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News of the Week

The effort of the administration to keep the people in ignorance of the true situation in the Philippines seems now very likely to prove such a very ineffective boomerang that it will in the end cover all who have had a hand in enforcing the censorship at Manila with lasting disgrace. Further than that it will be one of the most effective things in driving the Hancrat power into permanent retirement.

It has been known for more than three months by leading men in the United States that Dewey had no sympathy at all with the Merritt-Otis-McKinley way of dealing with the Filipinos. Now an uncensored cable comes telling us that Dewey is in perfect health and that the reason that he is coming home is that he will have nothing further to do with "shooting niggers" who are fighting for the principles laid down in the Declaration of Independence.

Every one of Otis' campaigns have been a total failure. He has as one critic says: "Won many brilliant skirmishes and lost every campaign." He started with the announcement that he was going to capture the Filipino government and make prisoners of their army and he has failed, miserably failed. The Filipino congress is still in session and the Filipino army, while driven back toward the mountains and the swamps, is still intact and maintains its lines.

As a sample of the way Otis works the censor's telegrams the following is given: "I, he sent the following and it was given out by the war department: 'Situation as follows: Succeeded in passing army gunboats to Culuampit for use in Rio Grande railway connections with that point secured this week. Passage of gunboats through Macabee country hailed with joyful demonstrations by inhabitants.'

On the same day an uncensored cablegram was sent via Hong Kong by the most reliable correspondent in the Philippines which read as follows: "Reports indicate that the insurgents in the province of Cavite are preparing to make a strong resistance against any attempt by the Americans to secure control of that territory. The Filipinos have secured and landed ten machine guns at Capas, on the island of Panay. It is presumed that these guns were captured from the Spanish gunboats while the latter were in Zamboanga."

If the correspondents in Manila had not found some way of getting around Otis' censor, the people of this country who pay his salary and furnish their best young men to die in the trenches under tropical sun to win glory for him, would be in total ignorance of what he is doing. But the reader must always bear in mind that any editor who writes such things about Otis is a "copperhead" and be on their guard.

General Otis need have no fears that the people of Nebraska will ever forget him. The inhuman way in which he has treated the First Nebraska will never be forgotten. They will tell to their children how for months he kept them at the front lying in trenches, assaulting earthworks, making charges upon open fields amidst a rain of Matuser bullets; while his pet regulars—full regiments—were lounging in their barracks in the rear. The line of the first Nebraska grew shorter and shorter—their dead, their wounded and their sick were sent to the rear but every man who was still able to stand on his feet was kept at the front fighting day and night while the petted regulars were well fed, well clothed and kept in safety. Yes we will carefully cherish the memory of General Otis.

The most pathetic thing that ever occurred in any war was when the weak and staggering line, all that was left of the First Nebraska, humbly petitioned this said General Otis that they might have a few days rest. They were willing to keep on fighting, but they had laid in the swamps for two months and had not had a change of clothing. When not fighting, their constant guard duty had kept them up nights and on their feet. They were completely worn out and if they could only have a few days rest they would fight all the better for it. That is all they said although they knew there were many fresh regiments in their rear who had never heard the whistle of a bullet. They did not say that their time was out. They did not mention the fact that when they were asked to re-enlist and offered a bounty

of \$500 each that they had refused. It is true that they called attention to the fact that of the nearly 1,400 men they started in with there were only about 300 left and that at the last sick call 160 of them responded. All they asked was just a few days rest that they might feel able to carry the guns and belts of cartridges. One of the reasons that they gave in addition to their complete exhaustion was that since February 2d the regiment had lost 225 in killed and wounded, besides those disabled by sickness, 80 of them in the battles that had occurred since the capture of Malolos. Their petition was not granted by Otis, but by some means it was forwarded to Washington. Whether our brave and suffering boys have been granted a rest or not we do not know. Several times it has been announced in the press dispatches that the First Nebraska had been retired from the firing line but always afterward when the news came of another fight, it was found that they had again been thrown into the deadliest part of the fighting. Yes, we will remember Otis; and McKinley too.

