The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, - - EDITOR & PROP

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EDITORIAL.

WHY DID WE ANNEX IT.

The following is a remarkable utterance from the North American, Philadelphia, John Wanamaker's paper, and considered a staunch republican journal:

"Will some of the gentlemen who insist upon treating the Porto Ricans as aliens after we have invited them under our flag kindly answer a question? What did we annex Porto Rico for?

"Was it simply for a coaling station? Then why did we take an island with thirty-five hundred square miles of territory and a million people? If we were merely looking for strategic naval bases we could have found a better one in St. Thomas, which would have been a naval station pure and simple, with no swarming population to embarrass us with its products and its complaints. But if we were looking for expansion, why do we refuse to expand? Why should we drag a populous island by main force within our national fence and then kick it out again?

"The tobacco growers and sugar growers of the United States seem to think that the only things to be considered are their interests. But the Porto Ricans have not only interests but rights. If we refuse to make them a part of the United States they have an indisputable right to manage their own affairs—to decide what tariff they will enforce against us and what against the outside world. Porto Rico has nearly three times as many inhabitants now as Massachusetts had in 1773, but when the British Parliament said that the people of Massachusetts should pay a duty of three pence a pound on tea the Bostonians put on their war paint and threw the taxed tea into the harbor.

What excuse can we give before the bar of conscience for ourselves rebelling against taxation without representation and then imposing it on the Porto Ricans? How can we praise our ancestors for revolting against the payment of a duty on one single article if we make the Porto Ricans pay duties several times as high on thousands of articles, including the very one that furnished the occasion for the Boston Tea Party?

We have been drifting a long way from our national mooring of late. It is time to get back.

THE PORTO RICO TROUBLE.

In his annual message the President gave a clear and convincing summary of the reasons why it is "our plain duty to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico and give her products free access to our markets." The President's own generals and commissioners in Porto Rico emphasized the need. They reported to him that great destitution and suffering, involving one-half the population of the island, exist as the result of a long trade paralysis and the hurricane of last year. The Porto Rico patriots who welcomed our flag as a deliverance from Spanish oppression have said openly at Washington that the condition of their unfortunate people is far worse under American sovereignty than it ever was under Spanish rule.

The plain provision of the Constitution that "all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States" was cited in support of the President's recommendation. Whether or not trade follows the flag, the Constitution certainly does. Chief-Justice Marshall declared that the Constitution "extends to all places over which the Government rules."

But all at once a clamor arose from the tobacco and fruit growers and other favorites or victims of our paternal tariff laws, insisting that they were not for "freedom" or "expansion" to this extent. They maintained that if "trade follows the flag" the tariff must go with it. They howled "freetrader" and even "trator" at Mr. McKinley. And so frightened were the Republican members of the Ways and Means Committee that they reported to the House an opinion that "Congress has power to govern Porto Rico and the Philippines independent of the Constitution." They proposed a quarter of the Dingley duties for Porto Rico—taking the bread and everything else the poor devils should buy from this country and taxing our people upon imports from this one of our possessions!

Mr. McKinley, confronted with a possible loss of high-tariff votes, has weakened and will sign whatever bill the Dalzells and Grosvenors may send to him.

Every two or three weeks during the winter put a pint or so of salt in the stove, furnace or fireplace when there is a good fire burning. The burning of the salt cleans the chimney so that no soot can remain in it. When this is done your chimney will never "burn out," and is effectual.

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Reg. Asr	C.J. Bergstresser, 23		H. Stover, 66
J. P.	J. Royer, 23		J. M. Garbrick, 67
Sch. Dr	Wm. Rupert, 26		J. Dunkle, 52
" "	Wm. Decker, 39		S. H. Shafer, 62
Ov. of Pr	D. Barshberger, 29		D. Dorman, 63
Tax Cl	Robt. Harness, 21		L. Emerick, 70
Supr	C. Johnson, 51		Wm. F. Miller, 67
"	Sam. Showers, 29		A. L. Shaffer, 39
Aud	Adam Decker, 25		Ed. Peck, 67
Clerk	A. G. Robb, 28		C. S. Hoy, 64
Walker W. P.			
Judge	D. P. Shamp, 17		H.A. Brumgard, 54
Insp	J. C. Showers, 18		Geo. Young, 55
Reg. Asr	C. Zimmerman, 19		W. A. Royer, 55
J. P.	J. Royer, 24		J. M. Garbrick, 50
Sch. Dr	Wm. Rupert, 35		Jacob Dunkle, 45
" "	Wm. Decker, 16		S. H. Shafer, 48
Ov. of Pr	D. Harshberger, 45		D. Dorman, 29
Tax Cl	Robt. Harness, 14		L. Emerick, 60
Supr	Claude Johnson, 18		Wm. F. Miller, 52
"	Sam Showers, 11		A. L. Shaffer, 58
Aud	Adam Decker, 15		Ed. Peck, 56
Clerk	A. G. Robb, 14		C. S. Hoy, 59
Union.			
Judge	Owen Underwood 56		J H Stover 57
Ins	Chas R Eckenroth 70		A B Hall 41
J of P	J G Humes 62		
Sch Dr	T G Ingram 62		Howard Sholl 92
"	E P Barton 59		George Lucas 42
Or of Pr	E M Lucas 71		David Spotts 38
Tax Col	E E Erhard 63		S K Emerick 49
Supr	E P Barton 31		Warren Launsbary 79
"	Philip Brower 54		J B Alexander 58
Aud	M H Davidson 54		Jos Davidson 56
Clerk	S Lundy Lucas 69		Jas Holt 39
Worth.			
Judge	Alex Chaney, 50		Philip Spotts, 51
Insp	Geo. R. Pries, 51		Wm Young, 45
J. of P	A. S. Price, 48		A. S. Williams, 51
Sch. Dr	H C. Woodring, 59		P. W. Young, 36
"	H. H. Osman, 49		Jas. B. Williams, 39
"	Geo. Ammerman, 48		G.C. Woodring, 18
	and Lloyd Stine, 29		
Ov. of Pr	Jacob Woodring, 53		A. J. Johnston, 44
Tax Cl	S.U. Harshbarger, 60		John Wining, 40
Supv	J. H. Patton, 38		Henry Bennett, 51
"	Harry Thompson, 43		Christ Reese, 52
Aud	A. S. Price, 45		A. B. Williams, 49

