

The Pioneer Express.

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The Pioneer Express.

THE WORLD MOVES.

Rightly or wrongly, no fact is better proved by the pages of history, than this; that no savage, barbarous, semi-civilized or even unprogressive people can take possession of any great area of land and hold it to the exclusion of others who can and will make it more productive and utilize its natural resources. Indeed, it is now almost an axiom of international law, that any person of any nationality can go to any country in the world and there make his home and be entitled to all the rights, benefits and privileges of the native born citizen of that country. With perhaps a few modifications this is, as we say, accepted as a general law. For instance, if some merchant of Emerson or Winnipeg chose to start a branch store here at Pembina, he would have equal opportunities and rights under our laws as any citizen of North Dakota in the same business, and if any discrimination should be made against the Canadian, the government at Washington would quickly be the recipient of some diplomatic inquiries from the British ambassador.

Some fifty years ago an American fleet went to Japan and compelled them to open ports to trade. China has been compelled by other nations to open her doors, much against her will.

In countries where the governments are weak or worse, civilized nations have not hesitated for a thousand years in taking absolute possession. While we admit in these latter cases the motive has often been of the meanest and most mercenary, yet behind it all lies the progress and civilization of the world.

The world moves. In its grand cycles, wrongs are often done, innocence often suffers; but the world moves—must move—onwards and upwards. The history of the American Indian is one of wrongs in the execution of the law of progress, but the law of progress which peopled this land with its present civilization is not only a fact but is right.

For four hundred years a group of islands, rich in all natural resources lay at our doors. The nation that governed them was going back, was dying in those centuries and gave these islands no forward movement. The final result, written in the history of the last eighteen months, is but another chapter in the march of civilization. The history of the Philippines is a parallel to that of the West Indies, and even if it were not the logical task of this country, it would be done by some other, for the world moves.

In Boer land, it is an operation of the

same forces. There is some question as to how far backward these people are in times and progress. Olive Schreiner, their best historian says they are like "children of the seventeenth century." That they have sought and seek isolation, that they refuse the Ulander equal opportunities, seems to be true. And this is their mistake. They may perhaps fight themselves free from British suzerainty, but they cannot interpose their bodies to the wheels of the world's progress. They will be crushed in the end. No tribe, no state can stop the world's wagon, and the only way to keep from being run over is to keep up with the procession.

THE BOER WAR.

In last week's issue we noted the retreat of the British forces from Dundee to Ladysmith.

The Boers followed and began planting batteries on the hills about the town. Gen. Buller sent out two regiments and a battery of six guns, presumably to attack one of the Boer positions on the hills. Severe fighting occurred and the British forces thus sent out, were defeated and all captured, entailing a loss to the British, of nearly 2,000 men.

The blow is a terrible one for the English, and means a loss of about one fifth of all the British army at Ladysmith. Kimberly and Mafeking, two cities on west of the Transvaal, are still besieged by the Boers. Cecil Rhodes is at Kimberly.

General Buller, the new commander-in-chief of the South African English army, has arrived at Cape Town. Cape Town is nearly a thousand miles from Durban, the nearest seaport to Ladysmith.

He has some reinforcements with him. In the next two or three weeks the English expect to have 28,000 men in South Africa.

The Canadian regiment of 1,000 men left Quebec this week for South Africa.

The Boers are gathering round Ladysmith, and as they know that reinforcements are coming, will probably attempt to take the city before they arrive. The English there are in a critical situation, and a great battle with a possible surrender of the British forces is imminent at any time or may have already occurred.

NEXT WEEK ELECTIONS.

Next Tuesday eight states hold local elections for state officers. Ohio, Nebraska, Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Massachusetts and Virginia. While this is an off year, more interest than usual is shown in the probable result. While local issues will predominate, yet the new, and as yet untried issues arising from the war in the Philippines and the war on trusts, will go somewhat as a presage of the next presidential election.

