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THE DEATH RATE.

For October, the death rate in this city last month was unusually, not to say remarkably high; it foots up to 70. An examination of the causes of death reveals the reason for this unwonted mortality, at least in great part. That dread scourge, diphtheria, carried off 7, pneumonia an equal number, while insidious typhoid fever destroyed 10 victims.

For many years typhoid fever has not been as prevalent in this city as within the last few weeks, and its presence is a warning to citizens to put their premises and physical surroundings in the best sanitary condition possible. Diphtheria is a disease that can be successfully fought by strict quarantine, but unless that method is adopted there is great danger of its rapid spread. All citizens, and especially families afflicted with it, should earnestly co-operate with the health officer to prevent this terrible contagion from spreading. The change from mild to keen autumn weather, which took place during the month, is doubtless a leading cause of the prevalence of pneumonia. Aside from these three, or rather the first two diseases, there is nothing in the section's report that need occasion uneasiness, or the idea that this city is other than a healthy one.

ALASKA.

The report of Governor Swineford, of Alaska, has been filed with Secretary Lamar, and because of the remoteness of the subject with which it deals and the fact that so little is known regarding it by those to whom it belongs, is one of the most interesting documents in the entire series.

Most of those who live in the temperate zone will be surprised at the information conveyed by the Governor that that presumably Arctic region is in places milder than many parts of the United States, and that cattle raising is an extensive and profitable industry there. This of course applies only to the narrow margin of land forming the western boundary of British Columbia from the southwest corner of Northwest Territory about 500 miles south, and the adjacent islands, some twenty in number. On the farthest from the mainland of this vast archipelago is situated the capital, Sitka, and from here due west, across the middle of the Northern Pacific Ocean, a distance of nearly 1,000 miles, the southern end of Alaska Peninsula is reached, the land being continuous all the way round and comprising the enormous stretch of 1,800 miles of coast line. This relates only to the southern coast, the northern and western being twice as much more, so the reader can form some idea of the vastness of the territory acquired by the United States from Russia. East and west, at its broadest part (which is represented by the great Yukon River) it is about 750 miles, and nearly the same north and south, not counting the peninsula, the strip of country previously spoken of nor any of the islands—1,100 all told—and contains altogether over 531,000 square miles. It was thought to be a bad bargain at the time William H. Seward effected it, and perhaps even he "bided wiser than he knew;" certain it is, however, that the \$7,200,000 paid for it has not only returned enormous interest but the principal itself has been more than made back. Twenty-five miles or so of water in the Behring Straits is the only separation between our territory and that of Russian Siberia, but for all present practical purposes it might as well be multiplied indefinitely. Perhaps, however, this narrow span will be an inducement some day for enterprise and capital to make the girdle of the earth by means of the electric belt complete and unbroken. This would be a mighty consummation, but we are moving rapidly in that direction and something of the kind has already been suggested.

THE MONTANA INDIAN TROUBLES.

The government is no sooner off with the Colorado Indian difficulty than it is on with another in Montana, the Crows instead of the Utes being the offensive objects in the present instance. The nearest military point to the Crow agency is Fort Custer, which

is indifferently equipped for even defensive operations, let alone taking the aggressive, and in view of this reinforcement have been hurried to the scene of the expected outbreak with all possible rapidity.

It seems that the Indians are led by one who exercises the functions of a priest as well as those of chief and is known by the suggestive name of "Sword Bearer." Every now and then he appears with a squad of his braves in the neighborhood of the agency, goes through a series of evolutions which may mean a great deal or nothing, then disappears, especially if the whites look upon his maneuvers as being warlike and begin preparations accordingly. The latest advice to the effect that he had gone into the mountains for the purpose of communing with the spirits.

Monday is fixed for general muster day at Fort Custer, and the announcement comes that on that day the war will begin in earnest if it should begin at all. This is ominous. The Crows are said to be a warlike race, to have superior numbers, know every inch of the mountains and gorges, are alleged to be well armed and seem to be thoroughly determined. That they would make a stubborn fight can hardly be doubted. It is to be hoped that actual hostilities will not be provoked by the whites, as was the case in Colorado, but that the best counsels will prevail and no force be employed until it is necessary to resist and overcome force.

We are not prepared to state which party is to blame for the state of affairs in Montana, nor are we advised whether or not the employment of peaceful methods has been adopted and exhausted. Perhaps there is some fault and not a little intolerance on both sides. However that may be, the opening gun of the campaign, should it be fired, will surely be the sound of doom for many a brave man, whose life otherwise might have extended through years of activity and usefulness.

