

ought to bear it to those who ought not—from the rich monopoly classes to the middle classes and the poor. The “general property tax” is a system which professedly aims at equality of taxation through the taxation of all kinds of property. In New York, where it is in vogue, and has been made increasingly stringent with a view to reaching intangible personal property, there appears upon the tax returns to have been an enormous falling off since 1870 in the value of personal property, especially in cities. It is absurd of course to suppose that there has in reality been such a falling off. Personal property has in fact increased. The apparent falling off means that intangible personal property is escaping taxation, with the effect of throwing heavier burdens upon the owners of personalty of the tangible sort. The owners of stocks and bonds escape, because they can hide that kind of property; but the owners of horses, cows and the like must pay, because such property cannot be hidden. The same condition that obtains in New York is shown by Mr. Purdy to prevail in the other states named. It is universal and should long before this have taught honest advocates of the general property tax that they are on the wrong scent.

If it is desired to put the burden of taxation upon the classes that profit especially by such property as stocks and bonds—and that certainly is the object of stringent personal property taxation—the way to do it is to abandon personal property taxation altogether, and levy all our taxes exclusively upon monopoly privileges. Taxes upon these privileges, if properly laid, cannot be escaped; and they fall upon the stock and bond classes. The interests of those classes are buttressed by monopoly.

That such taxes can be properly laid is evident. By laying them upon the fundamental monopoly—upon the monopoly of land, which is the monopoly that would absorb all the pecuniary benefits of the abolition of other monopolies—the pecuniary advantages of every kind of monopoly would be subjected to taxation. And this is Mr. Purdy’s view, for he advocates the home rule prin-

ciple of taxation lately indorsed by the Ohio senate, under which every county would be allowed if it chose to confine taxation to land values.

STREET CAR MONOPOLY.

Excitement over war questions may have the unfortunate effect of diverting attention from important municipal problems. This must be avoided if possible. It is of vital concern to the American people that they do not allow the present war, as they allowed that of ’61, to be made the opportunity of monopoly sharks to secure liens upon public rights.

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance in all directions; and in no direction is vigilance more urgently demanded at this time than in the direction of guarding street franchises. For more than a generation these franchises have been squandered; and now that the public mind has been awakened to the evil, it must be prevented from going to sleep again.

But we should not be content with exacting compensation. That would be merely to shift the advantages of street franchises from one class of monopolists to another. So long as street car companies get street franchises for nothing, they feed upon the public. Through the value of their privileges they then suck the life blood of our communities. But if they were required to pay for their franchises the public as a whole would be no better off. What street car monopolists pocket for nothing when no compensation for franchises is required would be pocketed by real estate interests if cities exacted compensation.

Upon the principle of dividing to conquer, it may possibly be advisable to attack street monopolies first and real estate monopolies afterwards. But even upon that principle, the true method of attacking street car monopolies is not by demanding compensation for franchises, but by requiring a reduction of fares. Under the compensation system, street car passengers—from the millionaire who rides twice a day between his office and his house to the washwoman who is compelled to use the cars as often or oftener—are taxed for each ride, merely to lessen city taxes which otherwise would have to be borne by real estate owners.

Of what use is it to the public—taking a Chicago instance for illustration—to charge Yerkes a good round sum for his street car monopoly, only to reduce the real estate taxes of Marshall Field? Let Yerkes pay for his monopoly privilege in rendering service for lower fares, and shop girls, mechanics, washwomen and the general public will be directly benefited. That is the direction that reform in the way of abolishing street car monopoly ought to take.

NEWS

At the hour of writing last week, no official news had been received from the American fleet in the Philippines since its departure from Mirs Bay, on the coast of China. The reason for this was that the cable from Manila to Hong Kong had been interrupted. It was known only that a battle had been fought and a victory won in Manila Bay. Notwithstanding the suspension of cable communication, however, baseless rumors and counter rumors were afloat daily, almost hourly, until the 7th, when Com. Dewey’s dispatch boat, the Hugh McCulloch, arrived at Hong Kong with the commodore’s official report. This report, and the cable letter of John T. McCutcheon, staff correspondent of the Chicago Record, who had accompanied the fleet, gave the only trustworthy and complete news of the situation at Manila, down to the 5th. Nothing further had been received at this writing.