Then Ohio is the home of McKinley and Nebraska is the home of Bryan.

If either of these states should give majorities unfavorable to these respective candidates, it would influence the next election, and also the next national nominating conventions. Ohio gave 61,000 plurality for the republicans in 1898 under what seemed more unfavorable circumstances than this year, as the republican party was then somewhat divided.

Nebraska at the 1898 election, gave less than 3000 plurality for the fusion ticket, and the republicans think it probable that they will carry the state; and from the efforts of Mr. Bryan and other democratic speakers, it looks as though they feared it too. Nebraska has had the hottest fight of any of the states that vote this year.

Kentucky went over 17,000 majority for the fusionists in 1897, but while the republicans have but little show, there is a first-class row among the democrats which may result in republican success.

Republicans ought to carry Maryland but probably will not as they are cut nearly in two factions, while Gorman is again leading, the democrats, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts are as certainly republican as Virginia is democratic.

A LONG HARD FIGHT.

The first results in South Africa are decisive defeats for the British troops, with very serious losses. We however do not believe that these successes of the Boers have been gained without considerable cost to them in life and limb. If the issue of the war was only suzerainty of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, England might well make peace at once. But Africa is a vast continent, full of wealth and natural resources; England has already more or less control over large portions of this great country, and defeat in South Africa

would practically result in the loss of prestige and power at least in this quarter of the globe and possibly prestige in other lands.

On the other hand, the Boers are fighters with all the term implies. They are fighting for independence and for their homes. They seem well provided with the necessities of war. But compared with England they are few, and their resources limited. They are isolated from the sea. They can get no more war supplies of any account unless they can take a sea-port. When they get to the sea, if they do, they are a long way from home and then they meet Britain's strongest arm, the navy.

Prospects are, to our mind, of a long, hard-fought war, with the probability of England's weight turning the balance at the end.

HAIL INSURANCE.

An important suit has just begun which is of interest directly to a large number of farmers in Pembina county, and which will be watched with considerable interest throughout the state.

The suit is brought by the Red River Valley Mutual Hail Insurance company of North Dakota, the headquarters of which is located at Wahpeton, against about 20 Pembina county farmers for the amount due on promissory notes issued by the farmers in payment of premiums on hail insurance policies issued to them by the company last spring.

Payment has been refused, on the ground, it is said, that false representations were made to the farmers by the agent soliciting the insurance. It is understood to be the claim of the defendants that this agent represented to them that if they desired to do so they could have their policies cancelled at any time before July 1st, when in reality no such privilege was attached to the policy nor were they permitted to have the policies cancelled.

The case will be of general interest as they will generally define the relative obligations of insurance companies to insure when representations not authorized by the companies are made by agents.

THE DEVILS ISLAND YARN.

The following is respectfully referred to our esteemed friend and expert naval critic of the Crystal Call-Graphic for further remarks.

Navy Department,
Washington, Oct. 30, 1899.
Editor, Pioneer Express:
Pembina, N. Dak.

Sir:—The Department is in receipt of your letter of the 15th, instant, enclosing newspaper clippings from the PIONEER EXPRESS, Pembina, North Dakota, relative to the voyage of the U. S. S. Monadnock to Devils Island in 1885, and requesting certain information regarding the U. S. S. Monadnock and Mohican.

In reply I have to inform you that the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair, to whom your letter was referred, reports as follows:

Construction and Repair:
"Monadnock was originally built at the Navy Yard, Boston, Mass., in 1863-64, and rebuilt at Vallejo, Cal., during the years 1874 to 1895. The Mohican was originally built at the Navy Yard, Portsmouth, N. H., in 1868-69, and rebuilt at the Navy Yard, Mare Island, Cal., during the years 1872-1883."

Very Respectfully,
JOHN D. LONG, Secretary.

DID THEY GET SHOT?

