

The Dispatch

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THE CANAL QUESTION.

The letter of J. M. Goodwin, of the Ohio River and Lake Erie Canal Commission, published elsewhere in this issue, contains a vast store of technical information with regard to various canal projects for the future. The points to which the water route between Chicago and the seaboard are interesting in their bearing on the Western Pennsylvania project. The new point which Mr. Goodwin brings out in this letter is the value of the canal as a military project. He shows that on the scale planned for the canal, vessels of larger and heavier freight capacity than the Great Lakes and Erie Canal could pass from Pittsburgh to Lake Erie in thirty days. If the naval protection of our vast lake-shore interests is of weight in determining such matters, this argument is conclusive in favor of the canal. At present Great Britain controls all the water-ways from the ocean to the Great Lakes, and in the event of war that vast stretch of water would be at her mercy. Another point which is of great importance within the territory of the United States is this one; and while the opening of other water routes may be indorsed as parts of the general plan of internal navigation, it is plain that the Ohio River and Lake Erie Canal is the first in importance for the protection of all the lakes above the Welland Canal.

But in the commercial value of the canal that constitutes its most immediate claim upon the public attention. The magnitude of its effect upon commerce and industry have already been so fully set forth that it would be repetition to refer to them here. Mr. Goodwin's letter shows the reasons for determining the size and depth of the canal as fixed by the Canal Commission. In discussing this and other points he shows a variety of information which evinces the closest and most exhaustive study of the entire subject of ship canals.

THE POLICE PENSION VETO.

Between the two executive stools the police pension fund is likely to fall to the Governor. Governor Patton, however, and Mayor Courtney on the other, have used their vetoes on it so fatally, that its hope of resurrection must be left to its future. The executive opinions on this measure indicate a divergence on the Constitutional question. It will be remembered that Governor Patton vetoed the bill authorizing the fund on the ground that, as funds already have power in the matter, the legislative enactment was unnecessary. But the Mayor's veto now holds that in establishing the fund Congress transcended their power. Where two executive doctors disagree, the courts might safely be left to decide; but the result of this disagreement bids fair to be that nothing will be done in the matter, and the police will be left unpensioned. Some of the Mayor's criticisms of the details of the bill may be well taken. But they are minor details. Of the subject as a whole it is pertinent to repeat our belief that the morale of the police force would be much improved by provision for disabilities in the line of duty. It is still to be hoped that a method will be found for effecting that desirable purpose.

PRODUCTION AND AGREEMENT.

It is interesting and not altogether un-antagonistic to observe in the New York Financial Chronicle an article which, in parodying Polonius, is very like a wall over the inability of the antitriche coal combination to produce within agreed limits. That journal observes that while the agreements fixed the total production for June at 3,250,000 tons, for May at 2,500,000 tons, and for April at 2,000,000 tons, the actual production has been from 500,000 to 800,000 tons in excess of the stipulated figures. And what further strikes the Wall street mind as peculiar is the fact that the coal that is produced is taking all the market.

The last fact makes the excess of the stipulated production all right according to the avowed ethics of this corporate combination. The magnates of this pool have frequently declared that their "agreement among gentlemen" was simply to produce the amount of coal that the demands of the market would require. The peculiarity of a state where it is necessary to have an agreement in order to produce the supply of any staple demanded need not be enlarged upon at present. But, as the demand in the market has taken in the past three months some two million tons in excess of the stipulated figures, it is plain that this increase of production has to be made in order to fulfill the professions of the combination. If the production had been restricted to the agreed figures it is plain that the production would have been 2,000,000 tons less than the demand, and the "gentlemen's agreement" would have been in the ungentlemanly position of having been false to its professions.

That the gentlemen are not what they really intended, the figures have proved that. It happens to be the fact that the purpose of the agreement was to produce less than the normal demand, and by producing an artificial scarcity to force the payment of exorbitant prices. But the laws of trade have proved more powerful than the edict of the combined corporation, and the result has proved that with a production at the rate of 3,000,000 tons annually above the restricted figures set by the combination the demand even in the summer season equals the entire production, by reason of the approximation to reasonable prices, which accompanies the failure of the agreement.

Folly this demonstration will teach

the anthracite coal corporations that more true prosperity is to be secured by a large production at reasonable prices than by a restricted production at exorbitant prices. But it requires considerable faith to hope so.

STANFORD'S POLITICAL VIEWS.

There is a world of unconscious humor in the views on the present condition of politics and society stated in a recent letter of Senator Stanford to a Missourian. The perfect good faith with which the Senator asserts that everything is all right which suits the interest of Stanford, and that the only reforms that are necessary are those which Stanford wishes, makes it altogether one of the most delicious political contributions of the age.

