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PARTIES IN THE U. S.

Almost anything is possible in United States politics during the current year. The movement to nominate Mr. Roosevelt for the presidency is gaining in force, and while the ex-President has said that he is not a candidate, he has not said that he will refuse a nomination, and until he has done so his name will be kept before the people, and an increasing number of the voters will look upon him as the best man for the presidency. We find suggestions, vague and indistinct at present, that a new party may be formed with Mr. Roosevelt as its leader.

The Republican party, that great historic political organization, which abolished slavery and preserved the Union intact, has of late become badly disrupted. It has always stood for protection, and the exigencies of the War of Secession enabled its leaders to identify this policy with patriotism to such an extent that those who opposed increases in the tariff came to be looked upon as enemies of the nation. This idea was worked for all it was worth, and a great deal more by the beneficiaries of a very high tariff, and such was their influence that, although Mr. Taft was elected upon a platform of tariff reform, which everyone supposed meant tariff reduction, the reform adopted was in the direction of an increase. In any other country than the United States this would have evoked such a storm of protest that the administration would have gone down before it, but under the clumsy system in force in that nation Mr. Taft could smile at his critics, and we find him not only an available candidate for reelection, but very actively engaged in fighting for another term. It seems impossible that the whole Republican party can accept him as their candidate, and hence it may be that, if he is the choice of the Chicago convention next June, a new party may nominate a candidate, in the person of Mr. Theodore Roosevelt. There is sufficient disruption in the Democratic ranks to make such a step likely to be successful. That party has been dominated by Mr. Bryan so long that it has no representative who measures up to national eminence, now that the distinguished Nebraska announces that he is no longer in the field. The domination of the Trusts on the one hand and the disclosures resulting from the Los Angeles trial on the other have created a feeling throughout the nation that makes the formation of a new and successful party under a strong man by no means an improbable contingency.

PERSIA

About fourteen years ago the chief librarian of the Shah of Persia made a tour of the world for the purpose of making inquiries for that ruler as to the changes which might be advantageously adopted by that ancient kingdom so as to preserve it from extinction. The traveler called upon the Colonist and asked many questions about the form of government in Canada, and expressed himself very freely upon conditions in his own country. He made no concealment of his opinion that Persia was not adapted to popular government, and he expressed the belief that the one great need of the country was "corporations." When pressed for an explanation, he said that the Persians had got to learn the advantage of combining their wealth to accomplish works of development, and the result was that there was very little progress and no strong and influential business community, which would be interested in maintaining orderly government. He said he was going to report to the Shah that it would be a wise policy to encourage the introduction of foreign capital to co-operate with local capital in the development of the great resources of the country. His advice does not appear to have been followed to any appreciable extent, and the result is that Persia seems to be on the point of disappearing as a separate nation. A recent writer says the kingdom will become an Asiatic Poland, a name and nothing more.

At present Persia is in a sense under three jurisdictions. The northern third is known as the Russian sphere of influence; the Southern third is the British sphere of influence; the central third is wholly under the control of the Shah, as, indeed, the whole country nominally is. The British "sphere" extends from Beluchistan to the Persian Gulf, that is, it embraces the whole ocean littoral of Persia. The Russian "sphere" does not come as far as the Persian Gulf. While the creation of these "spheres" is the result of an agreement between Great Britain and Russia only, and is not formally recog-

nized by the other powers, it seems to be understood that the limitations of the Russian "sphere" were fixed with some regard to German sensibilities, the latter power claiming certain undefined rights in the Euphrates valley that could not conveniently be ignored.

Such at present is the status of the ancient kingdom, and very clearly it can only be temporary. Farther than this no one can safely express any opinion, for the factors that will determine its future are much too complicated for analysis, not to say any definite conclusion.

SITE FOR AN OBSERVATORY

A subject to which the board of trade might readily give some further attention is the desirability of establishing an observatory in or near Victoria. That the Dominion government would listen favorably to any representations to this effect seems probable in view of the fact that a sum of \$2,000 has already been granted to Mr. Denison to carry on his seismic research work here. The establishment of a seismicological station might form the nucleus for an observatory. We understand that Mr. Denison is anxious to secure a site for his instruments on the land now occupied by the Dominion government wireless station at Gonzales Hill. A structure with a concrete base will be necessary for the prosecution of seismic research work, and were it possible to build this it might prove the beginning of an up-to-date observatory, which could be erected by degrees. We commend this subject for the consideration of the quarterly meeting of the board of trade on Friday next.

