

Commoner Comment.

JUDGE WALTER CLARK

Walter Clark, justice of the supreme court of North Carolina, was born in Halifax, N. C., August 19, 1846. He is one of the leading democrats of the south, a lawyer of great ability and a jurist with the record of long years of able and conscientious service. Judge Clark was often mentioned in connection with presidential honors and an intimate personal and political friend contributes the following concerning his life and public services.

"Judge Clark was a cadet at West Point military academy at Hillsboro, N. C., when the civil war broke out, and although only a boy of fourteen he went into the confederate army. The following years he was mostly adjutant of the Thirty-fifth North Carolina, Colonel Matt Ransom's regiment. He participated in some of the fiercest battles of the war. In the summer of 1862, the regiment moved to North Carolina, he resigned from the army and joined the senior class at the University of North Carolina. In June, 1864, he graduated at the head of his class. The day after his graduation he was elected major of a battalion of junior reserves, and a month later, although but seventeen years of age, was commissioned as lieutenant colonel of the Seventeenth North Carolina regiment. His regiment was with a division of Johnston's army and was patrolled at High Creek on May 2, 1865.

"Colonel Clark immediately began the study of law with Judge W. H. Battle, and later at Chapel Hill, Columbia university, and in a law office in New York city. In 1867 he was admitted to practice. In 1873 he moved to Raleigh, where he engaged in practice. From 1870 to 1875 he was attorney of the Raleigh & Gaston and Raleigh & Augusta railroads and attorney for the same, part of the time being chief counsel.

"On the death of Chief Justice Smith in 1880 and the promotion of Judge Merrimon to fill the vacancy, Governor Fowle appointed Mr. Clark to the place made vacant by the promotion of Judge Merrimon, he having previously been elected to the superior court, holding his ticket. The year following his appointment to the supreme bench he was elected to the position, again leading his ticket. In 1894 he was again re-nominated by the democrats and endorsed by the other two political parties, and triumphantly elected. In 1902 he was elected chief justice for a term of eight years from January 1, 1903.

"Judge Clark has written or edited over six volumes, most of them published by the supreme bench. Of law books, he has issued 'Clark's Annotated Code,' which has gone through three editions, each time enlarged. Also 'Laws for Business Men,' 'Clark's Overland Cases' and an article of 1,100 pages, 'Appeal and Error,' in the Cyclopaedia of Law, which northern law journals have pronounced the most complete treatise ever written on that subject. Besides these, he has annotated thirty-two volumes of the supreme court reports, which have been issued by the state, thus bringing each case down to date. This has been an invaluable work, especially to the young lawyers who otherwise could not have obtained these reports, which were out of print. He also compiled the legal history of the two railroads of which he was counsel and director since he has been on the bench would fill seven or eight volumes alone.

"He has translated out of the French 'Constant's Frauds,' which are annotated thirty-three volumes (illustrated). As is well known, he has edited without compensation of any kind five volumes 'Regimental Histories of North Carolina,' and eleven volumes of 'State Records,' and has two more volumes of the latter in press or preparation. He has been a contributor to Harper's, North American Review, Arena, and other leading magazines. His magazine articles and published speeches would fill two or three large volumes. He has addressed the State Bar association of Tennessee, the National Association of Railroad Commissioners at Denver, Colo., and the State Bar association at Topeka, Kan.

"Judge Clark has always voted the straight democratic ticket, but has never been an active partisan, the only office he has ever held being that of judge. He was endorsed by the state democratic convention in 1896 for vice president.

"The New York Commercial suggests: 'Should the Northern Securities decision be approved by the United States supreme court some persons would not be a bit surprised to see congress speedily repeal the Sherman law. Possibly the people may not want to exercise to the last limit a power that the constitution may give them in the way of restricting the conduct of business through legislation.' Possibly the Commercial may be right; and they would seem that, suffering as they now are under trust imposition, the people may conclude, in order to protect themselves, to exercise to the last limit the power of prohibiting conspiracies in restraint of trade.

"When democrats read in republican papers like the Kansas City journal the confession that the Sherman law is modified, the re-organizers' presentation of the issues 'could be adopted bodily into the republican platform without doing any violence to the views of that party; then democrats must realize the importance of protecting democracy's temple.

"The money question will never be settled until the financiers secure absolute control of the money supply or the people secure to the government the exclusive function of issuing money.

