

# The Argus.

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12.

Free coinage of silver at a ratio of sixteen to one; statehood for all our territories; protection for American products; this is what a majority of the people want, and which they have a right to expect of the present congress.

The report that Premier Crispi has been assassinated is unfounded.

Women are admitted to the New York State bar on the same terms as men.

Put beggars on horse-back and they will surely ride the poor beasts to their deaths.

The Arizona "land lease bill" was passed over the president's veto by a vote of 200 to 38.

It is really astonishing how "the shoe does fit" some people; no matter big or little, it fits all the same.

The President "shove did" smash a nice big gubernatorial plum when he put his veto-foot down on that bill.

That so-called "Chimmie Fadden" stuff certainly is the worst rot of the rottenest sort of rot ever put into print.

No person bearing an hereditary title can become a naturalized citizen of the United States without first renouncing the title.

Spain's attitude toward the United States in connection with the Cuban question is regarded at St. Petersburg, Russia, as preposterous.

Whenever you see a whole column in one editorial, you can "bank" that some lawyer(?) is neglecting his proper functions, whilst he writes himself down an Ass.

A dispatch from Panama says a battle is imminent at Leon. The government is preparing for an attack with combined forces of Honduras and Nicaragua.

For heaven's sake let's stop bragging and do something. As a starter jump on to Hawaii and knock h-l out of it. At least do something more besides bragging.

An exchange suggests that "in lieu of the militia, a few Gila monsters be judiciously stationed at certain vital strategic points." The utility would be about the same at any rate.

We have before us a pamphlet issued by the Chamber of Commerce of the city of Phoenix. It is neatly printed and tastefully compiled, and contains much useful information. Phoenix is progressive; therefore, Phoenix is prosperous.

SECRETARY CARLISLE has been mistaken in every one of his guesses in regard to the probable reduction in the gold reserve; notwithstanding he is the brains of the democratic party. This only tends to confirm the fact that no living man can predict the future results of democratic incompetency and mismanagement.

The democratic newspapers of New York City, that have been looking with much care into the prospects of the several republican candidates, continue to express the belief that McKinley is far ahead and more than likely to receive the nomination at St. Louis. The New York World, which has made a pretty fair canvas of the entire country says: "The indications are unmistakable that a large majority of the republicans of the West and South strongly favor the nomination of McKinley. Even in this state it will require all the power of the Platt machine and of the governor's patronage to prevent the election of McKinley delegates in some of the strongest republican districts. An attempt by Platt to throw the New York delegation as a unit against McKinley, with Governor Morton out of the race, would surely be futile. The Ohio leader represents, as nobody else does, the policy of high protection, which is the republican party's pivotal principle for the coming campaign. Yet it is equally obvious that the most powerful bosses in the party are against McKinley. They dislike him only less than they did Harrison. Platt in New York, Quay in Pennsylvania, Reed and his managers in New England, and others of the most skillful politicians, will defeat him if they can. It is for this purpose that they have instigated or encouraged the candidacy of various 'favorite sons,' hoping to make the field against McKinley so large that it can be combined to beat him. It is not likely that they will succeed. The bosses very rarely control national conventions. They were against Cleveland in 1884 and in 1892, and yet he was nominated. They were against Harrison four years ago, and yet he prevailed. The Republican sentiment in favor of McKinley bids fair to be irresistible."

Is there any one pretending to doubt the Argus to be what it claims, an "up to date" weekly newspaper? If there be any such person let him or her place side by side, a copy of this paper and a copy of the "boiler plate" style of newspaper, and then compare the reading matter of the two papers. In one the "matter" is fresh and "up to date;" in the other nine-tenths of its reading matter is "boiler plate" stuff, which has been published perhaps not less than one and much of it at least five years ago. Is this sort of thing enterprise? We submit for your judgment which is the progressive paper and which one is not. This is not written in any spirit of ill-feeling, as certain people are prone to imagine, but is given our readers that they can decide as to the merits or demerits of the two classes of newspapers. However, if we find people had as lief accept a "pewter dollar" in lieu of the genuine silver, and at the same face value; why, then, we too perhaps may discontinue our expense—which is about seven-tenths more than if we used "boiler plate"—and also adopt the "patent outside." It is for the public to determine.

