

Rhoades and Clarence H. Kelsey, as the committee on taxation of the chamber, the committee declares that it—

is no less satisfied now than it was in January that the local option and apportionment plan is the only one by which a just balance of taxation can be secured for the several political divisions of the state.

A Chicago paper, protection of course, boasts of American commerce by comparing it with that of Germany and Great Britain for the year ending December last. The comparison is made in the following table:

	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom.....	\$2,548,262,360	\$1,418,347,781
United States .....	829,019,337	1,453,013,659
Germany .....	1,322,580,000	1,050,611,000

Germany and the United Kingdom here appear to have a somewhat larger aggregate commerce than the United States; but the excess, proudly observes the paper from which we quote, "is due solely to their greater imports." That is as if a merchant should explain that he had as good a trade as his rivals, and that the fact that theirs appeared to be bigger was "due solely to their greater receipts" from sales. If it is profitable for the United States to import so much less than it exports, then it would be more profitable if it imported nothing. Were that the case, we should have this table:

	Imports.	Exports.
United Kingdom.....	\$2,548,262,360	\$1,418,347,781
United States .....	0,000,000,000	1,453,013,659
Germany .....	1,322,580,000	1,050,611,000

But if that were indeed the situation perpetually—all outgo and no income for the United States—would this Chicago paper be boastful? If not, why not? What is the difference between exporting without importing at all, and exporting more than you import? Is it anything but a difference in degree?

The conscience of a Philadelphia woman who owned some Northern Pacific stock which she sold at a heavy advance during the Wall street storm, troubled her so that she returned the profit to her brokers, refusing herself to benefit by it. If this satisfies her conscience it must be harder than her head. That profit, like

nearly all the profits of our complex civilization, is more surely her property than anybody else's. She cannot get it to the persons who are impoverished by her fortune. They cannot possibly be identified. The money therefore is hers, quite as much as if she had found it and no owner could be discovered; and she no more rids herself of responsibility for the evil it represents by returning it to her broker, than she would by spending it for a trip to Europe. Whatever she does with it, she does necessarily not by way of restoration but by way of expenditure. There is but one thing the beneficiaries of inequitable industrial conditions can do to escape the sin of them. It is not to refuse to benefit by them. That at the best is only charity. You get money that you regard as foul and give it away; or you could get it, and you refuse to take it. In either case you divert the foul money from yourself to others who have no more right to it than you have. And this you do as its owner, as the person, that is, who directs its expenditure. You can't help yourself. But if you really think the source of the money is foul, you can avoid responsibility by using all your influence to purify the source. There is nothing else you can do. That is the only possible way in which an individual can repent of social sin.

**JAMES A. HERNE.**

In the death of James A. Herne, the drama does not suffer alone.

Mr. Herne was an accomplished actor. He had few superiors in any line of the player's work that he engaged in, and in some respects he was without an equal. To the accomplishments of a skilled player, he brought also the genius of a great play writer. If a greater constructor of American plays out of American material has yet appeared, his claims to superiority have not been recognized.

But Mr. Herne was more than a great playwright and skillful actor. He was an intelligent and conscientious student of sociological and political subjects and an eloquent orator

who had serious things to say. Though he modestly cherished his honorable reputation as an actor, and was justly proud of his truly remarkable achievements as a dramatic author, yet if he himself had chosen his chief title to immortality in the memory of his brethren, he would doubtless have turned to another phase of his life. He would have named his part in that most genuinely radical and rapidly advancing movement for industrial order and consequent social regeneration to which Henry George gave his work and name.

The very first of his profession to be deeply stirred by George's clarion call, Mr. Herne became a devoted disciple of this "prophet of San Francisco" nearly two decades ago, and so remained during all the years until his death. This devotion, coupled with unusual charms of oratory, made him a welcome guest in many pulpits where the spirit of the Nazarene lingers, and did much not only to promote the cause he pleaded for, but also to break down the barriers between wholesome play-acting and true religion. The fame of an actor can hardly survive the generation that knew him. A playwright's work may somewhat longer keep his memory green. But when Herne the player and Herne the author shall have been forgotten, this modest, sincere, able, useful and lovable man of the theater will be affectionately remembered as a companion and coworker of Henry George.

**NEWS**

Owing to the supreme court decisions reported last week, intimations were for several days thrown out from Washington that a special session of congress might be called to legislate with reference to the Philippines. Mr. Root, the secretary of war, was reported to be an advocate of a special session, while Mr. Knox, the attorney general, opposed it. In the De Lima case it had been decided that ceded territory ceases to be foreign immediately upon the ratification of the treaty of cession, and that thereupon the general tariff act imposing duties upon foreign imports no longer operates between that territory and the United States proper. This be-

