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In the estimation of the republicans four years ago, Bryan was a dishonest fool. Now, upon the same authority, he is a man of sterling integrity and exceptional ability who for that reason would make a dangerous president!

The conviction this week at Chicago of a little combination of photo-engravers for violating the anti-trust law of Illinois has its comic side, when one notes the fact that the conviction was secured within sight of the smoke from steel trust chimneys.

The steel trust in Chicago is trying again to coerce its employes for election purposes. McKinley clubs, marching clubs, "rough rider" companies, and so on, are being formed at the works directly under the eye of the trust. All good workmen are expected to join. Those who refuse will surely cast doubts upon their good workmanship.

It was a humiliating rebuke to the kind of Americanism that has latterly come to the front, which, according to Associated Press dispatches of the 25th, the Puerto Ricans administered last week at San Juan. They had almost ignored the Fourth of July. But when the day came for honoring the patron saint of Spain, they made a grand demonstration. It was all Spanish. Not more than half a dozen native houses displayed the American flag, while from 2,000 to 3,000 Spanish flags were unfurled. This pro-Spanish demonstration is made doubly significant by the fact that it occurred on the second anniversary of

the landing of American troops. Between the hostile spirit of to-day and the friendly one which then welcomed the Americans, a wide gulf has been made by the imperial policy of the McKinley administration—made in the face of what McKinley himself declared to be a "plain duty."

Dispatches from Berlin state that the McKinley government has communicated by circular note to the European powers its willingness to cooperate fully in the allied movement for the restoration of peace in China and the establishment of a responsible government at Peking. Notwithstanding the reliable sources from which this information is said to emanate, judgment as to its veracity ought to be suspended. Mr. McKinley has no constitutional right to make an alliance with foreign powers for any such purpose. He may cooperate to save the ministers from a mob. He may cooperate in an emergency to save the lives of other Americans from a mob. But he cannot cooperate to restore peace and establish a responsible government, without cooperating to levy war. And Mr. McKinley has no constitutional authority to levy war. That function is reserved to congress. While the administration has gone far toward ignoring the constitution and centralizing military power in the commander-in-chief, we are not yet prepared to believe that it has reached the point of confederating, without congressional authority, with the military powers of Europe for an invasive war in China.

One of the assistant directors of the federal census, Mr. Wines, in explaining why the census statistics for 1900 are likely to be late, incidentally explains something of more importance. He explains why they are likely to be

false. "A man gives the enumerator certain figures," says Mr. Wines, "as to the cost of running his establishment a year. We find that according to his own figures he has run his business at a dead loss of several thousand dollars." So it is assumed that the man has made an error, and, at the cost of delaying publication, the figures are returned to him for correction. He is expected to show that his business has been run at a profit. If his figures had shown a gain of several thousand dollars, instead of a loss, they would evidently not have been returned for correction. It would then have been assumed that there was no error. Here we have another impressive illustration of the great truth that "statistics, like sausages, depend for their value upon who makes them."

The assassination of King Humbert is not a difficult thing to explain. There is no need for weaving fantastic stories about anarchistic conspiracies, in which lots are drawn to designate the assassin who shall remove this crowned head and the assassin who shall remove that one. Stories of that kind are interesting in novels; but in newspapers they are out of place. No such conspiracy exists. If there were one, one that "meant business," the earth would soon be depopulated of its monarchs. One hundred determined men, willing to die themselves provided that in dying they could make some throne vacant, and ready to draw lots for orders, would be as deadly as Death himself and as difficult to deal with as a ghost. They might stimulate the adoption of drastic laws against men who seek to reform political and social evils by legitimate methods; they might bring down the vengeance of the powers upon such men as these; they might put back the advance of