

DAILY RECORD-UNION

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THE DAILY RECORD-UNION. A SEVEN-DAY ISSUE.

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SPECIAL AGENCIES. This paper is for sale at the following places:

L. P. Fisher's, room 21, Merchants' Exchange, California street, and the principal news stands and hotels, San Francisco.

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SANTA BARBARA—Hassinger's News Depot.

FRESNO—C. T. Cearley, 113 J street.

SANTA CRUZ—Cooper Brothers' News Depot.

Also for sale on all trains leaving and coming into Sacramento.

EASTERN BUSINESS HOUSES. The Tribune Building, New York City.

Western Business Office, "The Hookery," Chicago.

The S. C. Beckwith Special Agency, Sole agents foreign advertising.

Weather Forecast. For Northern California—Cloudy Monday, probably with light showers in south portion; cooler, brisk north wind.

AN IMPORTANT REPORT.

The very full synopsis of Secretary of War Alger's report, published in the "Record-Union" on Saturday, throws a blaze of light upon many things which have occasioned harsh discussion, and brought much reproach upon the War Department. It proves by the official record that the greater part of the course and severe criticisms which have been leveled at the department and its head was unjustified and that for the mass of such errors as were committed, others were to blame.

It assuredly does not place General Shafter in so enviable a light as his friends would prefer. He appears to have been in some respects vacillating, at least hesitating, and was prepared and proposed to accept surrender of the Spanish at Santiago on terms which were unusual and would have been intolerable. It explains a great many things which have been freely commented upon to the discredit of Secretary Alger, who while he may be blamed for some errors of judgment and administration, assuredly makes it clear that to not one-fifth part of the criticism to which he has been subjected is he amenable.

The report wisely refrains from criticism of any branches or commands of the army under its control, but presents the facts as substantiated by the official orders, correspondence and reports. So much has been said about the useless loss of life in the war that one passage in the report possesses peculiar significance. It shows that with an army of 250,000 volunteers, hastily called together, and the regulars, raising the number of soldiers to 274,717 men all told and all handled within a period of 113 days, and many of them transported thousands of miles into tropical climes for which they were unconditioned, the deaths in battle and from disease and wounds were but 2,910, the smallest death rate recorded in the history of wars and army mobilization in the annals of the world.

Of all the wounded in battle around Santiago only thirteen died of their wounds. Concerning the charge that the army in Cuba was flagrantly neglected in the matter of equipping it with medical attendants, the Secretary shows that there were sent with the army no less than 140 surgeons. That was more than were ever sent out with an army of equal size, according to all records on the subject.

There are other and very significant extracts made from the report in the transmitted synopsis, which, however, speaks for itself and deserves to be read by every citizen who wishes to be informed as to the actual facts rather than accept the inflammatory and irresponsible statements of sensational correspondents. These facts will unquestionably all be tested by the President's Commission of Investigation, now at work upon the subject. The arrival of the full text of the report of the department is awaited with interest, and will then be scanned thoroughly, and judgment formed without any doubting or hesitation concerning the charges which have been so freely indulged in.

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION.

Honore Greeley was once asked how he managed to gauge with any degree of accuracy the formation of public opinion in the country at large, replied substantially: "By carefully reading my country exchanges. The country editors and publishers know pretty nearly what the people about them think and desire, and thus they give expression to that thought, not only as news, but because they desire to keep in harmony with their own people, as well as to combat them when wrong."

A San Francisco contemporary which has evidently opened its eyes to the truth, says that it is no derogation of the ability of the metropolitan press to assert that interior press is in closer touch with the real opinion of the people of the State, than the press of the commercial metropolis. This is affirmed

ation after more than a half century of the belief of the veteran New York Journalist. And the reasons advanced in one case are identical with those in the other. The law of formation and expression of public opinion is now as it was then. As our San Francisco contemporary well puts it, the interior newspaper man seeks to reflect the sentiment of his environment in one sense, he is prompted by self-interest to do so; the newspaper man of the greater cities assumes that he can mold and lead public opinion and that he is practically independent of it. This truth has been repeatedly demonstrated in San Francisco and as repeatedly proven in the interior communities of California.