The Senator thinks that the People's party makes the mistake of putting too many questions in its platform. The money question, the people might agree upon, but they—evidently referring to the Standard party—would entirely differ on the railroad question. This is for the reason, from the Standford point of view, that the railroad question is all right. "The cheapest railroading in the world is in the United States." Besides, a system which has concentrated some two score millions more in the hands of one Leland Stanford cannot be very objectionable.

On the land loan question the Senator thinks that his measure is the great measure. Because the opportunity would be afforded for the owners of great land grants to unload upon the Government, the Senator has received numerous very complimentary letters, some of them nominating him for the Presidency—which of course he declares that he will not be a candidate for.

Having defined his position on these issues it is interesting to observe that the Senator dismissed the knotty and vexed question of the tariff with a single sentence: "The old question of the tariff can hardly be called strictly a party question." Having left Hancock's famous local issue in the shade, the Senator proceeds to the money question, which he ranks as "a live issue" and on which he defines himself to the effect that "if there were no gold silver would answer the same purpose."

All of which is immensely in harmony with the speech of the Senator in the multimillionaire-posting as guide, philosopher and friend of a people's anti-monopoly movement. Let us hope that Senator Stanford may feel it necessary to repeat his determination not to be a Presidential candidate in a few more letters. The nation has a better hope for getting back the worth of its money than the Central Pacific crowd got in that way than in any other.

THE TREASURY DEPOSITS.

Democratic organs show a disposition to make capital of the fact that the Treasury is drawing heavily on its deposits with national banks. Of the \$30,000,000 deposited in this way some months ago, one-half was withdrawn previously to this week, and some \$4,000,000 was called in at the beginning of the week.

This is the draft upon Government deposits is fair game for the Democracy as evidence that the expenditures of the Treasury are calling largely upon its surplus. But when Democratic papers maintain that the Philadelphia Record seems disposed to do, that the money of the Treasury ought to be kept in the banks, a rather singular attitude is taken. That journal borrows the name of a conservative, the Secretary Fairchild in depositing \$47,000,000 in the national banks, and refers with scorn to the political capital which the Republican leaders tried to make of the fact in the campaign of 1888. In this the Record is plus royalist que le roi, and more faithful to the national banks than the party which founded that system.

It was undoubtedly good policy for Secretary Fairchild to deposit Government funds in national banks, on good security, when he had a surplus he could use in no other way. But the function of banks of deposit is to furnish money on checks of depositors. When the Government has need for the money it would be a very foolish policy to have the Secretary of the Treasury call on the banks and depositors if it could not draw on its deposits. It is a very erroneous friendship for the banks to intimate that they cannot meet the drafts their large depositor may make in a reasonable way.

EX-QUEEN NATALIE is suing ex-King Edward VIII for the relations of banks and depositors if it could not draw on its deposits. It is a very erroneous friendship for the banks to intimate that they cannot meet the drafts their large depositor may make in a reasonable way.

SENATOR STANFORD declares that he will not be a candidate for President voluntarily. If he is forced to take the position it will be on the platform of Major General Sherman's Progress, a Maine Yankee who in the latter declare they are going to carry off the matdens, and exclaim: "Against our wills, papa! Against our wills!"

NOW Gresham is brought out as a Presidential possibility again. The boom-nourisher are early in the field, evidently with a view to producing plenty of dead horses to fall back upon.

IN ANSWER to a defense of the income taxes that superfluous wealth rather than universal necessities should be taxed, the New York Tribune asks: "Is not an income a universal necessity?" If an income of the sort that would be subjected to income tax is a universal necessity, the great majority of mankind is destitute of it.

INSUBORDINATE SOLDIERS.

IT IS POSSIBLE that the last outbreak of insubordination in the Coldstream Guards is being elevated to undue importance. Soldiers of all nations have been wont at times to indulge in petty outbreaks of revolt which have ended in nothing. Civil War in many instances which never reached the public notice, and the regiments which may have refused to parade in camp because their rations were inadequate or their clothing insufficient never wavered when the time for real action came.

IT IS NOT very strange or especially significant that the soldiers which have been two generations considered themselves the pets of the English capital should wax fat and kick. The most significant part of the affair is the explanation of the English army authorities that the trouble is due to "quasi-education." The theory that education and the English military system cannot get along together may have some foundation, but its application is especially severe on the policy maintained by those offering this explanation.

THE MATTER is less significant because England's reliance in times of danger and stress cannot be by any vital degree upon regular soldiers. If the English people as a whole do not support the Government, the loyalty of the Life Guards will not help it. If the people are heartily and loyally supporting the Government the insubordination of a few Life Guards will make little difference. To refer to such an event as the kuell of militarism, as has been done in this country, is misplaced, because England is not one of the military powers which relies on its army to enforce popular obedience to absolute rule, but is merely as dependent upon popular approval to maintain its Government as the United States.