WASHINGTON COMMENT.

The currency bill has passed the senate by a vote of 46 to 29, the other members of the senate being paired on opposing sides. The democrats offered a number of amendments, all of which were defeated by about the same vote. The most serious struggle of the day was on the adoption of the miserable evasion offered by the finance committee declaring that nothing in the bill should be construed to prevent the adoption of bimetallism by international consent. This clause was inserted in order to permit Senator Wolcott to vote for the bill without going back on all his expressed convictions and to enable him to retain the fond delusion that he still stands a chance of re-election next year. The bill now goes to a conference committee of the senate and house, where it is believed that the differences between the two bills will speedily be harmonized by the cohesive force of public plunder.

The democrats have good cause to rejoice. It is now fairly evident that they have defeated the three great administration measures—the Porto Rican tariff, the Hanna ship subsidy and the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. The first named will probably be beaten despite the fact that the president has abandoned his declared position in favor of free trade with Porto Rico on the ground that he is obliged to do so in order to secure the passage of any Porto Rican bill by the house and senate. He expresses his solicitude for the people of that island and says that half a loaf is better for them than no bread.

No president ever made a more abject surrender than Mr. McKinley has made on the Porto Rican tariff bill, now before the house. He stated positively in his annual message that he favored free trade for Porto Rico, and when the republicans in the house first talked about putting a duty on Porto Rican products, he even went so far as to intimate to democrats he met that he would be glad if they would help defeat the proposed duty. Now, he has turned a complete somersault, and announced, in advance of its passage, that he would sign the bill imposing a 25 per cent duty. No wonder republicans in congress laugh when Mr. McKinley is spoken of as their leader.

NOT SAVAGES.

When the British went to war the Boers were regarded as savages who would probably mutilate the dead, kill prisoners and respect neither flags of truce nor the Red Cross. Now an English officer's letter, printed in the Manchester "Guardian," tells how at Magersfontein the Boers showed an act of chivalry of which any race might be proud. A small vanguard of British were hopelessly but pluckily charging up to the very Boer trenches, when the Dutchmen, moved by the spectacle, threw aside their guns and dragged the invaders into their lines unharmed. Then when they had been disarmed the Boer commander said: "There you are free to go, and we will not reopen fire until you are within your own line."

CIVILIZATION AND EMPIRE.

In British India to-day there is a famine district inhabited by 40,000,000 human beings and a scarcity district containing 21,000,000 more. To meet these conditions the Government has organized a public relief system which provides for the feeding of a population about equal to that of Greater New York—3,500,000. Famine, drought and disease are therefore absolute masters of the situation.

The English newspapers contain only the vaguest and incidental references to this vast misery. The English Government is expending upward of $1,000,000 a day in trying to destroy two brave republics, in trying to steal the liberties and the rights of a peaceable people.

SINCE the spring elections are over the politicians will commence framing legislative timber for the struggle this fall. One thing is certain that no democrat will be nominated who will not pledge himself to oppose Quayism in this state. The republicans will be divided on this point; the Love-Dale element certainly would like to have a straight Quay republican ticket nominated this year. One thing can be depended upon, and that is that no representative, democrat or republican, of a Quay stripe, will be sent to Harrisburg, from this county.

THERE is an apparent scramble among certain republicans in this county to get off the Quay bandwagon, since the "Old Man's" chances of getting back to the senate are growing slimer every day. In this move you do not see the small fry, but the big fish. They are todying to the other side and are ready to come in out of the wet. Hastings seems to be successful in licking some chaps into line and he, at the same time, has a good memory and will not soon forget