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Seven United States senators were foreign born. Kearns of Utah, Millard of Nebraska, and Gallinger of New Hampshire were born in Canada, and Nelson of Minnesota in Norway. Senator Patterson of Colorado is Irish.

The young man Vanderbilt, over whose wedding in Newport the great dailies went wild, devoting unnumbered columns in description of it, was up in the police court and fined the day before that event occurred, but none of the papers mentioned that fact.

The Stratton will case was settled out of court by the payment of \$350,000 to young Stratton instead of the \$50,000 provided in the will and the \$10,000,000 home for the poor will be built. Tom Patterson and Wolcott were opposing counsel in the case. It is the first time that any of the millionaires have made a donation for the poor.

Captain Pershing had a fight with the Moros and the report said that he killed 100 Moros and his own loss was three wounded. Now he sends word that his troops have cholera which they caught in the fort which they captured. The loss in the Philippines to our troops must not be calculated from the standpoint of those killed and wounded in battle. The other losses exceed those by 100 per cent.

The increase in the acreage of winter wheat, according to the government report, has been so large that if the crop averages 16 1/2 bushels per acre, the increase of the yield over the largest crop ever raised will be 115,000,000 bushels. The condition of the crop at the time of the report, the end of March, was the highest that has been known for thirteen years. The prospect is for a pretty low price for wheat next fall.

The Metropolitan club, the very swellest club in all Washington, recently black-balled General Corbin. Then Corbin and his friends got together and tried to induce all the military officers belonging to the club to withdraw, but very few of them would consent to do it. The class of men to which Crowninshield and Corbin belong do not seem to be as popular in Washington as they were a year or two ago.

The statesmanship of the Taft government in the Philippines can be judged by the law which it enacted requiring that every band which plays the Aguinaldo march must immediately afterward play The Star Spangled Banner. There is a complete lack of common sense in such a requirement. The bands play The Star Spangled Banner as required by law and the Filipinos stand by and hiss. Great is the statesmanship of these imperialists!

ROUGH SEAS AHEAD

The merger magnates from Pierpont Morgan down are doing a good deal of talking since the court of appeals handed down its opinion in the Northern Securities merger case. Among all the interviews with them that have been published there is not a single suggestion from one of them that the law will, or ought to be obeyed, but they devote their words to describing how the law can be evaded in some other way and the same thing accomplished as was expected to be accomplished by the Northern Securities company. If any of them deviate from that line of talk, it is to say that the next congress will repeal or modify the anti-trust laws so that railroad and other combinations can be formed for destroying competition.

When the next congress meets we look for one of the fiercest fights that has ever yet raged over the trust question. Teddy thinks he can stave off the tariff fight until after the next presidential election, but what is he going to do about this trust fight? That will be ten times worse than a tariff fight. The people have become so accustomed to tariff fights between leaders like Gorman on one side and Aldrich on the other, that they take but little interest in them. Will Teddy "stand pat," "let well enough alone" and lie down, or will he fight? If he fights it will be a fiercer battle than if he advocated tariff revision. When the next republican national convention meets the trusts will be there. Their leaders are all financial pirates, sailing under letters of marque granted by New Jersey, and they are as desperate a crew as ever buccaneered in the Caribbean sea. Will they make Teddy walk the plank? There are rough seas ahead for Teddy unless he casts anchor in the port of "let well enough alone" and permits both the trusts and tariff grafters go on their way without molestation.

A young man by the name of Reginald Vanderbilt was married at Newport the other day and the great dailies went half wild over the fact. They devoted scores of columns to a description of the event from the time the young man applied for a license until the whole thing was over. Why they should become so excited over the matter is one of those things that no pop can find out.

