

TRY A NEW SCHEME

SHIP SUBSIDY ADVOCATES ON ANOTHER TACK.

Home Market Club of Boston Favors Discriminating Duties as the Easiest Means of Looting the Public Treasury—Attitude of Republican Leaders

The Home Market Club of Boston, which is for prohibitive protection, is working itself into a patriotic fervor over what ships shall bring in the foreign goods which it says should not be imported at all. It is now making a canvass of the great business interests of the country to learn opinions as to what should be done. It has now a "circular of inquiry" to "governors, presidents of colleges, railroads and banks and principal merchants and manufacturers," asking the following questions:

Is it Your Best Judgment, First, that constitutional means—that is to say, discriminating duties and other regulations of commerce—should be used?

Second, that a subsidy system should be applied?

Third, that nothing should be done, and that foreign nations shall be allowed to continue to appropriate our commercial navigation, as it may please themselves or as chance may determine?

The club's own preference is not left in doubt. Subsidies, it says, are "not warranted by the constitution." It is probable, however, that the real reason why the club is opposed to subsidies is that they are so obnoxious to the people that a ship subsidy bill cannot get through congress—even a congress controlled by trusts and corporations. Three such bills have failed since 1897, though promised by the great party leaders in return for heavy campaign contributions in 1898. Hanna and Payne and Payne and Grosvenor did their best to deliver the goods, but some of the leading trusts, by a great display of timidity and good sense, advised their Republican congressmen to go slow in voting for a subsidy bill. They feared such a bold appropriation of the people's money for private corporations would

with the British government is not apparent, unless we conclude that the trust is open to legal attack, both in Great Britain and this country. In this case it is prudent to get some kind of a legal status and to avoid trouble with British courts. It would be very uncomfortable if this trust was outlawed in both countries and could not land its ships at either end, except under a pirate flag or the flag of some small foreign country.

But what can this trust, which is virtually a foreign concern, and under military obligations to a foreign government, expect, when it asks congress for discriminating duties which will be paid to its American ships? Will Congress thus aid in strengthening a foreign company whose ships may at any time be turned against this country? Does not this trust and this contract make it out of the question for this country ever to give subsidies or bounties in any form to the ship trust? And if the trust is not to receive them, it is safe to say that it will not, with its control over Republican leaders, permit its rivals to receive such bounties.

The ship-subsidy scheme is dead. The Home Market Club cannot galvanize life into it, even with discriminating tariff duties. Let the funeral be held.—Byron W. Holt.

GENERAL MILES SNUBBED.

The Usual Words of Praise Upon Retirement Withheld by the President.

No administration has ever persecuted so shabby a trick as the present one in refusing to say a word of praise for Lieut. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, who retired from active service by operation of the law of 1882. After forty-two years faithfully serving the United States and by virtue of his distinguished services from a private to the highest command, he is allowed to retire without the usual compliments. When Gen. Schofield was retired, President Cleveland said a warm tribute to his gallantry and faithful services. President Roosevelt at the instance of the ruling cabal, headed by Root and Corbin, who are not worthy to wipe the dust from the boots of Gen. Miles, joins them in trying to humiliate the man who fought upon a hundred fields without fear and without reproach. The persistent efforts to exasperate

FACE GRAVE PROBLEM

SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

American Teachers Give Up Their Positions—Education of Our "Subjects" in the Philippines Must Be Left to Parochial Schools.

A new and wholly unexpected danger threatens American supremacy in the Philippine archipelago. It is that the American public schools in the islands will have to be closed for lack of American teachers.

The Philippine commission lured a large supply of American teachers to the islands by assurances which have not been verified. Neither in salary, in mode of life nor in predictions of popular success have the American teachers found existence in the islands what they expected.

They expected to be paid in the money of the United States. They have been paid in the local money and have thus suffered serious loss. They were told that they could live as comfortably on the islands as at home. They find the temperature at 90 all the year, the nights bringing no refreshment. They cannot easily adapt themselves to the tropical costumes and suffer more than the natives. They find tropical customs as to bedding, sleeping, bathing and diet more difficult of assimilation than they hoped.

