

a memorial signed by Charles Francis Adams, Andrew Carnegie, Charles Schurz, Edwin Burritt Smith and Herbert Welsh, asking that a congressional committee of investigation be appointed to go to the Philippines to inquire into and report upon conditions existing there. The memorial is dated at Boston, and states that the signers are a committee appointed at a recently held meeting of persons, irrespective of party, interested in the policy pursued by the United States toward the Philippines.

A dispatch from Washington under date of June 12 says: "Representative Foss of Illinois, chairman of the committee on naval affairs, has introduced in the house a bill to authorize the president to nominate Captain Charles Edgar Clark to be a rear admiral of the senior grade on the active list.

Senator Foraker has introduced a measure providing that the resident commissioner from Porto Rico shall have a seat in the house of representatives, but without a vote, thus placing that official on the same level as delegates from the territories.

On June 13 the irrigation bill was adopted in the house by an overwhelming vote. The debate on the bill prior to its adoption was participated in by many of the leading members of the house and many amendments were offered, but only one, except those offered by the committee, was adopted. It was of a minor character. The bill already has passed the senate. The friends of the measure greeted the announcement of its passage with a round of applause. The bill as passed creates a reclamation fund from the sale of public lands in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, less the amount paid to local land offices and 5 per cent due the state under existing laws for educational purposes, the reclamation fund to be used for the construction and maintenance of irrigation works in the states and territories enumerated. Provision is made for the payment out of the treasury any deficiencies in the allowance to agricultural colleges owing to this state disposition of public lands. The secretary of the interior is authorized to examine, survey and construct the irrigation works and report the cost thereof to congress at each session. Section 4 provides for the letting of contracts when the necessary funds are available in the reclamation fund for such section. Section 5 provides that no right to the use of water for land in private ownership shall be sold for a tract exceeding 160 acres to any one land owner and on such right shall permanently attach until all payments therefor are made, and no such sale shall be made to any land owner unless he is an actual bona fide resident on such land or occupant thereof residing in the neighborhood of such land. Section 6 authorizes the secretary to use the reclamation fund for the operation and maintenance of the irrigation works. Section 8 requires state control over waters of non-navigable streams such as are used in irrigation.

In regard to the recent disclosures respecting the expenditure of money in Cuba to promote reciprocal relations with that island, General Wood, ex-governor of Cuba, declared that as trustee for the island he had spent the money to good purposes and that there was nothing in his administration of affairs that he wished to cover up. In conclusion, he outlined his work while governor general of Cuba, and told of the many changes that had been wrought there during the American occupation.

On June 13 the president sent a special message to congress in regard to the reciprocity measure with Cuba. He regards it as a matter of national honor to give reciprocity to the island, and urges this as giving practical effect to President McKinley's

messages of December 5, 1898, and December 5, 1899, when he wrote: "It is important that our relations with this people (of Cuba) shall be of the most friendly character and our commercial relations close and reciprocal. . . . We have accepted a trust, the fulfillment of which calls for the sternest integrity of purpose and the exercise of the highest wisdom. The new Cuba yet to rise from the ashes of the past must needs be bound to us by ties of singular intimacy and strength if its enduring welfare is to be assured. . . . The greatest blessing which can come to Cuba is the restoration of her agricultural and industrial prosperity." President Roosevelt then asks that the United States help Cuba in her effort to establish self-government and independence, and advocates a 20 per cent reduction of tariff duties.

A House of Lords for the Trusts

The moneybags and mossbacks of the United States senate continue to stand out doggedly against the will of the people, which would replace their kind with live men directly responsible to their constituents.

That will found its latest formal official expression on February 13 last, when the house of representatives unanimously passed the Corliss resolution, authorizing the submission of an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of senators by popular vote.

For more than three months that resolution has been in the hands of the senate committee on privileges and elections, and every effort has been made to put it to death.

Chauncey M. Depew, representing in the senate the New York Central Railroad company and its corporate allies, sought to convert the amendment into a force bill for the purpose of arraying against it every senator who is opposed to federal interference with state elections.