The "Record-Union" has more than once been taken to task for asserting its conviction that the modern newspaper does not create public opinion; that at most it can only modify, by presentation of reasons for change and modification. The newspaper is greatest and most useful in the office of guide and aid, and least valuable when it seeks to dictate, intimidate or drive. For that expression the ire of some of our contemporaries has been excited against this journal, but not one has been able to successfully disprove the proposition.

The fact is, as our San Francisco contemporary asserts, that very few people nowadays are guided in their opinions by the dictum of press, pulpit or teacher. The intelligence of the day has made men more independent in thought, more circumspect in forming judgments, and more jealous of being led.

Not that public judgment is not sometimes warped and led to wrong conclusions by reason of its fears and its prejudices on lines of misinformation and the persistent assertion of untruth, it has not infrequently been led into downright error, as was witnessed in a significant instance in the late State election. But while this is true it is also very true that the formation of public opinion is not the prerogative of any one influence.

The newspaper man who assumes that he can twist the public mind about his finger, exhibits his dense ignorance of the forces which go to crystallize public opinion. He may, if wisely moved, promote beneficial public opinion and do much good in combating erroneous public judgment. But these are very different offices from that of creator and commander. The frequent reversal and rejection of the metropolitan press by its community, and the almost constant affirmation and support of its press by the interior community, ought to teach the former journalistic influences lessons which would prove fountains of wisdom and prudence to them.

GOVERNMENT OF OUR COLONIES.

In the December "Atlantic," C. E. Boyd, writing intelligently of our new possessions and their prospective governments, declares that it must have a degree of permanence not found in territorial organizations. This corresponds with the reported expressions of Senator Chandler, who holds that the largest liberty as to self-government should be given the Filipinos at the earliest possible moment, but that the United States must maintain over them a protecting and asserting arm. Referring to Porto Rico, Mr. Boyd thinks it will not be ready for admission to the Union for many years. We would go beyond that, and say never. It is improbable that it will ever become a State, or that it will ever be for the best interests of its people to assume the sovereign attitude of a State. Even Mr. Boyd admits that the Philippines can never reach the condition when it would be advisable to make the archipelago a State of the Union. But, as he well says, the permanent form of paternal government that must be provided must carry with it and mean a permanent civil service system.

For the governing of colonies is an art not to be learned in a day, or a year, or in many years. Our lack of experience must be cured by many years of practice. In that time the people of the distant colony will have settled into a system that it will be unadvisable to change, and which they will not probably desire to be severed from. But while practice goes on, there must be developed a class of men peculiarly fitted and adapted to the conduct of the new form of government, and these will be searched out and developed through the agency of a civil service school which will fit men for colonial service, just as in Europe men are trained for diplomatic service.

This is to give us a body of men capable of handling the difficult problems to be committed to them. Of course it does not exclude competent Filipinos from entering into such service. But, as Mr. Boyd puts it, the men to be first chosen must constitute a permanent staff both of administration and for the training of other men to succeed them, and this will involve a civil service school of necessity to determine their intellectual, mental and other qualifications.

We quite agree with Mr. Boyd that the result will be beneficially felt at home. If our representatives are successful abroad, as they must be, the effect will be to lift the standards of fitness for home official discharge. Our people will naturally demand as good service at home as our dependencies have, and will turn in inquiry to the sources and reasons for such success, and that will disclose to them the value of special training for a large class of administrative duty.

Which law has effected one good of which little notice has been taken. It blotted out the Havana lottery, an institution that has kept hundreds of thousands of Cubans in poverty for more than a century, and has been a curse to mankind generally. Last week the final drawing of the lottery was held and the officials of the concern stepped down and out forever. If now we could work up some sort of a device to blot out as effectually the Honduras and Mexican concerns of like character, the United States would do an inestimable service for mankind.

VOICE OF THE PRESS.

EXTRACTS FROM EDITORIAL EXPRESSIONS.

