

President, in the naked name of the appointing official, of such rank despotism as would send to the penitentiary any native of the isles or any citizen of the United States who should there read aloud the best speech of Senator Hoar or Congressman McCall or the Declaration of Independence or even the immortal address of Lincoln at Gettysburg.

Much else, much else there has been to remind us of the cowardice of Republican administration, but ere we reach the climax of its pusillanimity it will be well if we pause to note a matter of recent date and very close at home. What dastardliness was that which summarily dismissed from the classified civil service Rebecca J. Taylor, not for incompetence, not for misbehavior, not for neglect of duty, but for the expression of her opinion of the dismal war upon the Philippines, published in a leading journal of the land, courageously published within a galling gunshot of the office of the secretary of war! Verily, it would seem that the administration had reached a pass where it was a coward from principle. It abominates courage. So afraid is the war office of facing exposure of its Philipinism that it turns pale at sight of a toiling woman with the look of humanity in her eyes.

But even this fails to equal the poltroonery of imperialism when, to shield its shame, it affects concern for the army whose dishonor it has wrought. So they who have put the army to brutal uses are the natural protectors of it, are they? As well might the profligate who has made wreck of chastity upbraid the virtue that denounces the profligacy. How rotten the defence of the offence!

For four dreary years almost things had been piling up tending greatly to exhaust the patience of the people. The foregoing enumeration by no means includes the catalogue. Perhaps it feebly outlines the more salient asperities of "benevolent assimilation" in so far as the censorship has permitted them to be known or failed to keep the asperities out of sight. The horrors of reconcentration, water cure and other tortures, slaughtering

all over ten and making howling wildernesses of provinces—these things as ascertained verities were getting to be last straws on the camel's back; but little was it dreamed that such inhumanities could be so traced as to hold the supreme authority of the land responsible therefor. But at length it so transpired beyond a peradventure. The intelligence burst from confinement that, while the country was lamenting such evils and deeming it impossible they could have official sanction this side of Manila, the evidence of their existence was in the war department itself at Washington, and what besides? that the secretary of war holding the evidence in his possession and wearing a mask of righteous scorn had repelled an intimation that the war had been conducted with "marked severity" and declared it had been conducted with unexampled moderation and humanity!

Then indeed was there murmuring in unaccustomed places. Then at last the pulpit began to flame. Then even Republican organs that were not quite petrified did a little gasp. Then the blind began to see, the deaf to hear and the dumb to speak. And what then? Then the Republican administration rose in its cowardice and cried out, "You are attacking the army!"

Was ever indefensible cause driven to extremity so desperate?

Attacking the army! Nay, ye wreckers of Republican government, we are attacking you.

Be assured we redouble attack on you, you who, dressed with a brief authority, have coerced the army into the service of a cause so ignoble and abhorrent.

The proverbial stupidity of the ostrich which in the hour of danger hides its head in the sand with all its big body exposed never had better illustration of the capacity of man to imitate that fowl than is furnished by the administration in this hour of imminent peril to its foul policy. Hiding its head in the uniform of a United States soldier, with all the enormity of criminal aggression exposed to the cyclone of public indignation, it pipes out, "Please don't attack the army."

The dodge is too dull, too shallow, too craven. Even a warlike President cannot gild it with strenuousness. Even imperialism itself never quite so skulked before.

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NEWS

The strike of the railroad freight handlers at Chicago (p. 216) has been abandoned, and the danger of serious disturbances to business which threatened for a week is over. When the ultimatum of the board of railroad managers, offered on the 9th, came before the striking freight handlers on the 10th, they voted to reject it. As soon as this had been done they solicited the cooperation of the teamsters, many of whom promptly responded, refusing to haul goods to or from any freight depot where nonunion freight handlers were employed. There were indications also that a sympathetic strike would be called officially by the teamsters' union. This situation was so demoralizing to the business interests of the city that the arbitration board of the teaming interests, of which a business man is chairman and which is composed of six teamsters and seven team owners, interposed. It asked the freight handlers and the railroads to submit their dispute to arbitration. The freight handlers agreed on the 10th, pledging themselves to abide by the decision of the board. The board of railroad managers met on the 11th, and the arbitration proposal was then laid before them. But they rejected it, saying that the railroads would deal directly with their own employes respectively and with no one else. In consequence of this refusal the teamsters' strike became more general, although it was not officially authorized, the teamsters' union being under contract; and on the 12th over 7,000 teamsters had refused to do hauling to or from the railway freight houses. Attempts to effect a settlement were continued, both by the arbitration committee of the teaming interests and by the state board of arbitration, the demands of the board of railway managers that all negotiations take place between the railroads individually and committees of their respective employes being complied with. But no perceptible headway was made until the 15th, when an agreement

was effected with the Lake Shore road by a committee of its own employes. This settlement was followed by others on the following day, and before noon half of the striking freight handlers had gone back to work. The president of the freight handlers' union consequently advised the rest to follow their example. In doing so he acted under the advice of the state board of arbitration which, on the morning of the 16th, recommended that—

the men return immediately to their respective places of employment and apply for the positions held by them previous to the strike (and) . . . that the employes of each of the several railroads appoint a committee to confer with the management of the railroad by which they are employed for the purpose of adjusting existing differences.

