

## PRESS OPINIONS.

## THE VENEZUELAN WAR.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (Dem.), Jan. 24.—There is bad faith and villainy in this whole Venezuelan business; and the worst of it is, that Germany has been encouraged by the administration to join with Great Britain and Italy in a scandalous and utterly unwarranted assault upon a weak and distracted nation which is fighting for its life against rebels who apparently have been set about their work by foreign influences and whose resources seem to come from the very countries which have tried to collect doubtful claims at the mouth of the cannon.

London Speaker (Lib.), Dec. 27.—We found Venezuela bankrupt. We have made her a pauper. Her sole resources are her customs. These we have cut off for the moment by declaring a blockade. At the same time we have made their future collection all but impossible. The Venezuelan fleet was useless for naval purposes, but it did provide a tolerably efficient check on smuggling. How without it our debtor is to collect the wherewithal to meet our claims is presumably a question which Germany had never considered. The stupidity of coercion was never more clearly illustrated.

London Daily News (Lib.), Jan. 24.—Lord Lansdowne has only one safe and straightforward course open to him. He must let Germany know that with or without her consent the British fleet will be recalled at once from Venezuelan waters. If Germany declines to raise the blockade that is her affair. Our business is with Mr. Bowen at Washington in the first instance, and if his good offices are unsuccessful we must look to The Hague tribunal for the rest. We are at the parting of the ways. We must decide forthwith, as one of the American papers put it, between the United States and Germany.

## HOME RULE IN TAXATION.

Johnstown (Pa.) Democrat (Dem.), Jan. 22.—In affirming the principle of home rule in order to knock out the franchise tax law the Supreme Court of New York has probably done a greater service to the people than it intended. For the principle of home rule in taxation is really of more vital concern even than the question of taxing franchises. The Supreme Court holds the franchise tax law to be unconstitutional because it violates that principle by giving the State tax commissioners the power to make local assessments. The court does not attack the principle of franchise taxation. That is left untouched.

## THE KEY TO SUCCESS.

Kansas City (Mo.) World (Dem.), Jan. 21.—Get your fellow man in a corner and then skin him for all he's worth. This is the principle. The young man who starts with this aim and perseveres, if he has the opportunities, will some day be able to fill as many poorhouses and libraries as can Carnegie and Schwab. These two had the opportunities and were remarkably adept at skinning. . . . What a travesty on Christianity and civilization to hold up as models of success men who make such principles their life principles!

## ETHICAL SURVIVALS.

Sacred Heart Review (rel.), Jan. 24.—The Dick Turpins and the Jack Sheppards of the old days robbed from the rich and gave to the poor. At the present time the poor are robbed through high prices for coal, oil and other necessities; and the money goes to found universities, libraries, art galleries, etc., and to finance missions to the Filipinos.

## CLEVELAND POLITICS.

Cleveland (O.) Recorder (Dem.), Jan. 24.—It is becoming more and more apparent

every day that the issue this spring is going to be between the candidates Hanna forces upon the Republican ticket and those who are selected by Tom L. Johnson for the Democratic ticket.

## IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, the official report of Congressional proceedings. It includes all matters of general interest, and closes with the last issue of the Record as handed upon going to press. Page references are to the pages of Vol. 36 of that publication.

Washington, Jan. 19-25, 1903.

## Senate.

After disposing of routine morning business on the 19th, and holding a brief executive session (pp. 989-90), the Senate resumed consideration of the Statehood bill (p. 991). The same subject was continued in the afternoon hours of the 20th (p. 1052) and the 21st (p. 1088). It was interrupted on the latter day with a motion to go into executive business, which was defeated (p. 1100), however, by a vote of 27 to 37. Before adjournment for the day the bankruptcy law was amended (p. 1100). Consideration of the Statehood bill was resumed on the 22d (p. 1132), and continued on the 23d (pp. 1220, 1221). In the morning hour of the 24th the Philippine constabulary bill (H. No. 15,510) was passed (p. 1237), and when the Statehood bill came up in the regular order, Senator Spooner made it the opportunity for a speech (p. 1243) on the subject of the resignation, from intimidation as alleged, of the Negro postmistress of Indianola, Miss. He was replied to by Senator McLaurin, of Miss., (p. 1249).

