

ever, would limit the amount of taxation to the necessities of government economically administered.

### V.

To the practical operation of the single tax and the sufficiency of the fund it would raise, Mr. Shearman devotes the better part of two chapters, marshaling statistics and facts, as is his wont, and demolishing the trumpery statistics that have been cited in opposition, in a way that should delight those to whom his views appeal, as it will very likely confound such as oppose them. His conclusion is that the system of public revenues he advocates as just and natural, is—since the power to collect ground rent is a delegated power of taxation—simply a proposition to “tax the proceeds of taxation, and nothing else.”

We have not the space to follow him through his very practical exposition of the incidence and justice of the single tax and the social and industrial reform it would effect, nor to review his pointed replies to objections that have been made. It will be enough to say that in all these respects his work exemplifies his well-known qualities. Facts are abundantly used with painstaking accuracy and directness of statement, and the argument rests naturally and solidly upon them. Presenting Henry George's single tax idea from the practical in contradistinction to the theoretical point of view, Mr. Shearman's book is a valuable supplement to Mr. George's. Not that Mr. Shearman is unphilosophical. On the contrary his is the only really philosophical discussion extant of taxation in itself. But it is designed to interest and influence the so-called practical classes, the hard-headed, unsentimental men of affairs, rather than abstract students.

## NEWS

War news has lost its interest. Fighting in the field is over, and fighting about terms of settlement has not yet begun. Both Spain and the United States have appointed their military commissions for the surrender of Cuba and Puerto Rico; but neither has yet named its peace commissioners who are to be charged with framing a treaty. It is understood, however, that the commissioners to

represent the United States are to be Secretary of State William R. Day, Senator Cushman K. Davis, Senator William P. Frye, Supreme Court Justice E. D. White, and ex-Secretary of the Navy Benjamin F. Tracy. The Spanish queen regent has convened the cortes for September 5th to confirm the protocol and authorize the treaty of peace.

Pending the adjustment of questions in the United States growing out of the war, a voluntary conference of representative citizens assembled at Saratoga on the 19th, to discuss the future foreign policy of this country. The conference was opened by Henry Wade Rogers, of the Northwestern University, Chicago, chairman of the committee of arrangements, who spoke in opposition to colonial expansion. Carl Schurz was the principal speaker on the same side, while Judge Grosscup, of Chicago, led the expansionist elements. Samuel Gompers, president of the American federation of labor, spoke at length against the expansion policy, as calculated to injure the labor interests of the United States. A series of resolutions reported by Chancellor McCracken, of the New York University, chairman of a mixed committee of 21 on resolutions, was adopted unanimously. After commending the policy of the administration in first trying to avoid war and then prosecuting it vigorously, the resolutions declared in favor of allowing the people of the islands surrendered by Spain to govern themselves as soon as they can be trusted to do so, they to continue meantime under the protection of the United States, and the question of ultimate annexation to be left in abeyance, subject to the mutual desires of the people of this country and of the respective islands. The conference adjourned on the 20th subject to the call of Chairman Rogers.

On the question of territorial expansion a notion of the views of the administration may be derived from an interview given out by Senator Hanna, and reported in the Chicago Tribune of the 25th. Mr. Hanna says:

We will control Cuba. It makes little difference now whether the insurgents can maintain a stable government. In less than 20 years the United States will practically own the island. It will now require 50,000 men to hold Cuba, but we will get good returns for

our investment. We have spent \$300,000,000, and we spent it well. We have done ourselves a good turn while enhancing the cause of humanity. It is evident we have a good hold on these islands, and I am glad of it. The importance of such possessions from a commercial point of view cannot be overestimated, and we are there to stay. Whether Cuba is ceded to us or not makes little difference. We will control Cuba, and we will control part of the Philippine islands, and we are now on the eve of a new era of prosperity. We began the war on humanitarian grounds, but we end it by becoming the possessors of great territory, important not only on account of commercial, but also strategic possibilities.

The cable censorship of West Indian dispatches has been raised, and the cable between Hong Kong and Manila has been restored, while the interdiction of mails between the United States and Spain has been removed. Communication, therefore, between Spain and her former colonies and the rest of the world, will soon be as complete as ever.

From Santiago, daily reports of the sickness and deaths of American soldiers are still forwarded by cable. On the 23d the total number sick was 900, as against 1,516 reported last week; the total of fever cases was 631, as against 1,139 last week; and the total deaths for the week was 47, as against 94 last week.

The bad management as to medical supplies and hospital accommodations, which made such a scandal in connection with the Santiago campaign and the invalid troop ships, seems to have perpetuated itself at Camp Wikoff, the detention camp on Montauk Point, and to have spread to most if not all the other home camps. So loud and persistent have been the complaints from Camp Wikoff that Secretary Alger visited that camp on the 24th to make a personal inspection. The official report of Brig. Gen. Terry, of New York, as to the condition of New York troops in the various camps, reveals such a serious condition that the adjutant general of the state refuses to make it public.

The controversy over the responsibility for lack of medical supplies, and the consequent unnecessary suffering of the wounded before Santiago, continues. Dr. Senn places the

responsibility explicitly upon Gen. Shafter and his chief quartermaster. Col. Charles R. Greenleaf, chief surgeon of the army in the field, holds Gen. Shafter responsible also for the ravages of disease. He says that it was due to a want of cooperation on the part of Gen. Shafter, whereby the medical officers were made powerless to carry out their instructions.

