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SCRANTON, MARCH 10, 1900.

Which is the worse, for a councilman to take a bribe or for an "honorable business man" to offer it?

Stand by the President.

NE FUNDAMENTAL fact must not be lost sight of in the excitement of political discussion concerning the "dministration's Puerto Rican policy. The constitution of the United States was not framed to fit all conditions of human existence but to fit a particular area and set of conditions. The people for whom it was framed were people who had back of them centuries of exceptional preparation for good self-government on the basis of liberty wisely regulated by law; they were not in the infant class of citizenship. To say that the constitution projects itself automatically wherever the flag goes is to reduce self-government to a farce unless it can be assured in advance that the flag will never go where the constitution will not immediately

and completely fit. The Republican party's position in this controversy is that the constitution does not go in letter to unfit peoples under strange conditions, but that it goes to them in spirit until such time as they shall be uplifted and fitted for the letter. Let us illustrate. If the Democratic contention is correct that the constitution immediately followed the flag, then every male Filipino over 21 years of age is today an American citizen, with a potential right to vote at presidential elections and to live under every law and custom prevalent in the federal government of the United States. But everybody knows that conditions in Luzon are in no sense parallel to conditions in New York or Pennsylvania; that laws which fit the one do not and could not immediately, if ever, fit the other. If the constitution is now in force in the letter in the Philippines. as the Democrats contend, the Dingley tariff rates should prevail at Manila. the Chinese inhabitants of the archipelago could not be stopped from coming into this country and the products of Malay labor, on the low wage basis characteristic of Oriental countries, would have to be admitted in our ports duty free, to compete without hindrance with the products of our wellpaid domestic labor. This is what the letter of the constitution would require in every acquisition of new territory if the Democratic contention were to be accepted by the Republican administration as sound in principle. Such an acceptance would inevitably necessitate one of two alternatives: either the abandonment of the Philippines as being a burden impossible to carry, or

level. The Republican party, as led by William McKinley, does not admit that cither of these results is necessary; it says in effect: "We will extend to the new territories all the salient principles of the constitution of the United States--equal rights and privileger before the law, protection in life, property and opportunity: free education. free religion and training for better citizenship; but we will reserve the right so to make and adjust the laws of each special territory that they will fit the special conditions of that territory and of the peculiar peoples who inhabit it. If in the Philippines free trade is for the best interests of the Filipinos, we will enact free trade, but not until our right to do this regardless of the conditions in other territory is affirmed by a ruling from the Supreme court. So as to Puerto Rico. We will give to the people of Puerto Rico every opportunity to develop their agriculture, industry and peaceful commerce under a merely nominal and temporary revenue law which returns to them for their own benefit all the revenue thus raised; but we will not, before the Supreme court declares itself on the constitutional issue raised. do that which might be construed by that court as tending to acquiesce in the Democratic Interpretation."

policy and the bringing of our economic

and political system down to the Malay

The inescapable fact of this whole jumbled discussion is that the boot must be fitted to the foot in carrying out the expansion programme, otherwise expansion becomes impossible. Better that the people of Puerto Rico should for two years submit, as some pert critics of the president flippantly remark, "to a 15 per cent. discount in their citizenship," which sacrifices none of their privileges of self-improvement, than that the whole structure of expansion, so laboriously built up by the heroism and sacrifice of our soldiers and sailory, should be converted into a pile of reproachful ruins.

The Democratic usurpers in Kentucky are passing a lot of laws conceived in prejudice and spite which will return to plague their authors if the courts do not nullify them. The hip-pocket style of law-making is an expensive luxury.

Senator Cullom, whose state is in the storm center of disaffection over the Puerto Rican tariff bill, and who is to go for re-election before the legislature to be elected this year, takes a commendably philosophic view of the matter. On sentimental grounds he

political party which is charged with great responsibility, and it is only through party harmony and cohesion that results can be secured. I hope my party will decide to settle this matter in accordance with my views. But if it does not, and adopts some other course, I shall feel it to be my duty to stand by my party." This is very good and timely advice to the Republican brethren who, under a misapprehension of the facts, are breathing threats of party demolition.

A number of councilmen at Shamokin are to be arrested on charges of conspiracy and bribery, and an auditor at Allentown is under bail for alleged irregularity and embezzlement.

The Great Objective.

