

**IMPERIALISM A FAILURE**

**Ten Million People of Another Race Whipped Into Subjection and Now Left to Die of Starvation**

Here are some very practical questions imperialism has set itself to answer. For three years it has been boasting of the tremendous exploits of the army in the way of killing and burning. As a result of its policy of slaughter and devastation it has on its hands a subject population of ten millions, wasted by war, stricken with cholera and famine and incapable of rising to a state of self-support. The civil government established to rule over the natives is threatened with bankruptcy, its revenues are falling off rapidly and it is forced to borrow heavily in order to furnish rice to the starving people.

Yet in the face of these appalling conditions, for which the United States is responsible, we are told exultingly by the imperialists that the Philippines are a dead issue. By this they mean that public interest in the islands is subsiding, which only goes to show that imperialism without bloodshed is a tedious affair. But there never has been any serious doubt about the ultimate ability of the United States to put down the insurrection. It was merely a question of men and money.

The maintenance, however, of a beneficent government over a strange people 6,000 miles from our own shores presents a more difficult problem. That cannot be done by hurrahing for the flag from the stump and at the banquet table. What the Filipinos need in the present crisis is a taste of our own overflowing prosperity, some sort of material assistance in keeping alive and preparing against the future. Chamberlain saw the wisdom of helping the ruined Boers to get on their feet again, but so far it has not occurred to a single American politician to extend similar justice, or remunerative charity, as one admirer of Chamberlain calls it, to the destitute victims of our own imperialistic enterprise. Our imperialists in the United States are only too thankful that the Philippines are so far away that they attract little attention.—Philadelphia North American.

**Our Benevolent Feudalism**

For a good many years Public Opinion has followed the practice of devoting its Thanksgiving number to a review of the books of the year and the current number is one of especial interest. Under the head of books on sociology and economics, Public Opinion says that "on looking over the economic and sociological books of the year we venture the assertion that one of the latest published will be first in the amount of comment excited," referring to W. J. Ghent's "Our Benevolent Feudalism" (Macmillan, N. Y.), review of which appeared in The Independent of November 20. As usual, The Independent is several weeks ahead of the eastern reviewers. Even The Outlook for November 29 mentions the book as "reserved for later notice."

**A Deserved Compliment**

The Independent is pleased to learn, through the Macmillan company, that "a new illustration of the growing interest of Italian economists in American problems, and of their increasing appreciation of American scholars, is found in the Italian translation of Professor Ely's Monopolies and Trusts which has just been published in Turin in the "Biblioteca Dell' Economista," edited by Prof. Pasquale Jannaccone. The work has been translated by Dr. Paolo Conte.

"It includes a new introduction by the author, further explaining his ideas of the significance of monopoly price as class price. The original is now in the fifth thousand. The subject with which the work deals was surely never more a live question than today."

**Pilgrim's Progress**

A survey of the political field suggests these reflections to a radical democrat:

1. Repudiation of the radicalism of 1896 and 1900 means democratic downfall.
2. A closer alliance with the working class element, and a more sincere and ready acceptance of the growing socialistic sentiment is necessary to democratic growth and success.
3. It is matter of the gravest doubt whether the democratic party can be made an effective party of progress, and whether 1904 may not witness all its radical elements moving in mass into the socialistic party—which profited most this year from democratic cowardice.—Willis J. Abbott, in The Pilgrim.

**A Social Mont Pelee**

All know the movements of the nether earth,  
Convulsive throbbings, ere the earthquake's birth;  
Deep, direful warnings of impending woe—  
Of pent-up forces, raging deep and low.

Unequal pressure, source of perils, dire—  
Thrice more is smothered, burning, human ire;  
Pent-up, forced back, crushed down, concealed—enchained—  
A threatening doom, such tension, overstrained.

The strata, low, the trouble, deep, unseen—  
Nature's fixed law, upheavals always mean.  
Nature abhors—unequal state of things—  
Electrical, or social serfs and kings.

A mad upheaval—outraged nature's way;  
Unequal pressure, what the earthquake say.  
Equilibrium must and will return,  
Though navies sink and blameless cities burn.

Signs and omens, kind nature ever shows,  
Of adjusting change, or righting human woes.  
List, to the sounds—those murmurs deep and low!  
Menacing signs which wise men heed and know.

Alarms give time to shun the danger, dire—  
To change, turn back, avoid, adjust, inquire.  
Though fools assume, all unseen force is dead;  
Until they see the glowing lava spread.

Social volcanoes, most destructive known;  
Alike a peril to a state, or throne.  
Like ninety-three—all warnings seem in vain;  
They scoffed at signs, till terror's fatal reign.

The social base—foundations—when they burst,  
The lofty structures fall and crumble first;  
A wreck, colossal on a lower plain,  
With death and ruin in their ruthless train.

Today are warnings which should rouse—alarm;  
Portentous omens, black with social harm.  
A Mont Pelee of social, smothered power,  
May rend, burst forth and strike the dcomful hour.  
LYDIA PLATT RICHARDS.  
Pasadena, Cal.

**Oil Inspection**

Editor Dundas has given his second instalment of the history of "Disgraceful Legislation" through the columns of the Granger. He makes a well-deserved attack upon the oil inspection law. This was enacted for a double purpose: to furnish several soft snags for republican politicians, and to help out the Standard Oil trust. The fusion legislature of 1897 should have repealed the law, but it gave simply an illustration of how the tariff works—no protected manufacturer will ever consent to a reduction which will affect him, no matter how just it may be; and it takes more self-denial than we have yet experienced in Nebraska to get a political party to give up some partisan advantage it may have in the existence of a worse than useless office.

**Nebraska's Semi-Centennial**

The World-Herald has begun to agitate the question of a proper observance of the Nebraska semi-centennial in 1904. A number of prominent Nebraskans have expressed themselves as favoring the idea, although most of them are opposed to spending very much money in celebrating the event. The Independent believes that if Nebraska's fiftieth birthday is to be celebrated at all, it should be done in a manner befitting her dignity as a state, and that the cost should be paid by taxes raised in the regular way and not by the nagging method of soliciting individual subscriptions.

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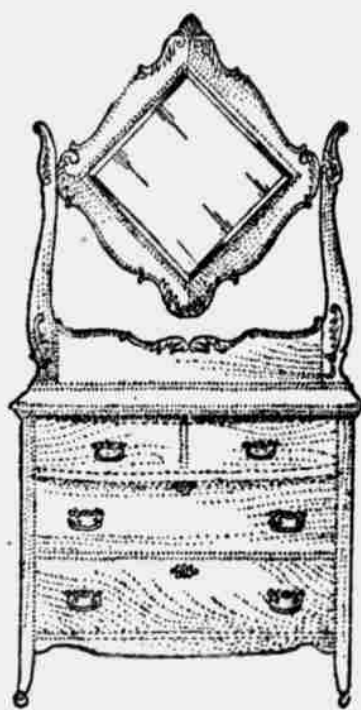
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