

# POINTS OF THE DAY

## THE ISSUES.

While the Presidential campaign is about two years off, it is not a difficult matter to tell in advance the issues upon which it will be fought. In 1896 the Republicans carried the country on a platform virtually of high tariff and the gold standard. The people were told that a grave peril confronted the government, and that the Republican party was the only deliverer standing between prosperity and ruin. They were told that if the Republicans were placed in power, the mills would be opened, the wages of labor would be raised, confidence would be restored and an era of unprecedented prosperity would set in. Well, the Republicans have had practically a free field, and what has been the result? In spite of profuse promises, five-cent cotton is the rule in the South, wages have been reduced throughout the mills of New England, and thousands of workmen in that section are out on a strike. Now, these things indicate the utter failure of the Republican program of gold monometallism and high tariff. Nor are the people blind to this failure. The elections everywhere show that they have discovered the Republican game, and are convinced of the insincerity of its promises. The "shouting and the tumbling" of the Presidential election hardly died out before Carter Harrison, a staunch advocate of free silver, was elected Mayor of Chicago by one of the largest pluralities ever given in that city. Nearly all the municipal elections in the Western States showed a like change of sentiment. Tammany Hall, odorous as it is, has been restored to power in New York City, and New York State has gone Democratic recently by about 60,000 majority. There are no indications of faltering allegiance on the part of the South and West to free silver. In Kentucky, which was carried by the Republicans in 1896 by the skin of their teeth, there has been a revulsion of sentiment, the gold standard Democrats have been blotted out, and the Democracy has again obtained control of the State. Everywhere the drift of opinion is toward free silver and a revenue tariff, and Democrats may as well prepare to line up for these two issues. The Republican party will be committed to gold monometallism and high protection, and the Democracy will be found fighting valiantly for free silver and a revenue tariff. On this platform the Democratic party would today, without any preparation, canvassing or speech-making, sweep the country.—Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

### Fraud on the Farmers.

The McKinley administration poses as the particular friend, first, of the protected industries, and secondly, as the champion and knight errand of agriculture. It treats the farmers of the United States as ignorant mendicants whom the Government should supply with essays on the tape worn in poultry, grape cuttings, strawberry plants, pamphlets on the diseases of domestic kine, hog cholera serum, primers on the art of packing eggs for market, bovine tuberculosis, garden seeds, and dissertations upon the contents of crows' stomachs.

The Department of Agriculture is being used as a stalking horse behind which wily and unscrupulous politicians hide themselves while they fling their nets and snares to catch bucolic baloos. The extravagance of the political sports who thus hunt for votes is seemingly without limitation. Walking delegates who are put on the pay roll of a department merely to give employment to partisan bidders and heebers and sent abroad neither reflect credit upon the Government that sends them nor confer benefit upon the taxpayers, who are bled to sustain them.

There are special agents and special agents now promeneading the globe from this Department of Agriculture at Government expense. Their per diems and salaries are liberal in the extreme. Their daily expenses are generous if not extravagant. And Uncle Sam pays all. Some of these utilitarian agents are looking for leguminous plants adapted to American soils and climate. Just as though the enterprise of the seedsmen of the United States had not already ransacked the earth for these things at their own expense! Other perambulating patriots under this paternal system are looking for new varieties of apples, berries and pears. All of these special agents are a fraud upon the people and the Government. If they are not why is not it published to the world when they are sent out and the pay which they are to receive and the expense which they are allowed frankly stated to the citizenship which pays them all?

Is it not true that the expenditures of the Department of Agriculture are constantly increasing and that demands for more appropriations for it and the weather bureau are constantly being made, without any commensurate benefits becoming visible to the public eye?

### Republicans Held Responsible.

The Republican organs had a lot to say about the little surplus the Dingley bill scraped up in December, but their silence on the January deficit of \$7,000,000 is most profound. This would indicate that they don't even find the outlook encouraging, for an occasional shortage is not a thing to be discouraged over. Touching on the prospect, the Albany Argus says: "It is still regarded as improbable that the

Dingley tariff can, in a full normal year, produce enough revenue from customs to make up the amount required for the expenditures of the Government. The Treasury statements show that for the first seven months under that law the deficit was \$43,854,791, so that a gain of more than \$10,000,000 a month will be required for the next five months to overcome the deficit. The Republican party will be held responsible for this failure, and its political effect will be apparent in the Congressional elections." It is noted, however, that the Republicans have already begun to bring their philippic to bear on their expected defeat in the Congressional elections.

