THE PRESS.

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STATE OF MAINE.

Thanksgiving Proclamation by the Governor.

As we approach the end of the year and the sunset hour of this 19th century, the people of Maine should be devoutly and truly thankful to Almighty God for the blessings and progress which this year and the century have brought to them and to the state; for the spirit of patriotism, love of country and unflinching devotion to duty which have pervaded both our state and nation, and for the bright sun of hope, prosperity and confidence in the future, already illuminating the threshold of the coming year. We have had abundant harvests. The interests of education have been promoted. Law, order, individual liberty and personal security rule and bless every part of our commonwealth. Never in its history were the skies brighter or the people more prosperous and happy. "The hand of God has been upon us for good." In grateful recognition that "This also cometh down from the Lord of Hosts, wonderful in counsel and excellent in working." and following and conforming to a time-honored custom of our forefathers, I Llewellyn Powers, Governor of the State of Maine, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, do hereby designate

Thursday, the 29th Day of November, A. D. 1900,

as a day of General Thanksgiving, to be observed by all good citizens in a manner befitting a Christian and God-fearing State. Let no one fail to remember on that day, with charity and benevolence, the poor and unfortunate.

Given at the Executive Chamber at Augusta, this thirtieth day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred, and the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and twenty-fifth.

LLEWELLYN POWERS.

By the Governor:
Byron Boyd,
Secretary of State.

The census shows that New York state still maintains a long lead in population. It is still the Empire State in the number of its inhabitants, its wealth and the number and variety of its industries.

There seems to be reason for believing that Mr. Platt has practically abandoned his scheme for a state constabulary. Opposition appeared to it in quarters entirely unexpected. Even the governor-elect opposed it.

General C. P. Mattocks, Edward C. Reynolds, Ardon W. Coombs, George F. McQuillan—the governor can make his selection from these, and perhaps from several more, for probate judge. There is no danger that the office will not be worthily filled. Perhaps some of these men are better fitted than others for the place, but no serious mistake will be made, whichever is chosen. It is wealth of material, not poverty, that will trouble the governor.

As we understand it, Governor Powers can only appoint a probate judge to fill out the remainder of the unexpired term which Judge Peabody is now serving. That is to say, a judge appointed by him could only serve to the first of January, when Judge Peabody's term expires. It will devolve upon Governor Hill to appoint for the term to which Judge Peabody was elected in September. This being the situation, it is thought that Governor Powers may make no appointment for the unexpired balance of Judge Peabody's present term. An appointment will not be absolutely necessary, for Judge Peabody need not resign until he has qualified as Supreme Judge, and no great inconvenience would result if he did not qualify until January.

Undoubtedly the Kanakas acted foolishly in voting for Wilcox for delegate to Congress, but foolishness has never been considered a sufficient reason for disfranchisement in this country. Some millions of voters supported Bryan, and thereby acted very foolishly indeed, in the opinion of the majority of the American people, but no action looking to their disfranchisement is likely to be forthcoming. The best thing to do with the Kanakas is to give them another chance. Perhaps they will have learned before another election comes round, to perceive more clearly in what direction their true interests lie. At any rate, there ought to be no attempt to restrict their suffrage until something more dangerous has cropped out than has yet appeared.

President Kruger declares that the Boers will continue the struggle while there is a man left who can fight, and certainly reports from the Transvaal go far to corroborate his view. If the Boers had any disposition to accept the inevitable, it would seem as if they must have manifested it as soon as their armies were defeated and broken up. But though that happened long ago fighting is constantly going on and Lord Roberts has recently protested against the withdrawal of any more British troops from the country. Though they can have no hope of expelling the British from their country, or of securing intervention on the part of other nations, they are still fighting as desperately as ever. This, it would seem, can only mean that they are inspired with a purpose to die in the last ditch, rather than yield. Of course this policy, if pursued, means their extermination, for there is not the slightest prospect that the English will modify in the smallest degree their demand for absolute submission to their sovereignty.

