

**The Administration's War Policy.**  
 When the furry in administration circles over the protest from Manila shall have subsided the incident will probably be classed by the war office with other previous attempts of outsiders to interfere with the management of Federal campaigns. The homely proverb about swapping horses while crossing a stream will recur to the au- thorities, and the apparent failure of our military operations on Lu- zon will be cloaked by ener- getic efforts to re-enforce the army under General Otis and to induce further demoralization in the ranks of the insurgents. To recall the commanding officer of the Ameri- can army at Manila at this time would be to admit practically the truth of the criticisms of his mili- tary methods and of the policy of the War Department—criticisms which had been vigorously pre- sented to the American people long before the formal protest of the correspondents had been deter- mined upon at Manila.  
 In assuming full responsibility for the continuance of the existing order of things in the Philippines the administration must also up- hold the theory or contention that the results of the campaign against Aguinaldo since February 4 last have been favorable and satisfac- tory. Our army has been deci- mated by battles and disease, the military and civic organizations of the insurgents remain unbroken, and American authority over the islands is recognized only within a range of the guns of our war ships. With a military force twice as large as that which captured San- guino and put an end to the Span- ish-American war, the general com- manding in the Philippines has been able only to assert his au- thority within a narrowly circum- scribed territory, where our troops have been subjected to the perils of constant service, against a vigi- lant and unwearied enemy. Not- withstanding the manifest futility of the sacrifices made by our brave volunteers in the field, the War Department has unhesitatingly ac- cepted and adopted the roseate views of General Otis as indicative of the true state of affairs in our possessions. Having thus sub- jected General Otis through good and evil report, the officials of the department, with the approval of the President, would scarcely find a mere outcry of newspaper cor- respondents an occasion for chang- ing or disturbing the military pro- gramme of Philippine pacification which is to be carried out when the dry season shall supervene.  
 If serious error should hereafter be disclosed in the calculations of the war office—if the inefficiency of Manila which he who runs may see should bring later disaster—the blame would justly be imputed to the administration, which has put all its eggs in the Otis basket. There is no reasonable possibility of making a scapegoat of General Otis should he be afforded another opportunity to direct a Filipino campaign. The War Department had ample notice of the mili- tary quality of this officer, and if Manila it will be because a rou- tine administrator, not a vigorous fighter, is wanted for the place. It would not be a difficult matter, with the overwhelming force which is to be thrown into the Philip- pines by October 1 next, to repre- sent all outward show of resist- ance to Federal authority on the islands. If the administration fail in this, from any cause whatever, it will have to reckon with the people at the polls in the general elections next year.—Phil- adelphia Record.

**Held as a Slave in Brazil.**  
 A strange story comes from In- dianapolis, Ind. A prominent citi- zen of the place received a letter from Steve Fell, from California, who says that for twelve years he was a slave in a tribe on the up- per Amazon, in South America. He started with two other men, Messrs. Edwards and Boynton, one of whom died from a snake bite and the other from fever. Fell received an attack of the disease, but the natives charged so much on his services that he was un- able to pay, and he was sold into slavery.

**How long years of hardships un- der a tropical sun, he decided to attempt to die, and succeeded in killing himself, slew his guards, and got away on a raft. Then he made a canoe and made his way down the river until he found a man who helped him to Rio Ja- neiro, where he shipped for San Francisco. In concluding, Fell says: "I am now on a farm, my health is improved. I hope to reach home this coming winter. I have just received a letter from home since ar- riving here—a message of sadness, from father, mother, one sister, and one brother have died."**