### They Would Save the Party.

To vindicate American honor, to avenge murdered American seamen, to deal swiftly, spiritedly and justly with the Spanish power, that does not assure safety, that gives to destruction an American war vessel riding at anchor in a Spanish harbor open to the world, has been roundly denounced by organs of the administration as jingoism.

Whoso in his fervid indignation prematurely offered his personal service to the military arm was held up by these organs to laughter, jeers and jeers. It was ridiculous to wave the American flag. It was presumptuous in a free American citizen to speak his sentiments with force and directness until a supine administration at Washington gave him permission. Let the trumpets and the drums of American war spirit remain silent. The baton of the great national leader would not permit patriotism to become vocal. Wait. Be calm. Be cool. Be patient.

But the organs discover of a sudden that war is patriotism. Not a war in vindication of American honor, not a war of vengeance upon the murderers of Americans—that would be jingoism—but a war to save the Republican party. To elect Major McKinley and keep in office the administration of the mediocrities. The war whose pretext is to be Cuban misgovernment and whose alleged object Cuban independence—since our "business interests" are to suffer as long as there is Spanish attempt to establish Spanish rule in the island—is to be fought not by the patriotism and intelligence of the country, but by the "cankers of a calm word and a long peace," the host of unemployed who if not given work may in their discontent plump their ballots this fall against the Republican party and so sweep the country.

We must have war, not for the destruction of an enemy, but for the salvation of McKinleyism. We must no longer wait, no longer remain cool or patient. War with a respectable purpose is condemned as the device of the unspeakable jingo. But war to save McKinley and Wall street and a so-called sound currency must at once be entered upon as a holy crusade. But struggle as McKinleyism may, Republicanism is doomed. War or no war, Democracy will sweep the country this fall.—Chicago Chronicle.

### One Year of McKinley.

At the close of the first year of President McKinley's term it may be said with absolute truth that only those who are blessed who expected nothing, for they have not been disappointed. The record is almost a blank in so far as good deeds are concerned. The promised era of prosperity has not yet arrived for the working masses, the burning questions of the time have not been acted on, and the treasury deficit has not come to an end, although the Dingley tariff was passed specially for that purpose.

The country is no more prosperous today than it was a year ago when McKinley took the oath of office; the finances of the nation are not in better shape, and the outlook for the future has not improved. On the other hand the trusts and monopolies which contributed so liberally to the Republican campaign fund, which had so much to do to put the present administration in power, have been duly rewarded, and Mark Hanna is a greater man than he was on the 4th of March of last year. He has been placed in the United States Senate by one of the most contemptible tricks known to our history—the crowding out of poor John Sherman and forcing him into a position in which he is a mere cipher—and he is of so much consequence that special accommodations have to be provided for him in the White House.

To Republicans who sincerely believed that the McKinley administration would rise to the high level of its opportunities, the performances of its first year must appear particularly mortifying. As for the Democrats, they anticipated nothing else than the flat, stale and unprofitable showing that has been made.—New York News.

### This Legislature Named Hanna.

Whispers which may develop into open charges of corruption and bribery are now heard in Columbus. It is intimated that the legislation of the House is controlled by certain members who are willing to pass or defeat pending bills for a consideration.—Cleveland Leader.

### One of the Forgotten Planks.

Just as an evidence of good faith, wouldn't it be well for Congress to read that little section in the last Republican platform about Cuba before announcing that everything that stands in the way of adjournment has been attended to?—Louisville Times.

## CARRYING MAIL IN CANADA.

Dogs Drag Sledges Two Thousand Miles Over Snow and Ice.

One of the most romantic and picturesque mail services in the Universal Postal Union is that of Northern Canada. Of the several long mail routes penetrating the great wilderness lying between Canada's northern frontier and the Arctic ocean there is one that runs almost due north a distance of 2,012 miles beyond the railroad terminus. It is the route from Edmonton, Alberta, to Fort McPherson, on Peel river, near the Arctic coast. The winter mail for Fort McPherson is known as the "Mackenzie River packet." With the exception of 170 miles by horse sleigh, it is hauled the entire distance on sledges drawn by dogs. On that route, as on most others, there are only two mails a year. The summer "packet" is taken down the Athabasca, Slave and Mackenzie rivers on steamers owned by the Hudson Bay company. The route next in length is that from Selkirk, a few miles north of Winnipeg, to York Factory, on Hudson bay, being 680 miles. The winter packet is hauled by dog train. In summer it goes about 300 miles by steamer, and the remainder of the distance by canoe. The Peace river packet is carried in a similar manner over a distance of 620 miles, from Edmonton to McLeod's Fort, in the Rocky Mountains. The Moose Fort packet runs between the Hudson Bay company's post on Lake Temiscamingue and Moose Fort on James bay, covering 420 miles. In summer the mail goes by canoe; in winter it is hauled on a toboggan drawn by men.