State and Coast Opinions on Subjects of Living News

Napa Register: While everybody on the Pacific coast, practically speaking, favors the Nicaragua Canal, and while the Republican Administration may be depended on when it comes to passing the right kind of a bill through Congress, there will be enough opposition to the enterprise to make the fight interesting and put our best men on their mettle.

Oakland Tribune: There can be nothing more satisfactory to the Administration than the statement just issued by the Treasury Department showing that the Dingley tariff law has proved the success that was predicted for it when it was being urged before Congress. The Democrats have of late been endeavoring to establish the point that were it not for the fact that the war revenue law had wrought a complete metamorphosis in our finances, the Dingley tariff would be shown up as an utter failure.

Kern Echo: All the press south of Tehachapi favor a United States Senator from Southern California. Why not have a constitutional amendment giving each section of the State a Senator? Or still better, why not divide the State, and have two Senators. Southern California will never get her political and commercial rights until it has a State government.—San Diego Vidette.

Why don't you favor getting out of the Union altogether. It would be about as sensible as squaring.

Hobson is too equanimous. The process of reasoning by which Lieutenant Hobson arrived at the conclusion that it would be improper to accept \$50,000 for a short series of lectures must have been peculiar, to say the least.

Stockton Independent: Efforts have been made for years by many commercial bodies in the country to have a new department created and a new Cabinet officer, to be known as the Secretary of the Department of Commerce. The mining interests have been working to have a department of mining. The manufacturers have asked for a department of manufactures. But the results of the war with Spain are likely to supersede the various wants by a general demand for a department of colonies. It will certainly require the constant work of a department to look after the interests of distant islands and territories and the sooner Congress establishes a separate department for this purpose with provision for a corps of men who have the ambition to become trained experts and remain in the service devoting themselves to a study of the new possessions, the sooner will the United States learn to govern colonies satisfactorily.

Los Angeles Times: The San Francisco "Chronicle" suggests that one of the serious needs of the army is a "business corps." The point is well taken. Had there been a few men at Tampa who knew the difference between a railroad way-bill and a canvas-back ham, our soldiers would have gone through less suffering and the nation would have been spared the humiliation of the scandals that resulted from our Cuban invasion. By all means let the army have a "business corps" and let it be large—say one corpsman to each soldier.

San Jose Mercury: The San Francisco "Examiner," not content with the yellow lies it daily publishes during the campaign against Republican candidates, is keeping up its shouting that the Republican legislators are all "railroad hirelings" and that the railroad will name the United States Senator.

Alameda Argus: Emperor William is a very touchy person and his actions are gradually working up a condition that in time may undo him. He can brook no interference with his sacred rites, or the artist who gives play to his humorous fancy with the Kaiser as a subject, gets in very deep trouble at once.

San Francisco's Growth. Oakland Enquirer: The reasons given for the slow growth of San Francisco, which were referred to in a recent article which pointed out the facts, are certain to vary with the bias of the person who reads or speaks, and before a judgment can be given which will carry weight, there should be a larger accumulation of data than has yet been made, and that will hardly be possible till after the census of 1900. We know that, according to the confession of all parties, the rate of growth of San Francisco has been slower than that of other great cities in the United States, but it has not been shown whether the urban population of the city and county on the Pacific Coast falls behind the normal rate of growth. In the East the largest centers of population, like New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, are outgrowing the rural districts in population, but the smaller cities and towns of the West are not doing so.

Chickering's Plan. Wiley B. Allen Co.'s Try McMorry's Blend coffee, 35c.

is one example of a city which is not growing in population to the population of the State, but it has not yet been shown whether San Francisco is alone in this respect or whether other Pacific Coast towns also are behind what may be considered a normal rate of growth.

PROBLEMS OF GOVERNMENT. San Jose Herald: Professor Bernard Moses of the University of California recently finished a course of lectures before the University Extension Club of this city on the subject of Spain and her colonies.

But in his reference to the different kind of government needed for the Philippine Islands, Professor Moses alluded not only to government forms but to the principle and practice of appointments and administration. The Philippines are a comparatively ignorant, undeveloped, uncivilized race. They cannot yet be trusted to govern themselves, and we must govern them. It is to be done in wisdom, firmness and justice. It must be committed to men who have the brain and heart to govern for the good of the governed. The Philippines will be no place to send political spoilsmen unless we would have the last case of that country worse than its first.

