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The city charter is much like an army recruit who never realizes how many things are wrong with his system until the doctors get hold of him.

The outgoing soldiers to the Philippines might take along their Christmas presents to swap for firecrackers with the home-coming volunteers when the ships pass in the night.

There were lots of people who opposed the Transmississippi Exposition up to and even after the gates opened, but they were all converted to its ardent support before the exposition season was half over.

Having been elected vice president of the Interstate organization of the National Guard officers it is fair to presume that Adjutant General Barry has clinched his reappointment by the incoming governor of Nebraska.

The charter revision committee has at last got down to work. By persistent and well-directed effort it can finish the formulation of all needed charter amendments without difficulty by the opening week of the legislature.

Up to the present time no representatives of the big corporations have been heard demanding a revision of the revenue laws. They are fairly well satisfied with an assessment skimmer that lets them slide through the holes.

Nebraska is furnishing murder mysteries enough to keep the morbidly inquisitive busy for some time to come. When a man undertakes to commit murder he should be considerate enough of the public to involve the act in a copious cloud of dense mystery.

Governor-elect Poynter is being subjected to an enflaming fire from the present holders of appointive offices on one side and the aspirants for places on the other. If it grows much hotter the Boone county statesman will be compelled to throw up earthworks and close the entry to his retreat after him.

Chicago steel rail manufacturers have been compelled to refuse a large order from the Russian government because the capacity of their plant was taxed to the limit to supply domestic contracts already in sight. Nothing like this ever happened before the fostering influence of a protective tariff got in its work.

If the civil service reformers were to have their way in the new possessions of Uncle Sam the ardor of the office-seeking expansionists would be considerably cooled. If every one who expects to draw a salary on the colonial list had first to pass a civil service examination, their ranks would be materially decimated.

General Wood has found it necessary to take measures to protect the tree under which the surrender of Santiago was negotiated from the raids of relic hunters. This is not expected, however, to have any appreciable effect on the number of pieces of the famous tree which will soon be exhibited throughout the country in sufficient quantity to construct a model of one of California's giant redwoods.

The passage of the annual pension bill without debate by the lower house of congress is one of the most striking evidences of the change of sentiment between the sections of the country brought about by the late war. It seems a pity that the great soldier-statesman who sleeps in Riverside park beside the Hudson could not have lived to see the present realization of his wish, "Let us have peace."

The law is plain in its provisions relating to druggists' permits to sell poisonous liquors for medicinal purposes. No druggist can lawfully sell medicines of any kind containing such ingredients without taking out the requisite permit. To wink at the law violation of the druggists who refuse to take out permits is unjust discrimination against the great majority of druggists who obey the law, which should be enforced impartially upon all.

THE PRESIDENT ON EXPANSION. The speech of President McKinley at Atlanta on Thursday is a distinct plea in justification of the policy of expansion. The flag, he declared, "has been planted in two hemispheres and there it remains, the symbol of liberty and law, of peace and progress," and he asked: "Who will withdraw from the people over whom it floats its protecting folds? Who will haul it down?"

Those who are opposed to the policy of expansion have not proposed and do not propose that the flag shall be anywhere withdrawn. What they urge is that it shall not be carried further and forced upon people who have not asked for its protection and according to the best information do not desire the sovereignty it represents. Everybody recognizes the fact that the flag must continue to float over the islands of the West Indies ceded to the United States by Spain. It is generally admitted that we should retain a foothold in the Philippines and therefore that the flag should remain at Manila and so much contiguous territory as may be necessary to the security of a naval station there. This would give the United States all the influence and power which it can possibly require for the protection of its interests in the far east.

This would involve no grave responsibilities, no difficulties or embarrassments and no serious dangers. There would be needed at Manila no larger naval force than we now have there and instead of maintaining an army in the Philippines of from 25,000 to 50,000 men a garrison of a few thousand men would be sufficient. We should thus avoid the trouble and the expense of governing millions of alien and mixed races that we cannot reasonably hope to bring into sympathy with our system and methods for many years, if ever.

