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And so Philadelphia, too, is to have a Citizens' union. Observe the Democrats swell up with hope.

The President and Cuba.

It is announced by the Chicago Times-Herald, a journal believed to have special access of information, that President McKinley's solution of the Cuban problem is to coax Spain into giving to Cuba virtually unrestricted autonomy, and then to persuade the Cuban insurgents, by promising this country's indorsement, to accept it and lay down their arms.

It is a pretty plan—in theory—but will it work? What are the chances that it will succeed? In the first place no fact is more clearly established in history than that Spanish statesmanship never has consisted of the idea of autonomy as that idea prevails in this country. If it had, autonomy would have been granted to Cuba years ago, and millions upon millions of dollars' worth of property, not to speak of hundreds of thousands of human lives, would have been spared from the destruction caused by Spain's unvarying inability to realize the true meaning of Cuba's incessant unrest. There is no guide to the future which is better than the experience of the past, and that is utterly against the success of the first step in the president's policy. In the light of this experience the roseate promises received by him from Madrid may be dismissed as unworthy even of temporary credence.

But we will assume that Spanish history is to be belied for this once, and that Spain, under pressure from Washington, may consent to do the incredible for Cuba; that is, extend to her complete autonomy. The next step in the president's plan is to get the insurgents to accept it. Their prominent leaders, without exception, have declared, not once but many times, both publicly and privately, with all the emphasis that language can convey, that they will not hereafter accept a thing from Spain save Cuba's absolute independence. The president's plan rests its second premise not simply upon the ground that these leaders are irresponsible falsifiers, but also that they are willing to forget in the twinkling of an eye, at his solicitation, the unexampled catalogue of injuries, repressions and humiliations which they have experienced from Spain's inhuman hand—injuries of which the least has been inconceivably greater than were sustained by our Revolutionary forefathers at the hands of King George III. It in addition ignores that if the revolt in Cuba has become so formidable or Spain's financial embarrassment so desperate as to wrest from the authorities at Madrid a genuine offer of autonomy, the winning of the entire contest, with unqualified independence, is only the matter of a little longer persistence.

But let us assume for argument's sake that the president gets over both these difficulties and composes both Spaniards and insurgent Cubans to a programme of autonomy (the real thing, how is he to insure an American guarantee? Where is his warrant or congress' warrant for setting up as an indorser of Spain's political promises?). We fear that our excellent chief executive, if he has made this plan to free Cuba, will have only his labor for his pains.

Lord Salisbury had better not get too gay in his use of Tammany as an awful example. Thanks to Mugwump fatuity, Tammany may elect a president some day.

Millions in Beet Sugar.

In a letter to the Sun, Francis Wayland Glen commences into a few figures the whole question of the desirability of a domestic beet sugar industry. Mr. Glen starts with the actual results attained in 1896 at the Watonsville Beet Sugar factory of California, where the average yield of beets was 14.96 gross tons per acre, netting the farmer \$56. This average acre's yield gave 2,545 pounds of raw sugar, worth at 3 1/2 cents a pound \$124, or equal to the product of 8 1/2 acres in wheat at 75 cents to the bushel and 20 bushels to the acre.

Good land, well prepared, should, he contends, yield an average of 12 1/2 tons of beets per acre, or a sugar product of 2,000 pounds. This gives the farmer an average return of \$50 per acre, and the refined sugar at 3 1/2 cents per pound gives the refiner \$165 per acre, or a margin of \$55 per acre for his services for converting the beets into refined sugar. "For the past seven years," adds Mr. Glen, "the average yield of wheat in the country has not exceeded thirteen bushels per acre, and the farmers have not received more than 60 cents per bushel for it. At twenty bushels per acre and 75 cents per bushel, the farmer only received \$15 per acre for his wheat crop. At \$50 per acre for beets, one acre of them yields as large returns as three and a half acres of first-class wheat. We consume 2,900,000 tons of sugar annually. To produce it at 3,000 pounds an acre will require 1,333,333 acres of land of good quality well cultivated. To buy it in Europe in the raw state and pay duty and freight upon it to New York will cost \$110,000,000 or the product of nine and one-third million acres of wheat at \$15 per acre. All consumers must pay freight upon imported sugar from tidewater, whereas if produced in all parts of our country the cost of distribution will be very much less."

In conclusion this writer declares that "the best sugar industry, like that of tin plate, has come to stay. Next year the largest beet sugar factory in the world will be consuming 3,000 tons per day of California beets. This means paying the farmer \$120,000 per day for beets. If the factory runs 120 days for the season of 1898, it means \$14,400,000 disbursed to the farmers in a

single locality for sugar beets. The sugar beet industry has passed the experimental stage. When a practical sugar producer and refiner like Claus Spreckels invests \$2,000,000 in a beet sugar refinery it is proof positive that the industry is one of great value to the farmer and refiner." That, when fully established, it will be of equal value to the entire community is self-evident.

