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News of the Week

A paper published in Manila before Colonel Stotsenberg's death, gave the following account of the conditions of the First Nebraska. After they had been reduced by fighting, sickness and death to the condition described, Otis kept them on the firing line and threw them in to death trap after death trap, charging intrenchments and covering the advance of the whole army, while his full regiment of regulars, commanded by West Point gentlemen, educated at public expense, were held in the rear. Was he afraid that his West Point pets would flunk? Read the following account of the condition of the regiment before the death of Stotsenberg and then remember, not the Maine, but Otis.

"Company L is now without an officer; five sergeants are still on duty and no corporals.

"Company G is commanded by Second Lieutenant Fisher.

"Company A has one sergeant and three corporals; first lieutenant of company G is in command.

"The regiment at present has but 400 men reported for duty. Two companies are represented by scarcely two sets of four apiece.

"One company for a time was commanded by the chaplain, another by a sergeant. Colonel Stotsenberg may not have many men in the regiment, but they are fighters and make themselves felt on the firing line."

How any honorable man can consent to occupy the position in which the commissioners appointed by McKinley to negotiate with the Filipinos find themselves, is beyond comprehension. If there is any sense of honor left in them how their cheeks must have burned with shame when the president of the Filipino peace commission said to them in parting: "The principles of your constitution impress us profoundly. The plan of government offered the Philippines seems, in theory, a good colonial system. But why should a nation with your constitution seek to make a colony of a distant people who have been so long fighting against Spain to secure the same rights your constitution gives? You fought the same battle in America when you fought against England."

When the old soldiers followed the flag under the orders of Lincoln, did they ever expect to live to see the time when a people struggling for liberty would make such an appeal as that to a successor of Lincoln in the white house? The beast of greed has taken possession of every department at Washington, and appeals to the instincts of mankind in the name of liberty no longer have force.

What the Independent said last week about Dewey's health and the reason he wanted to quit Manila is sustained by an interview with surgeon Page of the Olympia to which vessel he has been attached ever since the admiral hoisted his flag over her. Surgeon Page says that "Admiral Dewey is as well as a man could expect to be after spending seventeen months in the climate of which he has been subjected. There has been no appreciable change in his appearance, weight or physical condition since he took command of the Olympia."

The facts about Dewey's retirement from Manila are just as the Independent stated them to be. He was disgusted with the whole McKinley policy. He was as tired of the butchery carried on under Otis' orders as was Colonel Stotsenberg. He could not get along with McKinley's commissioners. In fact he wanted nothing more to do with the matter. He is not going to be used by the Mark Hanna gang for political purposes either. He has sent word that he will not arrive in this country until October. That will be after the elections are held.

The Mark Hanna management in Cuba is on the verge of collapse. Every body is dissatisfied and every thing seems to be wrong. No more unfit men in the whole army, unless it would be Shafter, could have been appointed as governor general of Cuba than Gen. Brooks. He has not one qualification for the office. If Gen. Wood were put in control there would soon be a change. Brook is one of Mark Hanna's aristocratic pets. Wood's magnificent management of the island has no effect at Washington. What it has been may be seen from the last report by Gen. Wood made, which was as follows:

"Santiago, May 25.—To the secretary of war I have just returned from an inspection of the principal interior towns

on the north coast in this department. The people are at work, there is no hunger and there were no applications for personal assistance during the trip. There are no Cuban troops under arms anywhere in the province and no brigandage.

Germaine Towle in a letter to a friend in Omaha written before the death of Stotsenberg, says that all that will ever come back of the First Nebraska will be its name. That is stating it even stronger than the Independent did last week. Remember Otis.

The statements made by the Independent in the "News of the Week," have been so fortified by subsequent events in every instance that some of the republicans who have read them have asked how it was possible for this paper to get what seemed to them, exclusive news. When it was said a month or two ago that it would take 100,000 men to conquer Aguinaldo and a little later that reports of Otis were misleading and while it had won many brilliant skirmishes by the valor of the western volunteers, that he had in reality lost every campaign, it was set down by these gentlemen as "pop talk" and nothing more. But when on last Saturday morning all the imperialist papers announced that very large reinforcements must be sent to the Philippines because Otis was not able to hold even the ground he had fought over, for want of troops to garrison the towns these gentlemen began to realize that the Independent had told the truth and printed the news, while the imperialist papers had been lying and suppressing the news.