But the expansionists say that Mr. McKinley endorses the view, that the United States must accept the responsibilities involved in their policy as a duty to humanity. Admitting the sincerity of those who urge this, it yet seems to us to be utterly specious. It is well known that many of the expansionists are influenced by no such consideration, but regard the matter wholly from a commercial standpoint. It is not the welfare of the Philippine people that most of the expansionists are concerned about, but the trade advantages which are expected to come from acquiring the islands. Eliminate this and expansion would have comparatively few advocates. The simple truth is that not only is the United States under no obligation to care for the people of the Philippines, but they do not desire our care. They resent the implication that they are incapable of caring for themselves and demand that they be permitted to enjoy independence and self-government. There was no thought of these people when we went to war. Our sole purpose was to liberate Cuba and with that accomplished our obligation was at an end. To assume a further obligation, which may involve the necessity of subjecting to our will and authority millions of people and possibly of holding them practically in a condition of vassalage, cannot be justified on the plea of duty to humanity.

We have as much confidence as anybody in American capacity to meet new responsibilities. The "genius of American civilization," to quote from Mr. McKinley, will undoubtedly be found equal to any demands that may be made upon it. But we can see no reason and the president does not furnish any, why it should be put to the test in a direction which requires the abandonment of principles upon which the republic is founded, the faithful adherence to which has made us a great and powerful people.

THE PENSION ACCOUNT. One hundred and forty-five millions of dollars, in round numbers, is the amount which the government will pay on account of pensions in the next fiscal year. It is a great sum, largely exceeding the annual cost of Great Britain's army and navy and more than is paid out by any nation of continental Europe for the yearly support of its military establishment. It is manifest testimony to the liberality of the American people and to their patriotic regard for the nation's defenders. It is a noteworthy fact that the bill trying this great appropriation passed the house without discussion, the whole time it was before that body being less than twenty minutes.

The American people will supply the money to pay this account without complaint, but there is a reasonable hope that the maximum has been reached and that hereafter there will be a steady decline in the annual pension payments. It would certainly seem that this should be the case, in view of the fact that it is nearly thirty-four years since the close of the civil war. One thing that will materially help in this direction is greater care in passing private pension bills and there is favorable promise of reform in this respect.

NO RADICAL CHANGE DEMANDED. Among the first things met by the charter committee is the customary suggestion that the system of defraying the expenses of street improvements by special assessments upon benefited property owners should be done away with and all future paving, curbing, guttering, parking and so forth done at the cost of the whole city.

There is no call for the abolition of the system of special assessments. That system with various modifications is in force in nearly every large city in the country and it has given more satisfactory results than any other plan. In theory it is based upon equity and justice, the foundation principle being that where special benefits accrue to private property through a particular street improvement the cost should be charged against the property in the ratio of the benefits and to the extent of the benefits. In practice, it is true, abuses sometimes creep in and hardships result, but the fairness of the scheme honestly carried out is not to be questioned.

A radical change at the present time from the special assessment system to the plan of general taxation is not only uncalled for, but unwise. It would result in unequal taxation worse than anything now experienced by relieving one set of property owners of burdens that

properly belong on them and imposing them upon others who have already borne their shares of the cost of public improvements. If the special assessment system was all right for Omaha when it was in the constructive period it should be all right now, when the principal street improvements are in the shape of renewals and reconstruction far less expensive than the original work.

Remedying defects that may have come to light by revising the special assessment law is entirely proper, but the abolition of the system would be a grave mistake.

A REASSURING REPORT. The report from Manila that the Filipinos are manifesting a better disposition and that there is improvement in the relations between them and the Americans, is reassuring. This is especially so from the fact that Admiral Dewey is of the opinion that those people, if properly treated, will not be found very troublesome. He appears to have confidence in their friendly intentions, but it is to be noted that he advises some concessions to them. One thing he suggests and it is very important is that there should be liberal measures in the direction of local autonomy. In providing a government for the Philippines it will undoubtedly be expedient to give the people as large a measure of self-government as is practicable, both for the educational effect and for the purpose of placating that element which is demanding independence. It may be true, as stated, that this element does not realize what independence means and yet it may be capable of making a great deal of trouble.

Other suggestions of Admiral Dewey are that the insurgents deserve acknowledgment and that it would be good policy for the United States to pay the insurgents their arrears of wages. There certainly appears to be no good reason why whatever service was rendered the American army by the insurgents should not be acknowledged by this government. The Filipinos are manifestly somewhat sensitive in regard to this. They claim that the services they rendered were important and valuable and they feel that they have not been duly recognized. If acknowledgment of them would tend to improve friendly relations our government has everything to gain and nothing to lose by making it. It would seem to be the opinion of Admiral Dewey that we shall avoid difficulties by dealing generously and justly with the Filipinos.

