

153. At that time (p. 134) an indemnity of 450,000,000 taels (about \$327,000,000), to be paid to the powers by China in 30 annual installments with interest at four per cent., had been agreed upon. But differences as to the mode of payment have for several weeks held the representatives of the powers in a deadlock. This has now been broken. On the 22d the American commissioner, Mr. Rockhill, cabled the department at Washington that a plan for the payment of the indemnity had been agreed upon. The plan contemplates a bond issue resting upon the salt tax, the maritime customs and the inter-provincial customs—all indirect taxes which fall with greatest weight upon the common people.

From South Africa meager and dubious reports pass the British censorship, but all the circumstances indicate that the military problem is still unsolved and that the war is not confined to the old republics, but that Cape Colony also is in serious insurrection.

Neither are affairs in the Philippines altogether satisfactory to the invading power. After a trial of civil government in several provinces it has been abrogated in the islands of Cebu and Bahol, and in the province of Batangas, Luzon. Those districts are still in arms for independence and the American military power has consequently been restored.

NEWS NOTES.

—Local elections in France on the 22d indicate a popular indorsement of the ministry.

—The international convention of the Epworth League met at San Francisco on the 18th.

—Mr. Urquhart Lee, of Chicago, has been appointed to and has accepted the chair of parliamentary law in the University of California.

—Gen. Gomez has publicly announced that the object of his recent visit to the United States (pp. 184, 201, 217) was to induce Estrada Palma to become the first president of Cuba.

—Through expansion, caused by the intense heat of the past weeks, several suspension rods of the great suspension bridge from New York to Brooklyn were broken on the 24th, and for safety the car service was withdrawn.

—Prof. Koch, of Berlin, read a paper on the 23d before the International Tuberculosis congress at Lon-

don, in which he claims to have demonstrated that consumption is not communicable from animals or animal products to man.

—Eleanor A. Ormerod, distinguished as an entomologist, botanist and meteorologist, died at London on the 19th. Miss Ormerod held the degree of LL.D. from the University of Edinburgh. She was one of the highest authorities in her scientific specialties.

—The wife of Paul Kruger, president of the South African Republic, died at Pretoria on the 21st, aged 67 years. Mr. Kruger is still in Europe. His long absence, combined with the death of her daughter a week before, had broken Mrs. Kruger's spirit and made her an easy victim to an attack of pneumonia.

—Charles Cecil Fitzmorris, a high school boy of Chicago, accompanied by a representative of the Chicago American, arrived in Chicago on the 20th from a racing trip around the world. He was the first of the contestants to finish the trip, and he broke the world-girdling record, completing his journey in 60 days, 13 hours, 29 minutes and 42 4-5 seconds. The quickest previous trip on record was made in 1899 in 63 days.

—Rear Admiral Schley has asked "such action at the hands of the navy" department as it may deem best, to bring under official discussion the question of his conduct at the naval battle of Santiago, which has been impugned, scurrilously so by the third volume, just issued, of a history of the navy the first two volumes of which have been in use as a text book at the government naval academy. The request was made in a letter from Schley to the secretary of the navy on the 22d, and granted by the secretary in a letter of the 24th. It is understood the matter will be referred to a court of inquiry to be presided over by Admiral Dewey.

MISCELLANY

ALL IN ALL.

For The Public.

God is omnipotent; the priests declare, Omniscient too, is he. And, tell me where Shall space be found without him? Where Shall I escape his presence? Where?

God is omnipotent, and God is love, All force, all power must come then from above.

God is omniscient. What know we, But merest fragments of infinity?

God everywhere is present; yet we prate Of "holy places" and of "low estate;" Nor think that where God is, is holy ground;

And where He is not, no place can be found.

All are within his presence: Thou and I, The weak, the mighty, lowliest, most high.

He is; we are. He knows; we think. Without his will and power, to naught we sink.

All we are of him, therefore all divine, Who then shall dare between us draw the line?

Make one a freeman, one a slave? Bid one seek idle pleasure, one the grave?

Make one a master, and bid one to serve With brain and muscle, until nerve And sinew, racked with pain, Give out; and man returns to dust again?

Gave me abundance; direst lack to others? Or set me up as master o'er my brothers, To graciously rent out to them the soil, If only they pay tribute to me of their toll?

Is it our ignorance which makes us bold Thus to define God's goodness, and to hold

That for some only he creates, And gives them title sole to vast estates?

Say, can Omniscience thus mislead? Omnipotence divide against itself? Can Omnipresence foster heaven and hell While Love looks on approving, with an "All is well?"

Bellevue, Pa. W. A. HAWLEY.

THE SOURCE OF MONOPOLY.

By a neat trick, made possible by its enormous wealth, the Standard Oil company has headed off a threatening rival in the Texas oil field and made itself absolute master of the situation. It has bought up the wharves, railroad terminals and shipping facilities at Port Arthur, the natural shipping port of the Beaumont field, together with 90,000 acres of land in the vicinity, which is doubtless located in such a manner as to preclude any attempt of the Texas oil men to establish a new outlet. It would not be profitable for them to ship their oil to tidewater at a more distant point, and hence they are at the mercy of the Standard, and must sell their product to it at its own price. This is how the ideal trust overcomes competition.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Ledger well points out the methods by which these sort of schemes are worked and by which monopoly gets control of the sources of production, but it doth err in saying that this move of the Standard Oil company has been made possible by its enormous wealth.

Wharves, railroad terminals and shipping facilities are naturally and inherently public property. No individual nor corporation can get possession or control of such things except by means of a special charter, which means a grant of special privileges.

