

Commoner Comment.

The Boston Herald in a recent issue complains that Mr. Bryan is acting the part of "a marplot." This is so serious a charge that the editor will be pardoned if he devotes a little time to it. The Standard Dictionary defines a marplot as "one who, by meddling interference, mars or frustrates a design or plan." It is evident to all that one must understand something of the plan or design to be frustrated before one can pass judgment upon the merits of the attempt to frustrate it. If, for instance, a group of persons should plan to do injury to an innocent person, to a city or to a country, it would hardly be fair to denounce as a marplot one who frustrated such a design or plan. The term "marplot" can be properly applied only to one who not only meddles with affairs which do not concern him, but interferes in the carrying out of some good plan or thwarts some laudable effort. What is Mr. Bryan doing to earn the name of marplot?

The Herald attempts a sketch of Mr. Bryan's career. The following is an extract: "Now, how did this come to be? It is one of the most curious manifestations of modern politics. About a dozen years ago William J. Bryan was elected to Congress from a western state, a state that no one expected to see furnish a candidate to the presidency from any party in this generation. He did not stay long in that body, being defeated by a republican competitor. Then he transferred his allegiance—or, at least, a good part of it—to another, the populist party. The populist party having in effect taken possession of the democratic party in that locality, sent him to a democratic national convention, in which he made a speech so electrifying in its eloquence that it drew the presidential lightning upon him and made him the party candidate for the presidency."

It will be noticed that Mr. Bryan's first crime was to come from one of the newer western states—a state that no one expected to furnish a candidate to the presidency from any party in this generation." It was perfectly proper that Maine, with less population than Nebraska, should furnish a candidate for the presidency, although Maine is in one country, Nebraska, almost in the geographical center of the country and much nearer to the center of population than Maine, was not expected to take a prominent part in the generation yet.

The editor of the Herald next informs the public that Mr. Bryan did not stay in Congress because he was "defeated by a republican competitor." Mr. Bryan served in Congress for two terms, and was not a candidate for reelection, but instead became a candidate for the United States senate, being the unanimous choice of the democratic state convention. The editor of the Herald then asserts that the populist party sent Mr. Bryan to a democratic national convention. He either knows better, or convicts himself of an ignorance that would be surprising if manifested by the populist party, or that the populist party sent Mr. Bryan to a democratic national convention, and was never nominated for office by the populist party until he was nominated by the populist party two weeks after he had received the democratic nomination for president. In Nebraska the democrats and populists have co-operated in the nomination of state officers, congressmen and senators, but before they had ever united on a state ticket they united in the election of William V. Allen to the United States senate. This is the only recommendation by the democratic steering committee of the United States senate. It may be added that Mr. Cleveland's secretary of agriculture advocated cooperation between the republican and democratic parties in 1892, two years before Senator Allen was elected. Most of the democrats of Nebraska, by the direct and specific instructions of Mr. Cleveland's national committee, elected the populist ticket electors in 1892 for the purpose of taking the state out of the hands of the republicans. It was confessedly impossible to elect the democratic electors and as the house of representatives is a democratic national committee very wisely planned to throw the election into the house in case it was impossible to secure a majority in the electoral college. So much for the Herald's attempt at history.

The Herald proceeds to commend Mr. Bryan for the manner in which he conducted himself in the two campaigns, and then laments the change which it thinks it discerns in his conduct. It says: "We hardly recognize the amiable, and aside from his capital error in participating in the free silver delusion, this discreet Mr. Bryan in the main has since become, and who is now addressing the public. His modesty has departed and his discretion has vanished with it. His amiability has given place to resentment and something resembling rancor toward those who he thinks have thwarted his purposes. We can not believe he fully realizes it himself, but in his present attitude he is in a great crisis not of the republic, but of the newspapers which for business reasons supported the republican ticket? This would be a high price to pay for a nomination for any office."

