white | 129,129 |
| 6, white | 244,018 |
| 7, white | 32,644 |
| 8, white | 115,000 |
| Corporation | 355,000 |
| Corp. non-resid'ts | 183,349 |
| whites & colored | 353,382 |
| Parish non-resid'ts | 56,509 |
| white & colored | |
| Supplemental, whites | |
| Total | \$ 2,392,209 |
| Ward 1, colored | \$ 11,922 |
| 2, colored | 16,883 |
| 3, colored | 13,325 |
| 4, colored | 19,846 |
| 5, colored | 11,248 |
| 6, colored | 17,498 |
| 7, colored | 8,679 |
| 8, colored | 7,684 |
| Corporation | 3,4625 |
| Supplemental list | 2,841 |
| Total | 141,554 |
| Grand total | \$ 2,536,760 |

The third Ice Cream Festival, under the auspices of the ladies of the Episcopal church will be held at the home of Judge J. G. Parker, next Tuesday, the 26th instant. Ice cream and other light refreshments will be served. The public are invited to attend.

"How long is the war going to last?" is a question everybody is asking to-day. We publish one answer that has been made, but from which our readers may not derive much satisfaction:

It is the opinion of thinking experts that the war will last for months yet, and will end only when the United States has followed Spain into every hole she can find, dragged her out and given her a good trashing each time. This means a lot more of glorious victories, a high tide of enthusiasm and an increasing demand for patriotic display of all kinds.

It may be well to add, by way of explanation, that the above opinion was taken from a circular advertising patriotic novelties, such as badges, motto buttons, etc.

The officers of the First National Bank, always alive to the needs of their friends and customers, have lately spread a large, library map of the world on one of the side walls of the banking room. This will prove a valuable convenience to all persons taking an interest in the movements of our army and navy during the present war.