

adopted (pp. 4721-4731) and finally the bill was passed. Consideration of the Philippine bill being then resumed (p. 4731), Mr. Teller offered a resolution (p. 4732) on the operation of the section laws of the Philippines against local newspapers, and he and Mr. Bacon, in controversy with Mr. Lodge, occupied the remainder of the day. When the Philippine bill was taken up again on the 22d, Mr. Rawlins (p. 4791) discussed it, continuing his speech on the 23d (p. 4854) and concluding it on the 24th (p. 4907), on which day little else, except private business was transacted. Mr. McCumber informally discussed the question of food adulteration during the morning hour on the 25th (p. 4942), with Senate bill No. 3342 as his text, and in the afternoon Mr. Carmack began speaking on the Philippines bill (p. 4951), concluding on the 26th (p. 5006). Prior to the resumption of this measure on that day, Mr. Jones offered a resolution (p. 4996) for an investigation into the question of the ownership by the American sugar trust of the Cuban sugar crop, which was adopted. Some discussion arose (p. 5003) over the action of the House on the Senate's amendments to the oleomargarine bill, but definite action was not taken.

#### House.

No business of general interest was transacted on the 21st, but while the West Point Academy appropriation bill was under consideration, the Negro question and the Boer question were discussed. In connection with the latter, a letter from Peter Van Vlissingen to the President on the subject of the British supply station at Chalmette was read. It appears at p. 4762 in the Record in full. At page 4753 there is a letter on the same subject from the sheriff of the county in which Chalmette lies. The West Point appropriation bill being still under consideration on the 22d, Mr. Feeley (p. 4906) spoke on the British army supply camps, introducing a published statement regarding them made by the British general, Sir Robert Stewart. On the 23d the House went into committee of the whole (pp. 4858-4927) on the Senate amendments to the oleomargarine bill (House bill No. 9206), confining its deliberations to this subject (except for interruptions of no general interest), until the 24th, when it reported recommendations. These were at once adopted by the House, which thereupon resolved itself again into committee of the whole for the consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill (p. 4927). After disposing of the private calendar on the 25th, consideration of the agricultural appropriation bill was resumed, but not completed, and the 26th was devoted chiefly to memorial speeches on the late Representative Stokes, of South Carolina.

**Record Notes.**—Speeches by the following named congressmen on the following subjects respectively are reported at the pages indicated: Representatives Roberts (p. 4695), Richardson (p. 4698), Stevens (4704), Fordney (p. 4712), Zenor (p. 4768), Jones (4821), Littlefield (p. 4829), Gillett (p. 4834), Aplin (p. 4837), Gardner (p. 4838), Smith (p. 4887), Kitchin (p. 4973) and Tawney (p. 4976), on Cuban reciprocity; Representative Selby (p. 4715), on Cuban annexation (containing text of Ostend manifesto and treaty of Paris of 1898); Representative Dalzell (p. 4702), against interference with tariff protection; Representative Broussard (p. 4762), on the Philippine policy; Representative Ryan (p. 4776), on Chinese exclusion; Representatives Kitchin (p. 4833) and Gilbert (p. 4839), on the Negro question; Representative Feeley (p. 4885), on postal appropriations; and Senator Elkins (p. 4769) on ship subsidies.

## MISCELLANY

### MALEVOLENT ASSIMILATION.

For The Public.

Bind and torture, burn and slay,  
In the old barbaric way.  
Stamp their rice crops in the mud,  
Drench their ruined fields in blood,  
Drive and starve and concentrate.  
Still they won't assimilate.

Shoot your prisoners at a guess,  
Make a howling wilderness,  
Butcher children, women, men—  
Every native over ten—

All you meet with, small and great.  
Shall the dead assimilate?

Be ye not of God afraid;  
Learn the inquisition's trade;  
Reproduce, from history's page,  
Tortures of the middle age;  
Copy hell, and—this saith Fate,  
"Hatred shall assimilate."

Yea, by Him who seeth all,  
Though in holocausts they fall,  
Till their last defender die,  
Till their last home light the sky,  
Rendering you hate for hate,  
They shall be at Freedom's gate.

BERTRAND SHADWELL.

### THE "AVERAGE NEWSPAPER." For The Public.

I suggested to the manager of a certain metropolitan daily that the press might take its occupation a little more seriously and here and there indulge us with literature of a graver class. But he told me I knew nothing about the practical exigencies of the trade, and proceeded cynically to describe the situation.

An average newspaper is edited for average men. The average man is an idiot. Therefore, the paper must be edited for idiots. Therefore the paper must be idiotic. The people would not appreciate a good thing if it was given them. They do not know ps from qs in literature, or care whether a t is crossed or not. They would rather read evil than virtue. They would rather read the writings of a fool than of a philosopher. They would prefer sensation and depravity to the passive epics of our casual and exemplary experience. They prefer the unclean to the clean. They prefer the coarse to the fine. They would rather their editors used bad English than good. They would resent serious discussion. They would rather have you lie than tell the truth. They expect to be flattered. They rejoice when their confidence is abused. They would rather be swindled than get what they pay for. They are an ill-clothed and rather ill-grained lot, and are not to be encouraged by editorial diversions into areas of free and honest controversy. These are the people. They are to be grudged all their aspirations. They are always to be taken at shortest measure. They are the eccentric and erratic fry for whom we edit papers. If our papers are feeble and dishonest, do not blame us. Blame the people. We give the people the sort of paper they wish. If you think our paper is below the standard you would set for us, refer it to the people. When the people demand a better article we will furnish it. We are not inventors.

We are purveyors. We do not speculate. We fill orders. We reflect the pleasure of the people. We are up and down, right and left with the people. Their concern is ours. You do not suppose we produce a paper for any abstract reason, or because we are interested in some unpopular cause? We are in the business for its results. We produce a newspaper for the same reason that you make shoes and run a saloon. We have laid in a stock of spirits, and we deck up our little lunch counter, and we strive to make things as pleasant as we can for the fellows who happen in and loaf around our bar. You do not mean to argue that we should try on any of the fancy and expensive virtues? There are fools enough in the world for that service. Look at the reform fools everywhere who spend their last cent for their faith. We do not presume or pretend to educate the people. They do not go to school to us. We keep up with their humors, tickle their passions, concede any sort of favor to their palate, and conform to their average habits. If we did not produce for them the goods they demand they would desert. Now, as such are the conditions on both sides, how can you seem surprised and upon what ground can you complain? The people are not to us the dear people. Nor are we to them anything significant or exalted. Our relations are all on the ground, without any admixture of mysteries, refinements or sophistries. Not one ingredient that should not be there is permitted in the solution. We are not doing the people up at so much per head. Nor are they doing us up by getting from us what they do not deserve. Their pennies in the lump make us solid with the advertiser. The advertiser is the man we play for. For him we would slave or die. For him we would go to the stake. For him we would lie, steal, or beg. For the advertiser is our water of life. But to get him we must play fortunes to the pennies. And to get the pennies we must keep scrupulously free of all heterodoxy. We must steer our craft along that rather delicate line which offends neither Sunday school nor brothel, neither the high nor low, neither the quick nor halt, of the social order. Tact gives us the pennies. To be penny wise here is to be pound solid. The pennies give us the advertiser. The advertiser brings bloom to our desert. Now you have my facts. Who can escape facts?

HORACE TRAUBEL.