

shall some day be independent, its representatives should not hold out this hope.

But there is even higher authority for the hope of independence. When the so-called "Taft Party" visited the Philippines last summer, Secretary Taft made a speech in which he assumed to speak for the president. Referring to the president's opinion, he said: "He believes, as I believe and as do most Americans who have had great familiarity with the facts, that it is absolutely impossible to hope that the lessons which it is the duty of the United States to teach the whole Filipino people, can be learned by them, as a body, in less than a generation; and that the probability is that it will take a longer period in which to render them capable of establishing and maintaining a stable independent government."

This, it is true, states when independence cannot be hoped for, rather than when it can be hoped for, and yet, no honest man would use the language Secretary Taft employed without having in his mind the idea that independence would be granted at some future date. But his concluding words even more clearly present the hope of ultimate independence, for he says: "All that can be asserted is that the policy which has several times been authoritatively stated, that this Filipino government shall be carried on solely for the benefit of the Filipino people and that self-government shall be extended to the Filipino people as speedily as they show themselves fitted to assume and exercise it, must be pursued consistently by the people of the United States or else they shall forfeit their honor."

Here Secretary Taft pledges the American government as far as he has power to pledge it—and he pledges the president also—to extend self-government to the Filipinos as rapidly as they show themselves fitted for it. The great trouble about these utterances and similar ones is that they are not binding upon the government, and the Filipinos are constantly disturbed by doubts and fears. Both at Manila and in the United States ridicule is often cast upon the aspirations of the Filipino people, and plans are made which are inconsistent with ultimate independence. The attempt on the part of the commission to issue perpetual franchises is naturally, and I think rightfully, opposed by all Filipinos. If our occupation is to be temporary, why should our legislation be permanent? Why bind the ward in perpetuity so that he cannot control his own affairs when he reaches years of maturity? What is needed is an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Filipinos when a stable government is established. It is not necessary that a definite time shall be stated, nor is it so important just when the Filipinos are to have their independence, as it is that the nation's purpose shall be made known in an authoritative way and that the subsequent acts of our government shall be in harmony with that declaration. I believe that a stable government can be established within a short time and that independence could be granted with advantage to our government and with safety to the Filipinos within five years at the farthest. But whether independence is to be granted in five or ten or fifteen years or after a longer period, there should be no longer delay about announcing a policy. I have tried to impress upon the Filipinos the necessity of leaving this question to the people of the United States and the importance of proving in every possible way the virtues, the character and the progress of the people; I have pointed out the folly of insurrection and the damage done to their cause by resorting to force of arms, but I am equally anxious to impress upon my own countrymen the importance of dealing frankly and fairly with the Filipinos.

We have more at stake in this matter than have the Filipinos. They still have their national greatness to achieve; our position is already established. We have the greatest republic known to history; we are the foremost champion of the doctrine of self-government and one of the leading exponents of Christianity. We can afford, aye our honor requires us, to be candid with the Filipinos and to take them into our confidence. We dare not make them victims of commercial greed or use their islands for purely selfish purposes. It is high time to announce a purpose that shall be righteous and carry out that purpose by means that shall be honorable. In my next article I shall endeavor to elaborate a plan which will, in my judgment, bring independence to the Filipinos, relieve us of the expense of colonialism, secure us every legitimate advantage which could be expected from a permanent occupation of the islands and,

in addition, enable our nation to set the world an example in dealing with tropical races.

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MOB LAW

Governor Folk is entitled to receive, as he is receiving, the thanks of men and women generally for his prompt action in prosecuting the search for the leaders of the mob at Springfield, Mo. Mob law is not to be encouraged under any circumstances, and the growing conviction that the victims of the mob at Springfield were innocent men makes that particular affair all the more deplorable.

The American people must set themselves resolutely at work for the abolition of mob law. A long step will have been taken when authorities and courts are persuaded to bring about speedy trials and the prompt infliction of punishment.

