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A SOURCE OF WEAKNESS.

There is little doubt, in our opinion, that the treaty with Spain by virtue of which the Philippines will become the property of this country will be confirmed by the Senate, but that will not make their acquisition any the less of a misfortune, and we have not the slightest doubt that some of the Senators who will vote for the ratification would be glad if the question never came before the Senate while there are others who would oppose it if they did not consider their party committed to it, and do not care to array themselves in antagonism to their party.

Some time ago in a speech at Omaha Senator Thurston declared that he was opposed to the acquisition of these islands, and gave some of his reasons for this opposition, but said that this must not be construed as foreshadowing how he would vote when that question came before the Senate, which was equivalent to saying that although he considered their acquisition a bad thing for the country he would, when the matter came before the Senate, vote for it because the administration and the party were committed to it, and as a party man he would subordinate his individual opinions and vote to sustain the administration.

PRECEDENTS THAT ARE NOT PRECEDENTS.

Some of the expansion papers are making desperate efforts to justify the purchase of the Philippines by what they call the precedents set in the purchase of Louisiana, Florida, California and Alaska. In an editorial some time ago the New York Tribune quoted these as precedents justifying the acquisition of the Philippines or of any other territory that this government might see fit to purchase.

strength, that made us formidable and made other nations reluctant to engage in quarrels with us, even with our small navy, that bore so little comparison to the proportions of the navies of other leading nations, was that we had no exposed outposts and they would have to come across the sea and give us battle in our own waters, as Spain foolishly did, and as other stronger but more sensible nations would shrink from doing.

It has been said, and there was some ground for it, that Germany had her eye upon the Philippines, and that she was anxious to buy them from Spain even after Admiral Dewey had taken possession of Manila harbor, and practically of the city of Manila and of the island of Luzon, for then there was cordial co-operation between the Philippine insurgents and him.

Will any one assert that the possession of the Philippines is necessary either to the peace or safety of the Republic?

Will any one assert that Spain can give an unclouded title? Will any one assert that the Philippines, who protest against the purchase, have no claim on the islands, for the control of which they waged vigorous war against Spain?

organization force to hold the new territory in the Union and to maintain the title he had purchased against foreign aggression or domestic insurrection of either former French or Spanish subjects that might be dissatisfied with the new orders.

Senator Morgan has struck with loyal devotion to the Nicaragua canal ever since he first espoused it, but he gave it a new twist in his remarks the other day when he charged the Nicaragua Government with a misdeed and bad faith to the company to which the original concessions were made.

While this has long been regarded as an enterprise of great importance to this country, both from a commercial and military standpoint, this importance has been immensely increased by recent events and our acquisition of territory in the Pacific ocean.

THE PROTECTION OCTOPUS.

Trusts are as naturally the outcome of the protective tariff system as ice is below-zero weather, and the consequence is that there is scarcely an article manufactured or consumed in this country especially if it comes under the head of highly protected articles, on which there is not a Trust.

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on the same grounds that he did the purchase of Louisiana. There is no parity between them.

COMING TO THE FRONT.

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THE NEW HANOVER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Important Session Held Yesterday—Attorney, Clerk and Other Officers Elected—Court Juries Drawn.

Yesterday afternoon the County Commissioners drew juries for the next terms of the Superior Court and the Circuit Criminal Court, approved the bonds of several new officials, elected a clerk to the audit committee, a county attorney, a court house janitor, granted Col. T. W. Strange the custody of the county back tax books, and acted upon several other matters of importance.

The meeting was called to order at 2:45 P. M. by Chairman Roger Moore. Commissioners W. F. Alexander and Jno. Barry were both in attendance.

Register of Deeds William H. Biddle was present as clerk to the Board. His minutes of the meeting held last Tuesday were read and approved.

THE BOARD BACK TAX BOOKS.

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25TH ANNIVERSARY. ELECTED PRESIDENT.

Celebrated by Members of the Congregation of Israel Last Night.

Presented to Mr. Solomon Bear, President of the Congregation Since Its Organization in 1873—A Highly Appropriate Service.

A service of especial interest was that at the Temple of Israel last night, when the members of the congregation celebrated the twenty fifth anniversary of its organization, which was perfected in 1873, just three years before the present handsome Temple was dedicated by Rev. D. Samuel Mendelsohn, the present rabbi.

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WILL SOON BE HERE.

Commander Morton Notified That the Cruiser Hornet Will Be Ready on the 17th Inst.

It now seems that the auxiliary cruiser Hornet, the vessel loaned to the North Carolina Naval Reserves in the stead of the Nantuxet, will be in the Wilmington port not later than the 20th inst. This will be glorious news to the boys of the Wilmington Division, as well as the other Reserves of the State.

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AN UNSOUGHT COMPLIMENT.

Future of Naval Reserves, as State and National Organizations, Left in Abeyance—Congress to Take Action—President Morton.

Commander George L. Morton and Lieutenant H. H. Tibbney have returned from Philadelphia where they went to attend the annual session of the National Convention of Naval Reserves which was held in that city during Friday and Saturday of last week.

There was a large attendance upon the convention, more than twenty States being represented, the delegates representing about 20,000 members of Naval Reserves organization.

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MARRIAGE AT MOUNT OLIVE.

Miss Kate Witherington Wedded to Dr. William C. Steele in the Presbyterian Church There.

Wednesday evening, December seventh, the Presbyterian Church at Mount Olive was the scene of a pretty wedding, the contracting parties being Dr. William Calvin Steele and Miss Kate Witherington, Southernland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Southernland.

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MR. S. P. COLLIER APPOINTED.

U. S. Commissioner by Judge Parnell—Official Notice Received Yesterday.

Yesterday Mr. Samuel P. Collier, of this city, received official notice of his appointment as a United States Commissioner for the Eastern North Carolina District.

THEY LIKE OUR CANDIDATE.

Could Hardly Find a Better Man for Railroad Commissioner.

The Lumberton Robesonian of this week has the following commendatory reference to Frank McNeill, Esq., Wilmington's candidate for a place on the Railroad Commission to be elected by the General Assembly to convene in January, to-wit:

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REV. W. B. OLIVER COMPLIMENTED.

Rev. W. B. Oliver, late pastor of the First Baptist Church of this city, was at Lumberton, Bridge last week, at the residence of Mr. J. W. Moore, where he was complimented by Rev. J. W. Moore in a meeting in his church here last week, preaching a series of strong and well delivered sermons.

MR. BURNETT GIVES SUIT.

By a recent decision of the Supreme Court, Mr. Thomas Burnett, of this city, has won his case against the old W. & N. R. R. Co., for damages received, while a passenger on one of its trains a number of years ago.

BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE.

A Cornell Student Wants Reports of Efforts to Disfranchise Negroes.

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