

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, -- EDITOR & PROP

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EDITORIAL.

EVOLUTION OF WAR ISSUES.

With ex-President Cleveland and Wm. J. Bryan expressing very decided views against an imperialistic colonial policy and the McKinley spokesman, General Grosvenor, announcing to the Ohio Republican convention the President's adhesion to a policy of that character—either that or fooling his hearers—we have a hint of issues that in the nature of things must follow the war. The Ohio declaration means conquest and the adoption of a system of colonies from the Occident to the Orient. It is very taking these times of war excitement, with bulletins from armies and fleets. They stir the blood, although there is danger in it. The American flag, which General Grosvenor declares most permanently remain where the war plants it, is now flying over Cuban soil, at the Philippines, and may soon float over Porto Rico, the Canaries and the Ladrone islands. In the declaration of war we pledged our faith by the unanimous vote of both houses of Congress—

That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification, thereof, and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

There is something grand in this declaration. It commanded the respect and admiration of the world. We declared to mankind that we have no purpose of permanent conquest. Two months after and we have the Republican leader of the House declaring conquest is our purpose. There is no dishonor in pulling down the American flag where we have planted it by force of arms if we do so of our own free will and in keeping faith. In the only other foreign war of occupation in which the country has engaged we "pulled down" the American flag from "the halls of the Montezumas," and thought it dishonorable. It was a victory of moderation and good sense.—Post.

FOR A CLEAN LEGISLATURE.

There was not a bill passed by the last Legislature which did not first have the sanction of Senator Quay. If he were opposed to a bill it was scheduled to be killed, no matter who introduced it or how beneficial it would have been to the State. If it did not win his approval in some way it was ruthlessly destroyed.

During the last session of the Legislature, as in other sessions, Quay was the whole Legislature. Nothing could be done without him. He sent his orders from wherever he was at the time and these were obeyed. The capital was not Harrisburg but Washington or wherever else the Senator was. Probably no other Legislature in the world would take a recess of a day or two in order that commissioners might visit the boss and ascertain his will in relation to certain legislation then pending and which the Legislature feared to treat in the absence of definite instructions from the "old man." Quay owned the Legislature and owned it because he knew his men.

Quay wants another Legislature. He wants to own it as surely as he owned the last one. He will most assuredly own a few of its members, for these have been tried and found not wanting in willingness to obey him. He may succeed in corrupting a few others elected to oppose him, for he quickly learns a man. No dependence can be placed upon any man nominated by the machine or who has had dealings with the machine.

The way to have a clean Legislature is to elect the Democratic candidates. The way to shear Quay's power over the Legislature is to elect Democrats. The way to crush Quay's corrupt machine is to support the Democratic ticket. The way to prevent Quay again going to Congress, to prevent him owning a Governor, to prevent the lootings that disgraced the last body, to prevent the black-mailing of corporations, is to vote for Democratic candidates.—Harrisburg Patriot.

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THE WAR SITUATION.

The decision to carry the war into Spain was officially announced yesterday, and Commodore Watson, with the fast cruiser Newark for his flag ship sailed for Santiago to take under his command a powerful armored squadron, including the battle ships Iowa and Oregon, together with cruisers and colliers, to "proceed at once off the Spanish coast." This energetic forward movement is expected to have the most salutary influence in enlightening the Spanish people, and hastening their overtures for peace. The Spanish-people have been kept in ignorance of the real situation by the weak and incompetent Government, and the appearance of a formidable fleet at one of their ports will be such a demonstration as cannot be readily explained away. It is believed that when the Spanish populace learns that Cervera's fleet is helpless, or that it has been destroyed, and that Camara has abandoned Spain to undertake a fruitless and utterly ridiculous mission, the Spanish Government will either be compelled to sue for peace, or confront the wrath of the people, when they find that they have been so incompetently led and shamefully deceived.

