

SECRETARY SHAW—PRO and CON



"Oh, no, I am not in favor of an elastic currency, but I do say that we need a money that will expand and contract."



No, sir, I do not mourn the defeat of any ship subsidy bill, on the contrary, I am strongly in favor of the government doing everything possible to help the American merchant marine."

Commoner Comment.

THE RACE PROBLEM.

In a recent issue of *The Commoner* there appeared an editorial entitled "The Race Problem," in which a contrast was drawn between the action of the republican party in the Philippine islands and the action of some of the democratic states of the south. The *Inter-Ocean* criticizes some of the statements made and calls upon Mr. Bryan to tell the truth about the matter. In order that the *Inter-Ocean's* criticism may be understood, the entire editorial is reproduced:

In the *Commoner* W. J. Bryan writes on "The Race Problem," and comments the president's recent letter to Governor Durbin against lynching. He gives, also, some very sensible advice to white and black men as to their relations. But Mr. Bryan could not, of course, treat such a subject without defending his party in the south and without some reference to colonial conditions. He says:

"The suffrage amendments in the south, so much complained of by republican politicians, are not nearly so severe as the republican colonial policy in the Philippines."

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tion in the south which from every standpoint of government is infinitely superior to the condition of a colony. If the *Inter-Ocean* will publish this editorial and answer it, the *Commoner* will be glad to reproduce the answer for the benefit of the readers of this paper.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

The *Chicago Tribune* reports Senator Dingley as saying that "the financial question will be the most important subject before the next congress." The *Tribune* adds that the senator believes that the question "will precipitate a long debate, which will cover the whole money question with its old issues and bearings on politics," and he is also "strongly impressed with the belief that in the banking and financial issues to be precipitated this winter in congress, the democrats will have a live, powerful issue."

Senator Daniel is correct; the financial issue will be a live one in congress and the democrats have it in their power to put the republicans on the spot as they will only take up the question and make an earnest fight. But the party is handicapped by the presence of a lot of corporation democrats who have secured office on a harmony platform and these men will support the republicans in their duties upon the foreign competitor, we say to him, we do not rely upon your competition to secure diminishing cost for our necessities of life, but we propose to give our own people our entire market and then rely upon their competition, one with another, to secure the just and fair price."

It is not difficult for the intelligent man to understand that the republican party has built up at our ports these "barriers to free competition." But it does not provide among our own people "competition, one with another, to secure a just and fair price."

The republican party builds up "barriers to free competition" at our ports and then fosters the trust system whereby free competition is destroyed at home; the whole tendency of the republican policies being to benefit the few at the expense of the many.

THE TAARIF SWINDLE

FRANCE HAS A WINNING HAND IN THE GAME.

its Government is Prepared to Prove to Our "Statesmen" That Reciprocal Trade Arrangements Must be Made.

When the Dingley bill was pending its framers set themselves deliberately and none too secretly about constructing certain sections in such wise that reciprocity treaties could be entered into without depriving any of the profiteers of their monopoly shelter.

Their plan was simple. They first put up the protective duties as high as the protectees had the face to demand. Then they proceeded to add 25 per cent so that our foxy diplomats could knock off one-fifth in return for like reductions by foreign countries in favor of American products.

Now, this is not an assertion of "the enemy." It is the truth as stated on the floor of the senate during the last session by Senator Dooliver of Iowa, who was a member of the ways and means committee in the house at the time when the thing was done.

This was regarded as a very shrewd yankee trick at the time. But other countries easily "got wise" and proceeded to block the game—especially France. The French chamber found out what was going on and actually got in the counter before the Dingley blow was delivered.

Whenever the French chamber starts to go anywhere it generally gets here pretty soon, while eight months is short time for the construction and passage of a protective tariff bill by congress. France was ready to meet us with her maximum and minimum rates—more than ready, because she could clap on or take off the maximum rates any minute, while we had to go through all the motions of negotiating and ratifying a treaty.

