

## Republican Progress

The Official Republican Paper of Monroe County.

Dennis H. Hawes, Editor and Prop.

Office Opposite Post Office.

If this paper pleases you tell others if not tell us.

### EDITORIAL.

#### MEN, NOT MEASURES!

There is much talk and some feeling in New York over the inadequacy of the charter of the city of New York. The practical demonstration of government under this charter that Tammany has given is held to illustrate the need of amendment. The World urges a special session of the Legislature to effect various radical changes. It declares that the present charter, instead of governing for the popular will, has made possible a government by bosses and retainers, "who have all power, open pockets and no responsibility." It wants the two year term for mayor restored and a new election ordered this year.

We have little faith in charter tinkering. It seems at this distance that the fault in New York is not with the charter, but with the people. No charter, no law, however excellent, will execute itself. It will not be forgotten that a few years ago Brooklyn had, or was supposed to have, a model city charter. Under it, Seth Low, as mayor, demonstrated that such was the case. But Seth Low passed, and his successor demonstrated that under the same charter the government could be as bad as it had been good. There is an inherent weakness in any plea that asks for an outside power or written contract for protection. A people that cannot protect itself cannot easily be protected by any device.

For forms of government let fools contest:

That which is best administered is best.

The reason of this couplet may not be as apt as the rhyme. Indeed, it may be conceded that there is too much assumption in it, and that the conclusion is too sweeping, but nevertheless there is much truth in it. Misgovernment in the city of New York is the fault of the people, and not because of the wording and definition of any particular charter. A charter may be as specific as the civil service laws of the Chinese empire or the rules of any hierarchy. But it cannot be sufficient to protect against abuses people who have not the ability in themselves to combat these abuses. There is an old saying of an English barrister that he could drive a coach and four through any law that was ever passed, and the saying is probably true. Indeed, the demonstration seems to run in a circle. A people so weak as to think it may define in a written document safeguards against abuses simply puts a premium on ingenuity to break through such safeguards, or, as the weakness becomes sufficient, to disregard them altogether.

It is the administration of a government, and not its definition, that makes the difference between bad and good. New York city's government has been a running sore from remote times. All municipal government in America is more or less tainted with failure, but our imperial city has for long years presented the supreme example. How long ago was it, as the history of cities or nations go, that the rascality of Tweed was finally demonstrated?

Yet, since then, how often has New York returned to the Tweed form of government! For a later example, how long, or rather how short a time, has it been since the rotteness of the Croker government was demonstrated under the Farkurst-Lexow outburst! For one brief season thereafter New York city ranged itself on the side of decency and reform, and then deliberately returned to Crokerism.

For a people that does thus there is no salvation in any written charter. The salvation lies in the power or virility of the people to give expression to the general honesty. People are generally honest. But with the minority that are dishonest to lead the way, or to furnish the momentum, the selfish interests of politics appeal to the honest men, and so, with their eyes open, knowing what they do, as the people of New York knew in the last election, they deliberately choose evil instead of good. The only reform that will help New York, or will help any city or State, suffering as it suffers, is the reform in character that shall create sufficient public courage to give expression to the honesty of the people in their public affairs.

If President McKinley had not his detractors and vitifiers he would be the first President in time of war to escape them. Washington, during the revolutionary war, Madison, during the war of 1812, Polk, during the Mexican war, and Lincoln, during the civil war, were all held up to public execration by Atkinson and Boutwells of their

#### A MOST UNRIGHTEONOUS VERDICT.

We are in the Philippines as a result of meeting impious and unavoidable moral responsibilities to ourselves, to the natives, and to the world, resulting from the war with Spain, and we cannot retreat from them without shame, dishonor, and disgrace to us a great nation and as a Christian, civilizing people without reference to material opportunities in the Pacific and the impending possibility that if we shirk our responsibilities we will forsake our position as a first-class power in the Pacific and come trailing along behind Great Britain, Russia, Japan, and Germany. There never was a time since May 1, 1898, when our naval or military forces could have abandoned Manila and Admiral Dewey will confirm this when he returns.

