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AN IMPORTANT CONGRESS.

The meeting of the Irrigation congress at El Paso, Texas, is an event of national importance. As a result of the labors of citizens interested in that gathering, public sentiment has been enlisted for the transformation, by government aid, of millions of acres of unproductive land into beautiful homes. And that work has already commenced. As it develops, an empire will be added to the domain of the United States, without conflict with anybody, without war.

Utah is well represented at the congress, and very properly, for to this State belongs the honor of a pioneer in the reclamation of land by means of irrigation. Through the wisdom given to the noble men and women who first settled here, irrigation was reported to as an experiment. Experience insured success, and their patient labors in this line, their sacrifices, their victories will ultimately prove of immeasurable value to the entire nation.

We hope the work of the congress will serve to still further advance the cause of national irrigation. The preliminary work has been well and wisely done, and further efforts should be directed in the same manner. In all deliberations of this kind, personal and even sectional aims should never be permitted to blind the judgment of anyone. If all are inspired with a desire to promote the welfare of the entire country, there will never be any clashing interests, and consequently no strife. Only when personal interests are permitted to become predominant, it is at times impossible to find the road to unity and harmony.

Objection was at first raised to the government undertaking the work of reclaiming the arid regions, but our government is only following in the footsteps of England in the wonderful results accomplished by that country in Egypt. The reclamation fund, it is estimated, will provide in the next twenty-five years at least fifty million dollars to be used in the reclamation of the west. If the law works successfully, a desirable outlet for an enormous increase in the very best kind of population will be provided, and that test of republican institutions which was predicted by Macaulay when the free homes of the United States should be exhausted, will, we may say, be postponed indefinitely.

THANKSGIVING.

Thanksgiving day is drawing near. In the proclamation by the President and the respective governors, the objects of the day are set forth clearly. It is a day on which to remember past mercies, of a temporal as well as spiritual character. It is a day on which particularly to acknowledge our indebtedness to Providence for these blessings, by thanksgiving, and prayers for continued gifts of grace; it is a day on which to forget and forgive, and form resolutions in harmony with the exalted teachings of infinite wisdom and love.

Such are, in substance, the recommendations of Governor Wells, and such is the spirit in which the day was set apart as a holiday. But how many are there throughout the land, who observe the day in that spirit? Somehow Thanksgiving has become synonymous with baseball, football, and other amusements not contemplated in the proclamations. Thanksgiving day has, like the Fourth of July, become a day of accidents. It has become a day of combats resulting in dislocated limbs, perhaps broken arms and legs. Is it impossible to influence public sentiment to a full realization of the absurdity of spending a day in sensual enjoyment and dangerous pastimes, and label it "thanksgiving"?

FIRE DRILL IN SCHOOLS.

In the schools of this city there used to be fire drills; there may be now, but if there are not there should be, for they are most invaluable, and should a fire break out in any of the school buildings the value of the drills would be found to be inestimable.

The other day in New York the lives of twenty-five hundred children were imperiled when a fire broke out in a public school building. When the flames were discovered the call to fire drill was sounded and the little ones with scarcely a trace of excitement, marched safely from the burning building. Not a life was lost though several children were overcome with fear when they saw the flames and smoke in the halls,

but they were taken in charge by the teachers and firemen and taken to places of safety.

There were no fatalities at that fire because of the discipline that had been learned through the fire drills. Had there been no such drills there would have been no such discipline and panic would have prevailed where order reigned. In the fire drills there were so many hundreds were thrust to death there were not so many people as in that New York public school, and could there have been the same discipline and self-control that prevailed in the public school building, it is probable that not a human life would have been sacrificed. Panic is a far greater danger than flames. In large assemblages perhaps it can never be avoided when the alarm of fire is sounded, the most dread alarm that ever strikes the human ear. In schools it can be avoided by means of the fire drill, and for any school to be without it is criminal neglect on the part of those in charge of it. We trust that every school in this city and State has the fire drill.

MAINTAIN THE LAW.

The determination of the citizens of Murray, to hunt down and bring to justice the brute that made a peaceful home the scene of a fiendish assault is most laudable. Nothing that can be done, within reason, should be left undone, to bring punishment upon the guilty party. But, at the same time, cool judgment should prevail, lest suffering be visited upon an innocent suspect, while the real culprit escapes. The many instances of misplaced revenge by infuriated mobs should not be forgotten.

It is perfectly natural that ominous mutterings should be heard at this time, but we trust that everyone with influence among the citizens in our enterprising and prosperous neighboring town will use this in the interest of legal proceedings, provided the criminal is captured. The majesty of the law should be maintained, even if the entire machinery of the state must be set in motion for that purpose. We do not believe an emergency will arise in which outside interference will be called for. We believe the sound sense of the citizens will assert itself. But no chances should be taken.

Were lynching a preventive of such crimes, no one would take exception to that mode of punishment. On the contrary, it would be readily incorporated in the penal codes of the country and made legal. For any preventive of such fearful occurrences would be welcomed by all. But lynching does not prevent such crimes, or any crime. In places where they commenced lynching for the "unspeakable crime," the craving for violence has increased to such proportions that lynchings are resorted to, sometimes for most trivial offenses, and sometimes for no offense at all, merely as a pastime. It is against such fearful consequences that the officers of the law must guard the community that has entrusted them with power, and in this cause the aid of all good citizens must be enlisted. Let the law take its course.