The police board is giving tangible evidence that discipline in the police force means more than a set of formal rules to be broken or ignored at will with impunity. No police force, however numerous, can be efficient in which the members are not held strictly to their duty by the certainty of penalty to fit the offense whenever they fail to perform that duty conscientiously and to the best of their ability. To insure the best service, not only this, but promotions must go solely by merit and experience. The maintenance of discipline requires not only the rigid enforcement of police discipline, but also complete exclusion of both politics and personal favoritism from police government.

One of the best proofs of the growth of Nebraska in the estimation of the financial world is to be found in the statement, compiled in the auditor's office, of the bonded indebtedness of the counties of the state. The earlier issues of the various counties, only a small amount of which are now extant, bore 10 per cent interest. Today there is not a county in the state which would think of floating a bond drawing greater than 6 per cent, and in most cases those paying 4 1/2 per cent would be eagerly snapped up at a premium by investors. Were there any question about the state's credit bonds could not be sold at such rates of interest even if it were possible to dispose of them at all.

The announcement is made that thirty-nine tinplate plants are to be included in the newly formed tinplate trust. A few years ago when a duty was placed on tin for the purpose of building up the industry in this country the opponents of the protective policy laughed at the idea of American manufacturers ever being able to gain a foothold against the Welsh product. Yet today thirty-nine firms are actually engaged in its manufacture and many millions of capital involved in the plan to buy them up for the purpose of consolidation.

There is no good reason why parties who donated their exposition contributions and refused to become stockholders for fear they might thereby become liable for a possible deficit should share in the distribution of the exposition surplus. The exposition surplus belongs to the stockholders and none but stock subscribers have any right to it.

The departure of the troops now stationed at Fort Crook about to be sent to Manila should not be allowed to leave that post empty for any length of time. The enlargement of the army will necessitate the formation of a large number of new recruits whose recruits could find no better place for preliminary training and discipline.

They Court the Danger. Chicago News. Henry Watterson says the great danger to our national life is money. There are a dozen in Chicago who are ready to face danger any hour of the day.

A Dramatic Climax. New York Mail and Express. Last scene of all in this strange, pathetic romance of empire and decay—the transfer of the bones of Columbus from Havana to Spain. No tragedy ever had a more dramatic climax.

Proper Thing to Do. Buffalo Express. Congress could not show its appreciation of the work of the navy in the recent war better than by passing the naval bill, which, among other reforms, gives naval officers the same pay as corresponding grades in the army.

Did They Hit It? Minneapolis Times. Those Spanish women who threw stones at a statue of Columbus by way of showing that they knew who was responsible for their

country's misfortunes were just about as accurate in locating the blame as they were in directing their missiles—if they threw no straighter than their Yankee cousins do.

A Real Long Felt Want. Baltimore American. There ought to be a reciprocity of favors between the street car companies and the public. The public does much for the companies that it is only fair the companies should do something for the public. The best service ought to be secured by the people without the necessity of forced concessions.

Mirthful Play of Thought. St. Louis Republic. The British public seems to have gone into ecstasies over the benevolent utterances of Herr Bulow in the Reichstag. His reference to Kaiser William's innocence of all desire for offensive aggrandizement made a great hit in London. The Kaiser has not yet expressed his opinion of the baron's pronouncement, but it is quite probable that the baron will be impelled to announce that "Wants but little Herr Bulow, nor wants that little" to do his talking for him.

Strength of Organized Labor. Kansas City Star. A labor authority says that a round million of men are organized into unions in the American continent. Laborers are more than 10 per cent in the railway, brotherhoods, about 10 per cent in the building trades organizations and the remaining 20 per cent comprises bodies not federated and in the same category. It is estimated by the same authority that the number is possible to include in the army of organized labor is two and a half millions. The relation of the American Federation of Labor to all is thus seen to be as 6 to 25, and the whole force of all organizations to all labor as 10 to 25.

COLONIAL OBJECT LESSON. Uncle Sam's Brand of Colonial Government Applied to Alaska. Philadelphia Ledger. The United States has burned Washington's farewell address, or at least all that part of it which warns against the dangers of foreign complications. It has flung the Monroe doctrine to the four winds; it has entered upon a new, strange and perilous career of "imperialism," and it has sought a change to the old world to beware of the country as a great and aggressive colonial power in the east.