During the last session our republican tariff shapers proceeded to enact a retaliatory tariff law providing for the inspection of imported foodstuffs and the exclusion of such as the inspectors may find to be adulterated or otherwise objectionable. It is pretty well understood that nothing objectionable will be discovered if the foreign country from which the goods come admits American products on terms satisfactory to our protectionist officials.

Now we find that the French have countered once more. During the recent session their parliament passed a bill about doubling the duties on salted meats, of which we export large quantities to France. The French do not buy other animal products from us very largely, but they are buying our salted meats in great and increasing quantities.

They meet our retaliatory inspection law with a double duty on these meats and then give us plain official intimation that if we wish any commercial trade with them if we do not reduce our monstrous duties on their products.

So the French propose not only to meet our retaliatory measure, but to go further and cut out our most flourishing trade with them if we do not reduce our monstrous duties on their products.

Possibly it will dawn upon our tariff wiseacres after a while that a country which is growing more and more anxious to find foreign markets for its products cannot secure them by shutting and barring its doors against foreign products.

William McKinley made that discovery some time before his tragic death, but his one-time followers and admirers are slow to learn that trade must be reciprocal.

GRAFT IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The exploitation of the Philippines by those of our trust magnates who are interested in extending their operations to those islands has been quietly going on, but the big thing, the building of a system of railroads, is now to be undertaken. Secretary of War Root is evidently anxious to help his corporation friends by giving them government aid to build the projected railroads in Luzon and the other islands. The proposition is to guarantee the interest on the amount of the cost of the roads, which would be sufficient to induce capital to invest in the enterprise. This, of course, means that a deal has been made between the War department and the railroad promoters, for official information is given out that "engineers have been making surveys in the islands, and railroad men have been in consultation with the Secretary of War on the project and it has reached such a stage that it is believed early action will be taken, looking to the building of railroads on an extensive scale."

The scheme seems to be that the government is to give the railroads charters and rights of way over the government land, and guarantee the interest on the cost of building the roads. This will be an incentive to swell the cost of the building of the roads so that the insiders can at once secure a good rake off. The railroads will then have to be capitalized for probably at least double what they actually cost, and the government will have guaranteed interest on the watered stock. This is a nice scheme for the friends of Secretary Root, and as he is about to retire from the cabinet, there is no reason why he will not himself participate in the proceeds.

How the government—the people who pay the taxes—will come out in the deal can be readily imagined and that freight and passenger rates will be exorbitant is a certainty. That the government will be called upon to pay the interest and eventually the principal on the securities issued on the railroads is the history of all like undertakings, and that the taxpayers of the United States will be the eventual sufferers is almost a certainty. Graft under the present administration is becoming epidemic.

LET US HOPE FOR THE BEST.

Preliminary to any action against the thieves who have been robbing the

Indians of their lands it is announced that the work of the Dawes commission "will be thoroughly investigated" by a close personal friend of the president.

This is a peculiar development of the reigning dynasty. Under Mr. McKinley we had "commissions" great and small to do all sorts of things. Under Mr. Roosevelt we have personal friends of the president regulating and investigating secretaries.

And perhaps it is all right. It is natural and in some ways commendable that the president should trust his friends. Doubtless the gentleman who is to scrutinize the doings of the Dawes commission will make a good job of it, being "a close personal friend of the president" and presumably an individual of much honesty, intelligence and discretion.

We can not but recall with some trepidation, however, that the person whom Col. Roosevelt described as "my closest personal friend and political adviser" has been detected in an unlawful glove contract with the war department and is saved from disagreeable consequences by the statute of limitations and by that only.

Let us hope that the individual who is going on the trail of the Dawes commissioners may not succumb to temptation. These be perilous times.

VERY WIDE OF TRUTH.

An extreme illustration of the way in which enmity for civil service reform crops out from the political class is afforded by the utterance of Gen. Henderson, formerly Inter-State Commerce Commissioner. With reference to the recent exposures in the postal service he is quoted as saying that "the civil service rules had made it practically impossible to hold supervisors responsible for the acts of employes, and that blame for irregularities could not be placed upon the heads of bureaus."

