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The Tribune takes pleasure in announcing the acquisition to its editorial corps of Mrs. Harriet Clay Penman, who will hereafter have especial charge of the social and religious news of this paper, a field of labor in which her efficiency is well established. It is our belief that Mrs. Penman's identification with The Tribune will add perceptibly to the paper's acceptability in the home circle.

Japan and Hawaii.

A flood of light is shed upon the Japanese-Hawaiian problem by a series of letters recently printed in the Washington Star, and written by one of its editors, Mr. Theodore W. Noyes, from Tokio and Honolulu. The letters from Japan, including an extended interview with the Japanese minister of foreign affairs, Count Okuma, indicate the recent awakening in Japan, as a consequence of the successful war with China, of an intense, almost ludicrous spirit of self-assertiveness, coupled with a conceit that in America would immediately provoke ridicule. Japan, as Mr. Noyes puts it, "is just entering the family of treaty powers, and is very much afraid that she will not be recognized by everybody as on terms of equality. She is quick to view as insulting any apparent discrimination against her. As a newcomer in a more elevated stage of international society she suspects every one of a disposition to snub her, to laugh at the cut of her garments and to criticise her manners." This supersensitiveness suggests to Mr. Noyes the wisdom of the most scrupulous care on the part of the United States in the observance of all the formalities and niceties of international etiquette in diplomatic dealings with that nation. "The United States," he adds, "will, of course, frame its tariff and decide the question of Hawaiian annexation in accordance with the dictates of its judgment, irrespective of Japanese protests, but in its method of reaching results which may be displeasing to Japan it can afford to go to the extreme limit of international courtesy. Japan has been and is a friend of the United States, and that friendship should not be impaired by any neglect in the observance of formalities."

That Japan has had acquisitive eyes fastened on Hawaii for some time Mr. Noyes is convinced. He learns in Honolulu that for many years there has been steady pressure, sometimes by officials, sometimes by individuals, to gain representation in the Hawaiian government for the Japanese in the islands. A high official at Tokio told him that when Kalakaua was king he promised such representation to the Japanese. At the time of the revolution of 1893 the Japanese consul general demanded of the new government the right of suffrage for Japanese subjects in the islands. In Count Okuma's first communication to the Hawaiian government in the pending immigration controversy he advanced the view that the treaty between Japan and Hawaii placed the Japanese in the islands on terms of absolute equality with Hawaiians "in civil rights," as well as in the protection of life and property, and this proposition was construed by Minister Cooper as another instance of pressure for the right of suffrage, and reply was made on the basis of this construction. "There has," Mr. Noyes adds, "been a constant effort by individual Japanese to secure the voting right. In climate, soil and wages Hawaii is a paradise for the Japanese. They are in love with the country, and want to take possession, either through the ballot box or otherwise. Their reported talk both in Hawaii and in Japan, in the native newspapers and on the streets, is to the effect that Hawaii belongs and must continue to belong to them."

Finally we have Japan's formal protest against American annexation, and Mr. Noyes does not believe that that protest was dictated by any other motive than Japan's own covetousness of Hawaii. "While courteous consideration of the protest may," says he, "work some slight delay in voting upon the annexation treaty, the ultimate effect of the protest should be to increase the votes in favor of annexation when the time for action comes. It throws a light upon the real views and purposes of Japan in respect to the islands. It shows that Hawaii is to be Japanese if not American, and that annexation is the only way to prevent its abandonment to Asia. It makes annexationists of those who, averse to annexation except as a last resort, refuse to yield to a possible enemy control of so important a naval and strategetic point in the adjacent Pacific, and who are unwilling to surrender to the tender mercies of Japan the progressive American community and government in these islands, and will not permit the civilized and Christian institutions of Hawaii to be submerged and lost in a pagan and Asiatic flood."

Mr. Noyes does not expect war or serious friction in the premises, but in a letter dated from Honolulu July 1 he offers some advice which is doubly interesting in view of the subsequent dispatch of the warship Oregon to Pearl harbor: "If," says he, "the United States and Japan should unexpectedly be thrown into collision, the latter would have the advantage so far as immediate control of the islands is concerned. There are approximately 30,000 male adults among the Japanese here. Some of them served in the recent war against China, many of them have received the drill of conscripts. Control of the sea for a time is necessary to arm them fully. But the Naniwa, the Japanese protected cruiser in Honolulu, is through her rapid-fire guns superior in battery to the Philadelphia, is better protected and carries more men. It may reasonably be assumed that our officers are more skillful in naval warfare, and that individually as fighters our men are stronger than the Japanese; but our fighting machine is inferior. The maxim that Provdence favors the heavier artillery is not confined in its application to the land. In the close quarters of Honolulu harbor the guns which can throw the most metal in a minute are apt to first strike a vital spot. The climate of Honolulu is delightful, and its harbor furnishes today a healthful and inviting station for one of the strongest of our modern warships."