A majority of the committee opposed to the Corliss resolution; a majority is in favor of the Depew amendment; a majority is against the Corliss resolution as changed by the Depew amendment, and a majority is opposed to reporting the resolution adversely.

This remarkable report of the committee's conclusions, submitted to the senate by Chairman Burrows on Tuesday, was "received with laughter."

If an insult which impugns at once the intelligence and candor of the senate appeals to that body's sense of humor, it is entitled to its mirth.

But the country will see nothing mirth-provoking in the committee's affronting report, which seeks by juggling to conceal a little its cynical defiance of the electorate of the United States. What the report says to the American people is just this:

"You want to elect senators directly by your votes, do you? Well, you won't be given that democratic right if we can help it."

It is now the duty of senators who believe that the men of this country and not its money should govern it to take the aggressive and force upon record every member who has the insolent hardihood to resist the clearly and frequently expressed will of the American people.

The legislatures of no fewer than twenty-nine states have petitioned congress for this amendment.

Who doubts that if submitted to a popular vote it would be adopted by a tidal-wave majority? Nobody.

That is why the mossbacks and moneybags of the senate oppose it and resort to every possible trick to prevent the amendment going to the people.

The only opposition worthy of the slightest respect is that represented by Senator Hoar. In his old-fashioned way he shivers with alarm at any suggestion of improvement upon the constitutional devices of the federalist fathers, who, in their inherited British fear of the populace, went as far as they dared in setting up checks upon

the popular will.

There is no argument advanced by Senator Hoar in support of the existing practice that could not be as well employed in support of a proposal to restore to the electoral college the character intended by the fathers—that of a deliberative body free to make its own choice for president and vice president.

Custom has deprived the electoral college of its undemocratic powers almost as completely as if the transforming work had been done by constitutional amendment.

But custom cannot give to the people the power to elect senators directly, as it has practically done in the case of the president and vice president.

The opposition to be overcome in the senate is not that made by a few worthy old gentlemen motivated by a horror of change as such.

The real challenge to the people comes from men who are in the senate, not as representatives of their states, but as representatives of special interests in those states.

The Standard Oil company, the great railroad corporations, the steel trust, the food trust and the trusts in general—the gigantic combinations of capital which have absorbed the natural resources of the country, and to a large extent its business also—constitute the power which speaks in the senate through such men as Depew.

This power would fasten upon the republic in perpetuity a house of lords for the trusts.

The men of the senate who believe in democracy, who believe in government by the people for the people, will insist upon the Corliss amendment being brought to a vote.

They will exhaust every parliamentary expedient to compel the servitors of the trusts and the contemners of popular sovereignty either to yield to the people's will or go down in black and white as open foes of republican principles.

No house of lords for the trusts!—New York Journal and American.

Books Received.

History of the United States of America Under the Constitution, by James Schouler; published in six volumes by Dodd, Meade & Co., New York.

The Abbey French-English and English-French pronouncing Dictionary; published by the Abbey Press, New York.

Aaron Burr, His Personal and Political Relations With Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, by Isaac Jenkinson; published by M. Cullaton & Co., Richmond, Ind.

Nominating Systems: Direct Primaries Versus Conventions in the United States, by Ernest C. Meyer;

published by the author, Madison, Wis.

The War of the Civilizations, Being the Record of a "Foreign Devil's" experiences with the allies in China, by George Lynch; published by Longmans, Greene & Co., London, New York and Bombay.

The Story of Jesus, For Children, by Louise Castle Walbridge; published by the Abbey Press, New York.

Every-day Children, by M. C. Emmel; published by the Abbey Press, New York.

Bobtail Dixie, a Dog Story, by Abbey N. Smith; published by the Abbey Press, New York.

A Study of the United States Steel Corporation in its industrial and legal aspects, being three lectures delivered to the class in private corporations in the University of Michigan, June 3, 4, and 5, 1901, by Prof. Horace L. Wilgus; published by Colloghan & Co., Chicago.

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