

the Boston Stock Exchange. The Milwaukee News editor says: "Mr. Lawson does not confine himself to generalities. He presents a bill of particulars to clinch his sweeping indictment. He declares that the managers of bucketshops have partners acting as brokers on the floor of the exchange. Through fictitious transactions on the exchange, the customers of the bucketshops are 'wiped out.' They are 'skinned' by a 'surc-thing' game, in which the stock exchange serves as the loaded dice."

Then this editor declares that Mr. Lawson mistakes liberty for license; that he is "abusing the privilege of free speech;" that "he is treading upon dangerous ground." The News editor explains: "In making revelations of the methods employed by the pillars of society in accumulating great wealth, Mr. Lawson is guilty of 'setting class against class.' He seeks to discredit the prudence, integrity, thrift and foresight that have enabled the 'business men' of the stock exchange to accumulate 'competencies.' He is playing upon the passions of the people, arousing hatred and envy. He is a 'disturber,' seeking to tear down the commercial and financial foundations upon which rests our 'great prosperity.'"

### Every Encroachment Important

The absurdity of the colonial system under our form of government is well shown by the absurd position of the Porto Ricans as to nationality. Writing to the New York Times, D. Collazo says that in 1902, Mrs. Isabella Gonzales, a niece of Mr. Collazo's wife, and a native of Porto Rico, came from San Juan to New York. Mrs. Gonzales was not permitted to land, the reason being given that she was an "alien," and liable to become a public charge, notwithstanding Mr. Collazo's guaranty for her support as a member of his family. The case was taken before the United States circuit court, which court decided that Mrs. Gonzales was an "alien." It was then taken to the United States supreme court.

Referring to the decision of that court, Mr. Collazo says:

The supreme court from the lofty heights of its judicial wisdom decided that my relative could land, but that the Porto Ricans were neither Americans nor foreigners; or rather, did not decide this, it decided that it had not decided anything. It left the nationality of the Porto Ricans in suspense.

Mr. Collazo says that no one seems to know what may turn up to enable the supreme court to reach any conclusion, but he adds that in the event of Mr. Roosevelt's defeat he suspects what may happen and that is that congress will pass a law in which it will state:

Article I.—The Porto Ricans are citizens of the United States for the reason that they were such ever since Jan. 1, 1899.

Mr. Collazo says that such a law would be entirely proper "because, if since they ceased to be Spanish citizens they have not been American citizens, what in the name of heaven have they been?"

Mr. Collazo propounds a perplexing question. When the Porto Ricans ceased to be Spanish citizens, they should have been permitted to align themselves with some nationality. To say that they are to be subject to our jurisdiction, required to live under our laws, and yet be denied the privilege of being United States citizens is a thing that would not have been thought of prior to the period of present-day republicanism.

Many people appear indifferent to the encroachments upon liberty if the encroachments seem at the time to be small. Many fail to see in the government of Porto Rico by executive power, in the denial to the Porto Ricans of the privilege of nationality and in the refusal to grant the Filipinos the right of self-government, any evil serious enough to warrant consideration. Daniel Webster, in a speech delivered in the senate May 7, 1834, provided these people with an important hint when he said: "Every encroachment, great or small, is important enough to awaken the attention of those who are entrusted with the preservation of a constitutional government. We are not to wait till great public mischiefs come, till the government is overthrown, or liberty itself put into extreme jeopardy. We should not be worthy sons of our fathers were we so to regard great questions affecting the general freedom. Those fathers accomplished the revolution on a strict question of principle. The parliament of Great Britain asserted a right to tax the colonies in all cases whatsoever; and it was precisely on this question that they made the revo-

lution turn. The amount of taxation was trifling, but the claim itself was inconsistent with liberty; and that was in their eyes enough. It was against the recital of an act of parliament, rather than against any suffering under its enactments, that they took up arms. They went to war against a preamble. They fought seven years against a declaration. They poured out their treasures and their blood like water, in a contest against an assertion which those less sagacious and not so well schooled in the principles of civil liberty would have regarded as barren phraseology, or mere parade of words. They saw in the claim of the British parliament a seminal principle of mischief, the germ of unjust power; they detected it, dragged it forth from underneath its plausible disguise, struck at it; nor did it elude either their steady or well directed blow till they had extirpated and destroyed it, to the smallest fibre. On this question of principle, while actual suffering was yet far off, they raised their flag against a power, to which for purposes of foreign conquest, and subjugation, Rome, in the height of her glory, is not to be compared; a power which has dotted over the surface of the whole globe with her possessions and military posts; whose morning drum-beat, following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth with one continuous unbroken strain of the martial airs of England."

