

## DESERT EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - APRIL 12, 1900.

## THE PUERTO RICAN LAW.

The struggle in Congress over the Puerto Rican bill is ended, and the amendments made to the House measure by the Senate having been concurred in, a duty of 15 per cent of the rates imposed by the Dingley tariff will be levied on certain articles going into the island from the United States, while Puerto Rican products will come into this country duty free. A number of articles from the United States, including some foodstuffs, will be exempt from the 15 per cent duty. The law will go into effect on May 1, 1900.

A measure for the government of the island is attached to the law. It extends partial independence to the people, by giving them the right to elect a legislative body and some local officers, but does not reach even the limited liberty of the Territorial system, a cabinet being appointive as well as a governor and other high functionaries, and there is no provision for a Delegate in Congress. Possibly, it is as high a degree of self-government as the natives are fitted at present to maintain. However that may be, this is the gist of the measure passed by Congress.

An editorial in the Tribune of this morning commences with this statement, as a basis for a long argument on the effects of the law:

"The bill has passed proposing to put a tariff of 15 per cent of the Dingley tariff on Puerto Rican products."

As we have explained, the bill provides for the very opposite of that. The further assertion of that paper, that opposition to the measure was the work of "trusts and syndicates" who had bought "large quantities of tobacco and sugar" in Puerto Rico, and "want to get them into the United States free of duty," is very funny. It is also misleading and for that reason we notice it. The public should not be led astray on the purpose of this law which has occasioned so much agitation, involving a question of constitutional power. The same paper which editorially makes these ludicrous mistakes, gives in its press dispatches the following summary of the provisions of the bill, thus furnishing a complete denial of its editorial statements:

"As amended by the Senate and today agreed to by the House all restrictions on goods coming into the United States from Puerto Rico are eliminated and certain foodstuffs and other articles, which heretofore have gone into Puerto Rico free by executive order are excluded from the operation of the 15 per cent duty imposed on goods entering the island from the United States. A complete scheme of civil government for the island is also attached to the measure."

The struggle over the passage of the bill was chiefly occasioned by a difference of views as to the scope and extent of the national Constitution.

It was contended on one side of the controversy, that the Constitution follows the flag, and that it rules as the supreme law in every part of the public domain. That therefore no tax or duty can be constitutionally imposed upon articles exported from one part of the United States to another. The tariff proposed, therefore, upon either Puerto Rican products coming into this country, or upon United States goods going into Puerto Rico, is regarded as in violation of the supreme law.

On the other hand, it is maintained that the Constitution is extended by its own force over sovereign States only. That it confers upon the Congress power to "dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States," and that the Constitution may, by law, be extended or not, as Congress may determine, over any part of the domain of the United States. And further that the provision as to exemption from tax or duty applies only to "articles exported from any State." Puerto Rico is not a State of the Union, but is territory belonging to the United States, and therefore all needful rules and regulations respecting it may be passed by Congress. This is the position taken by the majority in the national Legislature.

The benefits or otherwise to the Puerto Ricans from the passage of the bill is another matter. A good thing might not be the right thing if effected without lawful authority. Whether complete free trade or the mixed measure now determined upon would be preferable is an open question.

The Puerto Ricans claimed that the severance of their relations with Spain deprived them of a market for their products, and that the closing of the United States to them would mean financial ruin, poverty, and starvation. This objection has been fairly met in the tariff bill that eliminates the restrictions on exports, and besides provides for the free importation of foodstuffs and other similar articles.

The measure is intended for the benefit of the Puerto Ricans, giving them a system of indirect taxation, so different from that under which revenues were raised during Spanish rule.

It is temporary. It effects can be tested, and possible defects may be remedied as experience shall suggest.

One feature of the long contest over this matter is that the sentiment of the country has not been divided on party lines. The Literary Digest some time ago collated no less than seventy-five daily papers, of all political shades and from all parts of the country, and found that the most radical opponents on other questions stood together on the Puerto Rican problem. The demand throughout the country for fair treatment of the new possessions has been and is almost unanimous.

## THE PARIS SHOW.

Complaints are now being made that the managers of the Paris Exposition show a disposition to treat the Americans with unfairness.

It is said that when the space allotted was too small, they asked permission to make the buildings higher, but this was refused, although the French, themselves, added height to their buildings. But this is not all. Complaint is also being made that the Ottoman palace had been placed where it blocks the American pavilion, and in this violation of the plans. Our commissioner, it is said, has demanded that the Turks be requested to remove one of the towers that obstructs the American dome.