McKinley has been informed every morning before breakfast by his general in the Philippines that Aguinaldo was whipped and that the insurgents would soon come in and lay down their arms. Now it appears that there was not a word of truth in these grandiose dispatches. The rains are pouring down in the Philippines, the country is a sea of mud, the Filipinos keep attacking our lines first here and then there, giving the worn out boys in the ranks no rest day or night, the sun pours down its torrid rays, the fevers invade the camps and Otis wants 100,000 more troops to overthrow the Philippine republic.

According to Otis he has killed about half a million of niggers, but it will take 100,000 more men to kill the rest of them in this last statement Otis is right. If we ever conquer the whole of the Philippine islands we will have to bury more than 100,000 brave boys beneath the bamboos and palms. Will any man who has common sense say that that will be a profitable scheme for this nation? Oh! you mullet heads, haven't you any sense at all? Not only will we bury our brave boys by the thousand over there, but we will bury hundreds of millions of our hard earned dollars in national bonds and pay interest on them for generations yet to come. Go on and talk of "glory," "destiny," "the old flag," go on. Hell isn't very far ahead on that road. The ground already is hot beneath your feet. Go on. It's "destiny."

McKinley has received a rebuke from the poor, starving Cubans such as no ruler on earth ever received before. When history comes to be written, this rebuke will play a conspicuous part in the struggle of Cuba for Independence.

Some time ago when McKinley sent Mr. Porter to Gomez as his special envoy, he reported that that old general said to him: "The Cubans are different from the Americans—patriotism with them is not a matter of money. It may be true that they would become richer by annexation with the United States. But they would rather be poor and independent than rich and lose their independence. They have fought and suffered long to make Cuba free and the matter of dollars does not influence them."

That what General Gomez said was true, is demonstrated by the occurrence of last week. The Cubans were offered \$75.00 each to turn over their arms, practically to the United States. Bags of gold and a great show of officers and clerks went to the place of payment, but no Cubans appeared. After waiting nearly all day the paying force heard that a Cuban soldier was confined in the penitentiary for some crime and he was not for, marched to the paymaster's and paid his \$75.00. That ended the first day's proceedings. The next day three more Cuban soldiers appeared and turned over their guns. The next day about seventy-five appeared with guns to turn over, but upon investigation it was found that many of them had never been in the Cuban army at all.

It was a speculation on their part. They could buy a gun for much less than \$75.00 which they could turn in and be that much the gainer.

The Cubans say that the disbanding of the Cuban army is going on all the time and that the return of the soldiers to their homes with their guns will have exactly the opposite effect from what General Brooks fears. They say that the soldiers will go home and use their guns only to protect themselves from bandits. It seems that military men can never learn to trust the people. They are always afraid of them. They predicted that awful things would happen when the soldiers of the civil war were disbanded and returned to their homes. Because nothing happened and the soldiers of the greatest army on earth went quietly about their duties as citizens after four years of continuous fighting, they have never yet ceased to express their surprise. But they do not seem to have learned anything from that experience and still hold to the opinion that the common people cannot be trusted.

The plutocrats judges have lately handed down decisions giving their estimate of the value of a human life. One New Jersey judge estimated the life of a child killed by a corporation at \$1. A republican judge in Connecticut placed the value of the life of a workman at \$10. It is not much wonder that he did so when he reflected that Mark Hanna was able to buy many thousands of them along in the fall of 1896 at much less than that.

THEY WILL HANG HIM

The first thing that Money Warren knows his republican brethren will have him hung for a copperhead. In one editorial in last week's Mirror he says he is opposed to trusts, and that the other republican editors who say the trusts are a blessing don't tell the truth, for he went out and made inquiry, and two hardware merchants told him that since the stove trust was formed the price of stoves had been raised 25 per cent. In another editorial he threatens to kick one kind of republicans out of his office if they pay him any more visits making dishonorable proposals. Here is what he says:

"A prominent republican leader from Chicago approached us with a proposition to do all in our power to prevent and endeavor to break up fusion of the parties opposed to us. We felt like kicking the case out of our office, and that is just what we will do to the next fellow who comes along with any such proposition to us. We are not dictating, shaping, or moulding the destinies of opposition parties. If they want to lose, let them lose it, it is none of our business. We have our own battles to fight, and let them fight theirs. Let the battle be fought on the sole ground of principle; without any underhand work, subterfuge, or hypocrisy. Let the republicans fight it out on the principles of republicanism. Let the others fight it out on the line of the doctrines of the fusionists. But for goodness sake don't send any more emissaries around here to try and get us to meddle with the affairs of the fusion campaign. We will strive to gain victory with honor, but we will not advocate dishonorable means to obtain it. All parties are struggling for supremacy on what they think is the fundamental principles of right and justice. Then let it be fought out accordingly."

THEY WERE THERE

The Independent has been trying to get a list of those present at Kansas City the other day who sent invitations from the "peoples party headquarters." The following is taken from the Lewisburg Sentinel. If that is what is left of the peoples party let us crawl into a hole and pull the hole in after us.

"Wharton Barker of Philadelphia, who is to all practical purposes the candidate of the peoples party for president, is represented by his son, Rodman Barker.

WASHINGTON, May 30.—The statistics of the production of coal in the United States during 1898 have just been compiled by E. W. Parker, of the geological survey. The compilation shows some interesting results. The production for Kansas of short tons was 3,468,355, valued at \$3,703,014, an increase of 352,563 tons, valued at \$100,000 over the year 1897. Indian Territory's production was 1,351,466, valued at \$1,877,978, an increase of 5,177 tons, valued at \$38,813. Missouri, 2,889,917 short tons, valued at \$6,308,939, an increase of 21,791 tons, a decrease in value of \$19,913.

THAT BLOODY BATTLE

Private Letters Describe How the First Was Led Into a Trap and Lost Their Colonel.

Private letters have been arriving for the last three or four days from the soldiers who took part in the battle in which Colonel Stotsenberg was killed, so it is impossible to get a very fair idea of the battle and all its details in which the First Nebraska suffered so severely.

It appears that a scouting party brought on the engagement. The First was, as usual, the first to respond to the call to arms. Colonel Stotsenberg, being absent the command of the regiment fell to the senior officer, Major Mallord. Major Egger commanding the third battalion was already out along the line with companies D, F, A, and H, to the northwest to the relief of the scouting party which was under the command of Major Bell of the regular army. A detachment of the Iowa regiment also moved out upon the extreme right, but through some misunderstanding or want of definite orders failed to get very near the Filipino line.

Upon reaching the thicket of bamboo where the insurgents were concealed the battalions under the command of Major Egger, came upon the forces under Major Bell, who were trying to get out although they had to leave one of their number wounded on the field. Major Egger pushed his battalion forward in skirmish line, D and H on the right of the road and A and N on the left. The advance, companies D and H drove the insurgents out of the bamboo thicket and advanced beyond into the open field. Keeping up their formation, the whole battalion continued to press forward, passing a ditch and still on they went under a galling fire. Then there was a dead silence and the fire from the insurgents ceased altogether. Still on ward the command under Major Egger pressed. No orders came from the general in command to stop, and the First Nebraska was not in the habit of stopping when they were after the enemy until they were ordered to.

It was another Balkinaria. Some one had blundered. The Third battalion had been ordered to go after the enemy and on they went across an open field which had been plowed with bullets and a hail storm not an hour before, and the enemy lying in concealment behind their entrenchments and ambuscades by the thousand, right in their immediate front. Onward went the Third battalion across the open field, while only six hundred yards in front of them stretched a bamboo thicket hiding earth works in which lay in perfect silence hundreds of the enemy with their Mauser rifles trained upon the little line of Nebraskans, which, with a perfect formation continued to advance. The sun poured down its torrid rays upon their blinded shoulders. Every man who could stand on his feet, was in his place and the silence of death reigned over the whole scene. There were no orders given. No officers voice was heard. There was no occasion for it for every man was in his place and marching on, some bent slightly forward as a man does to meet a sudden dash of rain. They all knew what was in that thicket of bamboo but not a man faltered. Some glanced hurriedly to the right or left to see if they were keeping in perfect line and then fixed their gaze on the silent bamboo thicket in front of them and pressed on. Five hundred yards, four hundred yards, and not a sound to break the stillness. Onward went the Third battalion. Two hundred yards! A hail of bullets that plowed up the earth and raised a cloud of dust that obscured the field. As the dust rose, the open field seemed to be vacated. Not a man was to be seen. What had become of the Third battalion? They were lying, what there were left of them alive, flat on the ground and a storm of bullets was plowing the field in front, behind and all around them.

