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What is the matter with the paramount issue? Is it already wearing out?

If the Sultan of Sulu desires the affections of the American Aguinaldites he must shoot a few American soldiers from ambush.

We shall be interested to discover which of the issues in the Kansas City platform Mr. Bryan will use as his bait in his determined effort to capture New York. We doubt if it will be the Paramount Issue, which is showing distinct signs of failing strength. It will hardly be trusts—at least the ice trust. It won't be free silver, for to 1. we'll guarantee that. It seems to us Bryan will make a mess of it if he talks on any of his favorite fads in New York, and that he might better leave the state to Croker's manipulation. Croker is betting on Bryan's election, but it must be said that very little of Croker's vast fortune has come to him from successful betting. It has come to him by surer, and much less creditable, methods, than wagering on uncertainties.

We can hardly doubt that W. T. Crawford feels the humiliation of his position as a candidate who dare not say the word that would secure an honest election in November in this congressional district. Whether he feels it as much as the general public is a question. The choice, however, lies between accepting this humiliation, or of renouncing the chance of defeating his opponent and the will of the people by fraud. If Mr. Crawford were at all confident that a majority of the voters of this district desired that he should represent them in congress does anyone suppose that he would hesitate to agree with Mr. Coffey that neither should accept a certificate obtained by dishonesty at the polls? "Conscience makes cowards of us all," and we fear Mr. Crawford has let his conscience, or something else, run away with his reason, for his position in this matter is one which must greatly diminish the respect even his nearest friends have felt for him. In the light of Stringfield's "victory" and Crawford's approval of the Simmons law the democratic congressional candidate is publicly recognized as having listened to the voice of the tempter, as having sacrificed public approbation and his own conscience in order not to lose the chance of profiting by the dishonesty of the Simmons law election officials.

GO EAST, YOUNG MAN.

In an address at Mt. Holly recently, announcing his candidacy for the United States senatorship, Col. Carr is reported as saying:

"It is of the utmost importance that there be a free and full ballot and an honest and fair count" in the approaching primary election.

If Col. Carr takes his candidacy seriously he ought to go east and go at once. There is no time to lose. It is a waste of time and energy to talk fair elections in the Western counties. The time is now, and the place is Wayne, Wilson and Halifax, to talk fair elections. Within the dead line that marks Simmons' territory is the real missionary ground in this new contention for an honest ballot and a fair count. The western counties do not count in this senatorial primary. When Simmons boasts of a fifty thousand majority, he does it knowing well the resources of his multiplex machine. In truth it is an open secret, that the eastern counties will not allow the western counties to dictate and determine the senatorship in the November primary.

So Col. Carr has two formidable obstacles in the way of his election: The impossibility of a fair election in the eastern counties, and the determination of the Simmons machine to elect Simmons as the eastern candidate. The western counties will have little voice in the approaching democratic primary. Popular sentiment unquestionably is for Carr, not so much on Carr's account, but on account of its convictions against eastern dishonest election methods.

So that in the brief interval before the election Col Carr should devote his splendid energies to the reclamation of the eastern counties. He should have his part of the magnificent five thousand democratic majority in Halifax county!

Go east, young man.

In rejecting the suggestion of the emperor of Germany that no "diplomatic negotiations" whatever shall be entered into with the Chinese authorities until after the "surrender of such persons as are determined upon as being the first and real perpetrators of the crimes committed in Peking against international law, the New York Times declares our government has acted with what appears to be a wise combination of firmness and patience. In reality, the Times says, the proposition to exact from the Chinese government the surrender of persons indicted by foreign powers as guilty of crime as a condition precedent to any diplomatic intercourse is practically a denial of one sovereignty of that government. It is a proposition that no government in the world would assent to unless under duress. It may be contended that the Chinese government is on a different plane from that held by other governments, and that it has by the crimes it has tolerated put itself beyond the pale of civilization and lost its right to be treated that other governments can claim. But the fact remains that if the powers take that ground they must be prepared, in case the Chinese government refuses their condition, either to force it to accept or to remain with no responsible government to deal with, or to set up such a government. That policy may involve the conquest of China, or a revolution with foreign guidance, or an indefinite term of anarchy with incalculable injury to the interests of the outer world in the Chinese empire. That is a tremendous responsibility. We think that the government of the United States does well to avoid it. We hope and believe it will be found there is another and better way.