The mail matter to and from points north of the Government postoffices in Canada is placed in charge of the Hudson Bay company, and delivered along with the company's mail. Their packet arrangements are such that every post in the northern department is periodically communicated with.

The mail is usually contained in a box 2½ feet long by 1½ feet high, the width

where she painted a miniature of the Prince of Wales in the costume that he wore at the famous ball given by the Duchess of Devonshire. The privilege of painting this would have been in itself honor enough for most artists, but in addition the Prince sent the artist a diamond heart pin, which represented Persimmon, the Prince's horse, in diamonds, with the jockey's colors done in enamel. After the fact of the presentation became public the price of her miniatures went up to \$1,000, and persons are wondering if the influence of the Prince of Wales' patronage will be strong enough to have the same effect in New York.—New York Sun.

## MADE HIM FAMOUS.

Bright Wife of the Doctor Had Some Schemes of Her Own.

"Know him?" asked one of the two men talking at the corner as he nodded toward a handsome old gentleman just passing by. "No? Well, sir, that's Dr. Blank, the noted surgeon. I have known him ever since we used to frequent the same swimming hole. Just how long that was before the war I'm not going to say. He beat me in the race for the girl that he married, and if he hadn't the chances are that the doctor would still be driving, night and day, over a little back country, attending to a practice that couldn't pay if it wanted to.

"When they were back there in the woods and he was performing operations that no other member of the profession had thought of undertaking, she gathered round the talk of friendly doctors in the same section that he was original, daring, and successful. She begged him to advertise his abilities, but he sternly rebuked her for asking him to transgress the ethics of the profession.

"But you know how it is when a bright woman sets her head. The doctor's office was a shabby little den, without carpet, window shades, pictures, or anything else but the plainest



MAIL SERVICE OF NORTHERN CANADA.

of the sledge. Into this a surprising amount of postal matter is pressed. The box is lashed to the tail of the sledge, the fore part being packed with blankets, flour, tea and pork for the "trippers," and white fish for the dogs. It is the custom of the Hudson Bay company never to send less than two men with the mail. One of them—the "tracker"—goes a considerable distance in advance to break a trail, which the train of four dogs follow, while the driver brings up the rear. The "trippers" average 30 miles a day. At night they bivouac on the snow, with nothing but a blanket between them and the aurora borealis, while the thermometer may fall to 60 degrees below zero. At each Hudson Bay company post the mail is transferred to a fresh relay of men and dogs.

In former years so jealously was all excess in mail matter guarded against that the carriage of newspapers was disallowed, with the exception of an annual file of the Montreal Gazette which was forwarded to the company's headquarters at Fort Garry for general perusal. Now, however, newspapers and magazines comprise the bulk of the inward-bound packets. In 1853 the colonists organized a monthly mail service between Fort Garry—now Winnipeg—and Fort Ripley, Minn., then the most advanced of the United States post-offices. The building of the Canadian Pacific railroad has put an end to the greater part of the old packet in Northwestern Canada.

In the illustration the numbers refer to the following subjects: (1) the Moose Fort packet nearing Abitibi House; (2) York Factory packet descending the latitude for form, great scope for variety of gear, harness, and trappings. They are generally rather of the swan outline, the sleighers sitting in the "Yates river; (3) interior of postoffice at Hudson Bay post; (4) an ox-express bound for Manitoba House; and (5) the Mackenzie river packet traveling due north, 2,012 miles beyond the railway terminus.

### An American Artist.

Most of New York's noted society beauties have been painted by a woman whose miniatures long ago became famous, and she was noted as the most successful and fashionable artist in that line that New York possessed. Now this fortunate artist is in London,

## WIDELY KNOWN PREACHER.

Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans, Recently Celebrated His 80th Birthday.