Com. Dewey’s official report was in full as follows:

Manila, May 1.—The squadron arrived at Manila at daybreak this morning. We immediately engaged the enemy and destroyed the following Spanish vessels: Reina Christina, Castilla, Don Antonio de Ulloa, Isla de Luzon, General Lezo, Isla de Cuba, Marquis del Duero, Elcano, Velasco, Don Juan de Austria, Isla de Mindinao (transport). The squadron is uninjured, and only a few men were slightly wounded. I cut the cable to prevent Spanish communication. The only means of telegraphing is to the American counsel at Hong Kong. I shall communicate with him.—DEWEY.

In a second dispatch Com. Dewey reported that having taken possession of the naval station at Cavite, he had destroyed the fortifications at the entrance to the bay and paroled the garrison; that he controlled the bay com-

pletely and could take the city at any time; that the squadron were in excellent health and spirits; that while the Spanish loss was not known it was heavy and included the captain of the *Reina Christina*; and that the American fleet was assisting in protecting the Spanish sick and wounded, 250 of them being in the hospital within our lines. The commodore added that there was much excitement at Manila, and he promised to protect foreign residents.

The secretary of the navy acknowledged Dewey's dispatches, thanking him and his officers and men in the name of the president and the American people for their "splendid achievement and overwhelming victory," and notifying him of his appointment by the president as acting rear admiral, and of the president's intention to recommend a vote of thanks by congress as a foundation for further promotion.

The story of the battle of Manila Bay, as given by John T. McCutcheon, staff correspondent of the *Chicago Record*, who was an eye witness, is the only complete account that has appeared. What follows is condensed from his report.

The fleet left Mirs Bay, 30 miles above Hong Kong, on the 27th of April at two o'clock in the afternoon. In the evening of the 30th it halted at Subig Bay, on the west coast of the island of Luzon, the most northerly of the Philippines, about 30 miles north of the entrance to Manila Bay. Here the Spanish fleet was looked for, but not being found, a council was held on the flagship *Olympia*, after which, about eight in the evening, the fleet headed for Manila.

As the ships approached the southerly of the two channels which enter Manila Bay, all lights were extinguished, except a shaded stern light upon each ship, and with diminished speed the fleet passed through, the flagship in the lead. The night was not absolutely dark, but shifting clouds at times obscured the moon. The channel through which the fleet passed is five miles wide. The ships steamed through, one following another 400 yards apart, without attracting notice, until the *McCulloch*, which was at the tail of the line, was discovered by means of sparks emitted from its smokestack, the soot in the funnel having caught fire. Five minutes after this misfortune, at 11:50 at night, signal lights were seen on

the south shore, and at 12:15 on the morning of Sunday, May 1st, a fort on that shore fired at the *McCulloch*, but failed to hit. The *Boston*, which was next ahead of the *McCulloch*, and the *McCulloch* herself, replied. Only a few shots were fired, however, on either side, and no damage was done to the American fleet. During the firing, the chief engineer of the *McCulloch* died of nervous shock.

At one in the morning the whole fleet was in the bay, and at daybreak the Spanish fleet was discovered about seven miles southwest of Manila under cover of the batteries of Cavite. The *McCulloch* now retired to guard the two cargo ships, while the rest of the American fleet prepared for action. Part of this preparation consisted in reading to the crews a bombastic and insulting proclamation of the Spanish governor general of the Philippines, which had been published in expectation of the approach of the Americans. Soon after five o'clock the *Olympia*, followed by the remainder of the fighting ships, headed for the Spanish position. The movement was met by a shot from Cavite, which fell short, and by the explosion of two mines harmlessly at one side and to the rear. No more mines were exploded. The American fleet moved on in its course, and when within about two miles of the enemy, it fired a broadside into the Spanish fleet.

Each American vessel fired as it passed the enemy, and then, steaming on in the same course for a convenient distance, turned back on a line parallel to this course but somewhat closer to the enemy. This maneuvering continued, a broadside being delivered each time that an American vessel passed the Spanish position, until the fleet had moved five times in front of the Spanish and was within 1,500 yards of them.

During the delivery of the fifth series of broadsides, the Spanish flagship, *Reina Christina*, made an attack upon the *Olympia*, and continued it desperately in the face of an awful fire. She was soon compelled to turn, and as she did so a shell from the *Olympia* wrecked her engine room, exploded one of her magazines and set her on fire. She continued her retreat, however, under the *Olympia's* bombardment, during which her captain, Cadarzo, was killed, and the admiral was driven by the destruction of the bridge under him to transfer to the *Castilla*. In less than five minutes that ship also was on fire. Then two torpedo boats made an at-

tempt to take the *Olympia* unawares, under the protection of the heavy cloud of battle smoke. But they were discovered in time, and one was sunk while the other was driven helplessly upon the beach.

