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Whatever may be the source of the new cartoon paper, *The Verdict*, its first number is refreshing in at least one respect. The leading cartoons have both humor and point, two qualities which one seldom sees any more in the cartoons of either Judge or Puck.

Should the proposed army reorganization bill become a law, it would make several hundred vacancies in the rank of second lieutenant, to be filled by the president from either civil or military life. If, then, that bill doesn't go through with more or less of a patriotic hurrah, it will be because the president and a majority of congress can't come to an understanding on the subject of sons and nephews.

The young Queen Wilhelmina is determined to be something more than a picturesque figurehead in the Netherlands government, so it is reported, she having given orders that all business of importance be sent direct to her. It is her daily custom, the report goes on to say, to inspect the business before her cabinet, and to confer with her ministers. This news must be depressing to anti-woman suffragists in America. If Queen Wilhelmina thus insists upon participating in such masculine employments, whatever will become of her domestic duties?

If the state auditor of Ohio carries out his announced intention of suing the sugar trust for taxes on sugar sales in Ohio, some of the water will be squeezed out of sugar stock.

When the Ohio senate investigated the sugar trust, it seems that its investigating committee discovered by legal testimony that the trust had long refused to sell sugar direct to merchants. Its plan is to make them its agents. They return to the trust the entire proceeds of their sugar, and the trust remits them a percentage as commission. (These facts, so the attorney-general of the state advises, make the trust liable in taxes for five years past, upon all the sugar sold in Ohio.

With the new year the justices of the supreme court of New York are to clothe themselves while on duty with silk frocks. The change is defended on the ground that it will add dignity to the bench, but quite as distinctly, it would seem, upon the ground, as the *New York Evening Post* approvingly puts it, that it will separate judges "more distinctly from the people upon whom they sit in judgment." "It is especially desirable," says the *Post*, "that our judges should be regarded as holding a position not only aloof from the mass of the people, but above them." This, of course, to inspire the mass of the people with respect for the judicial office. But wouldn't judges inspire the mass of the people with respect for the judicial office more by holding themselves "not only aloof from," "but above," the wealthy pirates in whose society they are so often found, and for whom they sometimes strain a point, than by disguising themselves in old ladies' dressing robes?

It is reported that the European conference on the subject of anarchy, which is suspended over the holidays, has reached an agreement upon one point, the pith of which is that there shall be an international police bureau for anarchists. As the confer-

ence has met in secret session, this report may be unfounded; but it has at least the color of probability. Assuming it to be true, we have now only to wait for the definition of an anarchist, upon which the conference appears so far to have floundered. Then we shall see what we shall see. Should the definition exclude speakers, writers and organizers against continental tyranny, there would be no "anarchists" to operate upon, except an occasional lunatic; if on the other hand they be included, which is what the originators of the conference wish, the English and Swiss governments will find themselves in pretty business. Hunting down the present day Kossuths and Mazzinis who seek an asylum from the vengeance of crowned cut-throats will not be apt to meet the hearty approval of the English and Swiss people. Upon the best information as yet attainable this is appreciated by the English and Swiss delegates.

The object of the administration in sending American troops to Iloilo is transparent; the act itself was without justification, even technically.

President McKinley had no more right, moral or legal, to send troops to Iloilo in December of the present year than he would have had to do so twelve months ago. The place is wholly outside of American jurisdiction. No claim to jurisdiction can be based upon the Paris treaty; for that is still unratified, and is therefore, not a treaty at all. The present status of the Philippine islands must be determined, then, so far as our relation to them is concerned, by the protocol of last August, which confines the authority of the United States in the Philippines to the city, bay and harbor of Manila,

in the island of Luzon. Over the distant island of Panay, where Iloilo is situated, the protocol confers upon the United States no authority whatever.

Had a foreign nation undertaken to capture Iloilo pending the negotiations between Spain and the United States, we might properly have regarded its interference as a cause of war. But the Philippine republic is not foreign to the Philippine islands. It represents the native people who for 60 years have been battling to throw off the Spanish yoke, and who were in open insurrection against Spanish authority even when Dewey's fleet sailed into Manila bay. There was nothing in our state of war with Spain, anymore than in the protocol under which hostilities are suspended pending treaty negotiations, to warrant us in interfering with that insurrection. Both upon mere technicality, and upon the broad principles of civilized intercourse among peoples, it was our duty, everywhere in the islands except in the city and harbor and upon the bay of Manila, to leave the insurgents alone.

If the insurgents, left to themselves, had succeeded in dislodging Spain from any of the islands, and in establishing there the jurisdiction of the republic, then to that extent any cession by Spain to us, subsequently ratified, would have been void. She can cede nothing beyond her jurisdiction. Of this our imperial administration was of course well aware. And that is the reason why, without any legal or moral justification, the president ordered Gen. Otis to take possession of Iloilo. For three weeks troops of the Philippine republic had been besieging the city, and it was about to fall when the president's order was given. Hence the order. At all hazards the native republic was to be prevented from embarrassing our imperialists by establishing itself in undisputed authority over any one of the islands before the ratification of the Spanish treaty ced-

ing all the islands to us. But the embarrassment cannot be escaped. Mr. McKinley's order was given too late. Before Gen. Otis had dispatched a soldier to Panay, probably while the president's order was still upon the wires, the Spanish at Iloilo surrendered the city to their insurgent conquerors.

We have yet to learn whether the insurgents will meekly give up the city of Iloilo to the American invaders, who have no right—military, civil or moral—to demand it. If they refuse, it will then remain to be seen whether the administration will put this country in the humiliatingly absurd position of making a war of conquest upon the native republic. The Iloilo episode will probably give Mr. McKinley a full and fair opportunity to test the sincerity of his declaration that "forcible annexation" is by our code of morality "criminal aggression."

Many straws in the air show the wind to be blowing hard in the direction of municipal control of municipal businesses. In Duluth bids are now being received for a telephone exchange, the successful bidder to agree not only to pay a percentage of gross earnings to the city, but to submit to municipal regulation of rates. At a town meeting at Mayville, N. D., the citizens have decided to refuse a private franchise for electric lighting, and to gather information on the cost of that kind of lighting with a view to installing and operating a municipal plant. Sentiment in favor of public ownership is still more pronounced in Vancouver, B. C., where the city council is seeking to buy the electric railway. The obstacle is an English syndicate which is maneuvering to combine and control all the electric railway systems in the province of British Columbia. It is in Detroit, however, that the most advanced steps in the direction of public ownership have been actually taken. In the council of that city the committee on charter and city legislation recommended a legislative bill on the 20th

which would empower the council to "build, construct, equip, maintain and operate a street railway" upon any streets where no company has existing franchise rights.

The report to the Detroit council was based upon a resolution of the council, which had been referred to the committee. This resolution asked the committee to draft such a bill for introduction in the legislature; and the committee in presenting the bill in compliance with the resolution, reported that after careful consideration and consultation with the corporation counsel, it recommended that the local representatives in the legislature "be requested to do all in their power to secure the passage of the bill." From this report, so emphatic in favor of municipal ownership, only one member of the committee dissented. He was Louis E. Tossey. But Mr. Tossey dissented, not because of any objection to public ownership in itself. On the contrary, he explicitly approved the principle of municipal ownership. What he objected to was the neglect of the proposed bill to provide that the expense of construction and operation be paid from land values. "Under this bill," he argued, "bonds would be issued, and the people's houses and personal property would be taxed to pay the bonds, while the land values, largely escaping the expense of the street car lines, would be increased and then absorbed by the owners of the land."

This contention of the Detroit councilman, Mr. Tossey, is supported in an unexpected quarter. No less an authority than the Chicago Tribune argues that street improvements add to the value of the contiguous lots. To be sure, the Tribune is not trying to prove a case for Councilman Tossey, of Detroit. But it makes no difference what kind of case it is trying to prove. The important consideration is its argument, not its conclusion. And in the course of its argument the Tribune says: "The rental paid by tenants depends large-

ly on the condition of the streets the property fronts on. If those streets are kept in good condition, clean and well paved, the rents are higher. Where the streets are in bad condition the rents are lower and the tenants do less business." This is the very principle to which Councilman Tossey appeals when he asks that the owners of property thus increased in value by improvements be required to meet the expense of the improvements, out of the higher rents which the improvements enable them to exact of their tenants. He objects to taxing the tenants to make public improvements, and then allowing lot owners to tax them over again for enjoying them.

But lot owners in cities are full of devices for turning the pecuniary benefits of public improvements into their own pockets, while at the same time forcing other people, often the poorer classes of people, to meet the expense of the improvements by some indirect tax. After they have done this, they speak of themselves as "the tax-payers," and look down as from a lofty height upon the victims of indirect taxation as "persons who pay no taxes." Is there not a bit of insolence in that?

An instance in point is the recommendation of City Treasurer Bollow, of Milwaukee, for the payment of the city debt. Premising that out of a population of 280,000 only 18,000 are tax payers, and that of these some 3,000 pay but a trifle, thus throwing the burden of maintaining the city government upon 15,000 persons, he suggests that the city debt be lifted from the shoulders of those 15,000 "tax payers" by giving the street car companies a franchise for 25 years with a five-cent fare, in consideration of their paying into the city treasury half a cent of each fare collected. If applied to the city debt, this fund thus collected would wipe it out, so Mr. Bollow estimates, in 25 years. That is his plan for making "non-tax payers" help support the city. Instead of reducing car-

fares to 4½ cents he would leave them at five cents and take one-half cent into the public treasury. In that way he would levy a tax of half a cent a head upon everybody, but principally upon "non-tax-payers," every time they rode upon a street car; and then he would immediately forget that they had become tax payers. For does he not forget that they are tax payers already, though taxes are taken from them in large sums in similar manner. The entire population of Milwaukee pays taxes now. But as most of these taxes are paid indirectly—in the rent of houses, in the prices of food, and so on, just as Mr. Bollow proposes that still further taxes shall be paid in car fares—the majority of the population are classified as non-tax payers, precisely as they would still be classified after Mr. Bollow had taxed them half a cent for car rides in order to pay off the city debt. Then, as now, he would let you think the burden of maintaining the city government falls upon only 15,000 people!