"The announcement is made that San Miguel, the last of the Filipino insurgents is dead. The 'last Filipino' insurgent continues as long as the republican revision of the tariff.

"President Roosevelt's speeches on trusts, great business interests, etc., sound very much like harmony talk to the re-organizers.

"In view of what they are in the habit of doing when they have an opportunity it is not to be wondered at that a lot of Pennsylvania legislators are seeking to muzzle the press of that state.

"Democracy will hardly agree to management by men whose principles are acceptable to the interests that are opposed to democratic principles.

"The reports of Mayor Johnson's political death, as Mark Twain would say, 'very much exaggerated.'"

FOOLING THE PEOPLE

HOW THE AMERICAN TARIFF LEAGUE WORKS.

Gigantic Corruption Fund Used to Deceive Voters into Supporting the Protective Tariff—Thousands of Subsidized Newspapers.

There is great rejoicing in the sanctuary of the American Protective Tariff League in New York. This league modestly takes full credit for President Roosevelt's "change of front" on the tariff question. The Washington Star of April 16 contains a two-column article on the league and its work. As this article quotes from the secretary of the league and indeed, appears to have been inspired by him, we will quote some extracts from it:

"It is no exaggeration to say that the most powerful instrument in this country today for the molding of public sentiment is the organization of manufacturers which bears that name. The American Protective Tariff League defeated the Cuban reciprocity legislation of the first session of the Fifty-seventh Congress, emasculated the Cuban reciprocity treaty ratified at the last session, and will attempt at the next session to further negative that treaty.

"The American Protective Tariff League has thus far prevented the ratification of the reciprocity treaties negotiated by Mr. Kassar. It has combated the 'lowa idea' so successfully that he would 'stand pat' on the McKinley policies, which included reciprocity, has now concluded to 'stand pat' with the high tariff faction of his party. The American Protective Tariff League has a membership of 1,000, including some of the most prominent manufacturers of iron, steel, cotton goods, woolen goods, cutlery, Yankee notions, leather goods, hosiery, gloves, varnish, silks, etc.

"The 1,000 members pay in years when important elections are held, and has minimum annual assessment of \$100 each. This minimum fund of \$100,000

BRAGS NOT IN ORDER

TRUTH ABOUT OUR ACTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

President Has No Good Reason for Any Eulogy of the Administration's Methods—"Civil Government" by the War Department a Farce.

When Mr. Roosevelt reached Fargo in his swing around the circle he improved the opportunity to brag about what had been done for the Philippines. Why he selected that place for his attack on the people whom he is pleased to call "the army's traders" is immaterial.

To say the least, he is extremely optimistic in his estimate of the great and benevolent things which have been done for the people of the Philippines by the army, by Congress and by the civil government. His hard words are for the "treacherous and cruel" people who began as our allies and became our enemies when they discovered that they were to be treated as conquered subjects and not as we had promised to treat the Cubans.

Mr. Roosevelt reiterates what he has said so many times before, that cruelty in the treatment of Filipinos by our army was exceptional, and he extols as usual the wonderful kindness of army, congress and all concerned towards the cruel and treacherous subjects. He also takes to his own administration no little credit for investigating the cases of cruelty to which its attention has been called.

The fact remains, however, that there has been systematic suppression of the truth by the war department. It was not until Gen. Miles let out the secret that a suppressed official report of cruelties was brought to light in the Senate, and the General incurred the severe displeasure of the administration and would have been retired in disgrace but for the intercession of certain Senators whose support the administration needed.

The fact remains, furthermore, that the administration did not bestir itself to find out the truth in a single case until it had been goaded into action by those at whom Mr. Roosevelt sneers as "men of little faith." When at last it reluctantly moved the fact was disclosed that court-martial for cruelty had been forced on a fact which did not go to show that cruelty was exceptional. The fact remains also that repeated appeals for investigation since the Smith court-martial have been ignored, and there has been a manifest purpose to cover up anything.

That purpose is still manifest, as we are reminded when the president boasts of the establishment of civil government in the Philippines. What manner of civil government is it? Mr. Roosevelt himself confesses when he says that "the best thing that can be done in handling such a problem is to put the best possible men in charge and then give them the heartiest possible support and the freest possible hand. That is what has been done with Gov. Taft."

