

THE PROPOSED PHILIPPINE TARIFF LAW.

The bill provides that the tariff law enacted by the United States Philippine commission on September 1, 1901, shall be and remain in full force and effect; that there shall be levied, collected and paid upon all articles imported into the United States from the Philippine archipelago the rates of duty which are required to be levied, collected and paid upon like articles imported from foreign countries; that the duties and taxes collected in the Philippine archipelago in pursuance of this act, less the cost of collecting the same and the gross amount of all collections of duties and taxes in the United States upon articles imported from the Philippine archipelago and upon vessels coming therefrom, shall not be covered into the general fund of the treasury of the United States, but shall be held as a separate fund and paid into the treasury of the Philippine islands to be used and expended for the government and benefit of said islands.

Let every man who reads this bill sit down and think it out for himself. Think for himself and he will see how much profound wisdom it takes to be a congressman; he will see how much it will cost, when we try to subvert natural law. For man is a trading animal, and the Philippines may have a surplus of some things that our citizens may want to exchange for our surplus of other forms of wealth. Now the natural law would let both parties make the exchange without any fines or restrictions whatever.

But see what this "whim" of congress proposes to do. If it was not for the principle of the thing it would make us laugh it off as a joke. Yet it is a serious joke, and will force the citizens of the United States—proper—to pay a tariff tax on all goods they may buy of our Filipino subjects. Now the extra price we must pay on account of the tariff on goods imported from the Philippines does not go into the treasury of the United States at all but is sent over to the Philippines to be used in making good roads, building school houses, erecting bridges, paying high salaries and making other internal improvements. Just as if we had all the good roads, school houses, bridges and internal improvements we needed ourselves.

What would the people of Kansas say if a democratic legislature had the power and would pass a law forcing the citizens of Kansas to pay a 50 per cent. tariff tax on all goods imported into the state, and, instead of putting the money thus obtained from tariff taxes into the state treasury, send it back to the different states from which the goods came

on which the obnoxious tariff tax had been paid. Of course such a foolish act would be a pretty good thing for some of the people of other states, but would it not be a little rough on the citizens of Kansas?

The Philippine tariff bill about to pass congress is of this kind; it will be a pretty good thing for some of the people in the Philippines, and a little hard on us fellows living on this side who must work a little harder to get Philippine tariff-taxed goods. And who will it benefit in the Philippines? The man who has only his labor to sell? Will it enable such as he to get a living any easier? Not at all. If it did we might feel that the extra price we were forced to pay did some good, by making it easier for the "poor" Filipino to get a living. But such will not be the case by any means.

All the money, let it be much or little, paid by citizens of the United States on goods imported from the Philippines, the amount being sent to those islands to be expended on internal improvements, the benefit, all the benefit, will accrue to the friars and other land monopolist owners of franchises to be granted and other special privileged classes. That is the natural law. True everywhere. The more money we are forced to send to the islands the more valuable will be the Philippine monopolies and other special privileges that under a just government should bear the burdens of state. It will be robbing the many in the United States—proper—for the benefit of a few men in the Philippines.—R T. Snediker, in Kansas City World.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

AT A SESSION OF THE BOARD OF PARDONS.

Quite a few of the applicants sought to gain favor by announcing to the mayor that they had voted for him. Mr. Johnson was manifestly displeased at this, and showed an inclination to return the men to prison at once.

One of the first applications to be considered was that of Eli Dennis, better known as "Frenchy," the little old man who was the proprietor of the numerous Canal street hovels which have recently been torn down by the building inspector. He was arrested on Thanksgiving day for having purchased ten cents' worth of stolen coal, and received a sentence of \$25, costs, and 30 days. "Frenchy" was very nervous, and his utterance was extremely shaky. After asking him sev-

eral questions Mayor Johnson was about to grant the application, when "Frenchy" volunteered the information:

"I voted for you last spring, mayor," as if he thought that would surely decide matters in his favor.

"I am sorry you told me that," said Mayor Johnson, dropping the pen with which he was about to affix his signature to the pardon paper. "We never pardon men who voted for me.

At this point "Frenchy" became almost tearful in his supplication.

"If we let you out will you promise not to vote for me again?"

"Yes, your honor, indeed I'll promise that," stammered "Frenchy," amidst roars of laughter from the spectators.

"Then I guess we'll have to let you out," replied the mayor, signing the pardon.

One of the 374 John Smiths on the police records was an applicant for pardon. He had received a sentence of \$25, costs, and 30 days on a charge of petit larceny, it being charged that he had stolen some carpenter's tools from an unfinished barn.

"What's your real name?" asked the mayor.

"I'm the real John Smith," was the response.

Detective Rowlands here stated that the tool thief was a common variety of criminal, and a very despicable variety, inasmuch as he deprives workmen of the ability to earn their living. Mayor Johnson was inclined to agree with Rowlands. Seeing the tide was evidently turning against him, the real John Smith declared that he was one of the mayor's most enthusiastic supporters last spring.

"That settles it," said Mr. Johnson, "the pardon is not granted," and the real John Smith was led back behind the bars.—Cleveland Plain Dealer, of Jan. 10.

SENATOR M'LAURIN'S NEW DOCTRINE.

For The Public.

That eminent Republican, Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, is credited with saying, at the recent annual dinner of the New York city chamber of commerce, that henceforth all political considerations, both at home and abroad, must be subordinated to the demands of trade.

We have so long listened to administration hypocrisy that we thank the senator for so much honesty. But the doctrine he announces is one whose principles, if applied to his private conduct, would be apt to land him in the penitentiary. For even the utilitarian idea that honesty is