Companies A and F were engaged in a hot fight on their side of the road but they were not in an open field. Companies M, I, B and K came up in the rear of the Third battalion and lay in the ditch over which the Third had charged.

Where was the general? He stood in the rear anxiously viewing the situation that his orders had created. He had sent the First Nebraska into a trap. How was he to get them out? His artillery was not there. Still the enemy rained bullets upon the Third battalion at a range of two hundred yards while the men lay flat on the ground. If one of them made the slightest movement, the sharpshooters made a target of him.

There the Third battalion lay for nearly three hours while the tropical sun burned and blistered them. What was their general doing to relieve them? No one knows.

The brave Stotsenberg was miles away but he heard the firing and rushed to the front. When he saw what his general had done, he sharply addressed his commanding officer and demanded a battery. The general ordered him to call a retreat. But the brave colonel replied: "Never. My men don't know how to retreat. Half of them would be killed if they attempted to retreat."

Then Stotsenberg rushed forward. On, past companies I, B, K and M who lay in the ditch on the Third battalion he came. When they saw their colonel a shout pierced the air. As he came forward walking upright he was a target for the whole line of the enemy two hundred yards away. There were cries from the men for him to be down but he stood erect. A couple of guns had at last got

ten into position in the rear and at the first shot the colonel ordered the companies in the rear to come forward and they came to the aid of the Third battalion which had laid under the fire of the enemy for nearly three hours. Confidence returned. A commander was there who knew his business. This commander shouted "Forward!" and led the way. Onward rushed the First Nebraska with their colonel in the lead. All the morning the enemy had poured in a hot fire. It was ten times hotter now. Though the line was thin and weak when it started and though it grew thinner and weaker every step they took, not a man faltered. A bullet struck the colonel in the breast. He cried: "Go on!" and fell dead.

The First Nebraska obeyed the dying order of their beloved colonel and "went on." They drove the enemy out of the bamboo thicket and out of their entrenchments and stood victorious on a bloody field.

The list of killed and wounded has long since been published. Many of them lie suffering in the hospitals under a torrid sun. The dead have been buried. What was it all for?

FARMER'S EDITORIALS

Farmers are responding to the request of the Independent to help edit it. Here are a few items sent in by one (not for publication he said), but they go all the same. If the men who follow the plow and think while they hold the handles, would carry a little note book, jot down some of those thoughts and send them to this paper, it would soon become the most interesting publication in the United States. There is a deal of thinking done on Nebraska farms but it does the world no good because it is not given to the public. Here are the editorial items that one farmer sends:

Farmers should have one dollar per bushel for wheat in order to prosper and twenty-five cents for corn. Then the papers would not have to crack a whip over our heads all the time to tell us what to do when we would be glad to have the means to fix up the farm.

As to the free coinage of silver, the courts ought not to tempt a person to coin silver. Who could make riches go faster than by buying silver bullion and double his money but poor people might get caught as in Vanderbilt could build a Billionaire palace in the mountains and coin millions of silver and pass it into circulation without fear of government for he is greater than the government, and could buy its supreme court and wipe his feet on the president. I cannot see any other purpose he had to build a house like that in such a place.

Perhaps the rich will fortify the islands of Porto Rico, and Cuba, and then with a strong navy rule the United States in the same way that England keeps her aristocracy safe from harm.

I have in mind now three farms on which little or no improvements have been made in the last twenty-five or thirty years. They are owned by hard working, close calculating farmers. Those houses were built in an early day, two, a story and a half high and the other only one story high. Size of two sixteen by twenty feet, the other eighteen by twenty, each have a lean to kitchen on the back, neither have been painted, and when old General Prosperity gets here I know each man will be only too glad to build, for they would like something more than a mere shelter. We sold a good farm in Wisconsin and built a small comfortable house with money we brought here. Our house is twenty by twenty-four feet, two stories high and by hard work and close calculation we were able to build a kitchen sixteen by twenty in twenty-seven years of hard labor, but I cannot tell how many fine buildings our crops have built in cities. But let them keep on destroying the farms so grass can grow in the cities.