The responsibilities of citizenship rest upon Mr. Bryan as much as upon the boisterous democrats in general or upon the boisterous editors in particular. It would not be presumptuous to say that Mr. Bryan's responsibility is even greater than that of the boisterous democrats. Mr. Hanna is unable to tell just what ails his sore limb. Did Mr. Hanna ever investigate a complaint known as Tom Johnson's?

The gentleman who recently claimed divine rights is showing alarming symptoms of making another attempt to secure a halo.

Mr. Baer admits that the world is big enough for all of us to live in. Mr. Baer is growing generous.

The bear that walks like a man is hanging on like a leach.

The New York Sun's labored eulogies of President Cleveland indicate that the Sun has a difficult job dodging its files.

It is reported that Lieutenant Governor Northcutt will be a candidate for reelection to the position of head consul at the national convention in Indianapolis next month if readjustment shall win.

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democratic than any other convention in recent years. While the platform emanated from the voters, while the phraseology of the platform, so far as the money question was concerned, was framed by the same as that of the Nebraska platform two years before, the fact that this phraseology was indorsed by a large majority of the voters of the party made it their platform rather than the platform of any state or individual. Certainly no one will charge that the delegates to the national convention was influenced in making the nomination by anything other than their own judgment. They may have erred in judgment, but they were under no coercion whatever either in writing the platform or in the nomination of the ticket.

During the campaign Mr. Bryan spoke in defense of the principles enunciated in the platform, and whatever strength he required was not personal strength, but a strength due entirely to the principles for which he stood. As soon as the election was over he announced his purpose to continue the fight for the principles enunciated between that day and the date of the next national convention he visited all parts of the country, everywhere discussing and defending the Chicago platform.

When the action of the republican party brought the question of imperialism before the country he immediately took a position upon it making a speech against a colonial policy on June 14, 1898, before any party or association had spoken in the subject. This question he treated as an additional one rather than as a substitute for any of the other questions before the country. When the time came for the holding of the state conventions he was found with two exceptions every state instructed for his renomination. As this renomination came to him in spite of the misrepresentations, criticism and assaults of the papers which, like the Boston Herald, opposed him, he was constrained to believe that the people still adhered to the principles that he advocated, and still repudiated the sordid and mercenary arguments of commercialism advanced by the plutocratic press which, although claiming to be independent or democratic, defended the republican position on most questions.

His often assailed by the metropolitan papers when Mr. Bryan presented a renomination of the Chicago platform at Kansas City. The fact is, that the delegates at Kansas City were nearly all those who selected by conventions that affirmed the Chicago platform, and the only question that excited debate at Kansas City was whether a silver plank should be reiterated or simply reaffirmed. As an honest republican, Mr. Bryan, in his renomination, no one could strenuously oppose the latter if he sincerely favored the former, and all that Mr. Bryan did at Kansas City was to say that a renomination, inasmuch as it was not to abandon the question was not a fair treatment of the subject, and that if the convention desired to ignore the money question it should select candidates who were willing to carry out such a program. He did not attempt to control the convention, but he did insist upon his right to control his own conduct and upon his right to refuse the nomination if he did not conscientiously indorse the platform.

The convention made imperialism the paramount issue and while the party's position on the money question was not abandoned Mr. Bryan and all the other speakers spent the greater part of the time in discussing imperialism. It is a common practice for the plutocratic press to charge the defeat of the party to the money plank. This is neither true nor is it honest. In 1890 the republican party had the advantage of having carried on a successful war, and it had the further advantage of being in power during a period of good crops and increasing currency expansion. The republican party, however, the democratic leaders gave too little rather than too much time to the discussion of the money question, for the improved industrial conditions which the republican party had just effected vindicated the party's position on the money question and showed how much greater the advantage would have been could silver have been added to the gold supply.

We are now preparing for the campaign of 1904, and the reorganizers, not satisfied with Mr. Bryan's announcement that he will not be a candidate, insist that he must either indorse the silver plank or resign his responsibility for the party's defeat in the recent campaigns, or at least, keep silent while they plan the emancipation of the platform and the demoralization of the republican party. Does the fact that he has been a candidate for the presidency impose silence upon him? He is only forty-three; if he lives twenty years longer he will witness ten more presidential campaigns. Must he be a mute observer of what transpires from now on, merely because he cannot agree with the men who in a great crisis voted the republican ticket, and the newspapers which for business reasons supported the republican ticket? This would be a high price to pay for a nomination for any office."