At 7:45 in the morning the American fleet drew out of range to take an account of damages, which proved to be insignificant. Not a man had been killed, and no vessel had been injured sufficiently to prevent its going immediately to sea. A rest of three hours was taken, during which the decks were cleaned, the guns readjusted and food served to the men, and then the fleet headed again for Cavite. Very little resistance came now from the Spanish ships; and the forts, which still fought, were silenced in 30 minutes. The one ship that came out to do battle, the *Antonio de Ulloa*, fought after her decks were swept with shell and only her lower guns could be used. But it was useless. In a few minutes she went down with all on board.

That ended the battle. What was left of the Spanish fleet was then destroyed, and at 12:45 the Spanish surrendered. As nearly as could be estimated three or four days later, they had lost 400 killed and 600 wounded, besides their fleet and fortifications.

The American loss was, killed, none; slightly wounded by an explosion of a shell on the *Baltimore*, eight; damages, not more than what \$1,000 would repair. The fleet fired a total of 140 tons of metal during the action, of which the *Olympia* fired 25 tons and the *Baltimore* 35.

On the 2d the Spanish admiral sent word by the British consul to Commodore Dewey complimenting the Americans on their marksmanship, and Commodore Dewey replied with a compliment to the Spanish upon their courage and resistance. On the same day the forts at the entrance to the bay were surrendered without opposition, the troops having fled and only the commandant being in possession. The only Spanish battery remaining on the 5th was in front of Manila.

Commodore Dewey demanded the surrender of Manila, but owing to the danger to noncombatants had refrained from bombarding, though he warned the governor that if a shot came from the remaining batteries he would open fire. He established on the 5th a marine guard at Cavite to protect the Spanish wounded, and detailed the surgeons and hospital corps of the American fleet to care for them.

Mr. McCutcheon confirmed previous reports as to the control by insurgents of the country surrounding Manila.

The McCulloch remained at Hong-Kong only long enough to get dispatches from the United States. It left for Manila on the 8th, carrying a telegraph operator to be put in charge of the renewal of cable communication.

The president's order to Com. Dewey under which he acted in attacking the Spanish fleet in Manila bay was first given out on the 9th. It reads:

Washington, D. C., April 24, 1898.—Dewey, Hong-Kong, China: War has commenced between the United States and Spain. Proceed at once to Philippine islands. Commence operations at once, particularly against the Spanish fleet. You must capture vessels or destroy them. Use utmost endeavors.

(Signed) LONG.

Upon the receipt of the dispatches from Dewey preparations were at once actively made to send troops to Manila to support him. For this purpose the City of Peking, then on the Pacific on her voyage to San Francisco, was chartered, and volunteers from west of the Mississippi are to be sent out.

The president also sent a message to congress asking for a vote of thanks to Dewey and his officers and men. The vote was promptly and unanimously given by both houses, and a bill was passed creating a seventh rear admiraltyship, to which the president might nominate Com. Dewey.

The Spanish ministry on its part intimated an intention to send relief to Manila by way of the Suez canal and the Red sea. This might be done, as a matter of international relationship, for by the treaty of 1883 between the great powers it was provided that the Suez canal should be open to ships of all nations, in time of peace or war, on condition that "no right of war, no act of hostility, nor any act having for its object the preparation or operation of war shall be committed in the canal or any of its approaches or ports of access." But Spain's reported intention of sending an expedition to the Philippines is regarded by experts as too Quixotic to be considered in any other light than as a "bluff."

From Madrid the news has been scant, and owing to the strict censor-

ship now enforced there it is of course untrustworthy. Censorship news is censor's news, and censor's news depends more upon the prejudices of the censor than upon the facts. But from the reports some things may be gleaned which are probably true.

The minister for the colonies appears on the 5th to have appealed to the cortes for an opinion as to a proper line of conduct regarding the war and to have said in this connection that Spain could not cope with the United States. He also placed responsibility for the war upon the European powers, saying that they foresaw it but did nothing to prevent it, though Spain had received assurances that war should not ensue. In an authorized interview on the 9th Sagasta, the prime minister, exhibited the same spirit, though more discreetly. In this interview he attributed the disaster at Manila bay to the inferiority of the Spanish fleet, and complained of the lack of solidarity in the Spanish cortes at this crisis in the affairs of the kingdom, when impoverished Spain is at war with the prosperous United States.

