

# The Public

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As stump speakers, Hanna and Roosevelt make an elegant combination for an imperialistic campaign. Hanna with his full dinner pail issue, and Roosevelt merely as a spectacle, recall the "bread and circus" politics of imperial Rome.

Mr. Hanna's contract with that "twin relic of barbarism," the Mormon church, to throw the Mormon vote for McKinley, is a fit sequel to the presidential agreement with the proslavery and polygamous sultan of Sulu.

A significant banner was that which the great procession of striking miners carried while parading through Wilkesbarre on the 2d, and which read: "We want our dinner pails filled with substantial food, not coal barons' taffy."

To which political party in this campaign are the trusts contributing campaign funds? Would the trusts contribute to any political party without reasonable assurances of governmental protection in return? The answer to those two questions should determine the vote of every intelligent republican who has felt the deadly pressure of the trust.

It now transpires that Aguinaldo, instead of urging his people to fight until the American elections, in the hope of a Bryan victory, as the administration press has tried to make the public believe, assures them that either event will aid the Filipino cause. Should Bryan be elected, he says, the United States will recognize their independence; should McKin-

ley be reelected, he will become involved with the allies in a war in China, and for troops to use there must weaken the American army in the Philippines. Aguinaldo evidently expects independence in either case. Under McKinley, at the cost of more blood; under Bryan, by an honorable peace.

Judging from British dispatches, the much-talked-of "invasion" of Europe by American capital consists in the purchase of foreign monopolies by American syndicates. This kind of invasion will yet prove more disastrous to our foreign fellow men than an invasion by an army with banners.

We have occasionally expressed an opinion that the Bourbon democracy of the south, which is chiefly responsible for the undemocratic treatment of southern negroes, only awaits a favorable opportunity to go bag and baggage over to the McKinleyized republican party. There have been many signs of late, entirely apart from the logic of the situation, which strengthen this opinion. One of these is the announcement that ex-Senator M. C. Butler, of South Carolina, who led the white terror against the South Carolina blacks in the seventies, and whom Tillman afterward extinguished, has indicated his intention to become in name, as he already appears to be in fact, a McKinley republican. When "democrats" like Butler become republicans, it is high time for a good many "republicans," white and black, to become democrats.

An American court-martial in the Philippines has convicted two commissioned officers of torturing seven Filipino prisoners by hanging them by the neck for ten seconds. So we have one indisputable instance of tor-

ture. The crime is proved. Other instances are charged by newspaper correspondents; but we hear of no court-martials, though one peculiarly brutal species of torture, that of throwing prisoners upon their backs and pouring them full of water, is reported by the correspondents to be common. And when the penalty imposed in the one case of conviction of which the American public has been advised is considered, the torturing of Filipinos by American military officers would appear to be without danger of serious punishment. Though these two officers had been convicted of hanging seven of their prisoners by the neck for ten seconds, a torture that must have been agonizing, they were sentenced to be—reprimanded!

Advocates of postal savings banks may be put to their trumps by the condition of the postal savings bank system of England. While its report for 1898 showed a surplus of assets over liabilities of \$50,000,000, its report for 1899 shows an excess of liabilities over assets of \$2,500,000. From 1876 until 1895, the bank made an annual profit, over and above the expenses of operation and 2½ per cent. interest paid to depositors; but there has been a yearly loss since 1895, culminating in 1899 in what in a private institution would be confessed insolvency. Postal savings banks may be useful institutions, but the British experiment is not as good evidence of it as it used to be.

The British Tories have thrown shame aside and adopted some of the campaign dodges of American McKinleyites. They began the parliamentary campaign now in progress by calling the elections for a date three months in advance of the new registration of voters. The elections are