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greater than the responsibility of those who question his right to discuss present issues. Responsibility is measured by opportunity, and if Mr. Bryan has had an opportunity to plan the purposes as well as the plans of those who, failing to destroy the democratic party from within are now trying to destroy it from without, could he excuse himself if he hid himself under the cover of two nominations rather than subject himself to the venom and detraction of those editors who bend the suppliant nose to organized wealth? Who is under greater obligation to the rank and file of the democratic party than Mr. Bryan? And who has more reason than he to cooperate with them in the gigantic task of defending the wealth-producers against the attacks of exploiters and monopolists?

The Herald belongs to that class of papers which pretends great solicitude for the welfare of the party. It has not Mr. Bryan shown as much solicitude for the welfare of the party as those who have aided and contributed to the enemy?

The reorganizers assume that the men who supported the Chicago and Kansas City platforms are ready to go back and apologize for their party's position. This is a groundless assumption. The reorganizers who are still opposed to the Chicago platform are still opposed to the Chicago platform; those who were opposed to a financial system made by the financiers for the financiers, are still opposed to such a system; those who are opposed to a high tariff, even though reorganizers were supporting a high tariff, are still opposed to a high tariff. Those who were opposed to the trusts, even when the leading reorganizers were helping the corporations that were electing an administration pledged to the trusts, are still against the trusts; those who opposed government injunction, even when the leading reorganizers were helping the corporations that were electing an administration pledged to the trusts, are still opposed to that tyrannical process of the court; those who opposed imperialism, even when the leading reorganizers were willing to surrender the Declaration of Independence at the demand of Wall street, are still opposing the separation of our people into citizens and subjects.

If Mr. Bryan were to remain silent in order to escape hostile criticism, his silence would be a change of convictions of those who voted for him; if he were openly to join the reorganizers and proclaim a conversion to the opinions of those who seek to repudiate the democratic party, he could not carry a dozen men into the opposition camp. He would simply forfeit the confidence and excite the contempt of those who have supported him. The contest between democracy on the one side and plutocracy on the other, is still on, and the result of that contest means much of weal or woe to the American people. The democratic party ought to be kept democratic in order that it may have faith in its friends secured and newspaper editors and did not know that the iron and steel men in the East were not only unloading their steel stocks, but were selling these stocks "short," being fully convinced that, in spite of apparent great earnings, stocks would decline—as they have done to the extent of 15 points or \$150,000,000.

Again, we find but little unfavorable criticism of this devastating monster in the newspapers. Why? It would not be proper to say that this trust has bribed nearly all the leading newspapers of the country. It is not at all probable that it has done so, and yet it is likely that it has even more effectively headed off criticism, than if it had spent millions in bribes. It simply insists full-page advertisements in all of the leading newspapers and the trick is done. The following are some of the newspapers in which the writer found the full-page advertisement of the last annual report of the Steel Trust:

Boston Herald, Boston Transcript, Boston Globe, Springfield Republican, Providence Journal, New Haven Register, New York Evening Post, New York American, Philadelphia Public Ledger, Pittsburgh Dispatch, Pittsburgh Post, Baltimore Sun, Baltimore American, Baltimore News, Washington Post, Washington Star, Cincinnati Commercial Tribune, Indianapolis Sentinel, Indianapolis News, Chicago Tribune, Chicago Inter Ocean, Chicago Journal, Chicago Evening Post, St. Louis Daily Globe, St. Paul Pioneer Press, New Orleans Times-Democrat, Montreal (Canada) Gazette.