Worst of all, they do not find themselves welcome, and it is the opinion of the most experienced among them that the alien pedagogy which is not acceptable in the islands during this generation. The American teachers, like the army officers, find the climate debilitating first, finally exhausting, and its evil consequences apply to both body and mind.

The American teachers are resigning as rapidly as they find sufficient reason to do so without violating their engagement to the government. There are no applicants for the vacancies. What is to be done? Pariah schools will be opened by the new American bishops wherever there is none. Existing pariah schools will be strengthened. After the last American public school shall be closed for lack of teachers the government of the United States will be dependent upon the parochial schools for developing love of American institutions in the islands.

The task will not be an easy one. Will they suppress the declaration of independence from American literature and all the gallant romance and thrilling verse associated with the eighteenth century on this continent?

The new American danger in the Philippines is more serious than shallow politicians may be willing to believe. As the Philippine twig is bent the tree will be inclined.

THE ARMY SOCKS SCANDAL.

Further Proof of Rottness in the War Department.

The specifications were so written down in the call for bids for furnishing 150,000 pairs of woolen socks for use in the regular army that only one firm could meet them. Peculiar markings on heel and toe were demanded and also longitudinal instead of lateral ridges where the segments of the rounded parts are joined together, and these details shut all bidders out except one Taggart of Philadelphia. He was the only bidder. The socks called for are made by the "Nelson footer," which is controlled by the Taggart firm.

Just why Taggart, whose "pull" amounts to a monopoly, limited himself to 29 cents a pair, when he might have secured twice or thrice that sum, is not explained. The moderation of Taggart does not, however, change the essential feature of the bidding, in which competition had no part. It was Taggart socks or nothing—another case of Hobson's choice. As things stand, or stood, Taggart was sole sock-maker to Uncle Sam, and no one else had a ghost of a chance to furnish socks to the army.

Thus far the department experts have not been fully heard. It is said, however, that they claim that latitudinal ridges in woolen socks create corns and bunions and what not on the feet of the regular army. Long live the government and the war department, which seems to be rotten at both extremities—in socks as well as in gloves. It may be best to confine the recruiting hereafter to those sections that wear no socks at all, thus cutting out Taggart and his extraordinary monopoly.

President McKinley Was Not a Stand-Patter.

Mr. F. O. Shuster, a governor of the United Kingdom of London, England, in a recent speech there, stated that he "had a private interview with the late President McKinley two years ago," in which President McKinley said: "My tariff bill has done its work. We have been able to build up many great industries in a short time, and now, gradually, but inevitably, our tariff must be reduced."

Not only are these views consistent with Mr. McKinley's last and greatest speech, in which he said that "the period of exclusiveness is past," and strongly intimated that some tariff duties should be reduced, but he is known to have expressed similar views in private conversation at least six months before his Buffalo speech. Either he had gotten ashamed of his own bill, when he saw the rapaciousness of which it was the mother, or he had reached the conclusion that it was good economics, as well as good politics, to trim tariff duties down. He certainly knew that the manufacturers no longer needed a tariff for their existence, for they were selling goods to foreigners on a free trade basis, while charging Americans much higher prices. These facts were, under his direction, being chronicled in

government documents, notably in the August, 1900, report of the Bureau of Statistics. As a politician he knew that the voters would not much longer support a party that would not show a willingness to reduce tariff duties which served only to tax the people for the benefit of the trusts. Hence his change of position. He most certainly would not be a stand-patter were he alive to-day.

But, as a consistent protectionist, was he not right when he said that his bill had "done its work"? If, as claimed by protectionists, and especially earlier ones, the object of protection is to develop and establish manufactures in this country by shutting out foreign competition, that object has most certainly been gained. Not only are our manufacturers now supplying our own needs and markets, but they are exporting annually over \$400,000,000 worth of all kinds of goods to all parts of the world. There is no denying this fact; the Republicans are boasting of it, even while shouting for a continuance of high tariff taxes to continue to keep us at the mercy of the trusts. As a protectionist, then, McKinley was right when he said that "now gradually but inevitably our tariff must be reduced." There is no sound reason, in or out of the protectionist's logic or theories, for continuing the present tariff system. The stand-patters are unsupported—except by the greed and gall of the protected trusts. Is their position a safe one? Can they maintain it long?