**Birds of a Feather.**  
 That water seeks its level is equally true in a figurative sense of human beings, and in the long run men and women are mighty apt to round up where they belong, or in that sphere that is most congenial to their tastes and habits.  
 This has long been a theory to which we have clung with some persistency, and whenever we find a positive and flattering verification of our views, we cannot resist the temptation of citing it.  
 For a long time we have watched the career of Hon. Mrs. Mary Ellen Lease with intense interest. We saw her plume herself for flight from the door of her humble home in Kansas, and while we felt more or less sympathy for the sad-faced man that timidly kissed his hand to her, and sobbingly swore to be diligent in the business of bringing up the "young 'uns," we counted him but little as compared with the absorbing question as to where the truant bird would rest next.  
 Up on the strong wings of self-reliance she soared, and circled above the Kansas capital in majestic and triumphant style. She plucked a few plums that the long-beards planted, and rising to a higher altitude, winged her rapid flight into new fields and to new scenes of conquest.  
 She swooped down now and then upon the dove cotes where women's rights or mothers' congresses held peaceful possessions, and startled the gentle broods well nigh to death, but she never dropped a feather.  
 Off in the distance from time to time we have heard her shrill cry, and have felt that somewhere the "birds of a feather" were liable to flock at any minute, and now the time has arrived.  
 A Ghost trust has been formed, and the Amalgamated Society of Sightseers, Mediums, Spiritualists, and Mind Readers, has been inaugurated with pomp and splendor. The shrinkage in the prices of privileged communications with departed spirits was the humble cause of this gorgeous grouping, and the decadent mediums who had launched forth "novelties" upon the stirring sea of seance, were to be rebuked and confined to the reliable and lucrative old style of materialization and manifestation.  
 Upon this pleasant perch there was just a place for Mary Ellen, and with unruined plumage she has joined the chatter of the jays that have come home to roost in the spreading branches of the spiritu- alistic combine. Mary Ellen is a bird. She is at home, now.—Rich- mond Times.

**McKinley's Commissions.**  
 This has been, in truth, an administration of commissions. While the war has been largely ac- countable for the President's re- markable record in this direction, he has, aside from this, gone far beyond all previous records in the appointment of special advisers. He has appointed twenty-one sepa- rate commissions, with an aggre- gate membership of nearly one hundred and an aggregate expense of more than \$2,000,000. I have had some difficulty in getting the exact expenditure in connection with the commissions resulting di- rectly from the war, but inquiry among officials of the departments has resulted in these conservative estimates:  
 William J. Calhoun, special commissioner to Cuba, \$10,000; monetary commission, \$50,000; Queen's jubilee commission, \$25,000; special commissioner Paris Exposition (M. P. Handy), \$10,000; reciprocity commissioner (Kasson) \$20,000; commissioner to Japan in connection with seals (Hamlin), \$10,000; Commissioner to Russia in connection with seals (Foster), \$10,000; Paris peace commission, \$150,000; Cuban and Porto Rico evacuation commissions, \$50,000; war investigation commission, \$100,000; Philippine commission, \$150,000; high joint commission, \$100,000; commission on disarmament conference, \$25,000; Samoan commission, \$25,000; Nicaraguan canal commission, \$250,000; Isth- mian canal commission, \$1,000,000; Hawaiian commission, \$25,000; Paris Exposition commission, \$50,000; tariff commissioner to Cuba, (R. P. Porter), \$5,000; industrial commission (per annum), \$100,000; insular commission, \$25,000. Total, \$2,190,000.—Herald.

**Reforms in the electoral system of Japan fix the property qualifi- cation at a very small sum, and the minimum age for candidates at 30 years. There is some discus- sion as to the methods of voting. In one bill it is provided that each voter may hand in a signed ballot for each candidate. In Tokyo, which would have sixteen repre- sentatives under the new system, and would at the same time be one electoral district, every franchise holder would cast sixteen ballots. There is no provision for minority representations.**

