

was alienating the support of the Cuban people, as is now abundantly proved in the apparently overwhelming popular sympathy with the insurgent cause. It is not, then, real independence that has been on trial in Cuba. And the failure, such as it is, must be ascribed as much to the imposing upon the Cuban people, by outside influences, of a government which did not spring wholly from the popular heart as to the Cuban incapacity for self-government.

licans are right—other men are not our brothers, and Christ was wrong. Of course, there is my contract, but I'm not a-goin' to stand by that. You notice, "Taft fixes no time limit," makes no promise of independence, and Roosevelt's policy is announced to "treat Cuba as domestic territory." The only doubt I have is whether Taft kin do it alone. Of course, Funston is there to help him, and the army; and if they can't overset a treaty of the United States, what do I keep an army for? I had a Congress once that might, in its prime, have stopped the administration boys, cut off their rations or grog or somethin', and made trouble, but Congress is in the woods now, and no good when it's out—no men in it, nothin' but safe and sane harvesters, in for the crops.

**RELATED THINGS**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT**

**THE LITTLE CHRISTIAN.**

He trembled in the morning,  
At noon he was afraid,  
And heavy on his heart at night  
The hand of fear was laid.

A presence walked beside him  
Of horror and of fright—  
A shadow in the sunshine,  
A menace in the night.

And this that dragged his childhood,  
This thing of scourge and rod,  
They gave him as a priceless gift,  
And bade him call it God.

They made for him a fear that killed  
The child-joy in his breast;  
They made for him a shape of dread  
And bade him love it best.

Oh Mild, Oh Just, Oh Merciful!  
What then shall be their shame,  
These souls who teach a little child  
To shudder at Thy name!

—Theodosia Garrison, in *Life*.

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Well, business is mixed with me. I'm running a little Russia of my own out in the Philippines. I captured some ladrones awhile back—same thing as Boston tea party men, or Russian patriots, as I larn, and I've condemned six to be hanged; and five to 30, and ten to 20 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

I had to use a little perfidy to get 'em, but I'm gettin' used to that in this world-power business. I got a Philippine agitator, named Gomez, to negotiate with the rebels. He promised 'em light sentences if they'd surrender. When I got 'em I denied it, and now I'm hangin' em. I don't believe my name is goin' to be as good in the future as it was. I used to think it was a fine thing to keep the banner clean; to keep the red, white and blue unsoiled, so men could look at it and love it, as they did, without shame—without thinkin', "Look at the great Star Spangled Banner—it's word ain't worth a clam!" But I've quit bein' a leader. I'm a follower of the world powers.

UNCLE SAM.

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**UNCLE SAM'S LETTERS TO JOHN BULL.**

Printed from the Original MS.

Dear John:—Do you notice me in Cuba? I guess I'm what they call an Injun giver. I gave Cuba her liberty all right, but I had a string to it. I never did mean it—a democratic thing like that. Trust my Republican boys for that. They're dishonest clear through, and bright! Just watch 'em! But it's hard to know exactly how to pull the trick off. You see, John, this is a queer war they have down in Cuba. It's a big insurrection all right—big as Coxe's army, and nigh about as fierce, but nobody killed—that's the trouble. I did hear there was some mules stolen in the interior, but I was afraid they'd come home, and something had to be done. Anyhow, you couldn't cry, Remember the Mules, as you could, Remember the Maine. I had to have some reason that would go with the unthinking people of Europe and America, so I killed some marines. Yes, John, the other morning early I sacrificed 26 marines in the Cuban war—killed 'em by wireless telegraph. It's the cheapest way to kill marines, wireless telegraph is, and not specially unpleasant to the marines. It horrifies the country fine. I can do anything now I want, and I'm a-goin' to keep Cuba. That's the way my administration feels. My early sentiment was nonsense. The modern Repub-

**THE RIOT AT FAIRVIEW, AND WHAT CAUSED IT.**

For The Public.

Jim Biles dotes upon his reputation as a traveler. He has documents to show that his meandering has taken him as far east as La Porte, Indiana, as far west as Lockport on the drainage canal, and as far south as Dongola, which is somewhere in Egypt.

To avoid misunderstanding, it is well to state that Jim Biles's Egypt is not oriental Egypt, but just the plain, common Egypt of southern Illinois. Otherwise it would be difficult to believe the tale that Jim poured into my ears while we were hanging on to the straps of a Cottage Grove Palace car the other night.

It seems there is a town somewhere in Egypt by the name of Fairview, or Longview, or Richview, or some other kind of a View. Jim had lost the memorandum of the name, but was willing to make affidavit that it was a View of some kind, and that the people of the town were good meaning, average American citizens, with well organized schools, including an incipient college, and plenty of churches—in fact, more churches than were sufficient to accommodate the people with church proclivities.