Roosevelt and the Civil Service. It is given out that Gen. H. H. Thomas, a veteran of the Union war with a distinguished record, is to be removed from the office of United States appraiser at this port in order that one L. T. Hoy, described as a Woodstock druggist and the manager of A. J. Hopkins' campaign for the senatorship, may have the place.

The appraisership is the lowest salaried federal office in Chicago. There were rumors some time ago that there was to be a general "shake-up" of all the federal offices and Mr. Hoy was said to be slated for assistant treasurer in place of Williams, who was to have been dismissed. But the plan was changed and Gen. Thomas is to be turned out to make room for the druggist-politician who "managed Senator Hopkins' campaign."

There are no charges against Gen. Thomas; the rumors affecting other offices when the "shake-up" was predicted do not reach his office. His removal to give place to a mere machine worker is a piece of wanton spoils politics, contrary to all the civil service principles which President Roosevelt is supposed to represent, and it cannot be defended.—Chicago Chronicle.

Our Polygamous Ally.

The sultan of Sulu, that good and great friend of ours, is so enamored of life at Singapore, where he has been taking a vacation, that he contemplates abdicating his sultanship. His majesty is rich from his pearl fisheries and disposed of his minor wealth before quitting his post.

This is the esteemed monarch who is in receipt of a pension from the government of the United States for maintenance of his luxurious tastes, including his harem.

While we are threatening to bar from a seat in the senate of the United States a man accused of polygamy it is a scandal to the nation that its money should be lavished upon a seaglio-keeper in a foreign country.

The allowance to the potentate of Sulu was official only. It ought to expire with his abdication.

All Seem to Be Smirched.

For a proposition primarily characterized as "hot air" the postal rottenness continues to break out in more numerous and unexpected quarters than any similar scandal in the present generation. If the postoffice department is any index to the other governmental bureaus there are going to be some mighty interesting developments during the coming year.

Where Senator Aldrich Stands.

It is painful to hear a contemporary declare that the state of Rhode Island is "plenty rotten" and that money is plenty there when the Honorable Nelson Aldrich wants to be re-elected to the senate. Mr. Aldrich is a great and good man and the father-in-law of the Standard Oil company. It is impossible that he should know much less practice, iniquity.

England Facing a Danger.

If we may judge from the ominous rumors heard from South Africa, the British are sending out as colonial functionaries to the Boers very much the same kind of persons that we dispatch to the Philippines. The first thing he knows, Mr. Chamberlain will have an "insurrection" on his hands.

The Other Fellow's Tariff.

The Furniture men, at their annual meeting, have been placing themselves on record as favoring certain steps in tariff revision. They omitted, however, to say anything about a reduction of the duties on furniture. Perhaps they other infants think some other infants could get along with a little less pap.

Relics on Wall Street.

So far from crediting stories of the president's ferocious enmity toward Wall Street, Uncle Thomas P. declares that Mr. Roosevelt has plenty of friends on the "if he hadn't," adds "he might as well go into liquidation." A good many people will agree with him.

Choosing a Possible President.

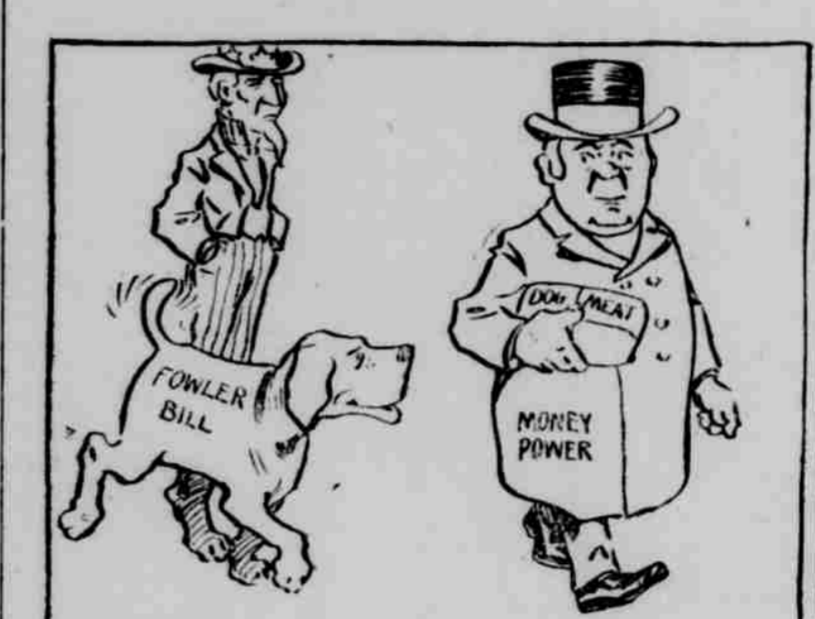
National conventions should quit making vice presidential nominations purely a matter of party expediency. Perhaps it is not necessary to go further in this line of argument than to point to the "expedient" vice president who now disports himself in the White House.