A DISPATCH from Salt Lake City says, a sensation was created here over certain developments concerning the death of Miss Evelyn Bonnet of Provo, who died in that city under suspicious circumstances. "Several suspicious circumstances led to an investigation and the body was exhumed. It showed that death had resulted from a criminal operation; Dr. McCoy, the attending physician, and Mrs. Massey, at whose house the girl died, were arrested. In the evening Sim Duggins, a saloon keeper of Provo, Dr. Noyes, a physician at that place, and Frank Carter, to whom it is said the girl was engaged, were arrested on a charge of murder. Noyes and Carter are not thought to be implicated, but feeling was intense against Duggins."

CHAUNCEY DEPEW, possibly the best "after-dinner" speaker and story teller in the United States, brought down the house at a recent dinner, by describing a new member of Congress seated in an old barber's chair and saying: "you have shaved many other statesmen in the past, such as Clay and Webster!" "Yes, sir," replied the barber, somewhat frigidly; "you are something like Mr. Webster." "In my brow?" inquired the statesman full of inward delight. "No," replied the barber, "in your breath."

The Spanish Transatlantic Steamship company is fitting eight vessels as fast cruisers. A company for privateering is to be fitted out on the Bourse with a capital of 100,000 pesos.

## OUR COAST DEFENSES.

The European powers occupy every island and harbor of the Pacific Ocean south of Alaska that is fit for a naval station; except in Hawaii, and that of Pango Pango, in Samoa, at which places this government has a somewhat precarious hold. Whenever this government happens to tread on the toes of either one of the European powers, the shock is felt by every dirty toe in Europe. Not one of them but what sympathize with each other as against the United States. One or the other, or all of these European powers, occupy, and have fortified, every harbor along the eastern coast and southern seas, from Halifax to Honduras. Is this done to protect themselves from each other? Not by any means, it is done against the United States. And what have we done, if we except the great expenditure of wind and bluster? Nothing; absolutely nothing. But worse than nothing, we have allowed these same powers to possess all the available harbors upon every side of us, that to enforce the Monroe doctrine becomes next to an impossibility. Sensible people are sickening; too much brag, bluster and wind.

## THE SPIDER-CRAB—A FABLE.

Once upon a time, to use the story teller phrase, a spider-crab had its habitat in some water-worn rocks of San Diego bay. This insignificant little creature would peacock like, strut in and out his little den and all the while imagine himself to be "all creation." Anon a violent wind storm arose off the north-eastern coast of Japan; and as this great storm traveled eastward it gained in velocity and violence, until it finally reached the shores of southern California. This storm caused the waves to act quite naughtily by tossing and tumbling our little "beast" about, but supposing this to be natural it paid no attention to the violence of the waves. One day a larger wave than usual came along carrying upon its crest another little spider-crab, which it deposited beside our first spider-crab. After the first great surprise was over, (our little bloated spider-crab imagined itself the only crab in existence till then), when the new comer says to it: "Don't you know Great Sir, these boisterous and wicked waves make all this disturbance simply and solely to annoy your Greatness?" Straightway our first little spider-crab became very wroth and swore a monstrous oath, that "if it ever occurs again, I'll kick the Pacific ocean out of bed."

Don't try to change places with the nasty little spider-crab for it applies to one; some day we may point it out to you, but not now.

