

MISCELLANY

A NATION'S FAULT.

With Apologies to Kipling.
For The Public.

A distinguished army officer, recently returned from the Philippines, said in a newspaper interview that the war had caused the Filipinos in many interior towns to live in a state of barbarism.

"It is our fault, and our very great fault," that war and a tyrant's hand
Makes life a hell for a people weak, who fight for their fatherland;
Our fault that the light of burning homes glows red on orient skies,
And falls on forms of patriot men, who weep with their dying eyes.

It is our fault, and our terrible fault, that widows unnumbered mourn,
And that famine stalks among children pale, and bony, and sorrow worn.
Our fault that honor, and truth, and right, by our sword of might are slain,
And the way that might have been peace and love, is a sad, dark way of pain.

It is our fault, and our terrible fault, that the law of the brute in men,
The brute of an ancient and far-off time, now lives and controls again;
That the law of love—'tis the law divine—is trampled within the dust,
And in none that rule in the lands of earth, can the poor and the weak have trust.

It is our fault, and our terrible fault, for we knew, yet did it not.
The greater law of God most high, and His judgment, we forgot.
For "they are beaten with many stripes" who knowing, scorn His way;
And He who heedeth the sparrow's fall, hears the weak and lowly pray.
EFFIE E. SPARKS.

UNCLE SAM'S LETTERS TO JOHN BULL.

Printed from the Original Manuscript.

Dear John: We may never be as close friends as the politicians have it; but we are a bit alike, and I am always ready to give you a plain talk and my views of things we have in common.

Do you have any combines? If you don't you will have; and I noticed the other day that some Chicago packers had got possession of terminals or something, and were keeping Irish and English butchers out of the London market.

You'll have to watch 'em, John! They did it for me. After your butchers are starved out, the rest of you won't notice it much. You'll think it is hard times due to the Boer war or the steel strike. The native butchers themselves will cry out awhile, till they are gone with the sausage; and then all will be quiet.

I am watching an interesting thing here. The politicians have given the combines full string, an' if I don't

miss my guess they are hangin' themselves. You see the fool trusts have put all their heads under one hat. Hit it anywhere, and it hurts 'em all. All the people (all the labor unions for that matter) have to do is to hit it hard enough. If they don't this time, they will. You see before it was like this: If one was tied up the others could run and supply the country, and the tied-up one alone was hurt or busted. Now, tramp on the toe and the head squeals—not right away, perhaps; but when the sensation reaches the head—stocks will tumble. Wait and see!

UNCLE SAM.

WHAT WOULD ENGLISHMEN DO IN THE BOERS' PLACE?

Editorial in the Manchester (England) Guardian of August 27.

The reply of the Boer generals to our government's last proclamation is what clear-minded persons must have feared. To foresee it one needed only to follow the old rule and put oneself in the other side's place. What, one only had to ask, would Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener do if they were at the head of an English army still desperately keeping the field against an overwhelmingly powerful invader who had advertised his intention of leaving Englishmen "no shred of independence," who had then laid waste most of the country, picked out and burnt the houses of many English soldiers in the field simply because their owners were soldiers in the field, carried off many thousands of English women and children from their homes and kept them as prisoners in unhealthy camps where an extraordinary proportion of them had died of epidemic disease and exposure—what would Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener say to a threat that if they held the enemy any longer in check they would be banished from England for life after the war, and their men charged with the expenses of setting some limits to the mortality caused among their wives and children by the enemy's own departure from the practices of honorable warfare? One need not give the answer. Everybody knows it. The question needs merely to be clearly put. But it seems as if our government, bewildered at its failure to crush an enemy whom at every turn it has armed with fresh incentives to desperate courage, were led by some freak of infatuation to do in each new set of circumstances whatever is most certain to prolong the Boer resistance and at the same

state executive committee of Ohio proposed on the 9th to the chairman of the Republican committee that all political meetings be declared off during the illness of President McKinley. The Republican chairman declined.

—Regular Sunday evening services of "The Church of Man" will begin at the Athenaeum, Chicago, on the 15th, or, as the official circulars announce, "September 15, 126th, U. S. A." Cardinal D. W. Shoudy will deliver an address of welcome, and the pastor, Dr. J. Barr, will explain the objects and principles of the sect.

