

track on Hamilton street was favorably acted upon by the board of control yesterday.

The application was returned to the board yesterday morning bearing the approval of the mayor.

"Yes," said Mr. Johnson, "I have got everyone connected with the Variety iron works pledged to help us the next time we try to put the three-cent fare railroad through Hamilton street."

And the permit was forthwith granted without an opposing vote.—Plain Dealer of Jan. 6.

THOUSANDS OF FILIPINOS DYING OF HUNGER.

The once prosperous Philippine Islands have come to a sad pass. After war, murder, torture, rapine and fire had devastated the greater portion of these islands, the inevitable plague, pestilence and famine have followed in their train. Two hundred and fifty thousand Filipinos are said to have been killed in the war, and a like number have perished from the plague. How great is the number of the widows and orphans that have no providers is problematical, but the number must approach two million of helpless ones. These are now dying of hunger and the number is added to daily, for the plague has not been stayed.

So desperate are the conditions that President Roosevelt has transmitted to Congress a message inclosing a letter from Secretary Root, describing the terrible conditions that prevail, and asking that a special appropriation of \$3,000,000 be made for the relief of the destitute. The Secretary of War says:

It seems to me that the conditions resulting from the destruction by rinderpest of 90 per cent. of the carabaos, the draft animals of the islands, and the consequent failure of the rice crop, followed by an epidemic of cholera, are so serious and distressing as to call for action by Congress beyond that for which the commission specifically ask. . . . I think the occasion for relief in the Philippines is now greater than it was in Cuba, when Congress appropriated \$3,000,000 for the payment of the Cuban soldiers out of the treasury of the United States, or than it was in Porto Rico when hundreds of thousands of dollars were contributed by the people of the United States, and more than a million of dollars paid out of the national treasury for the relief of the sufferers from the hurricane of August, 1899.

Never before has a message of a president to Congress presented such a sad and disastrous condition as existing in any part of the territory of the United States. Worse than Cuba, after the iron despotism of

Spain and the brutality of Weyler had devastated that fair island. Could any parallel be worse?

The great heart of the American people freely gave relief to the Cuban distress and now will respond with even greater liberality, for Cuba was only a neighbor in distress, but the Filipinos are our own people, whom we have undertaken to provide for. We bought them with a great price and have spent hundreds of millions to force our government on them. We have been told we are there to stay whatever betides,—the more reason they should be cared for. There should be no delay in making this appropriation to relieve this distress for which we are at least partially responsible. If three millions is not enough, let it be doubled or even tenfold appropriated.

The government we have instituted in the Philippines collects all the revenues, and, sorry to relate, most of it is expended on our own officials who have been sent there to administer it. The Filipinos are helpless; their fate is in our hands.

Whatever disposition is to be made of the Philippine Islands will be settled hereafter. The present is no time for quibbling on political conditions when thousands are dying of hunger and disease.

The Republican administration of benevolent assimilation for the islands is a failure—our chief officials acknowledge it. Instead of the pictures of contentment and good government, that have been the constant theme of the Imperialists, they are now forced to portray impoverishment and distress.

Is it to be wondered at that ladrones are organized into bands, even for plunder, with gaunt hunger stalking through the land, up to the gates of Manila?

Government of the people without their consent, has always been disastrous to the governed, and has usually brought misfortune to those who have attempted it.

B. W. H.

WHAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CAN AND SHOULD DO.

The opening portion of an address delivered by Western Starr before the Henry George association, of Chicago, December 28, 1902.

The Democratic party is ostensibly the agency through which the interests of the people are safeguarded. It is the popular organ of democracy; it is the representation of the

unprivileged, as opposed to the privileged, in governmental policies.

The various forms of privilege group themselves into a few classes, each of which bears with heavier weight upon some specific class or group of people; and this gives rise to various theories of defense.

The victims of tariffs and the victims of railroad discriminations, as classes, each have a separate remedy to propose. The victims of municipal franchise have still another. Those who suffer from the abuses imposed as a result of competition in the labor world, offer still another. Each of these classes, sincerely, honestly believes that if only its peculiar grievance was removed, life and labor would again become a smiling summer holiday for the whole world.

All of these classes look to the Democratic party for relief; and each class demands that whatever may be done for others, it shall by no means be neglected. This has made the Democratic party an agglomeration of discordant factions, each striving for a special object, and indifferent to the consequences to all others.

Added to these classes is still another class which makes use of all the rest—a class the exponents of which speak oracularly of the fundamental principles of Democracy, without venturing to state in explicit or concrete form what these mysterious principles are, or what they could produce as results, if once established. This latter class is virtually the "usufruct" element of the Democratic party, and is, in fact, more incumbrance than help to its councils or field operations.

The great party opposed to this party of the people, is that great association of the cohorts of privilege—the so-called Republican party; a party composed of a vast number of lesser parties, each dominated by the fetish of its own special interest, and cooperating with all the other advocates of special interest, because of the identity of purpose animating each.

Every beneficiary of special interest or privilege is enlisted to preserve the principle of privilege, fully realizing the disastrous consequences to his own little tin god if some other tinsel deity should be dethroned.

The practice of the devotees of privilege ought to be sufficient example for the opponents of privilege.