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WAR RELIERS.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact that nearly all the systems or public policies, nationally speaking, which are the fruit of Republican legislation, are relics of the war which was fought and ended over thirty-two years ago, and there is not one of them from which the country as a whole does not suffer. Up to the time of the adoption of the Morrill tariff—a war measure—we had equitable and non-sectional tariffs. There may have been some fault found with some of them, the duties may have been considered excessive, but there were none of them which were not the essence of equity compared with the tariffs we have had since the Morrill tariff was enacted. That was ostensibly for revenue for war purposes, but the schemers used the war necessity as a dodge to run the duties up to give them "protection," and there never was a tariff enacted since that they didn't do some shenanigan to hold the protection they had or to get more. They have an average of three times as much as they had under the Morrill tariff. The grip they got during the war, when they had practically no opposition and no attention was paid to what they were doing, they have held ever since, and instead of his growing weaker it has been growing stronger.

It never showed itself stronger than it did in the movement to nominate McKim in which a prominent manufacturer, Mark Hanna, led, with scores of manufacturers backing him both with their influence and money, which exercises a persuasive influence in Republican politics and as the result of Republican conventions. Hanna and his lieutenants succeeded, McKim won, the Republican party was installed in power and we have the most exorbitant, most indefensible and most sectional tariff ever had. A relic of a system brought forth in the throes of war more than thirty-two years ago. The money system, which like the present tariff system has grown worse with time, like the tariff was the creation of the same period and begotten of the same causes. We have the greenbacks with us as constant reminders, but they, as the result of circumstances, have rendered more service, after the necessity for which they were created had disappeared. The system was sectional in its origin and is sectional now. The North gets the benefit of it and is supplied with all the circulating medium it needs, but the South and the more sparsely populated Western States suffer because they cannot have these banks in sufficient number, nor other banks, which are practically outlawed under the present currency system, which originated under an entirely different state of affairs from that which we have now. In other words it is a currency system devised in times of war perpetuated in times of peace when the conditions are entirely different, and for which it is totally inadequate. The national banks may fill the bill for the wealthy States where money is centered and plentiful, and while they do may be acceptable to those States, but they do not fill the bill for the country at large, and it is neither just nor wise to compel the country at large to depend upon them alone for its banking facilities. There are sections which cannot have national banks in such number as would supply them with the necessary volume of currency, but would, if permitted, have other banks which could do so, and these sections should not be deprived of that

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right out of deference to a system improvised for a certain emergency and which exists to day as a relic of war legislation.

There is no question that the pension system is another relic—and a monstrous one—of that same legislation, grown in proportions like Jonah's gourd. It didn't, like the gourd, grow in a night, but has kept on growing night and day all the time until it has exceeded in proportions all the prophetic estimates of the most liberal prognosticators before the billion dollar statesmen began to show their liberality (with other people's money) to the "defenders of the flag." That is sectional, and is perpetuated with its monstrosities for the same reason that the tariff and the national bank system are, because the North reaps the benefit of it and gets back in addition to what it pays the bulk of the one-third which the South pays. At least nine tenths of the \$141,000,000 which will be paid in pensions this fiscal year will go into circulation in the North, and hence the little protest that goes out from that section against this outrageous plundering by which the South suffers for the benefit of other sections.

These are three of the relics of war legislation, and there are others such as bounties, and subsidies, and land grants, etc., but these three are enough to show the character of the statesmanship which has since 1861 controlled the destinies of this country and is now controlling them.

MINOR MENTION.

We made some reference yesterday to the American Cotton Growers Protective Association, organized last Monday at Memphis, and commended its objects. Another commendable thing about it is the declaration that "This organization shall take no part in State, National or local politics and will permit no person to use it for personal advancement or political purpose." This is eminently well headed, and shows that the gentlemen who are in the lead in this movement have not been listless observers of passing events. The Farmers' Alliance started out all right and was full of good promise until aspiring members swung it into politics and then the wedge entered that split it and deprived it of the power to be further useful. Slight was lost of its original purpose, the co-operative schemes which, if carried out, would have profited its members much, fell through, and the men who were active in the work of elevating the agricultural industry and benefiting the followers of the plow became absorbed in their own personal schemes of advancement and worked the order for their own benefit. With this example before them, with the practical failure of one of the most promising movements for the farmers of the country, the organizers of this Association have shown their good sense by ridding politics out of it. The men who join it will be interested in politics, as they and all good citizens should be, but they will not, unless false to it, run the organization in their own interests nor in the interests of those who may run them.

