

# Custer Co. Republican

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Thursday, March 13, 1902.

Secretary Long of the Navy, tendered his resignation Monday, and Congressman W. H. Moody of Massachusetts, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Boers are still giving the British a hard blow occasionally. Last Sunday they captured Gen. Lord Methuen and four guns and all the British baggage. General Methuen was wounded in the thigh. Thirty eight men and five British officers were killed.

Prince Henry said in one of his Boston speeches: "The United States has been watched from the other side during the last year. We are aware of the marvelous industry which has brought your country to its position." The party of prosperity has a right to feel gratified by the remark. Its policy may be judged by comparing the present industrial situation with that of six years ago.—Globe Democrat.

Attorney General Knox has filed a bill in the United States circuit court at St. Paul, Minn., by direction of President Roosevelt, against the Northern Security Co., the Great Northern Railway Co., and other defendants, to test the alleged combination of merger of the two roads and others named in the bill. The action was brought under the act of July 2, 1890, known as the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

The REPUBLICAN desires to thank the many from various parts of the county, who have in person or by letter, in the past few weeks so generously and spontaneously congratulated us for our position upon the political issues that confront us in the county and state. The editor, who has convictions of his own that he does not hesitate to express, reaches the point that he does not inquire what would be the most popular position to take, but rather what is the right thing to do in the premises. He frequently takes the side that he knows is unpopular, and is calculated to injury his business from a financial view as well as his political aspirations. But neither has terrors for him when he has made the principle of right his prime motive. It is so seldom when he thus acts that he ever receives an encouraging word from anyone, he cannot help feeling elated over encouragement when he receives it. But it is not because of our pride that this article is written, but our desire to express our appreciation of encouragement. A good cause has frequently failed of success for lack of proper encouragement by its friends. The best people will finally get discouraged when their works receive only criticisms by their opponents and not a word of commendation from their friends. Most editors and publishers seek to serve the best interest of the public in all matters and when they do not the cause is from lack of judgment as a rule, rather than from the heart, and the true man appreciates your approval or criticism when made with honest motives.

The question of license or no license is to be the only issue in the municipal election of Broken Bow this spring that will be of special interest, if the ticket

agreed upon last night meets the wishes of the voters. As in former elections, the question of saloon license will be determined by the majority vote of the people. As far as we have been able to learn there has not been much change in the sentiment as expressed at the polls the past two years upon the question of saloon license. There is a sentiment, however, that prevails with a number of anti-saloon people that a well regulated saloon would be preferable to the loose manner in which drinking has been tolerated the past year. Even with that conviction, there are few, if any, of the anti-saloon element that will give their sanction to licensed saloons, as they cannot vote to license an evil without violating their own conscience. There is no question that with a set of officers determined in their efforts to enforce the law, but what drinking can be held in check, and boys can be prevented from forming the habit. With an open saloon the temptation is much greater, and not only young men are liable to form the habit of drink, but there are others, who are older, who cannot withstand the temptation of an open saloon, that are seldom seen drunk now. We have established the reputation as a temperance town and have, on the strength of that reputation, been able to build up a commercial college in our midst, with over a hundred students in a few months. Temperance is only one of the factors that has made the college a success, but it has had much to do with it, as parents feel greater security for their boys than they would had we have had open saloons.

### WILL NOT ASSIST EDWARD

The president, finding that the desire of his daughter to attend the coronation of Edward VII as an unassuming American woman in private life in the family of Envoy Whitelaw Reid, was likely to be balked by the desire of the directors of the ceremonial over there to make her unpleasantly prominent, has decided against her attendance. This decision was hastened by the news that an invitation was on its way from Berlin to the girl to visit the kaiser as a distinguished guest. Mr. Roosevelt appreciates the fact that his daughter is too young to be made a spectacle of and wisely avoids all further complications.—State Journal.