The imperialist press has devoted columns to telling what the Third Nebraska was going to do to Bryan when he came home—how they would fairly spit upon him and curse him. Well the Third has come home and Bryan went down to Omaha to meet them. Now here is an account of how the boys of the Third acted when they met Bryan. It is taken from the State Journal and you can hand it to your republican neighbor with the assurance that he will not deny anything in it because it was printed in a republican paper: "Colonel Bryan and Adjutant Barry met the train and entered one of the coaches where they were warmly welcomed by the returning soldiers. They crowded about their former colonel, cheering him and struggling for a chance to grasp his hand. Mr. Bryan appeared to know a number of the boys, calling them by name and referring to incidents of the days when they were soldiers together." The second section of the regiment arrived at 2:10 a. m. over the Wabash and despite the late hour Colonel Bryan and a crowd of perhaps 200 people were there to greet them. Many of the boys in this section were from South Omaha and after a few moments spent in greetings and in bidding each other good-bye, they sought their homes. They were all apparently glad to see the colonel and in speaking of him, one of the South Omaha boys is quoted as having said: "All of the boys of the Third Nebraska have a very high regard for Mr. Bryan. While in camp with us he did everything in his power to help us. I have seen Colonel Bryan write out checks to secure from his private purse good food for those who were sick in the hospital."

Andrew Carnegie who is now in London is sending home some lively stuff about imperialism. Among other things he says: "The suppression of the news from Manila which our republican president enforces would not be tolerated by monarchial Britons. Our suppressed cable at Manila that comes via Hong Kong today tells us the Nebraska regiment is reduced to 300 men with 160 on the sick list." Carnegie seems to have learned a lesson from Atkinson and has fled to Europe. He is now in a position to exercise the right of free speech and use the mails and telegraphs, a thing that is denied to American citizens residing in this republic.

From all information obtainable it seems that there is a big row on hands in the Philippines between Otis and some of the members of McKinley's commission. President Seburman does not seem to believe in General Otis' unconditional surrender business and is carrying on a parley with the Philippine congress, trying to arrive at some plan whereby the war can be stopped. In half of what is said in Washington is true, our Napoleon Mack begins to understand that he will have to alter his policy or there will be no hope for him or his party in the next election.

Matters in Cuba seem to be in a very bad state. All sorts of rumors have been in circulation during the last week, but how much truth there has been in them it is impossible to tell. Nevertheless lying has become such a habit with the correspondents of the great dailies that the value of their news columns is wholly destroyed. The stories agree that the demand of General Brooks that the Cuban soldiers should turn over all their arms to the United States upon the payment to them of \$3,000,000, was absolutely refused and that Brooks was instructed to compromise. He did so by agreeing to have the arms turned over to the municipal authorities of the various towns and cities. The imperial administration of McKinley is liable to get us into trouble in Cuba and everywhere

else almost any minute. It environs the government with a thousand dangers that never threatened us when we were following the advice of Washington and minding our own business. The wisdom of the populist position in regard to Cuba, as voiced by Senator Allen in the United States senate, is becoming more apparent every day. What populists proposed to do was to recognize the independence of Cuba and let them work out their own salvation, while we went on attending to our own affairs as we always had done until the Napoleonic nose got into the white house.

EDMISTEN RETIRES

When the populist party made its first nominations in this state there were no recognized leaders. We just came, as it were, together, put out our tickets and went home. Very soon we all learned that we must have an organization, committees in every county and voting precinct. Meetings had to be arranged for and speakers provided. Funds had to be raised. The right man had to be sent to the right place. Various and often conflicting interests had to harmonize. In fact we needed a man gifted with the power of organization.

Who should this man be? None of us knew. But as in all great uprisings of the people when the occasion arose the man appeared. During three campaigns Mr. Edmisten led the populist forces to victory. So overwhelming were the odds against us, when the votes were counted and it was announced that we had won, the leaders of the republican party stood dumb at the completeness of their defeat. At first they denied that they had been defeated, and then they began to wonder how in the world it could have happened. It was not long before they began to blame it upon Edmisten. From that day to this they have filled their press with attacks upon him. The republican leaders don't like Edmisten, and the more they have had to do with him the less they have liked him.

Last Monday at noon, after four years service as oil inspector, he retired and J. N. Gaffa of Saunders county took his place. All the deputies who had served four years also retired. The administration of the office under Mr. Edmisten has been above reproach. He took the office when nothing was turned over to him but a very badly kept set of books which showed a deficiency of \$5,000. He turned over a well furnished office with desks, carpets, type writing machine and other furniture, all of which had never cost the tax payers of the state a cent, besides having covered into the treasury nearly \$10,000 during his term, which reduced the taxes of the state just that much. Mr. Edmisten has never received a cent of money raised by taxation. He has not been a tax eater. The cost of maintaining an office is paid by the Standard oil trust.

