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LAUGHLIN SPEAKS

PROFESSOR POLITICAL ECONOMY AGAINST M'KINLEY.

Famous University Man Tells His Classmates He Will Not Vote for Republicans This Year—He Opposed 10 to 1 in 1896.

Prof. J. Laurence Laughlin, who was one of William McKinley's most energetic supporters four years ago, and who took a prominent part in debates with "Coin" Harvey...

"The course of the present administration is opposed to the very origin and genius of our institutions," he insists, "and I cannot vote for McKinley."

Prof. Laughlin is head of the department of political science at the University of Chicago.

"Trade does not follow the flag," he insists, "but on the contrary, the flag follows trade."

"The argument that this course is an effectual means to trade expansion is fallacious. Go back to the years between 1883 and 1890 and you will find that the total annual value of the exports and imports in the Philippine Islands was \$34,000,000.

"Increasing trade will not depend on our owning the Philippines. After we get them we must open the doors of trade to other nations upon about the same conditions as we ourselves enjoy.

"The fact that the value of American exports has reached a sum never equaled before refutes the claim that we need foreign ports to sell goods.

"America has taken the lead in iron and steel trade because of the abundance of ores, the improved machinery for loading and the capacity of transporta.

"It is the laboring man and the taxpayer who defray the enormous cost of exploiting a new country for the benefit of a favored few who obtain industrial concessions there.

"Imperialism is the government of a colony which has no equal share in controlling the policy of the parent state.

"It is the very elementary principle on which the constitution is based, and that principle is being betrayed.

"President McKinley declared at Atlanta two years ago that the flag has been planted in two hemispheres, where it remains the symbol of liberty and law, of peace and progress.

of the people demands that so long as it remains its folds shall provide for white men and brown men alike a free and independent government and assurance from outside aggression.

"The baseness of this philosophy should bring its own punishment and dishonor. The base greed for gain which has led strong interests to obtain the promise of special privileges in return for political support is apparent in the whole business.

"The idea was to carry forward the idea of changing the form of government now existing here—a form that now makes trusts and their profits depend on an election, and is, therefore, insecure.

"Roosevelt was selected to run for vice-president.

"If anything should happen to Mr. McKinley, the trusts would be quite content to see Roosevelt in the White House.

"We do not ask the opinion of the citizen whose personal physical timidity leads him to worship a magazine-made hero.

"Roosevelt stands for a huge permanent army, and for using it against those who should fall to agree with him.

"He is a man who would use the country and its citizens for his own stupid ambition and big-toothed glory.

"How many voters want Mr. Stork Roosevelt to come along and dispose of their destinies for his greater glory?

"How many want to be rough riders or rough taxpayers without their own consent?

"If you vote for Roosevelt for vice-president you are not necessarily voting to give an ornamental job to an ornamental bawler.

"While the great powers of Europe are steadily enlarging their colonial domination in Asia and Africa, it is the especial province of this country to improve and expand its trade with the nations of America.

"Does that spell imperialism? A policy of peace, of friendship, of commercial enlargement?"

"Postmaster Sullivan of Cripple Creek, who made the so-called Victor mob to order, is now calmly awaiting his reward.

SOAP AND STARCH TRUSTS.

The Indianapolis Sentinel in commenting upon the co-operation of the soap and starch trusts in Indiana, says:

The soap trust commands a capital of \$25,000,000, and the starch trust about half that amount—the two trusts having a capital of about \$35,000,000.

"Soap is said to be pre-eminently an article of civilization because cleanliness is the fundamental basis of all physical refinement, and it has been proposed to estimate the progress of civilization by the consumption of soap, the formula being to divide the total quantity of soap consumed in a given time by the total population consuming it, the quotient expressing the civilization of the community.

"To make soap cheap it appears essential to civilization and refinement; to make it dear is to obstruct the march of progress, civilization and refinement and promote ignorance, filthiness and barbarism, and that is just what the soap trust is engaged in doing.

"Indiana is distinguished for her civilization and refinement, and measured by schools, churches and the consumption of soap, she is in the van of progress.

"The trust has no single sympathizer, no single ally in all creation, except hunger, but it wants and needs no other or better ally.