The cortes, however, came to the rescue of the ministry on the 9th, when the lower house adopted the war credits. But this was done after a long and stormy session, in which the monarchists and republicans shrieked threats at one another, and only after it was made clear that the government was hopelessly crippled in prosecuting the war, for want of funds. Nor was that the first stormy session of the chamber. Every day after the disaster at Manila leaked out, the deputies had been boisterous. On the 7th a Carlist was expelled for the session because in speaking he criticised government by a woman and a boy. The republicans and the Carlists voted together against the expulsion.

Frequent reports also have appeared in various forms indicating the intention of the queen regent to quit, but they were promptly contradicted, as was a report that the cabinet intended to resign.

But more significant than anything the Spanish ministry and cortes may do, is what the Spanish people have been doing ever since they began to suspect the Manila disaster, and to feel the pinch of dear bread. Since that time all Spain has been in a riotous state. On the 9th it was reported from Bayonne, France, that mobs were marching in half the cities of Spain and that martial law had been

proclaimed in every great city. The civil guards were said to be useless, as they sympathized with the people, and even the troops could not be trusted.

In the course of the rioting at Gijon, a city of 35,000 inhabitants in the province of Asturia, and on the Bay of Biscay, of which we told on page 9 last week, the soldiery fired upon and massacred the populace; but instead of quieting the riot this increased its violence. The civil guard joined the rioters, cries against the throne were openly made, and the infantry feared to leave their barracks. The artillery tried to recapture a gun that had been carried off by deserters, but was forced back by the mob, whose weapons were hot water, stones, dead animals and rotten eggs. At Murcia, 30 miles from Cartagena, and the capital of the province of Murcia, on the Mediterranean, a mob of miners numbering some 10,000 men and women fired the depot on the 5th and used dynamite. When confronted by troops they refused to disperse and two volleys were fired at them before they ran. The dead and wounded, including women, were estimated at more than 50. On the 6th the storm center of the rioting was here. All authority was defied and the overthrow of the dynasty demanded. Though the fighting was started by striking miners, they were reported on the 6th as forming but a small part of the uprising. At Soria, the capital of the province of Soria, and lying about 200 miles northeast from Madrid, a riot took place on the 7th in which the market house and the barracks were burned. At Badajos, the capital of the province of that name, which lies on the Portugal frontier, and at Alicante, the seaport of the province of Valencia, in the southeast of Spain, outbreaks led to the proclamation of martial law early in the week. But at Alicante the rioting went on, breaking out violently on the 9th. The mob paraded the streets, demanding cheaper bread; they sacked the octroi bureau, burning the furniture and archives, and after being dispersed by the military police they formed again, and, taking possession of the wheat in storage burned the warehouses. The octroi bureau is the department for the collection of taxes upon food brought into the town. It was at Linares, however, that the rioting centered on the 9th. Linares is in the province of Jaen, in the middle south of Spain.

Here two attacks were made upon the city hall. One was repulsed, with 12 rioters killed and 50 wounded, but a second assault was successful and the rioters took possession. They then looted the house of the tax collector. The cry of the mob was "Down with the taxes!" On the 11th, at Logrono, the capital of the province of Logrono, lying about 125 miles northeast from Madrid, the mob sacked stores and emptied the grain warehouse. It numbered thousands, with women in the van. A bloody attack upon the mob was made by a troop of cavalry, but the women rioters, armed with axes, rallied against the charge, drove back the cavalry, and, followed by the rest of the rioters, chased the horsemen down the street.

The incapacity of the Spanish government in connection with the American war, and the rioting throughout the kingdom, are the opportunity of the Carlists. The earl of Ashburnham, the representative in England of Don Carlos, said on the 6th in the course of an interview that in a short time either Don Carlos would be seated upon the throne or a republic would be proclaimed. The Carlists, he said, are strongest in the country, and the republicans in the city, their total numbers being about equal, but the Carlists have the advantage of better organization and discipline and of being united under one leader, the republicans being divided. They are discredited also, he said, by the anarchist wing of the party. That Don Carlos is actually preparing for an overthrow of the present dynasty is further indicated by one of his American representatives, Costina, who sailed from New York on the 9th to join his leader in Europe. Costina said upon leaving that all the American Carlists had been summoned to meet Don Carlos to assist him in his next effort to get possession of the Spanish throne, and that a Carlist ministry is now being formed.

