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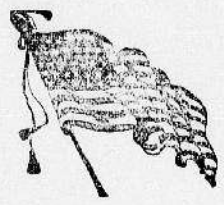

Keep the Flag Floating High.

FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1901.

THE END OF A FALSE PROPHET.

COLONEL BRYAN seems to have finally abandoned the silver issue, for in a late interview he is reported as saying that "it matters not whether we have more silver than gold or more gold than silver, but we must have money enough to meet the demands of an unrestricted commerce." Apparently he concedes there is enough now. At any rate, at the close of 1900, including the money in the United States Treasury, there were $26.06 per capita, as against $26.91 in 1884 and $18.58 in 1878, when silver was at a premium in gold and the "crime of 1873" was committed. The explanation, of course, is a very simple one, and familiar to everybody. The annual product of gold is now larger than the combined product of silver and gold prior to 1873, and the resulting coin is abundant for the necessities of commerce. There are no means that we know of to determine the amount of actual money used per $1000 of "cash" transactions, but everyone knows that use of checks is increasing so rapidly, even in country districts, that the demands of commerce, as expressed by the ratio of money really used to money nominally used, must be rapidly decreasing.

There could be no fault found with even this late conversion of Mr. Bryan, did it not prove two things. First, his political dishonesty in clamoring for the free-silver plank in 1900, and, second, his determination that there shall be no reconciliation of the wings of the Democratic party, except on terms dictated by himself and involving his retention in office as party dictator. Nothing has taken place since last November to change the silver situation or throw more light upon it. It was plain before election that he had reason to believe in the free-silver dogma, and yet would not acknowledge his conversion. His present utterances afford positive proof that the last gear or two of his silver campaign was an attempt to deceive the people, not only as to their interests, but as to his belief. His late recantation, of course, does not of itself prove that he is determined to rule or ruin his party, but, taken in connection with his other utterances, and his well-known attitude toward other Democratic leaders, it shows that he has determined to abandon the free-silver issue, but to substitute in its place all the odds and ends of communism and anarchy which can be picked out of the platforms of 1896 and 1900, and upon that basis gather the largest following which he can secure from the Democratic party or elsewhere. It is now hard to see how there can be any other outcome than the formal repudiation of Bryan by the Democrats and his disappearance from politics, except as a minor political and social agitator.

As Richard Croker will not abdicate, he is to be dethroned. If this be true it is important only to Richard I. The dynasty will continue without a break. The incumbent of the office may change, or pass away, but the king never dies. Croker may be laid to rest, but Tammany will shout as of old, "The king is dead—long live the king."

GRANT ON THE PHILIPPINES.

GEN. F. D. GRANT has just returned from the Philippine islands, where he was in command of several provinces. He had ample opportunity to observe the drift of things and to form an intelligent opinion in regard to the future of the islands and the work to be done there by the Americans.

In his opinion it will take a long time to train the people in the art of self-government, but it seems that as far as armed insurrection is concerned there is little to be feared. The back of the insurrection has been broken, and a report recently received from Aguinaldo shows that the most for a ideal forces number now only about 2,000 men, against whom it will not be difficult for the American troops to contend.

To teach the people the benefit of law and order is, however, a more difficult problem. They have for generations been so accustomed to the raids and impositions of brigands and robbers that they hardly know anything else. Bands of such outlaws will, doubtless, continue to infest the country, and the experience of the American people in certain parts of the West is enough to demonstrate that it is no birth undertaking to suppress criminals of that kind.

The principal thing to do is to teach the people to govern their municipalities. Gen. Grant says that the policy will be to aid them in that work until they learn how to do it themselves and that then the American troops will be withdrawn from places where order is maintained. Thus the inhabitants will be taught to govern themselves and the principals of free government will be fixed in their minds.

How long this will take no one can foretell, but the Americans will be greatly aided by the fact that the natives see that the United States is in the country to remain.

Charles A. Towne has received an offer of a large salary as the head of an oil syndicate. The syndicate does not want his money—he has none, but they want his name—he has one. As a milling corporation usually needs a dam site, these Texas oil companies seem partial to Towne sites.

GOLD PRODUCTION OF NORTH.

IT is now estimated by conservative authorities that the total output of gold in the Klondike this year will amount to $30,000,000. From similar sources it is learned that the yield promises to be undiminished for at least ten years to come without any new discoveries being made. It is, of course, altogether improbable that all the gold-bearing ground in the Yukon territory has been located up to date. New discoveries of gold-bearing quartz veins and placer deposits are sure to be made in the future and the area of workable ground will be expanded indefinitely. Nor is it improbable that the annual production will be greatly increased in future. The climatic conditions in the districts are now well understood, and new methods of working the placers are being so adapted to them that the season of operation is being extended through all of the months of the year. For the first two or three years mining operations were confined to the winter months and the short summer was devoted exclusively to washing the gold-bearing gravel excavated during the period when the surface drainage was sealed in ice. Now means have been found to mine in summer as well as in the winter and paying deposits have been discovered on the hillsides, and there is, consequently, a continuous output from the claims from one years end to the other.