The plan of allowing street car companies to retain five-cent fares, on condition of paying, say, ten per cent. of gross receipts over to the city—which is understood to be Mayor Harrison's notion of settling the street car question of Chicago for the next 25 or 30 years—is precisely the same in principle, and it would be essentially the same in effect, as the half-a-cent-a-fare tax proposed by Treasurer Bollow, of Milwaukee. It is a scheme for taxing the great mass of the community for the benefit of lot owners. And, like Bollow's plan, this gross receipts plan derives its plausibility from the argument that it would compel non-tax payers to help support the city. But that argument is too weak to stand alone. That a 4½-cent fare would yield much more than a reasonable profit is evident. That it would at least yield a reasonable profit is clear, if the companies could afford to pay a tax on gross receipts of ten per cent.; for ten per cent. on gross receipts would

leave a net fare of 4½ cents. Mayor Harrison's ten per cent. tax, therefore, would be equivalent to the Milwaukee proposition—4½-cent fare to the companies and half a cent to the city. It would be equivalent, that is to say, to levying upon every patron of the Chicago street car system a tax of half a cent a ride.

Under such a system Chicago would be taxing nearly all the hard-working poor of the city, for they ride on the street cars at least twice a day—the sum of one cent a day for the support of the city. The shop girl, for instance, out of her meager weekly pay of six dollars or less, would be taxed by the city some \$3.65 a year—more than half her total income of a week. And after she had paid this heavy tax—in addition to the other taxes that are already taken from her in the same indirect way—the lot owners of Chicago, whose tax burdens were thereby to that extent further reduced, would still have the hardihood to classify her as a person who pays no taxes!

It is primarily to frustrate Mayor Harrison's thinly concealed design to extend the street car franchises of Chicago for a long term with five-cent fares, upon the payment of a gross receipts tax, which would be in reality a head tax upon street car passengers, that ex-Gov. Altgeld has allowed his name to be used as a candidate for mayor upon the issue of public ownership. Nomination petitions are circulating, and a systematic organization of "family groups" for educational purposes is being made in the voting districts of the city. The ex-governor is known as one of the best organizers in Illinois, and more than once he has come out victorious from what had seemed a forlorn hope. That there is a widespread and profound sentiment in Chicago in favor of public ownership, a sentiment which, if organized, would sweep everything before it, is quite certain; and Altgeld is the one man to organize it quickly and effectively. His brain teems with

novel devices, and his spirit never flags. And though he will have all the daily papers but one against him, the mere fact that he has consented to lead the fight against a corrupt city administration and in favor of municipal ownership has spread consternation among the rings and combines.

The most plausible objection to public ownership, which Altgeld supports, is municipal corruption, which he is fighting. If our city governments are confessedly so rotten, it is urged, why give them other fields to exploit? This objection is indeed impressive. But there is nothing in it, as a moment's reflection will show. Municipal ownership of street car lines would not much increase aldermanic patronage. Street car employes are even now credited to aldermen as truly as post office employes were ever credited to members of congress. An alderman who keeps himself "solid" with the street car ring can always obtain appointments up to his quota. The street railroads are now as fruitful a field for spoils as any city department. They are far more dangerous. For the people, if they wish to, may bring the city departments wholly under a civil service system; but they have no control over a private street railway company which wants favors of the council. Street car systems would be as free from spoils under public as they are under private ownership; and they could be made freer. Not only that, but the character of councilmen would be vastly improved under municipal ownership of street rights. The owners of street franchises and those who seek such franchises constitute the one great corrupting influence of the time. But for them, corrupt councilmen would have nobody to bribe them. And if there were nobody to bribe councilmen, corrupt men would not aspire to that position. It is the "plums" that tempt low-grade men to take city office; and there would be no "plums" if private ownership of streets were abolished.

Public ownership involves the abolition of private privileges in the public streets, not the establishment of new functions of government. The streets belong to the government, to begin with. No one can use them exclusively for any purpose without first obtaining permission from the government. To the government, therefore, and not to private individuals or corporations, primarily belongs the function of controlling any business which needs exclusive street rights. It is therein that the street car business differs from the grocery business. The latter needs no exclusive franchise from the government; the former cannot be carried on without such a franchise. If government grants a street franchise, then, it farms out a function of its own; if it abolishes the franchise, or upon its expiration refuses to grant another, it assumes no new function, but only resumes an old one.

In that view of the matter, Gov. Altgeld, by making a campaign for public ownership, merely asks that the city of Chicago return to first principles. But his campaign evidently has more than a local significance. If inferences from palpable facts are worth anything, Gov. Altgeld aims not only to restore the public control of her streets to Chicago, but also at the same time to defeat a deep-laid scheme for the abrogation at the next democratic convention of the Chicago platform. That he contemplates national as well as local issues is evident from the nominating name he has adopted—"Municipal Ownership and Chicago Platform."

The situation which Altgeld confronts is peculiar. Mayor Harrison is a party democrat. He and his supporters are to Chicago what Croker and Tammany hall are to New York, except that they are not so shrewd. He is publicly committed in respect to local affairs to prevent a 50-years extension of the street railroad charters; but he is not committed either in favor of public ownership or against

a long extension period, provided it be less than 50 years and in consideration of some concession in the way of taxes. On the question of public ownership, he declares himself in favor of it, but not now; nor at the expiration of the present franchises; but at the expiration of the extended franchise to be granted, provided the people then want it. It is generally understood that he would approve a 25-year extension with five-cent farce in consideration of a ten per cent. tax on gross receipts; and Altgeld believes that he intends to invite some such proposition from the companies, which would be entirely satisfactory to them, and so, with an appearance of having defeated the companies, give them in reality what they want. The ex-governor believes also that the newspapers of Chicago, which, with the exception of the Democrat and Dispatch, are so organized as to act as a unit in any emergency, and which with only the same exception—unless the Inter Ocean, Yerkes's paper, be another—are owned or controlled by men whose financial interests are identical with the mayor's, will support the mayor when the moment arrives for effecting a "fake" compromise with the companies. This is his motive for raising the local issue of municipal ownership. But evidently he further believes that the newspaper-Harrison combination, with the aid of the prestige which Harrison would gain by reelection and his spurious victory over the street car ring, aims to thrust him into the leadership of the democratic party in Illinois, to the end that he, in combination with Croker, of New York, may control the next democratic convention and wipe away the Chicago platform.

Gov. Altgeld would be justified in this belief. Though the newspapers, with two exceptions, are republican, their owners or controllers are all—except in the case of the Democrat and Dispatch—nevertheless, opposed to the Chicago platform and interested in its abrogation. At the same time none of them is especially inter-

ested in electing a republican mayor of Chicago. Harrison as mayor would answer all the local purposes of the newspaper trust quite as well as a republican, may be better; and in that position, with all the patronage it commands, he might be able to "fix up" the Illinois delegation against the Chicago platform, and with the aid of Croker restore the Flowers and Whitneys and Gormans to power in the democratic party. Anyone familiar with local political conditions will not be in the least surprised to learn that Gov. Altgeld believes in the conspiracy we have outlined, nor that his belief is thoroughly well founded. Harrison's reelection to the mayoralty of Chicago next spring would doubtless be a menace to the democracy of the national democratic party.

When the New England cotton mills shut down, upon the very crest of the McKinley-Dingley wave of prosperity, and threw an army of operatives out of employment, the protection organs were startled, but lost no time in explaining this unfortunate misconnection between Mr. McKinley's promise and his performance. They explained that the labor of New England had come into competition with the cheaper labor of the south. Cotton factories had been erected in the south, where colored labor could be had at wages so much lower than New England operatives demanded, that New England manufacturers were forced to offer and New England operatives must be content to accept reduced pay. That could not have been a very cheerful explanation to New England operatives, who had voted for McKinley with the distinct understanding that a vote for him was a vote for opening instead of closing mills. They must have wondered what difference it could make to them, if wages were reduced, whether the reduction was caused by American "pauper" labor or European "pauper" labor.

But facts are now pressing to the front which show that Mr. McKin-

ley cannot keep the mills open even in the south, where labor is so cheap as to have thrown New England operatives out of their jobs. Some five weeks ago the southern cotton manufacturers reduced wages, and the operatives in two Georgia and two South Carolina mills refused to accept the reduction. They went on strike. In two Augusta mills, however, the cut was submitted to. But now those mills have shut down. The reason is given by the Associated Press report of the 25th, from Augusta, which says: "Because of an agreement entered into by the Southern Manufacturers' association, the last-named mills were compelled to close down in order to force the striking operatives in the other mills to return to work." The shut down occurred on Christmas eve. So New England and southern cotton operatives had all day Christmas, to say nothing of the rest of the holiday week, for reflection upon the manner in which protection protects workingmen.

Yet protection does protect. The Southern Manufacturers' association makes no complaint. It reduces wages at will; and, protected by specific tariff duties on cotton cloth, ranging from one cent per square yard to eight cents, and by ad valorem duties ranging from 25 per cent. to 40, it can shut down without risking competition from abroad. That is what protection is for, and it works excellently well. Its greatest success has been in the tin plate industry. To increase the wages of American workingmen by introducing into this country a new industry, heavy protective duties were imposed upon foreign tin plate. American tin plate mills were thereby enabled to undersell the Welshmen, because the latter could not deliver any tin to American consumers unless the consumers paid the high tariff duties in addition to the foreign price of the tin. Consequently a tin plate industry was built up in this country. And now that it is built up, the upbuilders

have formed the most perfect trust ever known. They control 95 per cent. of the tariff-fostered mills. But the benefit of all this to American workingmen is not yet visible. When they buy tin, they must pay an exorbitant price for it; and when they want a job, they must take reduced wages. For the tin plate trust, through its power to shut down without risking foreign competition, dictates wages when it hires workmen as well as prices when it sells tin plate.