Some of the German papers seem to be exercised over the possibility of an Anglo-Japanese-American alliance on the Chinese land grab question. An alliance between England and Japan is not at all improbable, and that the United States might join in is possible, but not at all probable, for while the United States, from a trade standpoint, are very much interested in that dissecting operation, they haven't the remotest intention of getting mixed up in it. They haven't yet forgotten the counsel of the gentleman who put them up in business advising them to "beware of entangling foreign alliances," and they are not in the very best kind of a fix to be tangled in that way even if they were disposed to forget the parting injunction of a counselor for whose judgment and wisdom they profess a great deal of respect. They will, therefore, pursue the usual course in such cases of laying low and saying nothing while the royal grabbers on the other side are pouncing each other over the plunder, and will supply them with all the shooting stuff and incendiaries of such rakets as they may need, and so conduct business as to keep on as business like and friendly terms with all of them as possible.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger wrote a short while ago that the President had under advisement the pleadings of the anti-civil service agitators to revoke President Cleveland's last order extending the civil service. Since then the Cabinet has had the matter under consideration, and it was reported that the conclusion arrived at was to stand by "the principle of the civil service." They couldn't have said less than that if they said anything at all, for there isn't one of them, including the

WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1897.

kickers, who doesn't profess loyalty to "the principle" of the civil service. The kickers contend that when their friends and strikers are kept out and the other fellows are kept in "the principle" is violated. But the reports come in such shape now as to leave little doubt that not withstanding his devotion to "the principle" of civil service, the President will acquiesce in the demands of the kickers, who have enlisted that powerful recruit, Mark Hanna, and will let down the bars to about 45,000 places that the loyal supporters of these kicking statesmen are hankering for. But as this isn't our fight we are not losing any sleep over it, nor worrying in advance over what Mr. McKinley may do or not do.

A Pennsylvania cripple who walked on crutches all the way from his home to Topeka, Kansas, to marry the woman he had won through a matrimonial agency, got kicked when his betrothed saw him. She was no spring paillet but a sage widow of 60 summers who didn't contract for a 33-year old youth and a pair of crutches. He is doing the kicking now and has hired a lawyer to get him some damages. It took him 36 days to amble out to the kicking place.

There are said to be only fourteen surviving veterans of the war of 1813, but there are 3,387 widows of soldiers of 1813 drawing pensions. With this as a starter some clever lawyer might figure out how many widows of the late "unpleasantness" we will have on the pension lists eighty-five years hence.

The town of Friedensburg, in Pennsylvania, claims to have twenty persons who are over 90 years of age and five who are over a hundred. That's one of those nice, quiet towns where people don't bustle around enough to wear and tear soon. But then maybe they have some accomplished liars up there.

Much ado has been made over the killing of Ruiz, who was caught inside of the Cuban lines as an emissary of autonomy. But it seems that instead of being lured to his death, as Macco was, he penetrated the lines after repeated warnings and full knowledge of what his fate would be if caught.

Mayor Strong, of New York, had 103 invitations to dine this year and accepted thirty-one of them. He is going around on a pair of crutches while he nurses a large sized case of gout. If he had attended all of them he might be going around on wheels.

They are beginning to find some use for the rabbit in Virginia besides hunting it for sport. About \$10,000 worth of them have been shipped from the Northern Neck this season and about 30,000, which sold for \$3,000, from one county.

A California paper informs us that "Durrant has been sentenced to be hanged four times." They haven't hanged him the first time yet, but by the time they have swung him four times the presumption is that California justice will be appeased.

There is an increasing demand in Europe for gold. Germany is adding to her stock as other Governments are. If this keeps on they will be drawing on this country before long and then the tapping of the Treasury will begin.