## House.

On the 19th the Senate amendments to the House bill to promote the efficiency of the militia were adopted (pp. 999-1000), and the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill was passed (p. 1009). In committee of the whole on the 20th the bill (H. No. 15,520) on Philippine coinage was considered (p. 1082), and the same subject was continued on the 20th (p. 1105) and the 22d (p. 1138). This bill was passed (p. 1153) on the latter day, when, also, the bill (H. No. 9865) providing for the election of a delegate from Alaska was taken up (p. 1153) and being continued on the 23d was then passed (p. 1213). The agricultural appropriation bill was passed on the 24th (p. 1285). A memorial session was held on Sunday, the 25th, in memory of the late Representatives Russell, Sheppard, and De Graffenreid.

**Record Notes.**—Speech of Representative Crowley on monopoly and trusts, with reference to the tariff on coal (p. 955). Speeches of Representatives Richardson (pp. 966), Crumpacker (p. 971), Mann (p. 1036), and Gooch (p. 1093) on the department of commerce and labor. Speech of Representative Burleson on rebate on coal (p. 969). Text of bill for establishment of department of commerce and labor as passed by the Senate (p. 987) and of amendments passed by the House (p. 988). Text of Philippine coinage bill as recommended by the majority of the House committee on insular affairs (p. 1082) and of bill proposed by minority of same committee (p. 1082). Speech of Representative Maddox (p. 1123) on Philippine coinage bill. Speech of Senator McLaurin, of Miss., (p. 1298) on the Indianola post office question.

Alexander Hamilton, in the Federalist, says:

But the most common and durable source of factions has been the various and unequal distribution of property. Those who hold and those who are without property have ever formed distinct interests in society. Those who are creditors and those who are debtors fall under a like discrimination. A landed interest, a manufacturing interest, a moneyed interest, with many lesser interests, grow up of necessity in civilized nations, and divide them into different classes, actuated by different sentiments and views. The regulation of these various and interfering interests forms the principal task of modern legislation, and involves the spirit of party faction in the necessary and ordinary operations of the government.

## MISCELLANY

## SONG OF THE COAL BARONS.

For The Public.

Starve them and freeze them, it does them good.

By hunger and cold are the strong subdued;

The bravest will fall without fire or food.

We will show them who rule the land.

So close the churches, dismiss the schools;

We need not their training among our tools.

They work for Us, and the greater fools.

The harder lot will they stand.

Chorus.

They are all God's children, you say? What then?

He did not make Us, we are self-made men; And we worship our maker still.

Let the poor freeze. When the strike was on,

They helped the men when their food was gone—

Our men, whose living we hold in paw; They helped them resist our will.

The earth and the fulness thereof is His! It might have been once, but the question is:

Who's in possession? Answer us this.

We think you are getting your fill.

Chorus.

The old and feeble are dying fast.

Well, let them die; their use is past.

There are plenty of young strong men to last

As long as we want their aid.

But the babes die also? Oh, never fear;

We can import men—a million a year;

Cheaper by far than to raise them here.

And it lessens the wages paid.

Chorus.

Don't we fear God's judgments? Why should we fear?

We have named ourselves His stewards here;

We own the churches, and is it not clear He sanctions all we do?

And at the last, when the race is run,

When we've seized on everything under the sun,

We can build libraries—it has been done; And endow colleges, too.

Chorus.

They are all God's children, you say? What then?

He didn't make Us, we are self-made men; And we worship our maker still.

M. A. CUSHMAN.

## OUR EDUCATIONAL WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES.

An extract from a private letter written by an American resident in the Philippine islands.

Our government has established a bureau of public instruction here, based largely on the idea of other governments, who, surer of their position and more confident of support from the home population, have organized and supported bureaus of foreign missions for the purpose of inculcating their own form of Christianity, thus hoping to create a moral force that would in a few years gen-

erate a fellow feeling between colony and master land. Here we were not in a position to establish a bureau of foreign missions, as England could have established, or such as Spain maintained here before the insurrection. We had no state religion, and the various Protestant and Christian sects could never have united on any form of Christianity which all would have been willing to see taught here. Besides, these people are in very large percentage Catholic Christians, and there would have been opposition from American Catholics to any bureau of foreign missions which would have undertaken professedly to change the form of Christianity now in vogue in these islands. These reasons of political nature made it impractical for us to do what all other colonizing nations have found it an advantage to do in similar circumstances.