It is a curious fact that advocates of limiting voting rights to the "intelligent" should object to direct legislation on the ground that only a small proportion of the voting population would participate. Yet that is the principal objection they make to the initiative and the referendum. With excruciating zeal they gather election figures to show that whenever constitutional amendments are submitted to popular vote the vote is invariably small in comparison with that cast for candidates. Attention is called, for example, to the fact that in South Dakota at the last election "not much over half the men who felt interest enough in who should be the executive for the next two years to go to the polls, cared sufficiently about a permanent change in the very framework of the government itself to express an opinion one way or another." The quotation is from the New York Evening Post, which is a believer in limiting the voting right to the "intelligent," and it goes on to point out in respect to other constitutional changes what it calls "the same lack of interest in issues as compared with men." But all this should make the advocates of restricting suffrage to the "intelligent," if they are sincere in their arguments upon that point, especially urgent advocates of direct legislation. It would disfranchise the unintelligent.

The voter who takes an interest in abstract issues may be credited with some civic intelligence. Of course those who agree in every particular with the omniscient gentlemen who

believe in restricting the suffrage to the "intelligent," are more intelligent than those who disagree with them. That is taken for granted. Nevertheless, interest in abstract public questions, even on the wrong side, is evidence of some intelligence. It is evidence of exceptional intelligence. And we seriously doubt if the conventional test of voting intelligence—ability to read a clause of the constitution—is quite equal to that of an active interest in abstract public questions. Direct legislation, then, would be an automatic disfranchiser of the unintelligent. Voters who cared nothing about laws, but were interested only in candidates, would stay away from the polls when laws were to be directly initiated by or referred to the people. They would thus sit in judgment upon their own intelligence and would disfranchise themselves voluntarily. What better device could be desired for securing an intelligent voting body? Yet the advocates of "intelligence" at the polls overlook this great virtue which inheres in direct legislation.

#### SILVER COINAGE AND LABOR.

A reader who disagrees with the opinion expressed in my recent article in *The Public*, that free coinage would be injurious rather than beneficial to our industrial classes, requests my reasons for this opinion. As the opinion has been formed only after careful and somewhat extended investigation, the reasons for its adoption may perhaps be of interest also to others who have been lead to consider free coinage a remedy for the deplorable conditions which exist.

A wise physician before prescribing for a physical ill, seeks first to correctly diagnose the case. Otherwise any remedy he might prescribe would be more likely to aggravate than to cure the malady. The same rule holds true as to social ills. We must first discover the cause of the trouble, and then find a remedy that will remove the cause. Otherwise we are more likely to make things worse than to make them better.

It is commonly maintained by advocates of free coinage that at the dictation of the money power silver was demonetized in 1873, one-half of the world's money being thereby destroyed; and that the result has been a disastrous fall in prices, which has enriched the few and impoverished the many. Gold, we are told, has so increased in purchase power that the lender of money in 1873, who receives his pay at the present time, gets back money worth double that which he lent.

Much of the misunderstanding of this question comes from misuse of terms. Just as we say in common parlance that the sun rises and sets, when we do not mean that at all, so we say that a Gould, a Vanderbilt or a Rockefeller is the possessor of so many millions or hundreds of millions of dollars, when if we but stop to consider we must admit that their wealth does not consist of money, but of lands or franchises valued at that many millions of dollars. We find also that the one whom we commonly term a lender of money is really a lender of capital, money being only a medium of exchange; and that the borrower in paying interest is really paying for the use of the capital which the borrowed money has been used to exchange. We find also that the largest borrowers of capital have been the wealthy class—the owners of franchises—and that they have been not impoverished but enriched through borrowing.

In 1873 A borrows \$1,000 and with it purchases a lot in some growing center of trade. The payment coming due in five years, at the end of that period he gives a mortgage on the lot, which has more than doubled in value, and thereafter renews the mortgage every five years until in 1890 he sells the lot for several times what he paid for it and pays off the mortgage. The lender of the money then gets back money that will purchase perhaps twice as many commodities as it would have done in 1870. He can buy two suits of clothes for the same price that he would have formerly paid for one. But if he wishes to invest his money in land, it will not go half as far as when he first lent it. And if he lends it again, he is able to do so only at a greatly reduced rate of interest.

Now, if this lender's money, or

more properly capital, will bring him a much smaller rate of interest, and will not exchange for one-half as much of that property which constitutes by far the largest proportion of the property not only of the United States but of the world, what truth can there be in the statement that his money has doubled in purchase power? The purchase power of money can be ascertained only by comparing it with every species of property which it is used to purchase.

As to the supply of money, we find that instead of a contraction there has been an enormous expansion.

The fact that the great increase in the supply of money has not been followed by a rise in prices of commodities seems to have lead Professor J. Laurence Laughlin to a change of opinion as to the quantity theory of money; for though formerly upholding it he now argues against it. In *Self Culture* for October, 1898, Prof. Laughlin says: "A realization of the fact that a great and unparalleled increase in the supply of gold during recent years has not been followed by a rise in prices, has given thoughtful men like the German economists, Conrad and Lexis, ground for a change of belief. They saw that as no rise of prices resulted from the phenomenal increase in the supply of gold, it could not be argued that prices had fallen because gold had been scarcer. The facts in short were dead against comparisons between the masses of business transactions and the quantity of gold, as a means of explaining the level of prices."

As the payment of rent and the purchase of land and franchises are as truly business transactions as the purchase of commodities, a comparison of the amount of gold with prices of commodities can hardly be considered a fair comparison between the amount of gold and the masses of business transactions. Considering all the factors in the problem there is no evidence that gold has increased in purchase power; and there is therefore no reason to change our opinion that the value of gold, other things being equal, depends upon its quantity. As its quantity depends in the long run upon the cost of its production, there is no practical difference between say-

ing that the value of gold depends upon the quantity, and saying, as Prof. Laughlin does, that it depends upon its cost of production. According to the quantity theory a suddenly increased demand would result in increased value until a correspondingly increased supply had met the increased demand.

In considering whether or not there has been such an increased demand resulting from the adoption of the gold standard by this and other countries, we must consider the increased rapidity of circulation resulting from more rapid transportation and the extension of bank and clearing house facilities and the increased use of silver as money. According to the report of the director of the mint for 1896, the stock of money in the principal countries of the world in 1873 and 1895 was as follows:

	1873.	1895.
Gold .....	\$1,209,800,000	\$4,143,700,000
Silver .....	1,057,685,000	4,236,900,000
Uncovered paper ...	2,322,545,000	2,558,000,000
<b>Total medium of exchange..</b>	<b>\$4,590,030,000</b>	<b>\$10,938,600,000</b>

Of the silver in 1895, \$620,200,000 was limited tender.

There was thus an increase in the stock of silver money of slightly over 300 per cent., and in the stock of gold money of 242 per cent.

Whether half the world uses gold exclusively and the other half uses silver, or whether the whole world uses both metals equally, would make no difference as to the world's supply of money. The fact is, however, that gold standard countries are large users of silver as money, and that this silver, kept at a parity with gold, has precisely the same effect in creating a demand for commodities as would the same quantity of gold. In this country we have now about equal quantities of gold and silver money, whereas between 1834 and 1873 we had practically no silver money at all save subsidiary coins of 50 cents and less. The United States has been practically on a gold basis since 1834, though not so by law until the act of 1873. This act did not demonetize a single dollar then in circulation.

I know that Mr. Harvey asserts that

we had \$100,000,000 of foreign coin, all of which had been made legal tender. The law of 1843 provided that certain foreign coins should be legal tender, "the Spanish pillar dollar and the dollar of Mexico, Peru, and Bolivia of not less than 897-1,000 in fineness and 415 grains weight, at 100 cents, and the five franc piece of France of not less than 900-1,000 fineness and 384 grains in weight at 93 cents." This is a weight and fineness equal to our own silver dollar. As our own silver coins did not circulate because they were worth more as bullion than as money, it is absurd to insist that foreign coins of equal weight and fineness did circulate. But however this may have been, the act of February 21, 1857, provided for the acceptance by the treasury of the United States and its several offices, and at the several post offices and land offices, of foreign coins—"the fourth of a dollar or piece of two reals, at twenty cents; the eighth of a dollar, or piece of one real, at ten cents; and the sixteenth of a dollar or half real, at five cents." Nothing was said of the dollar, for the obvious reason that none were in circulation, but only worn quarters, shillings and sixpences that would circulate nowhere else. This act provided for the recoinage of these coins at the mint, and further provided "that all former acts authorizing the currency of foreign gold or silver coins and declaring the same legal tender in payment of debts are hereby repealed."

The enormous increase in the use of silver money is seen when we consider that according to the estimates of Dr. Soetbeer, universally accepted as most reliable, the product of the silver mines of the world in the decade 1860-1870 was \$507,174,400, an annual average of \$50,717,440, or \$19,000,000 less than was purchased each year under the Sherman act. According to the most reliable estimates the world's coinage of silver in the eight years 1886-1894 amounted to \$1,141,154,686. If to this we add the bullion in the United States treasury represented by treasury notes and deduct the estimated recoinage, we have for the eight years \$1,137,237,488—an annual average of \$142,154,686, being an amount which, allowing for silver

used in the arts, is more than three times the amount of silver that was available for coinage purposes in any decade prior to 1873.

It thus appears that a fall of prices could not have occurred as the result of a destruction of one-half the world's money.

And if we consider all the factors of the problem, there has in fact been no fall in general prices and increase in the purchase power of gold. Had there been such an increase, the wage earner surely would have no cause of complaint for receiving nearly the same wages as in 1872. If their purchase power has been doubled, his wages have been practically doubled; and being able to purchase twice as much, he creates twice as great a demand for the products of labor.

The trouble with the contention of the silverites that the purchase power of gold has doubled, and with that of the goldites that the purchase power of wages has enormously increased, is that neither is true. In the Popular Science Monthly for October, 1895, Edward Atkinson maintains that "in every branch of industry, especially in all the arts which have been most fully developed by the application of science and invention, there has been a progressive advance in the rate of wages or in the earnings of all those who are occupied on the farm, on the railroad and in the factory or in the work shop." This he claims is conclusively proven by the Aldrich report. Mr. Atkinson's theory would be all right were it not for the factor in the problem which not only he but the free silver advocates entirely ignore—the power of monopoly to absorb all the benefits resulting from improved methods of production.