—Followers of Dowie who went to Evanston on the 10th, met with a reception characteristic of that Chicago suburb. They were bombarded with eggs and unmarketable vegetables by a mob; and although the meeting was not dispersed, six windows of the cars bearing the visitors away from Evanston were broken, and some of the party were injured by missiles.

—Lyman J. Gage, secretary of the treasury, announces as a measure of relief to the stringent money market and to relieve the pressure during the movement of crops, that the government will purchase out of the sinking fund \$20,000,000 worth of bonds of all denominations and issues except the twos, and will place with the banks government deposits of \$5,000,000.

—John J. McCann, who made a long, courageous and useful fight in St. Louis for the abolition of license taxes, as inhibitions on the right to work, even serving a jail sentence rather than pay or allow his friends to pay the fine imposed upon him for carrying on his business of real estate agent without a city license (see vol. iii, pp. 244, 260), died at Eureka Springs, Ark., on the 11th.

—The monthly statement of the treasury department for August shows on hand August 31:

Gold reserve fund.....	\$150,000,000 00
Available cash balance.....	179,971,355 53
Total	\$329,971,355 53
On hand at close of last fiscal year, June 30, 1901.....	\$326,833,124 02
Increase	\$3,138,231 56

—The treasury report of receipts and expenditures of the federal government for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1901, shows the following:

Receipts:	
Tariff	\$42,726,134 40
Internal Revenue.....	50,374,975 31
Miscellaneous	4,613,356 72
	\$97,714,465 43
Expense:	
Civil and Misc.....	\$20,416,621 83
War	25,308,424 13
Navy	11,184,197 07
Indians	2,163,979 37
Pensions	25,437,164 46
Interest	7,118,701 69
	\$91,659,088 55
Surplus	\$6,055,376 88

New Resident—I think young Mr. Bower is such a model.

Old Resident—He certainly doesn't work at anything else.

C. E. L.

time to deepen the note of contempt in the outer world's comments upon our methods in South Africa.

PLENTY OF LAW ALREADY.

Probably no great harm will come from the vast amount of ignorant and foolish talk now indulged in by many people who ought to know better in regard to new penalties for anarchists.

The fact that even lawyers in all parts of the country are quoted in favor of defining an attack upon the president as treason; that other lawyers urge military trials; that congressmen and others who should be better informed propose that an *ex post facto* law should be passed covering Czolgosz's case, and the further fact that there is much clamor for immediate action by congress in various directions, all go to show that there is vast public ignorance of the law and the constitution, to say nothing of the nature of our government.

The constitution of the United States defines treason against the United States as levying war against them or in adhering to their enemies or in giving the latter aid and comfort. It also provides that no *ex post facto* law should be passed. Elsewhere it is written that cruel and unusual punishments shall not be inflicted.

There are laws enough in the United States and in every state to punish adequately every attempt against the life of any American citizen, from the highest to the humblest. The only thing that is necessary in the case of Czolgosz is that he shall be indicted, tried, convicted and punished for the crime which he committed. For all this the laws of the state of New York, and of all states, are adequate, except as to the matter of intent.

In his sober moments no intelligent citizen of the United States would undertake to open the way, even by a constitutional amendment, which would be necessary to that end, for wholesale prosecutions on the charge of treason. The history of the race shows the wisdom of the founders of this government in strictly defining the crime of treason.

It has been held for many years that our criminal laws are defective in respect to the punishment to be inflicted upon a man intent upon murder who may not accomplish his purpose. A great deal is to be said in favor of the proposition that an assassin who proceeds to his murderous business with deliberation, and who fails of his object through some fault not his own,

should receive the same penalties that would be inflicted in case death resulted by his act. If the attempt upon the life of the president shall happily prove unsuccessful the fact may induce many of the states to change their laws in this respect.

Deliberate intent to commit murder, whether the victim be the president of the United States or the humblest citizen, should be punished much more severely than it is. No other change in our laws appears to be necessary.—Editorial in Chicago Chronicle of September 11.

WHAT MAYOR JOHNSON WANTS.