This Star greets its readers this morning and wishes them a merry and a happy Christmas and a prosperous and a happy New Year. It would not wish them less, it could not wish them more.

WHITE MAN ARRESTED.

Charged With Being An Escaped Murderer From South Carolina. Deputy Sheriff J. P. Ryan yesterday afternoon arrested a young white man who gives his name as Oscar Edwards on a warrant from Justice McGowan's court alleging that Edwards is an escaped murderer from the South Carolina penitentiary. The arrest was made upon information received and upon Edwards' appearance exactly answering to the description of the escaped convict. A STAR representative gathered yesterday afternoon that last February in York county, South Carolina, two men and a woman were tried for killing a man, and that the woman was acquitted and the two men were sentenced to life imprisonment in the State prison, but both men soon afterwards made their escape. Edwards, it was alleged, is one of the escaped murderers, who went by the name of Daniel F. Luckey.

Edwards stated that he was born in Bladen county, this State, and has never in his life been further south than Hub, N. C.; that last February he was at the home of his parents in Abbottsburg, S. C., and returned to this city on October, and that he and his wife now reside on the corner of Seventh and Chestnut streets. He further stated that several years ago he worked for the Wilmington Street Railway Company, this city, and that he is well known here. The charge that he is an escaped murderer or convict he denies.

The accused was committed to jail to await a further investigation as to his identity.

Dr. Blue Mountain J. J. Brown, of the tobacco firm of Brown & Williamson, of Winston, arrived in the city last night to claim the ownership of Dr. Blue Mountain Joe's test, which was being held by the sheriff to satisfy a judgment of \$13.18 and the usual court costs. Mr. Brown at once secured counsel, and yesterday afternoon gave \$600 bond to stay the execution and sale of the test until the matter is settled. Upon furnishing the bond required, the sheriff relinquished possession of the test which was again last night, after several days of gloom, brilliantly illuminated, and one of Dr. Blue Mountain Joe's face performances was presented before the audience.

Mr. Brown returned to Winston last night.

SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Mr. Dwyer Fox, son of Mr. F. M. Fox, of Scott's Hill, was accidentally shot and seriously injured yesterday. The particulars of the accident could not be learned, as the only information was in the shape of a telegram calling Dr. J. C. Shepard. Later Dr. Shepard telegraphed Dr. F. H. Russell to come to assist him in performing an operation.

Neither Dr. Russell nor Dr. Shepard will get back before this morning. It is thought by young Mr. Fox's friends that his injuries, while quite serious, are not fatal.

COTTON RECEIPT WILL BE LARGER THAN EVER BEFORE.

The weekly statement of cotton and naval stores appearing in another column, shows that the receipts of cotton for the week ending yesterday were 11,893 bales. These figures are considerably above those for the corresponding week of 1896, when the receipts were only 7,689. The season's receipts are \$58,687, against 306,099 up to the corresponding date last year. There is no doubt now that the receipts of cotton at the port of Wilmington for the season of 1897-98 will be considerably in excess of the receipts for any previous year.

BRITISH STEAMSHIP CLEARED IN PORT.

The British steamer *Magdala*, Capt. Reid, was cleared yesterday for Bremen, Germany, by Messrs. Alex. Sprunt & Son, with a cargo of cotton, valued at \$89,933. This is the second cargo of cotton that the *Magdala* has taken out. There are still in port four steamships, three British and one Norwegian.

WORK ON THE BLOOD-HUB SHED.

Dr. Q. F. N. Cox, who has been stationed at Elrod, has been transferred to Castle Haynes, and is in the city on his way to that place. He says that there are 108 convicts at work on the new branch of the A. C. L. and that it has been completed to a point seven miles from Elrod.

RALPH NEWS BUDGET.

Christmas Travel—Percentage of Cures in State Insane Asylums Attracts Attention—Veterans in the Soldiers' Home—The Park Hotel Management. [Special Star Correspondence.] RALPH, N. C., December 24. Christmas travelling was never better with the railroads; all trains are loaded to their capacity and some of them are thrown off their schedules.

GREAT FIRE IN CHICAGO.

THE MAMMOTH COLISEUM BUILDING TOTALLY DESTROYED.