The most extended application of improved methods in the arts having occurred during the last quarter of a century, the greatest increase of wages should, according to Mr. Atkinson, have been during this period; but the Aldrich report shows a large increase of wages prior to 1872, and even according to the statistician's fallacious summary but an insignificant increase since that date. As a result of improved methods of production, prices of commodities have fallen, and wages

have not increased but have slightly fallen also.

Let us see who gets the benefit.

The earlier census valuations of property are so incomplete as to be incomparable with later valuations, but in the censuses of 1880 and 1890 we have statistics that are fairly comparable. No census prior to 1890 having included the value of vacant lands belonging to the states and to the United States nor Indian reservations, we must in making comparisons deduct such values from the valuation of 1890.

According to the Eleventh Census the valuation of the property of the United States in 1890 was as follows:

Total.....	\$65,037,091,197
Real estate with improvements thereon.....	39,544,544,333
Live stock on farms, farm implements, and machinery.....	2,703,015,040
Mines and quarries, including product on hand	1,291,291,579
Gold and silver coin and bullion.....	1,158,774,948
Machinery of mills and product on hand, raw and manufactured....	3,058,593,441
Railroads and equipments, including \$389,357,289 for street railroads.....	8,685,407,323
Telegraphs, telephones, shipping, canals, and equipments.....	701,755,712
Miscellaneous.....	7,893,198,821

Thus nearly fifty billions of the sixty-five billions of property is represented by real property, including mines and other properties, the value of which is largely the franchise conferring the use of land.

Deducting the value of vacant lands and Indian reservations not included in the valuation of the Tenth Census, the value of real estate in 1880 and 1890 was as follows:

	1880.	1890.
Farms and improvements.....	\$10,197,096,776	\$13,279,252,649
Residence and business real estate.....	11,881,000,000	25,324,260,306
	22,078,096,776	38,603,512,955

The total value of the property of the United States in 1880 was placed at \$13,642,000,000, and in 1890, deducting vacant lands at \$64,096,059,819, making the increase \$20,454,059,819.

Of this increase we find over sixteen and one-half billions to be real property, not including mines, railroads,

and similar monopolies. The value of mines (including petroleum wells and one-half annual product) was reported in 1880 as \$781,000,000 and in 1890, as shown in the preceding table, the value of mines (including product on hand) was reported as \$1,291,291,579. The values of railroads, as reported at the two censuses, being made on different bases, are not comparable.

Considering that improvements decrease constantly in value—not only by reason of decay but also because they become antiquated and because by improved methods of construction it is possible to replace them for much less than they cost—we must conclude that but a small proportion of the increased valuation of real property represents an increase of anything but the value of land.

As it is evident that this increase in real values is confined almost entirely to our cities, the facts disclosed by a commission of real estate experts appointed by Mayor Swift of Chicago throw some light upon the subject.

The land and improvements reported on are of the south division of Chicago north of Twelfth street, covering an area of 351.42 acres. This commission summarized their report as follows:

We find in our opinion:

The value of land to be.....	\$337,342,880
The value of improvements to be.....	101,104,300

Total value exclusive of property marked exempt from taxation.....

	\$438,447,180
--	---------------

The assessor's value of the same property, returned by the same assessors for the year 1895, was as follows:

Land.....	\$24,726,830
Improvements.....	15,941,840
	\$40,668,720

We find also the value of land and improvements marked exempt on the assessors' books, not including the city hall block or real estate owned by the United States government, to be:

Land.....	\$20,404,050
Improvements.....	1,832,200
	\$22,236,250

Here we find that the land in the most closely built portion of the city, having the most expensive buildings, is valued at over a million dollars an acre, and nearly three and one-half times that of the improvements. That

similar conditions exist in all centers of trade and manufacture is too well known to need demonstration.

These rapidly increasing values are but the measure of the tribute paid by industry to monopoly, and indicate the true cause of the conditions against which free coinage is a mistaken though honest protest.

The monopoly of natural opportunities being in no way the result of free coinage, the monopoly being not in the measure of values but in things measured, free coinage could only aggravate the existing evil by encouraging land speculation. The only remedy is a radical reform in our system of taxation. The evils of land monopoly can be destroyed by taxation, and in no other way.

H. L. BLISS.

## NEWS

On Christmas eve the American peace commissioners, just arrived from Paris, waited upon the president at the white house, and delivered to him the official copy of the treaty of peace with Spain. The document was handed over by the president to the secretary of state. To complete the treaty on behalf of the United States, it must yet be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the senate.

Closely following the arrival in Washington of the American peace commissioners, there came to that city Senor Agoncillo, the representative of the Philippine republic. Agoncillo had passed through this country last fall, as we noted at the time, on his way to Paris, where he went to observe the progress of the peace negotiations. While in Paris he lodged a protest with the American and Spanish commissioners, in which, in behalf of the Philippine republic, he objected to any treaty contrary to Philippine independence. The grounds of his objection are in substance that Spain is devoid of power legally to decide the future status of the Philippines, and that therefore the United States can acquire no such power from Spain. In elaboration of this point that Spain is powerless under international law to cede the Philippines, the protest briefly outlines the political relations of the archipelago to Spain. These relations began, it appears, in 1565, when



Spain forced her sovereignty upon the Philippines. But the "blood treaty" of that year by which this was accomplished, nevertheless recognized the autonomy of the islands; and when in 1814 Spain attempted to exercise absolute sovereignty over the Filipinos, they made an armed resistance. It was not until 1837 that their rights were forcibly wrested from them by Spain, and from that time to the present they have been fighting for their liberties. Their struggle, continues the protest we quote from, is now crowned with success. "The Spanish government has ceased to hold any dominion by deed and by right, and the only authority which exists there and preserves order is that constituted by the Filipinos," who "renewed their sovereignty by the solemn proclamation of the Philippine republic on the 1st of August, 1898, and by the establishment of a government and a regular and well ordered administration created by the decisive votes of the natives." Senor Agoncillo, in an interview at Washington on the 27, said:

What we ask is independence and we believe we have gained that by right. The American government has not yet outlined its policy. Until that is done, we cannot definitely decide upon our own actions, except that in the meantime we will demand independence. What we may seek to do should the American government decide to extend its authority over us is an entirely different matter and does not enter into the question as it is now presented. Spain has been at war with the Filipinos as well as with the United States. The Spanish prisoners will not be surrendered by our government until a treaty of peace is entered into between Spain and our republic. They are held as prisoners of war, and the treaty between Spain and the United States does not affect them at all.

The last important Spanish stronghold in the Philippines, Iloilo, the capital city of the Island of Panay, and the next Philippine city in importance to Manila, has been surrendered by Spain. News came at first by way of Madrid. Gen. Rios, the Spanish commander, telegraphed on the 24th that on the 23d he had "formally surrendered Iloilo in the presence of the military and naval commanders, the mayor, and the foreign consuls," and that he had "charged the German consul with the protection of Spanish interests." This dispatch gave no intimation as to whether Gen. Rios had surrendered to the Americans or to

the Filipinos; but because Gen. Otis had been ordered to send troops to Iloilo, it was surmised that the surrender was to the Americans. The probabilities, however, were the other way; for it was not until the 23d, the date of the surrender, that President McKinley ordered Gen. Otis to send troops to Iloilo. As the distance from Manila is not far from 300 miles, it would have been quite impossible for Gen. Otis to have complied with that order in time to accept the Spanish surrender on the 23d—especially as the 23d comes several hours earlier in the Philippines than at Washington. His report of compliance was dated the 26th. Aside from the matter of dates, it was also probable that the Spanish commander would have mentioned Gen. Otis's troops had he surrendered to them. There could have been little doubt that the surrender was to the Filipinos. This soon proved to be the case. On the 28th the following dispatch from Gen. Otis was received at Washington, dated the 27th at Manila:

Sent Col. Potter on fast vessel to Poilo on 24th to communicate with Spanish Gen. Rios; latter evacuated evening of 24th and Potter 39 hours late; insurgents took possession of city on 26th; and Potter found Aguinaldo's flag flying. Cannot now report probable results; will not hear from there for four days, as no cable communications. Spanish forces have evacuated all stations in southern islands except Zamboanga, Mindanao, by orders, as they say, from Madrid.

The American expedition to Iloilo consisted of two regiments under command of Gen. Miller. They went by transports under convoy of the warships Baltimore and Callao.

Upon the receipt of Gen. Otis's dispatch, a conference was held at the white house. The result was not made public authoritatively; but Washington news dispatches at the time of this writing are to the effect that it was decided to order American reinforcements from Manila to Gen. Miller at Iloilo. Agoncillo claimed in an interview that "by all the rules of right and justice, the town of Iloilo, having been captured by the insurgent forces, belongs to them, and their flag should not be taken down." He added:

The Americans have no right there. They did not assist the insurgents in the taking of the place. The Filipino forces captured it without aid from any one. They should be allowed to enjoy the fruits of their unaided victory.

Fighting had been in progress before Iloilo since December 1. At the outset the Filipinos captured all the Spanish trenches except one. They then notified Gen. Rios to remove women and children from the city. After that, conflicting reports were received until the 19th, when it was reported that the Spanish admitted their inability to hold their position unless speedily re-enforced. The Filipino forces about Iloilo were at that time said to number 25,000. Four days later, Gen. Otis was instructed from Washington to "take immediate possession of Iloilo."

Along with the news of the fall of Iloilo, reports received in this country indicate a political crisis in the government of the Philippine republic. The congress of the republic, which had been in session at Malolos since last September, adjourned on the 26th—unexpectedly, according to the reports; and at about the same time President Aguinaldo's cabinet, appointed in July, resigned. Before adjourning, the congress adopted a constitution for the republic. A request was thereupon made by President Aguinaldo, in the message he proposed submitting to the congress, that in view of the critical condition of affairs, certain sections of the constitution which limit the power of the president be temporarily suspended. He also requested the addition of sections conferring absolute power upon the president during the critical period. Among these sections was one empowering the president to declare war. Upon submitting a draft of his message to the cabinet Aguinaldo found that his requests would be strongly opposed; and it is inferred that they may have caused the sudden adjournment of the congress and the resignation of the cabinet. The reports of the difficulty are, however, very meager and unsatisfactory.