The situation in China is not without some danger to the allied forces. The number of European troops available there is not large at present, and to reinforce them with any considerable number of men would take a good deal of time. So far the outbreak has been confined entirely to Northern China,—not even there has there been general participation in it,—and the allied forces have been adequate for the emergency. But should an insurrection break out in Southern China, and the spirit of the people all over the empire become aroused, the allies might be face to face with a situation beyond their ability to cope with successfully. The Chinese are not easily stirred up. War can go on in one part of the empire without a distant part's knowing much about it, and caring less; but reports of the doings of such expeditions as the allies have been sending out are likely, in time, to spread all over the empire, and may excite the populace to frenzy. This tomb-destroying business is especially dangerous, since it appeals to the religious and superstitious feelings of the people. If the powers are really animated by a desire to get out of the country as soon as possible, and not to disturb the sovereignty of the Chinese over the empire, they will be careful to do nothing beyond what the actual necessities of the situation demand. No doubt the civilized world will insist that those responsible for the murder of foreigners shall suffer condign punishment, and that suitable guaranties are obtained, and sufficient safeguards established to prevent a recurrence of the outbreak. But to go further than that will be to exceed any demand that really exists, except on the part of a comparatively few people who may see opportunities of personal profit in despoiling China and parcelling it out among the nations of Europe; and if it precipitates a war, the responsibility for it will be largely upon those who have in charge the movements of the allied army.

THE SOUTH AND DEMOCRACY.

Whether or not there shall be a reorganization of the Democratic party depends upon the South, in the opinion of ex-Speaker Carlisle. Certainly that section ought to speak with authority in a Democratic convention, since it is the section that furnishes practically all the support Democratic national candidates get; and doubtless it would so speak if it saw fit to assert itself. The trouble is that the South cares only for one issue, and that an issue which the North has little or no interest in. If the South had definite and pronounced views on the currency which it would not surrender, it could compel the Democracy of the North to accept them or to go out of business. The same is true of opinions on any other subject, if it entertained them with firmness. But it has none—that is, none that it is not ready to lay aside whenever the Northern Democracy asks it to do so. The negro question so completely overtops every other question down there that no other is much thought of. What they say to the Northern Democrats, practically, is that if you will accept our view of the negro question we will accept your views on every other question, whatever our real beliefs may be. So long as the South perseveres in this attitude it cannot become a reforming agent; so long as it remains in this position Northern Democrats who have views which they want to force upon the country will pay little heed to what the South may think of those views, because they can count on the support of that section whether it likes their opinions or not. The North will dictate the policy of the party on everything but the negro question, so long as the South remains as indifferent to everything else as it is now. Notoriously a large per cent of Southern voters did not believe in free silver, and a considerable per cent approved of the administration's Phillippine policy, but to a man they voted for Bryan. They would have voted for a gold man, or an imperialist, so-called, just as readily as they voted for Bryan, had he been labeled Democrat. Reorganization can hardly be expected to begin in a section that has no opinions which it cares anything about. Indifference never produces reform.

CURRENT COMMENT.

BEWARE THE BELGIAN HARE.

(Kennebec Journal.)

A note of warning to Eastern farmers in relation to the Belgian hare fad is sounded by a Californian exchange of the Journal. That paper, published at Los Angeles, points out the other side of the picture and shows the danger that lies in the business. It shows that the proportions reached by Belgian hare culture in the southern part of California have resulted in conditions that alarm the thoughtful.

The people have quickly become satiated with the hare as an article of food, and in consequence the price has dropped so low that there is no longer profit in the business for the raisers. But though the demand ceases the supply does not, for the hares multiply at a prodigious rate, and their culture is much more easily started than it is stopped. Now that section is overrun with the hares which ravage all forms of vegetation and particularly the vineyards. It is feared that it will become as bad as the rabbit curse in Australia, or the gypsy moth scourge in Massachusetts, which had its origin in the scientific investigation of a college professor. The warning of our Californian exchange should be heeded by our Maine people who are embarking in the Belgian hare business. It is well to go slow, and to examine the real conditions elsewhere before one is lured on by the glittering promises of this fad. Let somebody else do the experimenting.

ANNEXATION OF SOUTH PORTLAND.

(Somerset Reporter.)

The annexation of South Portland to Portland will come before the next legislature, preliminary measures having already been taken to that end. The Portland PRESS opposes the movement at this stage, and without giving the people of the two cities opportunity to vote upon the proposition. It seems to us the PRESS is right.

ABOUT THAT STATE SANATORIUM ASSOCIATION.

To the Editor of the Press:

So many inquiries have been made about the proposed Maine State Sanatorium Association that, as a matter of public interest and in the interest of the public welfare, the members of the State Board of Health beg you to present this communication to your readers.

