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 to THE COLUMBIAN,
 Bloomsburg, Pa.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1900.

Democratic Candidates.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE,
 R. G. F. KSHINKA,
 (North Side)
 of Briarcreek Twp.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE,
 FRED. IKELER,
 (North Side)
 of Bloomsburg.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE,
 A. P. YOUNG,
 of Greenwood Twp.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE,
 WILLIAM T. CREASY,
 (South Side)
 of Catawissa Twp.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE,
 (North Side)
 GEORGE W. STERNER,
 of Hemlock Twp.

FOR REPRESENTATIVE,
 (South Side)
 C. Z. SCHLICHER,
 of Beaver Twp.

FOR SHERIFF,
 DANIEL KNORR,
 of Locust Twp.

Democratic Standing Committee Call.

A meeting of the standing committee will be held in the Court House, at Bloomsburg, Pa., Saturday, March 17th, 1900, at eleven o'clock a. m., for the purpose of electing five delegates to the State Convention, and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the committee.

C. A. SMALL, Chairman.
 R. G. F. KSHINKA, Sec's.
 W. A. EVERT,

William Hummel has been found guilty of murder in the first degree, at Williamsport, and sentenced to be hung. The jury was quick to arrive at a verdict.

The State Superior Court has affirmed a ruling made recently by Judge Gordon, of Clearfield county that it is illegal for persons holding auctions or a public sale to have friends bid up the property to prevent a sacrifice. Such bidding, while a common custom, is held to be fraudulent and will vitiate the sale.

The full scope of Mr. Quay's scheme has just leaked out. If he can persuade a majority of the Senators to vote to admit him on Stone's appointment, he can easily, he thinks, manage to keep a grip on the office indefinitely. With the precedent once established he can expect the Senate to seat him again on Stone's appointment when he ties up the legislature again. He has picked out Elkin to succeed Stone as governor and he will be as obedient as Stone. With his own chattel governor and a pliable senate, what is to prevent Mr. Quay from misrepresenting this state at Washington indefinitely? All he needs is a handful of retainers in the legislature, who will vote for nobody but him and will refuse to be bound by a caucus because the insurgents so refused. Will the senate place Pennsylvania in this pitiable predicament?—Ex.

Republican papers are now explaining why the President has changed his position in regard to free trade with Puerto Rico which he recommended in a message to congress as follows: "Our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Puerto Rico, and give her products free access to our markets." But the Republican congress disagreed with him, and presto change, he is now in favor of a tariff, but to let himself down easy he recommends that the proceeds of the tariff be used for the benefit of the island. In other words he would levy a tax on the people of Puerto Rico and then give it back to them, less the cost of collection. We don't see much charity in this way of doing business, for the people will be worse off, the cost of collection, than if no tariff was levied. But as Puerto Rico is now under the jurisdiction of the United States by what authority is a tariff levied any way? As well might we levy a tariff on our trade with Arizona and New Mexico which are territories under the jurisdiction of the United States.—Ex.

The infamous Loud bill has made its appearance again in Congress. This time it is more adroitly drawn than on former occasions but it contains all the venom of its predecessors in a more condensed and somewhat more disguised form. The ostensible object and purpose of the bill is to prevent the abuse of the United States mails as a distributing agency for free advertising publications and other matter that does not strictly come under the heading of second-class mail matter. The real object of the bill, however, is to prepare the way for the most insidious, dangerous and accursed of all trusts, namely, a trust in public intelligence. It is designed to enable the rich and powerful to throttle public intelligence by making it impossible for men of average means to establish newspapers and build them up upon their own merits. If the Loud bill should become the law of the land newspapers in the future could only be established by the rich who would be able to pay high rates for circulating them, and for advertising them in other publications, and as the price of all newspapers under such circumstances would greatly increase, this great avenue of public intelligence would be permanently cut off from the millions of homes who depend for news upon weekly publications. Under such a law the great city dailies that are controlled by the money kings and monopolies would become the only open avenue of public intelligence.—Ex.

HOW IS THIS?

