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Menace of Imperialism

The American people sooner or later will be required to give serious attention to the menace of militarism. The republican party has increased the army from 25,000, until the minimum is now 60,000, with a maximum of 100,000, to which the president can raise it without further authority. Who thought eight years ago at this time we would be discussing the size of the army? A small army had been the policy of this nation in the past. We had boasted that we didn't need a large military establishment, and people have come from every nation in Europe, drawn to this country not only by its principles of government but by the fact that there was no army burden upon the people. Eight years ago we had 25,000 soldiers and who will say that the number was not sufficient? What has now made more soldiers necessary? If we have prosperity, if we have happiness, if we have contentment, why do we need 60,000 bayonets to point out these blessings to the American people?

Do we need a larger army to deal with the labor troubles? It depends entirely on the manner in which you deal with labor troubles. If you deal with labor troubles through the department of justice an army of 25,000 is enough. If you deal with the laboring man through the war department, then of course the war office must make the estimate, because if we are to have a government of force, those who are charged with employing the forces are perhaps in a good position to estimate the amount of assistance they will need. The labor question is one that we can not long put off and one of the indictments against the republican party is that instead of doing justice to the man who earns his bread in the sweat of his brow, they want to widen the breach between the employer and employe and substitute hatred for good-will between the superintendents and those who do the work.

The question we must meet is whether the laboring man is to be treated as a citizen or as an enemy of the country, to be driven to his toil by military force. That is the question involved in this large army. No republican speaker in this campaign has attempted to go into detail to show the need of 60,000 professional soldiers. The expense of the war department was \$34,000,000 in 1886 and \$115,000,000 last year. Why this increase? When the soldiers are called out in labor troubles, in whose interest are they called out? In the interest of the great corporations that are fast becoming monopolies, and after these monopolies have robbed the American people of hundreds of millions of dollars, they now insolently demand that the people shall be burdened with taxation to furnish them soldiers to drive their employes down to the bare starvation point.

If the republicans deny that one of the purposes of the increase is to deal with the laboring man under military authority, why is it that they used to erect forts upon the frontier to protect the pioneers from the savage tribes, while now, they build the forts near our large cities? It is a very serious thing when any man gets so much money that he is willing to deny that the man who toils with his hands was made in the image of the same God in whose image he was made, and that is the trouble today. It is a lack of sympathy between man and man; and instead of dealing with these laboring men as brothers, the republican party raises the army, and would deal with them as enemies to be met at the mouth of the gun.

Democrats object to raising the army for this purpose. But to escape that will they say that we have to have an increased army for an imperial policy? If they say that we need 60,000 soldiers to carry on an empire when we only needed 25,000 for a republic, let them show why the Amer-

ican people should adopt a policy that requires that expenditure of the people's money. Not only did we spend a hundred and fifteen millions on the war department last year, but we spent enough on the navy to make the total appropriation for both departments more than \$200,000,000. That is thirty times as much as we spent on the agricultural department. What do you think of a great agricultural nation spending \$30 preparing to kill people for every dollar spent preparing to feed people? What do you think of the policy? And if we are to have an increasing navy, as the republicans now propose, and if we are not to decrease the army—and they do not propose to decrease it—it means that every year we will have a larger and larger appropriation for the war and navy departments.

Independence Not a "Scuttle" Policy

The republicans, failing in their effort to bolster up the republican policy of imperialism, have rushed to the use of epithets. Even "Uncle Joe" Cannon has been driven to such desperation that he speaks of the democratic policy of independence for the Philippines as a "scuttle policy." "Uncle Joe" knows better than this, if he were not too excited to think, or too scared to reason. The democrats want to do in the Philippines exactly what the republicans helped to do in Cuba. Did we adopt a "scuttle policy" in Cuba? If so, then President Roosevelt was a ring-leader among the "scuttlers." We promised independence to Cuba just as the democrats want to promise independence to the Philippines. We kept our pledge to the Cubans, just as the democrats intend to keep the pledge that they want made to the Philippines. The republicans helped to haul down the American flag in Cuba, just as the democrats want to haul it down in the Philippines. The republicans did not object to the raising of the flag of the Cuban republic; they ought not to object to the raising of the flag of the Philippine republic. Cuba, being near us, would be much more desirable as a part of our nation than the Philippine Islands. Cuba would be a source of strength, while the Philippines are a source of weakness; and yet when the Spanish war began, our nation was so anxious to avoid the appearance of a desire to exploit the Cubans, that it promised independence in advance. But the Cubans were entitled to independence, not because we promised it, but because of their own inherent right to it. Our promise granted the Cubans no new rights; it simply recognized their pre-existing rights. A promise of independence to the Filipinos would not confer new rights upon the Filipinos. It would simply assure them of our intention to recognize their inalienable rights. The republicans ought to meet the Philippine question in an open and honest way. The talk about "scuttling" is not only wilful misrepresentation of the democratic position; but it betrays a desire to substitute hard names for logic—an evidence that the republicans are working up more heat than enthusiasm.