Responsibility of another kind is placed upon Gen. Shafter by the Cuban Gen. Castillo, who, in reporting to the Cuban Junta at New York, blames him for having brought about the misunderstanding with the Cubans. Gen. Castillo, who accompanied Gen. Shafter to Cuba, says that personally he always received courteous treatment from Shafter, but the latter estranged Garcia and his men by breaking his promises and acting discourteously. Before the American forces landed, says Gen. Castillo, Shafter volunteered a promise to Garcia that upon the surrender of Santiago it would be turned over to him. Shafter also told Castillo, as late as the day before the surrender, that the Spanish prisoners would be marched outside the city and the Cubans be allowed to enter. These promises were broken. But even then, says Castillo, all friction might have been saved had Shafter been less brusque. He describes the friction as not only unfortunate but unnecessary.

With reference to the feeling engendered in the American army against the Cubans, Gen. Castillo makes this explanation in his report to the Junta. He says that as Gen. Garcia had no pack animals he detailed 250 men to carry provisions from Siboney to the front, eight miles away, for the subsistence of his force of 5,000 troops. There was consequently a continuous stream of Cubans walking through the American lines loaded with supplies, and the American soldiers suffering from want of food and ignorant of the errands of these Cuban burden bearers, naturally suspected them of selfishness and gluttony. The charge of inefficiency and cowardice made against the Cubans in connection with the charges of gluttony, are also answered by Gen. Castillo. He says he holds letters from Generals Lawton and Ludlow, who alone are able to judge, because their forces only were near the Cubans, that the Cubans worked hard and fought well.

At Manila, anticipated difficulties between the Philippine insurgents and the United States authorities, appear to have been avoided by tactful management. According to the Hong Kong correspondent of the London Daily Mail, Gen. Merritt and President Aguinaldo have agreed that the latter shall govern outside the city of Manila. For this reason, apparently, the city water supply of the city, which Aguinaldo controls and which it was feared he might cut off, is uninterrupted. The Mail's advices have been corroborated and supplemented by communications directly from Aguinaldo, who expresses his satisfaction with American occupation, and announces that he is disbanding his army.

American politics is taking on definite shape in California, where a fighting campaign is about to open. James G. Maguire, for three successive terms a democratic member of Congress, who was nominated for governor recently by both wings of the populists, and later by the silver republicans, was, on the 18th, nominated by his own party. Congressman Maguire, therefore, goes before the people of California with the united nomination of all parties in opposition to the regular republican organization. The republican convention met within a week after Maguire's nomination, and on the 23d nominated Henry F. Gage, of Los Angeles. The campaign will turn chiefly upon questions of railroad monopoly, though, as Maguire is a pronounced follower of Henry George, of international fame as such, his adversaries are likely to make an anti-single tax campaign.

Other political conventions of the week were that of the prohibitionists of Michigan, that of the republicans of Missouri and of South Dakota, and that of the democrats of Ohio, none of them of general importance.

For several days rumors have been current of the organization of a gigantic steel trust; and it is now stated with an appearance of authority that the organization has been effected. The companies comprised in the new trust are the Minnesota Iron Co., the Illinois Steel Co., the Southwestern Connellsville Coke Co., the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern railroad, the Lorain Steel Co., and the Johnson Steel Co. Six other companies may come

into the trust. The capital represented by the companies already included, exceeds \$75,000,000, and it is supposed that the capitalization of the trust will not be less than \$200,000,000.

Serious labor troubles are brewing at Pana, Ill., a coal mining town in the southeastern corner of Christian county at the junction of the C., C., C. & St. L., and the Illinois Central railroads, about 200 miles southwest of Chicago. A strike for some time in progress at that place, has been so far successful that the operators have sent into Alabama and engaged 1,000 negroes to come north and work in the Pana mines. They were expected to leave Birmingham, Ala., on the 22d and to arrive at Pana on the 24th. This expectation was the cause of much excitement at Pana, and indignation meetings were advocated. As an indication of the sympathy of the town with the miners, the sheriff's summons to 100 citizens to appear at the city hall on the morning of the 22d to act as deputies in protecting the imported negroes, was responded to by only 10 persons. On the 23d the sheriff summoned as deputies members or employes of nearly every business house in the town. He had received a consignment of Springfield rifles with which to arm the deputies. The first consignment of negroes arrived on the 24th. When they learned the situation they complained that they had been deceived by the operators, and most of them refused to go to work. Deputies stationed at the grounds are charged with threatening to shoot negroes who attempt to leave.

International difficulties between Canada and the United States are now in process of definite and formal adjustment. The joint high commission of the United States and Great Britain to adjust all differences between the Dominion and this country met in the city of Quebec on the 23d. The first session was held in the parliament building of the province of Quebec. Nothing was done except to exchange credentials, choose a chairman and three secretaries, and indulge in an interchange of courtesies. The chairman chosen was Lord Herschell, the British commissioner, and the secretaries were Chandler P. Anderson, of the American state department, for the United States, W. C. Cartwright, of the British foreign office, for Great Britain, and Henri