That is to say, the best thing is to give a people "so remote" an autocrat to rule over them, and that is what the boasted civil government meant comes to. Not many days ago it was announced as a matter of course that this civil government had made an important report to the war department. About the same time the fact was incidentally mentioned that the war department still had its insular bureau in full operation.

It must be admitted that when congress has interfered with this civil government run by the War department it has made a mess of it. Mr. Roosevelt lauds congress for giving the Philippines "an excellent government" but it did not do that until after Gov. Taft had begged it to do something and not until after he and his commission had told congress that business was prostrate and the people were in dire distress partly for want of a decent currency.

Mr. Roosevelt applauds congress for affording the Philippines some relief from the wretchedness wrought by war and pestilence by making a cut of 25 per cent in the Dingley rates on imports from their islands. But never before our conquests of 1898 did congress impose Dingley rates or any other rates on articles imported into the United States from any territory of the United States, which will make it exactly fit the situation in our Philippine dependencies.

There are people who do not approve of "civil government" by the War department or of the treatment of territory of the United States as foreign territory, and they are neither "weaklings" nor "cravens," as Mr. Roosevelt may discover one of these days.

Five Years of the Philippines.

It will be five years on the 1st of May since Dewey smashed the Spanish fleet in Manila bay. That was practically and fatefully the beginning of our Asiatic adventures. After nearly five years of inglorious war and bayonet-proped government at long range the Philippines is still an open question. As President Schurman has said, "The American people have never passed upon the ultimate destiny of the archipelago." A really free nation is not a subject or a dependent nation governed by another, no matter how wisely or benevolently. Has congress or has the president done anything to indicate that we intend to give the inhabitants of the Philippines "self-government" after the fashion of really free nations? They have a form of civil government, it is true, but it is administered by a governor set over them by us, supported by an army still numbering 25,000 men. They are taxed without representation. They have not the right of trial by jury. They are as thoroughly subject and dependent as are the people of an alien race governed by Great Britain.

Roosevelt Not Quite Consistent.

The followers of most superstitions have their days of disillusion. Mr. Roosevelt, having lately taken up the prophesy of the Dingley tariff, is not yet wholly exempt from attacks of unbelief in his fetish. On Saturday at Minneapolis he argued that it would be a freak of vicious folly to touch a single schedule of that in-

conclusion, or rather is, made to feel that protection is somehow a good thing for the whole country as well as for the manufacturers, and that business men would go to smash at once if any important duty were greatly reduced. Although thousands of intelligent men see clearly and understand the sophistry of the protectionists, yet, because they are unorganized, and have no great funds to propagate their idea, the masses of the people are still in darkness on this question.

The democratic party caters to no special interests whose profits are made by fooling and mauling the people. It is unable to pay newspapers for printing its matter, and its members are not protected manufacturers with big advertisements to insert in newspapers which whoop it up for protection.

It is probable that if even 1,000 newspapers during the last ten years had been printing good tariff reform matter, that the people, and especially the farmers, who suffer most from lopsided "protection," would have been almost unanimous against high tariff duties. The protected manufacturers are an organized band of public plunderers. The Protective Tariff league is their organization. Its function is to delude and fool the people while the manufacturers get in their fine work. It is the wings of the vampire, which gently fan the victim to keep it dormant, while the vampire itself—the protected manufacturers—suck the life blood of the unfortunate victim. Whenever the people show signs of awakening and attempting to loosen the hold of this blood-sucking vampire, the manufacturers pour money into their tariff leagues. It then redoubles its efforts and increases the doses of soporific protection sophistry given to the people to keep them quiet.

Up to date the thing has worked like a charm. Not only did it beguile the people into voting for the McKinley and Dingley bills to abstract money from their pockets, but it defeated the Cuban and all other reciprocity measures proposed, and has now made the President reverse himself, by threatening to defeat his re-

COLLECTED THE BILL

ONE DUN WHO HAD RATHER A PLEASANT TIME.

But He Had an Interest in the Affair and Needed the Money—Case Where Persistence Won a Complete Triumph.

The following story is told of a certain young man in Mount Vernon who had been living rather close to the ground, as the saying goes, according to the New York Times, and who was badly in need of funds.

The young man went to a friend and told him of his predicament, requesting a loan at the same time. His friend was not "touchable," however, but told the young man that if he would collect a bill he had against a certain man whose home was in a swell district of the city he might have half of the proceeds.

