

sage recommending anti-trust legislation? If we have only one private monopoly in the country, and that is a benevolent one, why does the republican party make such a pretense of opposing trusts?

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A Politician's Impressions. Congressman Esch, of Wisconsin, in a newspaper interview, says: "An impression prevails that the decision of the supreme court in the Porto Rican cases will be favorable to the government and that it will be handed down in a short time." How did this "impression" get abroad? All the history of judicial opinion in this country would give the impression that the decision would be in keeping with precedent.

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A Blow to Duelling. The recent French duel, in which the participants really tried to injure each other, may result in an effort to abolish the practice. For some years the appeal to swords has been so harmless as to excite little protest, but a sure enough engagement, with anger and red blood accompaniment, is likely to prove useful in hastening the outlawry of this relic of barbarism.

A duel in which the parties only pretend that they want to kill each other is a laughable comedy; a duel in which the parties actually try to kill each other is a horrible tragedy.

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Infringing the Copyright. Congressman Levy, of New York, has written a letter calling attention to the fact that he introduced the first bill providing for the redemption of silver dollars. He says that he does not mention it to claim personal credit, but because he wants to keep the honor (?) in the democratic party. He need not be so modest about it; he is welcome to all the advantage he can get out of the bill. The democratic party will never claim credit nor admit responsibility for it. The republicans have a perpetual copyright on measures of that kind, and Mr. Levy is liable to prosecution for infringement.

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Reportorial Enterprise. Israel Zangwill, according to an exchange, has had an interesting encounter with an enterprising reporter. He thus records his experience:

My experience of the American reporter leads me to the conviction that you must either accept him unconditionally or reject him absolutely. No temporizing or attempt to dodge him will pay. Perhaps the oddest specimen of an American journalist that I met was a man in Cincinnati. He called on me one night, told me that he was racked and torn with religious doubts, and asked my guidance. With such reasoning and thought as I had at command I tried to help him to a clearer view, and he went away full of gratitude. Imagine my astonishment when, next day, I found this young gentleman posing throughout the interview as a profound thinker while I figured feebly as a shallow sophist.

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Officers Galore. The new army bill provides for about eleven hundred officers running from major-general down to second lieutenant. These are life positions and there will be a scramble for them. If they are judiciously distributed a considerable sentiment will be created in favor of a large military establishment. Army officers are, as a rule, men of intelligence and have influential family connec-

tion, and the advantages which they derive from the system can be easily seen. The burdens of a large standing army are, however, distributed among all the people, and are not so easily discerned. The few who are benefitted are aggressive while the burden bearers are unorganized. It is not strange, therefore, that the people find it difficult to keep a standing army within bounds.

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Food for Thought. Two years ago this month the Philippine war began. It has cost this republic a quarter of a billion dollars, 3,500 lives and its self respect to further the selfish schemes of promoters. During these two years we have had more men under arms in the Philippines than Washington had during the Revolution; more men than the republic had under arms during the war of 1812; more men than Scott had when he invaded Mexico; more men than Shafter had when he invaded Cuba and compelled the surrender of the Spanish forces, and more men than Grant had at any time during his Vicksburg campaign. And yet it has been impossible to subjugate a weak people who are fired by a love of liberty. There is much in these facts that demands the consideration of the thoughtful.

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Exit Lobbyists. The Illinois Senate has adopted rules withdrawing the privileges of the floor from former members of the legislature who are acting in the capacity of attorneys for railroads or other corporations. It is an excellent rule, but it would be unnecessary if the ex-members had a proper conception of the dignity and responsibility of a legislator. All legislative bodies, state and national, are, to a greater or less extent, afflicted with the lobbyist, who, after establishing a reputation and gaining acquaintance as a law-maker, yields to temptation and sells his political influence to the corporations which are trying to secure some advantage or some exemption from legislatures.

When all legislators realize their obligation to the people and act as representatives of the people in all matters, the lobbyist will depart without the gentle hint administered by the Illinois Senate, but at present strict rules are necessary.

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Desecrating the Flag. Some people are deeply concerned lest the United States flag be used for advertising purposes. Such a protest is indeed a worthy one; but is it not strange that some of those who are so careful as to the piece of bunting itself should be so careless as to the principles which that bunting represents?

It is important that the flag be not used for advertising purposes; but it is even more important that the flag shall not become a "commercial asset." The preciousness of the flag is due to the doctrines for which it stands. Because the flag is an emblem of something sacred it should be free from anything that savors of commercialism; but it would be better that every flag flung to the breeze throughout this broad land was covered with patent medicine advertisements than that that flag should wave over a war of conquest.

Popular affection for the flag will prevent the desecration of the bunting; and popular affection for the flag will increase only when we are as

careful of the ideals for which the flag stands as we are of the material of which the flag is made.

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Sudden and Simultaneous. The New York Times speaks gleefully of what it terms "the sudden revival of interest in the improvement of the currency which has sprung up in the two committees of the House of Representatives." If the Times will look back over the past twenty years it will be able to find several "sudden revivals" of this kind. They usually come after an election—never immediately before one—and there is a suddenness and a simultaneity about the revival which compel the belief that there is a perfect organization back of it. Immediately after the election of 1892 there was a "sudden revival" which resulted in an effort to repeal the purchasing clause of the Sherman Act during the last days of President Harrison's administration. When the attempt failed President Cleveland called Congress together in extraordinary session to pass a bill to carry out the same purpose. After the elections of 1899 there was another "sudden revival" which led to the passage of the act of March 14 last. The monied interests move slowly and with deliberation, but when they decide that it is time to secure another legislative advantage, a "sudden revival" breaks out all along the line. The decree has gone forth that the silver dollar must be degraded and destroyed in order that national bank notes may take the place of silver certificates, and those Representatives who draw their inspiration from the financiers are manifesting violent anti-silver symptoms, which indicate that the "sudden revival" is again at work.

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The Flag at Half Mast. Mayor VanWyck of New York is being criticised because he failed to order the flag lowered to half mast on the city hall on the occasion of Queen Victoria's death. Mayor VanWyck's defense is that it has not been the custom to lower the flag on such occasions. He points out that the flag was not lowered on the occasion of the death of Gen. Joubert of the South African Republic.

Whether the flag on a public building shall be lowered in tribute to men of other nations is not a serious question. It is, indeed, a little act of courtesy which contributes to good nature, and while accomplishing some good, as all acts of courtesy do, can accomplish no harm. But Mayor VanWyck presents a complete defense when he cites the failure to pay this tribute to Joubert as a precedent for the failure in the case of Queen Victoria.

If a flag on a public building is not made to pay tribute to the memory of a hero who died in freedom's holy cause, then it is not extremely important that that flag be required to pay tribute to Kings and Queens.

This may yet become an interesting question. If Paul Kruger, the Old Roman of the South African republic, should die, there would be a very general demand that the flag be lowered in tribute to his memory. Nor is it to be doubted that there would be vigorous opposition in certain quarters to such recognition. There are some people in this country who are more anxious to pay tribute to monarchs, than to recognize the merits of freemen.