There is hardly more importance to the row which Tommy Atkins has been kicking up than to the refusal of his cousin, the British volunteer, to proceed to Wimbledon by the route that was ordered. Both show a spirit of independence; but

they do not prove that neither will fight for England if fighting becomes necessary.

THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT JOHN F. MEIGS, OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY, AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF CONSIDERABLE AND USEFUL SERVICE, BECAUSE OF A CASUAL DISCOVERY THAT HE IS COLOR-BLIND, LOOKS LIKE AN EQUALLY COLOR-BLIND TO RED TAPE. LIEUTENANT MEIGS' SERVICE RECORD IS CONSIDERABLE AND HIS RECORD IS ALL RIGHT AT ALL REQUISITE TO DISTINGUISH COLORS; BUT THE RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT ARE CONSTRUED SO RIGIDLY THAT HE HAS TO GO ON THE REDUCED LIST. IT IS HARDLY TOO MUCH TO CHARACTERIZE THIS AS MORE STUPIDITY. AN INTELLIGENT RULE WOULD LIMIT THE FIELD OF DUTY IN SUCH AN OFFICER WITH THAT DEFECT IN HIS EYEIGHT SO THAT HE WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SERVICE; BUT TO SUBJECT A VALUABLE OFFICER TO SUCH A PENALTY FOR MANUFACTURING AND TESTING OF ORDINANCE BECAUSE HE MIGHT MAKE A MISTAKE IN THE COLOR OF SIGNALS AT SEA IS RED TAPEISM OF THE AGGRAVATED VARIETY.

OR THE 1,000 CHINESE WHO LANDED AT THE PORT OF VANCOUVER, PROBABLY THE MAJORITY CAME FROM THE CHINESE STATES. THE ONE QUESTION THE CHINESE QUESTION THAT IS INTERESTING TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS THE REVENUE THAT IT AFFORDS THE PORT OF VANCOUVER, AND TO THE STEAMSHIP LINES OF THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

THE ARRIVAL AT Liverpool of the steamer which took a cargo of grain from Duluth has attracted much attention in the New York press. It is said that the grain could have been transported in less time and at lower rates by way of New York. It is more than doubtful whether this will continue to be the case if the New York idea of shutting the Canadian railroads out of the transportation business is given practical effect.

IF THAT sharp journal the New York Sun is really in ignorance of what a nickersack is, it should be informed that it is some instrument with which it performs gory warfare on obnoxious Democratic candidates for the Presidency.

IT IS PATHETIC to hear the plaint of the Minneapolis Athletic Club that it loses about \$12,000 from the stoppage of the prize fight between the two champions. It is said that the club has prevented 30 to 50 days ago, before a dollar of expense had been incurred. Inasmuch as the statutes forbidding the fight were in existence long before the fight was to be an "athletic club" which proceeds on the assumption that it can nullify the law.

AN EASTERN hotel proprietor going the rounds of the hotels in the disguise of a tourist, has made the remarkable discovery that hotel clerks are apt to be topological and nocturnal. Over his discomfited eyes he has discovered a discreet veil of statistics drawn.

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ABOUT OUR COUNTRY.

How the Population is Divided Among the Great Regions—Possibilities of Increase—A Scheme to Beat the Custom Laws—More Great Guns.

IT IS POSSIBLE, in the light of the census of 1890, to gain an idea of the way in which the population of the great United States is divided, and it is certain to be the most popular and powerful nation in the world, to be distributed over the vast area which it includes. The distribution is not yet complete, but the population of the country may be said to have laid itself out in a general way. We may judge approximately where the great masses of population are to be, and see what sort of a country, physically speaking, the people flock to, says the *Geographical Magazine*. The geographers in the service of the Ordnance Department divided the country into 21 different sections according to topographic or surface features—this, according to the "lay of the land," is the basis of the division. The first section, the Great Plains, is the most extensive, and covers approximately one-third of the area of the United States. It is a vast, level, fertile region, bounded by the Rocky Mountains to the west, the Appalachian Mountains to the east, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. It is the granary of the nation, and its population is increasing rapidly. The second section, the Eastern States, is the most densely populated, and covers approximately one-fourth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is also increasing rapidly. The third section, the Southern States, is the most sparsely populated, and covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of low mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly. The fourth section, the Western States, is the most sparsely populated, and covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE FIRST slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Great Plains, which covers approximately one-third of the area of the United States. It is a vast, level, fertile region, bounded by the Rocky Mountains to the west, the Appalachian Mountains to the east, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. It is the granary of the nation, and its population is increasing rapidly.