The creation of a healthy public sentiment against mob law, so strong that sheriffs charged with the custody of prisoners will sacrifice their lives before they surrender the men intrusted to their care—that will go a long ways in the solution of this problem. It will, we believe, be found, as a rule, that if mob leaders really believe that a sheriff will sacrifice his life in defense of his prisoner they will not dare to take their own lives in their hands by an attack upon the officer.

NOT A REVELATION

The New York World expresses the opinion that Mr. Bryan's article on "Individualism vs. Socialism," printed in the April Century emphasizes "the educational value of travel in foreign countries and its effect in enlarging the views of men called upon to deal with national concerns." Some other editors have expressed surprise at the position Mr. Bryan took in the article referred to, and have congratulated him upon the progress he has made.

Those who are familiar with Mr. Bryan's speeches and writings know that the article published in the April Century presented the views Mr. Bryan has all along held upon the questions

under discussion. That Mr. Bryan is not a believer in socialism was not a revelation to those who are familiar with his views, and the fact that this particular article was written between San Francisco and Honolulu indicates that "travel in foreign countries" was not necessary for the "enlarging" of Mr. Bryan's views on that particular subject.

THE CASE OF MAJOR GILLETTE

Major Cassius E. Gillette, of the engineer corps of the regular army, has resigned from the service to become manager of the Philadelphia filtration works and complete that great project. His salary as a major was \$2,500 a year, with some allowances. His salary as manager of the filtration works will be \$17,500 a year. He graduated from West Point twenty-two years ago, and was made a second lieutenant. He has been a major two years. During his twenty-two years of active service he has seen men appointed to military rank from civil life and promoted over his head. He saw a physician given a commission as a volunteer colonel, promoted to brigadier general in the regulars and then made a major general, thus depriving men with long and active service to their credit from deserved promotion.

THE SPEAKER'S HINT

Speaker Cannon says that if a majority of the American people demand tariff revision they will elect a house that is in favor of tariff revision. That is a very valuable hint, indeed. It means that those who believe in tariff revision should vote for democratic candidates for the lower house.

Will the thousands of tariff revisionists in the republican party in Massachusetts and in the middle and western states heed the warning? Will Governor Cummins aid the faithful democrats of Iowa in removing the Hawkeye state from the republican column, in keeping the Hulls and the Cousins at home and sending as Iowa's representatives in congress men who will lose no time in destroying the shelter the trusts find in the tariff?

A THIRTY DAY CAMPAIGN

With this issue The Commoner begins a thirty day special campaign in behalf of the primary pledge. It is desired that an effort shall be made to secure during the next thirty days 25,000 primary pledge signatures. The Commoner calls upon every one of its readers to take part in this work. It is of the utmost importance that democrats be thoroughly aroused to the part played by the primary in the government under which we live.

The primary pledge is designed to awaken the interest of the rank and file of voters in the primaries of their party. As a result of the campaign waged on these lines thousands of democrats have signed a pledge promising to lose no opportunity to participate in the primaries of their party, and to see to it that the party makes a clear, honest and straightforward declaration on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

The congressional elections are now approach-

ing, and The Commoner desires to arouse new interest in the primary pledge plan of organization. To this end Commoner readers everywhere are requested to participate in the effort to obtain by June 1, 25,000 signatures to the primary pledge.

If Commoner readers will exert themselves there will be little trouble in reaching this desirable result.

The final result of this effort will be announced in The Commoner of June 1, but in the meantime the progress of the work will be outlined in each week's edition.

Let us make a good showing for the next issue of The Commoner.

If you do not have a primary pledge form, you will find one below. This may be clipped or copied, as you prefer, and signatures attached thereto.

Send signatures to The Commoner office as rapidly as possible.

THE PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next Democratic National Convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

Signed _____

Street _____ Postoffice _____ State _____

County _____ Voting precinct or ward _____

Fill out Blanks and mail to Commoner Office, Lincoln, Nebraska.