The main assertion of this sentence is a direct misrepresentation of the civil service act. Superiors still have the liberty of selection from among the qualified candidates. But the point that makes this misstatement the more flagrant is that they have the full power and duty of dismissal of subordinates for crookedness. The duty of superiors to keep close watch and punish subordinates for any misdeed is indisputable.

Besides this, the inappropriateness of this remark on the present scandals is the more glaring on account of two facts. All the exposures have been of the class which was fertile in expedients for beating the civil service rules, and the heads of bureaus, who, Gen. Henderson says, cannot be blamed, include those who were up to their elbows in the plunder.

TARIFFS DAY IS OVER.

The tariff has done its work. Every dollar it gave the protected few it took from the many; but American industries have attained so vast a volume that they have to invade free trade markets to dispose of their surplus, and as a result they get no protection from the tariff. They have squeezed the orange almost dry, and little remains but to throw away the hull.

As the protective tariff disappears it will go with it. If the Republicans will not do with it, the Democrats will hold power, but if they "stand pat" and try to keep the present high rates, the crash is not far distant, and the fall of protection will also mean the fall of Republicanism.

WALL STREET'S DANGER.

If Wall Street tries a few more games it will be impressed with the fact that it is not the United States and the people thereof. As men grow enlightened they outlive their old superstitions and the crafty priesthoods of error are left to starve on their neglected altars. It was so of old when the Great Pan died; it will be so again when the Almighty Dollar realizes that he is a servant instead of a god.

MEANT TO DECIDE.

At present nobody denies that the old prosecution of star route frauds was only a bluff to deceive the people—who were deceived. Ten years to-day what will be the accepted verdict on administration and people as to the postal frauds of to-day? At least the people should be ashamed to know they had been deceived more than once.

IDEA IS AN ANCIENT ONE.

That expert benevolent assimilationist Captain Pershing believes that after the Moros are Krag-Jorgensenized a little more they will fully appreciate the blessings of American rule. The captain's idea that a grave yard is the proper place to set up a colonial government is not original with him. The Romans had it nineteen centuries and more ago—sollitudo facit pacem appellat.

Don't seem to recognize peace. As Leonard Wood dodges bullets in the underbrush of Mindanao he may be pardoned for doubting our liege lord's enthusiastic praises of Elihu's services in restoring the Philippines to peace and order. For a loyal and contented people our Filipino fellow citizens are mighty reckless in their use of firearms.

ANGER ON THE CLOTHESLINE.

They say Secretary Hitchcock will have a lot of explaining to do before the last word is said in the matter of the interior department scandal. It behooves the president to hurry, for the campaign of 1904 is not so very far away now and it won't do to have a lot of dirty linen on the line when it begins.

NO BENEFIT TO FARMERS.

Not until the United States ceases to produce a surplus of wheat will the protective tariff on wheat be of any value to the farmer. That time may come in fifty or a hundred years, or it may never come at all.

LEFT AN UNGUARDED SPOT.

While Uncle Joseph Cannon was watching the hole of the Iowa tariff idea the Wall Street currency idea broke into the Republican Congressional sheepfold, whence pious blarney and hallooing now proceed.

FRANCE OWNS ONE-THIRD OF AFRICA.

The French domain in Africa comprises one-third of the surface of the continent.

TRIBUTE TO YANKEE INGENUITY

Chinese Paper Describes a Truly Wonderful Invention.

Admiral Dewey was a prominent figure at the Saratoga races. Usually he occupied a box. One afternoon a little party of farmers came up to shake hands with him and, naturally, the talk turned to agriculture.

"When I was in the Philippines," said the admiral, "an American resident brought me a Chinese paper. He said this paper would interest me because it contained an account of an American invention. Then, with a smile, he translated a paragraph that ran something like this:

"The ingenuity of the yankee is typified well in a hen's nest that he has recently invented and patented. This nest increases the laying capacity of the hens to an unlimited degree. In the bottom of it there is a trap door, governed by a delicate spring. The hen lays an egg, the weight of which causes the trap door to open, whereupon the egg drops down into a subterranean compartment and the door closes very swiftly and silently again. The hen gets up, turns to look at the egg, but sees none there. So she decides that she must be mistaken in thinking she had laid, and she sits down again and deposits another egg, which, like its predecessor, disappears. The process continues indefinitely."