An occasional out of town paper has made unfavorable comment on the manner Fargo is said to have cared for the people—who came here to see McKinley. The unkind remarks—are uncalled for—and mostly lies. Fargo did all that was possible—to make it pleasant for each and every visitor—as Fargo always does—and the grumblings of the critics remind one of the marine soldier in the civil war—who always wanted a feather bed to fall on—if he should be shot—and hence—never went where he could be shot.—Fargo Forum.

Don't quite catch on the application Major. Is it, if an editor fellow—went across the river—to Fargo's wicked partner—and got shot—he mustn't expect to fall onto Fargo's feather bed? But the "marine soldier"—whatever that kind of a thing is—of the story—he grumbled—but didn't get shot—didn't go where he could get it, and the critics whatever else happened—didn't get onto any feathers. Hence, don't see the patness of it all, but we didn't go to Fargo—so that may be why—we don't see it.

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

There is much discussion as to the probability of foreign interference with the English-Boer war. We doubt if any nation will risk interference, but when the war is over, if the English succeed, then Germany, France and Russia may ask England what they are going to get to preserve the balance of power, if England adds the Transvaal and Orange Free State as colonies. Germany has a

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large province in Africa near the Transvaal and she would be quite willing to acquire more territory in that direction. France has colonies to the north and Russia would accept a little slice over in Asia in almost any old place there, as a satisfactory equivalent.

Hon. E. H. Restmayer of Cavalier, has published a letter of withdrawal from the nomination as candidate of the republican convention, for county commissioner of the 3rd. district. Mr. Restmayer gives as his principle reason the fact that he has been called back to Ontario, to the bedside of his sick and aged father.

The PIONEER EXPRESS regrets to hear of this resignation for several reasons, but particularly because, we believe that it is a good healthy thing for the public to have a little political troubling of the waters once in a while, and in this case it was all right, because no matter which candidate had received the majority, the office would have been well filled. However the resignation of Mr. Restmayer leaves this latter proposition undisturbed, and now how nice it would be if we could do as in Manitoba, declare Mr. Taylor elected and save a whole lot of expense and trouble. It always seemed to us, that was one of the greatest advantages of the Australian system, and yet that is the one left out. If we are going to work under a law that practically requires a nomination for an election, then let us make a unanimous nomination stand for an election without further bother.

A peculiarity of the war with Transvaal is that no nation can grant belligerent rights to them without it being an unfriendly act to Great Britain. England claims to be sovereign to a certain extent over the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, and this is one of the principal issues of the war. Hence, so far as other countries are concerned, the Transvaal and Orange Free State are in rebellion. It makes but little real difference to the Boers however, as nearly all advantages accorded belligerents are those of the sea, and they have no coast or ships.

The Grand Forks Herald claims to have gotten over the 3,000 limit on circulation, which is quite a circulation for a North Dakota daily to swing. The Herald by its morning issue and the way the trains run this way, and its good telegraph service, rather gets in the last word and in these war times, sometimes, that last word is what the readers most want.

General Ois will win some great successes in the Philippines during the next three months—or else—we guess—some one else will win victories during the succeeding three months thereafter, if not sooner.

Haven't heard anyone doubting the politics of the Plaindealer for the last six or eight weeks. Hope it will stop short of the "Auntie" grade of democracy anyhow, and of republicanism of that style too—for that matter.

Vice President Hobart is reported very ill, and it is now a matter of certainty that he will not be a candidate at the next election. It may be McKinley and Roosevelt next time, unless Teddy wants to wait for the presidency.

The Chronicle says of our guess as to a county seat fight next fall. "Don't say fight, just say move!" So there's to be a move but no fight. What is the use of Cavalier making a "move" unless they intend to fight?

When England gets through fighting in South Africa she will not give Oom Paul \$20,000,000 for any supposed improvements he has made in that country.

By December there will be on the sea and at the Philippines, 65,000 U. S. troops—and General Otis.

North Dakota was ten years old yesterday.

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