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Bryan says may be he was wrong. There's no maybe about it. He was.

The Prospect in Cuba.

One of the most enlightening comments that we have read concerning the Cuban situation is made to a New York Tribune representative by Charles Akers, war-correspondent of the London Times. Mr. Akers first spent some time in Spain, then traversed the whole of Cuba and has recently stationed himself at Washington, where he has been in constant communication with the state department. As a witness he is disinterested, impartial and certainly expert.

Mr. Akers believes that unless a friendly arrangement is not soon made between the United States and Spain looking to the purchase of Cuba, war may be expected with Spain as the aggressor. He admits that the Spanish government would go into either emergency with reluctance, but his observations in Spain convinced him that public sentiment in that country would force a declaration of war against the United States if the present tension of Spanish bitterness and prejudice be not soon relieved. In his opinion, no European power would lend its assistance to Spain in case of war with this country, nor would any power intervene to prevent war.

European countries which hold Spanish bonds, or are interested commercially in Cuba, would seriously regret the occurrence of hostilities, and previous to their breaking would undoubtedly exercise their good offices to secure a peaceful solution of the situation. For one reason all European countries would rejoice at Cuba becoming a part of the United States. They would then enjoy a sense of security in relation to their Cuban investments of all kinds, and rest satisfied that there would be no future revolutions. One grave fear to be entertained, in the opinion of Mr. Akers, is that the Spanish government may at no distant period realize that it can no longer hold Cuba as a dependency. To admit as much to the people of Spain would mean the certain overthrow of the party doing so. In such an extremity it might be regarded as good policy by the present government to pick a quarrel with the United States.

Mr. Akers considers the purchase of Cuba by this country a splendid investment provided the price did not exceed \$500,000,000. The total exports of Cuba are in ordinary times about \$120,000,000. This year they will be only \$18,000,000, owing to the revolution. In 1884, before the revolution began, out of the production of 1,600,000 tons of sugar this country took 970,000 tons. Practically all the money that was paid to Cuba in good times for sugar, as well as tobacco, was spent in this country for food supplies and manufactured articles. The hope of Cuba, if the island continues as a Spanish dependency, or in case it achieves independence, is reciprocity with the United States. With peace prevailing throughout the island, in fairly prosperous times Cuba will produce exports equal to \$300,000,000, including 2,500,000 tons of sugar, \$60,000,000 worth of tobacco, and an output of iron ores used in Bessemer steel equal to at least \$200,000,000. In addition to this is the great yield of fruit, which is large even now. With careful attention, it would be enormous. The same is true of lignum-vitae, cedar, mahogany and other valuable woods. Most of the Cuban trade is with the United States, and if a reciprocity treaty were in force, the products of the island would largely come to this country, and the money paid for the same would be spent here.

Mr. Akers reports the dominant sentiment of the educated native Cubans to be favorable to annexation to the United States and says he does not think such a solution, after Spain's grasp on the island is once freed, would present many difficulties. Even if we did nothing to hasten a climax in the Cuban revolution he thinks Spain's poverty would eventually give Cubans the victory and they would then voluntarily seek an alliance with the United States.

In this connection an interesting story is printed in the Sun, upon the authority of a prominent Cuban planter who for political reasons requested that his name be withheld. It is to the effect that the day before Consul General Lee left Havana to return to Washington, a Cuban lady called on him for advice touching a business matter. The lady's husband is a personal friend of General Lee. When the latter asked his visitor what her husband, who is in New York, intended to do in that city, the wife answered: "He intends giving up all hopes of a quick settlement of affairs here, and to start in some other business in America." "Tell him," replied General Lee promptly, "not to do it, and to wait, because the end of all this is very near."

Just what General Lee meant by those words is, of course, wholly conjectural; but there can be no doubt that under a liberal interpretation they convey the truth. The present situation in Cuba cannot continue indefinitely. Spain cannot afford the expense, Cuba can't and the United States must not. The end is near. It will be reached in all human probability long before the McKinley administration shall have completed its first half-year.

The board of trade's decision to expend a goodly sum of money in decorating its new home in the Board of Trade building on Linden street, is more in the right direction. The board is Scranton's representative body of business men, and its material sur-

roundings should be thoroughly in keeping with the board's influence, and good works. Likewise, the proposed banquet is the outcome of good judgment, especially so if the guests on that occasion are to be Dr. Cavanaugh, M. Depew, ex-Governor Foraker, of Ohio, and other men equally famous, whose presence will tend to spread prestige for the city.