Action already taken by the United States government may be sufficient to avert a Japanese coup d' etat in Hawaii; but the safest way to insure peace and the permanence of American control there is at once to ratify the treaty of annexation and thus put Hawaii for all time behind and underneath the Stars and Stripes.

Brave old General Gomez pauses in his march upon the Spanish stronghold in Cuba to remark that at the gates of Havana he will publicly thank the patriot army for its valor. Regarding the proposed Spanish reforms he says: "Spain might better stop all preparations she may be making to grant reforms to Cuba. We will accept neither reforms nor home rule. We have had enough of Spanish promises during four hundred years of oppression. Spain must know that this war is only for independence, and that the Cubans will rather die than yield to any other solution. The day we again lifted our flag of liberty we wrote on it, 'Independence or death.'" At upward of seventy, unawed by opposition and undismayed by hardship and fatigue, Maximo Gomez comes near being the grand old man of the century.

An Evolution.

Discussing the change in management in the Lehigh Valley Railroad company the Providence Journal says:

From now on, it may be assumed, there will be no more railroad sensations in the direction of the coal regions, no more McLeod schemes, and, probably, no more serious trouble about the mining and transportation of hard coal. The Morgan syndicate, in order to make these properties pay, must avoid rate wars, differences among its roads as to the proportion of coal to be produced, and conflicts with the trunk line traffic. That it will be wise enough to do this, no one can doubt. Thus the stability which the Morgan influence will impart to the vast network of railroad routes between the New York Central and the Baltimore and Ohio will communicate itself to the entire business of transportation in the Middle states, and in some measure to all business there.

The "McLeod scheme" was an attempt to do without adequate financial backing what J. Pierpont Morgan and his business associates are enabled to do because they have at their command practically the entire railway capitalization of the territory affected. The new regime comes therefore in the line of evolution and conspicuously illustrates the modern business tendency to conserve by co-operation the former great wastes of competition. It promises not only to make it possible for capital and labor in the coal regions to approach a fair return for their expenditure but also to afford to small investors in the securities of the coal carrying railroads the return in dividends which had been sacrificed in a foolish era of railway throat-cutting. Some may object vigorously to the combination of interests under a single directing power, but that kind of conservation of commercial energy is now very popular, and it will continue to be so just so long as it can produce superior results.

Students of the problem who possess common sense need not fear that centralization such as we are now witnessing will work injury to business. When it begins to do that, the intelligence of the men concerned in the problem will devise a remedy.

If Spain and Japan want to form a triple alliance against Uncle Sam they might work in the Sultan or the Bey of Morocco. By all means let the disgruntled get together.

A Mugwump Opinion.

For downright chicken-heartedness commend us to this remark by the Springfield Republican: "The seals are a small issue to get excited over, however much Mr. Sherman may scold Lord Salisbury. Not one person in 100,000 is interested in sealskins, because they are luxuries which only the rich can afford to wear."

In other words, that which concerns the rich should not concern our government, nor should we resent the wanton destruction of an American industry by Great Britain provided its output enters mainly into the homes of the well-to-do. This is socialism with a vengeance; but it will hardly be relished by the labor once employed in seal fishing but now unable to find employment because British poachers have well nigh exterminated the seals.

We find it difficult to believe that the Springfield Republican in this matter is a truthful exponent of the ideas and the public spirit of New England.

Weyler's arrest of Havana merchants for selling goods to the Cubans ought to be worth a dozen victories to Gomez, for it will alienate Spain's strongest support in Cuba. Let the mercantile elements transfer their sympathies and aid to the insurgents and Spain's doom will be sealed.

At last accounts Ambassador Hay had not been given his passports nor had the British lion made ready for a spring at Uncle Sam. Even without an arbitration treaty the peace will be kept.

Much as the senatorial tariff conferees would like as a matter of general principles to sit upon Uncle Thomas Reed, we suspect they "can't do it, you know."

If we are to have a hot time with Spain perhaps after all it was thoughtful on the president's part to postpone it until cooler weather.

From Bryan's advice to Democrats to drink more water and less rum we judge that he has permanently abandoned Kentucky.

It is very funny. The same senate which wants the president to "demand" various things from Spain refuses to allow the armor plate bills necessary to give such a demand respectability at Madrid.

The fact that Dr. Charles E. Cadwalader, of Philadelphia, a respected and eminent representative of one of the oldest and purest Quaker families in Pennsylvania, has wedded the woman he loved, though she had been his housemaid, would not call for public comment but for the fact that comment has been provoked. Such being the case, we take the liberty of saying that Dr. Cadwalader has exhibited in the matter the instincts and courage of a true gentleman, and both he and his admirable wife merit the congratulation of all who are untinged with caste, snobbery or social affectation. A society which presumes equality and democracy in its civic relations and then tries to despise honest service in humble position is intrinsically rotten and deserves to be torn open. That Dr. Cadwalader should have had the manliness to estimate character regardless of station and to offer to it the highest compliment which man can pay to woman makes us less disposed than we had been to regard with contempt the pride of lineage and worship of ancestry which in some quarters too often lead to social tomfoolery.

