

couth creatures. He is, however, the first man whom I have met so far who would claim as a right that to which he was not entitled and then demand the enforcement of the assumed right without regard to the convenience of others.

On the last mentioned trip we witnessed a burial at sea, the first that has occurred during our voyage. One of the passengers died after we left Singapore, and we learned of it while the funeral services were in progress. The corpse was enclosed in a black (weighted) coffin in which several holes were bored. The ship slackened its speed, and as the band played a funeral dirge, the body was slowly lowered. Upon reaching the water it floated back for a short distance and then disappeared. It was a sad sight to see the remains of a human being consigned to a watery tomb with nothing to mark his resting place; and yet he does not sleep alone, for in this mighty ocean sepulcher myriads lie buried and the waves moan above them a requiem as sweet as that sung by the trees to those who rest upon the land.

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#### MR. ROOSEVELT'S SURRENDER

Whether Mr. Roosevelt intimated that Senators Spooner and Knox were not genuine friends of railroad reform, is not of the highest importance. Former Senator Chandler says that Mr. Roosevelt did give such an intimation and in a very broad way. Mr. Roosevelt, speaking through Senator Lodge, denounced that statement of Mr. Chandler's as "a deliberate and unqualified falsehood." Mr. Chandler sticks to his story, while in his later and more formal answer, in his letter to Senator Allison, the president does not dwell upon the Spooner and Knox proposition. Evidently Messrs. Spooner and Knox believe that what the president said concerning their attitude on rate legislation was not very complimentary to them for they have been "mad all over" ever since Senator Tillman made his sensational statement upon the floor of the senate.

But if Mr. Roosevelt really believed that Messrs. Spooner and Knox are desirous of bringing about railroad reform, he has considerably more confidence in the ability or the willingness of these gentlemen to disassociate themselves from their political creators, than is entertained by Americans generally.

Mr. Roosevelt's claim that Mr. Chandler was Senator Tillman's envoy is denied by both Tillman and Chandler and is inconsistent with Secretary Loeb's letter summoning Chandler to the White House. But in view of the position held by Theodore Roosevelt Americans will be reluctant to dwell upon questions involving his personal veracity, and so these questions may be dismissed all the more readily because there is no contest with respect to the really important facts.

It is not denied that Mr. Roosevelt entered into negotiations with Senator Tillman and his democratic followers and that these negotiations resulted in a compact. It is not denied that on several occasions Attorney General Moody represented Mr. Roosevelt in these conferences with Mr. Tillman. It is not denied that Mr. Roosevelt deserted his democratic allies and made a new alliance with the backers of the so-called Allison amendment and that he effected that desertion without notice either to Senator Tillman and his followers, or to former Senator Chandler, who had been his faithful messenger, or to his own attorney general who, upon being informed of his chief's change of front, admitted that he was "flabbergasted."

So far as concerns Mr. Roosevelt's democratic allies, the president's conduct was, in the language of the Springfield Republican "as shabby a breach of good faith as the annals of American politics record."

So far as concerns railroad reform, Mr. Roosevelt has surrendered. He yielded the very ground which he has all along insisted was all important for the public interests; and the end of his far famed campaign for rate legislation is a measure so framed that even Senator Allison gives it enthusiastic support.

It is with the keenest regret that The Commoner is forced to say that the men who put their confidence in the staying qualities of Theodore Roosevelt have been sorely disappointed.

#### FORMAL CONFESSION

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington follows: "Representative Gaines (Pa.) introduced a bill admitting free of duty all goods, wares or merchandise which may be imported into the United States as gratuitous contributions for the relief of the earthquake sufferers in California and consigned to the governor of

that state, the mayor of San Francisco, the secretary of war, or the secretary of commerce and labor. The bill further waives duty on building material imported into the United States when satisfactory proof has been made to the secretary of the treasury that such building materials are to be actively used in buildings in San Francisco. The secretary of the treasury is authorized to allow a drawback of the duty on the material used and after the duty has been paid he is authorized to refund the same, anything in any law to the contrary notwithstanding."

It is to be hoped that this measure or one similar to it will be passed. It is also to be hoped that the object lesson will not be lost upon the American people. Several bills of the kind were introduced by republicans. It is formal confession of the long apparent fact that in spite of the claims of republican politicians, the foreigner does not pay the tax. It is the plainest sort of confirmation of the democratic contention with respect to the high protective tariff.

#### "THE GREAT AMERICAN DISCOVERER"

The New York Mail pretends to think that Mr. Bryan is entitled to rank as "the great American discoverer." In support of this claim, the Mail says that Mr. Bryan has discovered socialism, the Geisha girls of Japan and the dattos of the Philippines, adding:

"It has been Mr. Bryan's fate to become conspicuous at an early age and to find out things in the calcium light which other men found out before they had committed themselves to a complete program for society. He discovered the deadly upas tree in 1892—it was a protective tariff tree then. He discovered the New Testament in time for convention uses in 1896. He discovered the writings of Jefferson between then and 1900. Within the last few months he has discovered the Orient. The Old Testament is his latest find."