It is almost certain that this advertisement appeared in practically all of the other great newspapers, which the writer did not see. If this advertisement, with the prospect that it will be repeated every year or every quarter, does not entirely prevent criticism, it will, at least, greatly tone down and soften criticism, in the great majority of cases. The long-headed officers of this trust never made a better investment than when they put a million or so, in advertising in a hundred or more of the leading newspapers. Not only will it add millions to the market value of its securities—which is very important, unmarketed—but it will keep the people quiet, and save off, perhaps for years, the radical reform of the tariff on trust products, which is sure to come when the people cut their tariff-wisdom teeth.

The methods of the Steel Trust are harsh and cruel to both competitors and consumers; yet we see almost nothing about them in the newspapers. In hundreds of ways this trust deserves the severest of criticism, yet it gets but a small portion of its just deserts. Take one instance:

Who has read any comment on the comparative smallness of its taxes? Its report shows that it paid taxes to the amount of \$2,397,465 in 1902. This is less than 2 per cent of its net earnings, and less than 2 mills on the dollar of the value of its property, according to its capital and to the sworn statements of its president, according to its sound reason why this protected billion-dollar official should pay in taxes 18 cents on every \$100, when the unprotected common people pay \$2 or \$3 on every \$100 worth of property?

It is probable that this trust pays less than \$1,000,000 of taxes on its iron and steel lands, valued at over \$1,000,000,000. This is less than one mill on the dollar. The taxes on ordinary farm lands worth \$1,000,000,000 are about \$15,000,000. Why are the great and influential newspapers not calling attention to this gross injustice and favoritism?

Farmers and mechanics should study this steel trust report carefully and do some talk thinking over it. They may get ideas from it about how, as well as about "high finances."—Byron W. Holt.

"Protection and Corruption." By Fred J. Easton, of Williams College, is a much needed warning of the great danger threatening our once free institutions. Says the professor in closing his article:

"This policy of protection, having established itself under the guise of the public welfare and purchased the services of those in power, refuses to be abolished. Constantly present and capable of indefinite extension, it car-

WARDS OFF CRITICISM

EFFECTIVE METHODS DEVISED BY THE STEEL TRUST.

Lavish Advertising in Leading Newspapers of the Country Has Worked Well—Little or No Comment on the Smallness of Its Taxes.

For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain, we have but to study the report of the Steel Trust, the States Steel Corporation. It took over and combined, at its start, the accumulated wisdom of this Dingley-tariff-trust age, as to how to mislead and fool the people, and it is rapidly developing experts in this new art. Judging from results, this art has already reached a high degree of perfection. The results are favorable legislation and favorable public opinion, and the absence of well-merited and harsh criticism of this billion-dollar trust. We cannot see the inner machinery but we can see the finished product. From it we may infer that there is, somewhere, powerful and well-oiled machinery. Observe these results:

Shortly after this giant trust was formed in 1901, its officers decided that the corporation laws of New Jersey should be materially changed. The change was made unopposedly and quickly.

Then the trust wished to dispose of several hundred million dollars' worth of its stocks. Soon the bank officials all over the country were quietly advising depositors to buy "Steel preferred" at 100, and "Steel common" at 50. Many newspaper articles, including some in religious journals, were suggesting the excellent opportunity for investment in these steel stocks—the preferred paying 7 and the common earning 15 or 20 per cent. Of course, this talk and these articles were mainly inspired. But at least 50,000 of the 58,629 people who purchased stocks did not know this. They had faith in their bank officials and newspaper editors and did not know that the iron and steel men in the East were not only unloading their steel stocks, but were selling these stocks "short," being fully convinced that, in spite of apparent great earnings, stocks would decline—as they have done to the extent of 15 points or \$150,000,000.

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ries corruption everywhere. No state can keep itself pure with such a combination of private gains at its very center. Every secondary form of corruption becomes germane to this primary contract. It begets, like carrion, all creeping things.

