

a promising possibility for Democratic success in 1904.

There can be no doubt now that imperialism and monopoly will be the leading issues in the next national campaign. Monopoly is a general term, and has been used in campaigns in a more or less vague sense, but Mr. Johnson has given it a significance so definite in his political battles that those who profit from it have a wholesome fear of him. He knows where the roots of privilege are, hence his remedies for the injustices and oppressions which come from the evil are certain to be effective.

Our un-American policy of conquest by the force of arms is merely an outgrowth of the monopoly which Republican policies have nourished. To discuss it fully is to discuss the legislation and degeneracy of that party for the last 30 years. Tom L. Johnson has all of the essential qualifications of the logical candidate two years hence, assuming that the Democratic party wants to be democratic in belief and aim as well as in name.

NEWS AS SHE IS WROTE.

From the San Francisco Star of Feb. 1, "Special ten minutes after 5 o'clock edition."

London, Feb. 1 (by Our Special Correspondent).—I learn on the best of authority that King Edward ate two Irish potatoes at dinner to-day. He has never been known to eat more than one except on state occasions before. The potatoes were unusually large, but his majesty devoured them, jackets and all. The impression is widespread here that the king will make a public pronouncement in a few days in favor of home rule for Ireland. There is intense excitement, and the lord mayor of London has ordered out the preserves. I shall visit Westminster to-day, and will seek a private interview with the cook. Meanwhile, it will be well for the American people to delay forming any positive opinions. If the matter goes any further I will cable when the next batch of potatoes is served.

Constantinople, Feb. 1.—The latest news from Miss Stone is that she is alive and well. There is some doubt as to the first item, but that she is in good health is certain. She is disguised as a merchant, and is doing a rushing business. She has been closely confined in a harem, and it is reported has become a Mohammedan. The brigands have all turned Christians through her influence. They

will accept any price for her release now, but not a cent short of the whole amount asked. Her capture was accidental, and was the result of a shrewd and masterly political plot. The sultan, who was at the bottom of the affair knew nothing of it and is much upset over it. Nothing has pleased him so for years. Miss Stone dines with him every day. She may be expected home now any day, but not for several months yet.

UNCLE SAM'S LETTERS TO JOHN BULL.

Printed from the Original Manuscript.

Dear John: With the Boers digging your gold out of the Bank of England at the rate of five million a week, you must feel a little like I do about the Filipinos. The digger is being digged. I swan, John, it does seem to me you might take a hint and quit! Are you really waitin' for a modern Dutchman to stop fightin' of his own motion? I believe you are.

You make history sometimes, John; but did you ever read it? Ever read about the Dutch Republic? Lothrop Motley told us of it. Get a copy at Mudie's and read it up. Read it to Ed! Ed thinks the war will be over for his coronation. Read him how Philip of Spain licked the Dutch in his day. Sent fine armies agin 'em—long lines of warriors in blue steel, finest in the world, and great silken banners of Castile and Aragon, and he kept on a sending 'em year after year, and they whipped the Dutch scandalous; morning, noon and night, breakfast, supper, and nooning spell, they slaughtered them incessant. The Dutch couldn't fight; they could only resist. They were a sort of human mule on two legs—grew up out of the sand and water of Friesland, and they wouldn't go. And, as the Dutch wouldn't go, why Philip had to, and his great empire with him; and the Dutch, they are there yet, except some went to Africa and learned how to shoot. That's the party your empire is up against, John; and they are running you over the same broad highway that Phillip traveled, it seems to me.

And you are going the pace! You'd be surprised to know, John, how little a Boer thinks of quitting while you are there to shoot at. They have the same notion the ignorant old Boer had at the beginning of the war. People jeered him. "You can't whip the British. They

could fight you twelve years, and then some," they said.

"What!" said the poor old Boer, aghast. "Must I keep on shootin' Englishmen for twelve years?"

Take the advice of a man up a tree, John, and quit. Get right out of the Boer hen-roost, and whistle, and pretend you never was there. And quit monkeyin' with republics! You never did make anything at it; always got your fingers burnt. And John, here is a point worth noticing about friendship: When you are a friend to republics, then—I am,

Yours to command,

UNCLE SAM.

WOMEN AND OFFICE HOLDING:

It is said that if women vote, they must hold office. A lawyer once remarked that he attached no weight to the common objections to equal suffrage; carried to their logical conclusions, he said, they would all disfranchise men. "But," he added, "what troubles me is this: Suppose the mother of a young family should be elected to congress, what is going to become of her children?" And he gazed solemnly at the woman to whom he was speaking, as if he had before his mind's eye a dreadful vision of half the homes in the state left desolate because the mothers had been elected to congress. It did not seem to occur to him that not one person in a thousand can go to congress in any case, and that no one is obliged to go there against his will. The mother of a young family would not be likely to be asked to run for congress; she would not be likely to consent if she were asked; and certainly other women would not be likely to vote for her if she allowed herself to be a candidate under such circumstances; but she might have a very definite idea as to what sort of man she wanted to send to congress, to represent her and her children. Is there any good reason why her opinion should not be counted, along with that of her husband and father and brothers? A good many profligate and drunken congressmen might be weeded out if the mothers in their districts had votes.

