

the commission they are liable to get hit very hard. The probability is that finding that the commission would insist upon examining the books of the operators, that settled the question as far as they were concerned. If the enormous profits which those books would reveal should become public, public opinion would be so aroused that something might happen which the coal barons would not like. Besides that, the testimony of the physicians introduced by the miners showed such a horrible state of affairs that every member of the commission was visibly affected. It is the most dangerous occupation on earth, far more accidents occurring than on the railroads. Those black caverns breed the most horrible diseases. Out of that sort of suffering and death, the Godly Baer and his partners have been coining millions. The Independent is sorry that the investigation did not go on until all the facts were made public.

It is announced that diplomatic relations between Greece and Persia have been resumed after having been suspended 2,393 years. The last diplomatic relations between the two powers was when Darius sent his agents to Athens to demand the submission of Greece to Persia and that was in the year 491 B. C. If the two ministers plenipotentiary and envoys extraordinary should meet half way between the two countries, they might sit down under a palm tree and have a pleasant chat about the doings of Darius, Xerxes and Alexander with side references to the little fight at Thermopylae.

It is said that the new reciprocity treaty made with Newfoundland will be beaten in the senate, for Frye, Hale and Lodge are all against it. Every reciprocity treaty ever made has been killed in the senate as every one will be until the personnel of the senate is changed.

The truth is slowly coming out concerning the cruelties practiced upon the Filipinos. Captain Brownell, in an official report, acknowledges that he tortured Father Augustine, a Catholic priest, to death by using the "water cure" to obtain information. According to the report of Judge Advocate General Davis, Brownell is now beyond the reach of either the civil or military law. General Davis' interesting argument against trying to punish this officer, whose offense was so grave, is that "the act was committed in time of war and by an officer of an invading army. International law recognizes that a member of an army of invasion is not amenable to the laws or courts of the country invaded, but even if it were granted that Captain Brownell was liable to trial in the Philippine islands, and by insular courts, there exists no treaty of extradition under which he could be sent there." As the Philippines is not a nation, but an "appurtenance" of the United States, how could an extradition treaty be made? The dark devilities that were committed in the Philippines and which were suppressed by means of a military censorship and the falsehoods of Secretary Root, will some day all be revealed. And the men who committed the deeds as well as the secretary of war who covered them up, will by the historian be made infamous.

Dr. John O'Malley, in testifying before the arbitration commission, in describing the miners asthma which afflicts so many of them, said: "The effect of asthma was very debilitating it disturbed nutrition and the person suffering from it had a gaunt, emaciated appearance and could not do good work. There were but few who could escape even moderate attacks."

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HARDY'S COLUMN

Another briber was convicted in St. Louis last week and sent to the pen for five years.

It appears that the Southern and Pacific railroads have quit burning oil on their engines and gone back to coal.

Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma will plead earnestly for admission as states, before congress at the coming session and there is no good reason why they should not be admitted.

Russia seems to hold Manchuria. The old world is very jealous, but don't dare to pitch in.

Eleven Cuban children were brought to this country the other day to be educated, but were sent back. Why, no one seems to know.

There seems to be a hitch in the Panama canal treaty with Colombia. Somebody is waiting for boodle no doubt.

The irrigation surveyor has decided on seven sites for reservoirs. St. Mary's river in Montana, Gunnison in Colorado, Gela and Salt rivers in Arizona, Carson and Turke rivers in Nevada, Big Horn in Montana, Sweetwater in Wyoming and Grand river in Colorado.

We remember when anthracite coal was written down as a fraud. It took so long to get it to burning that many people threw it aside.

Another "bad break" at hand. We cannot sanction so much gang murdering. The sheriff, constable and jailors should carry guns loaded with bullets and the gang men should be shot down who undertake to break into the jail to get a prisoner out for murder. So the sheriff, constable and police should defend with bullets any prisoners held by them under arrest. There is no use in having any laws against crime if they cannot be respected and enforced by executive officers. No section of this country can boast over other sections. Nebraska is in the mud puddle with the extreme south.