The United States has acquired the Philippine and Sulu islands, 1,200 or 1,500 of them, and with them millions of barbarous, semi-barbarous, semi-civilized and civilized people. It has also acquired Porto Rico and Guam absolutely. It has taken better over with reserve, and has bought, or means to buy, one or more of the Caroline group. It has also annexed Hawaii.

These are the country's new possessions, and President McKinley has stated in a public address that they represent the "manifest destiny" of the republic. What else they will represent is a new experiment in government—colonial government.

We use the words "a new experiment" advisedly, as we have already given practical lessons to colonial government in Alaska. It has been an experiment on a large scale, but it will serve as a warning to larger ones "an object lesson," says David Starr Jordan, in the November Atlantic, "illustrating methods to be avoided in the rule of our future colonies." Alaska has produced its own possession for thirty years. We found it rich in native resources—furs, fish, lumber, gold—having a population of about 20,000 half-civilized people and a couple of thousand half-breeds. There were less than 25,000 of them all. They supported themselves by hunting the valuable seal and walrus. Many of the hunters became relatively wealthy by taking the seal otters, whose skins were worth from \$300 to \$1,000 each; they lived in villages, which were abodes of comparative plenty and comfort. A little village of 150 souls produced nearly 500,000 seal walrus skins, which were sold to the Greck church a communion service of seals, and that other piece costing \$250. They built their huts and fishing boats of the skins of sea lions. The sea lions have become, under the colonial and "manifest destiny" policy of the United States, almost extinct; so have the otters. Those 150 souls, who at one time set up its "manifest destiny" policy in Alaska, made costly presents to their church, were in 1897 starving to death—not one, but all of them. In the same year the Alaska Commercial company abandoned its trading posts at Akutan, Sannok, Morjovi, Wanasenki, Borkofski, Cheroofski, Khasheg, Makushin and Bjorka. There was no longer any trade to support them. Mr. Jordan states that "at Port Etches the native population was already huddled together in the single cattered and abandoned village and that other village to the eastward were scarcely better housed. However," he adds, "this may be, starvation is inevitable along the whole line of the southwestern coast. From Prince William's sound to Attu, a distance of nearly 500 miles, there are not a village where the people have any sure means of support. 'Reconcentration' under Arctic cold and San Francisco greed these people have no outlook save extermination. Permitting them to face such a doom we have not even the excuse we have had for decimating the Indians," as we do not want their lands.

The hunting and fishing privileges of the natives were transferred to the San Francisco commercial companies, who at once entered on a general campaign of extermination, including fish as well as fur-bearing animals. We have not only taken from these people, during our brief colonial rule, their means of living, their comparative wealth, their comfortable homes and reduced them to a condition of starvation, but we have introduced whiskey to them, and have made them as "Florky" Water of men now called "Whiskey," says Mr. Jordan, "is the greatest curse of the people of Alaska—American, Russian and native." It is one of the deadly fruits of our colonial policy. Mr. Jordan's article concludes as follows: "Under the present conditions when the seal otters are destroyed, the fur seal herd exterminated, the native tribes starved to death, the salmon rivers depopulated, the timber cut, and the placer gold fields worked out, Alaska is to be thrown away like a sucker orange. There is no other possible end, if we continue as we have begun."

"We should count the cost before accepting 'colonies.' It is too late to do so when they are being annexed. If we cannot afford to watch them, to care for them, to give them paternal rule when no other is possible, we do wrong to hoist our flag over them. Government by the people is the ideal to be reached in all our possessions, but there are a dozen in Chicago under our flag as yet incapable of receiving the town meeting idea. A race of children must be treated as children, a race of brigands as brigands, and whatever arbitrary controls either must be behind it, though not in the hands of the people."

"Alaska has made individuals rich, though the government has yet to get its money back. But whether colonies pay or not, it is essential to the integrity of the United States itself that our control over them should not be a source of corruption and waste. It may be that the final loss of her colonies, mismanaged for two centuries, will mark the civil and moral awakening of Spain. Let us hope that the same event will not mark the end of the United States, the nation which receives Spain's bankrupt assets."

With our experience of colonial government in Alaska what cause have we to entertain any hopes that the results in the more distant, less civilized Philippines?

POLITICAL DRIFT. The cost of polling the vote of Indiana at the last election averaged 37 cents each. It is asserted that the market price of Chicago aldermen has gone up to \$200,000. Theodore Roosevelt is the youngest republican governor ever elected in New York state, being just turned 40. Governor Black was 43 at the time of his inauguration. John A. Dix was 73 and Levi F. Morton 70.