When we say that women would be eligible to office, what do we mean? Simply that if a majority of the people in any district would rather have a woman fill a certain place than anybody else, and if she is willing to serve, they shall be allowed to elect her. Women are serving as officials already; some of the

women most prominent in opposing equal suffrage are holders of public office. Thus the president of the Massachusetts Association Opposed to the Further Extension of Suffrage to Women (Mrs. J. Elliot Cabot) was for years a member of the school board in her own town and also overseer of the poor. Yet that association, in its published documents, objects to equal suffrage, on the ground that "suffrage involves the holding of office, and office-holding is incompatible with the duties of most women." Suffrage does not involve office-holding by the majority of women, but only by a few; and there are always some women of character and ability who could give the necessary time. Women, as a class, have more leisure than men.

In the enfranchised states there has been no rush of women into office, and the offices that women do hold are mainly educational and charitable. In Wyoming women have had full suffrage for 32 years, yet no woman has ever been elected to the legislature. Neither Colorado, Utah nor Idaho has ever had more than three women in its legislature at one time. During the first ten years after municipal suffrage was granted to the women of Kansas, in the 300 cities of that state, about 1,600 men were elected mayors, and only 16 women. It is as yet only the smaller cities that have chosen women to serve in that capacity, and the amount of time required is far less than that needed to be a public school-teacher, the matron of a hospital, or for any one of a thousand positions that women already hold without criticism. Mrs. Antoinette Haskell, who was twice elected mayor of Gaylord, Kan., and declined a third term, says that the mayor's duties took her on an average about one hour a day.—Progress.

THE PHILIPPINE LANDS.

It is the avowed purpose of the administration to purchase the lands now owned or occupied by the religious orders in the Philippine islands. Negotiations have been proceeding to this end at Rome and at Manila. The communities must be willing to sell, or, it must be presumed, the administration would not undertake to effect the purchase.

A pending bill enacts that the government of the United States shall become owner of these lands, which are chiefly agricultural, but partially urban. Some of the details of the bill

may be altered. President Roosevelt is accredited with the belief that the best way to proceed in this delicate business is for the government of the United States to issue bonds running from five to 35 years to whoever will buy at cost, this country thus escaping loss on the transaction.

History has taught its land lessons in vain if this shall seem the wisest method of meeting the land problem in the islands. While the debate upon the ultimate fate of the archipelago must continue not only at Washington, but throughout the country, it must be obvious to all reflecting Americans that our duty in the islands, a duty forced upon us and not desired, cannot be discharged in a year or two. We can neither abandon those 10,000,000 people to anarchy nor permit a monarchy to intrude upon their desolation for conquest. The first part of our duty to them is to be discharged in a right adjustment of their land problem.

A right adjustment of that problem does not consist in transferring their soil from one set of owners to another set without respect for the natural rights of the people. To them by natural law their soil belongs. The government of the United States should so conduct its purchase of the lands now for sale as to restore their benefits in perpetuity to the people themselves. That is to say, the government of the United States should honestly and lawfully acquire the fee to the lands offered for sale, and continue to hold the fee until it is transferred honestly and lawfully to the government of the Philippine islands in whatever form that government shall be constitutionally organized hereafter. It is at least possible that after trying us for a time the people will prefer to remain permanently as citizens of the United States under our flag. Should this be their choice the American people will not cast them off.

Land tenure has had a long and diverse history. Originally the land of every civilized country belonged to the people. Its ownership by individuals was unthought.

Use of land, not proprietorship, was individual. While population did not press for subsistence use of land for tillage or pasture was free. Private inclosure did not originate until the baronial power asserted itself in Europe.

The best epitome of the results of forcible private inclosure of land can be seen in England. During the early

part of the reign of Queen Victoria England produced three-fourths of its food and imported only one-fourth. The system of land tenure inaugurated by forcible private inclosure of common lands has reduced England to the necessity of importing more than three-fourths of her food, while millions of her rich acres have lapsed into waste because the laws exact of the soil two returns, a living for the working tenant and revenue for the idle owner. . . .

If the lands we are to buy in the Philippines be not safeguarded against these dangers we shall transplant an ancient curse to our new trust estate. The tillers of the soil should live by their labor and the surplus revenue which the land produces beyond that should accrue to the entire people and ought not to be private wealth. If the Philippine lands shall be let down to speculators providing for the time real or fraudulent occupiers all the evils of the middleman of India, chronic impoverishment of the soil, known in Ireland as subletting, will be established in the archipelago and will become a perennial plague, robbing simultaneously both the tenants and the government.

If the government of the United States buys lands in those islands it should retain the fee. Use of the lands should be leased to actual occupiers within reasonable areas. There should be no middlemen and no subletting. Revaluation at prescribed periods upon a basis of practical arbitration should be the bond between the fee holder and the occupiers.—Editorial in Chicago Chronicle of Feb. 4.

MAYOR JOHNSON'S WAY.

CLEVELAND TRACTION PROBLEMS FROM A CHICAGO POINT OF VIEW.

Cleveland has a street railway problem that presents many points of similarity to the traction question with which Chicago is wrestling. The grants in Cleveland begin to run out in 1904 and 1905, and expire at varying dates thereafter until 1912 and 1914. The chief difference between the situation in Chicago and that in Cleveland seems to be that the companies in Cleveland do not assume that the near expiration of their grants is any warrant for allowing their service to deteriorate. Plant and equipment in Cleveland are maintained in first-class condition and the management is progressive and awake to the needs of the public.

The legislature of Ohio in 1896 passed a law making 50 years instead of 25