

WHAT Senator Beveridge saw in the Philippines made him more of a McKinley man than ever.

GEN. LAWTON'S soldierly qualities and devotion to country were a larger fortune than he dreamed of.

In December, 1898, there was a treasury deficit of \$460,000, and in December, 1899, a surplus of \$7,613,000. A Republican administration can keep ahead with a war on its hands.

SENOR SILVELLA is at work on friendly commercial treaties with the United States. The war with Spain has left no rankling enmities and that is one of its most valued results.

It was only kept to our original thirteen States we would probably never have gotten into this frightful Philippine mess. As it is, we are quickly sinking into oblivion, and will probably carry Boston with us.

SECRETARY GAGE'S action in preventing a financial crash is looked upon by the Populists as particularly reprehensible. A wave of disaster would have been a splendid card for them in their present depressed and depleted condition.

DEMOCRATIC STAMEN and editors who were predicting that the Dingley law would be a failure as a customs revenue producer are dodging that question now. The customs receipts under that law, in the six months ending with December, 1899 were \$113,800,470, while those in the corresponding six months of 1898, the last year of the low tariff Wilson law, were but \$67,645,000.

WHEN we were boys a "licking" was seldom mentioned to parents because it was usually followed by a "lanbasting" at home. -FOREST REPUBLICAN.

Which illustrates the truth of the old adage that "silence is golden." And we presume further to say that probably not in the entire school was there a boy who could keep "mummer" when he got home, than the youthful Bre' Wenk. -Blizzard.

Now just listen to that, will you.

THE Democratic Louisville Courier Journal gives an analysis of the expansion question which is far from complimentary to Democratic sagacity. It says: "The policy of expansion is the old Democratic policy, which the Republicans have been shrewd enough to take up, and which some Democratic leaders are trying to get Democrats to antagonize simply because the Republicans have taken it up."

THE Commissioner of Internal Revenue has just made a stamp tax ruling that is of importance to notaries and lawyers. This is No. 9 dated January 8, and decides that notarial certificates attached to depositions of witnesses to be used in cases pending in court, do not require a stamp. They are used in legal proceedings and are exempt from taxation. It has been the custom to tax these certificates with a ten cent stamp.

THE proposition to make a National holiday of May 1, and call it Dewey Day, is rightly meeting with much opposition. Every achievement of the war with Spain were to be commemorated by a National holiday we would have a Schley Day, a Hobson Day, a Funston Day, and so on through the list. The idea is a ridiculous one, and anyone voting to make Dewey Day a National holiday, would be entitled to a large sized and elegantly embossed leather medal. Besides that, we're ready have enough holidays. -Blizzard. Sure, sure; drop the holiday nonsense.

MR. BRYAN is evidently finding the anti-expansion proposition an unpopular one. He is hedging. He is reported by the Associated Press in an interview in Minneapolis: "I am a firm believer in the enlargement and extension of the limits of the Republic. I don't mean by that the extension by the addition of contiguous territory nor to limit myself to that. Wherever there is a people intelligent enough to form a part of the Republic it is my belief that they should be taken in." This knocks the bottom out of the proposition to make Bryan and Anti-expansion the chief features of the Democratic campaign of 1900.

SENATOR HARDENBURGH has developed unexpected strength in the past few weeks and it will be impossible to defeat him, even if the leaders were so inclined, which they are not. Senator Hardenburgh has another session to serve in the Senate, but if he is elected he would not go into the auditor general's department until the first Monday of May 1901, and by that time the legislative session would be over. -Harrisburg Telegraph.

Senator Hardenburgh has perhaps more warm personal friends in Pennsylvania than any other man within her borders. He has served his own country of Wayne long and faithfully in the legislature, and in all these years there has never the slightest breath of suspicion or corruption been uttered against him from any quarter. If the State could always have such men at the head of affairs there would never be cause for adverse criticism.

THE Philadelphia Record, (Democratic) is of the opinion Congress should inaugurate a navy building era which would give the United States a sea force as large as that of a European power of the first class. It has even been suggested that the example of France in appropriating \$100,000,000 for naval construction should be followed here. There is a sound basis for the popularity of navy expansion. A strong navy is needed, more especially as the United States has taken a prominent position among the Powers, and must maintain it. The present navy is not keeping with the importance of the nation nor adequate for the performance of new and onerous international duties. Therefore a larger fleet is needed; and there is a pressing necessity which the Record suggests should be attended to first. The government has not enough seamen to man the war ships now in commission. Secretary Long's recommendation for a considerably larger force of men should be adopted at this session of congress. Finally, the armor-plate filibusters should be "sat down on" hard.

As Viewed in Other States.