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Morgan Palmer, of New Orleans, who recently celebrated the 80th anniversary of his birth, is one of the most widely known and deeply beloved clergymen in the South. He is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, one of the most beautiful of the churches in the Crescent City. For years he has stood at the head of Presbyterianism in the South. Dr. Palmer in his prime was one of the most gifted of the pulpit orators of this country. He won international fame as a preacher, and by many was considered the superior of even Beecher. Just before the war Dr.



REV. DR. PALMER.

Palmer was in the full tide of his power as an orator, and it was said that it was his words that set the South on fire. The story of his life is told in a pretty little book which was published a few years ago, and which is called The Broken Home. Year by year he has seen all his loved ones depart, and he is now alone in his old age.

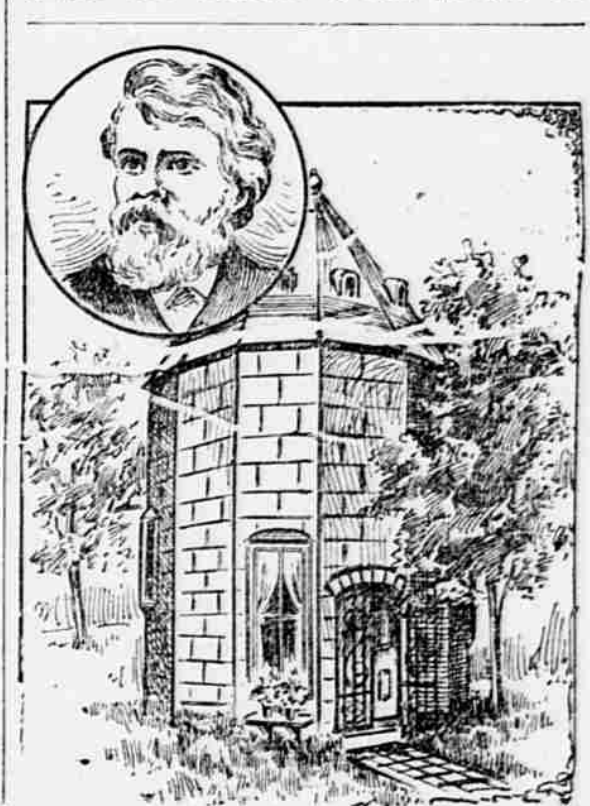
Dr. Palmer is considered as part of New Orleans. The celebration of his birthday anniversary recently was an affair in which the whole city was interested.

## ABOVE HER GRAVE.

This Aged Husband Erected a Home Over His Wife's Tomb.

Col. Elisha De Board, one of the oldest and most prominent citizens of Gilmer County, Ga., has recently had a small but beautiful eight-sided residence erected above his wife's grave. The old man has passed the four-score year mark and during the past five years his only solace has been in almost constant visits to the grave of her who for fifty years of life was a devoted wife and companion. From the early hours of morning on till the last beam of day had faded he would sit and fancy the inanimate form mouldering away beneath the grass and flowers was once more quick with life and sharing again the facilities of home. When the weather would permit he

would often spend the evening hours at her graveside, never quitting the place until the shades and dampness of night had come on. But this was not satisfying, and so the structure shown in the illustration here was built that the old man might more conveniently assuage the sorrows of his closing days.



COL. DE BOARD AND HIS NEW HOME.

It is only a short distance from her grave to the old, well-furnished mansion where they dwelt for half a century together. But when she was gone the place had lost its charm. The halls were lonely and the fireside desolate. Nothing could satisfy the old man's longing. In the new structure, small and circumscribed though it may be, here is at hand that which alone to him in life is dear. Here he can read or sit alone and think or tend the flowers that adorn her tomb. At night he finds repose and rest within touch of the grave he loves so well.

## The Fetich Diamond.

The South African native, it seems, is not always decorated with the mere trumpery of the trader's wallet or of his own purveyance. It has become an attested fact that excellent diamonds, and diamonds better than that, are possessed by chiefs and hoarded by them, not so much in intelligence of their value as in a firm fetichism. The stones have come to their hands by the good old-fashioned method of stealing them from the Kimberley mines years ago before the present minute watch against gem thieving was systematized. Diamond-stealing at present is practically impossible under the peculiar methods of its prevention. Before the rigid examinations of workmen and visitors began to be enforced, native laborers often were under a secret compact with their tribal rulers not to come back from the mines without a

good-sized stolen diamond for the chief's use; hence, a great many superb gems are in the dark unfathomed caves of a Kaffir headman's establishment. Within a few years enterprising traders have made special expeditions and palavers for diamonds so hidden, with the result of successful bartering for them. Liquor and guns have been found useful. In some instances the superstition of the chiefs stood in the way of traders recovering valuable stones; but, on the other hand, a small company working on this line of acquisition is credited with having obtained within four months not less than two hundred thousand dollars' worth of diamonds. One agent succeeded in buying of a chief six stones of more than two hundred karats each.

