

Ultimate Independence for Filipinos

In his opening speech at Manila, Governor-General Harrison delivered the following message from the president:

"We regard ourselves as trustees acting not for the advantage of the United States, but for the benefit of the people of the Philippine Islands. Every step we take will be taken with a view to the ultimate independence of the islands and as a preparation for that independence, and we hope to move toward that end as rapidly as the safety and the permanent interests of the islands will permit. After each step taken experience will guide us to the next. The administration will take one step at once. It will give to the native citizens of the islands a majority in the appointive commission and thus in the upper as well as in the lower house of the legislature.

"It will do this in the confident hope and expectation that immediate proof will thereby be given in the action of the commission under the new arrangement of the political capacity of those native citizens who have already come forward to represent and lead their people in affairs."

This message, it will be noticed, gives to the Filipinos the promise of ultimate independence, thus fulfilling the following platform pledge on that subject:

"We reaffirm the position thrice announced by the democracy in national convention assembled against a policy of imperialism and colonial exploitation in the Philippines or elsewhere. We condemn the experiment in imperialism as an inexcusable blunder, which has involved us in enormous expense, brought us weakness instead of strength, and laid our nation open to the

charge of abandonment of the fundamental doctrine of self-government. We favor an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose to recognize the independence of the Philippine Islands as soon as a stable government can be established, such independence to be guaranteed by us until the neutralization of the islands can be secured by treaty with other powers."

The news report says that every reference to independence was cheered by the people, and Governor General Harrison wires that the unparalleled gathering of the people received with great enthusiasm the announcement of the president's policy.

The first step toward the carrying out of the promise of ultimate independence was the determination to give to the Filipinos a majority of the commission which acts with the local legislature in the making of laws.

Governor General Harrison declared himself in complete accord with the policy of the president, and appealed to the Filipinos who assist in the work upon which the government has entered.

The country will rejoice that the government has turned away from the imperialism which has been impairing our influence as a world teacher of the doctrines of self-government. In this, as in other policies, President Wilson is bringing the country back to its ancient foundations. He is calling forth the spirit of free institutions and summoning for the control of government the principles of the forefathers. Again the democracy of the nation is made glad.

W. J. BRYAN.

their hearts are full of joy. They are proud of the success which they have achieved and happy in the vindication that has come to their judgment. They built upon principle and made their policies square with justice; they had to wait for the seed to germinate, and for the crop to grow, but harvest time has come at last.

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IMPORTANT FEATURES OF NEW TARIFF LAW

The most important features of the Underwood tariff law, as outlined by its sponsors, are: A reduction of nearly one-half in the average tariff on foodstuffs and farm products; the placing of raw wool on the free list and a reduction of nearly two-thirds in the tariff on woolen clothing, especially of the cheaper grades; a reduction of one-third (average) on cotton clothing; reduction of the sugar tariff and its ultimate abolishment in 1916; an average reduction of one-third in the tariff on earthenware and glassware; abolition of all tariffs on meats, fish, dairy products, flour, potatoes, coal, iron ore, lumber and many classes of farm and office machinery; a general reduction on all important articles in general use. The average rate carried by the new law is 27 per cent, which is 40 per cent less than the average rate of the Dingley tariff, and over a third less than the Payne-Aldrich law. It is an earnest and honest effort to correct the gross injustices that have existed in preceding republican tariffs by reason of the fact that the necessities of life were discriminated against in favor of the luxuries. It substitutes for the reign of special interests writing their own tariff schedules a bill prepared by the peoples' representatives. It was written without the aid or assistance of a lobby. It represents a successful effort on the part of the democratic administration to keep its pledge to the people that it would reduce the cost of living by cutting down the cost of getting goods into the hands of the consumer.

LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

Hon. Thomas M. Osborne of New York, has been testing prison treatment by actual experience. He is a reformer and wanted to know the facts, so he went into the penitentiary just as a convict does, was accorded the same treatment. One week thus spent has given him more information than he could have gained in any other way. He can now put himself in the convict's place and understand his point of view.

There seems to be universal demand for legislation to prevent the private use of cocaine. Why is it that we do not hear anything about the violation of personal liberty? Has not a man as much right to destroy himself with cocaine as with intoxicating liquor? Or is it because there are no great associations colning enormous sums out of the manufacture and sale of cocaine?

If measurements were taken, it would probably be found that the democrats average about six inches taller than they did last year. It is not a matter of growth, however. They have simply straightened up because of the success of the Wilson administration. By the end of the year they will be walking on the tips of their toes.

It is both interesting and instructive to read the notices which manufacturers are publishing to the effect that the tariff reductions will not hurt their business. How different these announcements from the scare-head threats to close down if they had to forego the tribute they have been collecting from the American people.

A Successful Experiment

The republican party had been in power so long and had so confidently reiterated its claim that no other party had either the intelligence or patriotism necessary to conduct a government properly, that many well meaning men were sincere in their fear that a change of administration would bring ruin to the country. While this delusion was honestly entertained by some, others found a profit in propagating the idea that democratic success would menace the country's welfare. Still others were coerced by fear into the belief that the financial interests were in such absolute control of the industrial situation that they could and would bring a panic if their domination of affairs was disputed by the people. Not since 1896 has the republican party had a majority among the independent voters who were in a position to think for themselves and to follow their convictions; but such an enormous power have the predatory interests been able to exert, that they could add to what might be called the legitimate republican vote a large illegitimate vote made up of those who were prevailed upon by various threats to tolerate republican rule.

In 1912, through a division in the republican party, so unexpected, so inexplicable and so wide-spread as to seem providential the democratic party came into power and set about the task of reforming the abuses which republican administrations had either introduced or permitted. Six months have now elapsed and every republican prediction has failed. No calamity came; business has gone on without the least disturbance. The only panic noticeable has

been among the republican officeholders but their retirement to private life has caused no resentment among the people. The departments of the government have dealt successfully with the problems that came over from the former administration and with the new problems which have arisen. From the president down, democratic officials are measuring up to the requirements of their positions. The work is not only being done as well as it was done, but improvements are being made. Not a break in the line; nothing that needs either explanation or apology.

The president has dispensed with the formalities that prevented sympathetic co-operation between the executive and congress, and, going among the legislators, has asked for their aid in the fulfillment of the pledges of the platform. Congress responded immediately to his appeal, and there never has been a more genuine spirit of fellowship between the departments than now exists. The party is united and its measures are so obviously in the interests of the people that they have commanded support from the opposition. The president marches from one victory to another. Fresh from a signal triumph in the matter of tariff reduction he is forming his lines for a final charge against the money trust. The currency bill which he helped to prepare went through the house by so large a majority as to assure its passage by the senate.

With tariff reform secured and currency reform but a few weeks off, the country will soon be ready to take up the trust question and other economic problems which press for solution. It is a glad day for democrats. They have for a generation been subjected to taunts and sneers; their intelligence has been questioned and their patriotism challenged. Their day has come and

WIRE OR WRITE YOUR SENATOR

The administration currency bill puts the control of treasury note issues in the hands of the government, where it should be. If the Owen-Glass currency bill passes the senate in the form that it was approved by the house of representatives, it will make made-to-order panics impossible. Pressure is now being brought to bear upon the United States senate, by the "money interest," in an effort to defeat or emasculate the currency bill. The currency bill is drawn in the interest of the public, and should be passed without delay. If you favor the president's currency bill, WIRE or WRITE your senator AT ONCE and urge him not to permit the currency bill to be DELAYED or EMASCULATED.