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**THOSE PROMISED GOOD TIMES.**

During the campaign last fall Republican orators and newspapers were very busy in predicting the great calamities that would befall this country if Bryan were elected, and promising a restoration of confidence, a general resumption of business, a return of great prosperity, a closing of soup houses and opening of mills in case of McKinley's success. McKinley was elected, but none of those predictions have been fulfilled. Business has not revived, money is almost out of sight, and more people are suffering for the necessities of life than this country has known for years. Banks are failing daily, not because of the policy of the Democratic administration, but mostly because of bad management or because they have been looted by their officers.

There is a feeling of discontent among the people, and if the election were to be held now, it is more than probable that Bryan and free silver would carry the country by an overwhelming majority. Congress is now in the hands of the Republicans, and instead of attempting to do anything to relieve the people, they are spending their time in talking about the war in Cuba, and contemplating measures that will increase their salaries.

Times have grown worse instead of better since McKinley's election, and while this has little to do with the present condition of things, he was elected by promises of better times in that event, and unless prosperity shall follow closely on the heels of his inauguration, his administration will prove a dismal failure, and the Republican party will be held responsible for it.

**Quay's Toy.**

It is not at all probable that Senator Quay and Senator-elect Penrose pressed the name of Governor Hastings upon Mr. McKinley with any seriousness: Neither of these gentlemen is at all anxious to see the governor in the cabinet.

It is true Mr. Quay would like to have in Mr. Lyon a governor whose ownership would not be in dispute but the elevation of Hastings to a cabinet position—for it would be a promotion—and the increased authority of Lyon might altogether end Quay's chances of succeeding himself two years hence. The governor as a cabinet officer might become a formidable opponent of Quay while Lyon as governor might give the state quite enough of Quayism in the remainder of the term to satisfy the commonwealth with Quayism forever.

It seems plain that Senator Quay is simply bandying the governor's name for his own benefit. He doesn't want a Pennsylvania in the cabinet; he wants no one to step between himself and Mr. Hanna. With two votes in the senate he believes he ought to be supreme in command. Having fought for the spoils he believes he has won them.

But the governor ought to refuse longer to be a Quay football. If Senator Quay must have sport with some gentleman of distinction the governor should see that he is not that statesman longer.—*Patriot.*

**Mock Reforms for Cuba.**

It is evident that Spain has finally come to understand and practically confess that the Cuban rebellion cannot be suppressed. This is shown by the formal announcement that sweeping reforms are about to be inaugurated by Spain in the government of Cuba. It is now officially stated that on January 23, the saint day of the little King of Spain, a general amnesty will be proclaimed throughout the rebellious provinces of Spain, and that soon thereafter radical reforms will be tendered to the Cuban people.

When the ten years' rebellion closed, General Gomez ended the strife by accepting the positive assurance of Spain that general reform would be inaugurated in the government of that province, relieving the people of the oppressive exactions which had led them to rebellion. Had Spain maintained her faith to the Cuban people at that time, the present rebellion could not have been inspired, but as Spain withheld the substance of reform while simply giving the shadow, the people of Cuba have ceased to have any faith whatever in the pledges of

the Spanish Government for substantial reform on that ill-fated island.

It has been a most costly violation of faith on the part of Spain. When the present rebellion began Spain was receiving \$30,000,000 of revenue annually from Cuba. That has ceased, and the general destruction of property makes it impossible for Cuba, under any circumstances, to contribute any considerable sum of revenue to Spain even if the rebellion could be ended by treaty. In addition to the loss of \$30,000,000 of revenue, the Spanish Government has expended some \$200,000,000 in the prosecution of the war, and will probably be compelled to expend another hundred million if the war shall continue during the present year. It has been all loss and no profit to Spain, and Spain is solely responsible for this loss by the violation of her own solemnly pledged faith to the people of Cuba.

It is folly now for Spain to propose that the Cuban insurgents shall submit to the rule of Spain under any treaty, no matter what the promises or guarantees may be. There is not an intelligent Cuban who believes that Spain would maintain her faith with them under any circumstances, and the intense hatred cherished by all the Spanish people engaged in the rebellion against Spain would make any peaceful solution of the present strife impossible except on the basis of Cuban independence. All promises of reform coming from Spain will necessarily be regarded by the Cuban people as simply a mockery; as adding insult to the injury inflicted upon them by the violation of Spanish faith under the treaty that closed the former rebellion.