THE SECOND slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Eastern States, which covers approximately one-fourth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is also increasing rapidly.

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THE FOURTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Western States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE FIFTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Mountain States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE SIXTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Pacific States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE SEVENTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Atlantic States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE EIGHTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Gulf States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of low mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE NINTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Great Lakes States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE TENTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the New England States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

THE ELEVENTH slice of country which the geographers divided into sections is the Middle Atlantic States, which covers approximately one-fifth of the area. It is a region of high mountains, fertile valleys, and a long coast. Its population is increasing slowly.

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OUR MILE POUGH.

An Interesting Statement of the Aims and Status of the Alliances.

THE ALLIANCE, as a result of the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, is a powerful organization, and is working for anti-monopoly legislation. It is a consolidation of two orders, one of which was the Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union of America, and the other was the National Agricultural Workers' Union. The method and personnel of the two (Northern and Southern) orders are widely different. The Farmers' Alliance is a strictly anti-monopoly, anti-trust organization, and is working for anti-monopoly legislation. It is a consolidation of two orders, one of which was the Farmers' Alliance and Co-operative Union of America, and the other was the National Agricultural Workers' Union. The method and personnel of the two (Northern and Southern) orders are widely different. The Farmers' Alliance is a strictly anti-monopoly, anti-trust organization, and is working for anti-monopoly legislation.

A WONDERFUL CLOCK.

The Mystery Is in the Force That Moves the Jeweler's Work.

M. Wollman, the jeweler of Council Bluffs, Ia., has given the curious and amusing opportunity to test their ingenuity in an endeavor to record the hours and minutes of his show window. So far the most persistent have failed to discover the influence that impels the unique timepiece so accurately to record the hours and minutes. A short time ago Mr. Wollman made an electric clock that attracted attention, not only in Council Bluffs, but in expert circles elsewhere. The mysterious clock is far ahead of the electric apparatus in many respects. In appearance it resembles the colored alcohol signs in a drugstore window, being simply two glass globes placed one above the other. They are supported by a delicate pedestal, which is notched to show that it does not conceal mechanism. The base is a piece of solid cherry wood turned out eight inches in diameter. From this slender pedestal a glass globe is suspended by a chain, which is about seven feet in length. In this globe is a dial marking the minutes. Screwed to the base of the globe is a small electric motor, which points to the minutes as they go by, the globe making one complete revolution in each hour.

ABOVE THIS is the smaller globe, about four inches in diameter, with a dial around its circumference. It is supported by a small silver plated steel spring in the form of a figure 3, which is screwed to the base, forms the stationary hand that points out the minutes in 12 hours. The globes are of very thin and transparent glass and have no opening at the top or at the base, except by the delicate pivots that penetrate into a small fraction of the globe. The mechanism is so arranged that either of the globes can be revolved with the greatest ease, and without injury. When the motion ceases they resume their position, being only the time occupied in spinning them.

THE WHOLE device is set on a mirror in the show window, and is so arranged that it can be seen from any angle. The mystery is the force that moves the globe so accurately and constantly. It is a mechanical expert who critically examines the globe every part of the mechanism he gazes upon it through the show window. It has been intimated that sunlight or heat is the cause of the motion, but this has been proved by placing the timepiece in the shadow. With the exception of the glass globes, every part of the mechanism was made by Mr. Wollman at his bench. It is a masterpiece of workmanship, and bids fair to remain a puzzle until its maker sees it to reveal his secret.

A REFRACTORY FINGER.

The Ring Finger Proves a Source of Trouble to All Pianists.

Everyone who tried to learn how to play the piano has experienced the trouble of the refractory finger, or, as the foreign piano-finger designates it, the fourth finger, is. If you are not a piano student, please your fingers every part of the mechanism he gazes upon it through the show window. It has been intimated that sunlight or heat is the cause of the motion, but this has been proved by placing the timepiece in the shadow. With the exception of the glass globes, every part of the mechanism was made by Mr. Wollman at his bench. It is a masterpiece of workmanship, and bids fair to remain a puzzle until its maker sees it to reveal his secret.

THE REFRACTORY finger, or, as the foreign piano-finger designates it, the fourth finger, is. If you are not a piano student, please your fingers every part of the mechanism he gazes upon it through the show window. It has been intimated that sunlight or heat is the cause of the motion, but this has been proved by placing the timepiece in the shadow. With the exception of the glass globes, every part of the mechanism was made by Mr. Wollman at his bench. It is a masterpiece of workmanship, and bids fair to remain a puzzle until its maker sees it to reveal his secret.

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