The way is plainly indicated in the not to Germany. It is to assure "the full exercise of the imperial power," with the distinct understanding that it is to be exercised "for preservation of order and the protection of foreign life and property throughout China." It accepts the plenipotentiary authority of Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching as prima facie evidence sufficient for preliminary negotiations looking toward the return of the imperial Chinese government and the resumption of its authority at Peking. It cautiously omits to recognize the authority of these envoys "to negotiate peace." At the same time the United States declines the suggestion of Russia that its minister shall be withdrawn from Peking. Our government does not wabate a jot or tittle of its just claims on China. It simply insists on using the only available agency to secure those claims.

A Chicago despatch of the 23d says that Oliver C. Farrington, Curator of the Field Columbian museum at Jackson park, has just completed experiments with rocky formations peculiar to the famous caves of Indiana, as a result of which he says he believes that animal life has existed on this planet for at least 10,000,000 years and probably for double that length of time. These conclusions were reached by estimating the period required for the growth of the stalactites in the caves mentioned. In 1850 one of the stalactites was cut and the increase since then has been carefully measured showing that about 85 years are required for the formation of a cubic inch of the substance.

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NORTH CAROLINA GOLD MINES.

In the thirteenth annual report of the bureau of labor and printing for the state of North Carolina is given some interesting information in regard to the mining industry of the state. In reference to gold mining considerable development is shown to have taken place during the past year. The following work has been done along the Southern railway:

In Stanley county—At the Parker mine some work has been done washing the surface placer deposits and working quartz veins. At the Thompson mine, near the Crawford, a ten-stamp mill has been erected and both the mine and mill have been worked for several months. The Crawford has itself been recently put in operation. In Cabarrus county—At the Reed mine, a ten-stamp mill has been erected, and some mining and hydraulic and also some milling have been done. At the Black Cat mine, a 10-stamp mill has been erected, and there has been some shaft sinking. At the Nugget mine there has been some hydraulic work and some vein mining in the Galena lode. At the Icenhour, or Fritz-Honeycut mine, some mining and milling has been done, and the chlorination plant has been in operation. The McMakin mine, owned by the Whitney Reduction company of Pittsburg has been developed to a considerable extent; one shaft having been sunk to a depth of 280 feet and a sixteen foot vein has been opened up. The Messina mine was also prospecting to a considerable extent, but nothing further has been done there in the way of mining operations.

In Davidson county—The Lalar mine, near Thomasville, has been worked on a small scale. Many of the other mines are being improved by putting in new boilers, pumps, hoisting machinery, etc., and a general healthy movement is manifest in all this gold region.

In Rowan county—The Reimer mine has had the water pumped out, and mining operations have been under way for a short time. The Sol Morgan mine, six miles east of Spencer, has been mined, and shipped two or more car loads of ore. The Dutch Creek has been in operation for a few months. The Gold Hill mines, the deepest and most extensively worked mines in the state have been leased by the Union Mining company and are being prepared for work on an extensive scale. There has been considerable activity in this district. These mines carry copper, gold and some silver, and through the efforts of the Union Copper Mining company several shafts have been sunk, and many hundred feet of tunnels and drifts have been run. A six mile spur track has been built from the Southern to the mines, and there have been erected more than one hundred dwellings for miners, a modern hotel, office, assay laboratory, several shaft houses, power house, machine shop and a large concentrating plant with a capacity of from 300 to 400 tons of ore a day, so that there is at this place a genuine mining camp with all the modern appliances for mining operations.

In Chatham county—The Snipes mine, some eleven miles west of Chapel Hill, has been opened to a depth of more than one hundred feet and several drifts have been cut. Two large boilers and a ten-stamp mill have been installed and arrangements made for pushing the work on a large scale. Several other openings have been made by the Snipes Gold company within a few miles of this mill, all the ore to be carried to it for treatment.

In Henderson county—The old Boylston mine has been bought by the Belle Hanscom company of Hendersonville, N. C., and vigorous prospecting is being done. It is proposed to equip the property with a sixty-stamp mill and chlorination plant. Near Murphy, in Cherokee county, some fairly successful work has been done in the alluvial deposits of the Valley river.

