

The Sun

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Not a Parish Meeting, but a Great National Election.

Some of the advocates of the renomination of Governor BLACK insist that he must be "indorsed" and his Administration be "indorsed" thereby.

This is a misapprehension of the facts. The Hon. WILLIAM McKIM'S Administration is to be indorsed or disapproved by the voters of New York next November. The campaign and the election cannot reasonably be regarded as local or personal. The issues are national. The result and effect will be national.

The duty of the New York Republicans, then, is to choose as their candidate for Governor the man who seems most likely to inspire the voters with confidence and enthusiasm and to get the most votes, and who best reflects the burning national spirit of the time.

The Republican party of New York does not exist and cannot afford to be used for the purpose of "vindicating" anybody or punishing anybody or rewarding anybody for merely personal reasons. What candidate will best promote Republican success and keep New York steady in the Republican column? That is the man to nominate and that is the man who, in the present temper of the public, will be nominated.

Straightening Out.

In the election in Maine on Monday the Populist party, which in 1894 had cast over 5,000 votes, substantially disappeared, having turned to the Democracy. Two days later the Hon. WILLIAM D. BRUM of Indiana resigned as Chairman of the leading committee of the National Democrats, or Gold Democrats, and announced his conclusion that the only way to defeat the Democrats in 1900 will be for sound-money Democrats to support the Republican candidates.

The Maine Populists and Mr. BRUM, the Gold Democrat, are both right. Only insatiable cranks or incorrigible bushwhackers or hopeless egotists will persist in maintaining organizations distinct from the great parties with which their political desires are identified. In regard to the questions which Populists and Gold Democrats regard as foremost in politics the issues of Populism have become the issues of the Democratic party, and the gold standard, for which the National Democrats threw up their former partisan allegiance, will be safeguarded or endangered in accordance with the amount of support given to withdrawal from the one gold-standard party of popular strength, the Republican party.

We congratulate the Hon. WILLIAM D. BRUM heartily on having at this interesting juncture centered upon himself an amount of credit for political insight and shrewdness equal to that which in Maine has to be distributed among Populists to the number of 5,000.

Argentina's Acceptance of Arbitration.

Two interesting announcements are made by cable with regard to the Argentine Confederation. In the first place, all danger of friction between the Governments of Buenos Ayres and Lima has been removed by an unconditional treaty of arbitration, which is to remain in effect for ten years. In the second place, the long-pending and of late grave dispute regarding boundaries between Chili and the Argentine Republic has been placed in the hands of a settlement by the declaration of the late named State that it accepts Great Britain as an arbitrator. With the apprehension of international complications thus dispelled, there is no reason why Argentina should not enter upon such a rapid development of her vast natural resources as will render even her huge public debt a burden easily borne.

It is well known that for many years the major part of the emigrants from the Italian peninsula and from Sicily have found their way to Argentina. They and their descendants already constitute a large fraction of the republic's population, and seem likely at no very distant date to form the preponderant element. It appeared at one time not improbable that the Buenos Ayres Government would experience as much trouble in dealing with the host of Italian colonists as the central authorities of Brazil have undergone in controlling the German settlers in the province of Rio Grande do Sul. The situation was in each case aggravated by the fact that eventually the German Empire and the Kingdom of Italy might make the interests of their subjects beyond the sea the pretext for an independence which might seriously impair the independence of the Brazilian and Argentine Republics. That dread was mitigated, when Lord SALISBURY practically recognized the Monroe doctrine by according to our request that the Venezuela boundary dispute should be settled not by force but by arbitration. It received its quietus recently, when the American Navy proved itself abundantly able to protect our sister commonwealth against either German or Italian aggression. Having no longer, therefore, anything to gain by keeping alive grounds of controversy with Argentina, the Italian Government has bound itself for ten years to submit all questions to arbitration.

It is not too much to say that, if Argentina had not agreed within this month to let Great Britain arbitrate the boundary dispute between herself and Chili, the latter country began to look down the barrel of a gun.

