

Marshall County Democrat

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D. & P. McDONALD, Editors.

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The Cuban Question.

We have received from the Hon. John S. D. Marshall, U. S. S., a copy of the report of the Committee on Foreign Relations, to whom was referred the bill "making appropriations to facilitate the acquisition of the island of Cuba."

As this question is one of great magnitude, and one in which the American people are materially interested, any authentic information in regard to it is eagerly sought after. This report furnishes some valuable statistics in regard to the government, products, commerce, population, wealth, &c., of the island, from which it will be seen that the estimates heretofore made in regard to the wealth and products were not too high.

The income, for one year, derived from direct taxes, customs, monopolies, lotteries, &c., was \$16,303,950. The expenses of the government for the same length of time, were \$16,299,663. This equilibrium is accounted for by the fact that the surplus revenue is remitted to Spain. It amounts to \$1,404,059, and is the only direct pecuniary advantage Spain derives from the possession of Cuba, and even this exceeds the average net revenue remitted from the island. The exactions of the Spanish officials amount to \$5,000,000 per annum, thus increasing the expenses of the government of Cuba, apart from those which, with us, would be considered as county or municipal, to the enormous sum of \$21,300,000, or about \$13.50 per head for the whole population of the island, free and slave. Under this government, and this excessive taxation the population has, for a series of years, increased at the rate of three per cent. per annum, or about equal to that of the United States.

The commerce of Cuba with foreign nations, for the year 1854, was as follows: Imports, \$31,394,578; exports, \$32,688,939. The commerce of the island for the same year, with Spain and the United States, was—with Spain: imports, \$9,057,428; exports, \$3,615,692;—with the United States: imports, \$7,867,680; exports, \$11,641,813; excess of trade with the United States, compared with Spain, \$6,836,373. The difference at the present time, in favor of the United States, is still greater than in 1854, although the amount of trade has been largely increased.

The total number of vessels which entered the port of Havana during the year 1855, was 1,943; tonnage, 679,815. American vessels, 958; tonnage, 392,572—being greater than that of all other nations combined.

The cultivation of sugar is the chief basis of the wealth and prosperity of Cuba. The average annual production, exclusive of what is consumed in the island, is about 400,000 tons; that of Louisiana about 175,000 tons. The whole amount of cane sugar from which Europe and the United States are supplied is estimated at 1,273,000 tons; of this, Cuba and Louisiana now furnish somewhat more than 45 per cent. It is not extravagant to predict that, with Cuba annexed, we should in a few years have as complete control of this great staple as we now have of cotton.

The total population of Cuba now is estimated at 1,566,000, of which 742,000 are whites, 263,000 free colored, and 581,000 slaves. The Cubans, as a class, are as refined, well-informed and fitted for self-government, as any people can be who have not inhaled with their breath the atmosphere of freedom. These men, who are the great proprietors of the soil, are opposed to the continuance of the African slave trade, which is carried on by Spaniards from the peninsula, renegade Americans, and other adventurers from every clime and country, tolerated and protected by the Spanish authorities of Cuba of every grade.

The report from which we have taken the above statements, aptly remarks that were there a sincere desire to arrest the slave trade, it could be as effectually put down by Spain as it has been by Brazil.

Cuba and Porto Rico are now the only marks for this illegal traffic; and if the British government had been as intent upon enforcing its treaty stipulations with Spain for its abolition as it has been for denouncing abuses of our flag, which we cannot entirely prevent, this question would long since have ceased to be a source of irritating discussion, it may be of possible future difficulty. Those who desire to extirpate the slave trade may find in their sympathy for the African a motive to support this bill. The slaves now shipped from the coast of Africa are exclusively for the Spanish islands. It is not easy to estimate the number. From the best data, however, it is supposed now to be from twenty-five to thirty thousand per year. It would cease to exist the moment we acquired possession of the island of Cuba.

Another consequence, which should equally enlist the sympathies of philanthropists, excepting that class whose tears are only shed for those of ebony hue, and who turn with indifference from the sufferings of men of any other complexion, is

the suppression of the infamous Coolie traffic—a traffic so much more nefarious as the Chinese is elevated above the African in the scale of creation; more civilized, more intellectual, and therefore feeling more acutely the shackles of the slave ship and the harsh discipline of the overseer.

The length of the Island is about seven hundred and seventy miles, with an average breadth of about forty miles, comprising an area of 31,468 square miles. The soil is fertile, climate genial, and its ports the finest in the world.

The committee are explicit in their advocacy of the bill now before Congress, which places \$30,000,000 at the disposal of the President for the purpose of negotiation. If the bill should pass, and Spain refuse to enter into negotiations, the money thus appropriated could be used for other purposes.

AD—We notice that the celebrated YANKEE LOCKE and LADY are soon to appear at Madison. Wherever they go, they make hosts of friends who would gladly welcome them back again.