The fellow accepted and made his way to the home of the debtor. A young lady answered his ring and he inquired for Mr. B., the man of the house.

"Mr. B. is not at home," replied the young lady.

"Oh, he isn't?" said the collector.

"Well, I'll just step in and wait for him."

Without waiting for an answer he slipped inside the door, took off his coat and hat, and sat down in an easy chair in the parlor. He picked up a paper and made himself as much at home as if the house was his own. He had read about fifteen minutes when Mr. B. came into the room and inquired as to the young man's business.

"Well," said that individual, "I have a little bill here that I wish to collect. It is from E. & Co."

"I am very sorry," said Mr. B., "but I am afraid that I cannot meet it just at present."

"Oh, there's no hurry," said the collector, "I can wait as long as I like." He settled back in the chair and resumed reading the paper.

Mr. B. looked at him in surprise, and after a minute's thought said: "Really, it is dinner time and I am quite hungry. You must excuse me."

"Why, certainly," was the reply. "I am a little hungry myself. I don't mind eating dinner with you at all," and before the astonished man could reply he was through the door and inquiring where his seat would be. Mr. B. did not know what to do, but he was polite and made a place for him. They ate dinner and had a cold bottle after it and by that time it was growing late. They talked of the weather and one thing and another and in time the clock struck 10 and Mr. B. began to be worried. As a last resource he remarked:

"It is time that I should retire. While your company has been enjoyable, I hope that you will call again."

But the young man was not fazed. He calmly replied: "I have been pleasantly entertained, Mr. B. Now, if you will show me my room, I shall retire also."

Mr. B. glared at the intruder. That person simply sat and smoked his after-dinner cigar and looked at peace with the world. This state of affairs continued until early in the morning, when Mr. B. got all control of himself, pulled out his checkbook, wrote a check for the amount of the bill and threw it to the young man.

"Now, you blank-blinded lobster," he said, "get out of this house as quick as you can. If you don't there'll be trouble."

The collector got his hat and coat and went out into the street with a smile on his face. It was a hard struggle, but persistence had won.

ROOSEVELT OBEYS ORDERS.

THIS WAY TO US TREASURY SIDE DOOR

President Roosevelt at Milwaukee, April 3, 1903: "Not only is the anti-trust legislation, recently enacted, effective, but in my judgment it was impracticable to attempt more. Many of the alleged remedies advocated are of the unpleasantly drastic type. Others are obviously futile. High among the latter, I place the effort to reach the trust question by means of the tariff.

It is over this work, of which it should feel ashamed, that the Protective Tariff league is bragging so publicly that it is giving itself away. The Democrats are entirely willing to help advertise this agency of 1,000,000,000 worth of protected trusts and to inform the people just how it does its "educational" work and who foots its bills.—Byron W. Holt.

Some of the republican office holders are a thrifty lot. There is H. H. Rand, confidential secretary to the postmaster general, accused of inducing postal employees to purchase the shares of the National Copper Mining company, of which A. W. Maehen is president. As the mining company is not given in the official list of incorporated companies, the investors are, perhaps, when they purchase its shares, but paying for the privilege of keeping their places or being promoted, for it may have no intrinsic value. Mr. Maehen is the chief of the bureau that controls the rural free delivery and is now under investigation, and is said to be making a desperate fight to bring official influence to bear to overcome the evidence that is accumulating against him.

When a Democratic Congress investigates the postoffice department, and the real facts are uncovered, there is likely to be a scandal that will rival all past ones in its magnitude. The effort of the administration to suppress the Porto Rican smuggling scandal does not give promise that the present investigation of the postoffice is intended to solve very deeply into the corrupt methods that evidently prevail.

Republican Assaults on Civil Service.

The Washington Post is authority for the statement that, "since President Roosevelt came into office a large portion of the important offices in the United States treasury department have been filled with new men, or will be filled before a long while. Something like a clean sweep has been gradually put into effect, but it has been done quietly and as a rule with little publicity." That is a pretty serious charge in a newspaper with strong Republican leanings to make against the President, who boasts of his civil service reform antecedents and who was supposed to be still an ardent disciple of the same. It is also stated that more post-office positions have been removed and appointed during the last two years than ever before in the history of the department, so that civil service reform may be said to be having a strenuous time to hold its own, under the present administration, against the assaults of political place-hunters.