ENATOR DAVIS has offered and the toreign relations committee of the senate has accepted an amendment to the pending trans-isthmian canal treaty setting forth that nothing contained in the treaty "shall interfere with measures which the United States might find it necessary to take for securing by its forces the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order." The language quoted is an exact copy, save as to names, of one of the articles governing the Suez canal. Great Britain, it is argued by the advocates of this amendment, cannot consistently refuse to grant to the United States the same provisions which she exacted from Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Italy, Russia, Turkey and the other European powers when the Suez convention was negotlated. If the amendment shall be accepted by the senate and by Great Britain, the United States, they argue, will be left with a free hand to do as she may please with the canal in case she shall become engaged in war with a foreign power. She can close it or not, as she may elect.

If England will accept this amendment, we see no objection to it; but the fact is that its importance is chiefly imaginary. The treaty as drafted left the United States free to close the canal to an enemy's ships by the one method which is feasible in war, namely, arresting the enemy's advance by the interposition of a superior force. That, in any event, would be the one way in which we could close the canal and keep it closed. Fortifications would not keep it closed unless our forces back of the fortifications sufficed to overpower the attacking forces. The whole problem is a question of strength and the putting forth of strength in the most economical and effective manner. The administration's opinion that the proper place to protect American interests against foreign attack is on the high seas has the indorsement of the foremost fighter of the time; and, on such a subject, we accept Admiral Dewey's verdict in preference to the verdict of mere academicians like the foreign relations editor of the New

Hypercriticism in the senate should not defeat the great objective in this matter. The American people will not tolerate a longer potponement of ac-

Eugene Debs, who has been active in the organization of a party known as 'Social Democracy," declines to become its candidate for president. Mr. Debs evidently lacks faith in his own medicine.

Will Mark a New Era.

OOD NEWS comes from the overthrow of our home protective Washington to the effect that many differences of opinion which have existed concerning the details of legislation requisite for the restoration of an American merchant marine, and which have menaced the prospect of getting any legislation through, have yielded to conference and compromise. and that the outlook is once more bright for affirmative action at this session of congress.

We recently presented an abstract of the shipping bill which is before the senate and quoted from Senator Frye's very lucid explanation of its provisions and purposes. Briefly, that bill proposes to offer not more than \$9,000,000 a year in inducements to American citizens to go into the business of ocean transportation by means of ships built in American yards of American materials by American labor, and manned, when affoat, by American crews underneath the American flag at the masthead. We now pay \$180,000,000 a year to foreign-

ers to do this shipping for us. Additional amendments to this bill have been proposed and will, it is unders'ood, be accepted in both houses. One of these gives the secretary of the treasury authority to withhold subsidy compensation from vessels whose owners enter into a combination to raise rates, to the disadvantage of shippers and producers. Another will, in case of a combination of American ship builders to the disadvantage of vessel owners, permit owners to buy ressels abroad and yet retain the right to subsidy under the main provisions of the bill. The object of these amendments is obvious, and so is thefr

There is some obscurity, which will be cleared up, relative to the status under the bill of lake vessels running from Chicago or other lake ports to Liverpool or other foreign ports. But otherwise the bill is now believed to be as nearly perfect in its adaptation of means to ends as can be expected prior to actual study of its operation. It has been safeguarded so as apparently to prevent injustice to any interest while at the same time its original value as a stimulus to new enterprise in American ocean navigation remains unimpaired. Its enactment will mark the beginning of a new and important era in American commercial expansion.

Nine regiments in the Austrian army are to be placed on a diet of sugar for three months to demonstrate the thecry of some scientist regarding the merits of saccharine rations for military purposes. Some time ago a number of German soldiers were driven insane by a forced diet of compressed Puerto R'- to free trade privileges, food tablets. If the experimental

corps is allowed full sway there seems no reason why the czar's dream of disarmament should not yet become a

The modesty of the Topeka minister in proclaiming his ability to run a daily paper "as Jesus would" is fully paralleled by his fidelity to the doctrine of not letting his right hand know what his left hand doeth.

The flost Effective Way.