WRIT OF ERROR DENIED.

The case of the condemned anarchists of Chicago has reached the last ditch. The Supreme Court of the United States has denied a writ of error. Their only hope now rests with Governor Oglesby. It would be like hoping against hope to expect him to interfere. To all human appearances the seven men will swing upon the day set for the execution. The general opinion has been all along that they would suffer the extreme penalty of the law, and preparations have been made accordingly. Doubtless the reason for the removal of a portion of the Sixth Infantry from Fort Douglas to Chicago was to have Federal troops handy so they could, in case of an uprising and the failure of the local authorities to quell it, lend assistance in subduing it.

The latest decision will doubtless cause an outburst of anger from the anarchist fraternity, as they must now conclude that their friends have but nine days longer to live.

A COMMISSION AND NOT A COMMISSION.

Just what status the recently created Fisheries Commission occupies and in fact what ground it stands upon, to say nothing of its *raison d'être*, are questions which become more perplexing the more they are looked into. To tell the truth, both parties to the proceeding or whatever it may be called, have recently discovered that they are pursuing a shadow which has as yet no perceptible substance. No such commission has been created or authorized by law; the executive power of this country and Great Britain have appointed six gentlemen—three each—to determine the respective merits of the contestants' case and end if possible the fisheries squabble for ever. Now this is a consummation so devoutly wished on both sides the Atlantic that some little regard should have been paid to having the proceedings based and all details examined upon a binding and conclusive enactment by each of the powers. But when the Commission get together and go to work, in what name will they proceed, how will they invest their proceedings with the sanctity of law, and who will pay their bills? This last named item is by no means an insignificant feature in the proceedings, as the expenses will begin with renting rooms for sittings and continue and perhaps greatly increase right along. As it will hardly be dignified, to say nothing of the justice of the case, to permit the commissioners to settle such items out of their own pockets, and Congress knows nothing of them officially and can legally refuse to pay anything in that direction, a snag of very decided proportions in the way of smooth sailing begins to loom up for the gentlemen composing the so-called commission to contemplate. It may be different with the Englishmen, who seem to enjoy closer relations with their government than we do here in a republic,

and to not require the intervention of their law-making power; but Congress rules the roost here to a certainty. So much so is this the case that those whom it consents to pay and recognize as officials sometimes have a hard time of it, getting into financial straits out of which they must come by their own exertions or remain for a while, a notable instance in point being the experience of the Pacific Railway Commissioners in San Francisco. They had to borrow money from the very concern they were investigating in order to pay hotel and other bills and keep out of trouble.

The fisheries tribunal, on our part, has not in fact been appointed at all; President Cleveland requested the gentlemen composing it to act in that capacity and they complied with the request. According to the rules of law, unless his action in the premises shall be sustained by Congress, the awkward, not to say annoying, spectacle of the Executive himself being responsible would be presented.

It adds nothing to the strength of the situation that the principal appointee on the part of England—Chamberlain—should be so strenuously opposed by his own people and press. This opposition is not, of course, because personally he is distasteful to them, but because they conceive that he will be unpopular here by reason of his intense unionist principles, and the widely prevailing sentiment in favor of some rule added to the immense Irish population of this country. It is unfortunate that a proceeding so poorly equipped publicly for what is expected of it should also be handicapped personally in this way. So far has the feeling that Mr. Chamberlain may receive improper if not hostile treatment here gained ground that a body of English detectives will accompany him, to be joined on landing by a company of American detectives, whose joint duty it will be to watch the movements of the Irish wherever he appears. And to make the matter still more humiliating, a portion of our press have made haste to assure the distinguished gentleman that no harm shall befall him here. To make such an assurance is almost a confession or suggestion of lurking danger. It is a disgrace to our land and people that such a state of affairs should be thought of. Let it be understood that Mr. Chamberlain will be made as welcome as our hospitable people know how to welcome anybody, whether he comes as an official or an individual, and let the social phase of his sojourn be as successful and pleasant as we hope the result of his negotiations may be.

MORE POTENTIAL THAN WEALTH.

The alleged cause of the sudden departure of Jay Gould for other shores is a striking exemplification of the partial truth of the saying that "Money is king." The mere fact of his being requested to use his power as a moneyed man in favor of the condemned anarchists is a recognition of the corrupting power of wealth.

