DESERET EVENING NEWS.

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WAR PROGRAM.

Before this impression of the "News" reaches its readers, President McKinley may have signed the Congress resolutions declaring that Cuba must be given her liberty, and the cabinet may have agreed upon the time to be granted Spain—usually only a few hours—in which to decide whether she will comply with the demands of the United States or not. In case of further refusal to listen to reason, the navy will naturally be ordered to move in the scene of action immediately. The war may be on before the end of the week.

There is, however, no sign as yet of much warfare in Cuban waters. The commander of the Spanish forces has very accommodatingly ordered the great first class cruisers Vizcaya and Almirante O'Quendo away from Cuba, and they are now safely at anchor on the other side of the Atlantic. The ships left on the Cuban coasts cannot offer much resistance. On Cuban soil there will be probably some engagements, but the Spanish forces there between invaders and the insurgents would not be able to hold their own for any length of time. If Spain means to fight, the war apparently will come after the occupation of Cuba, but it is quite possible that the thought of losing the gem of the Antilles becomes less revolting to Spanish pride as the hour is drawing nearer.

The reported proposition to submit the question of Cuba's government to a popular vote is not likely to influence the action of the United States one way or another. The proposition is said to have come from the Dreyfoud, of which Germany is the chief power. But Germany has given the world an instance of her idea of a plebiscite. After the war with Denmark, one of the stipulations of the treaty of peace at Kiel was to submit the question of government to the inhabitants of the two provinces, Schleswig and Holstein, but the agreement was never carried out. Instead of that, by various oppressive measures the natives were forced to leave and their places were filled by Germans, thus making in the course of a few years a plebiscite superfluous. Some such plan might be applied to Cuba, where the order of Gen. Weyler has left plenty of room for colonists from Spain. When the Spanish forces have evacuated the island, the voice of the people might properly be heard, but a plebiscite on the old Bismarckian style is out of the question.

CULTIVATING PATRIOTISM.

Dr. Millspaugh, city superintendent of schools, did a very appropriate thing today in dismissing the schools so that the pupils might have an opportunity to see the troops of Fort Douglas march through the streets to the depot on their departure for the front. Such a sight is a great lesson in patriotism, and is worth as much to the children, to say the least, as anything they could have learned in the same length of time in the school room.

It is very true that the soldiers were colored men, that they came to this State total strangers only a short time ago, and that few if any of them leave behind any near relatives. But they are the representatives of our nation's defenders, and while killing such a position are entitled to the respect of every citizen; and it is fitting that their departure for the field of hostilities, should the trouble with Spain go so far, should be witnessed by the pupils of the public schools.

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AN ACRE.

Last year a man who lives just a few miles southeast of this city made two thousand dollars from four acres of land. It was not imported land either. It was only plain, common Utah soil, and there is any amount of it lying all around in this region. In fact, when he first began to cultivate it a few years ago it didn't look half as good as does an average farm in this vicinity. It was hard, rocky, gravelly and rather forbidding in its general appearance.

But the owner has subdued it, and has made an orchard of it, and such grapes, pears, cherries, peaches, apples, apricots and other fruits as he raises on that four acres are delightful to think about. He has time to tear here big enough to hoe weeds and pick fruit, and he keeps his comfortable income of two thousand dollars a year, in his own family.

Up around Bountiful they will point you out dozens of small farms that pay their owners from $200 to $500 a year per acre, with no sign of exhaustion; and of all the independent men in this far-famed region, the natural wealth the two most independent are the owner of a big mine and the tiller of a Bountiful truck farm, with homes not far from even. Those Bountiful truck farmers have things in this world pretty much as they want them.

Now there is no magic in the soil of the four acre orchard here spoken of, nor in the truck farms of Davis county. The secret of their luxuriousness is no great secret after all; it embraces two very simple elements: The natural fertility of the ground when closely cultivated and the intelligent industry which is devoted to it. When closely and intelligently cultivated and sufficiently irrigated the soil of these mountain valleys is enormously productive and, consequently, profitable, and a small area of it will give a man and a family of half grown boys plenty of work at good wages.

There are many opportunities to work such lands on shares, a business that requires practically no capital to start with; and it would be a very wise thing on the part of a few score or a few hundred idle men of this city to go where they can get such an opening. The kind will give them employment and will pay them good wages out of which they can soon save enough to buy a small tract of their own. When there is plenty of kind class at hand to be had cheap or on shares that will pay $200 per acre each year, there ought not to be any idleheaded men in this city who are not earning a comfortable living for themselves and their families if they have any.

PRIVATEERING.

It has been stated repeatedly that if war breaks out between the United States and Spain, the operations of the latter country would to a large extent be confined to privateering with a view of doing all the damage possible to the commerce of this country. It certainly looks as if this were the plan of campaign decided on. The Spanish warships, as will be remembered, were ordered away from Havana some time ago, leaving the chief harbor of Cuba very much at the mercy of an attacking force, and the formidable flotilla dispatched from Spain supposedly for the purpose of defending Cuban waters, is still lingering on the other side of the Atlantic, 3,000 miles away from the place of danger in case of actual hostilities. Havana might fall before the great Armada had had time to cross half way over. The fact that the Spanish government has neglected to gather her naval strength in West India during the days that have been spent in debates and war preparations here does not indicate a desire on the part of that government to oppose the United States with actions in lieu of fort to establish peace in the disturbed island. The secretary of the Spanish legation in London is reported to have expressed himself to the effect that there are scores of ships of almost every nationality anxious to carry the Spanish cause and sail under letters of marque. The United States presumably prefers an open and square fight with a regular navy, but if Spain refuses that and resorts to privateering she will have to follow her own inclination. When the war is over and a settlement is to be made, Spain will have to pay for every American ship captured, every cargo confiscated and every American life lost. The damage she can inflict on American commerce will have to be paid for by the Spanish people.