THE LADIES PROTEST.

We are in receipt of a communication from the treasurer of the National American Woman suffrage association, in which attention is called to a clause in the bill before Congress concerning the admission of the Territories into the Union. It is one to which the ladies object, and they desire to have their protest against it widely known.

The bill proposes to unite Oklahoma and Indian Territories into one state under the name of Oklahoma, and to combine New Mexico and Arizona under the name of Arizona. It has passed the House and is now before the Senate committee on Territories. The portion to which special objection is made, reads:

"That said State shall never enact any law restricting or abridging the right of suffrage on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, or on account of any other conditions or qualifications, save and except on account of illiteracy, minority, sex, conviction of felony, mental condition, or residence, provided, however, that any such restrictions shall be made uniform and applicable alike to all citizens."

The ladies justly demand that the word "sex" be stricken from this paragraph. They object to placing women in one class with illiterates, minors, felons, and lunatics. This is, of course, very often done in a spirit of gallantry, when women criminals are treated as irresponsible beings, outside the reach of law, but that is different. To include officially mothers, wives, and sisters in the class created by the objectionable paragraph, is an outrage against which both men and women may join in protest. Whatever the sentiment may be on the question of suffrage, the women of the country should not be degraded by an act of Congress.

The enactment of such a law would, besides, be very imprudent. Some time the new states will in all probability join the progressive states and extend the franchise to the women. Why should Congress beforehand prohibit them from doing so? The suggestion is very properly made, that all interested in this matter write to their respective Senators or to Senator Beveridge, the chairman of the committee on Territories, or to the rest of the committee, asking each to work for the omission of the word "sex" from the paragraph quoted above, or for the omission of the entire paragraph.

PORT ARTHUR.

The Boston Transcript is of the opinion that, notwithstanding the refusal of Russia to negotiate with Japan, peace may be concluded at a no distant date. This view is based upon the assumption that Russian prestige will be gone when Port Arthur falls. The fall of Port Arthur, it is said, would inflict such a blow on Russian prestige that the czar might be able to see that all further fighting was for "the honor of the flag." The moral significance of Port Arthur, under such conditions, would outweigh the military. Port Arthur may be the Sebastopol of the struggle. Russia had great armies in

the field after Sebastopol yielded, but then as now the difficulty was to get her forces to the front in sufficient numbers.

In this connection it may be interesting to note, that some military experts emphatically condemn the holding of Port Arthur at any cost, as one of the blunders of the war. An eminent writer is thus quoted in the Literary Digest:

"To let a fortress go, so far from being disgraceful, is often one of the best things a general can do. If MacMahon had let Metz go, the Germans could not have got round Paris without tremendous losses and months of fighting. If Lee had abandoned Richmond in 1862 the war might have been protracted indefinitely. The greatest mistake Osman Pasha made in 1877 was holding on to Plevna too long. Napoleon let Genoa go in spite of the fine defense of Massena, but he soon recovered it after he had defeated the Austrians in the field. In the American Civil war Burnside was compelled by the press to advance, with the result of the failure at Fredericksburg and the loss of 12,000 men. A field army should never be risked for a fortress."

If the holding of Port Arthur is a blunder, and capitulation would signalize peace, it can only be hoped, that the gallant defenders will be unable to hold out any longer.

SLOW IN ACCEPTING.

The replies to the invitation of President Roosevelt to a second peace congress, to continue the work commenced at The Hague are rather slow in coming in. Great Britain, Mexico and Denmark are, so far, about the only powers that have indicated their willingness to send delegates. In France, also, the proposition has been favorably received. French officials say that the general principle of the meeting is acceptable, although it will take some time to consider what questions shall be brought up. Foreign Minister Delcasse's conference with Ambassador Porter showed that the minister was most sympathetic upon the proposition, which he considered to be in the line of France's policy of establishing understandings and making arbitration treaties.

The proposed congress is sure of representatives from the United States and Mexico, from this side of the world; and from Great Britain, France and Denmark, from the other. Russia is said to have declined, and Germany may possibly take the cue from Russia. But most of the smaller states of Europe are certain to join the congress, so quite a respectable representation is really assured. If the project takes definite form. But of this there is, we fear, little prospect, until the questions to be discussed are formulated. Russia's friends pretend to suspect that under the peace congress plans is concealed a scheme for interfering with the war, and they are of course not willing to appear in collusion with possible schemers.

It is to be hoped that the congress will be held at all events, and that representatives will be chosen who are inspired with the grand work that must be distinctive of the twentieth century—the work for peace among men and the unity of the human family.

"A square deal" and "squaring the ring" are always different.

Some of the sidewalks are being cut so low that they are decidedly decolleto.

Chairman Spry says that to workers only will fall the favors. No excellent favors without labor.

The Moll Pitcher of Port Arthur is named Haritena Korotkiewitch. But then what's in a name?