"Are you going to realize the hopes of law breakers? Are you going to watch hundreds of thousands hopelessly fighting against unlimited money and villainy—or will you send to victims of the trust, as you sent to victims of the storm, help that shall carry them through their troubles?"

"These men and women now suffer because you have permitted the trusts to grow strong and defiant during the past four years.

"Will you send supplies to the relief of the Pennsylvania miners, as you did the victims of the Texas storm and the northern gold fields?"

"Are you more interested in HALF A MILLION POOR MEN or in HALF A DOZEN VERY RICH MEN?"

"We believe that your reply to this question may have a certain bearing on your future career.

JUST HOW IT IS.

Miner—Say, look here, boss! The coal trade is prosperous just now; don't you think that we ought to share in that "McKinley prosperity" the papers tell so much about? We ought to have more pay.

"But I cannot disguise my anxiety that every step in our predestined future shall be by natural process, without war, and, I may add, even without purchase. There is no territorial aggrandizement which is worth the price of blood."

"Sumner was in favor of expansion by natural process only. He was not an advocate of expansion by purchase, and was absolutely opposed to expansion by force of arms.

"It is estimated by conservative Republican leaders that Col. Roosevelt's strenuous tour of the far west has cost McKinley the states of the two Dakotas, Wyoming and Utah, even had there been a chance for him in the four commonwealths.

IT IS UP TO M'KINLEY.

PERTINENT INTERROGATION ON TYRANNY OF GOLD.

A Question for the President—Do Victims of a Trust Deserve Less Sympathy than Victims of a Flood?—Thousands Threatened with Hunger.

Mr. McKinley's response to suffering in Texas was prompt and admirable. The war department was ordered to relieve distress as far as possible and to spend money freely to that end.

"Mr. McKinley's action in the Klondike and at Cape Nome, when American citizens by thousands were threatened with starvation, was equally commendable. Government steamers were dispatched to bring back to civilization unfortunate stranded because of foolish, thoughtless impulsiveness.

"Thousands of citizens being threatened with great danger, the president justly decided that he could brave the boggy of "paternalism" and send relief at the expense of the nation.

"We now ask Mr. McKinley a very serious question in regard to another large body of citizens threatened with starvation, oppressed with a danger, permanent and therefore more formidable than storm or cold.

"The trust has no single sympathizer, no single ally in all creation, except hunger, but it wants and needs no other or better ally.

"Will you permit the trusts, which have defied the laws that you are sworn to enforce, to overrule the promptings of humanity?"

"Are you going to realize the hopes of law breakers? Are you going to watch hundreds of thousands hopelessly fighting against unlimited money and villainy—or will you send to victims of the trust, as you sent to victims of the storm, help that shall carry them through their troubles?"

"These men and women now suffer because you have permitted the trusts to grow strong and defiant during the past four years.

"Will you send supplies to the relief of the Pennsylvania miners, as you did the victims of the Texas storm and the northern gold fields?"

"Are you more interested in HALF A MILLION POOR MEN or in HALF A DOZEN VERY RICH MEN?"

"We believe that your reply to this question may have a certain bearing on your future career.

"The coal miners of Pennsylvania, and incidentally the laboring men everywhere," the Atlanta Constitution says, "might do well to let their imaginations picture the treatment the strikers would receive at the hands of federal authorities and federal troops were Roosevelt in the presidential chair. The hoodlum campaign being waged through the west by this mouthful advocate of the 'strenuous' life is a fair example of his methods.

"I do not fear that McKinley will proclaim himself king next year should he be re-elected. I fear not that the United States will be a monarchy in five or ten or twenty-five years. But I fear that in the course of time, if we pursue this policy of imperialism, we will find ourselves descending on a toboggan slide of national degradation.

"The peace treaty was not binding until it was ratified by the United States senate and by the Spanish cortes. The senate ratified it Feb. 6, 1899. The cortes ratified it April 11, 1899.

MONEY IN GAS.

Few people on the outside realize or even dream of the enormous profits of the gas monopoly. Once in a while some of the facts come out and the public obtains fleeting glimpses of the astonishing truth.