Neither the Democratic party at any previous time nor any other party at any time ever made such a confession of abject poverty in men of presidential size as the Democracy is making in the Dewey affair. It was known that, despite Case's prominence, and the fact that he was the "logical" candidate at the time, some of the Democratic intriguers attempted to appropriate Taylor in 1846, whose politics was of the nebulous sort, for he had never even voted for anybody along unto that time, but Thurlow Weed and the Whigs got ahead of them and secured him. Through Montgomery Blair, the Democrats made overtures to Grant in 1867 for the canvass of the following year, for all the politics that Grant ever had before that time was Democratic politics. The Democrats emissary, however, quickly disengaged before the world as a nation, acting with promptitude and decision, in proceedings of revision and reversal, through a proper department of its civil government, may by any possibility condone. If the French people and the French Government permit the consummation of this most unholy decree against an innocent man, pre-judged by a prejudiced court, France stands disgraced before the world as a nation, conniving at as base a crime, as contemptible a conspiracy as was ever perpetrated against human right and civil liberty.

No ease in modern history has attracted such general interest as the prosecution of Dreyfus. No prisoner at bar has ever commanded in greater degree the sincere, deep-seated sympathy of the public—a public that comprehends in its entirety all civilized peoples. The manner and the methods of the persecution—not prosecution—practised upon this man, vicarious victim for crimes of his superiors, has appealed irresistibly to all that is manly in mankind. The devotion of his noble wife, battling against all the powers of France to save her husband from a living death on Devil's Island, nurturing his faith in just God, his hope for human justice has appealed as strongly to all that is noble in human nature.

Our forces now hold all the most important points in the Philippines. Area does not decide the question of present strength and influence. The best and most important section of Luzon is rapidly coming under our control. Already our sway, extended adverse conditions, reaches from Iloilo in the south to Angeles in the north, a distance of nearly seventy-five miles, the very heart of the island. We not only have Manila, but Iloilo, Cebu, Bacolod, Zamboanga, and Jolo, the commercial and strategical points of the islands.

#### Putting a Railroad Track.

The experiment of putting a railroad dust-proof and water-proof by the use of crude oil has been tried during the past year in the east with success. In the west the Burlington is the first to adopt the improvement. General Superintendent Calvert has had part of the Wyoming division of the Burlington treated with crude oil, and the results there have been so satisfactory that he is making arrangements to continue the work elsewhere on the system. Two cars were especially arranged for sprinkling the track and the road-bed with the oil. Oil was sprinkled in the center of the track and on the outside of the rails, for about five feet.

One application of the oil keeps the track free from dust for about one year. The number of hot-boxes on trains is considerably lessened, and the comfort of the passengers is greatly enhanced. An additional advantage found in treating the track with oil is that moisture will not then penetrate through the oiled outer crust. Instead, the water runs off the track into the ditches at the side. Vegetation along the track is destroyed by the use of oil.

Theodore Tilton is still living in Paris, where he has resided ever since the famous trial in which he played so conspicuously a part. He has never returned to these shores. An American who met him in Paris, last spring, states that he is in good spirits, and that, in response to a question he had spent his time between Paris and London. That he retains his gift of sparkling repartee, is shown by a remark he made to this American. "I asked Tilton," said he, "when it is a man begins to feel old?" and he at once replied: "I will tell you when it is when he is a sophomore in college."—New York Mail and Express.

It'll be a cold day when I work for girls wages. This remark fell from the lips of an eighteen-year-old cigar-smoking, beer-guzzling young man who had given up his place in a store to a young lady of good character and habits, says an exchange. The low moral standing and consequent general worthlessness of young men is what is filling the stores and the offices and professions with their likes. The highest salaried clerks taught women.

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#### Dewey Nomination Insanity.