THE TARIFF MUST BE MODIFIED.

THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THE VERY PRINCIPLE UNDER WHICH PROTECTION OF LABOR BY TARIFF IS URGED PROPOSES AND REQUIRES A READJUSTMENT OF TARIFF RATES FROM TIME TO TIME TO MEET VARYING SITUATIONS AND CONDITIONS. THEY MIGHT POSSIBLY BE DISPOSED TO ASSENT TO THE GENERAL STATEMENT THAT IT SHOULD BE READJUSTED BY ITS FRIENDS RATHER THAN BY ITS ENEMIES, BUT THE VOTERS OF THIS LAND WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO BE USED AS A CHECK TO FAIR COMPETITION AS A MORE MONOPOLISTIC TOOL AND IF ITS FRIENDS WILL NOT MODIFY IT, THEN ITS ENEMIES WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO. AND WE HAVE ALL HEARD OF THE GENTLEMAN WHO ONCE CUT OFF A DOG'S TAIL HALF AN INCH BEHIND HIS EARS.

THE FRAUDS IN THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The duty of the postmaster general, now that the naked facts are before him, is plain. He must cleanse his department with an unsparing hand and by the severity of the lesson administered to his offending subordinates, prevent effectually the possibility of a recurrence of the evils at present under investigation. Let it be shown in this instance, at all events, that the power of politicians to protect unworthy servants of the government can no longer prevail.

SENTIMENT SUITS IMPERIALISTS.

When newspapers continue to refer to Uncle Hanna as a great wise and conservative statesman who would reflect honor upon the presidential office, it really looks as though our liege lord, Theodore, ought to come out of the woods and look after things. If the "imperialists" really got it into their heads that he is hostile to the useful and necessary combinations they will make it interesting in the national convention.

WHITHER ARE WE DRIFTING.

While the President is in the Yellowstone park the people, to whom the park belongs, are to be barred from visiting its interesting sections. The time may come when they will be driven off the streets when he passes through an American city. That is the way in Russia and Germany when royalty ventures abroad.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

It is a trifling late in the history of American progress to attempt to throttle the American press. The freedom of speech and the liberty of the press were two of the things our forefathers fought for and it might just as well be understood now that their descendants won't surrender their inheritance without a struggle.

NO MYSTERY ABOUT IT.

There is no mystery about it. The President's attitude—no psychological expert is needed to explain his mental operations. As a man, he knows the tariff ought to be reduced; as a President and an aspirant after the nomination next year, he is in the hands of the Republican leaders.

LABOR COMING IN FREE TO COMPETE WITH AMERICAN LABOR IS COMING THIS YEAR IN GREAT ABUNDANCE THAN EVER BEFORE.

The protective tariff law is so constructed as to force labor into the country and into competition with the labor already here. It's a great system.

Learning in Spite of Himself.

The president admits that the tariff is not sacred and that changes in the schedules are sometimes necessary to meet the nation's shifting needs, which is additional proof that sometimes we progress in spite of our most strenuous efforts to the contrary.



ROOSEVELT OBEYS ORDERS.

PRECIOUS BUTTERFLIES.

A splendid gift has just been made to the Paris Museum of Natural History. M. de Bouille, who possessed one of the most perfect collections of papilionaceae in the world, has presented it to the museum. The specimens number 20,000 and their value is estimated at £4,000. By this magnificent act the collection of the museum is doubled.

SEVERAL SUICIDES IN CHICAGO.

For many years past suicides have been increasing in Chicago at a ratio far in excess of the increase in population. Three hundred and fifty-six suicides in 1900 were followed by 399 in 1901, and 439 last year.

CROWD LONDON'S LABOR MARKET.

It is complained in London that all the emigrants from southwestern Europe who are incapable of earning money enough to pay steerage passage to the United States stop in that city.

HAS FACED MANY AUDIENCES.

Wiley Miss Ellen M. Stone, whose lecture course this spring began last October, she will have told 149 audiences the story of her kidnaping by Macedonian brigands.

BARGES TOWED BY A CHAIN.

Barges are towed on the Elbe by means of a chain 290 miles long, which lies at the bottom of the river and is grappled and raised by steam machinery.

MUCH MILK SOLD IN LONDON.

London has over 12,000 shops for the sale of milk.

FIRST USE OF MEERSCHAUM.

Meerschaum was first used for pipes in 1723.