In one of the weekly periodicals, which I am receiving, and in which I have always placed full confidence, I find the following:

"As one result of American occupancy of Manila, says the *Wine and Spirit News*, the liquor business has reached enterprising proportions and is now considered as one of the leading, as well as one of the respectable kinds of business. Says one correspondent: On the Escolta, the principal street, only a quarter of a mile long, there were but two places where intoxicating liquors were sold, when we entered the city, whereas, now there are eighteen."

It really seems to me that we are rushing American civilization into our new possessions with a vengeance.

We are told by those who favor the expansion movement that God is in it and overruling it all. Well, if He is, I can only account for it on the theory that I have often heard quoted, "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform." But it really looks to me as if that other *old chap*, about whom our preachers are won't to indulge in some very uncomplimentary remarks, has been getting in some of his fine work. If he has not, I think he may safely leave his interest in that part of his diocese in the hands of McKinley & Co. It is a question in my mind whether he could improve any on their work.

The same paper, from which I quoted above, states further that there are three hundred licensed places in the city where liquors may be obtained, licenses costing \$3.00 per year. The question arises, who grants those licenses? Evidently, the power that grants them, has no idea of crippling the traffic by means of high license. Perhaps, the *old chap*, before leaving the field to our military authorities, suggested the idea that it were better to get the business in good working order before attempting to draw a large revenue from it. He has not yet lost his cunning, and will, no doubt, keep an eye on the working of our military establishment.

The above mentioned paper says, "This monstrous evil should be checked at once. If the President has not the requisite authority, Congress should see to it that the authority is speedily placed in his hands."

If the President has the power to establish a military government in those islands, he, through his subordinates, has the power to grant or revoke license. If the granting of those licenses is a monstrous evil, the President is responsible for it; and we may as well place the blame where it properly belongs.

If those Filipinos are to derive no other benefit from the presence of our troops than to be abundantly supplied with intoxicating drinks, I should say Congress had better call a halt on our military operations and give them an opportunity to try their hand at self government. From my observations, I have no doubt that they are quite as capable of managing their own affairs now as they will be when they become saturated with American beer and whiskey. A LAYMAN.

For Rent.

Proctor Inn, well furnished, from Feb. 1st 1900. Rent cheap. Apply to G. E. Elwell or A. L. Fritz, Bloomsburg, Pa.

Tariff Recommendations for Puerto Rico

PHILIP C. HANNA, FORMER UNITED STATES CONSUL AT SAN JUAN.

I am thoroughly convinced that the tariff question is the all-important question in Puerto Rico. It can never become prosperous until she can buy bread for her people without paying enormous revenue duties for the privilege of bringing that bread into the island, it seems reasonable to me, as an American, that the newly-adopted country should be allowed to purchase the products of the United States and land them on their own shores without paying tribute to any government whatever. I believe the island should have absolute free trade with all parts of the United States. I believe in making Puerto Rico as thoroughly American as possible from the very start, and we cannot make it so unless we treat Puerto Ricans as we do other Americans. They should be allowed to buy Minnesota flour and Dakota wheat and every product which the farmer of the great northwest has to sell, and lay it down in their own country on the same terms that the man in New York receives the same products.

The people in the island are strongly in sympathy with the people of the United States. They are enthusiastic over the fact of their becoming Americans. They long for the introduction of our institutions, of our school system, of our factory system and our agricultural system. There is evidently a great longing among the laboring class of the island for an opportunity to rise to the rank of an American laborer. They realize that toil and honest work in the United States are honorable; that the man who toils in any part of the United States is looked upon with respect; that the laborer of the United States has an ambition to become better situated, to be the owner of his own home, to educate his children, and to properly provide for old age. They are aware that many people of the United States who were once laborers have become wealthy, and already the ambition of the laboring class of the island is being stimulated; they are becoming encouraged by the prospects of the future; they believe that the dawn of a new day for them is at hand, and our government has it within its power to continue to inspire this people with the laudable ambition to make something of themselves, and I believe that the whole question concerning the laboring man of Puerto Rico very largely depends upon free trade between the island and the United States.