The desperation of the Democracy is pretty effectively shown by the persistence of the attempt made by papers and politicians of that party in various parts of the country to start a Dewey nomination boom. Dewey has frequently said that he would not take the presidential candidacy of any party. He has said just as frequently and emphatically that he is a Republican, and that if situated so that he can cast a vote in 1900 he will vote for the Republican candidate. Yet some of the Democrats keep putting his name up as a nominee for their party.

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#### There is Work For All.

It is the statement of Labor Commissioner McCormack, of Indiana, that there is work in Hoosierdom for every man who will work. This expresses the situation exactly. There never has been a time in the history of Indiana when there was such a demand for labor of every class as now. No man need be idle and neither need he tramp for a living. A person with a trade is especially fortunate in the assurance of position and the common laborer can find a job without hunting long for it. There is indeed work for all.

Mr. McCormack in referring to the condition of things in the labor field says that the improvement has been wonderful in the last few years, and the prospects are that it will be permanent and the workingmen will find steady employment. He can most assuredly if he will take advantage of the situation and support the party now in power that brought him this prosperity.—South Bend Tribune.

No officer of the United States army has a clearer apprehension of operations in the field, especially against irregular forces, than Gen. Lawton. He has been actively engaged in the Philippines long enough to make a close estimate of the work ahead. In a letter to a friend he states that the insurgents are disintegrating, and that peace is not distant. Since this letter was written, last month, the enemy north of Manila has been driven from another entrenched position, with considerable loss and the disengagement that attends such a reverse. It has become difficult for the Tagalog troops to find supplies, and their stock of ammunition must be precarious. Their main force is at present stationed on the only railroad in the island, because subsistence could be brought to it and disturbed. When they lose the railroad they must go to the mountains, and there is nothing there to feed an army for any considerable length of time.

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Our new acquisition, Hawaii, is to be represented in congress by O. W. Smith. Ah yes, you find them everywhere. By the way, does anybody know the Chinese equivalent of Smith?

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At Rennes Saturday the court martial sitting in judgment upon a rehearing of charges against Captain Alfred Dreyfus, reconvened him of furnishing to Germany secret information of the French army and sentenced him to ten years' confinement.

To say that the verdict was a shock to public sentiment, comprehending all nations, is possibly putting it most mildly. To the American understanding it is beyond comprehension in the enormity of its savagery. As the finale of a trial that in its every feature has presented a base travesty upon justice, it is fitting, as the very essence of military meindanity exemplified in the austere rule of armed conspirators in this mis-called Republic of France.

The immediate occasion of the present conflict can be logically attributed to the Filipinos and not to ourselves. The fighting was begun and has been carried on under the most adverse conditions of season and climate which characterize tropical countries. The outbreak came at the end of the cool season and at the beginning of the excessively hot period. When this hot season was over it was immediately followed by the rainy months, which are still running on and will not end until November.

Despite these conditions the American forces have not met with a single decisive reverse from the beginning of the campaign up to the present writing, and have everywhere and in all expeditions driven the natives before them at will. The Filipino army, pushed from "pillar to post" has suffered enormous losses, is deprived of sources of fresh ammunition and supplies from the outside world, is demoralized from an organized army into retreating isolated bands, is forced to brutal tactics to keep the people in line and the leaders from deserting to the Americans, depending on the Hong Kong junta to manufacture

alleged reports from Aguinaldo favorable to the Filipinos—which are too often and to much believed in America—and cannot possibly hold out as an integral force after the rains are over.

Our forces now hold all the most important points in the Philippines. Area does not decide the question of present strength and influence. The best and most important section of Luzon is rapidly coming under our control. Already our sway, extended adverse conditions, reaches from Iloilo in the south to Angeles in the north, a distance of nearly seventy-five miles, the very heart of the island. We not only have Manila, but Iloilo, Cebu, Bacolod, Zamboanga, and Jolo, the commercial and strategical points of the islands.

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#### A SUMMING UP of the Philippine Campaign to Date.

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