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GOOD FOR THE SOUL

However desirable it was to defeat the free silver agitation in 1896, did the end justify the means employed to accomplish that defeat? It is not too much to say that the money spent in 1896 to prevent the election of Bryan resulted in political debauchery, such as was never before experienced in the United States, and from which the politics and business of this country have not even yet recovered. It is not far from the truth to say that the country has suffered more by reason of the political corruption of the 1896 campaign than it would have suffered from the triumph of free silver, lamentable as that would have been. Bryan's triumph of free silver would have given the markets a terrible shock, but Bryan could not have really done much harm in a practical way, and the country would have made a speedy recovery from the disaster, but it will take many years to recover from the effects of the political debauchery which has been brought about by the abuse of millions of dollars in political campaigns.—Wall Street News.

KANSAS DEMOCRACY

The Kansas democrats have nominated a ticket composed of men of such high character that even republican newspapers bear testimony to its strength. In its local columns the Kansas City Journal, a republican paper, says: "Senator Harris heads what will generally be conceded to be the strongest state ticket that Kansas democrats have ever placed in the field." In an editorial the Journal pays a high tribute to Mr. Harris. Men of all political parties concede that the state convention acted wisely in the selection of its ticket, and it is generally agreed that there is something more than a fighting show for the Kansas democracy.

It is to be hoped that every Kansas voter who believes in bringing the government "back to the people" will exert himself in the effort to elect the excellent state ticket nominated at Topeka.



Why not catch him coming as well as going, Mr. Roosevelt?

THE PHILIPPINE PROBLEM

Concluded

Mr. Bryan's Sixteenth Letter

In speaking of Philippine independence I have presented some of the reasons given by Filipinos for desiring it, but there are arguments which ought to appeal especially to Americans. If it were our duty to maintain a colonial policy, no argument could be made against it, because duties are imperative and never conflict. If, on the other hand, the Filipinos desire independence and are capable of self-government, we cannot justify the retention of the islands unless we are prepared to put our own interests above theirs, and even then we must be satisfied that our interests will be advanced.

In the beginning of the controversy there were many who believed that the Philippine Islands would become a source of profit to the United States. It was confidently predicted that a multitude of Americans would flock to the islands and find rich reward in the development of their resources. These hopes have not been realized. Except in Mindanao, of which I shall speak later, there is no evidence of any present or future colonization by Americans. There are a few Americans engaged in business in Manila and at other army posts, but these are insignificant in number and the business done by them is nothing as compared with the cost of colonialism to the United States. We are maintaining about twelve thousand American soldiers in the island and five thousand native scouts, officered by Americans and paid for by the United States. Besides this outlay for the army, our Philippine policy has been made the excuse

for a large increase in our naval expenditures. While it is difficult to determine accurately the annual cost of our Philippine policy to the people of the United States, it is safe to say that it exceeds the value of all the merchandise that we export to the Philippine Islands and all the money made by Americans in the islands, including salaries paid to Americans from taxes collected in the Philippines—and the expenses are borne by all the people while the benefits are received by a mere handful. No one, therefore, can justify the holding of the Philippines on the ground that they are a pecuniary advantage.

If it is urged that we need the Philippine Islands as a base for the extension of our trade in the Orient, I answer that it is not necessary to deny the Filipinos independence in order to hold a sufficient number of harbors and coaling stations to answer all the requirements of trade. The Filipinos are not only anxious to have the advantage of our protection, but they recognize that to protect them we must have harbors and a naval base. In return for the services we have rendered them we have a right to ask, and they would gladly grant, such reservations as we might need. These reservations could be properly fortified and would furnish coaling stations both for our navy and for our merchant marine. It goes without saying that in case we had war with an oriental nation, it would be infinitely better to have the Filipinos supporting us, in their own interest as well as out