Notwithstanding the suggestiveness of such an idea in its relation to the state of society, no one, so far as we know, has taken the trouble to deny its efficacy in this instance. If the person applied to had elected to exercise it. It seems to be taken for granted that the expectation upon which the alleged request made of the noted millionaire was based was substantial and not shadowy.

This tacit acknowledgment of the power of wealth in a domain into which its influence should not enter, is a horrible commentary upon the social situation. Has it indeed come to a point when the corruptibility of judicial and executive officers and departments is not doubted? If this be so the country is not in a healthy state, and public sentiment is in a condition of debauchery. The existence of such a feeling is dangerous in the extreme, because it shows that confidence is rapidly taking its flight, and when there is an absence of that element of social adhesion there is no safety.

While there is more or less truth in the statement that "money is king," recent developments indicate the existence of a factor to which it is, in some of its aspects, subordinate in potency. That still more powerful factor exists in the masses of the people, although they are not fully aware of it. Its potential character is illustrated by a part of the incident connected with the application to Mr. Gould for the interposition of his moneyed influence. That portion of the circumstance is his involuntary banishment for a season, with the alternative of a very sudden termination of his mammoth financial schemes by the summary extinguishment of his earthly career.

Theodore Parker, a profound thinker of sublime intellect, unreservedly predicted that the masses were the future masters of the world. His conclusion was based upon deductions drawn from the drift of modern thought and tendency. He also held that when that time should come, the grasping and merciless monopolists would be compelled to bid good bye to their darling dollars and flee for safety. The current of the popular stream seems al-

ready to be floating swiftly in that direction, indicating that Mr. Parker's thoughts struck a channel of prophetic truth.

The questions arising out of the case of the condemned anarchists will tend to widen the breach and embitter the feelings between the extreme wings of the labor controversialists. If the extremists on the labor side of the fight believe that the capitalists could have saved the doomed men, they will be denounced for not having done so. Not only this, but if it be believed by them that such intercession would have proved effectual, the co-relative conviction ensues that their influence has been exercised in the opposite direction—to have the convicted men executed as a matter of safety for the moneyed class. And why so? Both sides are well aware of the fact that if a stopper is not put upon anarchism there will be neither freedom nor safety, for the wealthy class especially, and hardly for any other. It is doubtless hoped that the effectual extinguisher will be the application of extreme measures and action upon anarchist lawbreakers.

Whether a cure can be effected in that way may well be doubted. Like powerful drastic physic applied to a person afflicted with a chronic malady, they may suppress the symptoms for a season, but the virus remains in the system, liable to burst out again with increased violence.

A NOTE OF WARNING.

It is a long time since this country and civilized nations abroad were so deeply stirred by a subject which, in some of its aspects, is purely local, as they are over the pending fate of the Chicago anarchists. The question is a local one so far as the deed of blood of which the men were convicted is concerned. But for the political aspect of the matter it would simply have been a case of murder, and the ripple created would have been confined to the city, or at the outside, the state where the crime was committed. Owing, however, to the class to which the convicted men belong, the ramifications of which spread like a network over the nation and honeycomb distant countries, the interest is almost world-wide.

Although it might be putting it too strong to say that the seven anarchists were doomed as political criminals, it is disingenuous to hold that the political element does not intrude into the case. Besides the purely criminal aspect of it, the consideration of public safety enters into the question viewed as an entirety. It largely involves a part of the contention between the upholders of social order and the advocates of anarchy, which means universal confusion, rapine and blood—a return to the most destructive form of barbarism. It is the political aspect of the subject that causes the case of the anarchists of Chicago to assume the proportions not only of a national, but also an international subject. The whole world is interested in the points it involves.

It is only necessary for a person to run his mental eye superficially up the stream of time to enable him to see that the stride taken in the direction of anarchy in this generation is phenomenal. As an instance, it has been customary until a few years ago, to annually celebrate the gunpowder plot in which Guy Fawkes indulged in 1605. That worthy undertook to blow up the British House of Parliament, and for that attempt his name was held in execration for generations. Tomorrow will be the anniversary to the event, but in this time of plot and destruction it will scarcely be memorialized, to say nothing of being celebrated. In our own day some crowned heads are terrorized by a sentiment of unsafety in their domiciles, and hardly any of them dare travel without the establishment of precautions against assassination. Capitalists tremble in their shoes, and attempts are made to demolish public buildings at the sacrifice of human life, while passengers upon the ships of the sea have reason to be apprehensive of being blown into eternity on mid-ocean.