The Syracuse Post has just celebrated its third anniversary. The Syracuse Post is one of the best edited and most neatly printed journals in central New York and is among The Tribune's most welcome exchanges.

If Japan had no designs on Hawaii why in the name of common sense is she raising such a racket about it?

Speaking metaphorically, what the governor objects to is not so much the firey cross as the thorny crown.

There being no war in Cuba, why should Weyler object to the sale of merchandise to the insurgents?

The sultan will be foolish if he surrenders the stake without insisting upon a show-down.

That cavern of ice discovered out west ought to make a profitable summer resort.

Gossip at the Capital

Special Correspondence of The Tribune.
Washington, July 16.

The tariff, the currency, and the improvement in business conditions are the three subjects which have especially attracted attention in Washington this week. They all gave evidence that the Republican party is carrying out its pledges rapidly, more rapidly, indeed, than any party ever performed the acts promised in its platform in the memory of the present generation.

Progress in the consideration of the tariff bill by the conference committee has been rapid and gratifying in its character. A large proportion of the amendments made by the senate have been discussed and easily agreed upon, and only a few knotty problems still remain and with every prospect of these being disposed of very soon. Wool, sugar, lumber, cotton ties, and a few of the less important subjects proved the most difficult in the attempt to bring about a final agreement between the two branches of congress, and in all there was a disposition to give thoughtful consideration to the best interests of the people and to meet the popular demand as it became apparent that the final result would be such as to meet the popular approval. One question, however, the conferees have been compelled to keep constantly in mind, and that relates to the effect of their action upon the chances of final passage of the bill in the senate. The fact that the Republicans do not and cannot control that body still makes it absolutely necessary that they move with the greatest caution and exercise a vast amount of diplomacy in their final shaping of the bill in order to absolutely assure its final passage in that body.

The work upon the tariff bill in conference has been as unsatisfactory to the trusts as was that of the house and senate. Every step in the framing of this bill has shown a determination on the part of those in charge of it to avoid the mistakes which the Democrats made in the framing of their tariff bill and by which the party gave to the trusts, and especially the sugar trust, such enormous advantages. Of course the Democrats have tried to make it appear that the Republicans were laying themselves liable to as grave charges as were successfully made against their own party and tariff bill, but have failed in that attempt, and there is good reason to assert that the new bill when it gets upon the statute books will be less satisfactory to the trusts than any measure enacted in many years.

It is still understood that a message will be sent to congress as soon as the tariff bill is out of the way asking that the president be given authority to appoint a commission to consider the currency question and frame a measure for a general currency law. The delay in sending in this message has been due to the fear that this action might precipitate a currency discussion and thus delay action upon the tariff bill, but there is reason to believe that the message will be forthcoming as soon as the tariff bill is disposed of. Whether it will be possible to pass a measure of this character through the senate without very great delay is of course uncertain, but if Republican votes can pass it it will become a law promptly. It is felt that a commission selected from the best students of finance in the country will be able to frame a much more satisfactory currency measure than would probably be prepared by any general committee of congress, which could not, of course, be made up of men who have made a lifelong study of this complex and difficult subject.

The statements of the fiscal year just ended show that the agricultural element of the country has enjoyed a greatly improved condition during the past year, while other statements received here are equally gratifying as to the prospects for the coming year. The exportations of breadstuffs during the year ended June 30, 1897, amounted to $189,838,828 in value, against $126,846,845 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896, and $110,967,758 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1895. This is an increase of $53,000,000 in the pockets of the farmers for the year just ended for breadstuffs alone, as compared with the preceding year, and an increase of $79,000,000 compared with the year 1895. The exportations of cattle for the fiscal year just ended amounted to about $2,000,000 more than in the preceding year. Fresh beef increased about $4,000,000, hams $3,000,000.