The fact that in portions of the state outside of Philadelphia 1,302 citizens were fooled into voting the McKinley Citizens' party electoral ticket, which had reference solely to the factional fight for the sheriff's office in Philadelphia, shows anew that local and presidential elections ought to be separated. It is needless to say, however, that the politicians will never permit such a divorce.

A Non Sequitur.

Mr. Bryan in his Lincoln speech on Saturday evening said, not without truth: "We have reached a time in this nation when certain great influences in society seek to control government. They seek to control courts; they seek to control legislatures; they seek to control your city legislatures; they are omnipresent. While the people are busy attending to their work trying to support their families, trying to lay aside something for a rainy day, these great agencies have their eyes open, have their representatives present and are urging those whom they elect to turn over the instrumentalities of government that they may use them for private gain. And, my friends, in this nation the struggle is not yet over to determine whether the people shall have a right to such a form of government as they desire and such laws as they wish, or whether they shall submit to any legislation that shall be forced upon them by those whom they have elected to their seats."

We admit that much of this is true. But what has it to do with free silver, or free trade or free riot, as advocated by Bryan and the Chicago platform? It is a transparent non sequitur used in the manner in which Mr. Bryan uses it. He has no right to claim to be the people's special champion. The people by a large majority have rejected him in his aspiration to that distinction, and if he were a prudent man he would not seek to call further attention to the immensity of his own political conceit by presumptuous posing in a false attitude.

The expected has come. One of the leading bicycle firms has listed its highest grade 1897 pattern bicycle at \$80 instead of \$100 as heretofore. The others will no doubt follow suit. It is inevitable.

The Harnessing of Niagara.

It has been estimated that all the coal in the world would not generate as much power if burned steadily as goes to waste at Niagara Falls. This estimate was made at a time prior to the talk of utilizing Niagara's waste power; but it is probably still approximately true. Now that the great attempt is to be harnessed, what effort will such a utilization of its power have upon the coal trade? Is a question naturally of interest to this community. The answer to it will depend mainly upon the distance to which the Niagara power can be economically transmitted. As yet all this is mainly in the realm of theory.

According to Dr. Lewis Duncan, there are twenty-seven instances of successful transmission of power generated primarily by falling water, mostly from two to eight miles. But in at least a dozen cases the distance exceeds ten miles. Thus, San Francisco, Portland, Ore., and Brescia, Italy, are each twelve miles away from their respective bases of supply; Lowell, Mass., is fifteen; Zurich, fifteen and one-half; Rome, eighteen; Geneva, twenty; Sacramento, twenty-four; San Bernardino, Cal., twenty-eight and three-quarters; and Fresno, Cal., thirty-five. And, then, four years ago during the international electrical exposition at Frankfurt, Germany, electrical power was brought from a waterfall at Lauffen, 105 miles away, but this was on a small scale and is prophetic rather than demonstrative of capabilities in this direction. At the present time it seems to be the average belief of the various experts who are wrestling with this problem that the Niagara power plant will do very well if it can distribute its electrical energy at a profit to places within a radius of twenty-five miles. That would include Buffalo and several small towns, and would cut somewhat into the bituminous trade, but it would leave the anthracite trade practically unharmed. If, this view is correct, Scranton need not fear.

But if it isn't? Then we shall have to go for our culm piles, and get ready to fight fire with fire. The Niagara current was turned on for Buffalo at midnight Sunday and is reported to be giving satisfaction. The distance is twenty miles. So long as the transmission goes no further we can afford to rest on our oars. But once let the Niagara company's ambitious dreams of sending power to Cleveland, Rochester, Erie, Syracuse, Albany, Elmira and Binghamton, not to speak of New York and the surrounding Jersey towns, be realized, and the coal trade will have, in common parlance, to "get up and dust." We guess, however, that it needn't lose sleep.

Play for the "foreigner." He may be a bad citizen in certain localities, but the statistics show that as a general rule the so-called foreign vote is often more to be trusted than the vote of some classes that look down upon those who are citizens by adoption. It is the New York Evening Post which points out that in a great crisis involving the purity of government and the maintenance of national honor, nearly every state with a large foreign-born population gave a majority for the candidate who stood for both these principles. Among the most prominent McKinley states were North Dakota, with 64.89 per cent. of its voting population of foreign birth; Minnesota with 53.85 per cent.; Wisconsin with 52.93, California with 60.21, Michigan with 46.22, New York with 37.73, Massachusetts with 35.96, Illinois with 35.39 and Iowa with 29.92. In the very column were some of the strongest American states. In South Carolina the foreign population of voting age

is only 1.45 per cent. of the total; in Georgia it is 1.75, in Mississippi 1.86, in Alabama 2.50, in Tennessee 2.74, in Virginia 2.89, in Missouri 17.11, in Kansas, 19.97. These figures certainly don't flatter the nativists.