We stated last week that on the 20th the American flag was raised in Cuba for the first time over a Havana stronghold. It appears now that this was done by Maj. Russell Harrison without orders and in contravention of the promise of the United States evacuation commissioners that no American flags should be raised in Havana or its suburbs until January 1. Maj. Harrison was formally reprimanded by Gen. Lee, and ordered to haul down the flag, which he did.

It was impossible, however, to prevent a display of flags, and the Span-

ish commandant sensibly granted general permission for the decoration of shops, houses and persons with any colors whatever, on condition that there be no processions or other demonstrations prior to the formal transfer of the city. Havana was in consequence brilliant on and after the 27th, with Cuban and American flags.

For several days Havana has been in a riotous condition. Frequent bloody collisions have occurred between Spanish and Cuban sympathizers. All this was quickly stopped on the 28th by the utilization of Cuban insurgents as a police force. The night before had been one of alarm, and it was feared that on the 28th the rioting would be more serious than ever. But the appearance of the insurgents as policemen is reported to have been magical in its quieting effect. The Havana correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, cabling on the 28th, attributes to them largely "the perfect order that has reigned today."

The American evacuation commissioners for Cuba issued a proclamation on the 26th announcing that the evacuation would begin on the 1st at noon. The proclamation recited an agreement between the Spanish and the Americans for the final ceremonies and regulations to be observed, the terms of which the public were admonished to strictly observe. This agreement is lengthy, and it practically defines the rights, privileges and obligations of the Spanish, from the beginning of the evacuation.

Coincidentally with the publication of the foregoing proclamation, Gen. Ludlow, the American military governor of the city of Havana, notified the Cuban peace commission that Gen. Gomez and other prominent Cuban army leaders could be present at the evacuation ceremonies, and that the Cuban army might then enter Havana. This was one of the principal reasons for the brilliant decoration of the city with American and Cuban flags, described above. But on the 28th, Gen. Brooke, the American military governor of the island of Cuba, revoked Gen. Ludlow's permission, and notified the Cuban Peace commission that the Cuban army would not be recognized on the occasion of the evacuation, nor have any part in the demonstrations. This action of Gen. Brooke has caused a great revulsion in local feel-

ing. One of the most prominent Cubans in Havana, Juan Frederic Centallas, is reported as saying:

Our army is still in the field. They shall not lay down their arms until we find out whether we are to be slaves or free. If we must fight again, then we are ready. We shall not endure the humiliations that are being heaped upon us. No nation is strong enough to bully us.

Cuban residents declare that if Gen. Brooke does not rescind his order, they will close their houses during the evacuation ceremonies, tear down their flags and decorations, and remain indoors.

Local governments in the late Spanish possessions having been pressed by promoters for franchises, the war department was instructed, on the 23d, after a cabinet consultation on the subject, to promulgate the following order:

The following order has been sent by the secretary of war to the commanding officers in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines: Until otherwise ordered, no grant or concessions of public or corporate rights or franchises for the construction of tramways, telegraph and telephone lines, waterworks, gas works, electric light lines, etc., shall be made by any municipal or other local government authority in Cuba, Porto Rico or the Philippines—except upon the approval of the major general commanding the military forces of the United States in Cuba, Porto Rico or the Philippines, who shall before approving any such grant or concession be so especially authorized by the secretary of war.

Representative Hull, as chairman of the military committee of the house in congress, has filed the majority report of that committee recommending a bill for the reorganization of the army. This bill places no limit on the number of regular troops, but assumes that about 100,000 will be required. Our standing army would thus be made four times as large as it was prior to the war with Spain. A minority report also has been filed. Reciting that the evils of standing armies are well known, and that "such a standing army as the one proposed would in time of peace be a menace to the liberty of citizens," this minority report recommends as a substitute an army of 30,000 enlisted men, besides a volunteer army for present exigencies of 50,000, the latter to be mustered out within two years. After describing the enormous expense of such a military estab-

lishment as that proposed by the majority of the committee, the minority suggest their view of the motives for a large standing army in this paragraph of their report:

It is well understood that the great corporate interests of the country are demanding this large army. Their reasons for such a demand are too obvious to be pointed out. These interests want force to enforce their demands, and a president dominated by such interests would have, with such a standing army, the means at his hand to invade the liberties of the people, to suppress freedom of speech and to desecrate the ballot box itself.

On the subject of the issues of the next presidential election William J. Bryan spoke last week at length and with more particularity than he had done since his resignation from the army. His speech was delivered on the 23d, before the Women's Bimetallic league, at Mr. Bryan's home in Lincoln. He said:

I had five months of peace in the army and resigned in order to take a part in a fight. I am as much interested in the people of the United States as I am in the people of Cuba, and unless I am mistaken in judging we are called upon to meet more important problems in the United States just now than will confront our army in Cuba.

Some of these problems were under discussion before hostilities began; others have been thrust upon us as a result of the war. Let me improve this, my first opportunity, to assure you that my zeal for the reforms advocated a few months ago has not in the least abated. Vital questions cannot be killed or buried, and we were dealing with vital questions when the call to arms sounded through the land.

The American people have not accepted the gold standard as final. It has wrought more injustice in our country during the last 25 years than Spain has wrought in all her colonies, and opposition to it will grow until the gold and silver coinage of the constitution is fully restored. The trusts which now flourish in defiance of laws are more merciless than Weyler was, and the new trust—the paper-money trust—which is seeking to obtain control of all the paper money of the nation, is a greater menace to the country's welfare than any foreign foe. I have spoken to you often upon these subjects, and shall have occasion to discuss them in your presence hereafter.

At this point Mr. Bryan said, however, that there were two new questions which demand immediate attention. One of these was the proposition to increase the regular army to 100,000 men, a proposition which he opposed. The other was the question

of imperialism, regarding which he said the president had misinterpreted the sentiment of the American people. While they were opposed to leaving the Philippines to Spain, they had not yet declared in favor of a colonial policy. In this connection, referring to Mr. McKinley's suggestion about hauling down the flag, Mr. Bryan said:

The flag is a national emblem and is obedient to the national will. It was made for the people, not the people for the flag. When the American people want the flag raised they raise it; when they want it hauled down they haul it down. The flag was raised upon Canadian soil during the war of 1812, and it was hauled down when peace was restored. The flag was planted upon Chapultepec during the war with Mexico, and it was hauled down when the war was over. The morning papers announce that Gen. Lee ordered the flag hauled down in Cuba yesterday, because it was raised too soon. The flag will be raised in Cuba again on the 1st of January, but the president declares in his message that it will be hauled down as soon as a stable government is established. Who will deny to the people the right to haul the flag down in the Philippines, if they so desire, when a stable government is established there?

Our flag stands for an indissoluble union of indestructible states. Every state is represented by a star, and every territory sees in the constitution a star of hope that will some day take its place in the constellation. What is there in the flag to awaken the zeal or reflect the aspiration of vassal colonies, which are too glad to be cast away but not good enough to be admitted to the sisterhood of states?

The political movement in which ex-Gov. Altgeld is engaged, described in these columns last week, has been taking shape even during the holidays. Organizations of what are called "family circles," a new feature in politics, are being made in Chicago. The immediate object is to spread the idea and establish the principle of municipal ownership. Of this method of preparing for a campaign Gov. Altgeld is reported as saying:

We believe in getting close to the people. By having our friends meet in their homes with their neighbors of an evening we believe we can reach a larger part of the voters of the city than by any other means. The family circle, as its name shows, will have nothing to do with politics. Politicians do not meet that way. Then we want to be prepared for the time when the newspapers shut down on us. By organizing family circles in all the precincts we will be able to tell the news-

papers to go to thunder. With a little borrowed money, for we have none, with which to buy stamps and the aid of Uncle Sam, we can reach thousands of voters directly through the family circles. You have observed that comparatively few of the citizens of Chicago attend political meetings. You will see the same crowd at the ward meetings which you see at the precinct meetings. In short, but a small proportion of the voters ever go to political meetings. We intend to carry on a campaign of education before the political campaign sets in. Oh, yes; we probably will organize ward clubs, but that will come later. Just now we want to educate.

No legislation has yet been enacted by the Kansas legislature in the extraordinary session which we reported last week as having begun on the 21st. Several bills, however, have been introduced. All the republican members of each house have joined in presenting a protest against the session, denouncing it as without constitutional sanction, and declaring that the calling of it "within two weeks of the meeting of the newly elected legislature is an attempt to override the will of the people and gain a political advantage to the party just about to retire from the administration of state affairs." The house refused to entertain the protest or have it read, and in the senate the presiding officer ruled it out of order.

There is not much European news for the week, and such as there is is of little moment. The most important item relates to the anti-anarchist conference of the European powers, which has been in session at Rome and is now adjourned over the holidays. Though the proceedings were secret, a Rome correspondent of the New York World claims to have procured from a delegate the exact result of the deliberations thus far. According to his report it has been agreed to establish at Berlin an international bureau of police for the surveillance of anarchists, the bureau to consist of nine members—one each from Germany, Austria, France, England, Italy, Russia, Switzerland, Belgium and Holland. This bureau is to correspond directly with all police bureaus of Europe, and to be represented in each country by special agents. Other conclusions of the congress are reported by the same correspondent, but so indefinitely as to be of no value. "Anarchists," for example, are said to have been defined as "all those who make public profes-

sion of anarchist faith," or "are found in possession of anarchist publications," and so on in a circle. It is said also that the delegates from England, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg and Greece reject all the enumerated propositions except that for the establishment of the international bureau.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The eleventh annual meeting of the American Economic association opened on the 27th at New Haven, Conn.

—On the 25th the Central Labor Union of New York voted with but one dissenting voice against the policy of expansion.