In spite of the clamor and intrigue, the case of Matthew S. Quay will go before the United States Senate on its merits. The report of a Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections is not conclusive. It is not even indicative of the sentiment of the Senate. Mr. Burrows, of Michigan, two Democrats, and a Populist have joined in a declaration not to seat Mr. Quay on the appointment of the Governor of Pennsylvania. Senators Chandler, Hoar and McComas will present a minority report to seat him. That is the whole situation up to the present. The issue is a constitutional one, and it is significant that Senator Hoar the best constitutional lawyer in the Senate, is strongly in favor of seating Mr. Quay. It cannot be said that Mr. Hoar is influenced by party feeling. He has given evidence within the last two years that he will not yield his convictions, though his party suffer and his countrymen be shot for them. His position in favor of seating Mr. Quay is that of a constitutional lawyer. He is supported in this position by the best lawyers among the Democratic and Republican members of the Senate.

A disreputable attempt has been made to carry into the Senate the persecution of Mr. Quay, which was carried into the courts of Pennsylvania against the traditions of fairness and decency, against the plain provisions of the statutes, and judgment of the best lawyers in the State. The object of this persecution in the courts of Pennsylvania was to defeat the re-election of Senator Quay by the Legislature. On the baldst pretenses a baseless lawsuit was kept before the courts until the legislature adjourned, when the whole anti-Quay case collapsed.

It was apparent the day after the Legislature adjourned that the prosecutors and persecutors of Senator Quay were without evidence, and that they had failed utterly to influence the people of Pennsylvania against him by their plot. It was clear that a political trick had been used to rob the State of representation in the Senate. There was instant reaction against the persecutors of Mr. Quay. As the Legislature had failed to elect a Senator, the Governor appointed Mr. Quay. If the Governor had a right to appoint, Mr. Quay is entitled to his seat, and the attempts to revive the conspiracy should not confuse the people nor deflect the United States Senate from the lawful course of action.

The indignation of Senator Hoar over the petitions sent to him asking him to vote against Senator Quay because the signers of the petition believe that Mr. Quay is not a proper person for Senator is fully justified, and there is no doubt his indignation is shared by every man who has a proper sense of the dignity and duties of the Senate. The mugwump press throughout the United States has lost sight of the only issue at stake, and, taking up the cry of the conspirators, is insisting that the Senate shall take cognizance of the court prosecution that failed; of the controversy in the Legislature based on charges that were thrown out of court.

Mr. Quay stands before the Senate today insisting upon his claim to a seat. Behind him are the ablest constitutional lawyers of the Senate. His claim will be presented on its merits and argued on its merits. It is to be hoped that it also will be decided on its merits, not in deference to the anarchic clamor of spleenful mugwumps or discredited party plotters. -Chicago Inter-Ocean.

The Tariff a Live Issue.

Under this heading the Hon. Albert J. Hopkins, Representative in Congress from Illinois, contributes an interesting article to the January Forum. Rightly he combats the view that the tariff has been taken out of politics and relegated to the domain of academic discussion. Neither does he believe that the subject of import duties is ever going to be referred to a non-partisan commission acting independently of congress. A tariff commission vested with these powers could not be created under the constitution and an amendment to the constitution having this for its object is a long way off, if not altogether impracticable.

The tariff will cease to be a live issue only when American free traders cease to be solicitous in behalf of foreign producers, cease their clamor for unrestricted foreign competition, and cease their denunciation of Protection as robbery of the many for the benefit of the few. If in the next eight years the Democrats should elect a President and obtain majorities in both branches of Congress, does anybody suppose that the Dingley tariff would be allowed to remain on the Federal statute books? Democratic opposition to a protective tariff is not dead; it is only asleep, or, what is more nearly the fact, merely "playing possum."

The tariff is a live issue, and it must remain alive until the two dominant parties are in accord on the question of an economic policy that shall secure to domestic industry the full possession of the domestic market.

WITH war expenses 38 per cent. less than one year ago and the Treasury surplus for the last six months of 1899 over \$21,000,000, those Democratic toothsayers who saw the Republic tottering on the brink of an abyss of imperial financial ruin have quickly turned their attention to other fields of criticism.

TORTURING IN SIAM.

THE HORRIBLE CODE OF JUSTICE IN THAT QUEER LAND.

Criminals Are Sometimes Buried Alive in Plaster Molds—Executions by the Headman Are Fantastic and Brutal in the Extreme.

The traveler in that strange country, Siam, will still find many relics of barbarism. Among the most curious practices still in vogue are those for the punishment of criminals.