**Tariff and Trusts.**  
 Under the McKinley tariff a high protective tax was put upon tin plate. As a consequence, the price of tin plate in America was greatly increased. This tax was levied not for the purpose of raising revenue, but for the purpose, as al- leged, of building up the tin-plate industry in the United States. It was contended that this was an "infant industry" unable to stand alone without the aid of the gov- ernment, and that, therefore, the people of the United States should be made to pay double price for their tin in order that the manu- facturers of tin might prosper. It was alleged, also, that this tax was levied not simply to protect the manufacturers of tin, but those American laborers who were em- ployed in this industry.  
 Now, for the sequel. A tin-plate trust was formed, and some time ago the laborers in that in- dustry who were "protected" against "pauper labor" of Europe complained that their wages were too low and demanded an advance. There was a bitter contest, but the laborers won. The advance was given, and almost immediately thereafter the price of tin plate was advanced by the American Tin-Plate Company from \$3.87 to \$4.37 per box of one hundred pounds. A correspondent writing from Pittsburg concerning this says that the advance startled nearly every person connected with the tin-plate market, and that "it is reported that the trust is getting even for the enforced 15 per cent. advance of wages to the workers."  
 It is contended, he adds, that while the advance in wages was 15 per cent. the increase in labor cost on each box of standard plate is only a few cents, although the price of tin plate is advanced 50 cents a box. In the past six months the price of tin plate has advanced more than 65 per cent.

**Russia's Financial Straits.**  
 A great deal of interest is aroused in both political and financial circles by the appeal for assistance now being made by Russia in the London money-market. For many years to come Russia will require large financial resources to carry out her vast plans for railway de- velopment in China, Persia, and Siberia. Unless London comes to the help of M. de Witte, the Rus- sian Minister of Finance, the build- ing of these railways, which bulk so largely in the scaremonger's eyes, is likely to be postponed for an indefinite period. It seems odd that Russia should come to London to borrow money for the advance- ment of schemes which are openly designed to thwart the political and commercial interests of England and the United States in the far east. It is unusual, to say the least of it, to invite prospective victims to subscribe for the ex- penses of their own interment. The only ground on which the application is to be justified is the cosmopolitan character of modern finance, which knows neither country nor patriotism. Every shilling subscribed in England or America for the building of Russia's strat- egic lines in Asia will be used against them. The spirit in which that portion of the Russian govern- ment which is hostile to Anglo- Saxon development administers the affairs of the interior of the empire and will administer the far east, is shown in the arrest and exile of thousands of students, and in the closing of nearly all the principal universities and colleges in Russia.—Harper's Weekly.

**The Civil Service.**  
 Whatever devotion Mr. McKin- ley may profess to the cause of civil service it is evident that the Republicans generally are inclined to greet his recent action with ap- plause, and doubtless to urge his further innovations in the matter of suspending the rules and giving offices to the rank and file of their party.  
 At the Republican convention at Lexington, Ky., the President was commended by resolution for his modification of the rules, but not a word was said in favor of the gen- eral scheme of civil service.  
 It is surely a fact that the civil service is not in the hands of its friends just at this time, and the indications are for a growing hos- tility from the ranks of the Re- publicans.

**An Epidemic of Diarrhoea.**  
 Mr. A. Sanders, writing from Coconut Grove, Fla., says there has been quite an epidemic of diarrhoea there. He had a severe at- tack and was cured by four doses of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. He says he also recommended it to others and they say it is the best medicine they ever used. For sale by C. E. Holton.

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 There is at least one man in the country who is in a position to feel for General Eagan. Maher, the jockey, who made such a bad job at riding the favorite, Banas- tar, in the late Suburban horse- race, has been sentenced by his employer, Mr. Clark, to draw pay for two years without doing any work. Mr. Clark has a contract with Maher for two years, at \$10,000 a year. He does not release him. He proposes to hold him to his employment, pay him his salary, and give him nothing to do. Where General Eagan has the advantage of Maher is in being able to leave the country. Where Maher gets the better of Eagan is in drawing larger pay. It is remark- able that this unusual form of re- tribution should obtain in two con- spicuous instances within the same half-year.—E. S. Martin, in Har- per's Weekly.

**Mad Either Way.**  
 "George," she cried demurely, "you kissed me as we passed through that tunnel!"  
 "I—indeed, I did not," he stammered.  
 "Then why didn't you?" she de- manded.

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