

**DEMOCRATIC NEWS ITEM.**  
**CHARLES L. WINE, Editor.**  
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**THE PANAMA CASE.**  
 THE ACTION OF OUR GOVERNMENT  
 FULLY JUSTIFIED.

The Mooted Treaty of 1816 and Our Position Under It—Timely References to Changes in the Control and Government of Panama.  
 The more thoroughly all the facts of our history and present action in the Panama matter are examined the more clearly is the attitude of our government vindicated.  
 Take the first proposition, that the treaty "goes with the land." It is nowhere pretended that the treaty of 1816, under which the United States is charged with the right and duty of keeping the isthmian transit free and unobstructed, has ever lapsed. The power it confers has always been exercised whenever there has been any occasion for it. The ruling government of Panama has several times changed, as she had a right under the constitution to do. For four years she remained an independent sovereignty, but our rights and powers in Panama under the treaty of 1816 went on just the same.  
 In 1861 New Granada reorganized as the United States of Colombia, and Panama voluntarily resumed the political association, reserving the right to withdraw again at pleasure. The treaty was not affected, but remained valid when Colombia had the sovereignty of the land; as when first New Granada and then Panama had it. Panama now again establishes her sovereignty, and the obligations of the treaty continue unbroken. They have been in force whatever government has been in control, and the power of the United States in the matter of transit has never been challenged. The flag which floats at Panama has several times been changed, but the rights of the United States have not.

Again, the critics of the administration have contended that under the treaty the United States was bound to maintain the sovereignty of Colombia over Panama. They have insisted that this was the equivalent for the concession of our power over transit. But it was plain to common sense that this guarantee applied only to the maintenance of Colombian sovereignty as against foreign attack. It was repugnant to all reason to suppose that the United States would bind itself to interfere in a domestic conflict. This obvious conclusion is supported by decisive authority. The New York Tribune brings out the fact that in 1895 Colombia claimed the aid of the United States under the treaty against insurgents in Panama. The construction of the treaty was referred to Attorney General Speed, whose opinion was embodied in a letter of instructions by Secretary Seward. He said, "The purpose of the stipulation was to guarantee the isthmian transit against seizure or invasion by a foreign power only." That conveys the plain dictate of common sense, and it disposes of a vast deal of unreflecting criticism.  
 The only ground left for complaint is the allegation that the recognition was too hasty and that Colombia was not allowed to use force to defend her sovereignty. If the recognition was prompt, so was the full establishment of the authority of Panama. As to Colombia's self defense, her little squad was crushed to the guardhouse, and her sovereignty extinguished in one blow. She was helpless. After her shameful conduct, what claim, legal or moral, could she make? The action of the United States was for peace.—Philadelphia Press.

**Britain Crying For Protection.**  
 Experience is the best teacher. Great Britain, which used to pride itself upon being the land of free trade, is now seriously wavering in that faith, and the movement for protection has secured the support of several members of the cabinet.  
 Premier Balfour is the latest to support Lord Chamberlain's stand for protection. Britain is a land of many colonies, which rule themselves. Australia and New Zealand are two which have taken stands for protection. Free trade England now finds its own colonies adding to their revenues and importance by putting a tariff on British made goods.  
 The success of several of its colonies under protection seems to have set the British statesmen to thinking. Of course after years of free trade it may take some time to cause protection to come. But the change will certainly be adopted. The British workman must be given the opportunity to develop; British trade which is languishing abroad must be stimulated at home.  
 The growing demand in Great Britain for protection shows how wise is America in sticking to it. When the land which has long prided itself upon free trade sees the error of that course it is the strongest possible endorsement which could be given to the Republican policy of protection.—Philadelphia Item.


**The Voice of Canada.**  
 As far as Canada is concerned we have the opinion of our manufacturers with ringing clearness. It is that we should give a preference to Great Britain, but that we should give it in this

reason: we must have a tariff high enough to exclude British goods and then as much higher against all non-British countries as any one likes. It is not to be supposed that Britain will sacrifice very much on our behalf in response to such approaches as this. The natural effect of such utterances would be to make her heart as hard as our own. We do not believe that such preposterous views are those of our people, but as long as those who hold them are the only ones who have any policy at all to propose these declarations will be accepted abroad as the voice of Canada.—Montreal Witness.

**Transfer of License.**  
 Notice is hereby given that an application for a transfer of license for Hotel in Hillsgrove township now held by Joseph Feldman to William H. Biddle is filed in my office, and the same will be presented to the Court on Tuesday, December 29, 1903, at 11 o'clock a. m.  
**THOS. E. KENNEDY,**  
 Clerk of Quarter Sessions,  
 Laporte, Pa., December 22, 1903.

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**For Women:** Music rolls, veil cases, work boxes, glove boxes, handkerchief boxes, jewel boxes, soap boxes, china, fancy lingerie, fine neck wear, sofa pillows, hand bags, shoes, leggings, overshoes, hosiery, gloves, ties, toilet articles, handkerchiefs, fancy waistings, rain coats, petticoats, bric-a-brack and coats.

**For Children—** Dolls and doll carriages, toys, books, games, dishes, coats, bonnetst, tobues Tam O'Shanter's, leggings, sweaters, dresses, shoes and hosiery.  
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**Williamsport & North Branch Railroad TIME TABLE.**  
 In effect Monday, Oct. 19th, 1903.

Read down				Read up			
P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
10 15	12 30	4 25	5 30	10 22	7 51	9 45	4 00
10 20	12 35	4 30	5 35	10 27	7 56	9 50	4 05
10 30	1 05	4 40	5 45	10 34	8 07	10 00	4 15
.....	1 15	4 50	5 55	10 42	8 09	10 10	4 25
.....	1 19	4 54	6 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 26	4 52	6 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 30	5 15	6 20	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 4	5 07	6 15	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 9	5 15	6 25	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 14	5 28	6 35	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 19	5 43	6 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 26	5 45	6 55	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 30	5 58	7 05	.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	1 36	6 09	7 15	.....	.....	.....	.....
P. M.	P. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
5 15	8 45	.....	.....	.....	.....	11 10	7 55
6 05	9 35	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 15	6 55
6 20	9 47	.....	.....	.....	.....	8 42	7 08
7 20	10 48	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 50	6 15
.....	12 10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3 05
4 30	4 00	12 29	10 00	7 30	Williamsport	6 50	10 21
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12 41	5 38
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 38	10 31

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