If the state of Texas and the city of Port Arthur had retained in their own possession that which belonged to them, the wharves, terminals and shipping facilities, it would have made no difference what the wealth of the Standard Oil company was, they would

have had no better chance in the field than other concerns.

It will thus be seen that monopolies stifle competition, not by reason of their enormous wealth, but through their ability to get from legislation grants of special privileges.

Had the people of Texas and Port Arthur had the matter in their own hands this could easily have been prevented and an immense benefit secured, not only for the state of Texas, but for the whole nation. But as it is under our present form of government the people have no voice in the matter. Our constitution grants to a handful of legislators the exclusive privilege of legislating, and this handful of legislators grants to corporations exclusive privileges in controlling the resources of wealth.

So it will be seen that monopoly rests on legislative grants of privileges, and legislative grants of privilege to corporations rest on the constitutional grants of privilege to legislators.

To get rid of the monopoly strike at the root, the constitutional grant of privilege to legislators.—The National New Era, of Springfield, O.

FROM THE ARID WEST.

For The Public.

The arid west is beginning to wonder about how soon it can reasonably expect to receive the farmers' bonus which the republican platform favored in 1900. Of course while the war in the Philippines was hanging fire, and the supreme court was known to have the constitution up a stump, the west sat "like patience on a monument." But everything has cooled off nicely. McKinley can once more sleep the sleep of the righteous, and the west is getting as restive as a bronco that has not bucked for quite a spell. It cannot be that the grand old party contemplates a bunco game with the people of the Rocky mountains. They have recovered their equanimity, and in the language of Shakespeare do not give a yellow dog if the white metal was turned upside down. Farming cannot be benefited by anything in this part of the world which does not increase the acreage under cultivation, the number of cultivators to the acre, the number of bushels to the acre, and also supplies a market. The present tariff will not do all these things, and there are some wool growers who have even lost faith in its efficacy, since the bottom has dropped out of the wool market. Idle men are rapidly increasing, building operations are at a standstill and some peo-

ple are blaming the labor unions for demanding an eight-hour day. Are these the premonitory symptoms of a cloudburst of colonial expansion prosperity? or only indicative of a spell of bad weather?

Some men handle any question which concerns laboring men very gingerly. It would be a shock to their reputations to be called socialists. Others are so much interested in the welfare of the kind of people Abraham Lincoln said were so numerous that the charge has no more effect than a Spanish broadside on an American battleship. A lie is its own worst enemy. If it is driven to cover it commits compulsory suicide.

Government ownership of irrigation is wanted, because no other method of supplying water to the thirsty soil can handle it at cost.

Every home builder who adds an improved ranch to the property valuation of a western state has increased the demand for the products of domestic factories. Such homemade expansion works both ways. There is a good time coming in the near future when an imaginary line cannot separate Yankees who live on either side of it. Neighbors with common interests are bound to get together.

The agricultural future of the arid west depends, after irrigation, on the South American market. An isthmian canal will be favored by the west, for a reason of its own. We want free trade with South America. Then the fortified canal is wanted by the Atlantic coast as its highway to the orient. A better subsidy to American shipping could not spring full orb'd from the brain of the republican elephant than free transportation to American bottoms across the isthmus. But unless the waterway is cut at once by popular subscription there is a chance for serious trouble with Europe. Make no mistake, Europe is after that canal hot-footed. She has blood in her eye, and threatens to take the implied powers out of the Monroe doctrine in a square stand up fight to a finish. War is not pleasant to contemplate. Sherman—an expert on the subject—declared it was hell. Europe cannot be prevented from going to hell if she chooses, but it would be well to remember the inscription which Dante saw over that open door.

JAMES C. FREE.

Billings, Mont., July 5, 1901.

It is a pity that our ancestors left us so many problems which they should have solved; also, that we are willing to pass the problems along.—Puck.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

NO MUNICIPAL POLITICAL ASSESSMENTS.

There won't be any assessments at the city hall while Tom L. Johnson is mayor. That fact was demonstrated yesterday when the mayor called a halt on an assessment that had been started. It seems that the work had been going on several days before the mayor learned of it. When the facts came to his knowledge he at once sent for a city hall employe who was said to be directing the work.

"Yes, it's true," was the answer given to a question put by the mayor.

"What do you mean by doing anything of that sort without consulting me?" demanded Mayor Johnson. "I won't have it at all. I want it stopped right here. How many men are out collecting money?"

"One, I think."

"Can you get your hands on him in a few minutes?"

"I guess so."

"Do it right away then. Tell him not to collect another cent and see to it that nothing of the kind goes on again. Send the subscription books to me."

In a short time four books were placed in the mayor's hands.

"Are these all?" he asked.

"No."

"How many more are out?"

"Two or three."

"Get them in right away. Now I want every cent collected returned to the men from whom it was received."

"All right," and the assessment collector walked out, dazed.

In the city hall there are a number of employes who are republicans. They hold their jobs because they are competent men. The mayor, apparently, does not think it would be right to make republicans contribute money to defray the expenses of a democratic campaign. He is also opposed to making a lot of low salaried democratic employes give up a per cent. of their earnings for political purposes.

The mayor's ultimatum carried joy to the hearts of some city hall people and dismay to others. Director of Public Works Salen was one of the most astonished ones when he heard what the mayor had done.

"How are we to defray the expenses of the democratic committee?" he demanded. "It isn't right to ask one or two men to put up all the money and unless we have money