

The Washington Times

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tried, and which, in any event, could only succeed by overturning existing conditions in utter disregard of vested rights. Civilization itself has been a matter of slow growth and development, and political reform, which is part and parcel of civilization, must also make headway by slow and easy stages. Populism failed to recognize these patent truths. As a result, the People's Party has ceased to be a substantial political force—soon it will be nothing but a memory.

Mind Healers Arrested. The arrest of certain so-called "mind healers" in Florida upon the charge of fraudulently using the mails is something to be heartily commended by all good citizens. These people were using the mails for the dissemination of their advertisements, purporting to cure for all sorts of diseases, and even at a distance from the "healers" by mental treatment alone.

Foreign Topics. Attempts of foreigners to write English are always lamentable. The English speaker. The language of foreigners is revealed for the efforts of the Saxon to harangue the Gaul in his native tongue, or to endeavor to do in Rome as the Romans do, even in the matter of choice of Italian.

Canada's Population. Many Canadians will recall how disappointing was the announcement of 1891, but it must be confessed that the return of this year is little less so. Although some portions of the western territories have not yet sent in their exact population figures, the total figures are given as 5,328,883, showing an increase during the decade of 506,644 souls, or slightly less than 10% per cent.

LONDON, Aug. 24.—A rumor running through the half-empty political clubs attributed to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, is that the Cabinet to dissolve Parliament as soon as Lord Kitchener's surrender proclamation has brought about the expected close of the war in South Africa.

Admiral Schley's Letter. Admiral Schley's letter to the Navy Department, explaining his request for an expression from Admiral Howison respecting the accuracy or otherwise of the language ascribed to the latter in the "Boston Record" interview, will be sent to the Secretary of the Navy, although it is improbable that it will have any effect upon Hackett and Crownshield.

Interference and Intervention. The proclamation of Marroquin, the dictator of Colombia, practically declaring war against Venezuela, and authorizing his department governors to "expropriate" property, to levy forced loans, and to conduct hostile operations each in his own jurisdiction at once, renders acute the question of American duty in the premises.

The Passing of Populism. When we consider that only a few years ago the People's Party polled about a million and a half votes, and actually claimed a little later a membership of two millions, the most of which was in the Mississippi valley, we are not quite certain whether we should be startled or only amused at the reports of the Populist convention just held in Iowa.

Freedom of thought and action should never be allowed to the point of endangering life. Nor should much time be wasted in argument over it. When a person is afflicted with some hideous disease—an ailment which all the world can see, real, substantial and material, and some other person will assert that he or she can cure the disease by simply thinking about it from a distance of a thousand miles, if necessary, it is perfectly clear that argument is not what is wanted.

PERSONAL. The Peabody (Mass.) Historical Society will present a memorial tablet to the town of Newburyport in honor of the memory of John Proctor, who was executed for witchcraft in 1627.

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