Senator Platt of New York is one of the best dressed men in the senate, and brightly despite the 55 years that have given him a slight stoop. He wears a closely buttoned and unwrinkled long frock coat with a pink carnation in the buttonhole. His neckties are quiet, but of the latest shapes.

Senator Gorman of Maryland chews gum incessantly. Sitting in his place in the second row, he works his jaws with the persistence and power of a cotton compress. He always wears a turn-down collar and old-fashioned tie, the latter held in place with a small gold band set with valuable stones.

In accordance with a pre-election promise Thomas Herold, democratic representative-elect of Westville, Ind., rented the largest hall in the place, hired a capital orchestra and gave his followers a dance, footing all bills himself. Mr. Herold, who was elected after an exciting campaign, is credited with aspiring to congress in 1900.

It is generally conceded that your Uncle Dick Croker scored a point in republican politics in New York recently. A judge of the supreme court announced his intention to resign in the month of August. Governor Roosevelt announced that he would appoint Judge Daly to the vacancy. Daly is the judge turned down by Croker and nominated by the republicans, but defeated. Croker saw Platt and Platt saw the retiring judge's outcome. The result was that the resignation was pigeon-holed.

The commission in charge of the erection of the new Pennsylvania state house at Harrisburg has laid the foundation for a large job. The legislature limited the cost to \$500,000. The commission refused to consider a \$500,000 estimate, and accordingly made plans to suit itself. One wing of the proposed building will swallow the \$500,000 appropriated. Now the commission asks for \$3,000,000 more. As the Philadelphia Evening Post estimates, the preliminary bill will cost \$2,000,000, the preliminary bill that the new state house will equal it.

There is every prospect of a hot fight in the New York legislature this winter for a reduction of telephone rates in the state. Former legislatures, but failed. With Governor Roosevelt's influence this time better results are expected. The New York Herald has opened the campaign against the telephone companies by a remarkable showing of the profits of the companies. The present rental is \$40 in New York City, \$120 compared with \$58 to \$175 in Chicago, \$120 to \$180 in Philadelphia and \$57 to \$180 in Boston. The measure proposed would restrict the New York Telephone company to an annual rental fee of \$50, with an extra charge of 5 cents for each message in excess of 1,000 per subscriber, on penalty of \$100 fine for each overcharge.

MENACE TO LABOR. Dangers of Expansion to the Workings of the Country. Denver Post. There is evidently no great love in the American Federation of Labor for the lately developed expansion policy and there is no reason why there should be any. Labor has been repelled from the late acquisition of new territory. A report coming from there one will look in vain for any mention of a demand for labor. All the information goes to show that there is no labor in demand in Hawaii, the Chinese labor system prevails to the exclusion of white labor. The same is true of the Philippine islands, only to a far greater extent, which in Porto Rico one finds that the island is more densely populated than any part of the continent and that there is any demand for American labor. In Cuba there may in time spring up a limited demand to be supplied from the United States provided one cares to face the dangers incidental to a tropical climate and its various forms of pestilence.

There is a still more patent reason why American labor is not in love with the expansion policy. The drain on the resources of the nation on account of that policy is enormous and will be for an indefinite time an enormous one. Under the national system of taxation, labor—the producing masses of the country—has to provide the government with the means to carry out the expansion policy. Labor furnishes the bulk of the national revenue and labor suffers most under the financial policy of the national administration, the protective tariff system and the gold standard. There are certainly sufficient reasons why labor should not favor a policy of aggrandizement of the power of the classes where the masses have to provide the means to accomplish the object, and where there is nothing in view to in any way recompense them for the outlay.

Labor cannot be reconciled to this policy of expansion when it is told that it will be necessary to maintain the war taxes in time of peace in order to further the objects of the expansion policy; that the army may be increased to the same purpose; that at the end of the fiscal year all probability there will be a shortage of about \$12,000,000 caused by it which will have to be covered either by additional taxation or the issue of interest-bearing bonds.

By the annexation of Hawaii this country has taken in much cheap Chinese labor and more will follow by the annexation of the Philippines. That is of no benefit to American labor, no more than the importation of "Huns" by the coal barons of Pennsylvania for the purpose of supplanting American labor. The territorial expansion made for the benefit of the classes at the expense of the masses and is so looked upon by the American Federation of Labor. This policy of expansion as the president of the federation has it, is a declaration that the dollar is more important than the man and plutocracy and militarism nobler than humanity. While the expansion policy is now used to divert attention from the crying evil at home it will in the end cause these evils to be felt the more. The laboring masses can, under these circumstances, have no love for an expansion policy, which, instead of bringing them the much-sought relief, increases their burdens and diminishes their earning capacity. They have no reason to feel thankful for being brought in competition with the cheap Asiatic labor and that is what expansion does for them.