### THE FUSION CAUCUS

The citizens of Broken Bow last night for the first time in several years, laid aside their political differences in the selection of a city ticket, with a view of selecting the best men, regardless of their political affiliations, to administer the affairs of the city. Three reasons for this action was urged. One was to evade the personal and sometimes bitter feeling that grows out of a municipal contest. Second, that by the combination a more representative class of candidates could be nominated and a better condition of finances be attained. Third, that better order would be preserved. The first proposition we heartily commend, but the other two reasons we regard as flimsy and not well founded. When two parties of different views and objects combine they must do it at a sacrifice of principle, and the combine last night was not an exception. It is not true that mixed crowds can select more able or representative men for positions of honor than could a smaller body of men whose party's reputation depended upon their choice. The financial condition of the city can best be improved by men who can harmonize upon an economical plan of action. Men of one party are more likely to harmonize than can a body of men nearly equally divided. The question of order does not depend upon the political opinions or ability of the

mayor, council or police but upon their regard for law and their inclination to enforce it. Men of these qualifications can be selected fully as well by a partisan caucus as by a fusion caucus, if not better. In our opinion two tickets would have given more general satisfaction and let who may have been successful in the election the public would have been better satisfied and the successful party would have had the glory or disgrace it deserved. Our present administration has been under the successful candidates of a citizens ticket with two or three exceptions. This year there would have been no question about the success of a republican ticket had good candidates been selected. We are not opposing the candidates nominated as they are not aspirants, but were almost the unanimous choice of the convention. Our protest is against the methods pursued in the nominations. We know our positions will be regarded as narrow and selfish, by some but we were not in sympathy with the plan before the convention and we still regard the action a mistake on the part of the republicans.

### THE COUNTRY EDITOR

The following from the National Ready Print Reporter on the country editor hits the nail on the head:

"It is quite probable that many country editors underestimate their influence in their community, and at times become discouraged and think that their efforts are not fully appreciated. As a rule editors belong to the generous class of people, and the public expect too much of them, and many times their efforts will bring harsh criticism from people who lack politeness, if they are not also ignorant. However, be this as it may, it is to be hoped that every editor will realize that, no matter what he may think as to his influence, every man must and will exert an influence, either conscientiously or otherwise for good or evil. Take no thought as to whether you are fully appreciated or not. When you see your path of duty outlined, steer your 'bark' right straight into the open sea and put up a gallant fight for the right in such way that it will prove your sincerity and honesty of purpose. After you have done this you will lose no time thinking about public appreciation of your efforts and will possess an inner satisfaction of having done your very best, and this process in time must bring its proper reward.

"The country editor is as necessary to the life and progress of the town where he is in business as is the merchant. Any town is lonely without its local newspaper, and yet too often the editor receives a certain patronage on the charity basis, and those who give do not hesitate to tell him so. But let him go into their places of business and buy an article he is compelled to pay the marked price, while these same men will go into his office and try to beat him down on an advertisement. In some communities country editors are not appreciated, because the communities are narrow and grasping. The mistake made too often by many publishers of county papers is that they do not meet men in their offices as they are met in offices of men who are their patrons. Publishing a newspaper is as legitimate and as necessary in the age of enlightenment as preaching or merchandising.

"Another fact worth noticing in this connection is that country editors are more appreciated than they imagine they are. They have daily evidence of this in those who desire a kindly mention or the favor that something not complimentary may be kept out of the paper. The country editor is all right, and he should teach people to so understand it."

# THE ISLAND OF GUAM

BY H. H. HIATT.

Agana, Island of Guam.—January 15, 1902.—REPUBLICAN:—There are many things which add comfort and happiness to our lives that we never realize till circumstances reveal them to us. We find this true since coming to this place. There is nothing here with which our past lives have been identified. In other words, we are living without any past, so far as this island is concerned. We find no place where affection may strike its roots or memory recall pleasing events. There is nothing behind us but the rude history of a people, which has nothing in common with civilized life. We never knew before how much the present owes to the past, and how much of all we think is dead lives on in our affections, thoughts and ambitions. Our thoughts refuse to associate with the life of this people and strain at the "lengthening chain" that binds them. It must be this fact that makes so many Americans long to be away, for they seem to hate the very soil, and feel that it is unclean. Some one has said that, "The elements of the nation are THE LAND and the people," and how true it is. The land and the people are inseparable, and partake of a mutual shame or glory. Were there an Ameridon settlement here engaged in developing the industries and in redeeming the soil from its semi-savage curse, this place would soon take on a different seeming. To make this island a true part of our country requires something else than to be a mere naval station. There is needed the genius of American life infused into the soil and the products. And the government could do no wiser thing than to encourage the industrial development of this island. Such a course will supplement the work of the schools by giving the people opportunity to grow into that condition which education of the schools is to fit them for. The loss of memory of which so many complain, is mainly due to the lack of anything local to which interest or imagination may attack. It took America a hundred years to make a history upon which to build an American literature. Memory and imagination are closely associated. And how can imagination take wings without a past? On what can fancy build her castles where the very soil is hateful? How can memory be otherwise than dull, where there is nothing pleasing to remember? I have seen a school boy pouring over his books for hours, and then know nothing he had read, his mind was not on his work, but wandering elsewhere. It is just so here, but the "peculiar climate" is made responsible. When the American toiler gives order, beauty, and wealth to this place, it will be rightly judged. After all, toil and sacrifice are the requirement to begin a history one can love, and where naval society is supplanted by civil the soil will lose its bane, and the mind regain its activities. There is here a former Spanish officer, who is tireless in his endeavors to make this place what