Getting Ready to Repeat.

Rumblings from Washington respecting Cuban reciprocity warrant the belief that Beet Sugar Oxnard is again taking exercise preliminary to swinging the United States around by the tail once more.



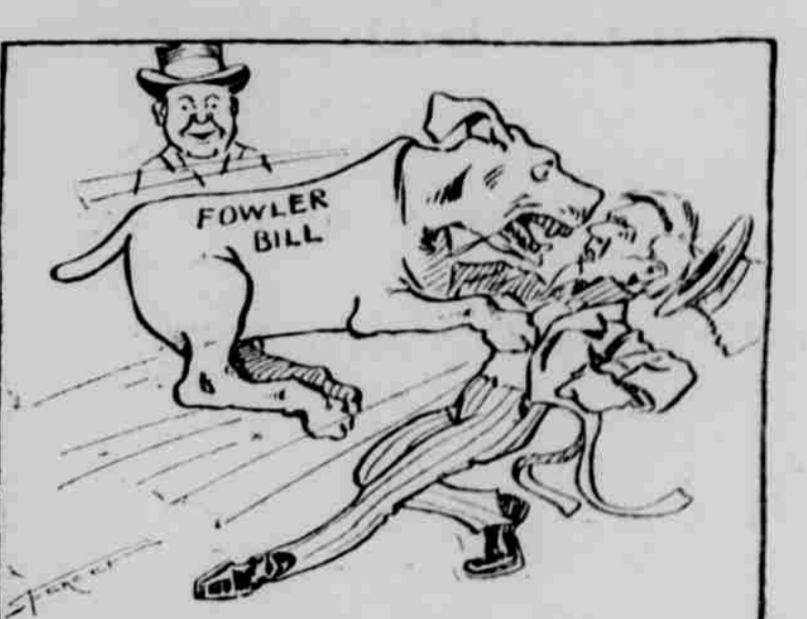
"Say, Mister, I don't like the looks of that dog o' yours and I don't want him on the place."
"Oh, that's all right! He's harmless and I ain't going to keep him anyway."



"Hello! There's that measley cur again. Thought you weren't goin' to keep him?"
"Well, I'm not. Going to get rid of him soon, sure."



"I see you've got that ornery pup yet. When are you going to get rid of him?"
"Oh, he wouldn't hurt anybody, but ain't much account, so I'm not going to keep him longer."



"Sic 'im, Tigge! Sic 'im!"

Commoner Comment.

THE RACE PROBLEM.

On another page will be found a letter recently written by President Roosevelt to Governor Durbin on the subject of lynching. Forgetting for the present the failure of the president to enforce the law against the trust magnates and Governor Durbin's refusal to deliver to Kentucky authorities a republican ex-governor charged with murder, let us consider the subject of mob law as it is related to the race question. The president is right in protesting against mob law—it cannot be defended. It is a reflection on the people if legal means of punishment are adequate and effective, and it is a reflection on the government if the people have reason to distrust its ability to enforce the law. All will agree with the president that punishment should not only be sure, but should be swift as a due regard to the rights of the accused will permit. Whatever punishments are sanctioned by public opinion should be embodied in the law and in the case of crimes against women the laws should be such—enough though a constitutional and such disfranchisement cannot be explained on the ground of race prejudice either, for husband and wife, mother and son, are not only of the same race, but are linked together by the strongest bonds known.

The suffrage amendments in the south, so much complained of by republican politicians, are not nearly so severe as the republican colonial policy in the Philippines. First—in every southern state some of the negroes can vote now, and all others can qualify themselves for suffrage; in the Philippines the inhabitants are permanently disqualified.

