

in the world, M. Bloch, says that the African war has demonstrated nothing except the abandonment of the close formation of troops and the superiority of marksmanship and a knowledge of the topography of the battlefield over mere numbers.

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Lincoln

The composition of the next council is a momentous matter. Why not nominate men who have some stake in the city? All the taxes paid by the present councilmen amount to an insignificant sum. Two contemporary councilmen were obliged to purchase lots in the wards they represent before they could take their places as members of the city council. A dollar or two changed hands. The transfer was made in order to comply with the law that each councilman shall hold real estate in the ward he represents. As at present constituted some of the councilmen are engaged in an organized attempt to make their positions pay. The pirates who sailed the seas ran up a black flag with a skull and cross-bones painted on it. Before they boarded a merchantman they ran up the traditional pennant of plunder. Every Tuesday morning The Journal prints the doings of the council meetings held on Monday night. Every citizen who reads the report sees again the black flag and the horribly grinning skull and cross-bones. The same old crew of Portuguese and Malays are preparing to ship for another cruise in the ship in which we are only passengers and have not a word to say. With their knives in their teeth they are advancing and they'll set us adrift on a raft with a bottle of water because there is no one in particular to get the passengers together and concentrate their overwhelming strength against the pirates.

Mr. M. Weil of the Fourth ward is mentioned to take the place of Mr. Bacon who, as chairman of the claims committee, signed a claim made by his son for \$75.00 for ten days' clerical work. The change would be a very grateful one both to the Fourth ward and to the city. Mr. Weil is a business man of demonstrated probity and ability. There are other men in the city whom everyone respects who know an honest man from a robber. There is Mr. H. Wittmann of the second ward, a man of patience, courage, foresight and unimpeachable integrity. As councilman he would be taking the first step to the mayoralty, an office which, judging by the activity in council matters of a defeated politician, has again excited his cupidity.

Mr. Wittmann has lived in this city for more than twenty-five years. He belongs to the few men who accept without question the conditions of life as clever players accept the rules of a game, play it and win. Lincoln men could, if they cared enough about it, put men like this one in the council. They care about it spasmodically; when they are reading the reports of the city council meetings; when they go to their work in the morning and find railroad tracks in the middle of a down town street and learn that the people's property has been given away without affording them an opportunity to object; when they pay their taxes, which are in many instances, about a third larger than they were last year, and on other occasions that demonstrate we are a badly governed, a plundered people. Every ward in the city has a large proportion of respectable residents. Robbers are an insignificant minority. In every ward there are a few men with a liking for politics and office, any one of whom would represent his ward with distinction. Yet only a few of this latter type have eluded the vigilance of the minority who are in politics for plunder and are now doing their best to save the city from the attacks of the most unscrupulous crew that ever attempted to divert taxes from the treasury to their own and their sons' pockets.

"Just before Christmas I am as good as good can be." This refrain of the bad little boy's monotonous chant just

before the season when he expects his relatives to present him with the things he longs for, is recalled by the promise of the councilmen just before election "to deal with business matters in a business way." By their own confession six or seven members of the council have, since their election, voted on matters concerning the welfare of the city according to the dictates of petty spite against the mayor, and without considering the interests of the city. One of the councilman said in speaking of their corporate change of heart: "The council gang has been dissolved and business will be done on business principles hereafter." Oh, people of Lincoln, be not deceived in regard to the character of the present council! Their conduct just before election is not typical. It will not deceive the people who read the papers. There are agriculturists who still buy gold bricks and brick blocks when they go to the metropolis, but most residents of Lancaster county, Nebraska, take a weekly paper and a very large proportion take a daily.

safety of the United States. The same considerations which led to the war with Spain now require that a commercial arrangement be made under which Cuba can live."

President Roosevelt said in his message to congress: "I most earnestly ask your attention to the wisdom, indeed to the vital need of providing for a substantial reduction in the tariff duties on Cuban imports into the United States. Cuba has in her constitution affirmed what we desired, that she should stand in international matters, in closer and more friendly relations with us than with any other power, and we are bound by every consideration of honor and expediency to pass commercial measures in the interest of her material well-being." President McKinley's last message to America said the same thing in the simple, strong words of the address delivered at Buffalo a few moments before he was assassinated.

It really looks as though the machinations of the politicians in collusion with the beet-sugar manufacturers are

run our neighbor and protege, and uproot the new sanitary, police and civil institutions which men like General Wood and Colonel Waring have established there?"

Cuba's 1 1/2 millions import about \$9,000,000 worth every year. General Wood thinks that Cuba can easily support twelve million persons who would buy several hundred million dollars worth of goods abroad every year. As the United States is the nearest great market most of the supplies would be bought in this country. A liberal reciprocity policy will invite Cuban customers; with closed ports our invitation is a mockery and our promises false.