SOME REASONS WHY. Riverside Press: But when hostilities began there was quite a strong Spanish fleet at Manila, which could easily have crossed over to this coast and inflicted enormous damage upon our merchant marine in the Pacific and on our practically defenseless cities, from San Diego to San Francisco. Ordinary dictates of prudence demanded that this menace should be removed; and it was done by Admiral Dewey on that memorable morning in May.

Dewey found the Filipinos in open revolt against oppression more gallant even than the Cubans. He took with him from Hongkong Aguinaldo, the leader of the insurgents, and he gave their cause a certain moral support as was natural and proper while war existed between us and Spain.

To maintain our foothold in Manila, to complete the work of the naval victory and to protect the vast commerce of the islands was a matter of detail that could be attended to at any time.

That was the situation when the peace protocol was signed. And then the question was, what should be done with the Philippines. We could have agreed to withdraw and turn the islands over to Spain again. That would have meant that the insurgents, who have had our moral support and tacit encouragement, should be left to the tender mercies of the barbarous, humiliated and bitterly revengeful Filipinos. And who could any man who dared lift his hand against Spain, that would have been turned back on the dial plate of time in the Philippines two centuries or more; and Spain would have wreaked all the wrath she feels at the loss of Cuba and Porto Rico on the inhabitants of these islands.

Another course was open to us. We might have taken the islands as a war indemnity, and then, because they are far away and their government involves some new problems, might sell them to England or Germany or parcel them out among half a dozen great Powers that would like a slice of their richness. As a business proposition, if their possession is of such great commercial advantage to other Powers, why should we not retain them for our own selves? And shall we say to the world that we are indifferent to the fate of these seven millions of people who by the fate of war have come under our control, and that we are ready to barter them off to Japan or Germany or England as simply because we do not want to be bothered with the responsibility of their government?

PROBABLY UNTRUE. San Jose Mercury: There is probably no truth in the dispatch that the American shipbuilding firms have entered into a combination for the purpose of obtaining the Government contracts. The firms cannot complain concerning the profits they are now making, and if they attempt to rob the Government by extortionate prices for warships they will find that the Government is not dependent on them and that it can easily find others to build its own.

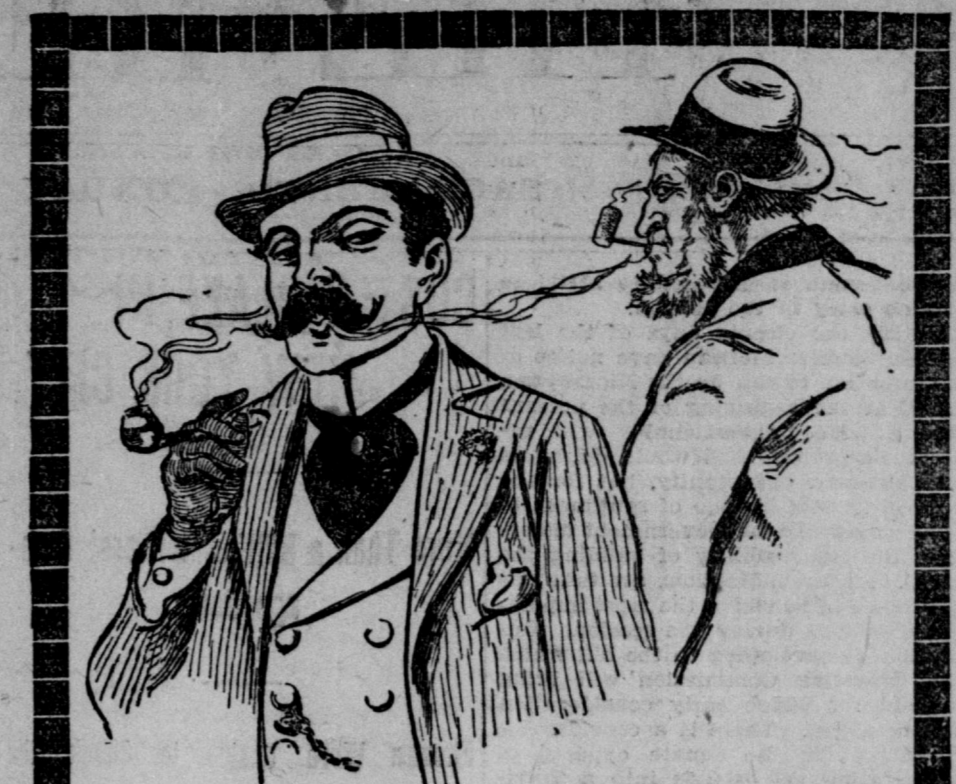
CONCERNING CHIVALRY. Alameda Argus: The man who raises his voice in condemnation of a woman who has committed a crime is bound not only to fail in his purpose, but to gain public obloquy as well. The unwritten law is that whatever may be the facts, and however exact a man's knowledge of them may be, he must never asperse a woman's character, no matter how uncomfortable the facts may be found to be.