## WITH THREADS OF METAL.

Tinsel Fabrics and the More Costly Brocades of Gold and Silver.

Tinsel fabrics are the lower priced of the cloths into which gold or silver threads have been woven. In tinsel fabrics the gold threads are of brass or copper, gilded, and the silver threads are of white metal. These threads of metal, originally fine wire, are rolled flat and burnished, and they glisten in the fabric wherever the pattern brings them to the surface. Tinsel fabrics are made about three-fourths of a yard in width, and they sell at 75 cents to \$2.50 a yard. They come in various colors, and many of them are beautiful and artistic in design. Some are copies of old Venetian tapestries. Tinsel fabrics are used for church and for theatrical purposes, and sometimes for gowns and for decorative purposes.

The costlier fabrics, with interwoven metal threads, are called gold and silver brocades. In these the gold threads are of silver, gold-plated, and the silver threads are of pure silver; the body of the fabric is of silk. The brocades are all beautiful, and many of them are exceedingly so. These fabrics are made about five-eighths of a yard in width, and they sell at various prices up to \$25, and sometimes as high as \$50 a yard. The costliest of these fabrics are very rarely imported into this country, brocades at \$10 and \$12 a yard being about the highest priced used here. If more elaborate fabrics are required they are usually imported to order. The finer fabrics, with metal threads, are made in France, the commoner kinds in Germany.

Gold and silver brocades are here used almost exclusively for church purposes, and chiefly for vestments. They are imported in red, violet and green, and also in black with silver threads, the black and silver being for mourning. Gold and silver brocades are also used to a limited extent for decorative purposes.

Such fabrics, and gold embroidery, often of the costliest description, are far more commonly used in Europe than here, both for church and for military purposes.—New York Sun.

## Nelson's Wonderful Feat.

Writers of historical reminiscences have to be masters of a certain amount of accurate information about their heroes if they wish to avoid mistakes. If they are not, they are sure to "get things mixed."

Not long since a reviewer in the London Times, writing of a book named "Roving Commissions," related on his own account the following episode of Nelson, the great admiral: "While in chase of Villeneuve's French fleet he was informed of the enemy leaving in sight, at which information Nelson evinced the highest satisfaction, and gleefully rubbed his hands."

As a correspondent of the Times points out, this incident occurred in 1805. Nelson lost his right arm in the attack on Santa Cruz, Tenerife, in 1797—eight years prior to his pursuit of Villeneuve's fleet. It would have been, therefore, a difficult matter for him to "rub his hands" in 1805.

## Cogitation.

The gentlemen of the bar, who not infrequently have to take rebukes from the bench, greatly enjoy a chance to make a legitimate retort against the court. The story is told that a certain judge who, during the plea of a rather prosy lawyer, could not refrain from gently nodding his head in sleep, was caught at this by the lawyer, who looked significantly at him.

"Perhaps," said the judge, testily and prevaricatingly, "the counsel thinks the court was asleep, but he may be assured that the court was merely cogitating."

The lawyer talked on. Presently the judge, again overcome by his somnolence, nodded off and aroused himself with a little sudden snoring noise.

"If it please your honor," said the lawyer, "I will suspend my plea until the court shall have ceased to cogitate audibly!"

"You may go on," said the judge; and he did not fall asleep again.

## Remarkable Telegraph Line.

Among the most remarkable works in Australia is the overland telegraph from Port Darwin to the south of the continent, which was completed in 1872. Almost the whole 2,000 miles of its length was through uninhabited country—much of it a waterless desert. The wooden poles were prepared at the nearest available places, but some had to be carried 350 miles, while the iron poles were taken an average distance of 400 miles by land. Over 2,000 tons of material had to be carried into the interior, and the total cost was \$1,850,000.

## The Remains of Babylon.

Two wealthy Hebrews of Bagdad, now own all that remains of the ancient town of Babylon.

The Bible says it is more blessed to give than to receive. All right, you give; we'll receive.