The Wilkes-Barre Times under the management of Mr. Laddon Flick has always impressed us as an honorable newspaper that meant to deal fairly with its readers. We are greatly surprised, therefore, to see in its issue of yesterday, long after explicit denial had been made in The Tribune, that Potteville's falsehood concerning William Connell, Editor Lynett has made the amende honorable, Brother Flick, let us hear from you.

Bellamyism in Practice.

A correspondent of the New York Sun, after passing some time in study of the Ruskin co-operative colony, in central Tennessee, has contributed to that paper an interesting review of his observations. The colony was founded three years ago with the purpose of working out the theory of economic equality propounded by Edward Bellamy. It chose 1,500 acres of fertile valley land remote from a railroad and from a mere handful of members at the beginning has grown to a membership of 250. The Sun correspondent gives this picture of its inner workings:

"The rules governing the colony leave undisturbed the family relations, religious worship, and ordinary habits of life, and relate only to property and labor. All real-estate and all industrial enterprises are the common property of all, subject to the general management of an executive board elected yearly by the vote of all shareholders. Every head of a family, on admission to the colony, contributes \$500 to the common capital, which makes him a shareholder under legal organization of the colony and an equal owner with every other member of all property of the colony. Every able-bodied person, man or woman, is obliged to work, and to work at anything that may be assigned by the Executive Board. Women who have large families are, at the discretion of the managers, exempt from work other than the care of their children, and sick persons enjoy undiminished rights during the period of disability. In the assignment of labor the members are put to work on the lines for which their training and ability promise the best results, but no difference in the value of one person's time from that of another is recognized, the theory being the absolute equality of value of the labor of all persons. For example, the editor of the paper, the physician, the teamster and the shoveler of sawdust in the mill, all work on equal terms.

"Every family is provided at the common expense with a dwelling house, food rations, or a maintenance for purchasing food, medical attendance, medicines and fuel. Clothing and pin money purchases are obtainable at the colony store by the exchange of certificate of performed labor for hours' labor (being the unit), which is handed out every week to those who earn it and also to those who have been too ill to work. This certificate is the only medium of exchange used within the colony, money being an unnecessary element. The certificate price of articles at the colony store is so adjusted as to deliver the goods without profit, thus effecting the remarkable situation of checks passing at a greater purchasing value than gold coin. The colony has a successful saw-mill and grist mill, and is building up a profitable industry in the manufacture of suspenders, and also of a health coffee made of wheat. Some farming is done, and there is an opportunity for more, but there are few farmers among the colonists. In its dealings with the outside world the colony comes into contact with the competitive system, and is obliged to be a close buyer and a competing seller; but within the colony the competitive system is eliminated as absolutely as in the world pictured in Bellamy's book. So long as one performs the assigned labor there is no fear of getting out of a job, and illness brings no terrors in the way of loss of necessary comforts or supplies."

In case a man becomes lazy his refusal to work is charged on the books against him, at a certain sum per hour, and when the man's debt to the colony equals the \$500 which he originally invested in it he is expelled. Concerning the social aspects of the experiment the correspondent writes: "It is a community of busy workers, encouraged by an unwavering belief in the practical working qualities of their system. They have cheerful faces, and in private many of them express their satisfaction with the progress of the colony, while in several days spent among them not one was found by the writer who regretted his connection with the association. They are not yet much ahead in resources, and are obliged to live in cheap cottages and on a simple fare. But nobody is in want of necessities, and their property is advancing in value. They have a good school, where painting and music as well as the necessary branches are taught. In the way of amusements they have many outdoor frolics, and in assembly room furnish them opportunity for frequent plays, concerts, and dancing parties. While the purpose of the founders of the colony was to leave undisturbed the religious inclinations of the people, it is a noteworthy fact that a strong atheistic tendency has developed and become the prevailing sentiment. No church has been established, nor is one likely to be. Whether this feature of the colony is a result of the system may be a matter of doubt, but the colony certainly discourages religious worship by making no provision for the erection of churches and the support of clergymen, and without the aid of the colony as a whole no church could, under existing conditions, find means within the colony on which to keep going."

The absence of the religious element obviously is a fatal omission. It is an established truth proved by all history that a society without religion is a society on the downward way to dissolution. Possibly with this omission cor-

rected the Ruskin colony might endure and reach a material success, as the Economic and other socialistic communities of kindred nature have done heretofore; but even then it would operate as an impediment to the universal applicability of the Bellamy doctrine that for its original capital, for its implements and advantages at beginning, and for all the support which it derived subsequently outside its own circle of effort, the Ruskin colony had been indebted to the social order which it had set forth to condemn.

Bonds of the Cuban republic, payable in gold with interest at 4 per cent., to date from the day that Spain evacuates the island, are offered for sale in New York at 50 cents on the dollar. They are good investments on humanitarian grounds, regardless of the likelihood of profit; but they are also not a hopeless speculation.