Alabama Pig Iron. Long ago Alabama's pig-iron forced itself into foreign markets, and the growth of that State's production is constantly on the increase. It will not be long before that pig-iron will be turned into steel shapes in Alabama rolling mills, and in Southern seaports, fashioned into ships that shall help to carry the commerce and the flag of the United States to the uttermost portions of the earth.

TO CURE A COUGH IN ONE DAY. De Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c. The Little Blue Pills. 25c. per box.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS—ESTATE OF S. S. NATHAN, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Rebecca Nathan, as the executrix of the last will and testament of S. S. Nathan, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said executrix, at the office of Messrs. Devlin & Devlin, 233 J street (up stairs), Sacramento, California, the same being her place for the transaction of the business of the said estate in the County of Sacramento, State of California.

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while some of his neighbors say that the goods do not move very well, explaining the difference in this way: "I keep the five-cent cartons on the counter where everybody can see them! Now and then some one takes a carton or maybe a handful of them, getting five for a quarter or maybe six, there is a good deal of trade to be picked up by keeping them in sight, because, when a customer sees them he recalls the advertisement and is inclined to make a small investment, whether he wants it just then or not. Nearly everybody seems to want Ripans Tablets, and I notice that when a man buys them once he is likely to bring his friend around next week."

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS—ESTATE OF S. S. NATHAN, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, Rebecca Nathan, as the executrix of the last will and testament of S. S. Nathan, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said executrix, at the office of Messrs. Devlin & Devlin, 233 J street (up stairs), Sacramento, California, the same being her place for the transaction of the business of the said estate in the County of Sacramento, State of California.

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FOR SALE. A splendid tract of land of 483 acres, situated near Sacramento Valley Railroad, and fifteen miles from Sacramento; under lease for this year for \$1,000, cash rent, payable after harvest.

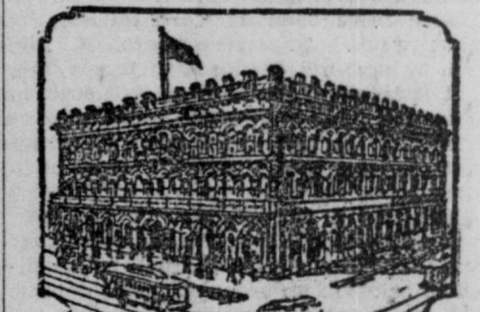
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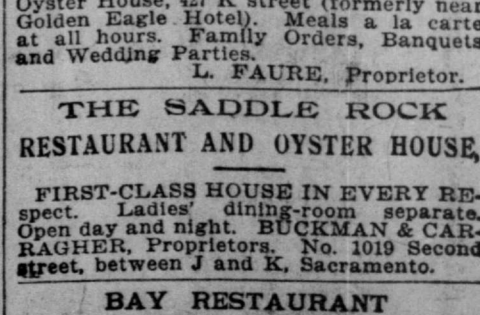
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