A Number of People Thought to Have Lost Their Lives—Loss of \$475,000. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

CHICAGO, December 24.—Fire tonight destroyed the Coliseum building, in which the Democratic National Convention was held last year. The fire was one of the quickest ever seen in Chicago. From the time when the fire was originated, by the crossing of two electric light wires, until the Coliseum was a pile of twisted iron and hot bricks was not over twenty minutes. The building had been rented for an exhibition of a manufacturers' exhibition, and was said to be one of the most valuable of all which were destroyed with all of their contents.

It is supposed that a number of people were lost in the flames, and although no bodies have been recovered, the following people are missing and have undoubtedly perished: Girl named Pauline, name same as the one who was the heroine of the building in search of her mother, whom she said was imprisoned by the flames. The girl and her mother were employed in the Irish village, the former as a dancer, and the latter doing chores.

Two women, dancers in the Midway exhibit, seen in the building just before it collapsed. There is good reason to believe that Great Britain will actively oppose the Russianization of Korea and Northern China.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

Topic of Discussion at a Cabinet Meeting in Washington—No Possibility of an Anglo-American-Japanese Alliance. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

WASHINGTON, December 24.—The country's attitude toward what appears to be an effort on the part of the Powers of Europe to dismember China was the principal topic of discussion at today's meeting of the cabinet. All the cabinet members were present, except Secretary Alger, who is ill at his home. While no formal action was taken in the cabinet, the information as to the intention of the Powers of Europe, it was determined, as a member of the cabinet expressed it, "to keep a watchful eye upon the situation as it developed in order that full protection may be given to the interests of the United States in China as guaranteed by our treaties with that country."

No disposition was made to participate in an extension of territory at the expense of China. Such a disposition would be contrary to the hitherto expressed and well understood policy of this government, and is not contemplated by the administration. It was determined, however, to protect carefully our interests and privileges which the United States possess in China. Incidentally, the question of American relief to sufferers in Cuba arose, but in the absence of official information from the Spanish government, which has been expected but had not been received, no action of importance was taken.

The cabinet understanding as to the attitude of the United States in the Chinese question promises to have a material influence in the development of the European situation. The dispatches stationed here have eagerly awaited some intimation as to the purpose of this Government, and the foreign press, especially in London, Berlin and Vienna, have echoed the sentiments at those courts, that if the United States entered the field, either singly or in coalition with Great Britain and Japan, it would prove a material factor in the Chinese question. The general understanding reached to-day doubtless will be made known to foreign representatives as desire to sound this Government, and the dispatches in turn will reach the foreign offices at London, Berlin, St. Petersburg and elsewhere. It will be recalled that the body of the Chinese, which has looked to the United States as the nation occupying a disinterested position, permitting it to exert a restraining influence in the dismemberment of the Empire. China has made no advances to this Government, however, but has occupied a passive position, and has expressed the views expressed at the cabinet as an end to any possibility of an Anglo-American-Japanese alliance, such as the foreign cables have suggested.

ACETYLENE GAS EXPLOSION.

Caused the Loss of Two Lives and \$300,000 Damage to Works in New Jersey. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

NEW YORK, December 24.—A succession of explosions at the United Acetylene Liquefying Company's plant in Jersey City today caused the loss of two lives and \$300,000 damage to the works. The dead are Thomas Fowler, the assistant engineer, and Max Grim, a workman. There were only three other employees at the time of the explosion, and the accident, and they received more or less injuries. Their names are Fred Burr, Fritz Epsol and Charles White. James Leck, who was working at the boiler, was badly injured by a piece of the boiler. A fragment of the boiler tore the roof from a trolley car some distance away.

CHESTNUT STREET BANK.

The Examiner Refuses to Make Statement Regarding Its Assets and Liabilities. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

PHILADELPHIA, December 24.—The bank examiner and his assistants were busily engaged to-day in going over the books and accounts of the Chestnut Street National Bank. The examiner declines to make any statement regarding the assets and liabilities of the institution, but says he will furnish a complete statement when from its officers locate the men, millions and point of departure, unless this latter shall be abruptly changed. The Department declines to state the points at which preparations are making or where the expedition will try to leave.