ing so, the policy of the administration with reference to the Philippines is illegal, since the Dingley law duties on imports from the Philippines are being collected. Moreover, according to the De Lima case, the president's military authority in the ceded territory as commander in chief ended with the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain, so he could not make laws on the basis of military necessity. But in the Downes case the court decided that congress may legislate without constitutional restraint with reference to new territory. This, however, congress has not done regarding the Philippines, except by the Spooner act, which assumes to delegate congressional power to the president and is therefore of doubtful validity. For these reasons it was proposed to call an extra session for the purpose of securing an act of congress for the Philippines like the Foraker act with reference to Puerto Rico, which the supreme court had upheld in the Downes case. In opposing that proposition the attorney general urged that the Philippine case differs from the Puerto Rico case, and that if congress were to assemble in special session it would be as much in the dark as to its power as the president is as to his, with reference to the Philippines. What the attorney general, therefore, proposed was that the president maintain in form a military occupation of the Philippines at least until congress acts in regular session. By doing this it is hoped that the administration will be in position to claim before the supreme court that although the Philippines ceased to be foreign territory immediately upon the ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain, yet, owing to the resistance of the inhabitants the military character of the American occupation, and consequently the military authority of the president as commander in chief, continue. The attorney general's suggestion was adopted at a cabinet meeting on the 4th, after which the following semiofficial announcement was given out at the white house:

The president has determined that existing conditions do not require or warrant calling congress together during the present summer or making any change in the policy hitherto pursued and announced in regard to the Philippine islands.

As the cabinet decision intimates, there is no intention of abandoning the plan of instituting civil government in the Philippines on the 1st of July.

But this will not now be done with the flourish that was originally intended. Civil government there will assume a tentative character, with the military authority still in the ascendant, nominally if not actually, and will so remain until congress acts and the supreme court sheds more light upon the possibilities of a colonial establishment.

On the question of Philippine citizenship, an expression was drawn from the government on the 1st by an application which two Filipinos in London made to the American embassy there for a passport to enable them to travel in Russia. Instructions were cabled for to Washington, and Secretary Hay directed the American ambassador to issue passports describing the applicants as "residents of the Philippine islands, and as such entitled to the protection of the United States."

From the Philippines there came a report on the 30th of a skirmish in which a surgeon was killed; and on the 4th a Manila dispatch told of an interview between Aguinaldo and the adjutant to Gen. Cailles. The Filipino adjutant said that Gen. Cailles did not believe that Aguinaldo had been captured, but supposed that Aguinaldo's proclamation was an American forgery. According to the Manila dispatch, Aguinaldo sent word back to Gen. Cailles advising him to surrender.

The Chinese situation, to which reference was last made in these columns on page 89, has advanced somewhat, though the finality is not yet. No action had been taken by the powers at the time of the last report, with reference to China's reply to the indemnity demanded, in which she offered 15,000,000 taels (about \$10,500,000) annually for 30 years. They subsequently agreed upon an indemnity of 450,000,000 taels (\$327,000,000), with four per cent. interest until paid, and this demand the Chinese envoys have acceded to. The bonds are to be secured by an increase of five per cent. in maritime customs, by a tax on salt, and by inland customs. Accordingly affairs have been put in readiness by the powers for the return of the Chinese court to Peking. The administration of the city is to be transferred gradually to the Chinese officials during the pres-

ent month, and the evacuation is now going on.

An end to the ministerial crisis in Japan (page 89) has been reached by the formation of a new cabinet. Count Yamagata, who had been invited to form a cabinet, upon the resignation of Marquis Ito, who had succeeded him last fall, was unable or unwilling to undertake the responsibility, and it was turned over to Viscount Katsura, who succeeded in the task on the 3d.

Once more public interest is startled into activity by the Boer war. Just as the people of Great Britain were again settling down to the conviction that only occasional and harmless guerrilla skirmishes remained to remind them of hostilities, and that these, too, would soon cease, the London Times published a three-column list of British killed and wounded in engagements which the government had never reported. That was on the 30th, and on the 31st a dispatch was received from Gen. Kitchener in which he reported desperate fighting and heavy British losses at Vlakkfontein, within 40 miles of Johannesburg, on the Durban-Johannesburg railroad. Gen. Kitchener's dispatch, dated the 30th, is its own best commentary. He said:

Gen. Dixon's force at Vlakkfontein was attacked yesterday by Delarey's forces and there was severe fighting. The enemy was eventually driven off with heavy loss, leaving 35 dead. I regret that our casualties also were severe. The killed and wounded numbered 174. Four officers were killed.

Later reports of British losses put them at 6 officers and 51 men killed, 6 officers and 115 men wounded, and 1 officer and 7 men missing.

That dispatch was followed on the 4th by another in which Gen. Kitchener told briefly of the surrender on the 2d, by the British, of Jamestown, in Cape Colony, to a body of Boers, after four hours' fighting. As Gen. Kitchener explains it—

the town guard and local volunteers were overpowered before our pursuing columns could come up. Our casualties were three killed and two wounded. The Boer loss is said to have been greater. The stores were looted, but the garrison was released. Have placed Gen. French in charge of operations in Cape Colony.

President Kruger was reported on the 30th from Brussels to have peti-