—The annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science opened at Columbia college, New York, on the 27th.

—At Concord, N. C., on the 26th the Coleman cotton mill, owned and operated by negroes, began operations. Its capital of \$30,000 is nearly all paid in.

—State conventions of teachers were held this week in Springfield, Ill., Milwaukee, Wis., Des Moines, Ia., St. Paul, Minn., Lincoln, Neb., and Lansing, Mich.

—A company has been organized for the purpose of operating horseless trucks ("autotrucks") on the streets of New York. The motive power is to be compressed air instead of electricity.

—After a three months' suspension the National Single Taxer has resumed publication at 42 Bond street, New York, under the management of George P. Hampton. It is now a 32-page monthly.

—Bishop Thomas Nulty of Meath, Ireland, died on the 24th at the age of 82. He was widely known as a personal friend of Henry George and an earnest supporter of George's doctrine of "the land for the people."

—The secret of Keely's motor has been transmitted to T. Burton Kinraide, a Boston inventor. This was done by the attorney of Keely's widow, at the request of Mr. Keely, made before his death, and with the approval of the directors of the Keely Motor company, who were authorized to act in the matter by a stockholders' meeting.

—Late papers from Shanghai contain dispatches from Peking giving details of private executions ordered by the empress dowager that have been going on at the rate of from two to six a week. Most of the victims have been palace officials, eunuchs, slave girls and ladies in waiting who were in favor with the dethroned emperor.

—Senator Justin S. Morrill, of Vermont, died on the 28th at Washington after a week's illness. He was in his

39th year. Mr. Morrill first became a member of congress in 1855. After serving 12 years in the lower house he was elected to the senate, of which he remained a member until his death. His present term, had he lived it through, would have expired in 1903.

—A committee called "The Public Ownership Committee," has been formed in Los Angeles, Cal., with headquarters at 213 S. Bunker Hill avenue, for the purpose of organizing "public ownership radicals" into a body to operate within the established political parties. The aim is to promote the idea of "public ownership, not of public utilities alone, but of all monopolies inclusive of land and trusts."

## MISCELLANY

### ONWARD.

For The Public.

"O for a lodge in some vast wilderness,  
Some boundless contiguity of shade,  
Where rumor of oppression and deceit  
Of unsuccessful or successful war  
Might never reach me more; my ear is  
pained,

My soul is sick, with every day's report  
Of wrong and outrage with which earth is  
filled.

There is no flesh in man's obdurate heart,  
It does not feel for man."

—Cowper.

Thus from an age gone by  
Is borne a bitter cry,

Wrung from the soul of poet, man and  
brother,

Cry, that a nation's greed  
With all its poisonous seed  
Blossomed in cruel triumphs, could not  
smother.

The man is forced to feel  
Wrongs that he cannot heal,  
Their somber shadow on his life work fall-  
ing!

The pitying brother stands  
With outstretched, helpless hands—  
The poet's fervor through the future call-  
ing.

The future has, alas!  
So little brought to pass,  
Through bloodshed, boastful peace, and  
proud hurraing;  
We bow to brazen crime,  
As in the poet's time,  
The insolence of might still overaweing.

We cry in fierce despair,  
We plead in humble prayer  
For sign, that our false idols pale and  
tremble;  
Forget the thrill and start,  
Running from heart to heart,  
When at Truth's lightning flash our hosts  
assemble.

Their union, in our stress,  
Not the "vast wilderness"  
That woos us often with its healing quiet,  
Must be our strength and cheer  
While serfdom creepeth near,  
In subtle, soothing guise, or legal riot.

However slow the work,  
Our part we may not shirk;  
To follow light is the soul's breath and  
mission;

Though to mere sense it seems  
Return to bygone dreams,  
And the weak body wait not Hope's fru-  
ition.

So shall our fervid thought  
Into the future wrought,  
Like call of watchman in the night re-  
peated,

A living voice remain—  
A power evolved from pain,  
In some triumphant hour to be completed.  
D. H. INGHAM.

### THE BAD BULLY AND THE GOOD UNCLE.

For The Public.

There was once a proud bully named  
Don who had enslaved his brother  
Phil, and was wont to treat him very  
badly, beating and robbing him with-  
out mercy.

This made their Uncle Sam very an-  
gry. He swore a great oath, and told  
Don that he was a cowardly robber, and  
that he must go away and let Phil alone.

Then Don and Sam had a big talk  
about Phil—how strong he was, how  
much work he could do, and how much  
he could be robbed before he would  
fight.

At the end of the big talk Sam paid  
Don twenty pieces of gold if he would  
go away and turn over to Sam all his  
right and title to beat and rob Phil.

C. J. BUELL.

### THE SPANISH LANDLORDS.

It is a fact worthy of note that we  
are annexing an island subject to the  
economic control of absentee Spanish  
landlords. The transfer of sovereignty  
does not affect titles in private prop-  
erty, and the transfer of Porto Rico  
from Spain to the United States does  
not leave the island to any the less ex-  
tent in the grip of its absentee owners.  
The remarkable situation, therefore,  
presents itself, that we are annexing a  
property which, the more we do for it,  
will the more enrich the enemy from  
which we have seized it. Possibly the  
absentee Spanish landlords may sell  
out at a sacrifice in the present uncer-  
tain state of affairs, but as they are pre-  
sumably not fools they will hang on in  
view of reports from the United States  
of how American sovereignty is to re-  
sult in the greatly increased prosper-  
ity and commercial development of the  
island. We see in this some of the ad-  
vantages—to Spain—of the policy of  
private ownership of land.—From edi-  
torial in Springfield Republican.

### WHY HE WAS TAKEN OUT UNDER THE TREES TO DIE.

His face was livid, and the attendants  
drew him over the table as though  
he had been a sack of meal.

"Why do you bring a man here look-

ing like that?" asked the surgeon ma-  
jor, somewhat sternly.

"Because, major," answered the  
young contract surgeon, "I think we  
can save this fellow's life by laparot-  
omy."

The major grew interested. "Very  
pretty case; nice operation indeed."  
Then losing interest: "And perhaps we  
might save his life; but did you ever  
hear of a man recuperating after the  
shock of laparotomy on a diet of hard  
tack and rancid pork?"

The contract surgeon admitted with  
a laugh that he never had and never ex-  
pected to.

"Anyhow," continued the major, with  
the confidence of a man aware that his  
reasoning is unanswerable, "we can't  
waste time on doubtful cases. It would  
be hardly a kindness to cut this man  
all to pieces, and then to let him die  
by inches of starvation, or from want  
of food proper in his condition."—From  
"The Night After San Juan," by Steph-  
en Bonsal, in McClure's for December.

### "GREWSOME IGNORANCE."

Of all the obstacles to social regen-  
eration, none is more disheartening  
than the grewsome ignorance, indiffer-  
ence and all but willful blindness to the  
most obvious social facts, of men whose  
position of prominence or responsibil-  
ity would seem to imply their at least  
elementary knowledge of the situation.  
Now the president of the Illinois Hu-  
mane society proposes to eradicate  
hoodlum crime with the whipping post!  
We shall expect next to hear it pro-  
posed to cure measles and whooping  
cough by spanking, and to treat ap-  
pendicitis by applying court-plaster to  
the left great toe! The young city  
hoodlum is the legitimate and inevi-  
table fruit of the slum, and as long as  
slums exist, and the conditions which  
create and perpetuate them, the hood-  
lum, young and old, will exist, and  
corporal punishment, or any other kind  
of punishment, will have about as much  
effect upon juvenile crime, or any other  
kind of crime, as the prayers of a Hot-  
tentot sorcerer would have on the  
botany of the other side of the moon.  
The economic conditions of the city of  
Chicago produce in any one week of the  
year more hoodlums and juvenile crim-  
inals than could be whipped into good  
citizens in the lifetime of the Humane  
society.—Editorial in The Chicago  
Commons.

### OUR REBELS.

Not only republics but their veriest  
shadows seem to be ungrateful. Noth-  
ing could be more disgusting than the  
base ingratitude of the Cubans and Fil-

ipinos. Didn't we go to war to give liberty to the oppressed? And now what do the oppressed mean by holding up their hands and saying: "Please, ma'am, I'd like my liberty?" Didn't the stupid understand that "liberty" meant merely a swapping of masters? Couldn't they "savvy" that when we deal in humanity we expect them to pay the freight? Were they fond enough to fancy that a "republic" doesn't know a "good thing" just as well as any land-grabbing monarchy does? Within five years we shall be fighting these wretched ingrates, and for the same reason that Spain did—that they will not yield to authority. They were noble patriots to resist Spanish laws; but when they resist American law—ah! We shall rule them as we have never once failed to rule the weaker; and they will like it as well as our Indians have done. And we shall have the same competent method to make them take their medicine. They will go the way of the aborigine. But our commerce will fatten on the soil we shall have irrigated with their rebel blood.—Chas. F. Summis, in Land of Sunshine.

#### A MISREFORM IN TAXATION.

The inauguration of tax reforms by Italy has not been propitious. In fact, a large number of needy workmen have been deprived of employment as a result of one of the first moves made. On assuming office, the Pelloux ministry decided to increase the revenue by raising the tax on matches, and Signor Vacchelli, in his budget speech, announced that the finance minister would bring in a bill for that purpose. The bill was, in fact, presented by Signor Carcano, minister of finance, to the chamber, whereon the Baschiera, a match factory at Venice, closed its doors, throwing out of employment 600 workmen. At Milan the Medici factory acted in the same way, so that in all, nearly 2,000 workmen are idle. The manufacturers claim that as it is impossible to raise the price of matches the increased taxation will cut off their margin of profit, and make it impossible for them to carry on business without loss. Thus the first effects of ministerial finance has been to throw many hundred workmen out of employment, and to make the government responsible for their maintenance. The closing of the factories is apparently illegal, as the government is able to make the proprietors responsible for any disorder that may be caused by the unemployed. In addition to the Baschiera and Medici factories, those at Turin and Moncalieri have also closed their doors,

claiming that it will be impossible to carry on business under the new conditions. The government has pointed out to the manufacturers that the taxes fall eventually on the consumers, and not on the manufacturers, and that their conduct is therefore unjustifiable. The moral of the agitation is that the manufacturers believe public opinion to be on their side, and think that by creating difficulties for the government they will be able to exercise political pressure.—Chicago Chronicle of Dec. 18.

