

Mr. Hanna says: "It appears to me that the logical outcome of events will be the annexation of Cuba to the United States."

**To Ruin and to Steal.** It more and more becomes evident that the New York Tribune knew what it was talking about when it said that "the purpose of the republican leaders is, first, to ruin and then to steal Cuba."

Secretary of the Treasury Shaw declared that the republican party never attempts to defend a tariff schedule, but does defend the protective principle. The Rochester Herald reminds the secretary that since the tariff schedule is the practical application of the protective principle, Mr. Shaw's assertion amounts to a confession that his party is standing for a principle that when reduced to practice is incapable of defense.

A republican newspaper points out that J. Pierpont Morgan keeps many of his choicest paintings abroad rather than pay the exorbitant duties of the custom houses. This republican paper recommends that the tariff on art should be abolished in order that Mr. Morgan might be enabled to bring his precious prizes to this country. This is perhaps the only point on which Mr. Morgan would make any concession to tariff revision.

No more justifiable arraignment was ever made of a political party than that made of the republican party when the St. Paul Globe said: "Day by day the trusts tighten their grip upon the throat of the republican party, and he is a dull one indeed who believes for a moment that the party can ever extricate itself from the clutches of the monopolies it has created. In fact, it has no desire to if the trusts will keep producing the campaign boodle."

One of the most interesting political platforms is that adopted by the republicans of Osage county, Kansas. After inserting a plank specifically indorsing Mr. Roosevelt's Cuban reciprocity views, the Osage county republicans inserted a plank specifically expressing gratification because of the course of those senators who opposed Mr. Roosevelt's Cuban reciprocity views. And yet after all this Osage county republican platform means just as much as does any other republican platform constructed in these days.

It was recently reported that President Roosevelt was furious when he examined the republican campaign book and observed the indifferent manner in which it treated the work of his administration. It was stated at the time that the president had persuaded the republican congressional committee to withdraw the book for amendment. This is now denied. The book has been generally circulated and it is said that while the president does not approve of the book's dodging characteristics he realizes that the congressional committee must bear the responsibility.

Neeley, the republican politician who was convicted because of the Cuban frauds, had in his possession at the time of his arrest the sum of \$6,234. This money was deposited with the secretary of war, and Neeley has made a demand that it be returned to him. The Chicago Record-Herald says

that "the brazen impudence of this man would be a fine thing for armoring war ships." It suggests that the attorney general should employ "a good, vigorous bouncer with a boot of about two tons displacement to operate on Neeley when he again applies for this money." The chances are that instead of employing a bouncer, the secretary of war will pay the money to Neeley.

The New York Press directs the attention of the coal miners to the claim that the operators have plenty of coal to sell and will sell it while the strike continues at an extra profit of five, or ten, or fifteen dollars a ton. The Press says the public would like to know if these striking miners propose that the coal operators shall make more money out of their sales of one season than they could make in many years of normal business. The Press might direct its inquiry to the republican administration. It might ask Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Knox why they do not commence proceedings against the coal trust in order to prevent a handful of men from imposing upon the coal consumers.

The members of the G. A. R. have asked General Miles to take a conspicuous part in the Grand Army encampment to be held in Washington. General Torrance, head of the Grand Army, recently stated that it is the desire of the old soldiers that General Miles occupy a seat beside President Roosevelt and General Torrance on the reviewing stand on the day of the parade, also that General Miles be the orator at the evening reception. A Washington dispatch to the New York World says: "It is understood the president had quietly permitted it to become known that it is preferable that General Miles should not be made conspicuous during the G. A. R. encampment." Why does Mr. Roosevelt object to General Miles participating in the encampment? What has this old soldier done to justify the president in nagging him and exerting every effort to humiliate him?

A special dispatch to the Omaha World-Herald, under date of New York, August 7, says: "It is learned from reliable sources today that the Union Pacific has placed a big order for steel rails with a firm in Germany. Part of this order is for the Southern Pacific, though delivery is to be made to the Union Pacific at Omaha and such other points westward as it may later instruct. The order is for 1,000 tons. Premiums for early delivery were quoted ranging from 1/4 to 1 per cent. A prominent man connected with steel industry said: 'It is not surprising to hear of the Union Pacific's order. Domestic mills cannot deliver before the third quarter next year. They are stacked up with orders for millions of dollars in steel. Iron orders will have to go abroad before long.' Can any one justify the "valuable asset" given to the great steel trust by the republican party in the light of these facts?"

The New York Tribune refers to "the decline in the cost of living, as shown by Dun's index number." The average man does not need statistics to enable him to reach a conclusion as to living expenses. He knows that while his wages have not increased since 1897, his living expenses have undergone a marked increase. If, however, one chooses to go into figures, a report recently made by the Massachusetts bureau of labor might be interesting. This bureau obtained a detailed statement of expenditures of 152 working men's families whose average yearly income fell below \$1,000.

The average annual expenditure for a family, according to this report, is \$797. This money is disbursed about as follows: For food, \$428; for clothing, \$109; for rent, \$100; for fuel and light, \$46; for incidentals, \$114. In this report it is declared that the cost of living in 1902 has materially increased over the cost of 1897. This increase is represented by 11.16 per cent in the price of food; 16.7 per cent in the prices of dry goods and boots; 52.43 per cent in rent, and 9.78 per cent in the price of fuel. In other words, this report shows that the necessities of life which now cost \$683.84 could have been purchased in 1897 for \$586.90.

The Hartford Courant, a republican paper, says: "But the fact that protection has done so much is as far as possible from justifying the abuse of it by what may be called the hog element in trade. It is a perfectly fair game for the opposition to show up trusts that, entrenched behind protective laws, either tariff or patents, sell their goods abroad at lower figures than they sell them at to the very nation whose people give them the protection that is their life. It is robbery. The man who said he was selling goods below cost, and so could only maintain himself by doing a very large business at it, is a by-word for idiocy. No successful concern sells its products at less than cost, and, if goods can be sold at a certain figure in London or South Africa, when made in America, then they can be sold for more profit right where they are made, and the man who denies that seriously needs a conservator. The protection given to trusts that sell abroad cheaper than at home should be taken off at once." Those republican organs and orators who protest against tariff revision might employ their spare moments during the campaign in framing a reply to this republican newspaper's interesting statement.

**A Successful Plan.**

The interest manifested by readers of The Commoner in the "Lots of Five" plan is most gratifying. It is evidence of the fact that democrats everywhere are on their guard and ready to defend democratic principles; ready to defeat attempts to republicanize the democratic party, and ready to assist in the work of spreading democratic principles.

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