Admiral Camara's move seems like the height of folly, and is puzzling because it appears utterly futile. If he should succeed in getting coal enough to reach the Philippines, he will fall an easy victim to Admiral Dewey, who, no doubt, will have received reinforcements with powerful guns with which to erect new and strengthen existing fortifications long before the Spanish fleet can reach Manila, and even if the first expedition, which is probably at Manila now, should miscarry, Admiral Dewey is more than a match for the Spaniard. If on the other hand Admiral Camara decides not to proceed east, but turns about and returns to Spain, Commodore Watson may reach Gibraltar in time to bottle him up in the Mediterranean, and the Spanish coast will be defenceless.

The American lines are steadily closing in on Santiago, and the enemy is in plain sight of our positions. A serious engagement may come at any time, but it is pretty certain that no rash, premature and decisive onslaughts, attended with useless loss of life, without securing adequate results, will be undertaken. General Shafter is proceeding with deliberation and care. He says, "I only await the landing of sufficient supplies to begin the movement on Santiago," but he will give no intimation as to when the movement will take place. Late reports from our army, near Santiago, say that the Spanish are defended by fortifications much stronger than was supposed, and that there is a larger body of troops in the city than was reported previously. Our forces are said to be lacking in artillery as yet, and not until the field guns are placed and General Shafter's army is in complete readiness will the advance be made.—Ledger.

NATURAL AND UNNATURAL ANNEXATIONS.

Ex-President Cleveland, in his address at the Lawrenceville school on Tuesday, warned his hearers that "foreign conquest and unnatural annexation are dangerous perversions of our national mission."

These words are well chosen. There are natural and therefore necessary and safe annexations to the Union. There are unnatural and hence unnecessary and dangerous annexations.

The purchase and annexation of Louisiana was natural and necessary. It gave to us a vast extent of rich and contiguous territory, but, more important still, it brought with it control of the mouth of the great Mississippi, which Lincoln said in 1861 must go forever "unvexed to the sea."

The annexation of Texas was necessary for similar reasons, as was also the acquisition of California and the Pacific slope. To fulfil our destiny and be able to live at peace with all the world as the dominating power of the Western Hemisphere it was necessary that the Union of States should span the continent.

Every bit of territory annexed to the United States was acquired primarily because it was for the best interests of the United States as a nation.

No plea of pseudo-philanthropy, no dream of a world-girdling empire, and especially no scheme of private ambition or jobbery, has shaped the extension of our boundaries.

When the annexation of the Hawaiian and the Philippine Islands is proposed the case is entirely different. They are not necessary to us. They are not contiguous. The nearest group is 2,000 and the other 7,000 miles from our Pacific coast, or 5,000 and 10,000 miles from our seat of government. Their population is alien in a sense that none of our immigration has been. They do not fit and cannot be made to fit into our system. They must be governed for a considerable time by some form of despotism.

A coaling station we already have in Hawaii, where our paramount influence is conceded by all nations. We can and shall obtain the same privileges at Manila, whatever disposition be made of the Philippines. But to set up Satrapies for the Sons of Somebodies in the far Pacific and in Oceania, and to convert a war for freeing Cuba into a war of conquest for the benefit of spoilsmen and adventurers, is so foreign to all our principles and traditions and is so dangerous in its possibilities that it is gratifying to find arrayed against the scheme Democratic leaders so wide apart in other matters as are William J. Bryan and Grover Cleveland.—World.

GEO. A. JENKS FOR GOVERNOR.

Continued from 1st page.

unless he has recently undergone a change of heart, he is still to be put down as a Silver Democrat.

AS A CANDIDATE.

Mr. Jenks Discusses the Governorship, His Candidacy and the Obnoxious Machine.