The tragedy of free institutions passes into comedy and burlesque when trusts, the natural progeny of protection, so threaten the general safety as to demand some form of restraint. Then politicians find themselves between the deep sea and the devil. The direct and obvious remedy they dare not apply. Some form of remedy they must find. These lowering trusts have been built up, not on firm land, but on a platform floated by cash and scows, which the government has been at great pains to provide. Let the air out of these and they would begin at once to sink. The politician knows this only too well. He trains his guns on some outstanding and secondary point, never on the water line, and wins merit in the eyes of the trusts by his very method of attack. The secret of construction and the force of correction show the same corrupt temper. If we wish to bring back the government to its democratic basis, we must begin by abolishing privilege. As long as we believe that this would disturb the foundations of prosperity we are not democrats, and shall wander still farther in the obscure ways of corruption."

THE RAILROAD MERGER.

The People Gain Nothing Tangible by the Decision.

The result of the railroad merger case is encouraging to the public, though the final test in the supreme court may reverse the decision of the lower court. What benefit, those who travel on the railroads or use them for the transportation of their goods will gain, is also a question for the future. The intention of the government in commencing this suit was to abolish a merger of competing lines of railroad and thus prevent rates being raised beyond a reasonable rate. Under the terms of the decision the stock of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington railroads will be returned, by the merger company, to their original owners. This will still leave the railroads in the control of Mr. Hill and Mr. Morgan and their friends, and it is certain that they will agree to maintain the present rates, merger or no merger.

The fact is, the combination of these competing lines of railroad took place three or four years ago, when Mr. Hill and his friends secured control of the stock of the Northern Pacific and the merger company was organized to continue that combine and to prevent any one else obtaining it by a bold move in Wall street by outsiders through the purchasing of enough stock in either of the railroads to control either one or both of them. With the merger company holding a majority of the stock of the three railroads such an attempt was prevented.

The entire interest of the public of the states through which the railroads run is the reasonableness of the rates on passengers and freight and this question is not settled by the merger decision but rests on the action of the Interstate Commerce Commission as it has for years gone by. It is therefore useless to raise the hopes of the customers of the railroads involved, by making them believe that a great victory has been gained, when the fact remains that no material advantage has been gained; except the principle involved that competing lines of railroads can not be merged.

Republican Party Tactics.



Publicity Not a Remedy Here. Publicity is one of the strong cards of President Roosevelt, though so far he has not told an anxious country how to make trusts let up in their depredations on the public purse, though he is talking every day on the subject. His cabinet officers, however, seem to shrink from publishing the facts about the scandals in their departments, especially Secretaries Payne and Root. When the President can spare time enough to look into the scandals perhaps he may take the people into his confidence and reorganize these rotten departments.

Bare Will Have to Be Low. Gen. Corbin having failed to break into the well Metropolitan club in the city of Washington, his friends are talking of starting a new club, with the bars let down low enough to admit those who have been blackballed by other institutions. Secretary Root and Secretary Hay are said to be backing the project.

Baer Above the Law. The pious Baer takes the ground that he controls a monopoly of the anthracite coal fields through his ancient charter from the state of Pennsylvania and that no law can be invoked to prevent the coal trust from charging the public whatever Brother Baer and his associates may demand.

Rich Pickings in Prospect. Favorite sons are springing up in several states to compete with Teddy for the presidential nomination. Senator Elkins is the last one to be groomed, and will, it is said, open a big barrel for the occasion. What a good time those Southern delegates will have next year.

WHAT HAS HE HEARD?

HAVE THE TRUSTS WHISPERED IN THE EARS OF KNOX?

Attorney General's Recent Action is Extremely Significant—Can It Be the Campaign Fund Has Been Threatened?—Policies Before Duty.

It is very good indeed in Attorney General Knox to give notice that hereafter no more bad trusts will be called up and asked to extend the hand for the forle without warning.

Washington dispatches positively affirm that he has done this. They say that before leaving Washington he directed one of his assistants to say for publication words to the effect that hereafter until further notice bad trusts will be warned and have a chance to reform.

This raises the question where the attorney general gets his authority to treat trusts which he knows to be bad—violators of the law—like naughty school boys who are lectured a little, admonished to be good in the future and notified that if they do so any more there will be a stick coming.