The Russians have blown up the torpedo boat Rastoropny. It was kind of them to save the Japanese the trouble.

Port Arthur must be almost ready to surrender, the reports of its general condition, from Russian sources, being so gloomy.

Mr. Douglas did not conduct a gumshoe campaign in Massachusetts. It was a three dollars and a half shoe campaign.

Russia wants peace, but "peace with honor" an impossible thing, she thinks, as the account between her and Japan now stands.

Nothing but tragedies continue to be presented at the theater of war. The waits between the acts just now are rather long.

It will be rather odd if the Department of the Interior does not attempt to convert the late landslide into a forest reserve.

Formerly Judge Parker was wont to take a plunge in the Hudson every morning. Now he has plunged into the legal maelstrom of New York City.

Only a third of Spain's population can read. The other two-thirds will never know what they have missed in not being able to make the acquaintance of the great Don.

The President has removed a United States marshal and two United States judges in Alaska. To them it was a clean sweep wholly inconsistent with their ideas of civil service reform and tenure of office.

General Sherman Bell says that if ever a revolution breaks out in this country it will be at Cripple Creek, which he terms the "powder magazine of the nation." A quite happy phrase that. There is little danger of a revolution breaking out. The lid is always off and allows surplus steam to escape. Freedom of the press, free speech and plenty of spouting being the safety valves.

Captain Richmond P. Hobson is reported to have said, "I predict the downfall of this man (President Roosevelt), if not now, at some future time, in a more tragic manner." Mighty ally talk that, of which any American, much less one educated at the United States military academy, should be ashamed. Captain Hobson's words ill comport with his action on the Merrimac, of which all Americans were justly proud.

Here is Colonel Henry Watterson's comment on the result of the late election: "All seems lost. To organized Democracy we fear all is lost. At least, all is chaos. Shall we, on that account, lay down our arms and accept the situation? God of the universe, forbid! Perish in the depths of perdition so much as the thought! But, what shall we do? How shall we proceed?" It shows that "Richard is himself again."

A lot of puny Panamans want to start a revolution so that they can get control of that \$10,000,000 fund. It is foolish for them to try it. Some time before they became independent the word went forth from Washington that no more fighting on the Isthmus would be allowed. That holds good, and the big stick and the soft word stand ready to make the dictum or edict, take your choice of words, good.

AFTER THE BATTLE.

Boston Herald.
To have the state of Massachusetts give a vote of nearly 80,000 plurality for Republican presidential electors, and at the same time, so to speak, on the same ticket elect a Democrat as Governor by a plurality of about 35,000, is a political phenomenon which needs explanation. It is true that in 1892 a Democratic Governor was re-elected when the state threw a plurality vote for Republican presidential electors. With all of Gov. Russell's great popularity, it is obvious that if a vote had been cast for President Harrison in any degree similar to that which the people of Massachusetts cast on Tuesday for President Taft, there would have been not the least chance of a local victory for the Democracy. One is justified, therefore, in saying that the conditions presented by this phenomenal experience are unparalleled in the political history of this state.

Springfield Republican.
Judge Parker's appeal for future harmony in the Democratic party will attract attention, and many there be who will say amen. But, for the present, it is doubtful if a full realization of what has happened has yet been gained by either the Democratic party or the whole people.

Los Angeles Times.
Now that over 15,000,000 American sovereigns have attached to the little matter of selecting one of their number to sit at the head of the table for the next four years, we may easily spare the time to watch the movements of those other monarchs who sit on thrones because their folks were born that way. We'll probably want to do a little trading with them, now and then, and if they should go on swatting one another perhaps we shall be able to step in and make peace among them.

Boston Transcript.
That there will always be an opposition may be taken for granted. An opposition is essential to the success of free institutions. In the country the existence of State sovereignty contemporary with national authority makes the play of centrifugal and centripetal forces inevitable, and therein comes opposition. But there are several ways in which to oppose. The better way is to offer an alternative policy, rather than perpetually to antagonize developments that arise from the instincts of national life. The Democratic party needs to seek new issues which do not aim at overturning what the national sentiment makes accepted results. It is badly defeated now. It is more than ever dependent on one section for its representation in public life, but it is by no means moribund as yet. Like all other opposition, it can live for a long time on the hope that if the majority becomes dissatisfied with its leaders it will avail itself of the machinery of the opposition to expel them from power.

New York Times.
A victory thus won has its visible perils. A President chosen by this unconscionable vote has need of more than ordinary strength and equanimity to resist the temptations natural to such an indication of popular confidence. We hope Mr. Roosevelt will bear in mind that the great vote which has come to him from outside his party, being easily detachable, cannot be counted upon to stand by him for all policies or in all contingencies.

Kansas City Star.
The country will make a mistake if it attempt to ignore the extraordinary strength of the Socialist vote in Illinois. In Chicago alone Debs received as many votes as were cast in Kansas City on Tuesday for all candidates. In the state he received half as many ballots as were cast for Parker. There is only one inference from such a showing. Many people are evidently losing hope of correcting abuses under the present industrial system, and they are ready to go to the extreme of social revolution in order to remedy existing evils.

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