Other evidences of the prevalent spirit is the fact that American locomotives have been assigned an out-of-the-way place, while French and Belgian engines are placed in the center of the grounds. And it is also stated that the committees on awards will be so composed as to preclude the judging of American inventions and products on their merits alone.

Another complaint is that the Parisians are anxious to fleece the visitors to an extent never before practiced by the people of an exhibition city. Generally, prices on lodging, food, and so on, are raised, but the Parisians are reported to be preparing for a regular hold-up of unsophisticated visitors. Those with but little experience, who go to Paris, are likely to acquire some before they return home.

It is not probable that any scheme on the part of the managers of the Paris exposition to give to American exhibits a secondary place, if the intention to do so exists, will have the desired effect. American products attract attention wherever they are, when compared with the products of other countries, and they are moreover so well known, that they will draw spectators, whether they are put in the center or in a corner.

The Parisians, if discriminating against this country, can but harm their own exposition. American commerce has started on its world-conquering march. It cannot be stopped by jealousy.

## NO NEED OF ALARM.

The Kansas City Star commenting on a dispatch which sought to convey the idea that there is alarm in Canada over the influx of "Mormons," kindly says:

"All accounts represent the Mormons as enterprising, business-like and industrious. They certainly add to the material wealth of the country they occupy. If the Dominion laws can suppress the passion of the Mormons for polygamy, they do not seem to be otherwise objectionable immigrants. The Canadians are, perhaps, unduly alarmed."

The probability is that the Canadians are not "alarmed" at all, but that some agitator is endeavoring to create an impression that they have something to be "alarmed" over. The Saints in their settlements both in Canada and Mexico are living in peace with their neighbors, and all the world, as they are doing in Utah and everywhere, and will continue to do, as far as depends on them.

No government and no people on earth need to be "alarmed" at the "Mormons," any more than imperial Rome had any reason to fear the followers of the Lord. As the primitive Christians, they are peaceable, loyal, faithful and true. They are a blessing to any country in which they dwell.

## OUR COAL TRADE.

Europe is suffering from what has been called a coal famine, and the matter is receiving much attention in this country, for the reason that the shortage of fuel has created a demand for American coal, which it is believed will increase in the immediate future.

The New York Sun, in commenting on the situation, says the United States consul general at Berlin reports to the state department that the shortage of coal in Germany and Russia injures the iron and steel industries, lessening the product of pig iron. The consul says:

"The situation has become critical and ominous for the manufacturers and export trade of Germany. Numerous important glass, porcelain and machine factories in Silesia and Saxony have been obliged to shut down for want of fuel; there are a dozen electric lighting and power plants in this country which have less than a fortnight's coal provision on hand. In Russia the rapid development of railways and certain manufactures during the past three years has completely outstripped the limited domestic coal supply and the Russian government has sought to ease the pressure by suspending for an indefinite period the import duty of \$2.50 per ton. The principal wholesale agency here for Silesian soft coal is now selling its scanty stock at \$5 per ton, delivered at Berlin, and there is a general panic among coal dealers, who are unable to provide coal for their customers at any price and can see no encouraging prospect of obtaining their next season's supply. Offers are made of \$4.00 to \$4.25 for bituminous lump coal in lots of 10,000 to 20,000 tons, free on board at Hamburg. Notwithstanding coal at the pit's mouth in West Virginia has sold during the past year at 80 cents per ton, the United States, which leads the world in this product and mined last year 215,335,000 tons of coal, exported only a bagatelle of 5,551,933 tons, of which 3,621,761 tons were merely carried over the frontier into British North America and the rest went nearly all to Mexico and the West Indies, countries which lie at our very door."

Looking over the situation, trade papers assert that this country easily can produce about double the amount of coal needed for the home consumption, and that in the future the United States will supply a large part of Europe to the world. The failure of Europe to

supply the present demand is taken as an evidence that the maximum of production has been reached, and that the United States will necessarily be called upon to supply the increasing demand of the future. Great Britain and France are about the only European countries that have coal for export, but they can no longer produce enough for both home and foreign consumption.

One cause of the increase in the coal consumption is the enlargement of the navies of the world, or rather the establishment of naval coaling stations all over the world. Foreign governments are large purchasers of coal. Army transports are now plying the oceans, transporting and retransporting troops, and they all need an immense amount of fuel. The statistics speak eloquently of the increase in exportation. For the seven months ending with January, 1899, the export of anthracite amounted to 854,877 tons, and bituminous to 1,961,200 tons, while for the corresponding months ending with last January, it had increased to 1,112,177 and 2,749,112, respectively.