Second—The negroes in the south, even when they cannot vote, have the protection of federal and state constitutions; the Filipino has no constitutional protection whatever. Third—The negroes in the south live under the laws that the white man makes for himself; the Filipino lives under the laws that we make for him and would not live under ourselves.

Fourth—The brown man of the Orient is faring worse than the black man in the south, the republican leaders are stirring up race antagonism in this country in order to keep the colored vote solid for the republican party. Even the president has contributed more than his share to the agitation. When he has appointed a colored man to office he has done it with a flourish of trumpets and a brass band accompaniment that the world might know that the "door" was wide open. When a colored postmistress was objected to he refused to allow her to resign and closed the office—and did it allay race prejudice? No, it did more to excite race prejudice than any ten colored appointments that President McKinley made.

The Booker T. Washington dinner at the White House did even more than the Indianapolis postoffice incident to excite race prejudice. The president surely did not intend to inject the question of social equality into politics, for on that issue he could not be wrong.

The administration will draw the color line in the navy, but owing to circumstances will not at this time draw it in the conventions.

Secretary Root is not the first man to breathe easier with Miles out of the way. It often happened while Miles was in active service.

When the democratic party adopts a platform that meets with the approbation of the men who control the republican party, it will be when loyal democrats forget principle.

Up to date, however, Wall street has not felt the necessity of asking congress for an elastic conscience.

It is admitted that John R. Walsh's bright editorial writers are making Herculean attempts to earn their salaries these days.

Congressman Littauer's defense reads something like that of the man who was asked to pay for a kettle he had borrowed and broken. "I sent the kettle back. I never borrowed your kettle. The kettle was broken when I got it."

As it is unreasonable for a black man to be angered by such a taunt. A man is to be praised or blamed according to the use he makes of his talents or opportunities, not by his inherited advantages. The fact that a negro is lynched by a mob because of an outrage upon a woman ought not to increase the race prejudice that exists. White men are lynched for the same crime. Neither must the white man's feelings toward the negro be judged by his conduct when under great excitement. Man mad is an entirely different creature from man deliberate. Men in anger have killed fathers, wives, brothers, sons, and friends—they have broken every tie of love and kinship.

Suffrage qualifications cannot be attributed entirely to race prejudice, for suffrage qualifications are to be found in nearly all countries and have been judged by white men against members of the white race and by people of every color against people of their own color. Woman suffragists complain that women are disfranchised as distinctly as it is by democratic families, as distinctly by northern families as by southern families. There is more friendliness and helpfulness where this is recognized than where it is left in doubt and uncertainty.

The white race ought to recognize the rights of the black race and lend it every possible assistance. The whites of the south are taxing themselves to educate the children of darker skin, while republican politicians in the north are riding into office on black votes and, while they exclude the colored people from their social functions, are constantly trying to array the southern negro against the southern white man.

There is another aspect of the question. The promise of social equality—false as it is—encourages the educated negro to hope to get away from his race and thus the race loses the benefit that the more progressive negroes might bring to it. Instead of trying to bleach the face or to take the kink out of the hair, let the colored man recognize that he is black by nature and set to work to show what one of his race can accomplish. No upright, intelligent and law-abiding colored man ever gets into trouble himself or involves his people in a race war. After the colored man has established a reputation for virtue, sobriety and good sense, let him devote himself to the building up of a society that will satisfy his needs. If he has daughters, let him make them worthy of the best young men of his race; if he has sons, let him make them examples of industry and good habits. To deserve respect and not enjoy it is better than to enjoy respect without deserving it, but to deserve respect is the best and surest way to secure it.

A good character is more valuable and more permanent than a postoffice, and nothing will do more to kill race prejudice than the building up of character.

The white man needs to be reminded, as the president suggests, that lawlessness is dangerous and torture demoralizing to those who practice it, but the black man must also be cautioned not to judge the white man's actions by the passions of an hour and he should be warned not to allow the vices and lusts of the most abandoned of his race to provoke hostility between himself and the whites.

The race question is here and it will require the intelligence and the patriotism of the people north and south to settle it aright. It has too long been used for political advantage.