We, therefore, have established a bureau of education, with the avowed purpose of introducing in this region the light of modern civilization, the helps of modern methods, etc. The effect of our schools has been largely good. We have some good teachers, and in circumstances, such as those prevailing here, the individual has great liberty to develop the very best powers that are in him. This, however, has operated for evil whenever the teacher was not a good man. We will probably succeed in introducing some modern methods, will probably destroy the native dialects, rob the people of their traditions, and breed a religious indifference which will eventually produce disintegration in a country where there are so few of the ties that go to hold a nation together in one great whole. Thus, with a disintegrated population, it is hardly probable that these islands will ever be competent to undertake the arduous task of self-government.

#### A PARABLE. For The Public.

In the early springtime a certain man, whose name was Labor, planted seeds of grain in a field, the name of which was Opportunity.

Then Nature, who was Labor's mother, sent sunshine and warmth, the rain and the dew, and behold, the seeds sent forth tiny shoots, and the man Labor was exceeding glad.

The growing plants he nourished tenderly, like unto his own children; and in their youth he christened them Wealth and Capital.

Now, when another moon had

passed, behold, certain strange plants grew in the field of Opportunity, and their name was Monopoly plants, though the man knew it not. For when the man Labor was a little feller he went with other little fellers to a certain Rocky Feller's school, in which great and wise men taught the little fellers many strange and wondrous things.

Now it happened the wise men lived on Monopoly plants, and the great man who built the school—he, too, lived on the same strange food; and the Monopoly plants lived on the plants of Wealth and the Capital plants which the man Labor had planted.

So the wise men fooled the little fellers, and taught them to call all plants in the field Opportunity, Wealth and Capital plants.

And it came to pass that to save his little soul that little feller knew not a Monopoly weed from a Capital plant. So when the man Labor beheld the Monopoly plants, which he had not planted, thriving among the Capital plants which he had planted, he was again exceeding glad.

Now it happened the Monopoly plants could not grow up into the sunshine without help of the Capital plants; so the man Labor wound a Monopoly creeper 'round every Capital plant, and went away exceeding glad.

With another moon came again the man Labor to gather of the fruit of his labor; and behold, there was no fruit to gather, for the plants Monopoly had taken unto themselves the juices of the plants Wealth and Capital.

Now the man was filled with a great hate for Monopoly plants; and he cursed the wise men of his youth with a great cuss, because they taught him all plants in the field of Opportunity were Capital plants. And he went with a great hoe into the field to cut down the strange plants which had eaten of the fruit of his labor.

The blindness of anger was upon the man Labor; and, behold, when the anger was gone, the Monopoly plants and the Capital plants were gone also, and there was no fruit for anyone.

Then the man Labor went away and thought a long think.

C. D. JAMES.

The people's will, like some other wills, would be executed if the lawyers couldn't pick any flaws in it.—Puck.

#### WHY GRANTING SECRET REBATES IS A CRIME.

An extract from the speech of Robert Baker at the dinner given by the Radical Democracy of Brooklyn, January 10, in honor of Mr. Baker's recent election to Congress.

Perhaps no better illustration of the inability of some men to realize that there are fundamental principles in government which are always applicable to the affairs of men is needed than the remarks of a Brooklyn paper which in its Sunday issue said: "Why does Congressman Baker brand as criminals those tradesmen who secure freight rebates. . . . Would the paint grinders accept a rebate if they could get it?" If the writer had asked: Would these men secure rebates—that is, lower prices from their grocer, baker or butcher—if they could get them? it would be a natural question. The grocer, baker or butcher has a right to make as many different prices as he pleases; no one need trade with him unless he so desires. But men must use railroads; and when an exclusive franchise is granted to build a railroad, an essential condition of such franchise is that it shall not be so used as to favor some or oppress others.

It is not a question of whether paint grinders or others would or would not accept rebates if they could get them, any more than it is a question of whether any of us would commit murder under certain circumstances. The taking of human life is regarded by society as wicked, and it has decided that for its own protection it will punish whoever attempts to take the life of another. The granting of secret rebates is also wicked, and those who are parties to it should also be punished. Every freight discrimination is an abrogation of the equal rights to which all are entitled, this equality being involved in the very grant of the franchise under which the railroad operates. Not even so corrupt and boss-ridden a legislature as that of Pennsylvania would ever have dared to grant a franchise for a railroad, if those applying for it had even suggested that varying freight rates would be charged to different shippers.

It makes no difference who the beneficiaries are; it matters not how rich or powerful they may have become as a result of receiving such rebates; it makes no difference whether they did or did not divide the rebate with the railroad manager or