HE MOVEMENT undertaken by the Holy Name society of St. Peter's cathedral parish to bring influences to bear for the cleansing of the theatrical performances given in this city is in purpose most laudable and will undoubtedly accomplish good. The strongest force in our government is the force of aroused public sentiment and when this is put forth in any di-

rection it is irresistible. The best way to cleanse the theater is to cleanse the citizen who attends it and thus cause him to require of those who purvey amusements that victous or degrading influences shall be eliminated. The manager of a theater is in much the same relationship toward the public as the manager of a bookstore or hotel; he fits his wares to the public demand. The suppression here and there of a vicious book, periodical or play is a gain for public morals only so far as it tends to limit the corruption of the public taste. But it is only one means to an end. The end is to create such a standard of individual character as will resist the temptations of vice and enable mer and women to go through life anspotted.

During the tender period of youth parental watchfulness must be strict and jealous, and it is chiefly on account of the danger of contamination which suggestive plays and books and pictures inflict upon the young that they should be banned. It is a proper part of the police work of government to co-operate with parental watchfulness in removing these snares from the pathway of youth. When we come to adults, however, the need for paternal government diminishes. The man or woman who can be kept good only in a negative way, by the keeping away of temptations, is not of much account to the welfare of society. Character which is not upbuilt to resist vicious influences is imperfectly developed; and in no direction can reformatory energy be better employed than in the culture of the personal virtues-a truth which it sometimes seems to us is not sufficiently appreclated.

Rev. Dr. Wilbur F. Crafts is now gunning for the president's political scalp and beseeching the Republican eaders to substitute some other man as the presidential candidate because, among other reasons, Mr. McKinley did not overthrow his attorney general's interpretation of the army canteen law nor snub the hundreds of reputable army officers who testified that the total abolition of the army canteen would thrust the common soldier from the frying pan into the fire. We sus-

The National Boer Relief Fund association, whose purpose is to raise a million dollars for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the Transvaal, has been organized under the presidency of Bourke Cockran and with a general committee comprising a hundred or more names of national prominence. Contributions may be addressed to the association, St. James building, Brodway and Twenty-sixth streets, New York.

When actor Charles L. Davis died at Pittsburg the other day it was announced that he had not a relative on earth. Now the claimants to his estate are springing up on all sides like applicants at a civil service examination. There's nothing like a snug fortune to cause one to be remembered by distant relatives after death,

Lovers of forestry will be glad to know that congress has just authorized the purchase by the federal government of a tract of land in California containing the finest big redwood trees in existence. The land is to be made into a public park in order that these magnificent trees may be properly protected and preserved.

The New Haven Register occupies a column in describing its contempt of President McKinley because of his complete incapacity to grasp the problems arising from new conditions." Our contemporary should not be too sure that the incapacity is not located nearer its own office.

After a silence of months the German agrarians are again showing a disposition to pitch into the United States. As the agrarians occupy about the same position in Germany that is held by English-haters in this country, their face-making need cause n anxiety.

It is estimated that the first year's collection of franchise tax in New York state will yield \$4,000,000 in revenue. No wonder Senator Platt predicts Governor Roosevelt's re-election.

In these days of uncertainty, it will no doubt be a pleasure to many to know that Bourke Cockran has not surrendered to England.

THE COMMERCIAL SPIRIT.

From the Washington Post.

Quarterly dividends are most readily earned, in regular business operations, where the people are satisfied with and loyal to their government. There are no men more desirous of promoting social progress than the intelligent capitalists progress than the intelligent capitalists of the United States. They found and endow institutions of learning, libraries, art galleries, and hospitals. They cheerfully pay taxes for the support of the free schools, for which they have little direct use. If all this is not true, unselfish benevolence, it must, in part at least, be accredited to sound, long-sighted business sense. Capital may be, and sometimes is, heartless, but it is useful, in fact, indispensable. The moneymakers must precede the money-spenders. The Girards, Peabodys, and Hopkinses had a shrewd eye to the main chance

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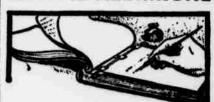
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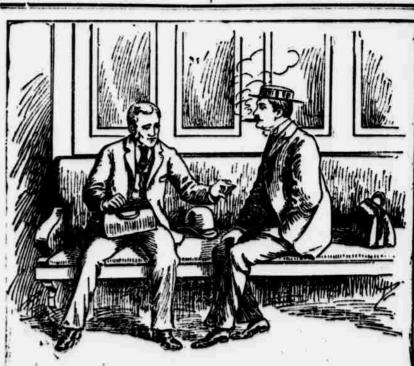
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