## THE "FEE SYSTEM."

The worst feature about the "fee system," in the United States marshal's office, is the latitude allowed, or rather the dangerous loop-holes left open by which grievous wrongs are perpetrated every day upon the defenseless citizen. Under this rotten "fee system," all sorts of charges are trumped up, and the citizen is dragged from one end of the Territory to the other, only to be turned loose—"could not make good the charges." And for what purpose are these outrages upon the citizen? In very many cases, perhaps a majority of them, it is solely for the few dirty dollars; yes, nothing under heavens but "fees." It will be said: "O, if you have a salary in lieu of fees, the marshal and his deputies will do nothing to earn that salary." Well and good, if to do "something" is to perpetrate a wrong as often as a right, then do nothing for it is far better that nine guilty ones go un-whipped of justice than should the tenth innocent person suffer unjustly.

A case in point occurred only a few days since. It seems a poor friendless devil was en route from Globe to Show Low, unluckily he lost his way and actually lie down and slept upon sacred ground—the Apache reserve. For this heinous crime against poor Lo, he was thrown into the "guard-house" at Ft. Apache; from thence, dragged off two hundred miles to Prescott, and then what? The grand jury sitting at Prescott having no particular interest in this beautiful "fee system," it ignored the frivolous charges and the poor outraged individual is graciously allowed his liberty. Now comes the average citizen and wants to know why such measly doings are permitted. Why permitted, eh? Well, principally for the fees, so what are you going to do about it. Then, in the cause of honesty and justice, at once abolish this pernicious "fee system" and in lieu thereof establish a salaried one.

There are only four days each year in which the sun and clock time exactly correspond, viz: April 15, June 14, Sept. 1 and Dec. 24.

A SPECIAL dispatch from Rome says: Humbert has ordered Signor Franzoi to undertake a special mission to Abyssinian Negus Menilik. Signor Franzoi believes it is best to conclude an honorable peace with the Abyssinians and abandon the country.

The house bill passed to abolish cash payment of pensions is to prevent the swindling of old veterans who draw their money at agencies on quarterly pay days. This bill requires all pensions to be paid in checks sent to the homes of the pensioners.

"WM. MCKINLEY is undoubtedly" says the Los Angeles Times, "the first choice of nine-tenths of the Republicans for President. He will probably have the unanimous support of the California delegation to the St. Louis convention, whether the delegation be instructed for him or not."

J. E. ARCHER, a well-to-do business man of Kansas City, Mo., showed his sympathy for Cuba by publicly burning a Spanish flag in front of a crowded theater. The act was loudly cheered. Archer has a stock of Spanish flags, and says he will burn one each night until the stock is exhausted.

The cowardly midnight stranglers run up against a man the other day at Plant City, Fla., the dispatch says: "The 'regulars' here notified Bowen Sykes to leave the neighborhood and painted a skull and crossbones and coffin on his door. He barricaded himself and when the mob came he shot four dead and wounded six others. The mob fled."

The hog is nevertheless a hog, although it may eat its food with a fork. Some of the worst human hogs ever met with, are so very, very particular to use their fork while eating their food. However we find from observation, that a hog is a hog, whether it uses fingers, forks or knives; or whether it wallows in the mud, or is clothed in "purple and fine linen."

The Venezuelan "boundary dispute" has attracted the attention of people from the Turkish cruelty to Armenians; and these in turn, to the strange dispute between England and Germany, which has given the newspapers a triple subject to deal with; thus rendering it difficult for many readers to understand the real situation of affairs among the various disputants.

The Journal-Miner has nailed a few more "floating lies," by publishing from the Congressional Record what Mr. Murphy really did say while advocating the passage of the school land bill over the President's veto. The bill is simply a copy of one previously passed for Oklahoma, and had the approval of the general land office, also was approved and signed by Hoke Smith. If Hoke Smith signed the bill, what in thunder can be the matter with it any way?