A Pertinent Inquiry. Surgeon General Sternberg has made up his mind that female nurses for army hospitals are "an expensive luxury." Female nurses in any place are expensive from one point of view, but if there is any class of people that are more expensive, even if the rest of us go without comfort, it is the wounded soldiers. Is an army hospital a place of correction?

OTHER LANDS THAN OURS. That events are moving slowly to the disruption of the compact which binds Norway and Sweden together under one king no one can doubt. The crisis of 1883 and the recent decision of Norway to wipe out the emblem of the union from its flag are straw that point the way. How soon the break will come is another question. Unaided, Norway could not possibly withdraw from the union. Though it is of recent years added to its military strength, it is still far inferior to Sweden. Its regular army consists of 25,000 men and, together with the Landsturm, or home guards, which number 18,000 men, gives it an effective force of 43,000 soldiers. Sweden's army is 105,000 men. Norway has sixteen squadrons of cavalry, eight of which are unmounted, while Sweden has forty squadrons. In artillery the proportions are nearly the same, Norway having eighteen batteries, Sweden thirty-six. In the material and discipline Sweden's forces outrank those of its partner. In the matter of navies the same disparity exists, the forces being divided as follows: Norway, battleships, two; large monitors, four; gunboats, first-class, three; second-class, eight; torpedo boats, twenty-eight; total, sixty-nine vessels. From this it will be seen that on sea and land the Swedes would outclass the Norwegians, and it would be madness for the latter to force matters to an issue—unless they expect aid from the outside.

According to latest reports the race conflict in Austria is beginning now to reveal itself in the ranks of the clergy. Hitherto the discipline among them has been so perfect that in the case of German priests national feeling has been entirely subordinated to the interests of the church. The Slav colleagues were not exposed to any such conflict between their national sentiments and the political attitude imposed upon them by their ecclesiastical superiors. Pan-Germanic journals now declare that a strong tendency is manifest among a section of the German priesthood in Bohemia to renounce the German policy of the episcopacy and of the large majority of their colleagues. Reference is made to a protest by the German priests of Reichenberg against the co-operation of the Catholic people's party with the young Czechs. They contend that this policy is mistaken and can lead to no good, and announce their determination to support loyally their own oppressed nationality and to defend its rights. This declaration is cordially welcomed by the organ of the German opposition in the Reichsrath. It alleges that the young Czech members who are so profuse in their professions of friendship to the representatives of the German Catholic Alpine provinces are in reality anti-Catholic as they are anti-German, intriguing against the church in their own constituencies in Bohemia, where they do their utmost to imbue the population with Hussite principles.

A new conference will presently be held to discuss the liquor trade of West Africa, existing regulations being found entirely ineffectual. The head of the Congo Free State, King Leopold of Belgium, will take the initiative, as before, and has invited the European nations most directly interested to the conference, England, France and Germany having already accepted. He will propose a treaty on duty on alcohol, which was fixed by the Brussels conference of 1890 at 13 cents a gallon, though in ports under British control it is already much higher. At Sierra Leone it is 75 cents a gallon, but even at that rate the native managers to get their share of the operating ceremony. All merchants interested in the commerce of the west coast and all who possess any knowledge of the liquor traffic there know that it simply spells death to the negro and that it is without an excuse feature. If it were possible the traffic would be abolished by general consent, but the bush negro will not work for any other inducement, and its abolition, therefore, would mean practically the suspension of all trade with the region. Up to a recent time the black has been possible to working steadily, and his supply of strong drink, but has lately mastered the secrets of the moonshine still, and readily converts bananas into a very fair imitation of applejack. The Sierra Leone police are kept busy hunting these stills, but the negro, who has a producing region is boundless, and the illicit practice is quite likely to survive all present efforts for its suppression. The coming convention will discuss the subject in all its aspects and try to find some means of correcting its worst features and ameliorating its worst effects.