EASTERN SITUATION.

A JOINT NAVAL DEMONSTRATION BY ENGLAND AND JAPAN.

Russia's Progressing Quarters in Troops at Port Arthur—Believed That Great Britain Will Actively Oppose Russianization of Korea. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

LONDON, December 24.—The *Daily Mail* publishes a dispatch this morning from Tokio, which, it claims, evaded active censorship. The dispatch says: "England and Japan, without entering upon an actual alliance, have arrived at a complete understanding which will probably result in a joint naval demonstration at the entrance of the Gulf of Pe-Chili."

In diplomatic circles at Tokio the probability of a conflict is regarded as extremely distant. According to a special dispatch from Saugha, in preparing temporary 10,000 troops at Port Arthur. She has obtained a half promise from the grand council at Peking to dismiss Sir Robert Hart, director of Chinese imperial marine customs and other high customs officials, in addition to the British railway officials and the German officers and instructors. The city of the latter, the dispatch has received, is good reason to believe that Great Britain will actively oppose the Russianization of Korea and Northern China.

MOVEMENT OF COTTON.

The World's Visible Supply—Receipts at U. S. Ports—The Exports and Stocks. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

NEW ORLEANS, December 24.—Secretary Heister's weekly cotton statement shows the amount brought into sight was 443,968 bales, against 409,000 last year for the same date. The total for this week amount to 250,536, compared with 253 in the previous week, but is smaller than the total in 1895, when 255 were reported. There are thirty business failures reported in the Dominion this week, against forty-three last week.

THE EXPRESS ROBBERY.

The \$10,000 Robbery Still An Unsolved Mystery. [Columbia State, Dec. 24th]

When Assistant General Superintendent Leary was seen last night and asked what progress had been made towards the solution of the \$10,000 robbery mystery, he quietly responded: "There is nothing new." He went on to say that his men were at work on the case, but there had absolutely been no developments. The police are assisting in the effort to locate the stolen money and the thief. The thief may be caught in due order, and then again it may be that he will never be caught; it is simply impossible to tell what the result of the efforts that are being made will be.

A SCHOONER WRECKED.

She Cleared from Wilmington with Cargo of Lumber. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

CAPE HENRY, VA., December 24.—The three-masted schooner Samuel Hall, Capt. Munford, from Wilmington, N. C., to New York, loaded with lumber, was ashore at Accomac, 187 miles from Cape Henry, and five o'clock this morning. The crew of seven was saved. The vessel is in good condition, but probably will be a total loss.

CURRENT COMMENT.

Mr. Bryan doesn't mind the comment of his critics as long as he is able to enjoy his breech-loading sinecure.—*Washington Post*, Ind.

Secretary Gage's currency plan can be depended upon to furnish Congress with a punching bag of no small proportions.—*New York Journal*, Dem.

The 600 employees of the Kokomo and Elwood (Ind.) glass plants have been forced to admit to the proposition of their employers, and they will return to work at less wages than they were receiving. Another instance of McKinley prosperity.—*Louisville Dispatch*, Dem.

Exports from the United States have increased this year more than \$50,000,000, and the value of France by \$43,000,000, while those of Great Britain have gone backward \$23,000,000. Has England's supremacy in manufacture become a vanishing quantity?—*Baltimore Herald*, Dem.

Mr. Theodore C. Search in his talk to the Manufacturers' Club said that we have in this country nearly 70,000,000 consumers with facilities for supplying 100,000,000, and that it is therefore necessary to secure a foreign consuming class of 30,000,000 to 40,000,000. But the statement at Washington, having done nothing to encourage the shipping that would carry food for these millions abroad, are now cudgeling their brains to keep out of the country the consumers who are necessary to its permanent prosperity.—*Philadelphia Record*, Dem.

Hedlebach, Ickelheimer & Company New York City announce that they have \$500,000 in gold leaving London to-day consigned to them.

THE TRADE SITUATION.

Quietness in Wholesale Lines—Heavy Hauls Trade in Nearly All Sections of the Country. By Telegram to the Morning Star.