When Mr. Jenks' name was prominently mentioned as the available candidate, on the Democratic State Ticket this year, he was interviewed at his home in Brookville, Pa., and freely expressed his views on prominent State issues. It plainly shows a positive man, clear in his comprehension and fearless in determination. The following are extracts from this interview:

"I spent the afternoon discussing State politics with this staunch old pillar of democracy. His ideas are as strong, interesting and solid as his character and personality. His views on the questions that are so deeply interesting to the people of Pennsylvania at this time are especially strong, and his remedies for the evils of Quayism and all it portends are vigorous and effective. Speaking of vigor reminds me of the man. He is the personification of vigor—strong and sturdy. His wife says he never enjoyed better health nor walked with a more elastic, easy step.

"I suggested that Mr. Jenks would announce his candidacy, and he said: "I was never a candidate for any office until I was nominated. Then I was nothing else. I devoted my whole time and attention to the matter after that. That is my position in this case."

"You have surely thought over this question, haven't you, Mr. Jenks?" I asked.

"To be frank with you I never gave it a thought until this week," he answered, "because I had never announced myself a candidate, never asked anybody to be for me and had no idea that I was being considered in that connection. You see I am not in politics, and never have been. In all my life I have never been a practical politician."

"I will not make a fight for the place and antagonize anybody. I have never done that and never expect to. If I should be a candidate before the Altoona convention it would be entirely through a sense of duty, with the feeling that I was aiding the Commonwealth or the Democratic party, or both."

"I suppose you have figured out the chances of democratic success, have you not?" I asked.

"I don't know what the chances of success are," he replied, "but that would not enter into the question with me or influence me in the fight in the event of my nomination. I only know that if I am called upon I will go into the fight and do the very best I can. I would exert my supreme efforts in the name of democracy. Having done the best I could I would be satisfied."

"While I said I did not actually know what the chances of success are, I should think people seem to be arms against a pernicious system. I have long wondered why they tolerated imperialism in their affairs so long. But ever a worm will turn, and from what I have been able to learn the people of Pennsylvania have had the last straw load onto their backs. It seems to me that the most evil, contemptible phase of the situation is that which makes legislation of the great Commonwealth common merchandise, the lowering of the people's highest, greatest right to the level of the dealer's tables and shelves."

"That is the very root of the whole despicable scheme. Cut that up by the roots and you cut up the entire Republican State machine, you take away its very life, rob it of its existence and send the professional politicians who are looking for the people either to the penitentiaries or to labor. This business of making legislators a herd for purchase is a terrible thing, and the people have been brought to a sudden realization of the injustice they have suffered."

"The using of public funds for private purposes is another of the foods upon which this outrageous octopus subsists, and, I believe, should properly be rated as the second greatest evil. The creation of public offices solely to milk the people for mercenary ends and a thousand and one such things make this organization infamous all over our country as the most corrupt known to exist."

"It is a well-known fact I know men of character, and so does nearly everybody in Pennsylvania—who spend practically their whole lives in politics, doing nothing else whatever, knowing, or believing, that some day their labor will be rewarded by this machine with the people's cash. Such men are coming in to our midst on every hand, the number is growing and the system becomes proportionately more rotten."

"What would you suggest to destroy or cripple this nefarious machine—rather, what would you attempt to do in the event of your nomination as the Democratic candidate for governor?"

"That is a little far ahead," he answered, "and I will answer merely on assumption. There can be no question there is a remedy—and a wholesome, effective one. Like all such remedies, it lies with the people. In the event of my nomination, as you suggest, and supposing that I would attempt to destroy this power, as I most certainly would with all my strength, I would first appeal to the people. I would travel about pleading with them to elect honest men to the Senate and House of Representatives. I would devote my energies to aiding in the election of such men. They could dispose of the question."

"Let us assume a little more, Mr. Jenks," I suggested. "Suppose you were elected governor and that a fair proportion of the Assembly were honest men, what then?"

"An honest governor with one-third of the assemblymen honest and fearless enough to stand up against the machine in support of a veto could effectually block corruption and be of incalculable value to the people. Even with such a small force of allies in the legislative bodies I could be of service to the people and I would."