It turned out that even the Porto Rico campaign had to be rushed forward lest peace should come before we were ready for it, although, having been more carefully prepared, it showed fewer mistakes by staff departments, and as a military operation, was beautifully developed, so far as it went, the sickness, also, being remarkably little. As to the camps at home, they suffered no less from the very rapidity of our preparations. Perhaps some of them were chosen too hastily or with imperfect judgment; perhaps some were overcrowded, in the sense that when the most healthful sites were all chosen others were occupied by the troops rushed forward. Even our Govern-

ment's choice of the uniformed militia under the first call was an emergency choice, due to the desirability of getting troops instantly into the field. In short, if some mistakes were made in our war with Spain, as in all other wars, the prevalence of peace for generations, the great need of hurry when we had so few regulars ready, and the turn of events at Santiago made them not to be wondered at. But the great point is that the rush with which the war was conducted really economized life, so far as one can judge. Save for the Santiago campaign we might be still fighting to-day. We took the grave risk of a July campaign in Cuba. CHERVET tried to escape and was crushed; TORAL surrendered more ground and men than we asked; Spain, disarmed, sued for peace; in fine, we not only did not have to undergo the heavy losses in battle, but the prospect of the Havana campaign, but could muster out a great part of our volunteer force.

In short, if we discover some evils due to haste or want of scrutiny, let us remember the far greater evils which the vigor and rapidity of this brilliant war escaped. Will any one say that at the outset we expected to achieve results so splendid with so small an aggregate loss of life? When this war passes into history it will be recognized as one of the greatest of the military successes of our time in proportion to its cost in means and men.

Mr. Hewitt's Responsibility for the Whistle.

The subjoined communication from that distinguished and useful citizen, the Hon. ABRAHAM S. HEWITT, President of the Greenwood Lake Railroad Company, will surprise many of his friends and admirers in northern New Jersey:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In two editorial articles recently published in your paper, doubtless to the great satisfaction of the public, you are responsible for certain objectionable whistles on the New York and Greenwood Lake Railroad. If, in accordance with the editorial canons laid down by the late Mr. DANA, you had sent a reporter to me to make inquiry as to the facts, you would have learned that I am no more responsible for the operation of the Greenwood Lake Railroad than you are. The road was leased two years ago to the Erie Railroad Company, whose officers will doubtless give prompt attention to any well-founded complaints. So long as I control the railroad no complaints were made to me, and I suppose there was no ground for them then, whatever may be the fact at this time.

"New York, Sept. 15. ABRAHAM S. HEWITT."

The astonishing thing in this letter is the statement by Mr. HEWITT that he is no more responsible for the operation of the Greenwood Lake Railroad than we are, that is to say, than THE SUN is.

Along the line of that road the fact is perfectly understood that at the time of the last general reorganization of Erie, two years ago last spring, the Greenwood Lake was leased for nine hundred and ninety-nine years to the Erie Railroad Company, at a rental equal to fixed charges. The results of the transaction are too obvious and too fine to have been overlooked by anybody concerned. Many hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent since then in permanent improvements to the property, such as double steel tracks, new stations, and new bridges, and likewise in better equipment and vastly more satisfactory service than had previously existed. Money has been expended liberally since the reorganization, and, as always happens, the constituent public has been quick to repay the management's honest and energetic efforts with increased goodwill and patronage. That is what makes the persistent infliction of the sheet-invented whistle so incomprehensible.

Now, as to Mr. HEWITT's part in the reorganization of the Erie Railroad, the creature of his earlier manhood and his constant object for many years of his solitude and interest, the public have been glad to believe that they were directly indebted to him in large measure. This belief has been confirmed by his personal appearance, since the lease, as the managing representative of the Greenwood Lake division of the Erie Railroad in matters of detail involved in the reconstruction of the road.

But when it is a question of Mr. HEWITT's responsibility for the awful whistle, his power to abate that unnecessary and dangerous nuisance, he informs us that he has no more to do with the operation of the Greenwood Lake than we have ourselves, and refers all complaints to the management of the Lessee corporation, the Erie Railroad Company.

Very well; that is something definite. We have at hand the last annual report of the Board of Directors of the Erie Railroad Company. It is dated Sept. 8, 1898, and in the list of directors we find the name of ABRAHAM S. HEWITT, New York. This encourages us to hope that although Mr. HEWITT may have no concern with the practical affairs of the Greenwood Lake as its President, he may at least possess some influence as a power in the company which leases his old road and actually operates its whistles.

The Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS has asked and answered the most pertinent question this week, and so made the Omaha Monetary Conference precious to historians. Next week, perhaps, he will make up his mind as to whether he wants the Democratic nomination for Governor of Massachusetts or not; but a man with a mind of the Williams size is entitled to have the right to make it up in and then to ask for an extension, if necessary.