SAVING THE EMPIRE

A new organization has been formed in the United Kingdom to save the Empire, and a number of people have been invited to contribute a guinea towards the work of salvation. Just how the work is to be accomplished we are not told. There are various plans of Imperial salvation, all of them excellent in theory, but none of them of much use in practice. The solemn truth is that Imperialism has become "a blessed word" like Mesopotamia. It sounds well, but no one who uses it knows quite what he means by it. The campaign for Imperial salvation at one guinea per head is based upon a false supposition, namely that the Empire is in danger of dissolution. It is not; it never has been. It never will be unless its saviours manage to tie it up so tightly as to deprive it of elasticity. To our way of thinking most of the so-called Imperialism is a case of "biting on the safety-valve." It is likely, if persisted in too long, to lead to an explosion.

The new school of Imperialists is like the Bourbons of whom it was said that they learned nothing. It is really not a new school, but an old school revived. Lord North and his sovereign, George III, were the prototypes of the modern Imperialists, and they managed to lose the Empire half a continent. The real struggle, which eventuated in the American revolution, was not as to whether or not the Thirteen Colonies should contribute to the cost of war waged largely on their behalf, but for the preservation of autonomous government by the Colonies. It was the belief of the English in America that they had brought with them to the New World the right of self-government as fully as it was enjoyed by the Englishmen, who remained at home. There were two parties in the Colonies: the Tories and the Rebels, to adopt the phraseology of those days. Between these there was no difference as to the rights of the Colonists but only as to how those rights could be best preserved, and it is simply the truth to say that such men as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Patrick Henry and the other great leaders of what became the Revolutionary party had no desire at all to break the imperial tie. But the King's advisers were unable to see how elasticity was compatible with strength, and so they "sat upon the safety-valve" and explosion followed.

After this and for a whole century elasticity was encouraged, and the Empire grew and the imperial tie became stronger. It was just about one hundred years after the independence of the United States had been acknowledged that Imperial Federation was forced to the front by some of its over-zealous friends. In the later '80's for a man to say he thought it premature to talk of such a federation was to have his loyalty questioned by the fervid people, who proposed to substitute an Act of Parliament for the traditions and sentiments which had grown up in centuries. After a time these gentlemen recognized their own prematureness and their energies were given a rest. Then Mr. Joseph Chamberlain came to the front with his advice to the British people to "think imperially." It was excellent and timely advice. He realized that to the great majority of the people of the United Kingdom the Empire was only a name, and not a great living potential reality. His advice was taken by many people quite in a different sense from what he intended, and they began to pray for the salvation of Britons beyond seas, unmindful of the fact that it was their

own need of it that Mr. Chamberlain was pointing out. Since then the process of saving the Empire by collecting guineas, adopting constitutions and by laws and passing resolutions has been going on apace, and we have had self-constituted apostles, some of whom have not yet achieved British citizenship, coming to us to tell us our duty and what we must do to be saved. The men in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, who "to keep the flag a-flyin' have been doin' and a dyin'" for a century or more, do not need any imperial gospel preached to them. They, as their fathers before them, understand that the way to build up the Empire is to keep intact the principles of self-government upon which the whole British fabric rests. They need no guinea collections on their behalf.

There are prospects of a settlement of the cotton lock-out in Lancashire, a consummation most devoutly to be wished.

That cold weather, which the weather authorities told us would follow the snow, has not materialized as yet to any appreciable extent.

According to a Paris prophetic this year is to see France deluged in blood and also the end of the Hohenzollern dynasty. It may be mentioned that prophecies of the early end of the German Empire have been frequent during the past few years.

The whole question of the Water by-law resolves itself to this: Shall the citizens stand by their decision and go on and secure an adequate water supply, or shall the whole business be thrown into confusion again? No matter what side you took in the issue of Sooke vs. Goldstream, it is your duty as a citizen to support the Sooke by-law.

A person has had the audacity to write to an English newspaper to say that the "ancient and royal game of golf" is neither royal nor ancient. It seems to be ancient enough to have evolved a language of its own, and royal enough to command many loyal adherents. A military authority says golf is killing the military spirit of England, for scores of men, who ought to be assisting in maintaining an efficient militia, now devote their leisure to golf and to discussing over their favorite beverage the best way to bring about conscription.