In retiring from office Mr. Edmisten had no kick to register. He is a firm believer in the populist doctrine of frequent changes in office. He stands ready at the call of the party for active work at any time. The great rejoicing in the republican camp over the retirement of Edmisten from politics is liable to be turned into bitter lamentations over the fact that he is after them again. But whether he does or not, the fact remains that he did his duty and did it well.

WHO IS A POPULIST?

Editor Independent:

What is a populist? Is he not one who advocates the principles and supports the candidates of the populist party? Does the Independent do either? If it refers to the candidates at all, it is not simply to cast a slur upon them; and does it advocate the principles of the populist party? The Independent supports Mr. Bryan, and Mr. Bryan is a democrat, and thinks more of the democratic party than he does of the populist party; and don't you think it is right then for fanatics to drop the name "populists"? Is there not a great difference between the democratic and populist platforms, and does not what there is of populism in the democratic platform of '96 sound like the populist platform of '92?

Mr. Editor were you in Cincinnati May 19th '91 where the populist party was born? Do you remember the sentiment of those fifteen hundred men? Was it not this: That we are oppressed that there is something wrong; we do not have a fair chance; we cannot stand it this way; have sought relief through the old parties in vain; there is no use of seeking it through them any longer; the working men must have a party of their own. Is not that the sentiment that brought the populist party into existence, that united the south and the west in a political party that emphatically was the populist party? Do you remember what led to that great movement of the people, the agitation, and education of the people through the Knights of Labor and Farmers Alliance organizations and did you help us sing "good bye, old party, good bye"? Are

you proud of the Omaha platform, the second declaration of independence?"

What political party ever made the progress that we did? Were we not in a fair way to succeed; indeed were we not marching straight for the white house right in the middle of the road, steering clear of both old parties? Then why sidetrack that movement? Do you think that the millions of voters who left their old parties in good faith that they might obtain justice, and indeed have a "right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," can be led into becoming an annex to the democratic party? No sir. There are hundreds of thousands of men without a political home; the peoples party that we organized is practically dead. Will the conference that is soon to be held help us out, and must we go over the ground again? He kind enough to tell me where I make a mistake, and just what you think of the situation anyway.

C. A. PATMCK,
Woodville, Cal.

The editor of the Independent was in the reformer movement long before the Cincinnati convention. He fought the two old parties from 1875 onward. He was in the Alliance movement. He has stood by the peoples party in every fight since it was organized. He has defended and today defends every plank of the peoples party platform. However he did not enter this fight for the purpose of creating a party but to get reform. This worship of party has brought all the evils from which we suffer upon us. The republican party worshippers have gone from the teaching of Lincoln to the building up of great corporations against which Lincoln warned them and it is the republican party still. The democratic party has turned a complete somersault since 1890 and it is the democratic party still. The editor still holds to the same principles that he did when he used to get into the school houses or out on the street corners, riding the subway to party and demand devotion to principle. How we used to pile it onto them and tell them that they would vote the ticket that their daddies did until they died, whether there was any prospect of relief or not. Now he is not going to backslide and stick to a party name just because it is a party name regardless of the hope of relief. He is going to keep right on fighting for relief and he don't care a continental how or by whom it comes, so it comes. If he thought that the mighty corporations and concentrated capital could be quickest overthrown by voting the republican ticket, he would vote that ticket from top to bottom. It is the overthrow of the extortions of concentrated capital that he wants and not the building up of any political party.

At present he feels pretty sure that the best way to do that, especially in this state, is to get all the forces that are opposed to republican trusts and the extortions of the money power to vote one ticket. If we insist more upon a name under which we vote, than upon electing men who will assist in giving us good government and righting the wrongs that exist, it seems to him that we throw away the substance for the shadow.

