

# The Public

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Third Year.

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1900.

Number 115.

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Entered at the Chicago, Ill., Post-office as second-class matter.

For terms and all other particulars of publication, see last column of last page.

Congress has adjourned without so much as noticing that clause in the Paris treaty, now more than a year old, which imposes upon it the duty of determining the civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the Philippine islands. It leaves these people, without a word, entirely to the discretionary government of the military power. There is certainly about that a marked flavor of imperialism.

President Henry Wade Rogers, of the Northwestern university, at Evanston, Ill., an old established Methodist institution of learning, is the latest college educator to walk the plank for opinion's sake. One of the trustees brazenly declares in a newspaper interview that Mr. Rogers was forced into resigning because, a year ago, at a public meeting in Chicago, he made a speech against imperialism. The list is lengthening. Here are five of the notable ones: Bemis for opposing gas monopoly, Will for calling land monopoly to account, Andrews for having democratic opinions on the money question, Herron for bringing plutocracy to the test of Christianity, and now Rogers for standing by the declaration of independence. If the time has not already come, it cannot be far off, when college educators will clearly understand that if they wish to hold their chairs they must suppress all opinions which do not harmonize with the partisan or sordid interests of plutocratic college bosses.

Some of the McKinley papers are much concerned because the public

meetings in honor of the Boer envoys have had so strong an anti-administration coloring. But they have only themselves and the administration to blame. In organizing these meetings the greatest pains were taken to make them nonpartisan by securing full representations of both parties; but administration republicans invariably refused to participate. They could not have done otherwise without reflecting upon the administration. These meetings have been, necessarily and in the very nature of the case, rebukes to President McKinley for refusing to indicate to the British ministry the disfavor with which the people of this country look upon the subjugation of the South African republics.

Dun's Review for the 9th reports that business—

failures in May were not only the largest ever known in that month since such records were made, but of 80 months covered by these returns only six have shown as large liabilities.

The optimistic Dun finds, nevertheless, that "the report is encouraging." Dun's Review has found "encouragement" in every month's business for four years! But the masses, though they have found "encouragement" palatable, have not fattened upon it. This speculators' prosperity dies hard, in the speculators' papers; but it is dying, nevertheless. We have had no genuine prosperity since the late '80's, notwithstanding all the whooping up, and now even the bubble which trade papers and administration organs have inflated is collapsing.

A Chicago taxing official made an astounding statement to the Chicago Record of the 11th. Referring to the fact that some Chicago citizens have sought to evade personal property

taxation by buying government bonds to hold over the taxing period, he said:

These are the persons we are going after. We will raise all the schedules where we have reason to believe that this has been done, not taxing the bonds, because we could not do that, but making a higher valuation on other goods.

Consider the calm criminality of that proposition! This official has the temerity to proclaim that he and his associates will violate the law and their oath of office by assessing goods at more than they believe them to be worth, so that they may tax somebody by indirection for owning a kind of property which is legally exempt from taxation! To such unwholesome devices are taxing officials driven in extorting unwise and unjust taxes from personal property owners in order to relieve the city site owners of their just taxes.

Gov. Stephens, of Missouri, has exhibited a kind of strenuous courage in connection with the St. Louis strike which men of the Roosevelt type would be either too sanguinarily eager or too morally cowardly to imitate. His refusal to call out troops in response to the clamor for them, his determination to refrain from resorting to military violence until convinced that nothing short of that would preserve the peace, reflect the highest honor upon his administration. Riots must be put down. Peace and order must be maintained. The laws as they exist must be enforced. And no exception should be made in favor of lawless workingmen. But it is just as important that this should be done in a peaceable and orderly and lawful manner as that it should be done at all. It is more important. An English philosopher who wrote half a century ago, Patrick Edward Dove, regarded governmental law-