#### SERFDOM IN HUNGARY.

Stephen Varkonyi, the leader of the peasants' revolution which convulsed Hungary during the early months of this year, has just been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for high treason. The movement which was inaugurated by Varkonyi was a revolt against the remnants of serfdom which still exists in some parts of Hungary. In these districts each peasant is compelled to work fifty days in the year for the landowner without pay. These fifty days of compulsory labor are not successive or at fixed intervals, but when the landowner has work to be done he sends a drummer through the village and every male inhabitant is obliged to respond to the summons. Thereupon so many men are selected as are required. The landowner almost invariably exacts this labor in the summer, when the peasant's time is most valuable to him.

In summer the peasant can earn as much as one shilling a day; in winter not more than fourpence or sixpence. In winter the peasants are compelled to act as beaters in the magnates' hunts for a wage of twopence a day. The occupation is a dangerous one and the time is not counted in the annual fifty days' compulsory labor. The wives of the peasants are required to sweep and scrub the local manor house once a week without pay. Finally, many landowners use the peasants as beasts of burden, harnessing four men to plow instead of two oxen.

Stephen Varkonyi, who instigated the revolt against these degrading conditions of labor, is a sort of Hungarian Wat Tyler. He is the son of poor peasants, was educated in the farmyard and graduated in the fields. He is quite a typical horny-handed son of toil, is physically tall, stoutly built, with plenty of character in his shaggy head, and small eyes, with their suggestion of the Mongolian slit, and has that rough kind of humor which appeals to the simple peasant mind. Varkonyi, whose power over the agricultural population of his country is unbounded, is

one of the most interesting figures in modern Hungarian life.—London Mail.

#### THE TWO BLIND ALLEYS.

It looks as if American policy in Cuba were now turning down a lane that may yet be found, like the path of our own policy in Egypt, to be something of a blind alley. Consider the points of resemblance. We went to Egypt to "put an end to anarchy and bloodshed," to do good to the Egyptians, and to do a little good, by the way, to our holders of Egyptian bonds. The United States went to Cuba to put an end to anarchy and bloodshed too, and to rescue the Cubans, and to remove the ruinous check put by the struggle between Spain and the Cubans upon American trade with Cuba. So far the cases are alike. When we had conferred the blessings of bombardment upon one Egyptian city we discovered that steps of this nature were not constructive. The political health of Egypt had to be built up until she could "walk alone." And so it was in Cuba. When America intervened in Cuba the assumption was that a people struggling to be free would be aided in the struggle, and that as soon as it was won the rescuers would retire and leave them to the enjoyment of their longed-for liberty. Then it was seen that they might cut each other's throats, and the emaciated nation was put, and will for some time remain, under arrest by a military occupation. Cuba, too, must be taught to walk alone.

The resemblance goes still further. England bound herself over repeatedly not to appropriate Egypt while teaching her to walk. The United States entered into and are still renewing similar recognizances. On the eve of the war Congress made a sort of public vow not to seize Cuba after emancipating it, and Mr. McKinley now repeats the assurance. Again, in England and in America alike there are large groups of politicians who propose that these self-denying ordinances should not be observed. The organ of the notorious Senator Quay, for instance, while it applauds the Government's policy in the matter of the Philippines, says: "We even go further than the Philippines, and we declare without reservation that the proper thing to do is to take Cuba as well." And in England one can scarcely take up a newspaper or a magazine without finding a demonstration that "the proper thing to do" is to annex Egypt, which we have promised not to annex.

Even the grounds on which a breach of the recorded promise in each case is

advocated are highly similar. American Imperialism takes for its watchword the term "Manifest destiny," an expression the use of which enables one to feel that in doing what one likes one is obeying some higher law of the universe. If it is mortifying to keep a promise, or if it does not pay to keep it, or if it would pay exceptionally well to break it, the American Imperialist would not suggest anything so vulgar as a mere open breach of faith, with a confession that one is a miserable sinner but really the temptation was too great. He proceeds to place himself, like the soul in sleep, "within a helmless bark," and allows himself to drift into the satisfaction of feeling that he is an instrument of higher powers. That is the doctrine of "manifest destiny," and, thanks to our anomalous position in Egypt and the encouragement of American example, it is gaining a great foothold among us, too. It is so obviously a happy and triumphant way out of it, if one covets a country one has promised not to seize, to discover that it is part of the scheme of the universe that one should have it; theft then becomes a mission and unfaithfulness to one's word obedience to a higher law.

This warming and cheering doctrine goes so far as to fill those who hold it, in England and in America, with a kind of righteous indignation against those who do not. If one cannot find it one's "manifest destiny" to help to drive one's country into what one believes to be breaches of faith, one is rated as a bad citizen, no true American, no patriot, a Little Englander, and the rest of it. It is no wonder that patriotic Americans are beginning to found Anti-Imperialist Leagues as they have founded Anti-Protectionist Leagues and Citizens' Unions for the restraint of municipal corruption. Both countries are now to be put to the trial in Egypt and in Cuba, and before either has quite broken down or triumphantly succeeded it is interesting to note how similar in many respects the tests are.—Extract from an editorial in the Manchester (England) Guardian.

#### HOW GOLD GETS INTO THE ROCKS AND RIVERS.

Where did this gold come from? is a natural inquiry, and Professor Shaler, of Harvard university, answers us in this way: "If we look closely at any very old and much-changed rocks, we shall find that they have been divided by gashes, filled with various stones, sometimes containing metals, such as gold, silver, copper, etc. It is from these veins that come all the

metals used in our arts, except iron, so they are of a practical as well as a scientific interest.

"The first question we ask ourselves is, how the crevices that hold the veins come to be formed, and then, how the minerals that fill them came into their places.

"Veins are formed in crevasses that open in the rocks. They are due to different causes. Sometimes they are the result of a shrinking of the rocks, sometimes like that which takes place in drying clay; at other times the rocks, having been pushed from the sides (owing to the cooling of the earth's crust), were forced to break into large fragments, and pieces slipped over each other. When these breaks are formed, they leave an opening in the rocks which is never very wide, but may be very deep (sometimes ten thousand feet or more from top to bottom). Some parts of the walls generally rest against each other, there being at times only a rambling crevice that a mouse could hardly creep through."

The fissures which contain the veins being thus formed, the next question is how these are filled. The mixture of rain and sea water in the bowels of the earth, by means of its salt, its high heat and the presence of various gases, dissolves a portion of all the substances it touches; and so, when it starts again for the surface, it has a great load of various minerals in its keeping.

The easiest way for it to get to the surface is through just such rifts of the rock as have been described. When it starts upward it is at a heat that may be very much above the boiling-point of water. In a shallow open vessel (at the sea level) water boils at a heat of 212 degrees F., but if we made the sides of the vessel a mile high, we should have to raise the heat at the bottom to a high point before the water would boil. In many cases the fissure is more than a mile in depth, and so the boiling-point may be a thousand degrees or more. Water at a temperature of a thousand degrees cuts many stones like acid, and can hold a wonderful amount of matter in solution. As it creeps up toward the surface it grows cooler, and has to part with a portion of its burden. This is done by depositing certain minerals or metals on the sides of the crack through which it flows. After a time, the waters becoming cooler, another substance may be deposited, and so on, till the way for the water is quite blocked up. In this way the vein becomes in cross section like a plant growth, wherein the less soluble substances, which were first deposited, are in place of the bark, and

the more soluble substances form concentric irregular rings as they were precipitated in the inverse order of their solubility. The water which comes out on the ground level appears as a hot spring. There are thousands of such springs now in the world, and each may be making a lode or vein like that described above. The great Comstock lode, which has produced more gold than any other mine in the world, is still the pathway of hot springs. The miners are constantly fighting water hot enough to scald the skin.

But how does veinous gold come into the river beds? is asked. It is by the combined influence of winds, rains, heat and cold. These are the tools of erosion, and it is by erosion, the sun warping and the frost cracking, the winds sweeping and the waters washing, that whole mountains have been denuded and worn away. As is the case in California now, the places which were once high have wholly disappeared, and the valleys, by which the magnitude of their height was measured, have in turn been left exalted above depressions where once were towering mountains.

It was by this active operation of the agencies of erosion that gold came to be deposited in placers. The sources of all placers are unquestionably veins in the contiguous country, though in some places, as in parts of Australia, the erosive process may have been so extended as to have entirely worn away and removed the veins, leaving no traces of them.—Jno. E. Bennett, in The Cosmopolitan for November.

#### MR. DOOLEY ON HANGING ALDERMEN.

"'Tis not, Hinnissy, that this man Yerkuss goes up to an alderman an' says out sthright: 'Here, Bill, take this bundle an' be an infamyous scoundrel.' That's th' way th' man in Mitchigan avenoo sees it, but 'tis not straight. D'ye mind, Dochney, that was wanst alderman here? Ye don't. Well, I do. He r-ran a little conthractin' business down be Halsted sthreet. 'Twas him built th' big shed fr th' ice comp'ny. He was a fine man an' a sthrong wan. He began his pol-itical career be lickin' a plastrer be th' name iv Egan, a man that had th' County Clare thrip an' was thought to be th' akel iv anny man in town. Fr'm that he growed till he bate near ivry man he knew, an' become very pop'lar, so that he was sint to th' council. Now, Dochney was an honest an' sober man when he wint in, but wan day a man come up to him an' says he: 'Ye know that ordninance Schwartz inthrajooed?' 'I do,' says Dochney, 'an'

I'm agin it. 'Tis a swindle,' he says. 'Well,' says th' la-ad, 'they'se five thousan' in it f'r ye,' he says. They had to pry Dochney off iv him. Th' nex' day a man he knowed well come to Dochney an' says he: 'That's a fine ordnance iv Schwartz!' 'It is, like hell,' says Dochney. 'Tis a plain swindle,' he says. 'Tis a good thing f'r th' comp'nies,' says this man, 'but look what they've done f'r th' city,' he says, 'an' think,' he says, 'iv th' widdies an' orphans,' he says, 'that has their har-rd-earned coin invested,' he says. An' a tear rolled down his cheek. 'I'm an orphan mesilf,' says Dochney, 'an' as f'r th' widdies, anny healthy widdy with sthreet car stock ought to be ashamed iv herslif if she's a widdy long,' he says. An' th' man wint away.

