

CAMERON COUNTY PRESS.

H. H. MULLIN, Editor. Published Every Thursday.

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Obituary notices over five lines, 10 cents per line. Simple announcements of births, marriages and deaths will be inserted free.

Business cards, five lines or less, 15 cents per year; over five lines, at the regular rates of advertising.

No local inserted for less than 75 cents per line.

JOB PRINTING. The Job Department of the Press is complete and affords facilities for doing the best class of work.

No paper will be discontinued until arrangements are made for the payment of the balance due.

Papers sent out of the county must be paid for in advance.

In the abundant talk about bacteria, during these later years, there is cause for alarm to those in whom "a little germ" knowledge is a dangerous thing.

These were labeled with great care and ingenuity, until it seemed as if every disease was at last provided with its specific cause; and as soon as that was done, a farther advance in science made us aware that even a specific disease-germ has no power except under favorable conditions, where the body is disposed to that disease.

Ferdinand Hueppe, the German professor of hygiene, has recently declared that the causes of illness can no longer be regarded as if they were as simple as a problem in botany.

No germ, however deadly, can be the sole cause of disease, nor can it produce poisonous effects in more than one body in four, even though it enter them.

The conditions prevailing in the cells and fluids of a given body may change the deadly germs of tuberculosis or cholera to harmless products.

"When no susceptibility to disease exists, we may harbor the bacillus with impunity."

Therefore, while no care should be omitted to bring about the best sanitary conditions, we need not give way to hysterical horror over germs.

By keeping the body in a condition of good general health, we are doing all in our power to thwart the criminal class of bacilli and to give the policeman germ a chance.

A systematic attack is being made on the Philadelphia soup houses, on the ground of their pauperizing influences.

The attack, says an exchange of that city, comes from within, and is led by the board of women managers of one of the houses, who believe that they have established their accusation by the result of a house-to-house canvass.

This canvass showed that of 248 families assisted by one soup society, only 11, by the most liberal construction of conditions, could be regarded as needing the aid.

This soup house system is the oldest charity in Philadelphia, having been in existence nearly a century.

The first society was organized in 1805. Others followed at various intervals, until now there are 11 houses in the city, where soup is dispensed to about 80,000 persons each winter.

About 800,000 quarts of soup and more than 240,000 loaves of bread are given away each season, at a cost to the charity inclined of more than \$25,000.

There are three men in Wichita who between them have held public office for 150 years.

Archibald A. Glenn, now city treasurer, heads the list. He was once lieutenant governor of Illinois, and held various offices there for 42 years.

He has been in office in Wichita for ten years. Col. Beal, for the last five years United States court commissioner here, was for 40 years clerk of the court in one of the back counties of Kentucky.

E. B. Jewett, now assistant postmaster, has been in office 15 years in Wichita. He was police judge two years, justice of the peace four years, probate judge eight years, and postmaster four years.

He is now assistant postmaster, and, if appointed again this fall, as he expects to be, will have held office nearly a quarter of a century.

In a fashionable church, in Fifth avenue, New York, marriages are performed free, if desired, and an announcement is made to that effect.

"If a clerk comes here to be married," says the pastor, "and insists on having an organ wedding march, it means \$25; if he wants the choir, it means more; if he wants flowers, ribbons and special ushers, it means a great deal more. But if he comes here and says: 'I want to get married,' and dispenses with all these things, it costs him nothing."

PORTO RICAN QUESTION.

Spanish and Other European Aliens Impoverish the Islanders.

An important point in the Porto Rican question still seems misunderstood by a large number of people.

Three-quarters of the land in Porto Rico is owned by Spanish grandees and other European aliens, and who live in Europe, where all of the net earnings from the products of their lands are sent.

This is a system that has impoverished the islanders, and brought them to their present unfortunate industrial and social condition.

From 15 to 20 cents a day is the average pay of laborers in Porto Rico, and three-quarters of the population—if not more—are laborers who cultivate the lands and harvest the crops for their European owners.

Two and a half years ago, when our relations with Spain were becoming acute, these Spanish and European owners of the lands in Porto Rico foresaw a probable war, the early withdrawal of Spanish authority, and eventual free trade between the United States and Porto Rico.

They therefore have been warehousing their staple crops of sugar and tobacco, so that now vast quantities are in store and accumulating, ready for shipment under free trade with the United States.

To some extent American sugar and tobacco trusts have financial interests in, or complete ownership of, these crops.