The proof which modern investigation has furnished that pulmonary tuberculosis, or consumption, is an infectious disease, stamps it, at the same time, as a preventable disease. Coincidently with the late studies of the biology of the tubercular parasite, and of the natural and artificial agencies which may be employed in preventing the transmission of the parasite and the development of the disease in persons who have received the infection, a very eager study of the question of heredity as a cause of tuberculosis has been carried on in all parts of the civilized world. The result briefly stated is that tuberculosis is a disease due to infection and that heredity has but little to do with its causation. Thus instead of cause of despair the brand of infectivity and the disproval of the former claims for heredity as an etiological factor present a reason for hopefulness—hope for the victim of an incipient infection, for the affected household, for the community, for the State.

This is the view of the matter taken by the State Board of Health, and though perhaps, enthusiasts, we think that the good results of the popular educational campaign against tuberculosis which has been waged in this State and in some other places fully absolve us from any imputation of being visionaries. But in the efforts to lessen the prevalence of tuberculosis many unfavorable influences hamper the work of the State Board, of local boards, and of the intelligent and thoughtful part of our people. There are constantly several thousand homes in the State in which there are persons with tuberculosis. Many of these persons are a continual source of danger to their associates at home, at school, and in places of business. Many of them are a source of danger because of a lack of precise information how to obviate the danger; many on account of unfavorable social conditions. Just so many of them as might be removed from their homes, just so many households might cease to be sources of infection. But, be it understood, the State Board is not in favor of the compulsory removal of any consumptive from his home. If on the other hand an institution could be established which would offer consumptives a better chance of cure than now exists and at the same time practically banish the danger of infection a decided gain for the public health and safety would be achieved.

As to sanatoriums for consumptives the first was built in Germany in 1859 the second in 1874. The practical results obtained in these first two institutions were so favorable that their influence has been felt in all parts of the world. In Germany there are now 40 or 50 sanitoriums for consumptives. They have been built by private benevolence, by cities and life insurance companies are there erecting sanatoriums because it pays them better to thus cure their policy holders than to let them die. In all parts of Europe from Italy to Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway sanatoriums for consumptives are in operation or are building. For the furtherance of the idea and the prevention of consumption, numerous national and international congresses have been held, and next spring another will be held in London, at which the Prince of Wales will preside. Three at least of the rulers in Europe have given large sums of money for the establishment of sanatoriums.

In this country the first sanatorium for consumptives was built in the Adirondack region in 1884, through the influence of Dr. Trudeau and with the help of benevolent persons. Others have followed and various states or societies are now planning to build more of them.

The results attained in these institutions, conservatively stated, have been about 25 per cent of cures and apparent cures, or a total of 70 per cent of patients with their disease cured, arrested, or markedly improved when they left. Climate seems to have influenced but little the percentages of cures, but it is well to note that at every one of the sanatoriums visited by me, the testimony of the attending physician has been very positive that the patients do decidedly better in the winter than in the warmer seasons.

From the preceding may be gathered the reason why the State Board of Health not in its official capacity, but as seven citizens of our State with others who have felt the great need of help for the thousands of consumptives who are in the clutches of a deadly disease but many of whom might be saved, have invited their fellow citizens to meet at the State House in the latter part of December for the purpose of organizing what may be called Maine State Sanatorium Association with the object of exercising its influence to prevent the spread of tuberculosis and to build a sanatorium for the cure of consumptives near their own homes.

As to the raising of funds; a small annual membership fee from a large number of persons would help some, but the main hope of the association must be a proper presentation of the case of the consumptive who is not well-to-do, so that benevolently inclined persons of means may come to the rescue of these unfortunates.

Starting in a small way at first, about all of the American sanatoriums, save the Massachusetts State Sanatorium, and many of the European ones have been built and supported in this way. In Canada the National Sanitarium Association built, soon after its organization, the Muskoka Cottage Sanatorium, which is a model institution, and is doing good work, two benevolent and public-spirited citizens contributing $25,000 apiece, which more than sufficed to build a $40,000 administration building as a start. Other donations have quickly followed for the building of cottages and for other purposes. Can we not do as well in this State? We think it worth trying.

The present promoters of the movement have not the least idea of asking for legislative help. Above all things else, the mercenary spirit must be excluded if a sanatorium is to help those persons who need help the most. It is hoped that the trustees and all other officers may consent to the gratuitous expenditure of their time, thus rendering available for benevolent purposes every cent which may be derived from membership fees, donations, bequests, etc.

A. G. YOUNG.