A good deal of sore feeling has been caused in Poland by the elaborate nature of the ceremonies at the recent unveiling of the statue of Muraviev at Wilna. These are thought to be very much at variance with the policy of the government toward the Polish nation of the present czar. It is true that the plan and subscription for the erection of this monument were sanctioned by the late Czar Alexander II, but it was scarcely necessary to remind the Poles so long as they were engaged in the deeds and qualities of a man whom they and his Russian enemies called the "hangman" and "cannibal." These epithets are referred to again now in the principal Russian journals, which argue that they convey a false and exaggerated idea of the character of the great "pacifier" of Polish Lithuania, who is represented as having been grossly maligned, not only by the Poles, but also by those of his own countrymen who were affected by what is called the false liberalism of the time. In order that there might be no mistake as to the official nature of the celebration, several ministers were in attendance, including two of the family of the late emperor, the dead governor general, the minister of foreign affairs, and the minister of justice. The Poles say they are connections of the Muraviev who hanged others, not of the Muraviev who had the misfortune to be hanged himself.

A group of deputies, says a Paris paper, had decided to refuse the 200,000,000 francs the French government desires for the extension of railways from Tonkin into China. Tonkin, it is urged, has already cost France 1,000,000,000 francs and does not pay. It brings in no net revenue, whether directly, in the form of tribute, or indirectly, in the form of increased commerce. Outley on Tonkin is not a productive outlet, especially when the colonies are tropical. Neither the present nor in the future are they likely to be profitable. Some governments can afford, perhaps, to throw away some millions yearly without ruining their taxpayers. But France is not in that position. It has to yield to England in the Fashoda matter because it could not afford to fight it out. The critics argue accordingly that it is folly to spend 200,000,000 in Chinese railways and colonies when, in the event of war, the loss is lost. It is better to make needed investments at home.

THOUGHTS THAT TICKLE. Brooklyn Life: Biggs—is it true that Smith, the ice man, is dead? Boggs—Yes, poor fellow. He cuts no ice now.

Philadelphia North American: Corcoran—Do you think trained nurses should be pretty? Corcoran—Not if they are expected to follow their calling permanently.

Indianapolis Journal: "It seems to me, doctor, that your prices are rather steep." "Well, you must bear in mind that it is not my own health for which I am running a sanatorium."

Somerville Journal: An editor is always pleased when he can make the excuse to a poet that the poem that has been thrust upon him is too long to print.

Washington Star: "The successful statesman," said the Cornfield Philosopher, "must be able to stand a great deal while he is running, not to mention the ability to lie at the same time."

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Bliggs is a tender hearted man, isn't he?" "What's he been doing now?" "Why, he's complained to the Humane society because Sissy left his thermometer out doors all night."

Chicago Post: "She refused him when he was a civilian, you know, but when he came back from the war in a uniform she was crazy to get him." "Well, he did the best he could for her. He married another girl, but he sent his uniform to her with his compliments. He said he knew what she prized."

The Worm Turns. He was waiting there in silence while the critic read his book. And his heart most sank within him as he saw the sneering look. Of the critic, who addressed him: "Sir, your book is very odd, and brought me a faithful repetition of a story often told. Then the author turned to leave him, and his face with rage was blue. "Oedipus Rex," said the critic, "do you think your speech is new?"

WOULD WE RETURN. Robert Burns Wilson. Would we return? If once the gates which close upon the past Were open wide for us, and if the dear Remembrance pathway stretched before us clear To lead us back to youth's lost land at last.

Whereon life's April shadows lightly cast Recalled the old sweet days of childhood fear With all their faded hopes, and brought us back to youth's lost land at last.

Did these soft dreams which wake the soul's sad yearning ever fade away? But live once more and wait our returning hand. Would we return?

If love's enchantment brighten the heart no more And we had come to count the wild, sweet hours of the fond dream, the lavish tears—but Had cooled the heart's hot wounds amidst the roar Of mountain gales, or, on some alien shore Worn out the soul's long anguish and had slain.

At last the dragon of despair—if then the pain Of vanished years came back, and as of yore, The same voice called, and with soft eyes beguiling, Our lost love beckoned, through time's gray veil smiling, Would we return?

Once we had crossed to death's unlovely land And trod the bloomless ways among the lone and unhappy after years had fled With twilight's gleam, and with the glimmering strand, If then an angel came with outstretched hand To lead us back, and we recalled in dread How soon the tears that once for us are shed May flow for others—how like words in vain, Our memory fades away—how oft our waking Might vex the living with the dead heart's breaking. Would we return— Would we return?

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