We would like to know where the law is that dictates or restricts the motives that may prompt us to vote for a certain man at state elections. There are nearly a score of men in this state, who have held public office, whom religious and moral laws would forbid voting for again, but there is no constitutional or statutory law dictating that we must not vote for them again. There are two or three of them that could not legally hold office or vote if they had not been pardoned. Giving six thousand for the support of a university is much more creditable than giving six dollars election or bribe money.

What Andrew Carnegie has done for colleges and libraries is a bright feather in his moral cap. It was more what Mickey had done for the Methodist university that influenced votes than membership of the church. A man who will give six thousand dollars for any school will influence a certain class of voters and they are generally the best class of voting citizens. A man has the same right to vote for a man because he is a member of a religious church as he has to vote for him because he is a member of a political party. Then there was another thing that drove many voters to Mickey—the fact that saloonkeepers fought him. Bad men don't draw good men only by deceit and fraud.

We met a real stylishly dressed lady on the street the other day who had her hat ornamented with a bird's head and wings and we were highly pleased, not so much with the lady as with the fact that the bird had been killed, for it was a crow's head and wings. Our memory went back at a single jump to the time, in boyhood days, when we had to get up at daylight and go to the corn field with a "gun loaded with a bullet" and protect the growing corn. They would pull up the corn and eat the seed kernel at the root. We used to get a bounty of 10 cents a head for every one we killed. Father had a calf get drowned in the water trough one spring and after taking off the hide we placed the carcass six or eight rods back of the old ashery and then we would open fire through a large knot hole. The gun we used was an old flint-lock musket that father used in the battle of Black Rock and Lundy's Lane. It was big and destructive. We killed eleven at one shot and fifty-two in one week. Then there was another thing we saw around a fine lady's neck which pleased us fully as much. It was a roll of skunk skins

with tails at each end. It ought to be lawful to destroy and take for ornamentation such birds and animals.
H. W. HARDY.

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On Trial

The time will come, when the voters of Nebraska, who by the thousand refused to perform their political duties, will repent for their criminality in sackcloth and ashes, or if events are delayed, their children will. When large masses of men, as was the case in every state in the union at the last election, become so indifferent to their political duties that they will not go to the polls and vote, there is danger near at hand. This state of affairs is attracting attention among thinking men everywhere. One writer in commenting upon this criminal tendency, for it is a crime in a republic for a man to refuse to perform his political duties, says:

"Our republican institutions are on trial. There never has been a republic yet that has lasted 300 years, although there are monarchical forms of government which have records many times longer. If the American republic ends in failure—that is, by the gradual disappearance of those principles which were so dear to its founders—it will be because with us, as was with the Roman republic, the growth of great wealth and its disproportionate possessions by a relatively few citizens, with the growing indifference to their political duties on the part of the great mass of the people, will give to the possessors of large fortunes the opportunity to rule the country as they please."

Turned Bryanites

There can no longer be any doubt that the treasury and mint officials at Washington are determined to push the Bryan financial theories to the very extreme and that they have joined the Wall street gang in the demand for still "more money." Secretary Shaw has exhausted the last resource of the government in adding to the circulating medium and the treasurer of the United States announces himself a worse inflationist than the rankest populist. This has attracted general attention and the Springfield Republican comments upon it as follows:

"The United States treasurer, Ellis H. Roberts, appears to be an inflationist and cheap-money man of the first order. He says in his current annual report, after referring to the recent great increase in the production of gold:

"The means are thus confirming the gold standard steadily and invincibly. They are creating an inflation of currency, which keeps pace with the enterprise and industry of the country. They are contributing to an advance in prices in general commodities, and add impetus to the prosperity of our people."

"This was precisely what the silver men were aiming at, and for which they were so roundly denounced as repudiators. That the same result has been reached in another way makes no difference in its essential character. Depreciation of money is always of course measured by the rise in commodity prices, and there is as much actual dishonesty, in relation to debts and business contracts, about a gold dollar whose purchasing power has been reduced 33 per cent within half a dozen years, as there is about any other dollar similarly depreciated. And there can be no moral difference between a public policy which deliberately permits of such a depreciation under a previously established monetary arrangement, and one which seeks to change an old arrangement purposely to effect the depreciation. But Mr. Roberts does more than tolerate the gold depreciation. He rejoices over it."



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