NEW YORK, December 24.—Bradstreet's of tomorrow will say: Quietness in wholesale lines, but pronounced and notable activity in retail trade, have been the salient features in this week's trade situation. Price changes, which are numerous, are largely in an upward direction, and the year draws to a close with results as a whole fully equalling and in many instances surpassing early expectations.

Perhaps the most notable feature has been the unanimity with which the trade reports from all parts of the country, with some few exceptions, point to a very heavy holiday trade, in nearly all cases comparing favorably with recent years. Reports are that stocks of these goods have been heavily reduced. Particularly prominent in reporting a good retail trade in the West are Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City. At the South, New Orleans reports retailers reaping a harvest, and December trade larger than usual. Similarly good reports come from Nashville, Savannah and Memphis, but collections and business would be larger were it not for the low price of cotton.

At the East, reasonable conditions prevail, but the holiday trade and holiday business activity. No improvement is noted in the cotton goods situation and wage reductions seem imminent. Good business has been done in boots and shoes and shipments are far ahead of last year. Commercial failures in the United States remain about normal. The total for this week amount to 250,536, compared with 253 in the previous week, but is smaller than the total in 1895, when 255 were reported. There are thirty business failures reported in the Dominion this week, against forty-three last week.

ACTOR AND ACTRESS.

He stood upon the shore of Loch Glas. His gaze in rapt admiration on the broad, dark stretch of glassy waters, on the bare mountains, whose peaks were leaved by those waters, but whose peaks clift the clouds, and he listened to the sighing of the wind among the pines around him.

He heard the splash of seals. A boat advanced, propelled by a sculler, gray eyed girl of—of her lips—robust build. "Lassie," shouted the young man in the knickerbocker suit, "if you'll pull me across the loch I'll give you a shilling."

"Into the loch then, wif ye," she said, as she backed her tiny craft to where he stood.

For awhile he gazed from the stern sheets on his trim waterwoman. Silently puffing his pipe, he became conscious that the old lady had a deliciously dimpled and that the month was a favorable climate for a bowl in corn, revealing what the lips parted two rows of pearls.

"You live on the loch side, lassie?" he said interrogatively, and she answered: "Aye, an' ye?"

"No, wif I did," he replied, "I'm putting up at McTavish's cot for trout fishing."

"Some head gillie's daughter," he decided. A London bank clerk or lawyer taking a holiday, she thought.

The great grater on the other shore. "Here you are, lassie," said he. "A basic proved, herself a model as well as a shilling, now from the main, into her hand."

She looked at it, then, then said with demure courtesy: "I'll prize it."

"Thank you kindly, sir," I'll prize it. A day or so later they met again, he armed with his rod and tackle. Once again he hailed her.

"They tell me the trout swim under the lee of that isle," he said. "Will you take me over?"

"That will I," she replied. "But the best spot for them is by yon dyke, ten yards from the loch, and I'll take you."

The sport was excellent. Again and again he landed the silvery, glittering and wriggling trout and salmon. An old fisherman, handling the net with a sureness evidently born of long experience and an old fisherman's suggestion in the matter of hooks, flies and bait.

"What's your name, lassie?" he asked. "Jennie. What might yours be?"

"Fergus." They chatted on various subjects, and Fergus was now and then startled at the familiarity of her speech, but he was content with subjects ignorance as to which could easily have been pardoned.

"You're most awfully kind," he replied. Then a little awkwardly, she scullied back to the shore. "Will you come again tomorrow?"

"I'm thinking I'll not be able to," she replied. "That's a pity. I go to town to-day after. I've taken a boat of your time, Jennie. I've had the use of your boat, and through your assistance I've had excellent sport—oh—here's a sovereign for the use of the boat."

"Nae, nae. I'll not take a barrow frae ye," and in a moment she was bounding up the narrow mountain path like a young roe.

One night some two years after the incident already related above young Lord Castleton invited his guest, Miss Diana Vane, to his ballroom with the nonchalance which was his distinguished characteristic. His hostess accorded him a gracious greeting.

"Ah, Castleton, back from the east—tired of shooting gillies, Lady D?" then hastily—"except, of course, of the pleasure of seeing you."

ROYAL BAKING POWDER
Absolutely Pure
ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., NEW YORK

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