Jim also strongly insisted upon the truth of the statement that these people read a great variety of

newspapers and books, and seemed to be endowed with the faculty of thought.

In view of the tale which Jim declares to be the simple truth the latter proposition might be doubted, except for the known fact that people often have faculties which become lost from disuse.

The people of this town were possessed of considerable executive ability in regard to public matters, and managed their water works and their schools and libraries and other public utilities so well that every citizen was able to point with pride to these advantages, and if any one in the town had any real estate to sell he was very careful to impress upon the purchaser the fact that these excellent public utilities gave great additional value to his property.

This indicates sound judgment as a mental characteristic of the citizens of this town, and in view of this it will hardly be credited that in paying for all these public utilities they did not tax each one in proportion to the benefits received from the public improvements, but taxed things so that the industrious man who kept his house painted and his lawn clipped paid a great deal more than his neighbor who was too lazy to push a lawn mower.

It seems that when the present century was very new a strange man of imposing aspect and musical voice came to the excellent town hotel with several trunks and two silver-mounted satchels of large size. He presented to the mayor and the aldermen of the town such strong and well attested letters of introduction, and used the imposing presence and the musical voice to such great advantage, that these guardians of the public interests surrendered to his seductive influence at once.

Said he, "I have it upon the best authority that the country that sends abroad the greatest quantity of wealth and gets back the least, thereby acquires a great balance of trade, which makes high wages and prosperous times and enriches every citizen, so that even the beggar has no difficulty in getting a balance in a Savings Bank that is most always good and safe.

"This great balance of trade is so prolific of prosperity and contentment that our great Captains of Industry in their excess of generosity send abroad quantities of the products of their industry, and sell it to foreign peoples at prices from 10 to 50 per cent. cheaper than they sell like products to our own people. The gratitude of the foreign people and the pride and joy of our people on account of this condition of things cannot be estimated. The happiness of the men who are on a strike for an increase of seven cents an hour in their wages, when they think of the foreigner getting things so cheap, cannot be put in words so you will understand it.

"This felicitous condition of things, my friends, is brought about by the levying of a slight tax upon imports (which the foreigner pays), which enables the Captains of Industry to get a higher price for their products, and at the same time (strange as it may seem) enables them to sell at lower prices, and to pay higher wages to the men that do the work.

"Not all the people can understand this paradox, but the most of them have faith in it, and when there are any symptoms that we are going to get back something for the wealth that we send out and get even with the world, everybody begins to

worry lest the Captains of Industry shut down the mills and starvation comes.

"Now, my friends, this prosperous town can become more prosperous if you will only help me to get up a balance of trade. I am an expert maker of whetstones, but on account of the competition of cheap foreign labor I cannot make whetstones profitably. If you will be so kind as to pass an ordinance by which each of your citizens will be obligated to pay me five cents a month, I will establish an industry here that will build up your town, give employment to labor, and make such a balance of trade that every heart will be glad.

"Five cents a month from each citizen will be so insignificant that it will not be noticed, but it will make an income for me of three thousand dollars a year. This will enable me to build a fine mansion on your best residence street, and to clothe my family in fine raiment, and feed them the most nutritious and delicious food. You see the boom which this expenditure will give to industry here. Mechanics will find employment at once, and also all other branches of industry, in supplying the wants of myself and my family. The making of whetstones will give employment to others of your citizens, and the quantity of whetstones I will send out of this town will enormously increase the balance of trade, and the people will never miss the five cents per month.

"The little drops contributed by each will swell into a river of prosperity that will bless you all. The steel industry and the sugar industry and dozens of other industries are proving the correctness of this reasoning, and I see no reason why my whetstone industry should not receive your favor."

It is said that this seductive picture of prosperity had little effect upon the mayor and aldermen until the gentleman with the musical voice began to wave an American flag, and remind them in eloquent periods that we were the greatest nation upon earth, and could whip anybody with one hand tied behind us, if we only stuck to the principle of sending things out of the country and taking nothing back.

Then the Council surrendered, and passed the five cent ordinance taxing every citizen five cents a month for the benefit of the gentleman of the imposing aspect and the musical voice.

Biles says that the result following the passage of this law cannot be accounted for upon the hypothesis that men are reasonable beings. He cannot see why people that support the sugar trust and favor ship subsidies should kick about a little five cent ordinance, but Biles leans to radicalism and sarcasm.

As soon as the people learned of the passage of the five cent law there was such a riot as is seldom seen except in cities of large size and in despotic countries. Two thousand men assembled in front of the town hall, and with very little deliberation proceeded to apply a coat of tar and feathers to the mayor and such aldermen as they could catch. They burned the book of ordinances, and sacked the town hall, and chased the gentleman with the musical voice ten miles across the country, where he escaped upon a passing freight train.