The commissioner says: "On account of the expense attending the erection of a stamp mill and reduction plant, it is impossible for many of the low grade ore properties to be profitably worked but if there was a large stamp mill and reduction plant centrally located, to which these ores could be shipped after concentration, many that are now idle could be worked at a profit. Such a plant, without doubt, could be kept busy from one end of the year to the other, the ore being bought according to the showing of the assays. There has been \$43,000 of gold that has been reported as mined during the year."

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"WAR ENDED" IN SOUTH AFRICA BUT FIGHTING CONTINUES

Boer Guns and Stores Destroyed—Heading Off Steyn.

London, Sept. 27.—The war is completely ended, according to the Lorenzo Marques correspondent of the Daily Telegraph. Many guns have been destroyed and hundreds of wagons and thousands of tons of stores of every description have been burned. Burning wreckage lies in every direction in the Hectorspruit district. The correspondent says: "Any good police force of twenty thousand men can effect the complete pacification of the country. It will be impossible for the Boers in the future to mass a force exceeding 1,500. They are sick of the war and the Irish American and other mercenaries are clamoring for payment and threatening the Boer officials."

TO INTERCEPT STEYN.

London Sept. 26.—The Daily Mail has the following despatch from Lorenzo Marques:

"Heavy fighting is reported across the Sabi river. This means that the British are intercepting Steyn and Reitz, who, with their forces, are attempting to push northward and to effect a junction. A commando is said to be surrounded near Pietersburg. BOERS DEVASTATE COUNTRY.

New York, Sept. 26.—A despatch to the Herald from Lorenzo Marques:

By dint of hard riding from Barberton your correspondent overtook first General Ian Hamilton's division then that of General Pole-Carew and finally General Komatiport. Not a shot was fired nor was a Boer seen, during the march.

Evidence of the enemy's destructiveness was everywhere to be seen. The bridge had been dynamited, the stores, buildings and homesteads looted and burned as had been also the railway property, all the chief stations being mere masses of smoking ruins, among them Kaap Muidee, Hectorspruit and Komatiport. At the last place there is an enormous area over which the Boers have wrought destruction.

TOLSTOI EXCOMMUNICATED.

Must Recant or be Denied the Rites of the Church at Death.

Lausanne, Switzerland, Sept. 26.—A secret circular addressed by Joannicus, the metropolitan of Keiff, to all the Russian archbishops virtually excommunicating Tolstoi, the Russian Novelist and social reformer, is published here. It declares that Tolstoi is an avowed enemy of the church and that therefore unless he recants, the holy synod will prohibit the celebration of all divine services and expository masses in the event of his death.

A PROSPERITY MATTRESS.

Shelby, Ala. When the cotton market was cotting around the 11 cents mark, a hustling resident of this county emptied the cotton from his cotton mattress and put it on the market, remarking that he couldn't afford to sleep on cotton when it was bringing 11 cents a pound. He sold his "mattress" to the Belmont cotton mill. Our informant didn't tell us how long this creator of wealth had been "holding" his cotton.

"PUTTING UP SOME BIG BLUFFS."

Statesville Landmark. The senatorial race is absorbing about all the public interest in politics the contest thus far is between Carr and Simmons and the friends of each express confidence as to the result. The Simmons people appear to have gone a bowshot beyond reason, however, and are putting up some big bluffs. Mr. Simmons, for instance, gives it out that if the election were held tomorrow he would win over all opposition by 50,000 votes. If Mr. Simmons really believes this it is hard to understand what he and his friends are disturbed about.

"TRUSTS" AND PARTNERSHIPS.

We respectfully invite those who have imagined some special evil to be in trusts to consider these two things: I. Trusts are but great partnerships after all.

II. According to the Hon. James B. Stanchfield, Bryanite candidate for governor of New York, "these aggregations of capital represent the unification of every important industry in the land." It is against every important industry in the land, therefore, that candidates are stirring up fanatical hostility.

THE BRAVERY OF WOMAN.

Was grandly shown by Mrs. John Dowling of Butler, Pa., in a three years' struggle with a malignant stomach trouble that caused distressing attacks of nausea and indigestion. All remedies failed to relieve her until she tried Electric Bitters. After taking it two months she wrote: "I am now wholly cured and can eat anything. It is truly a grand tonic for the whole system, as I gained in weight and feel much stronger since using it. It aids digestion, cures dyspepsia, improves appetite gives new life. Only 50c. Guaranteed at all druggists."

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