On Oct. 1, with the free coinage issue still pending, the county commissioners in vain sought to dispose of a \$90,000 issue of 4 per cent. bonds without the gold clause. Yesterday they sold the whole issue on their own conditions at \$102.70, the highest premium ever received for a Lackawanna county security. This shows whether or not confidence has returned.

We offer congratulations to the esteemed Syracuse Post on its handsome 24-page "prosperity number," which exhibits in gratifying clearness the many resources of the enterprising city in which it is published. That kind of work tells for good times.

The canvass for the Harrisburg speakership has already, it seems, reached the "combine" stage. Our recollection of the "combine" as a means to victory does not offer encouragement to this latest use of it.

That hope sits perennial in the human breast is vividly illustrated in the case of our amiable friend, Colonel Fitzsimmons, who is already figuring out a Democratic victory in Lackawanna county one year hence.

Mark Hanna denies that he is an office broker. His part as a Warwick ends when the king is crowned.

Just a Word or Two of Casual Mention

Jim Manley is one of the homeliest and most disreputable looking terriers imaginable. But with all his physical ugliness he has a great and mighty brain. Jim Manley is Select Councilman Durr's dog and was named after Councilman Manley, not because they look alike, but because of their remarkable mental resemblance. The dog is a Scotch terrier. Wonderful stories are told of his intelligence. He has been talked about so much in the city hall, where his master frequently goes on matters of business, that Durr really believes the animal could be taught to read and write. The councilman related one of his dog's intellectual feats yesterday in the city clerk's office, and when he concluded his story his several listeners promptly assisted him over a table and a chair or two and out into the hallway. Translated from the German, Durr's story was as follows:

"Jim was with me this morning while I stood talking with a friend in front of the Mears building. He first waited and went over on the court house lawn and killed time by playing with a couple of low-down cat boys. I know conversation, and, noticing that Jim was not disposed to follow me, left him at play and went inside the building. The elevator lifted me to the sixth floor and I went to room 601. In about ten minutes Jim came in, gave me a nod of recognition and took a seat in the most comfortable chair in the room. 'I know somebody didn't bring him?' Why, the elevator boy told me about it. Jim walked on the elevator along with a party of passengers. He made no attempt to land at any of the floors until the sixth was reached. At that point the boy said he made a mistake in supposing some one wanted to alight and opened the door a trifle. That was enough for Jim; he bolted through the aperture and scented along the floor until he found me."

"But how the mischief did he know you were on the sixth floor?" asked Councilman Oliver.

"Why, he heard me telling the gentlemen outside the door that I was on the sixth floor. The last words of the sentence were drowned in a crash of dying office furniture and scuffling. Durr was hustled into the hallway but not discouraged. He and Jim went to tell the story to the mayor."

There is surely no woman in Scranton's select circle of society whom you like better to see than Mrs. X. She is full of excitement, something out of the ordinary. We will call her Mrs. X. I saw it all on Jefferson avenue one morning recently. Mrs. X. had just arrived from down town and after making the market rounds was being driven home in a two-seated carriage behind a spirited pair of high-top horses. The driver was dumpy and unattractive and the side curtains were in place on the back part of the vehicle, whose only occupants were Mrs. X. and her coachman. The driver, who kept his eyes fixed on a corner of the seat, and her coachman, who seemed dazedly well occupied in handling the four-spoked wheels.

A Congregational church convention in Milwaukee, sources in its resolutions that inasmuch as the daily papers have sporting editors, and amusement editors, and commercial editors, they ought to be better informed on matters of local interest. One of the speakers of the day among the eighty-odd churches of Scranton, and blessing the pastor of each with his synopsis of that pastor's sermon.

Ought there not to be a law forbidding the enactment of "Richard III?"

FOR HASTINGS.

From the Wilkes-Barre Record.

A dispatch from Harrisburg in yesterday's Philadelphia Press represents State Treasurer Hayward, Auditor General Mylin, Lieutenant Governor Lyon, and other officials supporting the candidacy of Governor Hastings. If that be true there is no question as to where Senator Quay stands in the campaign. Mylin and Lyon are as well known, never take sides until they have ascertained the wishes of Senator Quay. The fact that Congressman J. C. Connelley of Lackawanna, has been working in the interest of Hastings right along is also strong presumptive evidence that Quay is not inclined to the governor's candidacy. For Mr. Connelley is the senator's right hand man in northeastern Pennsylvania. Ex-Lieutenant Governor Watts, another of Quay's most devoted friends, has also been working in favor of Hastings. The support of Messrs. Connelley and Watts will assure to Hastings the votes of at least four of the five Lackawanna members of the legislature, and possibly all five.