The City of London, as the lessee from the King of a certain forest, pays two faggots annually to His Majesty, and as lessee of a certain forge pays him twenty-six horseshoe nails annually. The Duke of Marlborough has to give the King yearly a new flag embroidered with fleur de lys as rent of an estate. St. Olave's School pays an annual rent of one red rose for a field. This ancient style of tenure has not wholly been abandoned in modern leases, for the Fulham Council recently rented certain premises to a local band in consideration of four concerts a year.

Mr. Nell Primrose, son of Earl Rosebery, bids fair to rank among the most effective parliamentarians in the United Kingdom. His speeches are very clever, although they are marked by an irresponsible juvenility that will doubtless wear away. He has a nimble wit, but it is likely to carry him a little too far, as it did when a few days ago he said of the Lord Chancellor "the keeper of the King's conscience ought to be watchful over his own." Mr. Asquith, who complimented the young man on his speech, expressed regret that he should have married it by such a personal reference.

You may say a man is a mere tool in the hands of designing politicians. You may state falsely that he has done a certain act for a deceitful purpose. You may say he can be "handled," but we are informed that this is not an attack upon him, and that with all these sins to his charge he yet may be an excellent citizen and a trustworthy and honorable man. This is like the old minstrel joke. Says the interlocutor: "You are a thief, a perjurer and scandal-monger and generally a low-down nigger." Says Bones in reply: "Well, 'cep'n' that, boss, I'm a pretty good fella."

Distress Signals Heard

VANCOUVER, Jan. 8.—An unknown vessel has been giving distress signals off Cape Arago, Alaska, according to a wireless message received by Mr. Robert Bodie, a local amateur wireless operator from Ketchikan. The sound came to Mr. Bodie's instrument very faintly, and was one of the two messages he received from the same station within a half hour. The first was from the steamer "Lateucha," which, speaking to the Ketchikan station, said that it would reach that port in three hours.

Rock Island Wreck

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Jan. 8.—Fifteen persons were injured, none fatally, when Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific passenger train No. 72 "ashboard" was struck by a freight train on a hill ten miles east of here tonight. Something became wrong with the passenger engine, and the train was stopped. A flagman ordered to the rear is said to have stopped to hunt for his coat. Before he could find it the freight engine plowed into the rear of the passenger, cutting the dining car in two.



A Little Home Nest Here for Everybody

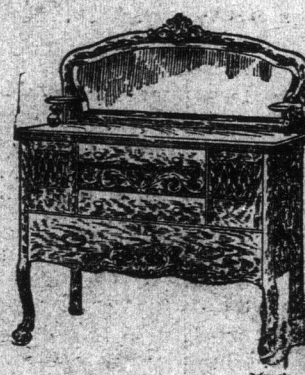
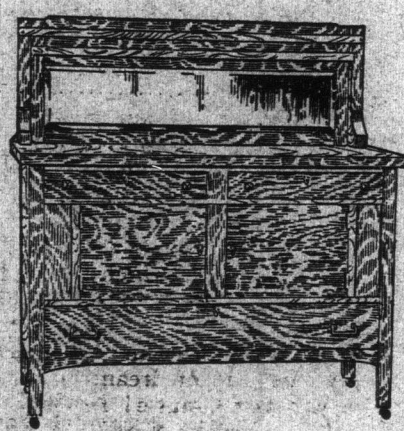
That's exactly what this store has, a home-nest for everybody—a home-nest for you.

You long for your home-nest, don't you? You see no way to have it.

Won't you take us at our word? Come to this store—we have the way to your home-nest. Isn't our word to supply it well worth the short time taken to investigate?