it ought to be. He is the only one who believes in the island's future, and has the faith and sense to see what the place needs. He was one of those captured by the Charleston, but he is a loyal and enthusiastic American now, and should be properly recognized by our government some day.

It is quite amusing to read some of the anxious inquiries that come to persons here from their friends. Very often some one wants to know why there is such delay in writing, for no word has been received for a week. One person wrote to me asking if I lay in a hammock and ate bananas with one hand and dug sweet potatoes with one foot. I think this question was unjust, but still I can do just such a thing. Some one asked if it is true that this island is like a toad stool mushroom, standing on a small pedestal. This makes us feel shaky, but it is not true only in part. The fact is, very deep water is near all around the island, and corals have built out a projecting rim or barrier reef, which may be likened to the rim of a toad stool. However, we have a very substantial basis. We are sure this is not a floating island.

You have had an election; when I read the election news I thought of the words Shakespeare put in the mouth of Marcellus, when he spoke to the Roman Noble, "get ye home, ye fragments." Fusion changed an organized party to a rabble.

H. H. HIATT.

### "Guamitis"

This island has a hard name because of its peculiarities. Naval men dislike very much to be stationed here. I am told that the island is not a fit place for a white man to live. Similar reports have been made of every new country. It was not pleasant to live in Iowa and Nebraska when the Indians were the main society. Physicians say there are many new and strange diseases here. So they reported of Indiana, Illinois and Iowa in early days. "Guamitis" is a term that has generally been applied to a peculiar mental condition among Americans residing here. It is a disease, but a very mild one. Everyone having it, feels a sense of mental stupidity, and almost every American here has it. Loss of memory is its distinctive symptom. To control the memory, and pick up the dropped threads of thought is about all the mental work one cares to do. Three distinct theories are held as to the cause of "Guamitis". One is that the narrow limits of society; busi-

ness and thought here deadens American minds and disturbs the relation of things so that memory loses its power of recollecting events and facts. Another theory is that the disease is the work of microbes peculiar to this place and climate. These microbes are not large but very numerous. They are said to produce a poison that effects mainly the nervous system, and deadens the will, yet leaves imagination active, or rather excited. A number of persons who have very defective memory here have vivid poetic tendencies. The third theory is that "Guamitis" is wholly due to the depressing of low altitude and warm climate. This theory is especially favorable to the most Americans because of its business prospects. A company has been formed to ship bottled air from some high altitude in the United States. This is the first step toward putting natural air on the market as a real commodity. Those who hold to the other theories, and especially the medical fraternity, think that civil government should be established and Guam granted a delegate in congress before American wind is imported. Some, who hold that blizzards are very microbial, are very much opposed to introducing American wind unless there is some means devised of sterilizing it before bottling. Bids have already been received from several locations in the United States to furnish wholesome and exhilarating air. A Californian syndicate sent some bottles of "Sierra Tonic" which was highly relished and more ordered. Several bottles were received from a Nebraska firm labelled "Lung Elixir", but the microbes put up such a stiff fight against this, that the bottles have not been unsealed. I was pained to hear the remarks made about my state. Indeed it was asserted that "Guamitis" was far preferable to taking any change on a repetition of Windy Allen and Bryan. It was especially urged as impolitic since Guam was likely to get a corner on American wind, and thus add a new plank to imperialism. Besides, it was shown that all "Wind Fusions" in Nebraska had been disastrous, and no one could forecast the effect of a fusion of Nebraska wind with Guam's. If it can be shown that Nebraska air when let loose into the damper and heavier of Guam will not produce any unnatural disturbance, there is no reason why Custer county should not reap great profit. Bottled air is sure to be an article of merchandise along with "Apolonaris water" and there is no place where dry, rustling, hilarious air can be more easily and inexhaustingly abstained than in Custer county.

H. H. HIATT.

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