WILLING TO BE CONVINCED

There is a farmer out here in Nebraska who wants the single taxers to explain some things to him. He says that he owns 160 acres of land and has a wife and four living children. It has taken eighteen years of strenuous work and careful management for him to get this farm, erect the buildings, stock it and get his machinery. Now he feels safe. He can pay the usual amount of taxes, live comfortably, educate his children, sending the two who so desire to the university and putting all of them through the high school. He has had some awful hard times in the past, especially when money was dear and everything else was cheap, when he sold corn for 10 cents a bushel and hogs for 2 cents a pound. In those days they all worked hard, lived on the poorest food and dressed themselves in the cheapest clothing. Since money has become cheap and he has been able to get 25 cents a bushel for his corn and 6 and 7 cents a pound for his hogs, he has made most of his improvements and lived well. What he wants to know is what change there would be brought about in his condition by the adoption of the single tax. Would he have more taxes to pay? If he should die, and his son takes to professional life, in what condition would his widow and the minor children be left? Under the present system they would have the private ownership of the farm and could rent

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or sell it and be safe from want. If the farm was taxed for its full rental value what would become of his wife and children? He says that he is free from prejudice as a man can be and is willing to favor any system that would be for the general welfare and is open to conviction. Will some single taxer please enlighten him on these points?

COST OF IMPERIALISM

Prof. Charles J. Bullock of Williams college in a recent article in the Political Science Quarterly points out the fact that—

"Our national government in 1902 was imposing upon taxpayers a burden that averaged \$29.80 for every family of five persons. Of this sum, only \$8.75 was needed for all civil expenditures, while \$21.05 must be charged to the account of war."

The republican party is fast reducing this country to the same condition that the people "in the armed camp of Europe" have long been in. There is no necessity for any such extravagant taxation for military purposes in this country, situated as it is 3,000 miles from any foe capable of attacking us. It is the bitter price the people have to pay for imperialism.

WHO DOES UNDERSTAND IT?

In a personal letter to the associate editor, one of the editors of the Appeal to Reason says:

"You do not understand socialism—that is evident; and I am quite sure that you have confined your investigation to only one of its phases."

To this the associate editor replied, confessing that he does not "understand socialism" and asserting that the more he reads socialist literature the more he is convinced that nobody else understands it—each writer simply giving his idea of what it is.

For example, the Weekly People (S. L. P.) of New York last week devoted a column to proving that "Roosevelt (is) Turning Populist." Without at this time noticing the People's wholly erroneous conception of populism, let us see how it "understands socialism"—

"The 'share' of the wage-earner means the price of the merchandise wage-earner. The price of merchandise is determined in the

merchandise market by the supply of goods; the larger the supply the lower the price. The wage-earner (Labor) being but a merchandise, its price, 'share,' depends upon the supply of labor in the Labor Market. The supply of the merchandise Labor in the Labor Market is steadily on the increase, due to the private ownership of the machinery of production."

Now, isn't that an astonishing statement to come from a socialist sheet? "Price," if The Independent can make anything out of socialist jargon, is value expressed in terms of the money commodity—nothing less than "exchange-value" spoken in the money term. Very well; and "the amount of labor embodied in a commodity determines its value," says "T. R." in the Edinburgh Socialist, in an article copied by the People not long since. Then the amount of labor embodied in a commodity also determines its price. But, says the People, "the price of merchandise is determined . . . by the supply of goods." If both statements are correct, "the supply of goods" and "the amount of labor embodied" are synonymous and interchangeable terms.

If the Marxist doctrine means anything which an ordinary person can understand, it means that labor-power is a commodity whose "exchange-value" is determined as is the value of every other commodity—by the "amount of labor embodied in it;" in other words, by the cost of keeping it up. But the People asserts that this "exchange-value," expressed in terms of the money-commodity, "depends upon the supply of labor in the Labor Market." No populist could find fault with that statement, if to it were added, "and the demand for labor in the labor market, considered with reference to the supply of and demand for coin."

But isn't that getting far away from the Marxist theory of "socially necessary labor?"

Thus far the government has only purchased two lots of silver for Philippine coinage and they were too small to affect the market. The government proposes to buy 20,000,000 ounces and if it does that will certainly affect the market to a considerable degree. England is also buying considerable bar silver for India to be coined into rupees.