

THE WAR DEPARTMENT DID NOT SUCCUMB TO THE IMPOSSIBLE.

The Red Cross furnished food in bulk to 32,000 half-starved people in the first five days after Santiago surrendered, and in addition thereto fed 10,000 people every day in the soup kitchens managed by Mr. Michelson. I do not wish to make any unjust or invidious comparisons, but I cannot refrain from saying, nevertheless, that I did not happen to see any United States quartermaster in Cuba who, in the short space of five days, had unloaded and stored 1,400 tons of cargo, given hot soup daily to 10,000 soldiers and supplied an army of 32,000 men with ten days' rations. It is a record, I think, of which Miss Barton has every reason to be proud. But her work was not confined to the mere feeding of the hungry in Santiago. She sent large quantities of cereals, canned goods and hospital supplies to our own soldiers in the camps on the adjacent hills; she furnished medicines and food for sick and wounded to the Spanish prison camp as well as to the Spanish army hospitals, the civil hospital and the children's hospital in the city; she directed Dr. Soyoso, of her medical staff, to open a clinic and dispensary, where five surgeons and two nurses gave medical or surgical aid to more than 3,000 sick or sickening people every day; she sent hundreds of tons of ice from the schooner Morse to the hospitals, the camps and the transports going north with sick and wounded soldiers; she put up tents to shelter fever-stricken Spanish prisoners from the tropical sunshine while they were waiting to be taken on board the vessels that were to carry them back to Spain; and in every way possible and with all the facilities she had she tried to alleviate the suffering caused by neglect, incompetence, famine and war.—George Kennan, in *The Outlook*.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF MUNICIPAL FUNCTIONS.

It is the business of a private company to make gas for the sake of making private profit for the owners; it is the business of a publicly owned company to make gas without profit for the benefit of all the people. That is the proposition that is before us as regards the gas plant, reduced to its simplest terms. This property may be made an incalculable blessing to our people if we take hold of it with a truly patriotic spirit.

To say that we are unable to deal with a proposition of this kind is to confess the failure of the institution that we call government; to urge that

the city is unable to employ men of such ability as a private corporation can find, is belied by our experience in the management of such institutions as are now publicly owned. I refer to our public schools, our public library, our parks, our city waterworks, our police department, our city fire department, our city streets—all of these are publicly owned, and the popular argument that a certain property can be managed cheaper by a private corporation than by the city is as applicable to any one of these as it is to the city natural gas department. Private contractors can be found without limit who will promise to educate our children, provide us with literature in the public library, operate the city waterworks, put out our fires, take care of the streets as they now do the work of improving them under the system of private contract, and they will agree to do all this cheaper than we ourselves are now doing it; and I think that it is as reasonable to urge that any one or all of these functions be turned over to some individual or private corporation to be operated for private profit, as I would think of turning over for such purpose the natural gas department.—Hon. S. M. Jones, Mayor of Toledo, O., in his annual message to the Council, Oct. 24.

HIS DREAM OF EMPIRE.

The scandalous attitude of the United States in relation to the fate of the Philippines is no surprise to The Democrat. From the very first it has pointed out the essentially vicious tendencies of the administration in every phase of the trouble with Spain, and there has never been a doubt in our mind that greed and jobbery would prevail. The question of justice, of national honor, of broad humanity, of international morals, is not considered. Imperialism is the administration watchword and in the pursuit of imperial dominion for private gain the trust president and his monopoly advisers coolly ignore national traditions and roughly trample in the dust those high principles of freedom which are the foundation stones of the republic as they have been the pride and boast of more than a century of American citizenship.

Possibly the secret history of this most disgraceful episode in an affair that has cast little of the halo of glory over an administration that from the beginning has played a sinister part in an international drama of surpassing interest may never be divulged; but one incident of the sudden disappearance from the markets of Europe of

\$40,000,000 of Spanish bonds just before the facts in the Philippine deal were permitted to leak out may account for much that would otherwise be inexplicable. Those bonds have doubtless come into the hands of thrifty investors who were given an advance tip on the action of Maj. McKinley's peace commissioners, and it may be supposed that some of the profits of the speculation will be turned to good account in the campaign which Mark Hanna will inaugurate for Maj. McKinley after next Tuesday.

What the plain people of the United States will say to this monstrous breach of good faith and of international morals we have no means of knowing. But surely they will not complacently accept a disposition of this great matter that at once humiliates the republic and saddles upon it the responsibility of a vast territory on the other side of the globe and a population alien in all essentials of politics, religion, industry and modes of life and thought. For in this unjustifiable grab for Spanish territory we are not alone breaking faith with ourselves and with the nations; we are not alone borrowing no one can ever imagine how much and how serious trouble; we are not alone prostituting a war for humanity to the predatory ambitions of American syndicates and promoters; but we are betraying a brave people who have been bravely struggling for the same freedom that our fathers fought for against the tyranny of George of England; we are betraying our own principles; we are prostituting our own consciences and our own fame; and we are laying up wrath against the day of wrath which our children's children may have to face as the penalty of McKinley's dream of empire.—Editorial in *Daily Democrat*, of Johnstown, Pa.

THE SCENERY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

In British Columbia the Columbia river takes its rise, and flows through lakes and between mountains until it empties into the Pacific near Astoria. No other river in the United States or Europe offers such grand scenery as the Columbia. Beside it the Hudson and the Rhine are tame. But the glory of the Columbia is eclipsed by the Frazer, which is all within the limits of British Columbia, and which, while it is neither so large nor so long, pursues its devious course through gorges and between mountains which make its scenery probably the grandest of any river in Europe or America. These are two of the chief rivers of the province;