The Sherman law contains no authorization of this kind. It forbids combinations in restraint of trade and prescribes certain penalties for violation of the law, and says never a word about warnings. Apart from the special provisions of the statute it is the accepted doctrine that an offender cannot plead ignorance of the law. As a sort of allowance for possible ignorance statutes often prescribe a comparatively light penalty for a first offense, but they always prescribe certain penalties for a second or third offense. It is at liberty to suspend the law at pleasure, after the manner of a country schoolmaster, and give known offenders a chance to be good.

It looks a little as though Mr. Knox was disagreeably disappointed in the merger decision and was straining a good deal, without whose support the Republican party would be routed beyond hope of rallying for lack of funds in the military chest.

There are plenty of trusts which are notoriously just as bad as the Northern Securities company ever was. There is, for instance, the combine of anthracite coal roads, which is condemned not by common report merely but by two official commissions—the industrial commission and the interstate commerce commission—both of which took testimony forcing them to the conclusion that the anthracite combine openly and defiantly and continuously violates both the interstate commerce law and the Sherman anti-trust law.

Unexpectedly successful in its proceedings against the northwestern trust, the administration is alarmed. It may survive the wrath of the Morgans and Hills, but it shirks from the enmity of others who are no less notoriously violators of the laws.

Accordingly it gives them notice that they can go right on as usual until they receive warning, and publishes its purpose not to "take any action" until this question is settled, as the constitution provides.

It is a case of policies before duty.

THE TARIFF AS IT IS.

Republican Organ Seems to Realize the Truth.

We are told that the tariff should be accurately adjusted from time to time to the cost of production. No one will pretend that the cost of production has remained stationary since the Dingley bill was passed six years ago. It is better, perhaps, to say that the tariff should not be changed just before a presidential election and wander far upon the quagmire of actual fact.

The tariff should be changed wherever and whenever necessary (that is to say, never), upon the basis of the difference in the cost of production between this country and abroad. We make steel billets and deliver them in England about \$3 a ton cheaper than the Englishman can. This is the testimony of President Schwab of the steel trust. Accordingly we should pay a bounty of \$3 a ton on all steel imported from Europe, instead of allowing our steel man a bounty of \$4 a ton on all steel imported in competition with their cheaper processes.

Undoubtedly, it is said, there are inequalities in the tariff and they should be corrected wherever and whenever necessary (that is to say, never). But what are the inequalities? Is it not a little remarkable, coming to think of it, that not one of the "stand-patters," from Hanna down, or up, has ever mentioned definitely a single one of the inequalities to which frequent reference is vaguely made and whose correction is so cheerfully promised from year to year and from age to age? They are plentiful in the steel, and boot and shoe, and implements, and locomotives, and sugar, and salt, and paper and copper schedules, but neither Aldrich nor Allison ever heard of them. They are afraid if they do it will make votes for the Democratic party. They are more anxious for their party than for common justice to the people.

Every inequality of the tariff should be corrected. Well, is the tariff on steel equal? Oh, but this is a great and glorious country. Well, is the tariff of 25 per cent on boots and shoes necessary? Oh, but we are the greatest manufacturing nation on earth. Well, is the copper trust not able at length to stand alone, without free copper and high duties on its finished products? Oh, but the tariff should be revised by its friends. Kindly show why the anthracite trust can endure free iron. Oh, but our workmen must be protected from the pauper labor of Europe. Will the Republican party ever revise the tariff except to make it higher, as it did with the McKinley and Dingley bills? Oh, but there is a presidential election approaching and we shall need campaign funds from the protected corporations.

If the tariff is a business question and is to be settled on reference to cost of production, cost of labor, etc.,

why is it never mentioned these industries by name and discuss the cost? Why is it that we fight so shy of the merits of the case and reply to every definite inquiry with only the most glittering generalities? Is it because we are afraid of too close investigation into the ability of our infant industries to stand alone?—Portland (Ore.) Oregonian, Republican.

Trust Bating by Spills.