The future possibilities are regarded as great. In the immense coal deposits this country has another source of immense wealth, that can be utilized for the good of mankind. As the natural resources of this country develop, it becomes clear that it is not an exaggerated figure of speech to say that it is choice above all others.

## RIPE OLIVES.

Mr. E. W. Ehman, of Orville, Cal., a gentleman interested in the California olive industry, paid a pleasant visit to the "News" office yesterday, Wednesday afternoon, and talked interestingly on the subject of olives and olive oil. Among other things he maintained that the ripe fruit, pickled, is now rapidly taking the place of the green article, wherever it is introduced. This should be of great importance to California, for while that State cannot compete with the Mediterranean countries in the green olive, its ripe fruit is said to be far superior in flavor to the imported article.

Olives as a food stuff deserve much more recognition than they have received hitherto. In oriental countries, where meat is scarce and but sparingly eaten, olives seem to be a most valuable substitute for animal food. Physicians, we believe, recommend the ripe olive for patients with weak digestion, and it is asserted that it is of great value in kidney and liver affections. An article of food which is both highly nutritious and possessing medicinal qualities deserves general attention.

It is difficult to understand why the green olives should be preferred generally to the ripe fruit. The roaming sons of Arabia eat all kinds of fruit green, in the belief that the "strength of youth" thus passes from the fruit to the consumer, but that consideration does not obtain in western enlightened countries. But Mr. Ehman explains this puzzle. According to him the preparation of the ripe olive for the market is a delicate and somewhat dangerous task. The ripe olive on the tree, he says, is a handsome black berry, but contains an acid as bitter as quinine, so that strangers never eat more than one raw ripe olive. This acid must be neutralized and expelled and without injuring the quality of the fruit or the oil. A strong solution of lye is used and herein lies the danger both to product and to picker. If the olive is left too long in the solution the berry turns to a very nice quality of soft soap, so that a difference of one-half hour will ruin the crop and incidentally the picker. Besides this, should any of the lye splash on the hands on in the eyes, the effect can be easily imagined. After the lye process comes several rinsings in clear, cold water and after several days in a strong salt brine, the olive is ready for the table.

This being the case, it is easy to understand that exporters should prefer to ship the green berry to the risk involved in the preservation of the ripe one. But it is self-evident that the former is inferior in quality. The subject is not without interest to Utah, where the value of pure olive oil is so highly appreciated.

## IN THE INTEREST OF SCIENCE.

Recent investigations into the nature of malarial fever is said to have disclosed the fact that the disease is due to a germ, which is taken from a diseased person or animal by a mosquito and transferred to the blood of the victims of the little insect.

But science is not satisfied with guesses and hypotheses, and it is now proposed to submit that theory to a practical test, human beings to become the objects of an investigating experiment.

According to the plan recently laid before a British medical association, three men are to pass the summer in a small, specially constructed house or hut on the Roman Campagna, a place where it is considered that even passing a single night is almost sure to be followed by a serious attack of malaria. The house is to be specially provided with wire screens and mosquito nettings to keep out every insect of this kind. There is said to be very little danger during the daytime, but at night the air is full of these insects, and this is the time in which the three persons on trial are to pass their time there. If they are not attacked by the fever, the presumption is that the nets that shut out the mosquitoes from the house also prevented at the same time the malaria germ from entering.

Then it is further proposed to take a mosquito that has drawn the blood from a malaria patient and bring it in a case from Rome to England. On the road it is to be fed on vegetable juices, and when in England is to be allowed to bite an entirely healthy man to see if this does not lead to a breaking out in his case of the dreaded disease.

This is an exceedingly interesting experiment. It cannot be objected to on the ground that vivisection is condemned. Even Mark Twain, who in vain, according to his own statement, has endeavored to understand why it should be considered a kind of credit to belong to a human race that has vivisectioners in it, could take no exception to the self-sacrificing spirit of those who are willing to lend their own

bodies to an experiment in the interest of science. The anticipated results are believed to be well worth the sacrifice to be made.

A London dispatch says the Boers seem to be taking heart again. They also seem to be taking the men with them, judging by the recent captures at Sannas Post and Dewetadorp.

A Bloemfontein dispatch says the Boers "are evidently ignorant of the large forces Lord Roberts has at his disposal." Perhaps so; but the British should have learned that it is unsafe to bank too much on the alleged ignorance of a wily antagonist.

