

low-salaried clerkships in banks, stores and trusts, for each of which there are scores of applicants. There are five times as many lawyers and doctors as can find employment, and in consequence thereof prices have risen so high that clients cannot afford the luxury of professional service, and patients prefer to die without a doctor to facilitate their exit. As to the ministry, there are opportunities for starving in mission work, but not much prospect of a competence for a family.

The existing conditions doom the youth of both sexes to lives of perpetual celibacy, and happy homes are denied to all except to those who inherit wealth. Those who have voted for McKinley have voted to make these conditions permanent, and their children and their children's children may have reason to deplore the day of their birth and to regard their involuntary entrance into life as the greatest of misfortunes. They may be condemned to lives of poverty, toil and suffering and denied the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, claimed as inalienable in the Declaration of Independence. If they have life it may be without hope; if liberty, it may be to labor for a pittance barely sufficient to support existence, and although happiness may be pursued it may not be overtaken. The people, through the ballot, could apply the remedy for these evils, but how can the people be enlightened when the press is owned by their enemies and all avenues of correct information closed against them? Ye fools and blind, must starvation overtake you before you will realize your condition and apply the remedy?

#### PROGRESS OF HENRY GEORGE'S IDEA.

An editorial in the Kansas City Star of March 3.

If Henry George could only have lived to see the time when the great state of Colorado was seriously contemplating the adoption of a tax on land values he would probably have been willing, as was the just and devout Simeon, to depart in peace.

A remarkable change in public sentiment has taken place since the unknown California printer put forth his book, "Progress and Poverty," more than 20 years ago. At that time he was regarded as a dangerous man by all conservative people who did not look on him simply as an idle dreamer. His opinions were misrepresented and his book was violently attacked by many persons who had not taken the trouble to read it. It was popularly supposed

that he advocated dividing up the land among all the people. On this supposition a man of straw was set up again and again to be bowled over contemptuously by scores of magazine writers.

Gradually it became known that Mr. George's plan was not so theoretical and revolutionary after all. It was found to be simply a question of taxation. He did not favor a division of the land. He only urged that the value of unimproved land arising from the presence of society should be taken to pay the necessary expenses of the community. He was so far from being a socialist that he believed it was unjust to deprive a man of any of the product of his labor. The present system of taxation, he pointed out, really penalized the enterprising man whose work produced wealth for the community. His plan was to exempt all the product of labor from taxation and to make the "unearned increment" of land values bear the whole burden.

At the time of his death, four years ago, Mr. George's doctrine had made little visible progress in the United States. He had won many converts, but they had been unable to accomplish anything practical. Of late the propaganda has received a powerful impetus from the admitted failure of the personal property tax. It has become more and more apparent that some change in the taxation system is inevitable. The franchise tax has come as the first break from the old plan. Its theory is directly in line with the views of Henry George. Now Colorado has investigated the workings of the land tax in Australasia and is contemplating introducing the system. If it does so and the experiment proves satisfactory, other states will be tempted to follow its example.

#### OUR NEW AMERICAN CIVILIZATION ON THE WARPATH.

For The Public.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat of February 27, 1901, furnishes a fresh illustration of the way imperialism deadens the human heart to impulses of truth and humanity. In an editorial headed "Just as Predicted," the Globe-Democrat announces that the Philippine war is over, now that McKinley is reelected. But in its news columns of the same issue (February 27) appears a special dispatch containing this paragraph:

Nearly all the officers of the American army who have served here in the Chinese campaign have also served in the Philippines, and they are unanimous in the statement \* \* \* that the natives of the Philippines will not be conquered in 50 years.

The Globe-Democrat's correspondent adds, however, that it is our "humane policy" which keeps the "insurrection" alive and urges the adoption of the "vigorous" policy now being pursued in China. In order that no mistake may be made as to what is meant by a "vigorous" policy, he says:

The troops of the allies shot every man, woman and child in sight during hostilities, pillaged every village on the line of march and looted every house of anything of value it contained. Whenever any city or town offered armed resistance it was burned after being looted, and charred timbers, fallen walls and stupendous heaps of brick and stone stretching in every direction farther than you can see are all that mark the lines of former streets, of business houses and dwellings. None were spared, especially in the districts where the Russians, Germans and French did the looting.

Millions of dollars in gold and silver bars, called "sishes," were looted from the banks, mints, business houses and dwellings. \* \* \* Months after complete peace has been restored the Russians, Germans and French, in the district they control in Peking, are committing barbarities on the Chinese that would put an Apache Indian to shame. Even now private dwellings are being looted by private soldiers of those armies in such a manner that the officers cannot fail to know it, and there are well authenticated cases of beating and murder where resistance was made.

My own opinion is that the widespread destruction and violence that were part of the invasion of the allies, and even the looting, was a lesson much needed to the Chinese to the effect that the foreign devil, like the worm, will turn. I believe there will be less loss of life and less suffering in the end for the very violence of the first assault by the powers.

Here we have the correspondent of a great republican paper advocating "barbarities that would put an Apache Indian to shame"—because without such barbarities ("unless we pursue in the Philippines the allies' policy in China") "the Filipinos will not be conquered for 50 years!"

Three years ago the republican press of the United States looked with horror upon "Butcher Weyler," yet Weyler never committed half the atrocities which imperialists now openly say the United States must commit in order to force the "blessings of liberty" upon the Filipinos.

LEE MERIWETHER.

#### A LETTER FROM THE PHILIPPINES.

An extract from a letter written by W. A. Whitman, troop A, Eleventh cavalry, from Pagsanghan, Laguna province, Luzon, under date of Dec. 9, to his sister, Mrs. H. C. Garten, as published in Newton (Kan.) Weekly Journal.

We have been at this camp since May; will probably stay here until