[For the Marshall County Democrat.]

Political Economists

In all ages, and almost all countries have conceded the fact that in every community, places of popular resort for recreation and amusement, are necessary.

This doctrine meets with a practical response in the minds of nearly all persons, though theoretically many discard it. It was well said by Tupper, that, "to blend instruction with amusement, is the wise man's necessary aim, when he lieth in the shade of recreation," and to this sentiment few perhaps will object.

The principle is admitted, but in its application men, good men, have hitherto, and do still differ. One sees in the "giddy mazes of the dance," both recreation and instruction, while another sees nothing in the exercise but folly, unmilitant by any redeeming trait, or circumstance.

Our merchants are prepared to furnish all that may come this way with outfitts.—Mules, Oxen, Horses and Wagons can also be purchased here at fair prices.

with the cost of the same in the Council Bluffs Market:

3 Yoke of Oxen @ \$55.....	\$165 00
1 Wagon with bows complete.....	85 00
Yokes, Chains, &c.....	10 00
1 Tent.....	10 00
4 Pairs of Blankets.....	20 00
4 Buffalo Robes.....	16 00
4 Gold Pans.....	2 00
4 Steel Shovels.....	5 00
4 Axes with handles.....	5 00
4 Steel Picks.....	6 00
3 Angers.....	1 00
1 Inch Chisel.....	30
1 Drawing Knife.....	60
1 Mill File.....	40
3 Hand Saw Files.....	30
1 Hand Saw.....	1 25
10 lb Wrought Nails.....	1 20

Totals..... \$329 05

PROVISIONS.

1000 lb Flour.....	\$30 00
400 lb Bacon.....	40 00
50 lb Salt.....	1 00
4 lb Tea.....	3 00
50 lb Coffee.....	6 50
150 lb Sugar.....	13 50
40 lb Rice.....	3 25
120 lb Beans.....	3 00
50 lb Dried Fruit.....	3 50
6 lb Pepper.....	1 20
3 lb Soda.....	30
6 lb Cream Tartar.....	3 00
40 lb Soap.....	3 25
8 lb Gun Powder.....	4 00
24 lb Lead.....	2 40
2000 Gun Caps.....	1 12
6 Gallons Vinegar.....	1 50
2 Gallons of Brandy.....	6 00
1 Great Gross Matches.....	1 25
1 Coffee Mill and Frying Pan.....	60
1 Dutch Oven, 3 Camp Kettles.....	3 50
8 Tin Plates, 8 Tin Cups.....	1 07
1 Set Knives and Forks.....	75
1 Set Iron Spoon, 4 Bu Knives.....	1 20
Add cost of team etc.....	329 05

Total cost..... \$463 94

From the above it will be seen, that those desiring to go to the mines can come direct to Council Bluffs, and outfit here at a cost not exceeding \$116, per man.

Justices of the Peace shall have jurisdiction within their respective townships, and may recognize offenders to Court, when in their opinion the fine should exceed \$25.

Druggist can sell in any quantity for medicinal purposes and the manufacturer of wine and cider, from fruits grown by the manufacturer are exempt from the provision of the act.

Our exchanges are filled with letters, giving glowing accounts of the richness of the Nebraska Gold mines, but enough have been published. We hope those who are determined to go, will return with their pockets full of Gold, but if they do not tend to the same.

All laws coming in conflict with the provisions of the act are repealed, and an emergency clause is appended—*State Sen-*

Bill for the Increase of Sal-

aries.

The Committee of Ways and Means have introduced a bill into the House relative to the salaries of public officers and providing the manner of paying the same, and the manner of reimbursing the State for an increase of salaries.

The first section provides that the following salaries shall be paid out of the general fund, viz:

Governor, \$3,000; Treasurer of State, \$2,500; Auditor of State, \$2,000; Secretary of State, \$1,500; Comptroller \$1,500; Governor's Private Secretary \$500; Superintendent of Public Instruction \$500; State Librarian \$500; Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, \$1,200; Superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum \$500; Superintendent of the Blind Asylum \$500; Warden of the State Prison \$500; Moral Instructor of State Prison \$500; Physician of State Prison \$500; Adjutant and Quartermaster General, each \$25; Judges of the Supreme Court, each \$2,000; Judges of the Circuit Court \$1,500; Judges of the Common Pleas each \$300, to be paid out of the County Treasury in the manner prescribed by law, and out of county funds; Prosecuting Attorney, each \$500; and the auditor, Treasurer and comptroller of State, are each authorized to employ one clerk at a salary not exceeding \$600 per annum.

It is entitled—"A bill to license, regulate and restrain the use of spirituous, vicious, malt and intoxicating liquors, to prevent drunkenness and crime, and to repeal all former laws conflicting with its provisions.

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