"Yes, in that position I would defy all of them. I firmly believe I could defeat all of the blackmailing schemes. I am not a practical politician, but I do know right from wrong, and never in my life have I studied for an instant over opposition that involved these two questions. I would always do what I believed to be right. I would be entirely free and independent. Fear of future political battles would never disturb me, for if I go into politics now I will never do so again. My future political career would give me no trouble. I would have none under any circumstances."

"If I were nominated, as you suggest, I would at once go to the leaders of every sort who are striving to wipe out this system, and plead with them for the election of honest assemblymen everywhere. To be frank with you, I really believe there will be more than one-third of the members of the next Legislature who will not be members of the machine. I believe it is not only possible, but probable, that one-half of the next Assemblymen will be decidedly against this corruption."

"Supposing that to be the case, and that you were elected governor, do you think anything could be done that would be of lasting effect?"

"I most certainly do," Mr. Jenks answered. "If, as I said, the assembly-

men were honest, I am positive of it. In that event I could put through the Legislature several measures that would break up the organized plunderers, rob them of their vocation and protect the people from their bold attacks, at least in the direction we find them pursuing now. I think a single administration of that sort, with the lawmaking body and the governor working hand in hand for the public good, would be such a revelation to the people that it would be many years before they allowed themselves to be shackled again."

Being asked how, in the event of his nomination, he would conduct his campaign, Mr. Jenks said:

"Immediately after my nomination I would have a meeting with the chairman of the Democratic State Committee, with his committeemen and with the party men who always help direct such affairs. I would discuss with them the proper time for beginning the contest, and how it should be conducted to the greatest advantage. I would not attempt to make a canvass such as is made by the Republican machine. Personally, I would wait until a time agreed upon for commencing the battle, then pitch in and fight it out with might and main until election day. I would stump the State."

As he spoke, there was a firm, pleasant expression on Mr. Jenks' face. His manner is ever the same. He is at all times cool and collected. His eyes are bright and sparkling, and his abounding good nature and unselfishness shine out through them unmistakably. His lips are as though carved by stone, firm and decisive, yet his mouth is ever pleasant, and a laugh seems probable the next second.

His voice does not for a moment hinder the thought. It is in entire accord with his whole manner and being. It is gentle, persuasive, but firm, and indicates that the mind that moves it stands ready to make good its every utterance.

"Judge" Jenks, as his townsmen call him, is a remarkable man. His ideas are as broad as the commonwealth is long and his pleasant countenance and kind words carry happiness and warmth wherever he goes. If he has an enemy his townsmen don't know it.

To say that his age is 62 years has unfitted Mr. Jenks for the task of making a fight in a gubernatorial campaign would be cruel. He is a sturdy, strong and restless as the average man of 50. His practice as an attorney is perhaps one of the largest in the State.

Providence seems to have taken hold of this man's hand when he was but a very small boy. His whole career indicates that this same Providence has kept leading him along the straight and narrow path through the years of life as though no change had come over him. His friends look upon his every undertaking with sublime confidence. The people of his own and the surrounding counties know him equally well. People all over the State have the same confidence in him.

Excursions to the Seashore.

Atlantic City, Cape May, Sea Isle City, Ocean City, N. J., Rehoboth, Del., and Ocean City, Md., are the choicest of the Atlantic coast resorts, and any one of them may be visited under these arrangements.

The dates of the excursions are July 7 and 21, and August 4 and 18. A special train of Pullman parlor cars and day coaches will leave Pittsburg on above-mentioned dates at 8.55 A. M., arriving at Altoona 12.15 P. M., where stop for dinner will be made, reaching Philadelphia 6.25 P. M. and arriving at Atlantic City, via the Delaware River Bridge route, at 8.40 P. M. Passengers may also spend the night in Philadelphia, and proceed to the shore the following day.

Tickets will be sold from the stations at the rates named below:—
Altoona (dinner).....\$8.00 12.35 P. M.
Clearfield..... 8.00 9.31 A. M.
Phillipsburg..... 8.00 10.12 "
Tyrone..... 7.65 12.56 P. M.

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