The region adjacent to and north of the Arctic circle is to-day the greatest known gold field in the world. This not ignoring the fact that the gold fields of South Africa have an annual capacity of $100,000,000. The tremendous output of the latter has been due to the vastness of mining operations. The auriferous contents of the mineralized strata in that section are not comparable with the wealth of the northern placers. The big production of the South African mines depends upon the volume of material treated and the profits of mine-owners on the economy of working and the cheapness of labor. All of the natural conditions are favorable there to mining on the largest and most economical scale.

On the other hand, for many years to come at least, mining must be prosecuted in the Far North under the most adverse and restricted conditions. Labor is high, the climate is unfavorable, the natural resources of the country are undeveloped, transportation is costly and difficult and mining supplies are expensive. But the deposits are as rich, if not richer, than any yet found either on this continent or elsewhere. This applies to Alaska as well as to the Yukon territory. Last year the gold production of this region amounted to $58,500,000, most of which was won from the gold-bearing gravels. This year's production will probably reach $50,000,000. It is quite as likely also that this immense output will be exceeded in future years, as the auriferous belt of the Far North has been explored only in spots at widely separated intervals, and even those have been scarcely more than surface scratched.

George F. Wright, D. D., of Oberlin college, has been in Asia hunting for evidence of the deluge. He found it all right. And now he announces that when the ice of the glacial period melted, all the inhabitants of the earth were drowned except the fellows who took to the ark. Here is a mixture of science and dogma that ought to please the most fastidious.

Having failed to excite much interest by nominating a Republican for 1904, the Democratic papers are amusing themselves with a third term boom. If they are inclined in that direction, why overlook Mr. Cleveland?

PASSING OF THE G. A. R.

AT the rate of 1,000 a month the members of the Grand Army of the Republic are being carried to their graves, and every post in the country has held its flag at half-mast during the year just ended. Statistics just compiled show that the death rate has recently increased at an alarming rate, and already plans are under consideration for the merger of some of the smaller posts and to provide additional comforts for the needy, who partically rely upon the organization for support. Only ten years ago the Grand Army was all that its name implies. It mustered 409,489 men at roll call, and every blessed one of them could and did turn out on parade. To-day the roster shows only 276,632 names, and the list numbers thousands of helpless old men who have attended their last encampment and have participated in their last parade.

"All plans for the perpetuation of the Grand Army have been abandoned," said Assistant Adjutant General Robert B. Wallace of the Department of Pennsylvania when discussing the future of the organization. "Some of the veterans may be here 20 years from now, but not many," he continued, "and the number living to-day speaks well for the character of the men admitted to the army in '61 and during the four years that followed. It took a good, strong man to go through the war and some of the finest specimens of American manhood followed the flag those days.

"In the Department of Pennsylvania we numbered 46,115 in 1890, but to-day the records show only 29,818 left. The death rate will increase from year to year until finally only a handful of men will be left to represent the Grand Army. It is a sort of last man's club now. At every meeting of the big Posts the death of some comrade is reported and it reminds one of a battle in the night where the soldiers fall around us but we do not see the enemy or know who will be the next to drop. Those who are in their graves are beyond help, but time has come when some adequate provision must be made for the living.

"The calls for aid are multiplying. Last year we paid out $160,955.64 in relief, but the money came from those who now need it for themselves. In the organization throughout the country 31,016 comrades were identified with the Grand Army in 1878. The growth was continuous, and in 1883 the roster showed 215,446 names. In 1888 the membership was 372,960, and the high water mark was reached in 1890, when 409,489 veterans were on the roll in good standing. Since that time the decrease in membership has been constant. We lost 1,708 members in 1891, and in 1892 we lost 7,901 men. The mortality has increased at a slow rate from year to year until it has now reached the rate of about 1,000 a month throughout the country. The total membership is now 276,562. More members of the organization died in Illinois during the past year than ever before in the history of that department, 720 being the number of deaths, being over 3 per cent of the membership.

"Nearly all of the smaller posts throughout the country assemble in dwelling houses, and the business of the organization is generally conducted by the post commanders, who reside at the post headquarters, the other members sometimes living 25 or 30 miles away, and seldom, if ever, attend meetings.

