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HOW KIERSTEAD GETS HIS INDORSEMENT

He Voted to Allow W. D. Beckett, 3 per Cent. on All Outlawed Claims.

Many of His Endorsers Profitted by the Illegal Appropriation of the Public Funds,

Or, Are Managers of Corporations Who Expect to Profit by His Re-Election.

DID BECKETT SECRETLY REVERSE HIMSELF?

An Interesting Interview Which a Representative of this Paper Had on the Subject.

The American last week exposed the work of Commissioner-Claimant Wm. I. Kierstead in manipulating the county board, to allow himself over \$3,500 and with it about \$100,000 of outlawed Douglas addition claims. After the publication of the article Mr. Kierstead informed a member of The American company that he had secured a letter from W. D. Beckett, special attorney for the board, in which Mr. Beckett states that the board followed his (Mr. Beckett's) advice in the allowance of the outlawed claims. At the time of the board's illegal action M. H. Redfield was clerk of the county, and the American this week interviewed him in regard to the position of Mr. Beckett as claimed by Mr. Kierstead.

"Mr. Beckett filed with me," said Mr. Redfield, in reply to our question, "a type-written opinion, advising the board that the claims were outlawed, and that it was the board's duty to plead the statute of limitations. I personally handed this written opinion to Commissioner Jenkins in the presence of Mr. Kierstead, and at the next meeting of the board, the opinion was formally received by the board and should now be on file with other papers of the county board. In addition to this, Mr. Beckett personally informed me that if the board attempted to allow the outlawed claims he would stop them, as he considered that he was representing the taxpayers of the county, whose interests were at stake. Mr. Beckett further informed me that he would see to it that a bill was passed by the legislature empowering the board to make deeds to all the claimants whose claims were outlawed, and subsequently I met Mr. Beckett at Lincoln and he said the attorney for the claimants was fighting the bill in the legislature, so as to make a stronger case before the county board."

"It was customary," continued the ex-clerk, "for commissioners to have committee reports made out in the

clerk's office, and after the opinion of Mr. Beckett was filed I heard nothing more of the outlawed claims for some time, when all at once, to my surprise, a large number of committee reports were laid on the desk, which I used to read from to the board, allowing these outlawed claims. The work of making up the reports was done outside of the county clerk's office. I do not hesitate to say, knowing what I do, that if Mr. Kierstead had not used his office to get these claims through, they would never have been allowed, for the members of the board were by no means united, and at one time considered the claims defeated by Mr. Beckett's opinion."

The reporter then handed Mr. Redfield a printed circular containing Mr. Beckett's letter, and the ex-clerk, after reading it, said:

"Mr. Beckett does not deny the facts as I have related them. He practically admits that he changed his position, which is what everyone knows, and the change was no doubt brought about through the persistency of Commissioner Kierstead. There is nothing in Mr. Beckett's letter which changes the view I have had of this transaction. It is the old story over again. Anything gotten from the public treasury is by some people regarded as honest, when if it was an individual or a private corporation which had to foot the bill every legal defense would be pleaded."

The reporter then asked Mr. Redfield if it was not a fact that Attorney Beckett got a large attorney's fee out of the outlawed claims, and he replied: "Mr. Beckett was allowed three per cent of all the money voted on the outlawed claims."

PORTO RICANS ARE IGNORANT.

Alderman Charles H. Rector of Chicago has just completed a tour of Porto Rico. He writes for the Chicago Times-Herald an account of his trip. Among other things he says:

"The religion of the island has been wholly Catholic. But one protestant church was ever erected on the island, and that is at Ponce. After being opened for a short time it was closed by order of somebody, and not opened until our soldier boys came. They broke in the nailed doors and held services there. The priesthood has really had a greater control of the people of the island than the civil government, and have been the heavy tax-gatherers. On account of this the native population is hostile to the priests, and will welcome the protestant churches, which seek no connection with the government."

"Schools have been practically unknown. Such schools as were kept up were of the parochial kind, and only that was taught which the church and state permitted. The text-books furnished were grossly inaccurate, and the pupil that mastered them was but little better off than before. I may say that one of the greatest benefits of the war to Porto Rico will be that it places in the island forever free public schools, free churches, independence of religious faith, and abolishment of all tax-gathering by any church. The priests are relegated to religious functions purely. I do not believe that naturally the Porto Ricans think very much of any religion. Slothful in their natures, religion compels thought on their part, and thought is tiresome. Why should one think when the sun is warm, the shade inviting and the earth so kind?"

UNITED STATES AS A PACIFIC POWER.