The boiler makers' strike on the Chicago & Northwestern (p. 217) was settled on the 11th.

Delegates to the general convention of coal miners at Indianapolis (p. 185) are gathering as these lines are written (July 17), but nothing is yet reported.

Not altogether unrelated to labor troubles is the trust question. This has come to the surface again through a report of the current week that the meat packers, who are under injunction forbidding their pooling their interests by agreement (pp. 106, 140), have consolidated their interests in a single corporation under the New Jersey laws. Rumors of this combination gained currency last month; but not until the present week was any positive announcement made, and even now it is not made with authority. The proceedings have been kept as secret as possible. Among the houses that are said to have consolidated are the following:

	Capital	Estimated Annual Business, 1901.
Swift & Co.....	\$25,000,000	\$190,000,000
Armour & Co.....	20,000,000	200,000,000
Nelson, Morris & Co. Partnership		100,000,000
Sulzberger & Schwarzchild	15,000,000	50,000,000
Hammond Co.....	3,600,000	50,000,000
Libby, McNeill & Libby	1,000,000	20,000,000
Cudahy Packing Co. Partnership		40,000,000

One of the persistent rumors in connection with this combination associates John D. Rockefeller with it.

A wholesale grocery trust, also, is reported as organizing under the

New Jersey laws, to be known as the National Grocer company.

Following closely upon the report of dividends of the steel trust (p. 202) comes an official statement by Charles M. Schwab, president of the trust, enumerating its holdings and their values. The statement was made on the 15th in an affidavit by Mr. Schwab filed in the court of chancery of New Jersey in an injunction suit brought by stockholders of the trust to prevent it from converting preferred stock into bonds. Mr. Schwab's schedule of the trust's assets is as follows:

Iron and Bessemer ore properties	\$ 700,000,000
Plants, mills, fixtures, machinery, equipment, tools, and real estate	300,000,000
Coal and coke fields (87,539 acres)	100,000,000
Transportation properties, including railroads (1,467 miles), terminals, docks, ships (112), equipment (23,185 cars and 428 locomotives), etc.	80,000,000
Blast furnaces	43,000,000
Natural gas fields	20,000,000
Limestone properties	4,000,000
Cash and cash assets June 1, 1902	143,281,000
Total assets	\$1,400,281,000
Earnings for year	\$ 140,000,000

The Republican convention of Wisconsin met at Madison on the 16th. A bitter fight has torn the party in this state. It is between the faction of Gov. Robert M. La Follette and the factions opposed to his renomination. LaFollette stands principally for two things—a direct primary law and higher taxation of railroads. To both these policies United States Senator John C. Spooner is opposed, which, together with the fact that his active friends are hostile to LaFollette, puts him nominally at the head of the anti-LaFollette or "stalwart" faction. On the face of the returns the LaFollette faction appeared to have 798 of the 1066 delegates elected to the convention. This preponderance of power held good when the convention organized, and the "stalwarts" were utterly beaten. On the 16th a platform was adopted which condemns the "stalwart" legislature of last year for its refusal to redeem the promises of the previous Republican platform for a primary law and increased railway taxation; and denounces "the pernicious activity of the Federal officials" in the state "in violation of the civil service laws," for the defeat of those measures. It specifically demands a primary law requiring nominations by direct popular vote, and also "the equal taxation of all railroads;" and it provides

that "all candidates be called on to pledge themselves to support these planks." On the question of supporting Senator Spooner for reelection, the convention defeated the "stalwarts." The platform, as reported by the committee, asked him to reconsider his announcement of two years ago that he would not again be a candidate for senator, and to "express his willingness to stand as a candidate in harmony with the sentiments and in support of the platform of principles here adopted by Wisconsin Republicans, and for the election of a legislature favorable to their enactment into law." This condition was opposed by the "stalwarts," who admitted that Spooner was not in accord with the platform, but urged that the senatorial office is national, and that he should not be bound in such a candidacy to conform as to state issues. They were voted down and the conditions adopted by 709½ to 353½. No nominations were made until the 17th; but the state committee was organized, and only four out of the 22 members are "stalwarts." La Follette is in complete control.

In Missouri the Republican convention met at Joplin on the 15th and nominated a state judicial ticket. The Republicans of Wyoming and the Democrats of Texas nominated gubernatorial tickets on the 16th, DeForest Richards being nominated for the Republican candidate for governor of Wyoming, and S. W. T. Latham for the Democratic candidate for governor of Texas..

Democratic politics in Ohio (p. 217) has been left virtually to the management of Mayor Johnson, of Cleveland; Congressman Norton, of Tiffin, having on the 10th made public at Columbus the following statement for John R. McLean, speaking, as he said, "by the card and with authority":

I saw Mr. McLean in Washington just before he left on his summer vacation, and he told me that there is nothing whatever in the reports of a fight between him and Johnson. He said to me: "I am taking no part in any fight. Mayor Johnson can name the ticket, build the platform, outline the policy and carry on the campaign without any opposition from me. My paper has a right to express its opinion, but when the ticket is made and the platform built it will be found supporting them as it has in the past." I know that Mc-