The Latest and Largest Showing of Buffets

See These Today on the Third Furniture Floor
These Have the Air of Elegance



The Buffets You Want
At Wanted Prices

IT'S THE GREATEST SHOWING OF QUALITY BUFFETS

Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 20 x 48, British bevel mirror 12 x 40, drawer at top, 2 doors to cupboard in centre and glass door to cupboard at either side. Large linen drawer \$42.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 21 x 50, British bevel mirror 40 x 12, 3 cutlery drawers in centre, glass door at either side to cupboard. Large linen drawer \$50.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 50 x 21, British bevel swivel mirror 40 x 16, 3 cutlery drawers in centre, glass door at either side to cupboard. Large linen drawer at foot \$52.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 48 x 19, British bevel mirror 48 x 10, 2 shelves, two cutlery drawers, double door to cupboard. Linen drawer \$52.50
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 19 x 48, British bevel mirror 12 x 38, 2 drawers, 2 doors to cupboard. Large linen drawer \$55.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 50 x 22, British bevel mirror 40 x 40, 3 cutlery drawers at top, doors to cupboard, panel between. Large linen drawer \$60.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 22 x 54, British bevel mirror 10 x 50, 3 drawers at top, 1 linen with mauve plush for cutlery, linen drawer, 2 doors to cupboard \$65.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 20 x 54, British bevel mirror 10 x 45, double doors to cupboard with 3 cutlery trays, door to cupboard at either side. Large linen drawer \$75.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 24 x 66, 2 cutlery drawers in centre lined with green plush, 2 drawers at either side, 2 doors to large cupboard. Large linen drawer \$105.00
Fumed Oak Buffet—Top 22 x 72, British bevel mirror 12 x 62, cutlery drawer with six partitions lined with green plush, 2 linen drawers, doors to cupboard at either side. \$115.00
Buffet—Early English, top 22 x 52, British bevel mirror 12 x 42, 2 cutlery drawers, large linen drawer, 2 doors to cupboard \$28.00
Buffet—Early English finish, top 22 x 54, British bevel mirror 12 x 44, 3 large drawers in centre and 2 glass doors to cupboard at either side \$32.50
Buffet—Solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, top 45 x 18, British bevel mirror 30 x 10, 2 drawers and 2 doors to cupboard. Large linen drawer \$45.00

Buffet—Solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, top 20 x 48, British bevel mirror 12 x 40, 2 drawers at top, 2 doors to spacious cupboard. Large linen drawer \$50.00
Buffet—Solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, top 50 x 22, British bevel mirror 38 x 16, 3 cutlery drawers in centre, 2 glass doors at either side to cupboards. Large linen drawer \$52.00
Buffet—Solid quarter cut oak, Early English finish, top 23 x 54, British bevel mirror 12 x 40, double drawer at top, linen drawer, 2 doors to cupboard, handsome trimmings \$80.00
Buffet—Solid quarter cut Early English oak, top 24 x 60, British bevel mirror 30 x 50, 3 drawers for cutlery at top, doors to large cupboard, full sized linen drawer \$85.00
Buffet—Golden finish, top 45 x 18, British bevel mirror 10 x 29, large linen drawer, 2 cutlery drawers, door to cabinet at either side \$32.50
Buffet—Solid quarter cut golden oak, top 20 x 44, British bevel mirror 10 x 36, 2 cutlery drawers, 1 lined with plush, 2 doors to cupboard, panel between, linen drawer \$42.00
Buffet—Solid quarter cut golden oak, top 45 x 18, British bevel mirror 30 x 11, 2 drawers, 1 lined with mauve plush, 2 doors to cupboard, large linen drawer \$45.00
Buffet—Solid quarter cut golden oak, top 45 x 19, British bevel mirror 30 x 12, 2 drawers, 2 doors to cupboard, large linen drawer highly polished \$50.00
Buffet—Solid quarter cut golden oak, dull finish, top 24 x 54, British bevel mirror 14 x 48, 3 cutlery drawers at top, large linen drawer, 2 cupboards and doors to same \$70.00
Buffet—Solid quarter cut golden oak, top 20 x 48, British bevel mirror 11 x 40, 2 glass doors to cupboard, linen drawer, 2 doors to cupboard \$80.00
Buffet—Satin walnut, top 22 x 54, British bevel mirror 10 x 45, glass door to cupboard at either side, 3 large drawers in centre \$32.50
Mahogany Buffet—Colonial design, top 23 x 64, British bevel mirror 14 x 50, 3 drawers at top, centre drawer lined with green plush and partitioned off in four sections for cutlery, 3 doors to cupboards, large linen drawer \$150.00

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We have four bedrooms fixed up complete on our fourth floor, and the one we wish to draw your special attention to is in Golden Oak finish. We herewith list the articles. The room is on the fourth floor, and you get just exactly what you see for \$66.35.

Dresser—Golden finish, 72in. high, 32in. wide, 17in. deep, has British bevel mirror 14 x 24, 3 roomy drawers.
Chiffonier—Golden finish, 57in. high, 30in. wide, 18in. deep, 5 large drawers.
Cane Seat Rocker—Golden finish.

Dressing Table—Golden finish, size 18 x 30.

Full Size Bed—Springs, Mattress, Comforter, Pair Blankets, Bedspread, Pillows and Pillow Cases.

Art Wool Square—Size 9 x 9.

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