Men are often subjected to severe punishments for very trivial offenses. It is not an uncommon thing for the king to sentence two men to be chained together, who are then compelled to go about yoked in this manner perhaps for years, as no one dare release them without the king's permission, and the king often forgets to give it. An instance of this kind was brought out recently when one of the prisoners died and the other unfortunate wretch was seen dragging the body of his late companion about beside him, unable to escape from his horrible yoke.

The European consuls endeavored to obtain his release, but during the delay the condemned man died and the king's poor victim became insane and soon afterward died.

Executions are of frequent occurrence, and the method of execution is interesting, although revolting in detail. The locality mostly used for this purpose is situated in a valley a short distance from Bangkok. Morning is the time generally selected, when crowds of natives may be seen moving toward the spot, arrayed in their gayest colors, and one would imagine that some pleasant and enjoyable fete was about to be held. The assembled thousands, arrived at the scene of action, chant merrily and beat among themselves as to whether the executioner will cut his man's head off at one blow.

The executioner is dressed in red rags and armed with a large "dah," or sword. The condemned man is then led up by an escort drawn by lot from his own station, who have charge of the entire affair and who are directly responsible to the king for the successful carrying out of his orders. After a procession through the streets of the city, in which the unfortunate victim is compelled to carry the weapon which is to take his life, the cavalcade moves to the execution ground.

The headman then proceeds to shackle the prisoner's ankles together, bind his hands behind his back, stuff his ears with clay and bandage his eyes. The spectators meanwhile taking advantage of this opportunity to indulge in the most animated speculation on a variety of subjects, oftentimes wagering their entire possessions as to the exact moment when the victim will be killed or whether he will retain his composure. The prisoner is led forward and placed on an elevated dais of earth in a kneeling position, and a mark is drawn upon his neck with colored earth to indicate the exact spot to be struck.

The headman retires to a distance of about 20 paces and commences to leap and caper about, uttering cries and brandishing his "dah," all the time advancing toward his victim until within striking distance, when he raises his sword as if to give the fatal blow, but does not do so. Again he returns to the same place as before and goes through a similar performance, which he repeats for the third time, when, rushing suddenly forward, with one sweep of his weapon, he severs the head from the body, amid the applause of the assembled multitude or the gloomy silence of those unfortunate victims who have wavered against his successful performance of the feat.

Sometimes it happens that the executioner, through lack of skill in dealing the final blow, misses his aim and gashes his man in a frightful manner. Should this happen he is immediately seized by an assistant executioner and condemned to death, another taking his place, who proceeds to go all through the performance anew, while the unfortunate wretch is writhing in agony and slowly bleeding to death. As soon as the condemned is successfully beheaded the official who has had charge of the affair chops off the heels of the victim and slips the iron over the feet. These are conveyed to the king as testimony of his having faithfully performed the duty entrusted to him.

This is, however, but one of many customs in which undesirable subjects may be disposed of. Such minor transgressions as theft, wife stealing and combating of official authority visit upon the head of the offender punishment ranging in scale according to the enormity of the offense. Thus a man may consider himself fortunate if for his peccadilloes he is subjected to no greater physical inconvenience than having the nails of his fingers and toes torn out by the roots, suffering the loss of an eye, tongue, nose or, in more aggravated instances, probably his hands and feet.

A punishment which is reserved for extraordinary cases is the burying up of the victim in plaster of paris, one of the most diabolical and inhuman tortures that the mind can conceive. A large hole is dug in the ground of sufficient length and depth to hold the body of the intended victim, and into this hole he is placed, with his hands and feet securely tied. Liquid plaster of paris is poured over the body, incasing it in a mold. On setting it hardens and contracts, gradually squeezing the victim to death in an adamantine mold and causing the most excruciating torture. The body is allowed to remain in this state for weeks and months after death as a warning to other offenders.

Similar aboriginal methods are likewise observed in the trial of those accused of crime. This is more true outside of Bangkok, for in the latter city civilization has had some appreciable influence in lessening these abuses. In Siam in general, however, the practice of trial by ordeal is still common. The commonest method is to give the accused a handful of rice to chew, and when the rice is masticated it is placed upon a small sheet of cloth. If traces of blood are found, the guilt of the accused is assured, and he is immediately punished. Should there be no trace he is given his freedom. -New York Press.

Roll Your Grass Well. The effect of rolling is to crush down the bigger plants that flourish among the grass and to injure the grass itself but little. The bigger plants are mostly weeds, which, if allowed to grow unchecked, would soon choke the more slender grass.

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Notice of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the County Commissioners of Forest county will meet at their office in the Court House, in Tionesta borough on the 13th, 14th and 15th days of February next for the purpose of holding a Court of Appeals from the assessment of 1900.

R. M. HERMAN, JNO. T. CARSON, J. H. MORRISON, County Commissioners.

Attest: J. T. DALE, Clerk.

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