Minced pies are coming in again.—Boston Globe.

What in the name of Christmas, Thanksgiving and Election day is a "minced" pie?

The Hon. JOSEPH S. BROWN, the great Pennsylvania Prohibitionist-Populist-Democrat, has been imported by twenty-seven Pennsylvania Congress districts to become a candidate for Congressman, and has finally consented to oblige the twenty-seventh district. At least twenty-six districts are thus dumped into one. The battle may be as soon as it begins to be the plutocrats. As a plutocrat he considers it his duty to do this to show that he has no narrow prejudices.

The Democratic party, as expressed through the organs of the late President, have been the most successful of the age.—Chicago Democratic Magazine.

Only second-grander. You forget that sublime Kansas reform movement called the Cheerful Peasants.

We learn from the Chicago Tribune that the "President and originator of the American Boy Battalion Association" is in Cook county as "the guest of a local soap manufacturer," with whom he is to sign a contract whereby "the battalion fund will derive an income from soap wrappers." Evidently it is time for the American Boy Battalion Association to disband and return to school.

In a large number of cases or doubtful Assembly districts. It becomes more and more difficult to resist the conclusion that the demand for the nomination of the Hon. JAMES R. McGUIRE is unanimous in the Syracuse Courier office.

Addressing the assassin, one of the court judges put the following question to LUCAS, the murderer of the Empress of Austria: "If you had had a chance, would you have murdered King HENRI or the Prince of Wales?" The reply was: "King HENRI, yes, with pleasure; CHANCE, no. CHANCE is a thief. I take off my hat to a thief." The answer threw a bright light upon the condition of the Anarchist mind. Their motto is: "Down with Kings! Let us have thieves and murderers!"

Sweden's Preparations for Defence.

The Swedish Government Commission on Coast Defence has just completed its work and submitted its report. It is a heavy tomes in battle, and has been the subject of the Stockholm, from the coast at Wadholm and Frederiksborg, shall be completed at a cost of \$774,100, and those of Karlskrona for \$1,323,000. It is also proposed to expend \$513,000 on the completion of the batteries at Carlshagen and the batteries on the island of Hango.

The commission also recommends the construction of fortifications for the defense of the town of Gothenburg against the attack of hostile vessels, the coast works and a heavy fort on the Yesterberg, near the town, to cost about \$448,200. But the most important of the five recommendations contained in the report is that the Government should employ men and ships on the railway between Lulea and Frederiksborg, on the left bank of the Lulea River and for a cost of \$2,340,000. Boden is situated in the province of Norrland, at about seventy miles west of Tornea, on the left bank of the river of the same name that forms the boundary between Sweden and Finland, hence its military importance. Umea, opposite Lulea, on the east side of the Gulf of Bothnia, is only some ninety miles from Tornea, and is connected by rail with Helsingfors and St. Petersburg.

It is generally understood that the motive for the construction of the fortress at Boden is to be found in the pressure that has been put at different times on the Swedish and Norwegian Governments by Russia to cede some of the northern part of the two kingdoms as would give to Russia possession of the Ofoten Fjord, on the coast of Norway, for a naval station, and the right of way for the railway between the Gulf of Bothnia and the Gulf of Bothnia. The British Government has been a close and attentive observer of the proceedings in this matter, and has not been entirely stranger to the action of the Swedish Government in connection with it. The latter, however, appears to have given no serious consideration to the proposed fortifications to be extended over a period of ten years, the greater part of the work to be done during the first four.

The Actual Experience of War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have read very carefully the communication in THE SUN of the 14th, headed "Soldiers in the Field," and I am glad to find that it is a true statement in every respect. All the regiments that were on Banks's expedition in December, 1892, were from the Eastern States. The losses by disease of the 17th Regiment, New York Volunteers, were small as compared to the losses of many other regiments. The 18th, 19th and 20th Regiments, Maine Volunteers, equipped, arrived in Louisiana about ten days before the Red River campaign started and the havoc that death and disease caused in their ranks was fearful, for inside of six months the Thirtieth Maine had to be strengthened by the consolidation of the Thirtieth Maine with it. The 18th, 19th and 20th Regiments, Maine Volunteers, equipped, arrived in Louisiana about ten days before the Red River campaign started and the havoc that death and disease caused in their ranks was fearful, for inside of six months the Thirtieth Maine had to be strengthened by the consolidation of the Thirtieth Maine with it.