When the Farmers Alliance started up in such numbers, the politicians were afraid the farmers were going to unite to control the price of farm products, and hastened to pass laws to prevent such a thing as that being done, as it is wrong for a farmer to get a fair price for what he raises. But for all of those laws, see what a multitude of combinations have been formed until every thing the farmer needs to buy is controlled by trusts. If the farmer does not get relief from some source God help him, for he cannot help himself.

I will tell you what I think about the last election. I saw on election day three covered wagons going by. I did not see into the two first, but the last I saw was filled with men who looked like our hucksters looking for work, and knowing the rottenness of the republican party which I once loved, I believed they were repeaters from towns, who, having voted in town, knowing the care-

lessness and hurry of farmers just came out to vote in precincts as corn shuckers. I know they are vile enough for anything, bribery, corruption, or anything to carry their day.

Mr. Blachmer sends a few paragraphs to the Independent which are added to our Farmers Editorials. Besides that he sends a very valuable suggestion as to work during the next campaign which has been handed over to the state committee and doubtless will be adopted.

The "White Man's Burden" is to set a perfect example, rather than to compel heathen nations to follow a faulty one.

The talk that it is a Christian duty to be unappreciated and unwelcome blessings on the heathen people is the vilest rot, and is made by hypocrisy only. It is only another form of the sentiment: "The end justifies the means," and "we may do evil that good may come."

Governments were organized for the protection of society; not for the commercial conquest of the world.

Foreign capital has no rights in any land where it cannot gain reasonable entrance, the welcome and the protection of the rulers.

Every people has the right to develop itself according to its own ideas without interference.

The Philippine islands belong to the people whom God put in possession of them, that is the Filipinos. It is not a Christian duty to take territory from the God given owners, because we are there and some other nation might, if we do not. It is not the "duty" of a nation to give freedom at great cost to all the natives and unpopulated territory that may ask it. Duty to itself and its own people come first. Our duty to give liberty, civilization and religion to the Filipinos is the duty to peacefully offer them. A better thing than America's protestations, would be a protectorate by all nations.

The man who says "no president, right or wrong" has something wrong either with his head or his heart.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Editor Independent: I would like to ask you the meaning of the celebration of the queen's birthday at many places in the United States, also the flying of the union jack decoration day. These things I have seen since I came to Kansas. Whether they do it in other states I do not know, but I never saw it before. It calls to mind a verse of an old song to the American eagle. "Oh guard you well the land where I dwell, lest to future time the tale I shall tell. When slow experience smouldering fires The godly heritage of your sire ate." For your part, you are doing nobly as you print the best paper I ever read.

E. P. FERRISSON, White City, Kan.

It means that a lot of millionaires in New York and Boston have got tired of our form of government and want an empire, king, titles, an aristocracy, a peasant population, and all that sort of thing. So they get the mullet heads to help them along by holding the flag of an empire and falling down and doing obeisance to it. The mullet heads having no brains do everything that the millionaires tell them to do, even to advocating standing armies and imperialism.

JEWS NOT THE RICHEST

No Jew today in America has a fortune of the first class. In a list of the richest fifty men in the country there is no Jewish name. If such a list were extended to one hundred there would be none. The Jews are great traders, no doubt, but the Scotch, the Scotch-Irish, the French, the Dutch, and the pure Yankee can beat them hollow when the trading is done on a large scale requiring executive ability, courage, and absolute confidence in the integrity of the merchant. No doubt the Jews make a great deal of money, but they are speculators and gamblers, and what they make is never held securely. Then again, they do not, or rather they have not in the past, generally begun by capital secured by inheritance. Nor have they, until lately, invested in lands. They are also oriental in their tastes and spend with such liberality to themselves in their living. A Jew, when profits accrue to him, is generally very liberal to himself and to all that belong to him. And many generally belong to him, for the Jews are noted for their large families. However, I repeat in entire confidence, there is today in America no individual Jew so exceptionally rich that he can rank in wealth with the fifty or one hundred men who stand at the top—John Gilder Sneed, in Atkinson's for Jun-