Cuba is lost to Spain, no matter whether the war shall continue or whether it shall cease. There will be no peace on the island until Spanish authority is ended there, and if Spain shall not soon appreciate this fact, it must become the duty of the civilized nations of the world to teach her that a war that can have no possible attainable object but murder and devastation must be stopped in the interest of humanity.—*Phila. Times.*

**Irresponsibility of United States Senators.**

In a paper contributed to the New York Herald of Sunday Representative Tucker, of Virginia, presents some strong arguments for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people.

One of Mr. Tucker's strongest arguments is that under the present method of election the United States Senator is responsible in small degree either to the people, who do not elect him, or to the Legislature by which he is chosen. Long before the Senator's term of six years ends the Legislature which elected him has also expired. While the Senator's moral obligation still exists the political body that possessed the power to hold him to a strict accountability is dead when he comes up for re-election, and a new legislative body has taken its place. Thus the Senate of the United States, while holding great political and legislative power, has little responsibility to the people.

This is one of the main reasons why the large majority of United States Senators prefer the present mode of election. Another reason is that the legislative caucus can be much more easily manipulated than the ballot box.—*Record.*

**Uncle Sam's Big Army.**

A Bill to Increase the Number of Enlisted Men to 30,000.

To give the United States army a modern organization and enable it to fight on even terms with European armies employing modern armament and methods is the purpose of a bill that was ordered to be favorably reported last week by the House committee on military affairs. The bill increases the number of enlisted men from 25,000 to 30,000.

With the new methods in force each infantry regiment will contain in future three majors instead of one as at present. The effect of this will be to promote fifty captains to the rank of major; fifty first lieutenants to captaincies, and fifty second lieutenants to first lieutenantcies.

The liberal newspapers of Germany hail the Treaty of Arbitration between the United States and Great Britain as offering the best means of escape from the standing army system, which is draining the life blood of Europe. These organs of the humane and enlightened sentiment of Germany ask why the ratification of the treaty should not lead to similar understandings between other countries. On the other hand the North German Gazette, the organ of the Government and of the spirit of militarism, scoffs at the treaty and praises war as "a great factor in the advance of civilization." Of course those who believe in war as the most logical means of settling international disputes will oppose the treaty, but they are in a feeble minority of the intelligent people of both hemispheres.—*Record.*

**CURIOUS FACTS.**

Trunks are mailed in France. Paris police use electric dark lanterns.

Nearly every city in Mexico has a hospital.

Animals living in absolute darkness have no eyes whatever.

F. H. Sizer, of West Bergen, owns a Bible printed in London 297 years ago.

Fifteen mice in one day is the record of a cat in a book store at Hallowell, Me.

In the last three years 49,000 acres of timber in New York State have been destroyed by forest fires.

Lester Smith, of Coos City, Oregon has lost seventeen hogs since spring by the raids of a bear which, so far, he has been unable to trap or poison.

It is recorded of Dr. John Williams, of Patricksburg, Ind., that for twenty-four years he has guessed correctly the outcome of each Presidential election.

The word "dun" is said to owe its origin to one Joe Dun, a famous balliff about 1500. He is said to have been so shrewd and dexterous in the collection of dues that his name became proverbial.

There is an orange tree in Muskegon, Mich., that is making a record even in that northern climate. The tree is about fourteen inches high, and on the branches are twenty-eight miniature oranges and blossoms in various stages of development, and one fully developed orange. The latter is about the size of an ordinary hen's egg, but round. The tree is planted in a large tin can filled with earth, and is treated as a house plant.

The origin of astronomy is associated with the tower of Babel and the pyramids of Egypt. There are many who hold to the opinion that these ancient structures were erected for astronomical purposes. As early as the time of Job, nearly 2000 years B. C., most of the stars had been divided into constellations. The writer of Job mentions Arcturus, Orion and Pleiades as being familiar. The modern science dates from the labors of Copernicus, Tycho Brahe and Newton.

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In going over our stock we find lots of pieces of Dress Goods which contain full dress patterns, some only skirt lengths, others less, but we have put a price on them all which will move them. In every instance less than FIRST COST.

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