Admitting all of the specifications offered by the Mail, Mr. Bryan yet falls short of the high and honorable title of "the great American discoverer." That distinction is indissolubly associated with the memory of the late Charles A. Dana, for he discovered the reason for the existence of the New York Mail. Dubbing it "that wild ass of journalism" he gave to it a characterization the title to which since Dana's death, as during Dana's life, the Mail seems disposed to defend against all comers.

#### TO BE SURE

The Sioux City Journal, referring to recent stirring incidents in the senate, gravely observes: "When Senator Allison makes a positive statement it is a good proposition to bet on." To be sure! Who will dare dispute it? Nobody, for is it not a matter of record that the senior senator from Iowa is never positive on anything? The Sioux City Journal could say with equal truth and much more fairness: "When there is a difference of opinion, Senator Allison will hem and haw for a time, and then bob up with a 'compromise.'" This is a good proposition to bet on. A cat walking on a velvet carpet makes more noise than Senator Allison when it comes down to a matter of his taking a positive stand on any public question.

#### BULKELEY'S PROPHECY

Testifying before the house committee, Senator Bulkeley of Connecticut, who is also an insurance magnate, said: "Twenty years from now these great insurance corporations existing today will own the major portion of the investment securities of the country. They will control absolutely the finances of the United States and of the world."

That is, indeed, a strong statement and yet who will doubt its accuracy provided the machinations of the trust magnates are not interrupted?

Would it not be well for American citizens to give serious consideration to Senator Bulkeley's prophecy?

#### WHERE IS LAFOLLETTE?

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat rejoices that "the republicans have all come into line," and that "on the rate bill, Aldrich Foraker and Elkins will be side by side with Dolliver, Lodge, Cullom, Allison and the rest of the administration senators."

And what, pray tell, can the people expect from railroad "reforms" supported by Aldrich, Foraker and Elkins?

Where, also, is Robert M. LaFollette, that

distinguished republican to whom the republican newspapers were wont to point with pride? By whose side is he fighting?

#### AND MR. WATTERSON SAID IT

Writing in the Louisville Courier-Journal, Henry Watterson says: "Somebody, some party must take the bull of plutocracy—that is the only name for it—by the horns and turn him out of the garden, where he is making such havoc, and into the pasture, where he belongs."

What's that? Henry Watterson talking about "plutocracy?" Henry Watterson actually admitting that "plutocracy" is the only name with which to fairly describe present day impositions? And he says that "somebody must take the bull of plutocracy by the horns and turn him out of the garden!" A few years ago that would have been regarded as a thoroughly non-conservative act, but Mr. Watterson is conservative—eminently conservative—and when he, admitting that there is such a thing as a "bull of plutocracy," suggests that the beast be driven "where he belongs," it must be evident to every one that the situation is serious.

Henry Watterson talking about "plutocracy!" What's the matter with "you all" down in Kentucky?

#### TILLMAN AND BAILEY, LAFOLLETTE AND CHANDLER

The Joplin, Mo., Globe says: "The intricate legal points involved in the rate bill and its amendments can only be grasped by those specially trained in the law. What the public knows is that Tillman and Bailey have kept the faith in this fight. That much can't be gotten away from."

Tillman and Bailey have, indeed, kept the faith. The Globe might have reminded its readers that Robert M. LaFollette fought shoulder to shoulder with Tillman and Bailey.

With Nelson W. Aldrich and Joseph B. Foraker fighting on one side and with such democrats as Tillman and Bailey and such republicans as LaFollette and Chandler fighting on the other side, it does not require a Philadelphia lawyer to tell where the people's sympathy should be.

#### THIS IS THE LIMIT

The St. Louis Globe Democrat (Republican) says: "Mr. Bryan is not as much for the abandonment of the Philippines as he was. Somebody will accuse him soon of stealing republican thunder."

Mr. Bryan has been accused of many things, and it was thought the limit had been reached. But the Globe-Democrat's suggestion that "somebody will accuse him soon of stealing republican thunder" reminds us that "nothing is so bad that it can not be worse." The Globe Democrat should have a care. Patience sometimes ceases to be a virtue. To accuse a man of "stealing republican thunder" is liable to force the mildest kind of a man to vigorous form of retort.

#### FRIGHTFUL!

The Kansas City Journal (Republican) says: "Was the 1896 campaign only a dream?" asks the Lincoln Commoner. It was, to a distinguished citizen now traveling in foreign lands—a most delightful dream. But the election was a frightful awakening."

And a very large number of citizens who followed the "defenders of national honor"—they too have had a "frightful awakening." And Mr. Bryan slept a great deal sounder on election night than any of the honest policyholders who voted against him have done since the truth began to leak out.

#### A BI-PRODUCT, INDEED.

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal, refers to Senator Aldrich as "next to gasoline, the most important bi-product of petroleum."

The Journal makes this contemptuous reference to the Rhode Island senator in connection with the free alcohol bill. But when it comes to Senator Aldrich's efforts to push the so-called Allison amendment through, the senator is treated as an eminently conservative statesman whose sole anxiety is that public interests shall not suffer.

#### VERY DIFFICULT.

Mrs. Worthy T. Newcomb, of Deweese, Nebr., recently wrote a letter to the president, in which she said "We are still democrats but our president, God bless him, is making it very difficult for us to know where we are at."

Yes, and our president, God bless him, is making it very difficult for us to know where he is at.