What a terrible situation is this, when men are becoming transformed into demons incarnate for the attainment of their diabolical purposes! It is easy to pooh-pooh this widening tendency to destruction, and exclaim without offering any support for the statement, that the better forces of humanity are sufficient to overcome that which is sinister and disastrous. It is idle to thus flippantly dismiss the subject in the face of a potential fact—that the anarchical sentiment and class are increasing wonderfully. That means that the healthier sentiment and the law and order class is proportionately diminishing. Now as this is the existing process let the mathematician figure out how long it will take for this progression and retrogression to turn the tables so that the one will overtake and overcome the other. Those who are so very sanguine about the better sentiment overpowering the bad one had better back up their assertion by presenting an effectual method of enhancing the one and checking the other.

We are of opinion that a brighter and better day is in store for this nation and the whole world. But we are as surely convinced that that epoch of peace and splendor will be born out of tribulation. The existing malignant

forces will, in our view, have to reach the culminating point, and the sun of righteousness rise after the prevalence of the gloom of night. It is inconsistent to proclaim immediate peace when the ominous clouds of trouble are drifting toward us and must break before the light of heaven shines upon human affairs.

Would that the nation would awake to the fact that in these days the Lord raised up a prophet in their midst, who shared the fate of his co-workers of ancient times. It was his high calling to point out not only approaching evils that would fall upon this generation of our beloved country, but likewise a way of escape from them. Not only did he predict the war of the rebellion, but also the state of affairs toward which the nation is now drifting, and which would, he claimed, eventually overwhelm the people in case they did not humble themselves and maintain the principles of equality and justice in the land.

At Kirtland, Ohio, February 9th, 1831, the finger of revelation was pointed, through Joseph Smith, to the future uprising of secret destructive organizations. In it the following passage occurs:

"And behold, it shall come to pass that my servants shall be sent forth to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south; and even now, let him that goeth to the east teach them that shall be converted to flee to the west, and this in consequence of that which is coming on the earth, and of secret combinations."

The struggle that is now in its incipency is, on the part of those who seek to reduce social order to a chaotic condition, that they might obtain possession of wealth without having to resort to the legitimate and more laborious process of accumulation. Another object is that they may wrest power from the hands of those now possessing it and wield it themselves. To attain these the extremists of the secret organizations that exist stop short at nothing, human life not being considered an obstacle. How clearly the Book of Mormon speaks prophetically upon this point. The Prophet Moroni, by whose hand the record of the ancient inhabitants of this continent was deposited in the earth to be brought forth by the power of God in the latter days, through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith, depicted the situation of these times. In a portion of the book, he departs from the narration of events and interjects prophetic statements emanating from himself as given by inspiration. In the expectation that the record which he hid up would be brought to light in the latter times, he undertakes to address the people who would then be living on this land, as if speaking with them face to face. While his attention was thus directed he uttered this prophetic warning:

"Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that those things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not these murderous combinations to get above you, which are built up to get power and gain, and the work, yea, even the work of destruction come upon you. * * * Wherefore the Lord commandeth you when ye shall see these things come among you, that you shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you." The same Prophet also says: "And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed."

The present agitation upon this important theme, excited by the Chicago cases, seems to make an opportune occasion to give some attention to this subject, that by pursuing the path of justice and wisdom threatening evils may be averted.

QUITE A PREDICAMENT.

The country is alive with agitation over the anarchists, whose execution is set for the 11th. The feeling on the subject is intense and strained. From the class to which the condemned men belong come threats of vengeance in case the sentence is carried into effect. It is to be, according to some of the more violent agitators, visited upon individuals and classes who oppose the liberation of the doomed men. One conspicuous orator threatens that if their lives are taken, a civil war will ensue that will throw the struggle of the Rebellion into the shades of oblivion. The very cause for which the Chicago agitators were convicted shows that such threats are not a mere empty sound, but liable to take shape in scenes of blood.

This is an embarrassing situation. If the execution takes place trouble is liable to ensue, for there must be fire under so much smoke. On the other hand it is thought, no doubt, if the men are liberated that the anarchists will take it for granted that they are all powerful, that they will assume this action was predicated upon fear. It is necessarily deemed that the application of clemency would consequently also be fraught with danger. In any case, the agitation is almost sure to make a "boom" for anarchism.

The clamor for amnesty is probably not more intense, though louder and more pronounced, than the demand for the execution of the sentence. It