In the Senate

It is an open secret that the United States senate is now a corporation-controlled body. It is important, therefore, that democratic representation in that body be increased. There is an excellent opportunity for electing a democratic senator from Indiana. It would be well, therefore, if the people of Indiana paid considerable attention to the contests in the various legislative districts throughout the state. The election of democrats to the legislature means the election of an Indiana democrat to the United States senate.

A Word With Populists

Some of the populists criticize Mr. Bryan because he advocates the election of Judge Parker. They point to the fact that the populists supported Mr. Bryan in 1896. The case is not parallel, as everyone must admit who has stopped for a moment to consider the circumstances. In 1896, the populists endorsed Mr. Bryan's candidacy, because they thought by so doing they might be able to elect him and thus secure those reforms upon which the populists and democrats were agreed. With the aid of the populists, Mr. Bryan came so near election that a change of twenty thousand votes, properly distributed through the close states, would have changed the result. The populists, therefore, acted wisely, in doing the best they could under the circumstances. If at this time the race was between Mr. Watson and Mr. Roosevelt, and Mr. Bryan could help defeat Mr. Roosevelt with Mr. Watson, he would be in the position that the populists occupied eight years ago, and would be open to criticism if he refused to assist. But that is not the situation today. If Mr. Bryan supported Mr. Watson, he would simply help elect Mr. Roosevelt, and thus become responsible for what Mr. Roosevelt might do; whereas, by supporting Judge Parker, he hopes to help elect Judge Parker, and thus secure such reforms as are within reach at this time. Four years ago Mr. Bryan declared imperialism to be more important than any economic question. His sincerity would be open to criticism if today, on account of differences on the money question, he refused to support a man who stands squarely against imperialism, and who has a chance to win. In like manner, he would also be open to criticism if he refused to help reduce the army, which Judge Parker promises to do; or refused to assist in ridding this country of the warlike spirit which President Roosevelt has inaugurated. In 1894 Mr. Bryan, after having received a unanimous nomination for senator, urged the democratic convention to nominate Judge Holcomb, the populist candidate for governor, and he gave as his reason, that the nomination of a democratic candidate at that time would not result in the election of a democrat, but would assist the republicans; and that the democrats, desiring the defeat of the republican candidate, could best accomplish that defeat by the support of the populist candidate. The convention took this view of the subject and Judge Holcomb was endorsed and elected. This was the beginning of fusion in Nebraska. In supporting Judge Parker today, Mr. Bryan is acting upon exactly the same principle. To support Mr. Watson would be to help Mr. Roosevelt and to deny to the people the good that can be accomplished through the election of Parker and Davis. It is argued that Judge Parker's defeat might hasten the re-organization of the democratic party; but no one can afford to put the interest of his party, or of his faction of the party, above the interests of his country. No one can afford to become responsible for four years more of Rooseveltism in order to help his element of the party obtain control of the party organization. In other words, no one can afford to do evil in the hope that good may come out of it. The only safe plan is, to do at all times that which seems best for the country; and at this time, the reduction of the army, the overthrow of imperialism, the removal of the race issue, and the substitution of a spirit of peace for a spirit of war, are the best things within reach, and these things the election of Parker and Davis would help to bring about. And since Mr. Bryan has declared, and still believes, imperialism to be a grayer issue than any economic question, he could not with honesty or honor fail to render such assistance as he can to the re-establishment of the Declaration of Independence and constitutional government.