They kept up such a condition of riot and anarchy and made such ferocious threats that not one of

the members of the Council who passed the ordinance have dared to return home, but all remain in a state of the most obscure exile.

It is probable that few readers will find themselves able to believe this simple statement, but Biles has a good reputation for truth and veracity, as the lawyers say, and he has some corroborating documents.

JACKSON BIGGLES.

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## THE INFLUENCE OF TAXATION ON THE PROSPERITY OF CITIES.

A Paper Read by Lawson Purdy of New York Before the League of American Municipalities, in Session at Chicago, September 26, 1906.

In 1873, Enoch Ensley, a wealthy planter of Tennessee, wrote to Governor Brown asking him to call a special session of the legislature to amend the constitution so that changes could be made in the tax laws of Tennessee. The tax rate of Nashville was three and one-half per cent. and of Memphis four per cent., and Mr. Ensley said that the burden on business was insupportable. Great land owner as he was, however, Ensley did not urge a search for new sources of revenue, but rather the application of the "rule or motto" which, he said, "It would be well for the State to adopt and have cut into the stone at the capitol (in large letters and have them gilded), in the Senate chamber, the hall of the House of Representatives and in the governor's office, . . . to-wit :

"Never tax anything  
That would be of value to your State,  
That could and would run away, or  
That could and would come to you."

This rule laid down by Ensley has become an axiom, but before it can be applied the constitutions of about thirty-five States must be amended by repealing those despotic limitations on legislative power which are not found in the earlier constitutions, and which should find no place in the constitution of any free people. Because of constitutional and statutory restraints upon the power of cities we need discuss only what can be accomplished in most cities by executive officials under existing laws.

### Conditions of Prosperity.

City officials often regard the city as apart and distinct from the individual citizens, and sometimes therefore uphold policies which appear to be in the interest of the city corporation, although opposed to the interests of the citizens. This is, of course, a short-sighted view. In reality nothing can be good for the city which is bad for the citizen, nor bad for the city which is good for the citizens. Again, many consider the interest of classes and speak of what will be advantageous to manufacturers or shopkeepers or land owners. This, too, is a mistaken attitude. Citizens should be regarded alike as men, and not as the owners or users of some kind of property. All depend upon the workers who render service for service, and it is fair therefore to consider the interest of all citizens as bound up in the interest of those who earn their living; and that city may be regarded as the most prosperous in which it is easiest and most agreeable to earn a living.

The interests of the city and of its citizens are identical. Nevertheless, they may be viewed from both standpoints.

### The City Standpoint.

From the standpoint of the municipal corporation the revenue must be ample and economically administered.

To secure ample revenue there must be an ample source of revenue, and I shall point out how the source of revenue will be increased by increasing the demand upon it.

Revenues should be economically and wisely expended. Mere honesty of administration, without intelligence, is not sufficient, for needless expenditures must be avoided, such as the unnecessary streets so common in all our cities, which must be sewered, paved, lighted, cleaned and policed. To avoid opening unnecessary streets the development of the city must be uniform and compact yet without any overcrowding. Every lot must be put to its best use. It is not difficult to determine when a lot is not put to its best use; for every lot should yield the largest rental return of which it is capable, and when we see old three-story dwellings next door to business blocks, it is evident that there an opportunity is wasted. It is hardly possible to travel a mile in any American city without noting scores of such wasted opportunities. We see worn out wooden buildings of one to four stories on lots which ought to be improved with modern offices or lofts; tumble down tenement houses on sites needed for factories; lots entirely vacant and unused for which the demand, expressed in selling value, is very great for stores, factories or dwellings. In the suburbs we must pass hundreds of acres of unused land intersected by streets before we reach the next settlement. The best use for the vacant lots nearer the center would be for dwellings, and the best use for the lots on which are the distant dwellings would probably be to raise vegetables for the city market.

Men individually are not responsible for this foolish waste of energy; men on the average are intelligent and seek to earn a living by the least exertion. It is our laws or their administration which force them to exert their energy in directions which are wasteful for the community.

### The Personal Standpoint.

From the standpoint of the individual it is easy to see that the same conditions which make the prosperity of the city make the well-being of the citizen.

For the man seeking to earn a living, opportunities to earn a living must be plentiful and wages high. Sites for manufacturing or business purposes or for homes must be easy to acquire at low cost. The place of work or business must be near the home and easy of access. Streets must be clean, well paved, sewered and lighted; there must be a plentiful supply of good water, sufficient public parks, good schools and efficient fire and police protection.

Any city with such advantages would be a desirable place to live in, there would be a great demand for sites for business and residence, and more than this, such a city would be a blessing to the whole country, because it would make an effective demand for all manner of things produced elsewhere.