Some time ago the La Crosse Press asked Mayor Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, O., to write for it a statement of what he expected to accomplish, through the county auditors of that state, in the direction of compelling the railroad companies to pay their fair share of the taxes. Mr. Johnson replied:

Answering your inquiry as to what I hoped to accomplish by appearing before the county auditors, and as to what I did accomplish, I will say that I hoped to arouse the taxpayers to a realization of the fact that the railroads of the state were not paying their just share of the taxes, and think I did. I presented indisputable evidence that railroad property was being appraised for them at 5 to 18 per cent. of its true value in money, while other property—I refer particularly to residence and farm property—was appraised at from 60 to 100 per cent.—in some instances even more than 100 per cent.

I did not expect to persuade the county auditors to appraise railroad property as the constitution of the state and their oaths of office required them to do, for I knew they were dominated by the powerful influences of the railway corporations. The conduct of the auditors from start to finish was a corroboration of this fact. I pointed out that the returns made by the railroads were incomplete and dishonest, and I pleaded with them to call in the officials of these roads, as the law says they may do, and put them under oath for the purpose of examining them as to the correctness of the returns. This they refused to do.

Most, if not all, the auditors rode on passes issued by the roads, to assess which they were gathered together, and in many instances the auditors conferred with the officials of the railroads before assembling. Comment on these facts is almost unnecessary. They were shown up by reports made by the city detectives, who were put on the trails of the auditors, and by the admissions which we forced from the auditors themselves. No one will deny that an auditor who accepts a pass from a railway corporation is morally incompetent to make an honest appraisal of that company's property for taxation; particularly is that true when the railroads maintain expensive and powerful lobbies in the legislature to prevent the enactment of laws that will put their property, for tax purposes, on the same basis as other prop-

erty in the state, and by judicious distribution of favors corrupt our public officials—even judges on the bench. The proceedings of these meetings, through the columns of the daily newspapers, were brought forcibly to the minds of the people.

A steam railroad is worth just what it will sell for, the same as any other property. It will sell for just what its stocks and bonds will bring in the open market. The law says that all property shall be assessed for its true value in money, but county auditors have made an arbitrary rule that all property shall be placed on the duplicate for 60 per cent. of its true value in money—all property except steam railroads and other public service corporations. By some means which we could not learn, and the auditors themselves could not explain, they assessed railroad property on a different basis. If you remember, I asked our own auditor, Mr. Craig, to tell me what method was employed, and he answered: "I don't know that we have any, and how we do arrive at the value I don't know." As a matter of fact, he couldn't nor could any of his colleagues. There was no method. They simply guessed—guessed away thousands of dollars of the people's money. It wouldn't have been worse had they broken open and looted the counties' strong boxes.

The railroads in Ohio to-day are dishonestly escaping payment on over \$500,000,000 worth of property. Will the people permit this? They will not in my opinion. I offer the prediction that from the disclosures made from these meetings there will grow a sentiment that will sweep Ohio from end to end and overwhelm these men with shame and disgrace. Had the railroads yielded even a little they would have made the harder the work which is to come. We will go into the courts to set aside this dishonest appraisal, and we will go before the state board at Columbus and demand that all railroad property be raised to the same plane as other taxable property. If justice is denied us there we will appeal to the higher courts.

The grand and final battle will come when the people become aroused. The people are not easily stirred up, but when they are, something must give way. They are beginning to see the outrageous injustice in the present inequitable valuation of taxable property, and when the proper time comes they will rise up and demand that there be a change, and, in my opinion, there will be a change and that soon. The men elected to carry out the laws will do it honestly and with partiality to none, or the people will sweep them from their high places into the jails and penitentiaries or the eternal oblivion of private life.

What Mayor Johnson is endeavoring to accomplish in Ohio needs also to be accomplished in Iowa, for here as there officials whose pockets are filled with corporation favors discriminate in favor of railroad property by taxing it at one-tenth while taxing other property at one-fourth of its value, thus compelling the many to pay more than they would if values were assessed as the law of the state and justice require. In the Hawkeye as in the Buckeye state equality of taxation will be the leading issue of this year's campaign.—Dubuque Telegraph.