The trouble in Ashanti, known as the British Gold Coast colony, seems to be more serious than thought at first. Thus far, forty-five British soldiers have been killed, and it is rumored the governor of Kumasi is in the rebels' hands. It is not likely, however, that the rebellion will last long, since the British have not had much difficulty heretofore in conquering the natives by a vigorous campaign.

The two leading political parties in Cuba are quarreling, one saying that it intends to work in aid of the Americans carrying out their promises and the other that its purpose is to assist the Americans in forming a stable government for the island. Since the "promises" of the Americans was to form a "stable government," it is evident that the chief if not the only distinction between the Cuban political parties is as to which of them shall control the offices on the island.

The warning of viceroys to the empress dowager of China probably will have more effect on her imperial highness than the notices of European nations; for while she may have hopes of keeping these quarreling, or near enough to it so that severe action may be prevented, she must realize that with a serious rebellion at home in the very line of foreign demands, none of the European nations would hesitate singly to attempt the enforcement of its own wishes; while an outbreak of the reformers would open the door to filibusters from all nations and be sure to wreck the whole empire.

An important point for the Indians is made in the new treaty with the Cherokee of Indian Territory. By this arrangement a whole Indian tribe, or nation, consents to accept lands in severalty, and upon receipt of deeds to the real estate they become citizens of the United States. Heretofore instances of Indians being clothed with citizenship have been individual in their character, but the incorporation of a whole tribe into the forward civilized movement for full citizenship is significant of changes among the aborigines of more than ordinary import. Politically, it is a nation being "born in a day," the event probably to be followed by others of the more civilized Indian nations coming in along the same path.

## THE DEWEY CANDIDACY.

Boston Herald.  
There is no doubt that the people, in the larger sense, have looked with exceeding favor upon the proposition of his name, and that when it was first presented there was a general feeling that the politicians of both parties who had other schemes would be compelled to yield to it, if Dewey sanctioned its use. Whether this feeling still continues is a very interesting problem.

Springfield Republican.  
The first response to Dewey's candidacy would go to show this: The admiral is too late and he doesn't represent anything in particular. It is too strenuous a year for the success of such a venture as that. Such is the cold, hard truth regarding this new candidacy, as time is likely to further prove it. The newspapers already sense this, and the people as well. There is lots of dissatisfaction with the existing convention outlook on both sides, but the demand is for positive and masterful leadership. Nothing else will fill the bill.

Chicago Record.  
In the face of such incontestable evidence, the admiral and his friends must be convinced. When discerning political leaders argue at great length to show that the Dewey candidacy is only a joke it is evident that there must be force in the arguments. And when Admiral Dewey picks up some able organ of political opinion and finds from ten to fourteen columns of fine print cogently demonstrating that the whole affair is hardly worth talking about, how can he believe that he has caused a sensation or even a ripple of interest?

Milwaukee Wisconsin.  
Admiral Dewey's conclusion that "the office of President is not such a very difficult one to fill" may be accepted as proof of his confidence in his wife's ability to perform the duties of private secretary and give practical tips regarding everything connected with the government of the United States. She is said to be a very bright woman, and has lived in Washington for many years.

San Francisco Call.  
His country will take his offer of himself with good humor, but he must not be disappointed if that humor lack the eager enthusiasm which greeted him in his proper character a few months ago.

Boston Transcript.  
This latest of our indignant naval heroes makes such a revelation of naive vanity that his candidacy has already become ludicrous, too much so, for any disaffected element of either party to prosecute it with straight faces.

Kansas City Star.  
That an American of Admiral Dewey's age and supposed intelligence should speak of the presidency as an easy place and its duties akin to that of a subordinate officer of the navy is humiliating. Neither is it pleasant to believe that Admiral Dewey, in offering himself as a candidate for the highest official place in the nation, would state that he had no platform, no views, convictions or principles—at least for the present.

Chicago Times-Herald.  
"I think I have said enough at this time," declared Admiral Dewey as he concluded his presidential interview, "and perhaps too much." Why that judgment that was expressed in this comment had not been formed before ever a word was uttered.

Omaha World-Herald.  
Admiral Dewey's candidacy for the presidency will attract attention largely because of the unique position in which the old sea fighter places himself. The admiral says he has every reason to believe that there is a popular demand for his nomination, and then he declines to say whether he is a Democrat or a Republican. The admiral might at least designate the party to which he will apply for the honor.

San Francisco Chronicle.  
Admiral Dewey's announcement that



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