He however insists that the organization of the peoples party shall be kept intact and in fighting trim so that whenever any of these newborn censors who are not yet dry behind the ears begin to show weakness or a longing for the garlic and feshpots of Egypt, the peoples party will be armed and equipped and ready to take the field. If they are willing to fight on our side, we will say to them: "Fall in and shoulder your gun." In that way the populist party and its principles can become the controlling power in the land. If we insist on nominating straight middle-of-the-road tickets, we can influence nobody and secure no reform.

As to Mr. Bryan, the editor of the Independent supports him because he knows him and has known him pretty intimately for a number of years. He believes Mr. Bryan to be as earnest a reformer as can be found in the ranks of the populist party.

Finally we should say in answer to the question—"Who is a populist?" that he is a man who works with all his energy to overthrow the reign of the money power in the best and quickest way that it can be done. The Independent has so far supported every candidate ever nominated by the populist party.

The date at which your subscription expires is marked on this week's issue of your paper. Take notice and if you are in arrears you should make a payment at once.

A CHEAP FARM

A good quarter section of land in Valley county, Nebraska, subject to homestead. For particulars write to No. 538, care of Nebraska Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

MILITARY CENSORSHIP.

What the Sappers and Miners of Returning Despotism Have Already Accomplished.

The McKinley administration has performed more arbitrary acts of despotism than all the administrations since the first shots of freedom were fired at Bunker Hill. These acts are beginning to excite protests, not only outside of the republican party, but within it. The people of this country are suffering from the same system in regard to the press, that has so long been enforced by the Czar in Russia. This is not a wild and meaningless charge but the actual, simple truth. It at present only applies to part of the empire over which McKinley rules, but ere long if something is not done to check the tendency it will become universal. The violation of the mails and the military censorship established in the Philippine islands is in strict accord with the system as practiced in Russia. The St. Louis Republic makes the following remarks on the subject:

"When the facts of the military censorship of news dispatches from the Philippines comes to light—as they will following the close of the war—the people of the United States will receive a startling object lesson of the military despotism inseparable from a policy of foreign conquest. The Republic has already been privately notified by staff correspondents on the scene of action of the arbitrary workings of the system of press censorship inaugurated by General Otis. It is not a pleasant story for Americans to read—the sound popular doctrine of the freedom of the press is not favored by any autocrats, who have their own ends and their own friends to serve. Otis' system, it is stated, 'is exactly the one Weyler enforced in Cuba, against which Americans made such an outcry.'

It is an everyday occurrence for correspondents to be compelled to strike out the names of men or regiments who deserve mention, and to be compelled to send the names of those who have done nothing. 'We don't propose to have the newspapers make any heroes here,' the army press censor tells correspondents. 'If any heroes are to be made, this department makes them.' Therefore the censor 'kills all praise and almost all mention of certain regiments and officers not liked at headquarters, and insinuates on flattery of those officers and troops that are in favor, the general trend being to discriminate against volunteers and regulars.'

In many other ways the correspondents' legitimate freedom of expression is hampered and the Philippine news service interfered with. The development is new in American history—it seems to be a consistent phase of imperialism and militarism, of wars of aggression and conquest waged in distant lands. The iron hand of the professional soldier is felt in a way that is full of menace to the best interests of a great and peace-loving republic. 'I was you to understand,' said the American censor in the Philippines, 'that this is a military despotism. We do not recognize that any one except the army has any rights.'

When the people of the United States learn the full facts of army autocracy in the Philippines the sentiment against imperialism will crystallize into sudden and most material substance. The peril of military dominance has been swift to show itself in the far east. It will be promptly recognized by the people. They will see to it that the necessary correction is administered. Under a republican form of government there are many other interests besides 'the army' which have rights that must be respected. The public press, always the safeguard and informant of the people, is one of these interests.

A FIGHT AHEAD

There has not yet been a more pungent and patriotic reply made to the sappers and miners of returning despotism than that by Dr. Pretorius in his answer to an assault made upon the patriotism of the German Americans by a New York Imperialist. While the spirit of '76 has been bartered away by some native born Americans for gold and glory, it seems to have settled back upon the hearts of the German-Americans and burns there with the same force and power as it did in the hearts of Washington and the ragged patriots of Valley Forge and Yorktown. The following words are so full of real Americanism that the reading of them sets up a glow in the heart of every man who believes in the declaration of independence. Dr. Pretorius said:

"There is going to be a head-breaking fight before the republic Washington fought for and Lincoln died for is turned over to English control. German-American heads may be broken in it, but they will not be the only ones. We have a majority of six million American votes against a pro-English policy of colonial imperialism any day the question is put to the American people. German-Americans are ready for the issue! Let London give the word to Washington for the roll call to begin.