A short time before the outbreak of the recent Spanish-American war a discussion took place at a Washington luncheon table between two distinguished American public men. One of them was a strong believer in the "forward" policy, who accepted, and even gloried in, the title of jingo; the other was "conservative" and an opponent of external expansion and aggressive activity. The latter remarked that the United States should have no concern with militarism and imperialism. "We are a pacific power," he said. "I guess so," replied the other gentleman. "But we intend to spell pacific with a large P."

The words seem prophetic already. The appearance of the United States as an actor in the drama which is being enacted on the shores and waters of the Pacific Ocean may turn out to be the most abiding and important result of the brief struggle with Spain. The American republic made its sudden dash into military and naval activity through a series of events which many people regarded as fortuitous. But if there had been no tale of outrage in Cuba, and no shattering of the Maine in Havana harbor, the United States would not have been able to maintain its attitude of passivity and freedom from international complications much longer. A manifest destiny, if ever nation had one, has been driving it in the direction along which it has moved with startling rapidity since the spring of the present year. The change has been accelerated by the circumstances which forced on intervention in Cuba and the rupture with Spain; but it was bound to come in any case.

It is a curious fact, which may possibly receive explanation from some historian of the future, when history has become more scientific than it is at present, that a whole chain of causes has been steadily drawing the United States on the way of imperialism. Two years and a half ago the present writer pointed out that the novel interpretation of the so-called Monroe doctrine asserted by President Cleveland and Mr. Olney, in the Venezuela dispute, was not to be taken as a merely personal eccentricity on the part of a particular administration. The motives and principles which induced Mr. Olney to declare that the United States was entitled, if it so pleased, to intervene in a quarrel between two governments having possessions in South America might also furnish the warrant for intervention in the Caribbean Sea, or the Pacific, if the interests of the republic seemed to be affected or menaced in either of these regions. It would not have been difficult to demonstrate that there were other quarters of the globe in which, on the general Olney doctrine, the Washington government might feel itself called upon to act. The theory has been reasserted in a broader and more emphatic form by Mr. Olney himself in the course of the last few months. Here is a passage which may be worth quoting:

"In our country, as well as in monarchies, traditions and customs are strong. This policy of in-

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EYE-OPENERS FOR VOTERS

The Objectionable Features of the McCleary Bill Pointed Out.

Country Banks Outside of New York Would be Driven Out of Business by Its Passage.

Farmers, Merchants and Mechanics Affected by Its Provisions.

The American's article of last week, exposing the iniquities of the McCleary banking bill, has created widespread interest among patriotic citizens, who, with us, see the danger that lurks in the provisions of the bill by concentrating into the hands of a private corporation the power to control the money supply of the country, and thereby regulate the value of labor as well as commodities, including the power of being able to control business and politics, and to hold within its grasp the very liberties of the people.

Below we give for the benefit of our readers a few of the objections to the bill, and we request all patriotic citizens to study them, bearing in mind that the clique of speculators who are favoring this legislation has not dared to discuss it in the campaign, but intend that it shall be sneaked through congress in the name of "sound money."

In the first place the members of the board of comptrollers are appointed for twelve years; with an interval of four years between appointments; requiring sixteen years to change the character of the board, and which makes it practically a perpetual body appointed by one administration.

Section 20 of the bill empowers these comptrollers to withdraw from circulation all national reserve notes, thus giving them the right to contract the currency at will.

A gold reserve, as provided in section 4, shows that it is to be maintained by the issue of bonds, which means a constant increase of the bonded debt for the reason that it is impossible for the banks to hold the amount of gold required without a reduction in the price of breadstuffs below the cost of production, and because the exportation of an excess of farm products is the only thing that will draw gold to this country. In addition to this the bill also empowers the comptrollers to insure certificates of indebtedness without stint or limit.

It completes the demonetization of silver by making the silver coins redeemable in gold the same as greenbacks (see section 3).

Section 12 of the bill provides for three classes of notes, viz: "National reserve notes," "National bank notes" and "National currency notes." The "National currency notes" are to be exchanged for greenbacks and that money is to be destroyed. See sections 19. The government is to be pledged for the redemption of the national reserve notes the same as it is for the greenbacks. Why the government should give the banks the control of the currency and still be responsible for its redemption is a mystery.

"National bank notes" mean circulating notes issued by national banking associations which are to be se-

cured by a deposit of United States bonds. This is practically the same as the present national bank notes with the exception that they are to be issued to the full face value of the bonds held by the government. According to section 17 at the end of four years the banks are permitted to withdraw their securities and in eight years leave their note issue in the air with Uncle Sam holding the bag.