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AWAKENING OF CHINA.

Deeds Regarding the Treatment of Missionaries in China to Be Reported.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Advance sheets of consular reports issued to-day contain striking evidence of progress and change in the Chinese Empire. They consist of translations of decrees by the Emperor, and are sent to the State Department by Minister Conger. One of them relates to the treatment of missionaries. Mr. Conger gives a statement of the provisions of the Imperial decree. The importance of this decree is found in the fact that the Emperor emphasizes the treaty provisions authorizing the promulgation of the Christian religion, and forbids to repeat his instructions to the authorities in the various provinces to see to it that proper respect be shown to missionaries, and enjoins on local officials to receive missionaries when they ordinarily call upon them.

"Such an order, coming from the Emperor, has never been promulgated. It will serve a good purpose, for missionaries will now be able to make representations direct to the officials of their work or their rights, and will, in time, trouble and expense will thereby be saved. It will be observed that action must be taken without loss of time to bring all unsettled cases to a termination, and any lack of energy in this respect by the local authorities is promised effective punishment. The higher officials will also be held responsible, and no one is to be allowed to shift responsibility to others.

Another decree relates to the proposed enactment of copyright and patent laws and rewards for development of the material and other resources of the kingdom. In the past, from ancient times until now the first duty of the Chinese has been to produce goods and shape the rough materials at hand. With the increasing facilities of international commerce and employment of men and machinery, scientific, mechanical, and artistic talents which are an education to the masses, are now being developed. China is a great country and our resources are multitudinous. Men of intellect and talent are capable of doing anything they please, are not lacking, but their movements have hitherto been restricted by the old customs which have formed a bar to thinking out new and practical inventions. Now that we have entered upon the high road toward the education and enlightenment of the masses, it is our duty to make our empire strong and wealthy like other nations, our first duty should be the encouragement and employment of men and talent. We therefore hereby command that from henceforth, if there be any subject of science, art, or industry, or any new subject, or who should invent any new design in machinery, or any useful work of art, and whose work will be of benefit to the country at large, he shall be honored and rewarded. He shall be given a title, and shall be encouraged and exhorted to others of similar genius and talent. Or, if it be a new invention, he shall be given a title, and shall be encouraged and exhorted to others of similar genius and talent. Or, if it be a new invention, he shall be given a title, and shall be encouraged and exhorted to others of similar genius and talent.

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RUSSIA'S TRADE MENACE.

Consul Bedloe Writes That Our Goods May Be Crowded Out of China.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—A probable menace to American trade in China is the subject of a report made to the State Department by Dr. Edward S. Bedloe, United States Consul at Amoy. "It is," he says, "the system by which Russian merchants will undoubtedly expand their trade with the Celestial Empire as soon as through railroad communication is completely established between Russia in Europe and China via Siberia and Manchuria. Russia's success in central Asia in pushing her products ahead of her rivals will undoubtedly be repeated in China, with a result serious to us where our trade interests clash with those of Russia. The Russian system will be applied in China to all rivals in trade when the through railroad line enables Moscow manufacturers and merchants to pour their products into the empire of China on terms and under conditions which Russians will be in a position to fix at their pleasure."

"It is obvious that Russia's policy is not only the acquisition of an ice-free seaport like Port Arthur or Tientsin. She has for fifty years or more been planning to capture the rich markets of this vast Chinese Empire, and to accomplish this it was necessary to run a railroad through Siberia to a convenient seaport on the Pacific coast. The Russian Government has been merely stepping stones for the Muscovite from the published text of the agreement which, in 1896, for the first time, was made with the Russian-Chinese Bank that the Chinese have bound themselves to charge to the Russian Government the duty of running a railroad from the coast of China to the interior, entering China through Manchuria, than is paid on similar products from other foreign countries. The Russian method, it appears, is to charge lower transit duties than those shipped from non-Russian ports. Such an arrangement, if carried out, would give Russia a trade which would prove a serious matter for American manufacturers and merchants. The Russian Government could deal a heavy blow at American commerce."

"Export duties are to be reduced one-third in favor of Russia. All Russian manufactured goods are to be exempt from the duties which are charged lower transit duties than those shipped from non-Russian ports. Such an arrangement, if carried out, would give Russia a trade which would prove a serious matter for American manufacturers and merchants. The Russian Government could deal a heavy blow at American commerce."

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