### A Mighty Struggle

When the New York World and the Brooklyn Eagle are not congratulating their readers that the democratic party has become "safe and sane," or denouncing democrats who supported the ticket in 1896 and in 1900, those publications are engaged in a wrangle concerning the proposition, "should Judge Parker accept the World or the Eagle as the better guide?"

Just now the Eagle is insisting that Judge Parker shall accept its advice, while the World contends that Judge Parker should keep close to the line laid down by the World editor.

Inasmuch as Mr. Pulitzer and Dr. McKelway have assumed to take charge of the democratic party, is it not about time that these leaders formally open the campaign and direct their shafts against the foe. Unless the differences between Messrs. McKelway and Pulitzer are soon settled, election day will be at hand before it is determined whether as a guide Pulitzer is the "safest," or whether as a philosopher and friend, McKelway is the "sanest."

### British Corporation

A Brooklyn reader of The Commoner gives this interesting reminder: "In your frequent comments on the coal trust, there is one fact that you always overlook. This fact is that this gigantic monopoly, that has taken the American people by the throat, is practically a British corporation. After J. P. Morgan had bought this property for his English capitalists, the British parliament levied an export duty on coal. On the day the bill passed the house of commons, Mr. Morgan was there as the invited guest of the prime minister. It is right, therefore, that the American people should know that when Mr. Baer raises the price of coal 25 or 50 cents a ton, he does so at the behest of half a dozen English capitalists who have thus acquired the power to levy at will on every householder in the United States."

### A World-Power in 1850

A Culpepper, Va., correspondent for the New York World, pointing out that the strength of our army and navy in 1850 was many times less than it is today, directs attention to the tribute paid in 1850 to this government by Richard Cobden. Mr. Cobden said: "I sometimes quote the United States of America, and I think in this matter of self-defense they set us a very good example. Does anybody dare to attack that nation? There is not a more formidable power in every sense of the word—although you may talk of France and Russia—than the United States of America, and there is not a statesman with a head on his shoulders who does not know it, and yet the policy of the United States has been to keep a very small amount of armed force in existence."

### "Whack Up"

R. H. Spence, chairman of the republican state committee for Iowa has addressed a letter to all

Iowans in the government departments at Washington, notifying them, according to the Chicago Record-Herald, that a three per cent assessment for a campaign fund has been levied upon their salaries. These assessment calls are written upon the letter head of the state central committee and are as follows:

The republican state central committee has entered into the campaign realizing that the important position which Iowa has taken by reason of recent large republican majorities should be maintained. The committee also feels that the campaign is an exceedingly important one with reference to the future of the party in Iowa, as it marks a change of management in the democratic party, and the result of the work this year will doubtless stand for years as a comparative measure of the strength of the two parties in the state.

The committee believes that, as an Iowan, you are sufficiently interested in the work in this state to make a contribution based upon the salary which you are receiving, and we venture to suggest \$— as the amount which might be considered equitable in your case.

The republican party has always boasted of its devotion to civil service principles and in his letter of acceptance Mr. Roosevelt said: "In 1896 the republican party came into power and in 1900 it retained power on certain definite pledges each of which was scrupulously fulfilled."

Among the "definite pledges" was the promise to enforce the civil service law. It appears that that law is being enforced, and the pledge is being as "scrupulously fulfilled" as a number of the other "definite pledges" made by the republican party.

### An Educational Campaign

The Commoner believes that the public should own the railroads; that we should have an income tax; that federal judges should be elected by the people whom they are presumed to serve; that there should be municipal ownership of public utilities in every community; that United States senators should be elected by the people. The Commoner believes that "a private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable."

Upon these lines The Commoner intends to do its part in the great educational campaign upon which the American people are about to enter. Those who agree with The Commoner on these lines may find in the special subscription offer an opportunity to help in this great educational campaign.

The increase in the circulation of The Commoner means the widening of its sphere of influence.

According to the terms of this special subscription offer, cards, each good for one year's subscription to The Commoner will be furnished in lots of five, at the rate of \$3 per lot. This places the yearly subscription rate at 60 cents.

Anyone ordering these cards may sell them for \$1.00 each, thus earning a commission of \$2.00 on each lot sold, or he may sell them at the cost price and find compensation in the fact that he has contributed to the educational campaign.

These cards may be paid for when ordered, or they may be ordered and remittance made after they have been sold. A coupon is printed below for the convenience of those who desire to participate in this effort to increase The Commoner's circulation.

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