Now that we are about to bid adieu to the Wilson law it may not be uninteresting to point out some of its failures since it is impossible to say anything good in taking leave of a measure which has brought such distress to the country and the treasury. The deficit of $125,000,000 which it had made up to the time of McKinley's inauguration has been somewhat reduced by the enormous importations of the past three months which were made in order to escape duties under the new tariff law. Notwithstanding the increase in receipts by reason of this flood of importation since the inauguration of President McKinley, the customs, internal revenue and total receipts under this law have been much less than in the corresponding months of the history of the McKinley law. This is especially interesting and important because of the statements made from time to time by the Democrats to the effect that the Wilson law was more successful as a revenue producer than the McKinley law. The absolute falsity of this statement is shown by the official figures covering the receipts of the Wilson law from the beginning of its operations down to the present time and comparing those with the receipts under the McKinley law in the corresponding months of its existence. The Wilson law has now been in operation thirty-four months. In those thirty-four months the customs receipts aggregated $467,465,218, while in the first thirty-four months of the McKinley law the customs receipts were $548,452,414. The internal revenue receipts under the Wilson law in its first thirty-four months were $382,732,453, and in the first thirty-four months of the McKinley law were $403,772,458. The total receipts under the Wilson law in its first thirty-four months, ended June 30, 1897, amount to $904,200,652, while the McKinley law in its first thirty-four months produced $1,041,048,677, a balance of more than $137,000,000 in favor of the McKinley law.

ATTACKING THE ALIEN TAX LAW.

From the Philadelphia Ledger.

The constitutional validity of the new alien tax law has been attacked by a bill of equity, filed in the Circuit court of the United States for the western district of Pennsylvania, to enjoin a firm from collecting the 3 cents per diem tax on the labor of an alien employe. Inasmuch as it is a proceeding to secure an injunction, and no time will be consumed in taking testimony, the facts having been agreed upon, the court may be expected to hand down a decision in a few weeks. The questions involved in the issue are of the highest constitutional importance, and their final disposition will be awaited with interest in this and other states. If the discriminating tax upon alien labor imposed by the Pennsylvania statute is held to be a valid exercise of legislative power, other states will probably adopt similar legislation.

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The bill in equity presents a plausible arraignment of the act, but lay judgment upon the matter must be suspended until the law officers of the state have filed their answer and the court has declared its opinion. It is the contention of the plaintiff, as set forth by his attorneys, that it is for congress, and for congress alone, to determine the conditions upon which aliens shall enter the country and follow their pursuits. The alien plaintiff is a subject of Great Britain, and one of the apparently strong points he insists upon is that, by treaty between the United States and Great Britain, it is covenanted, among other things, that the subjects of each country shall enjoy reciprocal rights of residence under the protection of equal laws and "free from all burdens and conditions, except such as are imposed upon the citizens of such country by its own laws;" that the constitution provides that the constitution and federal laws made in pursuance of it and all treaties made under the authority of the United States shall be the supreme law of the land. The reason why congress and not state legislatures should regulate the terms upon which aliens shall come into the country and pursue their avocations is cogently stated by the plaintiff's attorney in an interview in the Pittsburg Commercial Gazette: "As the states have no power to treat with foreign governments upon any subject, any retaliatory legislation would fall upon this country at large, and any responsibility for breach of treaty would rest upon the United States, and not upon the state of Pennsylvania."

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It is urged by the plaintiff that the Fourteenth amendment provides that no state shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the "equal protection of the laws." The plaintiff contends that the phrase "equal protection of the laws" is tantamout to the "protection of equal laws," and that the act infringes the Fourteenth amendment in that the plaintiff is subjected to a tax upon his labor which is not levied upon all other persons within the state. The plaintiff avers also that the statute is in contravention of the Federal Civil Rights act of 1870, declaring "that all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States shall have the same right in every state and territory to make and enforce contracts, to sue, be parties, give evidence, and to the full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of persons and property as is enjoyed by white citizens, and shall be subject to like punishment, pains, penalties, taxes, licenses and exactions of every kind and no other."

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The police power of a state is not impaired by the Fourteenth amendment. How far its taxing power may go without violating the amendment it is difficult to say. A commentator upon the amendment says that it contemplates protection against discrimination in state action as between persons and classes of persons. The amendment declares that no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without "due process of law," but this does not apply to a tax exaction. It was decided in the Kentucky railroad cases some years since that when a person liable to the assessment of a tax under a state law for raising revenues has had due notice of the preliminary proceedings, as prescribed in the statute, and has had an opportunity to test the validity of the proceedings, he cannot plead, successfully, that he has been deprived of his property without due process of law. The plaintiff has raised an issue bristling with important constitutional questions and those involving the interpretation of treaty rights and privileges.

TOLD BY THE STARS.

Daily Horoscope Drawn by Ajacchus, The Tribune Astrologer.

Astrolabe Cast: 1.59 a. m., for Saturday, July 17, 1897.

A child born on this day will notice that "McKinley Prosperity" comes quicker to the fellow who hustles than to the individual who waits with folded hands.

Professor McDonald, the astrologer, avers that the world is flat. We fear that the professor is the victim of some of the early cabbage and cucumbers grown on the dark side of the disk.

The propensity to make hay when the sun has gone to rest has made failures of many promising business careers.

No man can serve two masters unless he is in politics.

Ajacchus' Advice.

To the matrimonially inclined man—Remember that beauty is but skin deep, while good cookery cheereth the soul and maketh one forget the march of time.