

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Vol. 4, No. 39.

Lincoln, Nebraska, October 14, 1904.

Whole Number 195

WHERE THE BEEF TRUST STANDS

It is not at all surprising to learn that Mr. Armour has announced that the packing house magnates are enthusiastically in favor of Mr. Roosevelt. The Roosevelt administration made a great bluster in its pretended campaign against the beef trust. Civil proceedings were commenced and injunction writs were obtained out as is well-known since then the impositions on the cattle-raiser and the exactions of the beef consumer have been more marked than before those proceedings were commenced. The public has obtained no benefit whatever from Mr. Roosevelt's proceedings against the beef trust and so it is not at all difficult to believe that Mr. Armour and his associates will make considerable effort to aid in Mr. Roosevelt's election.

It has been urged that there is great difficulty in bringing under law a trust that is represented by a single corporation, but this can not be urged in defense of the administration's failure to proceed in a determined way against the beef trust.

The beef trust, under whose impositions the people are now suffering is not represented by a single corporation into which a number of other corporations have been merged. It might properly come under the very charitable definition provided by some trust magnates of "community of interest." In truth, however, it is covered by the definition in the Sherman anti-trust law and may properly be termed a "conspiracy."

Every definition provided by the Sherman anti-trust law covers the beef trust. It is a "contract," it is a "combination," it is a "conspiracy." Under the law the agents of every packing house are liable to fine and imprisonment. Under that law the meat shipped from one state to another is subject to confiscation by the federal authorities. And whatever may be the difficulties attending the enforcement of the federal anti-trust law against other trusts, there is no conspiracy in existence that can be required more readily to yield to that law than this beef trust if Mr. Roosevelt's administration was really determined to enforce the law and to destroy this conspiracy against the welfare of the people.

Dissolve The Partnership

In a speech recently delivered, Edward M. Shepard demanded "a dissolution of the partnership between the great corporations of the country and the United States government, a partnership most unworthily illustrated by the transfer of Mr. Cortelyou from the head of the department in supervision of the corporations to the chairmanship of a national committee which is in large part dependent upon those very corporations for its pecuniary support."

The Wall Street Journal, commenting upon Mr. Shepard's remarks, makes no effort to conceal its indignation and says, in effect, that it is outrageous for anyone to say that there was any connection between the fact that Mr. Cortelyou was secretary of the department of commerce and labor and the fact that he was made chairman of the republican national committee.

Even the Wall Street Journal will, we think,

admit that the appointment of Mr. Cortelyou under the circumstances was, at least, not wise. We know that it was promised that under Mr. Cortelyou's administration of the department of commerce and labor, a thorough investigation would be made of the great trusts of the country. We know that since Mr. Cortelyou was transferred we have heard little or nothing of these boasted investigations. We read also in newspaper dispatches that the great trust magnates have, one after the other, declared in favor of Mr. Roosevelt. We are now told that the Morgans and the Rockefellers are working shoulder to shoulder in the effort to elect Mr. Roosevelt and that even Mr. Armour, of the beef trust, has recently announced his devotion to Mr. Roosevelt's cause.

Killing the Spaniard

Those who feel disposed to defend President Roosevelt from the charge of boasting of killing a fleeing Spaniard will cease to defend when they read the deliberate report of the transaction published by the president in his book, entitled "The Rough Riders" (page 138), "Lieutenant Davis' first sergeant, Clarence Gould, killed a Spanish soldier with his revolver, just as the Spaniard was aiming at one of my Rough Riders. At about the same time I also shot one. I was with Henry Bardshar, running up at the double, and two Spaniards leaped from the trenches and fired at us, not ten yards away. As they turned to run I closed in and fired twice, missing the first and killing the second. At the time I did not know of Gould's exploit and supposed my feat to be unique."

Yes, it is a unique feat to kill a fleeing soldier, and more unique still to speak of it with levity and boasting. The taking of human life is an awful responsibility and however the customs of war may justify it when necessary, who but a military enthusiast would speak of it as the president does?

"Others"

Occasionally some well-disposed person, speaking of some worthy cause—a college, a hospital or a reform—says: "If I only had a million I would enjoy helping." But not having a million he gives nothing.

Giving ought not to be confined to the rich; it is as necessary to moral growth as exercise is to the body. Selfishness leads one to spend money on himself—stinginess leads one to refuse to spend even for himself, while generosity leads one to share his means with benevolences which appeal to him. There are few who do not know the pleasure to be derived from giving to members of the family and to friends; the satisfaction is scarcely less when the gift is to unknown recipients who come within the influence of some educational or charitable institution. Every heart should attach itself in some definite way to the world's needs, and without waiting for great wealth or for death set aside a part of each year's income for the happiness and help of those less fortunate. "Others" is the word that is sometimes carved upon the hospitable hearth; it is also the word that marks the crossing of the boundaries of selfishness and man's entrance unto fellowship with the outer world.

A STRONG PLEA FOR SILENCE

Attention has been called to the attempt on the part of the republican campaign management to create prejudice in this country on Judge Parker's position on the question of imperialism by the well-worn claim that agitation of this subject tends to stir up "insurrection" in the Philippines. Under date of Manila, October 6, the Associated Press carried a cablegram which, unquestionably, is a campaign document rather than a piece of legitimate news. The cablegram is as follows:

A mass meeting of the Filipinos is to be held Sunday at the National theatre. The call for the meeting states its purpose to be "to take some definite action upon the popular desire, to-wit, the giving of our sincere support and sympathy to the American commission on Filipino independence in its efforts to attain the end we desire. It would be inexplicable, and even improper, for Filipinos to fold their arms and remain passive at a time when the very best elements of American society are working ardently in order that our native land may attain its ambition."

Fiery orators will speak, the principal one being Sandico, a former member of Aguinaldo's cabinet and who in 1899 signed the order for the massacre of all Americans and other foreigners in Manila. The government will not interfere.

An editorial appearing in the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, of September 28, provides complete answer to this method of campaigning. The Record-Herald's editorial comments upon Governor Wright's statement that the continued discussion as to the capacity of the Filipinos for self-government is having its effect in the Philippines and is making the task of self-government more difficult than it would otherwise be. The Record-Herald quotes from Governor Wright's letter the following paragraph:

The agitation in the United States for Filipino independence and the spoken and written utterances of prominent men there who are urging it are all brought here and published in the native newspapers, and are being made the text for editorials insisting that the Filipino people are now ready to become an independent nation. The effect of all this is distinctly injurious. Its tendency is to restore the influence of the old insurrection leaders and to make them active in preaching the old propaganda. This in turn has the effect of demoralizing and weakening the more conservative and thoughtful Filipinos.

The comments made by this republican paper upon this "plea for silence" are so appropriate that they are printed in full. The Record-Herald says: "This is in effect a plea for silence, and it is one of a very long series which goes back to the assumption of authority by the United States in the islands. In the whole series a reproof is conveyed to the people who do the talking here, and whatever the form of the communication, whether it appears in a letter of information for the president or as a direct appeal to Americans to hold their tongues, it comes to the same end. It would stop discussion, or, failing in that, cast odium upon those who keep on proclaiming the capacity of the Filipinos for self-government and who keep up the agitation for independence. The