BLIND PEOPLE AS MASSEURS.

Occupation for Which They Are Peculiarly Well Suited.

An institute for massage by the blind, which is about to be started in England under a committee that includes many representative medical men, is not an experiment. It has been proved that the blind can become expert in the practice of massage, which in Japan is commonly recognized as their work. The occupations open to the blind are few and rarely remunerative. This difficulty is one of the gravest obstacles to the improvement of the condition of this afflicted class. There are already several blind masseurs in England. Blind students must obtain first-class medical certificates in an art which is daily more used, especially by surgeons in sprains and bruises, and masseurs will be allowed to treat only women and children and masseurs only men. It is worthy of note that the blind are usually endowed with a sense of touch exceptionally fine, so that here, and perhaps here alone, is a field in which they may surpass their seeing fellows, massage being dependent for its success upon the nicety of its application, dependent in its turn on the nicety of the operator's tactile sense.

YOU AND I.

The winter wind is wailing, and low,  
Across the lake and through the trees,  
The splendor of the golden afternoon,  
Glimpses through the blackness of the  
great yew hedge.  
And thus I tread on earth and in the sky;  
We ought to be together, you and I.

Rapt through its rose changes into dark,  
Fades all the west; and through the  
shadowy trees,  
And in the silent splendor of the park,  
Creeps the soft sighing of the rising  
breeze.  
It does but echo to my weary sigh,  
We ought to be together, you and I.

My hand is lonely for your clasping,  
Dear;  
My ear is tired, waiting for your call;  
I want your strength to help, your laugh  
to cheer;  
Heart, soul and senses need you, one  
and all.  
I droop without your full, frank sympathy;  
We ought to be together, you and I.

We want each other so, to comprehend  
The dream, the hope, things planned of  
youth, or wrong thoughts,  
Companion, comforter, and guide, and  
friend,  
As man to love asks love, does thought  
need thought,  
Life is so short, so fast the lone hours  
fly,  
We ought to be together, you and I.  
—Undisputed.

FREE LUNCH FOR WOMEN.

Usually the grocery department of the big grocery stores is thronged with women all day long. Many of them make a point of partaking of all the solids and liquids that are offered as samples. Yesterday one stylishly dressed woman was heard to say to her companion:

"Nonsense, my dear, don't be foolish!" Of course, you needn't bring any thing, unless you really want to. Why, I wander around here three times a week and manage to make a very substantial luncheon by going from one counter to another. The men don't mind taking a bite of free lunch in the saloons, and why should we not do likewise in the department stores?"—*New York Press.*

SOUTH SEA ISLANDER'S PRAYER.

A South Sea Islander, at the close of a religious meeting, offered the following prayer: "O God, we are about to go to our respective homes. Let not the words we have heard be like the fine clothes we wear, soon to be taken off and folded up in a box till another Sabbath comes around. Rather let Thy truth be like the tattoo on our bodies—ineffaceable till death."—*Carlton's Magazine.*

PAINTED THE PRESIDENT'S HORSE.

District Attorney Jerome has a brother, "Larry" Jerome. This brother started his eccentric career while still at Princeton by an undue love of art. Robert Bonner had given President McCosh of Princeton a magnificent snow-white horse of which the old president was inordinately proud, and which he was wont to drive in triumph through the streets. One day, as the president was about to drive on a jury call to Trenton, his hostler failed to bring the white steed to the door on time. Going to the stable to investigate, the president found that "young Jerome" had painted the horse a vivid and patriotic red, white and blue. Then he had permitted the Old Glory horse to roll in the grass, adding a Galway green to the general effect. As the president had no circus to advertise, he missed his drive for the next month.—*New York Evening World.*

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