The advance of civilization forms a zig-zag line along its front. At some points it is far in advance of the main line, at others it is as far or further in the rear. Some people would feel very much offended, even if they do exist in the latter end of the progressive 19th century, to be told they have not yet passed the "blanket age" of semi-civilization. Yet this is true, and for proof watch them pass through a door; if they are semi-civilized they will never once think to gently close it, but will depend upon the "blanket" to close itself. If this same person should by chance close the door, it is closed with a bang! that would awaken the seven sleepers. The above does not include all the "evidences" of a lack of civilization, for there are many others, which shall have our attention from time to time.

The bill before congress to remove the office of United States marshal from the fee system and make it a salaried office has passed the house. The bill provides that the United States marshal of Arizona shall receive \$4000 and traveling expenses, and each state shall receive compensation in accordance with the amount of business transacted, Arizona's marshal is classed near the top of the list, Massachusetts receiving \$2,500 and most of the states being placed in the class below \$3,000.—Ex.

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The senate committee on public lands decided not to recommend the passage of the Arizona land bill over the veto of the president, but to recommend a new bill to meet the objections of the president and secretary of the interior.

Maximo Gomez is reported to be at Seborucal in person. General Weyler will remove his headquarters to the city of Matanzas in order to facilitate the direction of operations, as the main force of the insurgents has passed into Santa Clara.

It is announced that the Dutch military patrol has been attacked by the Alchinese near Anagaloeny, Island of Sumatra. Eight Dutch soldiers were killed and five officers and twenty-one men wounded. The Alchinese lost six leaders and thirty-seven men killed and wounded.

In the house of commons the debate upon the naval estimates was resumed. Mr. Goschen, first lord of the admiralty, replying to a criticism by John Redmond, said that it was absurd to suggest that the increase in the navy was intended as a menace to the United States. The naval program, he said, was settled in November, before the Venezuelan question had arisen.

Senator Hoar, from the committee on Judiciary, reported a substitute for Senator Cannon's joint resolution regarding the property of the Mormon church in Utah seized under the Edmunds act. The substitute merely grants and conveys church property held by the receiver to the church after the payment of the expenses of the receivership.

The public debt of Spain aggregated about \$1,250,000,000, or about \$75 per capita. The public debt of the United States is some \$15 per capita. Spain's total revenue amounts, to about \$300,000,000 per annum, which \$150,000,000 is collected on imports, the balance being raised by internal taxation. The interest on the Spanish debt amounts to \$55,000,000 annually, while the cost of maintaining the government is upward of \$200,000,000 per year. The population of Spain is about 16,000,000. From the foregoing it is evident that the Spanish government, though somewhat "long" on war talk, is decidedly short on "the sinews of war."—Ex.

Iconoclast in Arizona Republican: It is strange that a man who has attained the notoriety of Bob Ingersoll as a scholar and lecturer should manifest such profound ignorance as to admit the personal identity of Moses.

It is true you may take the book of Exodus and traverse the country from the Red sea to the Jordan (as I have done) and find the description of natural and unchanging scenery accurate, but does that prove the personal existence of Moses? The Egyptians were an enlightened nation many centuries before the famishing Israelites visited the Nile to beg corn, but no obelisk contains the captivity of the Jews—because no such event occurred in history.

It is more reasonable to believe it is a Jewish fable, as the Jews were notorious among their contemporaries, the Persians, Assyrians, Greeks and Romans as enormous fabulists. The country between the Red sea and the Jordan is similar to the country between the Gulf of California and Los Angeles. No six thousand men, women and children that ever lived could have performed the journey on foot: even allowing forty years for a journey I have made in four days.

You may take the legend of "Sleepy Hollow" and spend a summer in the Catskill mountains (as I have done) and you will find the descriptions of natural and unchanging scenery accurately pictured by Washington Irving, but does that prove the personal identity of Rip Van Winkle? The Assyrians, Greeks, Romans, Egyptians and ancient nations created many gods of the imagination, but Nebuchadnezzar with his god of brass and feet of clay was not a more ridiculous god than the people have made of Bob Ingersoll.

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