"With the passing away of this famous organization, steps are being taken by their sons and the sons of Confederate veterans toward the successful upbuilding of an equally powerful organization. The new association will lack in numbers the strength of the G. A. R., but will make up in influence through the fact that it will represent a "reunited people and country." This organization which is known as the Spanish-American War Veterans' Association is founded upon lines identical with those of the G. A. R., except that its membership is confined to soldiers, sailors and marines (officers and enlisted men) who served honorably in the military or naval service of the United States, during the war with Spain or in the incident insurrection in the Philippines. The nucleus of the order is founded upon local bodies named camps in the same manner as posts in the G. A. R. All the camps formed in any state or territory are organized into departments, which together constitute the National Association."

Judge Baker, of the United States circuit court, has decided that, the bankrupt law does not release a husband on whom the court has placed the obligation to pay alimony. This decision is a most righteous one and must stand upon the broad principle of public policy, inasmuch as a court-made contract would doubtless come under the provisions of the bankrupt act.

Mr. Winston Churchill made a regular cross-of-gold speech in parliament the other day. If he were here and a presidential nomination were in order he would be a formidable candidate for vice-president at least. Boy oratory is the thing to catch the ear of the groundlings.

An immense merchant steamship of 12,000 tons was launched at San Francisco last week. Uncle Sam's expansion on the Pacific brings along one or two big items every day.

After a heated discussion Tammany has decided not to invite Mr. Bryan to its Fourth of July celebration. Getting the Democratic nomination for President seems to unfit a man for further party usefulness.

The National Association of Machinists is composed of men of rare good judgment. They time their strike when a vacation would be most appreciated. This is the finest time in the world for picnics.

Croker hissed and Hill cheered is the report from a meeting of Greater New York's Democracy. There is nothing like laying the foundation for harmony deep and broad.

It is a popular belief that the battle-ship Ohio can outfoot Mr. Lipton's yacht.

WAS THE PROPER THING.

Mr. Bryan Approves of Messrs. Tillman and McLaurin Resigning.

Lincoln, Neb., May 28.—W. J. Bryan gave out a statement on the resignations of Senators McLaurin and Tillman of South Carolina, which he says he regards as the political event of last week. Mr. Bryan said:

"It is an honorable course for the senators to pursue and beneficial to the state. At present South Carolina virtually has no voice in the settlement of public questions, as the vote of one senator kills the vote of the other. Senator Tillman has just been re-elected and thus risks the loss of a longer term, but Senator McLaurin really sacrifices more because he has less chance to win in the primary."

Mr. Bryan added that it was hardly necessary to say that he hoped and expected to see Senator Tillman win a sweeping victory.

CONSULTS WITH GIBBONS.

Pope and Cardinal Discuss Cuban and Philippine Affairs.

London, May 28.—"The pope had a long consultation with Cardinal Gibbons," says the Rome correspondent of The Daily News, "regarding the position of Catholics in Cuba and the Philippines. According to authoritative information the pope sees no necessity of compelling the monastic orders to adapt themselves to the situation created by American occupation.

"Cardinal Gibbons made it clear to the pope that unless they give way the American government may expel them altogether.

"Reports received at the Vatican from the Philippines are much more serious than those received from Cuba. The monks in the Philippines are accused of all kinds of atrocities."

STANDING THE TRIP WELL.

Mrs. McKinley Rejoiced to Be Nearing Her Home.

Julesburg, Colo., May 28.—The presidential train made the third day's run on the homeward journey without incident. Brief stops were made for water and to change engines at Rawlins, Laramie and Cheyenne, Wy., and Kimball and Sidney, Neb. The president made no remarks at any of these places, but appeared upon the rear platform and shook hands with some of those nearest the car. Mrs. McKinley is standing the trip very well and seems rejoiced that every hour brings her nearer home.

SULTAN IS DYING.

Abdul Hamid Said to Be a Victim of Cancer.

Vienna, May 28.—News has just reached here that the eminent cancer specialist, Dr. Emil Ziemseen, has been hastily summoned to attend the sultan in Constantinople, who is reported to be near death. The fact that this is the third time this medical expert has been called to the Yildiz palace confirms the rumors of the precarious health of Abdul Hamid, which have been current of late.

Preferred Suicide to Regicide.

Rome, May 28.—A newspaper published in Verona reports the attempted suicide of a youthful blacksmith named Pietrucci, who has confessed that he belonged to a society of anarchists and was chosen by lot to kill the emperor of Germany. He preferred suicide to making the attempt. In his confession he also divulged the names of certain of his comrades who had been selected to kill Queen Helena of Italy, President Loubet of France and the czar of Russia.

New York Tailors May Strike.

New York, May 28.—The different unions in the tailoring trade in New York, Brooklyn and Newark, N. J., issued a notice to the manufacturers that they are preparing for a fight for the abolition of the middlemen for the clothing trades. If in a reasonable time the manufacturers do not provide shops for the tailors they declare a general strike involving all the tailoring trades would be ordered. It will involve about 30,000 workers.