The anti-trust law forbids combinations in restraint of trade and provides imprisonment and fines for transgressors. There is no provision in the law for its modification or abeyance. No judicial authority can set it aside or change it, yet Mr. Knox, the President's attorney general and chief law advisor, has directed one of his assistants to say for publication words to the effect that hereafter until further notice bad trusts will be warned and have a chance to reform. A good many people have had the impression that the trust-busting campaign was too fast to last and that the attorney-general would tire before he reached the home stretch. It is a mighty hard thing to give the people enough of a taste of trust-baiting to please them and yet not hurt the trusts enough to prevent them from giving down their milk into the campaign barrel. The President could have the time during his campaign to go to the front and bring Knox to greater endeavors in the trust-baiting program, it might have some good effect, but when the cat's away the mice will play, and for some time the government will have to run along in a haphazard way without a head or a leader.

Short-Sighted English Workmen.

Those English workmen who reported on the conditions of American labor without once mentioning the tariff showed themselves unworthy of our hospitality. Had they not even read President Roosevelt's speech explaining that protection was scientifically adjusted to make up for our higher wages? The stupid fellows talk as if they were the ones who needed protection against our highly paid workmen! They say that we are sharply competing with them in the markets of the world, and yet that they hope to hold their own provided they work hard and adopt our improved machinery. Not a word about our tariff, which we all know is our most improved machinery, turning our prosperity automatically.

The Safest Course for Knox.

Philander Chase Knox cannot but note with disquiet that supercilious customs officials are beginning to arrest smuggling army officers in the Philippines as well as in Porto Rico. This, of course, will necessitate instructions from Mr. Knox to nullify the administration of justice in the Philippines as he has already done in Porto Rico. In order to avoid these disagreeable episodes Mr. Knox should request Secretary Shaw to instruct customs officers that army and navy officers are exempt from the operations of the customs regulations. That will save a lot of trouble.

Always There is Some Excuse.

Senator Quay is confident that a period of prosperity is one in which the tariff ought not to be touched. In 1894 the Republicans said it was a terrible mistake to touch the tariff because business was so depressed. On the other hand, they changed the tariff in 1890, when the country was very prosperous. There is no time when the Republicans think the tariff ought to be reduced and they think any time is a good one for raising duties if the people will stand it. When they talk about the condition of business they are throwing dust in the people's eyes.

Knox is Between Two Fires.

The attorney general is in a quandary. He has shown that a successful prosecution of the trusts can be conducted and he doesn't want to injure the trusts. They are creatures of the Republican party, and the party is their creature. If the party is going to turn against its friends there is going to be trouble. Mr. Knox is between two fires. If he does not go on the people will make life a burden for him and if he does go on the trusts will smash him.

When the Tariff Will Be Lowered.

The existing high tariff could not for a moment continue to receive the approval of a majority of the voters but for the cunningly devised fable that it is in the interest of the laboring masses of the country. The inexorable logic of incontestable facts shows that this is not true. Whenever the masses of the voters that labor come to see this a lowering of tariff schedules will be inevitable.

Some of the Disadvantages.

Of course, it is a business thing to have colonial dependencies. But supposing we really should go to war some day—what news might we reasonably expect to hear from the Philippines, inhabited by disaffected people and 10,000 miles distant from the "mother country"? Even the risk of being deemed reasonable it is worth while to consider possibilities like these.

There is More Work to Do.

Attorney General Knox is receiving a good many complaints for his work in bringing about a decision in favor of the people in the merger case. In this respect the attorney general seems to have done his whole duty but there are other trusts against which he might proceed, and he should not weary in well doing.

Tariff Reform by Its Friends.

The plan for letting the tariff be reformed by its "friends"—which means by the beneficiaries of governmental copartnership and special privilege—is about as reasonable as it would be to appoint a committee of trust-frees to devise plans for the relief and greater security of the pease.

What is He Kicking About?

A reasonable statistician figures out that the Philippines have cost us the lives of 5,000 soldiers and \$300,000,000 during the last five years and have brought us nothing but trouble. Well, even so—hasn't the flag "stayed put" and isn't that the chief end of man?