

perialism, what is it? Even if it were not, in what fundamental respect could imperialism be less republican? Don't shy at the label, gentlemen! If you accept the new doctrine of your party that congress and the president are empowered to govern distant peoples without their consent and free from the safeguards of the constitution, be brave about it and pin on the imperial label. This label is no whit worse than the policy it is intended to identify.

The democratic platform is justly criticized by Goldwin Smith for its neglect, when charging the republicans with making an ill-concealed alliance with Great Britain, to distinguish between Great Britain and British Tories. Mr. Smith well says, writing for the Toronto Weekly Sun, that—

Great Britain is not an individual. It is a nation like the United States, divided into parties, and, under normal conditions, pretty equally divided, though at the present moment the liberal party is depressed by the ascendancy of the war spirit. With the tory party in Great Britain President McKinley and his followers unquestionably are in alliance. They fancy, though without any real ground, that they owe to it diplomatic support against the other European powers for their raid on the Spanish possessions. They think that, by its proceedings in South Africa, it is countenancing their proceedings in the Philippines. They probably look forward to having it as their accomplice in any expansionist designs which they may be meditating for the future. But the tory party is not Great Britain; nor is Great Britain to be treated as though she were inclined as a whole to a partnership with the government of Washington in any sort of violence or wrong. The democratic party is morally in alliance, not ill-concealed, but ill-understood, with the liberal party in Great Britain, against the spirit of imperial aggression which threatens to get possession of the world. It ought, in composing its manifestoes, to take notice of the friends as well as of the enemies of its cause in Great Britain.

Evidently public opinion in Great Britain, jingo though it is, is not yet ready to face military conscription. The ministry proposed it, and one day last week the under secretary for

war made a plea for it in parliament. But he was finally obliged to withdraw the measure. It was strenuously opposed, not only by the democratic elements, but also by imperialists. The London Star pertinently asks why imperialists should have opposed conscription, saying "you cannot assert your hegemony in China, your suzerainty in Africa, claim the golden stool of Ashanti, teach France her manners, and wield a longer spoon than Russia, without either courting disaster or facing conscription." The answer, however, to the Star's question, is simple. Imperialists in England understand perfectly that if their policy continues conscription must be faced; but they also understand that while the British people are ready enough to jubilate over victories in London they are not ready to be drafted to win them across seas. They may accept imperialism, but not militarism—not yet. That is the reason the conscription measure was withdrawn. In our own country similar conditions prevail. We have not yet got so far as to propose a military draft law in congress. But this must come if we keep on with McKinley's policy. As certainly as the wheel horse follows his leader in a tandem, so certainly does militarism follow imperialism. To govern refractory colonies requires a large military force, and except when patriotism runs high, the maintenance of a large military force necessitates conscription.

Letters from imperialist warriors in the Philippines, which are percolating through the McKinley press, express great anxiety over the election possibilities. Their writers want McKinley elected because it would be, as one of this letter-writing corps puts it, "a more crushing blow to the insurgent army than we can administer to them in a dozen battles." The first thing to consider about letters of that kind is the fact that the mail of soldiers in the Philippines is under censorship. Consequently no one here can know whether the letters represent soldier sentiment in general or

not. The next thing is that soldier sentiment in favor of imperialism is, anyhow, a poor guide for voters who do not believe in militarism. The third is that Mr. McKinley, after seven full months with 65,000 troops, has failed to put down an "insurrection" which, according to Gen. Otis, was already put down before the seven months began to run. What then can be hoped for from him?

Another southern community has been disgraced by the lynching of a negro. We refer to Huntsville, Ala. This lynching was not attended with the barbarous cruelties that characterized those of Georgia several months ago. The mob merely hanged the prisoner without a trial. But it was a responsible mob, led by a well-known citizen; and if the people of Alabama do not bring him to the bar as a murderer and do their utmost to see him legally hanged for his crime, they make themselves responsible in the eyes of civilized men for his lawlessness. And they cannot excuse the mob nor themselves by pleading the infamy of the crime for which the negro was lynched. His guilt was not established. Neither the mob nor the community knows to this day whether he was guilty or not. And even if his guilt were positively known, the crime of the mob is no less. We could in that case discard sympathy for the murdered negro, saying that he had got his deserts; but we should still leave innocent negroes in danger of lynching upon unfounded accusations. The community that believes in law and order will not tolerate mob law even against the guilty. It will punish those who lawlessly execute vengeance upon the guilty, to the end that there may be security for the innocent. Nor will it allow race prejudice to swerve it from this manifest duty.

All through the fit of business hysterics, now at an end, which was generally and confidently exploited as evidence of prosperity, we insisted that the so-called prosperity was a feverish sham. All the circumstances