A privateer is an armed vessel, the property of private persons and commissioned by the sovereign of a belligerent power. The letter of marque is the term applied to that commission. The privateers hold a position between a warship and a merchant vessel. But if one ship is found to hold a commission from both the belligerent powers, she is treated as a pirate, as is also in certain cases the subject of a neutral power who takes a commission as a privateer from one of the belligerents. By an agreement at Paris on April 16, 1856, privateering is abolished in so far as concerns the signatory powers. But the United States, Mexico, Uruguay and Spain have not signed this agreement, which besides does not appear to have much binding force. Prussia in the late war with France, although a party to the Paris agreement, sent out a large number of privateers under the more euphonious name of a "volunteer fleet."

A HOPEFUL VIEW.

Edward Atkinson, the great political economist, takes a hopeful view of the outcome of the industrial competition between New England and the South. He does not believe that in the end the former will be defeated, or that the latter will gain a permanent advantage by means of low wages and long hours. A few days ago he made a speech before the chamber of commerce of Atlanta, Georgia, in the course of which he said:

"From these conditions we derive the rule which sounds so much like a paradox and is yet so little comprehended, especially in your southern section. High wages or savings in money or in what money will buy are the result and not the antecedent of a low cost of labor in each unit of product. If the general rate of wages is lower in any state or section of this country than it is elsewhere, other conditions being equal, that fact simply proves the lack of intelligent industry and progress in the state or section which is thus subjected to the disadvantages of the low standard of living which would necessary the low rates of wages. I think it was in the last speech which I made in Atlanta that I told you you would never attain the true place which Georgia ought to hold in the community of the states so long as your general rate of wages was so far below that of others far less endowed with natural resources. Your low rates of wages, long hours of work, and excess of child labor in your mills, simply show that you have not mastered the art of dealing with your great resources in the most profitable manner."

He further claimed that whatever advantage may possibly come from these labor conditions is temporary and deceptive and a development which is stimulated by such supposed advantage partakes of the nature of an unsubstantial boom. He looks evidently for a reaction in southern cotton mill building, and thinks that labor there will not long put up with the lower rates and longer hours. It is now fresh from the farm and the back country and works for the moment in the relief which the change of occupation brings. But ultimately this labor will learn of and will demand the compensation which is obtained in the industry elsewhere, and the drift of skilled labor the country over will be toward that place where compensation is highest. "In the end, every art will centralize itself in that section or state where the highest rates of wages are earned that can be recovered from the sale of the goods."

The Springfield Republican reiterates Mr. Atkinson's views and arguments and derives from them much encouragement for the cotton mills of New England. It closes an editorial article upon the same subject with this paragraph:

"New England's advantages of greater economy of capital and skilled labor are not to be belittled or ignored, and the prevalence of more equal conditions respecting the pay and hours of labor will force these advantages into greater prominence than it now gives them. They so far offset the southern advantage of proximity to the cotton and fuel that we may confidently expect a rapid rise in the industry of New England quite different from that which recent events have seemed to foreshadow."

CHILD STUDY.

One of the "fads" now rapidly developing in America is called "child study." It consists in minute observation of children from the time when they begin to manifest volition until they are far advanced in or have completed the period of adolescence. The devotee of the "fad" keeps a diary in which are carefully recorded every manifestation of pain, pleasure or intelligence which the child gives forth, and a description of its actions and movements, etc., the result being a minutely detailed record of its growth and the mental and physical characteristics and phenomena it has displayed.

It is a semi-scientific amusement thus to observe a child, and is not likely to produce any great amount of harm, though what good it can do is not apparent unless the observations recorded by the "fad-ists" shall be arranged in such a way as to afford useful information.

And this is precisely what it is proposed shall be done in San Francisco. A number of mothers and teachers who are interested in "child study" have organized the "California Home and Child study association," which, a few days ago, held a meeting at which a number of papers were read urging the benefits to be derived from making child study a practical feature of family life. Mrs. E. Green, the president of the association in her address said that child study is the outgrowth of the application of psychological principles, and is no longer looked upon as a fad nor a serious question in biology—as the study of the natural history of human beings is natural sequence in evolution.

California is taking the lead in this new branch of scientific research, and there is no denying the fact that it is capable of being much very interesting, while it may lead to results of great importance and beneficence.

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Also on Wednesday, 20, at 10:30 a. m., No. 25 east, Parlor Set, Easy and other Rockers, two Bedroom Sets, Fine Hall Tree, Extension and Center Tables, Carpets, stoves, lot of Dishes, Lawn Mower, Kitchen Utensils, etc., etc.

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