

dealt with only by the executive branch of the government;"

and that no concealment has been made of these facts, the war being—carried on by officers in the army of Edward VII., openly at Port Chalmette, in all respects, except they do not appear in uniform.

To ignore a statement so specific, of a breach of neutrality so flagrant, as it is reported from Washington that the President has done and intends to continue doing, constitutes a disregard of American ideals in the interest of British imperialism which cannot be excused by jocular references to Gen. Pearson's request to the President—

to either put an end to this state of affairs, or permit me to strike one blow.

The question raised by Gen. Pearson is not one that may be laughed out of the White House. It is the serious one of whether the British army shall any longer be permitted to use an American city and port, in violation of American neutrality, as a base for warlike operations against a friendly people.

The British ministry must have made a sad blunder when it entered into the arrangement to intimate to the American people from the floor of parliament that in the American war with Spain the British government was so friendly, and so solitary in its friendliness, that it alone prevented a coalition of European powers to interfere in the interest of Spain. This pretense was made for the purpose, evidently, of checking the pro-Boer sentiment in the United States which has recently been growing with great rapidity. Not only did it fail in that, but it has put the British ministry in a plight; for now the German government lays claim to having been our one and only friend, and offers to prove that the British government was quite otherwise. In these extraordinary assertions of tory and monarchical friendship there is an element of danger. It should be the constant aim of the American people to be on terms of cordial friendship with the British people, the German people, the

French people, and every other people. But friendship between peoples and friendship between royal governments may be quite different.

On the 10th, Mayor Johnson's 3-cent fare plans for Cleveland (p. 644) were advanced another step. The bids theretofore authorized by the council were then opened, and although only one had been made, the established companies having stood out in hostile opposition, that one came from a responsible source—John B. Hoefgen, formerly with Johnson and one of the best street railway men in the country; it was backed by the required guarantee deposit of \$50,000; its acceptance has been recommended by the city board of control; and the council has by a vote of 21 to 1 directed the corporation counsel to draft the necessary ordinances. Unless the 5-cent monopoly systems of Cleveland are able, through influencing abutting real estate owners to refuse consents, Cleveland will soon have 100 miles of street car track over which the fare will be only three cents, and the ownership of which may at no distant day be assumed by the city.

While Johnson is thus redeeming his election pledges as to local street car service, he is losing no points on the issue of taxation, in which his interest is as keen and deeper. What he lacked in this connection, Gov. Nash has supplied. In order to "steal Johnson's thunder," the governor proposed a state tax on corporations. But as he neglected to distinguish between corporations without special privileges and those with very valuable special privileges—a distinction which Johnson scrupulously makes—he has actually given Johnson more tax thunder than he had before. The situation is very clearly described by a Columbus staff correspondent of the Cleveland Plain Dealer (February 9), who writes:

When he started out to "separate state from county taxes" Gov. Nash thought he would have an easy time of it; that the corporations would fall over themselves to accept his ideas as

a means of escaping the Johnson bills. Gov. Nash forgot that the Johnson bills were aimed at the corporations fattening on public privileges, while he was going after those who owed their success to the workings of men's brains only. Railroads without the right of eminent domain would be of little public service and consequently of little value, it is argued. The greater part of their value is in the right of way, a continuous strip of land running across the state or the continent. The value of telephone and telegraph companies is mainly in the privilege which they have to set poles and string wires across a city, county or state. The greater part of the value of a street railroad is in the right given it to use the streets of a municipality. These are the propositions which the advocates of the Johnsonian scheme of taxation advance. They say they do not want to tax brains. Gov. Nash may not want to do that, either, but that he is doing it in his capital stock bill there can be no dispute.

A constitutional amendment of great importance, but so framed as to be of no importance at all, has been adopted by the senate. It changes the date for the inauguration of President and the beginning of Congress from the 4th of March to the last Thursday in April. The only reason urged for this change is the fact that in March the weather is often so blustering as to interfere with inaugural displays. This reason is too petty to set all the machinery of amendment making at work. Yet the inaugural day and the day for the beginning of congressional sessions ought to be altered. The time elapsing between elections and official responsibilities is too long. As does the Canadian parliament, so Congress ought to assemble immediately after the congressional elections and presidents ought to be inaugurated immediately after presidential elections. It is important to the interests of popular government that they enter upon their duties with the instructions of their constituents fresh in their minds. This is a valid reason for an appropriate change. But instead of considering and being governed by this reason, the proposed amendment actually lengthens the time between election and induction into office. And for what? Merely to hit upon a more agreeable season