The disordered conditions in Spain have extended over to Italy, where there are good reasons for believing that a revolution is imminent if not actually under way. News from Italy, as from Spain, is unreliable, owing to the censorship. The Milan correspondent of the London Daily News advised his paper on the 10th that fresh and more rigid measures have

been adopted in the censorship of telegrams, so that reports must be taken with allowance. He added that the rebels are besieging Milan. By another correspondent from a point beyond the Italian border the same paper was advised on the same day of fighting at Milan, in which from 100 to 200 were killed on the 7th, more on the 8th and still more on the 9th, while hundreds were wounded and dying. And, also on the 10th, the Rome correspondent of the London Times telegraphed that matters were steadily growing worse and the government was unequal to the occasion.

From these reports it is clear that the condition is worse than the censored reports from different points in Italy would imply. But even these reports are significant enough. They tell of "renewed rioting" on the 5th at Pavia, a few miles to the south of Milan, where chains were stretched across the streets to prevent cavalry charges; and of "fresh disorders" at Prato, ten miles northwest of Florence, on the 6th. Riots in which the troops fired with deadly effect are reported also from other Italian cities, including Naples, Florence and Leghorn. And Milan had on the 7th all the appearance of a general uprising. Streets were barricaded and the barricades were destroyed by the troops, while many rioters were wounded and others were killed. Martial law had then been proclaimed in Milan, but on the following day the riots grew to such dimensions that the troops were forced to retire. That the condition here indicated is widespread may be inferred from the fact that martial law was proclaimed on the 8th over all Tuscany, of which Florence is the capital, while in Rome all the socialist and republican clubs were ordered to dissolve. The rioters were composed of the poor and working classes, who are admitted to have been for more than a year in a condition which resembles that of the peasantry of France preceding the great revolution of a hundred years ago.

Judging from advices of the 10th from Rome, the Italian cabinet feared an organized revolution and had decided to advise the king to terminate the session of parliament. Matters were said on the 10th to have quieted at Milan, but the information came through censored channels. Sig. Casta, a socialist deputy, had then been arrested, and the city was conceded to have passed through the throes of a revolution. These commotions in Italy have been felt by the

Italians in Switzerland in a way that points to their political importance. At Lausanne on the 10th 1,000 Italian workmen paraded the streets carrying a red flag trimmed with crape and singing the Marseillaise, and advices from Berne say that many Italians have started from Switzerland to the Italian frontier in response to a revolutionary circular.

For a time early in the week, public interest was transferred from the Philippine islands to Cuba. When The Public went to press last week Admiral Sampson's fleet had left Key West under sealed orders, as stated on page 10 of that issue, and was supposed to have gone out either to intercept the Spanish fleet or to secure a landing for troops at Matanzas, Cuba. Later it became evident that its primary object was to intercept the Spanish fleet, which, as reported on page 10 of last week's issue, had left the Cape Verdes. This fleet was supposed to have been sighted on the 5th to the southward of the island of St. Thomas, which lies west of Puerto Rico. On the 6th preparations for receiving the fleet were reported from San Juan, Puerto Rico, and on the same day it was said to be confidently expected at Washington that a battle between the American and Spanish fleets on the Atlantic would soon take place in the West Indies. During the 8th there were persistent rumors of a naval battle in West Indian waters, but nothing definite was reported, except that the Spanish fleet was at San Juan, Puerto Rico. Another report was to the effect that it had been sighted off Martinique, but the American consul at Martinique telegraphed on the 9th that there was no foundation to the report. On that day Admiral Sampson's fleet was reported off Cape Haytien. About this time rumors reached London, based upon dispatches from Portugal, that the Spanish fleet had not crossed the Atlantic at all, but was combining with other Spanish warships at Cadiz to sail as an armada against the eastern coast of North America. On the same day the cruiser Yale, formerly the liner Paris, which had circled Puerto Rico, reported that it had sighted no Spanish war vessels. On the 10th the above rumors were confirmed. It was at the same time explained that while the Cape Verde squadron had been cruising about the eastern Atlantic, puzzling the world as to its whereabouts, the squadron at Cadiz was rapidly preparing for sea, and that when