The editor of the Kansas City Star asks if Mr. Oxnard, on behalf of the sugar interests is to be allowed to expose the southern states to yellow fever and to prevent the development of a great market on our southern coast? If the United States government dare not offend this autocrat, perhaps it could compromise with him. Possibly he would sell his right to dictate for a few millions in a lump sum. It would be cheaper for the United States to buy up his claims for cash than to allow him to ruin Cuba.

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A New Broom

District Attorney Jerome is impatient at the slowness of institutions once effective, but now so hedged about by usage, precedent and tradition that they do not fulfill the functions they were created to perform. The coroner's office in all cities of the country needs rejuvenating, readjusting, tuning. Originally, like all new institutions created in response to a need, it worked perfectly. It has grown to be an old machine and for aiding the quick apprehension of a murderer is almost useless. By the time the coroner gets around to investigate a homicide the murderer is fully warned and has fled or has concealed his trail. Therefore the New York district attorney has organized a "homicide bureau." If the coroner and his jury were adjusted to their modern duties there would be no need of the "homicide bureau," but it is a long, tape-ridden, circuitous route from a murder to the coroner's inquest. All police stations of New York have directions to telephone the particulars of every murder as soon as reported to the "homicide bureau" and as soon as the news comes in a member of the new department goes to the scene of the murder with a camera and a note book. He examines witnesses and collects all the information the coroner is supposed to, but does not.

An institution which serves its purpose when first organized in the course of time loses its relation to the events it was meant to control. Time moves and criminals quickly adjust themselves to a new institution, but the latter is fixed and remains stationary while time flows over it leaving a deposit of mud, rust and debris of all kinds that clog its action. In the Middle Ages one order of begging friars after another was organized. The friars grew rich from donations of the rich, built monasteries, laid in a cellar of rare wines, grew to be abbots with larger income than their king and worst of all they grew away from the people. Then another order would be organized, and when that, in turn, grew rich, another. It is so with the "homicide bureau." Its functions are exactly those which the coroner and his assistants were organized to perform. Time has rusted the coroner's joints and obscured his ideas of the real functions pertaining to his office. Time will do the same for the "homicide bureau." But in the meantime and at the beginning the bureau possesses the energy and zeal of newly organized and much-needed institutions.

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Wireless Telegraphy

Signor Marconi, who says he has received messages from England by means of two magnetic instruments, tuned to each other, is apparently un-

WILL THE KING FORGIVE AND FORGET?



Is King Edward willing to eradicate an old grudge and forget his kingly vow once made that a Wetmore shall never be received in court during his lifetime? This is the interesting question that is agitating the gossips of England and this country. The appointment of young Wetmore, whose mother was the cause of the king's vow, as a member of the United States special coronation embassy, will soon solve this interesting point.

Cuban Sugar

With Cuban sugar admitted free beet sugar would still make thirty per cent clear profit. The recently published correspondence between Messrs. Cutting and Oxnard shows this. The Oxnard company has been used to making so much more than this that the prospect of free sugar frightens them. Mr. Oxnard has suggested a bounty to Cuban sugar-growers of one cent a pound on their product exported to this country. The total of such a bounty, taking as a basis the amount of sugar exported from Cuba to this country and its natural increase if the tax were removed, would amount to \$6,500,000 and \$7,500,000 annually. Mr. Oxnard's patriotism is indicated by this proposition. He would aid his own industry by presenting public moneys to a foreign people. That is, he wishes to make his countrymen pay more for sugar and \$7,500,000 besides.

Secretary Root's report reminds congress that "the peace of Cuba is necessary to the peace of the United States; the health of Cuba is necessary to the health of the United States; the independence of Cuba is necessary to the

strong enough to defeat a national sense of what is right and honorable expressed by men whom the country trusts. The sugar beet growers in Nebraska are opposed to the Oxnard methods and have asked for a repeal of the duties on Cuban sugar.

Governor General Wood in the Independent refers to the practical benefits that the prosperity and health of Cuba will confer upon the United States. The obligations to do justice to Cuba are not all sentimental. The General declares that the present tariff will cause the failure of Cuba's two chief industries—sugar and tobacco raising—and this will result in ruin and disorder. A bankrupt people are of no benefit to anyone. Unless Cuban sugar and tobacco are admitted free the commercial condition of Cuba will be worse than before we "intervened" to protect the Cubans from the cruelty and rapacity of Spain.

The issue is squarely before the people of this country. Will they keep their word to Cuba or let Mr. Oxnard dictate the policy of this country and thereby disgrace us among nations,