PERTINENTLY ASKED.

From the Baltimore American.

If the free silver fight is to be carried on, who will pay for it?

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Apaches The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrological cast: 12 a. m., for Tuesday, Nov. 17, 1896.

A child born on this day will be made aware that all that glitters is not gold, especially if his pa advocates the 16 to 1 theory.

After the present agony is over, it is probable that Mr. Keadley will cease to regard the horseshoe as a symbol of good luck.

"Ead Dicky III." It is said, was much worse than usual last night.

The dawn of prosperity appears to have had a paralyzing effect upon local silver-plated calamity howlers.

And Billy Bryan has fled to the Ozark mountains.

Autumnal Rhyme.

Of the spreading butternut tree: Thanking Day hath no pleasure for him— Right mournfully gobbleth he.

point is the development of electric traction where franchises are granted to electric railway companies in cities of 10,000 and over should have the following conditions attached: That the company shall pave and keep in good repair the streets along which it is granted the right of way; that the company shall equip all cars with fenders; that the company shall adopt a new system of motor power consisting of electric motors, underground trolleys, storage batteries and gasoline motors are all in a process of promising development. Some of them are already in practical operation on short lines in the larger cities, but traction experts declare that they have not yet emerged from the stage of experimentalism. In view of the promising prospect that the overhead trolley method will be superseded sooner or later with a safer and better means of transit, the above conditions are reasonable and just, and should be included upon the interests of the public from which these franchises emanate. That is, provided the public has any remaining rights which the trolleyized councilmen are bound to respect.

The experiment of covered prices inaugurated by the management of the Academy of Music at the beginning of the present season has already more than proved its own wisdom. At the same average theatrical ventures generally were suffering from what to the profession are known as "frosts," this popular playhouse has not only defied the winter weather with the "S. R. O." sign, but is sure, not a little of this large patronage is due to the efficient management and personal touch of Mr. Long, who has demonstrated his entire fitness for the position entrusted to him by Messrs. Mishler & Burgardner. Mr. Long is unquestionably one of the best managers of the public's needs, and such qualities quickly tell on the attendance at a playhouse. But beyond all that is the fact that cheap seats are demanded, and the average theater-goer and that it is going to pay the amusement managers the country over to recognize this fact.

Only a small percentage of the people of Scranton are aware that one of the finest cataraacts in this part of the state is the Roaring Brook within the city limits. It's an artificial one, to be sure, but that does not altogether rob it of its beauty and prettiness. The falls is opposite the end of the electric street and over it the crystal water of the brook dashes, falling a distance of fifty feet into the bottom of a narrow gorge, throwing up high in the air. The cataraact is due to the erection of a dam by the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company, which now has a storage reservoir on the Roaring Brook to take the place of the reservoir at the Blast Furnace, which burst twice. The rains of the last two weeks greatly increased the volume of water in the brook and the falls became correspondingly more interesting.

J. H. Fisher, of the Pennsylvania Rocking company, was one of the missing Scranton newsmen ten years ago. Mr. Fisher graduated from the engineer's department of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad at Scranton, and was the editor of one of the Scranton dailies, without previous preparation for the work; but he proved equal to the task, made his mark as a local journalist and got out a new city page. Upon becoming secretary of the Scranton board of trade, Mr. Fisher's experience as a newspaper man was a great asset in attention and in getting new life into that organization, which made its first marked progress during his terms of office, and doubtless owes much of its strength today to his untiring efforts.

Philip J. Thomas, president of the Scranton Central Labor union, and for many years one of the most prominent trades unionists in this portion of the state, has been appointed organizer for Northeastern Pennsylvania of the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Thomas, as Tribune readers know, has a hobby, and a mighty good hobby it is, too. He wants the people of Scranton to have home, labor and do their buying of home merchants. His agitation of this subject through the local press has attracted much attention and furnished the text for many editorials endorsing his position.

Thomas Jay, ex-warden of the county jail, came down from his home in Jermy yesterday to see how his boom for the position of postmaster of that town is regarded by the citizens. The other residents of Jermy and his opinion that he has at least as good a claim to the appointment as any Republican in town can boast of. "I have my position in contemplation," he said yesterday, "and you can depend upon it that it will be a good one before it goes to Washington."

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