I have received several thousand letters from all classes of business men in all parts of the United States concerning this island, very many of them asking me when the proper time will arrive for them to invest capital in Puerto Rico. Several of them have said: "We propose to establish factories in this densely populated island, and teach the people there, who have been accustomed to labor at very low wages, to labor in the factories that we shall establish. We hope to be in position," most of them say, "to pay them better wages than they ever received in the past. We understand that they are not a class of people acquainted with strikes, and by giving them better wages than they have had heretofore, and making labor respectable among them, we believe our factories can be successfully conducted in Puerto Rico." Such is the tenor of hundreds of the letters I have received, but with the present high rates of duty upon all building material, machinery and all kinds of goods coming from the United States to Puerto Rico it would be impossible for these men to establish their factories here for the benefit of the Puerto Rican laborer.

There are nearly a million people in this group of islands. It is said to be the most densely populated portion of the globe. The greater part of the people are poor, but I believe they are more inclined to work and earn an honest living than the people of any Latin-American country that I was ever in. When the duties are entirely taken off of American products, so that American manufacturers can have branch factories in Puerto Rico, thousands of these people will be educated in the factory. They will be inspired with the desire not only to make their living but to become home owners, as many of our workmen are in the United States.

Puerto Ricans are not bad people. Remove from them the terrible temptation produced by enforced hunger and nakedness; give to these people an opportunity to earn an honest living; teach them that toil is honorable; build for them factories instead of forts; teach them to handle tools instead of bayonets, and we shall produce upon them a moral effect which the Spaniards failed to produce, and make of them a people whom we shall not be

ashamed to recognize as fellow-citizens of our grand republic.

In other words, free trade between the United States and Puerto Rico is a moral question. It is practical religion, and our people can never supply the missing link in the moral education and religious training of this people, without giving them an opportunity to earn a living and without treating them as we treat other Americans. I can see no more justice in compelling Puerto Ricans to pay for the privilege of landing American bread on Puerto Rican shores than I do in compelling the people of Massachusetts to pay for bringing Iowa wheat or Iowa pork into the State of Massachusetts. The only difference is that the people of Massachusetts are more capable of paying such duties at the present time than are the poor people of Puerto Rico. Over 80,000,000 of people have complained of the unjust burdens placed by Spain upon her subjects in these islands during all the years of the past, and now is the opportunity of our people to prove that Americans are better than Spaniards and to give them a sort of kindergarten object lesson by giving them cheap bread and cheap clothing to wear, by placing before them an opportunity to earn a living and encouraging every enterprise calculated to make them a better people.

I find that there is only about one-tenth of the land of this group of islands under actual cultivation at the present time. The heavy taxes which Spain has placed upon the people of her colonies have crushed the once prosperous farmer, and the heavy additional war taxes which Spain has placed upon this island during the past year have sent into bankruptcy a very large number of the men of the island. All through Puerto Rico to-day stand the ruins of once valuable sugar estates. The great sugar factories have fallen down, the machinery has been eaten by rust, and the land has passed into the hands of those who held the mortgages. If our people in the United States would take an unselfish interest in dealing with these people in accordance with the Golden Rule; and receive in exchange for our products which we have to sell to this island the products of Puerto Rico on the very same terms that one State receives the products of another State without charging duty for admission this fertile land would again bloom and blossom and prosper as it never before prospered, and the whole civilized world would observe the success of our glorious American institutions in lifting up a downtrodden people and bettering their moral and financial condition.

This island being small, its products which may be shipped to the United States will not be of sufficient amount to materially affect the rich producers of our great country. We should not look upon the Puerto Rican producers of sugar, tobacco and coffee as our competitors. We should regard them as our newly adopted brothers, who have been imprisoned for four hundred and six years, in whom we all have a common interest. We should show to the world that we delight in their uplifting, in their prosperity, in their becoming respectable laborers, and in their becoming intelligent Americans. We should insist upon their enjoying the same blessings and advantages that the people in every part of our great country enjoy.

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F. P. PURSEL.

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Now we will tell you about the new spring merchandise.

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F. P. PURSEL

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