"From the books of the Springfield Gaslight Company, as shown in a report of its own, the profits of the business are and have been phenomenal. In 1851 the concern had \$25,000 invested in a plant. This is substantially all the money which has been invested in the enterprise. Since that time the company has paid \$1,682,473 in dividends; and it now has a capital stock of \$500,000, and paid out of these dividends, whenever an issue of stock was made a corresponding dividend was declared to offset it.

"This enormous profit is the result of an exclusive ownership of the streets. As there seems to be no practicable way of securing competition in gas service, on account of cost of laying mains, the remedy for the extortion is public ownership of gas works, which would cut down the price of gas to one-half or one-third of present price and still pay a profit on the money invested.

"In his letter of acceptance President McKinley referred to Porto Rico as follows: 'Congress has given to this island a government in which the inhabitants participate, elect their own legislature, enact their own local laws, provide their own system of taxation.'

"These statements are of the kind of half-truths which are worse than whole lies. Correct as far as they go, they convey an impression, as the president intends, far different from the actual state of affairs. For example, while the inhabitants elect their own legislature, Mr. McKinley omits to state that every act of the legislature can be vetoed by the president, and removable at his pleasure. Nor does he add that the governor's veto can only be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the executive council, whose members are also appointed by the president. In view of these facts, the president's partial statement of the truth becomes a wilful misrepresentation which of itself would be enough to stamp his whole letter as unreliable even where it purports to quote facts.—Justice.

"If Senator Beveridge is not aware that the ill-feeling of Cubans against Americans is growing more tense every day, he ought to be," says the New York Evening Post. "The native press is more and more outspoken. Returned army officers privately admit that the Cubans hate us worse than they ever did the Spaniards. Some who know the island well even predict an armed revolution. There doubtless would be one if the thing were not so hopeless. But there can be no doubt that public opinion in Cuba is inflamed and exasperated to a high degree. And this is the time a rising young statesman chooses to trumpet forth our intention first to lie to the Cubans, and then to seize their land! More in anger than in sorrow, we say to Senator Beveridge that he is playing the part of an incendiary in Cuba, at a time when policy, to say nothing of honor, calls for every possible act and word of conciliation."

"The coal miners of Pennsylvania, and incidentally the laboring men everywhere," the Atlanta Constitution says, "might do well to let their imaginations picture the treatment the strikers would receive at the hands of federal authorities and federal troops were Roosevelt in the presidential chair. The hoodlum campaign being waged through the west by this mouthful advocate of the 'strenuous' life is a fair example of his methods. Yet the prospect of a Rooseveltian president is one of the awful possibilities involved in Republican victory this year."

"The new plant erected less than a year ago at Coshocton, Ohio, by the Coshocton Rolling Mill company, and recently sold to the American Sheet Steel company (trust), is shut down and will be dismantled. The town gave a bonus of \$20,000 to secure the mill, but was far-sighted enough to stipulate for its return if the works should close, and the trust will refund the money rather than continue the factory. Mills are also being dismantled at Leetonia, Hasleton and Warren, Ohio.

"There are no trusts that injure the people," said Mr. Hanna a few days ago. But when there was a prospect that the hard coal trust might injure Mr. McKinley it was different. Mr. McKinley is sacred; the people are nothing.

"Abraham Lincoln hated war and its horrors, although his presidency was one long war. When a general objected to the pardoning of twenty-four deserters, all of whom had been sentenced to be shot, Lincoln answered: 'Mr. General, there are already far too many weeping widows in the United States. For God's sake, do not ask me to add to the number. For I won't do it.' What would Lincoln have said to the Anglo-Republican policy of imperialism which would fill the land with mothers and widows weeping for sons and husbands, not killed in defending the nation's life, but in expeditions to distant lands in war upon those who have done us no injury?—Eastern State Journal.

"As John D. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, has given several professors their walking ticket from the Baptist University for thinking for themselves and teaching the students to do likewise by allowing them to study socialistic questions, and as he recently forced his minister in New York to resign for being too outspoken, a writer in the Chicago Public has suggested that he use the doxology in a revised form, as follows: 'Praise John from whom oil blessings flow. Praise him above, the heavenly host, Praise Bill and John, but John the most.'

"The workingman who can be influenced to vote for McKinley by threats of starvation may be driven to the polls in 1904 at the point of the bayonet to vote for Hanna. It would be the logical conclusion of present methods.

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