Contrary to expectations, the Root resignation has distanced the Balkan war rumor.

Mr. Littauer announces that he will fight the charges against him. Hard or soft gloves?

Mr. Parry should emigrate to Russia. It seems that labor conditions there are exactly to his liking.

By "standing pat" Mr. Hanna avoids the humiliation of explaining why it is that Tom Johnson always downs him in a Cleveland fight.



—Pittsburg Post.

offend the people and spoil the tariff graft under which the trusts were enjoying such unparalleled prosperity. They virtually said to the shipping people:

"Of course we should like to let you in on a good, fat graft, but we don't want you to spoil our graft, and in the end, yours too. We must manage to keep the Republican party in power somehow or all will be lost. The people are easy if you approach them in the right way and on the right side; but, like a young cow, they will kick and refuse to be milked when approached from the wrong side. Don't jeopardize both our interests by attempting something rash. We know the people will stand for indirect taxes, because they do not see them, or because they vainly imagine that somebody else may be paying them, or that, in some absurd way, they are benefited by such taxes. But they might rebel and kick our whole graft over if we should show our hands. We shall gladly help you if you can devise some new scheme that will fit on to the present indirect tariff tax system. See what you can do."

Hence it is that the ship trust has gotten the Home Market Club to promote the "discriminating-duties" scheme. That is, to favor an increase in the tariff of 10 per cent on all imports carried by foreign bottoms. This is clearly constitutional; it fits on to our present system; it would tax the people without their knowledge; it would give the shipping people more than they could ever get by direct application to the treasury, and, best of all, it would not greatly endanger the tariff graft of the trusts. Of course, it would upset our treaty regulations with foreign countries, but "what do we care for abroad, anyhow?"

Incidentally it may be mentioned that there are complications growing out of the contract which the shipping trust, the International Mercantile Marine, made with England, which may prevent that patriotic trust from participating so largely in these tariff profits as is desirable.

This company has just closed a twenty-year contract with the British admiralty which provides that the British companies included in the shipping combine shall remain on a footing of equality with other British companies in respect to any military, naval or postal services that the British government may require from the British mercantile marine. No British ship shall be transferred to a foreign registry without the consent of the president of the Board of Trade. The officers of the vessel shall continue to be British subjects, and the ships shall carry the same proportion of British sailors as is prescribed in the case of any other British ships engaged in the same line of trade.

Just why this shipping trust should make such an unfavorable contract

and belittle Gen. Miles during the war with Spain and since was due to jealousy and fear of his becoming too powerful. He was refused the active command of the army in Cuba and by his exposure of the rotten beef scandal, the whole truth of which has not yet been told—he was considered politically dangerous to the Republican oligarchy that has been in command. That he has always been a consistent though independent Republican and so thoroughly honest and capable that the powers that be could not buy or cajole him were the reasons for his mistreatment.

That the official slight to Gen. Miles was concocted by his enemies was not so much to be wondered at, but that President Roosevelt should aid and countenance their meanness and hold back what was justly due from the commander-in-chief of the brave general, shows the vast difference between the greatness and littleness of soul that should be expected of a President of the United States. It was officially announced in the Washington Post that:

"The determination to confine the announcement of the retirement of the Lieutenant General to the usual form was reached after deliberation precedent in the Democratic party. It was made a matter of conference during the last visit of Secretary Root to Oyster Bay, although it is known the decision promulgated yesterday was arrived at some time ago."

Republican Definitions.

"Scandal"—A charge against a public officer purely for political effect; equivalent to "hot air"; a serious thing if it occurs in the Democratic party, but in your own only one of those things that will happen in the best civil service on the planet.

"Fraud"—An obsolete word. For merely signed breach of trust by a public servant; in modern usage the synonym is "enterprise."

Our Colonial Subjects.

Mr. Chamberlain's hint that the government of the South African colonies may deport boers and others who do not vote right would be a valuable hint for our own colonial functionaries, except for the fact that we do not allow our colonial subjects to vote at all, this constituting one difference between the policy of a free and enlightened republic and that of an effete despotism.

Hay as a Soft Mark.

Naturally, Mr. Hay is "amazed" at the exhibition of Russian duplicity in the Manchurian business, but nobody else is. Mr. Hay is easy, that is all.