"Now, Dochney thought he'd put th' five thousan' out iv his mind, but he hadn't. He on'y laid it by, an' ivry time he closed his eyes he thought iv it. 'Twas a shame to give th' comp'nies what they wanted, but th' five thousan' was a lot iv money. 'Twud lift th' morgedge. 'Twud clane up th' notes on th' new contract. 'Twud buy a new dhress f'r Mrs. Dochney. He begun to feel sorrowful f'r th' widdies an' orphans. 'Poor things,' says he to himsilf, says he. 'Poor things, how they must suffer,' he says, 'an' I need th' money. Th' sthreet car comp'nies is robbers,' he says, 'but 'tis thru they've built up th' city,' he says, 'an' the money'd come in handy,' he says. 'No wan'd be hurted annyhow,' he says, 'an', sure, it ain't a bribe f'r to take money f'r doin' something ye want to do anyhow,' he says. 'Five thousan' widdies an' orphans,' he says, an' he wint to sleep.

"That was th' way he felt whin he wint down to see ol' Simpson to renew his notes, an' Simpson settled it. 'Dochney,' he says, 'I wisht ye'd pay up,' he says. 'I need th' money,' he says. 'I'm afraid th' council won't pass th' Schwartz ordnance,' he says, 'an' it manes much to me,' he says. 'Be th' way,' he says, 'how're ye goin' to vote on that ordnance?' he says. 'I din-naw,' says Dochney. 'Well,' says Simpson (Dochney tol' me this himsilf), 'whin ye find out come an' see me about th' notes,' he says. An' Dochney wint to th' meetin', an' whin his name was called he hollered 'Aye' so loud a chunk iv plaster fell out iv th' ceilin' an' stove in th' head iv a rayform alderman."

"Did they hang him?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Faith, they did not," said Mr. Dooley. 'He begun missin' his jooty at

wanst. Aldhermen always do that after th' first few weeks. 'Ye got ye'er money,' says Father Kelly, 'an' much good may it do ye,' he says. 'Well,' says Dochney, 'I'd be a long time prayin' mesilf into five thousan',' he says. An' he become a leader in th' council. Th' las' ordnance he inthrojooed was wan establishin' a license f'r churches an' compellin' thim to keep their fr-ront dure closed an' th' blinds drawn on Sundah. He was expelled fr'm th' Saint Vincent de Paul's, an' illicted a director iv a bank th' same day.

"Now, Hinnissy, that there man niver knowed he was bribed—th' first time. Th' second time he knew. He ast f'r it. An' I wudden't hang Dochney. I wudden't if I was sthrong enough. But some day I'm goin' to let me temper r-run away with me an' get a comity together an' go out an' hang ivry dam widdy an' orphan between th' rollin' mills an' th' foundlin's home. If it wasn't f'r thim raypechious crathers they'd be no boodle annywhere."

"Well, don't forget Simpson," said Mr. Hennessy.

"I won't," said Mr. Dooley. "I won't."  
—Chicago Journal.

#### CALIFORNIA'S DISGRACE.

For The Public.

It is useless for anyone to mourn over the result of the recent election in this state, or to speculate as to the local causes which led to the defeat of the reform ticket for state offices. When we consider the inherent stupidity and moral cowardice of the average voter, and the unscrupulous methods of that powerful aggregation of cunning, deception and fraud called the republican party, with millions of ready cash at its command, the wonder is that the fusion ticket received nearly or quite one hundred and ten thousand votes. The San Francisco Call claims that the majority vote of the state, which went to the monopoly ticket, was really a vote against the Single Tax. Judge Maguire a few days ago, when commenting on that claim, said to me that according to the Call's theory, the more than one hundred thousand votes cast for him were votes for the Single Tax. And on that theory it is folly to consider the fundamental reform "dead" in California. On the contrary, it is much more alive now than it ever was before, for it has received a most wonderful slaking up by its enemies—for which our thanks are due them.

On visiting Judge Maguire soon after the election, I found him, as usual, calm, serene and hopeful as to the final outcome of this momentous struggle for human rights. Indeed he is more

than hopeful, he is unswervingly confident that the truth will triumph and justice ere long prevail. As I sat in his office while he was talking and planning with reference to future work in the Single Tax cause (even laying aside important law matters for the moment to make suggestions concerning our propaganda), I was more than ever impressed with the deep and abiding sincerity and earnestness of the man as a champion of fundamental reform. The fact is, James G. Maguire is too great, too clean and too philanthropic a man for a mere partisan leader. At heart he despises the petty deceptions and pretensions that invariably enter into the conduct of political campaigns, and he can never look upon them with the slightest complacency, even though his own election might seem to hinge upon his approval of them. He is more than a common man; he is a statesman and a philosopher, of a high order. As an advocate of the Single Tax and an expounder of the philosophy for which Henry George lived and died, he is now foremost in the United States, if not in the world. The mere incident of his defeat in a race for state office has not disturbed his equilibrium in the slightest degree, but he will henceforth be more than ever earnest and enthusiastic in the cause of industrial emancipation on lines which he so well understands.

The party of "expansion" in the direction of boodle and special privileges having captured the state offices and the legislature in this mis-called "God's country," the struggle among corruptionists for United States Senator is now on. I mean the preliminary struggle. And when the legislature gets together there is sure to be one of the most disgraceful squabbles for the coveted plum that was ever witnessed in the United States. At this writing "Col." Dan Burns is the most probable candidate for the Senatorship, and he really ought to be elected, for he is the logical candidate of the party. True, he has no knowledge of statecraft, very little of what may properly be called education, of any kind, and no moral character worth mentioning. He narrowly escaped the penitentiary a few years ago, on a charge of embezzling public funds while secretary of state, and his political methods are such as Mark Hanna and Russell A. Alger could endorse without offering an amendment. But on the other hand, Burns is rich, and has become so by the use of special privileges and boodle; he is a chief boss in the party, with long experience and wonderful resources; he worships at the shrine of success, and

he owns rich mines in Mexico, where he spends most of his time when not manipulating the grand old party in California. Moreover, he is the man who brought out the new Governor, Henry T. Gage. To Burns belongs the honor of being the Christopher Columbus who discovered the obscure criminal lawyer of Los Angeles and dragged him forth as a candidate for the highest office in the state. The cowboy governor will doubtless throw his influence in favor of his discoverer, and it will not be at all strange if Burns becomes the next senator from this great state.

I met U. S. Senator Stephen M. White the other day, who said he felt quite sure there will be an extra session of the new congress in the spring. He thinks there is no help for it. Then he remarked, with smooth irony: "I think the president should call the new congress together, by all means, and there should be a measure passed for the annexation of the West India Islands, all of them, the Philippines, the Carolines, and every other old thing belonging to Spain which our government can find on the face of the earth. Then congress should pass a law providing that no man may vote who is not worth at least a million dollars."

RALPH HOYT.

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 20, 1898.

Gen. Whittier, who was on Gen. Merritt's staff and was in charge of the custom house business in Manila for more than two months, says "the natives are thrifty and pretty well informed. They require either no government or one that will not interfere with their habits. They will be restive under a vigorous government." Gen. Whittier says of Aguinaldo: "I met him, and he comes nearer being a great man than any man of 29 years I ever knew. \* \* \* He was able to hold his own with us in every conference. There are no more skillful diplomats than Admiral Dewey and Gen. Merritt in the world, but this Filipino boy has never been placed at a disadvantage by either."—Chicago Chronicle.

Writing to a friend in Chicago James Herne, than whom no player has had a more variegated experience in the hardships and the prosperities of stage-land, says: "In all my career as a player, and it extends over many, many years, I have never known so many cases of want in our profession. The destitution among actors is unparalleled. I can not understand it, and would not have believed it had I not received sorrowful proof of its existence. For parts in my new play, 'Rev. Griffith Davenport, Circuit Rider,' which I am

to produce shortly, I have received over 700 applications from players, many of whom rank well and more than well."—Chicago Journal.

I find neither comfort nor satisfaction in providing a Christmas dinner "for the poor." I do not believe that a dinner one day in 365 is much of a realization of the era of good will and brotherhood that we ought to look for. I am working for a Christmas when justice, not charity, will be the thought that inspires us to good deeds. When this Christmas comes that I am working for we will have no poor to degrade with our charity, for we that are rich will share with our brothers and will not leave our brothers in poverty. Members of a loving family do not give charity to each other.—S. M. Jones, Mayor of Toledo, in Chicago Record.

If in the impending crisis the church will lose her life for the truth's sake she will find it again in a new and better day when a Christmas celebration will mean all that Christ means; a day when through obedience to the law of his kingdom it will be impossible for a few to revel in luxury while the many suffer in poverty; when all will abound in every good thing because brotherhood has become a universal fact, because love rules and Mammon has been shorn of his power.—Edwin D. Wheelock, in Chicago Record.

Experiments made in Paris show that an electric wagon costs 47 per cent. less to run than a horse wagon, and 32 per cent. less than a petroleum motor.

The Hon. Thomas B. Reed, according to the Chicago Chronicle, refers to the philanthropic doctrine of annexation as "sending out canned liberty to the nations of the earth."

Too many people "feather their nests" with other people's feathers.—Exchange.

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If Mr. Bailey will glance at Secretary Gage's estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, he will observe a remarkable and startling relation between the two great items of the account. They are these: Military establishment, \$145,119,434; pensions, \$145,233,839.—New York Times.

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4. *Department Stores* (from THE PUBLIC of November 12, 1898).

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