Of this there can be no doubt. The Porto Rican working people have nothing to lose by the imposition of the duty upon the products of their island entering the United States.

Their work has been done and paid for at the prevailing rates of wages for labor—from 15 to 20 cents a day.

The protests against the tariff that come from Porto Ricans were from those who represented the owners of the lands and the warehoused crops.

The protests are not coming from the laboring people of the islands who will be the beneficiaries of the act.

The imposition of this tariff creates a fund of several million dollars, which is drawn entirely from aliens or American trusts.

This money goes back to Porto Rico for the employment of Porto Ricans by our government in the permanent improvement of the island.

The wages our government will pay will be higher than those paid by the land owners, and will tend to permanently raise the rates of wages all over Porto Rico.

This would be impossible under immediate free trade, so, it must be plain, free trade would only benefit those whose oppression of Porto Rican labor would remain undisturbed, and who could thus all the better compete with the products of American labor in the same articles.

Immediate free trade could only benefit aliens and trusts. The temporary tariff benefits all Americans and only injures aliens and trusts.

A couple of years of this, and the Porto Ricans will be in receipt of wages approximating to those paid to the laborers on the sugar and tobacco plantations in the United States, from 75 cents to a dollar a day, and at the end of the two years the tariff is to remain in force the free admission of Porto Rican products into the United States will not have a disturbing effect upon those products of the mainland with which they will compete.

It is impossible, in view of these facts, which are confirmed by official reports received from the officers of the United States stationed in Porto Rico, for any sincere or informed person to point out where the products of Porto Rico for two years will injure either Porto Ricans or Americans.

On the contrary, it is a distinct benefit to all whom the United States desires to benefit. The more this subject is studied the more this will become apparent.

This is a case where expediency is synonymous with justice to our fellow countrymen in Porto Rico and at home. That is our first duty, and the tariff permits it.

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EXPANSION NEEDED.

Favorite Pastime of the Filipinos Is to Burn American Soldiers.

Charles H. Clark, a St. Louis boy, now fighting in the Philippines, had a thrilling experience with a band of savage natives, into whose hands he fell, last January.

In a letter to his mother, which was only recently received, he tells of his capture, and how he was rescued by a squad of Colorado troopers, who arrived just in time to prevent the natives from casting him into a roaring fire, which, he states, they had prepared to incinerate him.

The St. Louis Republic, a democratic paper, tells the story which shows how utterly unfit the Filipinos are to be intrusted with self-government, let alone with the government of Europeans and Americans.

Clark is 22 years old and a member of company B, Twenty-second United States infantry, which is now fighting around Manila, a small town not far from Manila.

About a month before the holidays Clark's company was ordered to the mountains to break up and rout the little bands of Filipinos which were engaged in guerrilla warfare with the Americans.

It was a tedious march, but the irksomeness of the journey did not compare with the hardships they had to undergo in the mountains.

Clark says they could not carry a large store of provisions with them, and the rations soon gave out. Then for 37 days they were compelled to subsist on rice and water.

At length the order came for the company to return to Mexico, and there was almost a demonstration among the troops.

On the return march three of the soldiers were taken ill with chills and fever, with which the troops had already suffered to a marked degree.

There was no way to carry the sick men, and as they were unable to march it was decided to leave them behind. Young Clark was one of the unfortunate trio.

A week's rations, such as they were, were left with them, and the troops kept on the march, as they were under orders to reach Mexico at a certain date.

When they had lain in the mountains a day without recuperating their lost energy, one of the invalids started out for the Tenth Colorado camp, 22 miles distant.

On the third day after his departure seven natives came across the two soldiers. Clark's companion deserted him at once, and the St. Louis boy, who was too sick to run, was seized by the Filipinos.

They put him through all the tortures they knew. They stripped him of his clothing, each of them taking a piece of the uniform and putting it on in some ridiculous fashion which he thought appropriate.

When they had satisfied themselves in this way they tied Clark's hands and feet and laid him out on the ground with a guard over him, while the others collected wood and built a fire. Then they formed in a circle around it and danced.

It was doubtless their intention to cast Clark in the fire, and they were making merry over the prospect when a squad of ten of the Colorado troopers came upon the scene.

They had come at the solicitation of the sick soldier who had gone into their camp from the mountains.

The Filipinos started to run, but the Colorado boys fired in the air and threatened to shoot them down.

The seven natives were taken prisoners of war and led back to the camp. Clark's companion, who had run away, came up, and all of them went to the Colorado camp, where they remained until recuperated, when they joined their company in Mexico.

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