Six months in advance of the opening of Alaskan navigation the hotels of Seattle are jammed full of would-be prospectors anxious to be the first to reach the Klondike next spring. What will the harvest be?

It has just been decided by the Civil Service commission that each postmaster has unrestricted power of appointment and removal over his chief assistant. Now watch the Mugwumps rave.

Bishop Doane interprets Jingo Anglo-phobia much too seriously.

History of Spanish Exits from America

From the New York Sun. The story of Spanish domination on the American continent is a long and lugubrious chronicle of folly, failure, and loss. It is one of the marvels of modern history that within three hundred years one of the most magnificent empires upon which the sun ever shone has been crumbled by ignorance and purblind stupidity into its insignificant fragments, no longer challenges the respect of any civilized nation. Consider, for example, the vastness of the disaster entailed upon Spain by the loss of the western province known as New Spain. In that geographical expression was included, in addition to the present republic of Mexico, Guatemala on the south, and on the north all that region which lies between the Red River, the Arkansas, and the Pacific, and extending as far north as the present northern boundary of the United States, leaving Alaska out of the account. All this prodigious territorial area passed almost in a day from under the sway of Spain. The blindness and fatuousness which has been an unflinching characteristic of the policy of Spain from the earliest times to the present day, the policy that has made of her a second-rate power for liberty in Cuba, ruthlessly sacrificed the colossal domain of New Spain.

During the vicissitudinal period of the home government toward Mexico, or New Spain, instead of being sagaciously conciliatory, was harsh, repressive, and restrictive. The Spaniards have usually sought to win colonies and conquered peoples by affable and generous measures. They have respected the rights, the national pride, and the traditions of those whom they have ruled with the velvet-gloved hand of steel. Not so arrogant and bull-headed Spain. As elsewhere, the policy of Spain in America has been designed to close its colonies and conquered provinces to the commerce of all nations but the Spanish; to obliterate every trace of native tradition and native custom; to harass the people with enormous taxation; to contrive all taxes so that they should appear repulsive and odious, as well as burdensome; and to organize society so that the pure-blooded Castilian should be regarded as the only representative of the ruling class, and all others, natives, half-castes, and creoles, should be spurned and treated with every possible indignity and form of contempt. The Spanish-born Hidalgo was expelled as a being of a superior race, he was the lord of the land, the other, of whatever race or nationality, were as the dust beneath his feet. And this was the result of the deliberate policy of Spain in America, as well as the fruit of the conceit and arrogance of the Spanish character. The colonists of New Spain had no share in the making or the execution of the complicated and unadvised mass of laws under which they lived. It was apparently through the policy of the mother country "to milk the cow dry" without the slightest reference to the present comfort or the future capability of the unhappy animals. The annual fleets carried to Spain treasure and goods valued at more than thirty millions of dollars. The mints of New Spain poured forth a shining stream of silver and gold that inundated the mother country and convinced the haughty Castilians that they held a mine of inexhaustible wealth, a

veritable fountain of gold, a purse of Fortunatus. On the whole now that we consider the story of New Spain by the light of more recent history, it is amazing that the patience of the people so long endured the drastic rule, the tyranny, and the insolent disdain of the mother country. And it is a curious fact in the long succession of man, avaricious, and heartless viceroys. It was one of these, the sixteenth in his line, Hurtigary, who first openly suggested that Mexico should be free. During the confusion incident to the Bonapartist occupation of Spain and the abdication of Ferdinand VII. Hurtigary took it into his head to convene a congress of notables to consider the proposition that New Spain should at least govern itself until a Spanish king should occupy the throne so impudently seized by the Corsican. With characteristic devotion to the cause of Old Spain, the Spaniards of the colony resisted this proposition, seized Hurtigary, whom they sent in irons to Spain, and put to death the eminent prelate Verdud, who had favored the revolutionary project. But the seed thus sown, fertilized by the blood of successive martyrs to the cause of Spanish-American liberty and independence, never lost its vital power. Mexican independence was practically achieved in 1822, and New Spain disappeared from the map, even as a geographical expression. It would be needless to recount the incidents that led up to the successive rending from Spain of other rich and valuable possessions in the New World. Within the present century, almost within the memory of men now living, the stupid and unreasoning policy of Spain has driven into revolt and subsequent independence the Spanish-American provinces now known as Peru, Chili, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Ecuador, New Grenada and the beautiful Isle of Cuba, which was the delight and the dream of early Spanish navigators and statesmen in the Western Hemisphere. It is not an unfavorable catastrophe that has brought this tremendous change on the map of the Americas. It is the steady, persistent, brutalizing policy that has hastened from Peru to Mexico which has made inevitable the ultimate independence of every foot of Spanish possession in the New World.

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