"What American is there who can think without indignation of this atrocious conspiracy against the liberties of America and the peace of the world. Who, retaining a vestige of regard for the America of Washington and Jefferson, Lincoln, Sumner and Howard, will not hide his face when he sees that London imperialists, sapping their victims

ous orders to American set our armies to cutting the throats of our late allies on their own soil in order to give England a better base of operation against China, while as the result of the same imperialism—for it is nothing less—English money is used to involve America with Germany in Samoa—not that there is the slightest antagonism of interest between Germany and America, but because it suits England's policy in Africa and in China to use America as a buffer.

"They will never succeed—never! The sentiment of the German-American press is a true reflex of the American people. German-American newspapers are not controlled from London. They do not depend upon London for permission to live. They are not involved with these interests once American which have been recognized by English capital. They are independent. They are intelligent. They are American. They are standing by the flag of the United States and all it has meant in foreign progress for the world. They never will back an inch under the villainous attacks made on their patriotism by the resident agents of London capitalists. Instead they will go forward in the front line of the advance. Americans who believe in Americanism are already making up the words of British imperialism."

OLD SOLDIERS REBEL

It seems that the republican party has lost its hold on the old soldiers of Kansas. In this state the G. A. R. posts are in many cases simply tools of g. o. p. politicians of the very worst type. Not because the republicans have a majority, but simply because those who are self-respecting refuse to make a stand against the schemers. The following press dispatch related how the old, self-respecting fighters sat down on the g. o. p. schemers in Kansas:

"All the schemers of the republican politicians to 'run' the state enactment of the Grand Army of the Republic failed utterly. Resolutions were adopted demanding a congressional inquiry into the official oppression of Pension Commissioner, H. Clay Evans. The republican workers tried to head off the demonstration, but the veterans were in no mood to compromise. The republican managers were beaten again on a resolution that they wanted adopted indorsing Governor Stanley for his 'courteous treatment' of the old soldiers. Such a resolution was introduced but was beaten, for the reason that Governor Stanley has not treated the old soldiers courteously, but even had he done so he would have performed only his duty.

The idea of having the Grand Army make a republican side show was not relished by the veterans and the resented the presence of C. Leland, Lie Crum, Phil Kelly and Governor Stanley by accomplishing everything they opposed and defeating everything the bosses wanted. Leland wanted to head the Kansas delegation to the national convention next summer. He was turned down. Leland, Stanley and Crum and the other republican workers were against Coulter for commander and Coulter was elected. The push was against Topinka and it was decided to hold the next reunion at Topinka. All things considered, the republican machine has no reason to be proud of its achievements here.

So insignificant was the opposition to the resolution denouncing McKinley's pension bureau that practically no votes were cast against it.

A DASTARDLY SCHEME

A more dastardly attempt to break up a great institution of learning was never known than that now being prosecuted by republican politicians in Kansas. When the populist regents came into power they found the agricultural college running along in the old groove, with a fair attendance, but with little push and vigor. Professor Willis was made president, and among the live men added to the faculty were Professors Bemis and Parsons. These three men are daring and original thinkers. They put new life and energy into the institution, and the attendance and interest increased with leaps and bounds. The book store and boarding club, by reducing the two chief items of college expense to actual cost, enabled many young people to avail themselves of the advantages of the college who had previously been unable to do so. But these features cut off private profits, and republican politicians—who may always be relied upon to oppose anything which really benefits the masses—raised the cry of "socialism" as soon as they got into the saddle again. We do not believe the people of Kansas will submit to the dictation of these selfish conspirators and allow their college to be reduced to the mediocre position it formerly occupied. Kansas is not in the habit of making progress backward like a crawfish.

GOLD BUG CUNNING

The cunning of the goldites is past finding out. The great banking houses of London and New York move in mysterious ways the people to defraud. Secrecy and deception are required to exclude from public gaze the doings of the conspirators. The little band of servants of gold monopoly in the house of representatives who have been outwitting for some time at Atlantic city are equally cautious with the wily manipulators on both sides of the Atlantic whom they so faithfully serve.—National Watchman.