By section 12, subdivision C, it will be seen that the "national currency notes" are a gratuity to the banks and are without security, except the money of its depositors. In case of a bank failure the government is to undertake to handle these assets and pay the creditors from any available revenue. It is readily seen that this whole fabric is to rest upon the credit of the government and the complicated machinery proposed by this bill is to place the banks in complete control of the volume of money and consequently the average of prices of all commodities, including real estate.

Section 16 gives legal tender power to the "national reserve notes," but section 20 provides for their destruction by the comptrollers as fast as the interests of the banks may require. It is true that it authorizes the comptrollers to re-issue them in exchange for gold, but this simply means the destruction of all legal tender money, except gold, thus placing the country on an absolute gold basis.

Section 21 gives the banks power to contract the currency at will.

Section 22 provides for the "clearing house districts," in which country banks have an arrangement with a city clearing house bank to redeem their notes. This, with section 23, which requires each bank to hold an amount equal to 5 per cent of their national currency circulation in gold, is a scheme by which city banks can hold the country banks at their mercy. Suppose a city bank should wish to appropriate the gold reserve of a country bank: all they have to do is to accumulate enough notes of such bank to cover the amount of gold and draw it through the clearing house, thus leaving the country bank high and dry. No independent country bank can exist under this scheme.

Section 35 provides for branch banks which is the end to be gained by the squeezing process provided for in sections 22 and 23.

The ultimate purpose of the bill is the erection of a gigantic money monopoly composed of one bank with its branches, which shall control the business of the country, with power to dictate conditions upon which every business man may transact his business, and thus absolutely absorb all the powers of the government. Inside of ten years our government would be an oligarchy based upon the control of the money of the country.

It is remarkable that any member of congress who is not a banker, or an idiot would vote for a scheme which takes away every hope for himself and children to a career in business or public life, except by the sufferance of a greedy, heartless oligarchy. The audacity displayed in the conception of this scheme is something astounding. It is not surprising that a man of the intelligence of Mr. McCleary should stand dumb before the people when called upon to explain the provisions of this bill.

This paper is criticized by certain republicans for its attack on the McCleary banking bill because it is claimed that our representatives in congress can be trusted not to foist unjust legislation upon the people. The fact that the measure is receiving the support of the Wall street money sharks, and also that of many congressional representatives, and seeks to take our monetary system out of the hands of the government and place it in the hands of three men for whom almost a life tenure of office is to be created, impels this paper to sound the alarm. The monetary system of today is far more satisfactory. This paper believes the measure would be obnoxious and unwise in its present form. Not even the bankers dare endorse this bill as a good thing for the people. They know it is not and that the American is right. Some of them who want to go out of business may profess not to believe as we do, but they are looking out for their own interests, not for the interests of the public.

THE POPE WHO ABDICATED.
Pope Nicholas IV, died on April 4th, 1292, and on his death the Papal See was vacant for two years and three months. During all that long period the Church of Rome was a body without a head. At last a new Pope was elected in the person of Celestine V. The story of his election constitutes one of the strangest romances in the history of the Papacy. He was Pope for only five months, and then resigned the Papacy, the only genuine Pope, we believe, who ever did so of his own free will, and gladly. The following is the text of the document by which he abdicated:—

"I Celestine V., Bishop of the Holy Roman Church, being thereunto moved by good and sufficient considerations, for the exercise of humility, the desire of a more perfect life and undefiled conscience, and because of the infirmity of my body, my want of knowledge, and the evil passions of the people, as well as the hope of returning to the tranquil habits of my former life, do, of my own free and unconstrained will, abdicate the Papacy, and expressly renounce its place and dignity, its burdens and its honours: hereby imparting full powers to the holy College of Cardinals to proceed to the canonical election of a Pastor of the Universal Church." (Greenwood's Cathedra Petri, Book XIV, chap. vi., page 274, note.)

The resignation of Celestine was accepted, and within a few days his successor was elected. The "Romance of the Papacy" to which we have referred, was, however, connected with the election of Celestine V., rather than with his resignation. The story is graphically related by Gregorovius, in the fifth volume of his History of the City of Rome in the Middle Ages. (London: George Bell & Sons, 1897.)

"About the same time," writes Gregorovius, "the Cardinals assembled (in conclave) in Perugia; the winter, however, passed away, and even a visit of Charles II., who went there to meet his youthful son Charles Martel, titular king and claimant of Hungary, made no impressions. Furious party jealousies prevented the Cardinals from uniting their votes on any one of their company, and the result was an election, than which none could have been more unfortunate. The accidental mention of the visions of a pious hermit caused Cardinal Latinus, who personally knew and honored the saint, to propose him as Pope. The suggestion might have appeared a jest, but it was agreed to in earnest, and the perplexed Cardinals who grasped at a straw, unanimously elected the hermit as Pope on July 5th (1294). The decree of election was

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