

A SERIOUS AFFAIR

The Return of the President and Emperor of the Philippines to Foreign Information to Congress.

A while since the senate of the United States asked the secretary of war to forward a report of an officer who had been detailed to investigate recent defalcations of officers appointed by the president to administer the government of Cuba.

The committee feels authorized to state, after a somewhat careful research, that within the foregoing limits there is scarcely in the history of this government until now any instance of a refusal by a head of a department, or even of the president himself, to communicate official facts and information, as distinguished from private and unofficial papers, motions, views, reasons and opinions, to either house of congress when unconditionally demanded.

The instances of requests to the president, and commands to the heads of departments, by each house of congress, from those days until now, for papers and information on every conceivable subject of public affairs are almost innumerable, for it appears to have been thought by all the presidents who have carried on the government now for almost a century that, even in respect of requests to them, an independent and co-ordinate branch of the government, they were under a constitutional duty and obligation to furnish to either house of congress called for, unless, as has happened in very rare instances, when the request was coupled with an appeal to the discretion of the president in respect of the danger of publicity, to send the papers if, in his judgment, it should not be incompatible with the public welfare.

When the constitution was framed, and in times of the highest party excitement and stress, as in 1826 and 1841, it did not seem to occur to the chief executive of the United States that it was possible that any official facts or information existing, either in the departments created by law or within his own possession, could, as before stated, be withheld from either of the houses of congress, although such facts or information sometimes involved very intricate and delicate matters of foreign affairs, as well as sometimes the history and conduct of officers connected with the administration of affairs.

The important question, then, is whether it is within the constitutional competence of either house of congress to have access to the official papers and documents in the various public offices of the United States created by laws enacted by themselves. It may be fully admitted that except in respect of the department of the treasury there is no statute which commands the head of any department to transmit to either house of congress on its demand any information whatever concerning the administration of his department, but the committee believes it to be clear that from the very nature of the powers intrusted by the constitution to the two houses of congress it is a necessary incident that either house must have at all times the right to know all that officially exists or takes place in any of the departments of the government.

So perfectly was this proposition understood before and at the time of the formation of the constitution that the continental congress, before the adoption of the present constitution, in establishing a department of foreign affairs and providing for a principal officer thereof, thought it fit to enact that all books, records and other papers in that office should be open to the inspection of any member of congress, provided that no copy should be taken of matters of secret nature, without special leave of congress.

It is not to be wondered at that the most conservative senators look upon this new development with great concern.

When this position, taken by the authorities in the republican party, is compared with that taken by them now, no one can fail to see the vast change in that party. There is no wonder that such men as Teller has abandoned it and there can be no doubt that it is the set purpose of the present day leaders to discuss the form of government and put in place of it a despotism by the rich while still calling it a republic.

With the control of the telegraph, the great news associations, the great dailies and magazines they are not satisfied. They are also resolved to cut off the sources of information at the fountain head. It is not to be wondered at that the most conservative senators look upon this new development with great concern.

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them fairly. It may be that they have not. There is one thing certain, the democrats would welcome the populists into the democratic party. That means that they would have an equal voice in the affairs of the party. The idea that the democrats will modify their platform in the future cannot be well taken. Certainly it could not be modified if the populist party were to give their assistance.

WALTER JOHNSON. North Loup, Neb.

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APPEAL TO MULLET HEADS

A Few Simple Questions Asked Which a Correspondent Wishes Some of Their Number to Answer.

Editor Independent: Do any mullet heads ever read your paper? If any do, I should like to ask them a few questions, and, perhaps, assist them some in finding answers thereto. It ought not to be necessary to ask these mullet heads if they believe "that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Neither should it be necessary to suggest to these mullet heads that the constitution of the United States of America was ordained and established to "establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Suppose now, for the sake of argument, we admit that "God's money, honest money, melting-pot money, money good in the markets of the world," et cetera, and will any mullet head have the hardihood to say that our gold circulation should not be supplemented by some form of currency? I take it that even the most uneducated mullet heads will admit that we need some sort of currency in addition to gold—he has learned that from the national banker, that fountain of knowledge of things financial, whereas the average mullet head drinks in a little dangerous learning.

But in what way shall this currency be injected into the avenues of trade? If issued by the government itself, "how are you going to get it circulated?" sneeringly asks the national banker, that self-appointed repository of all learning respecting money.

Before answering this, let us ask how national bank notes get into circulation? On the 1st day of December last year there were \$332,292,300 of national bank notes performing a part of the duties of money. How did this enormous sum pass out of the hands of the issuers (the national bankers) and into the hands of the people? In one way only. The people borrowed one cent of it. The national banker's note carries no revenue stamp, and has no interest for the holder, and has your Uncle Samuel for indorser and surety; yet it is a debt of the banker, nevertheless. He is quite willing to "swap" it in exchange for the promissory note of John Doe, which must carry a revenue stamp, and is sold at the rate of 100 per cent, and is indorsed by men of undoubted means, or secured by ample collaterals. Let us be conservative: suppose an average rate of 5 per cent was paid by the people for the privilege of using the national banker's 100's; that would mean \$16,611,615 per year—a tax paid by the people for the privilege of supplementing the gold standard with a necessary currency. At an average of 8 per cent the tax would amount to \$26,583,384. At 10 per cent, it would be \$33,229,230. We need not quarrel with the exact figures. We need only see that the national bankers charged SOME rate of interest, and ANY rate whatever is equivalent to so much of a tax which the people pay for the privilege of securing a circulating medium. Whatever else may be said about the gold standard, this is certain: interest tax was paid to get it into circulation.

Let some mullet head may misunderstand, he must be cautioned that any intermediate borrowings or loanings have no effect. What must be ascertained is found by answering the question: What was the first step taken to place the currency in circulation? The original power of gold bullion may perhaps sell to a bullion buyer, who in turn may take it to the mint to have it coined into eagles and double eagles, which, when he receives them, he might loan at interest. But the miner of gold has troubles enough of his own without engaging in the money loaning business, and it may be set down as practically correct that

every dollar in gold began circulation without exacting tribute before it would circulate. The national bank note refuses to circulate until someone has borrowed it.

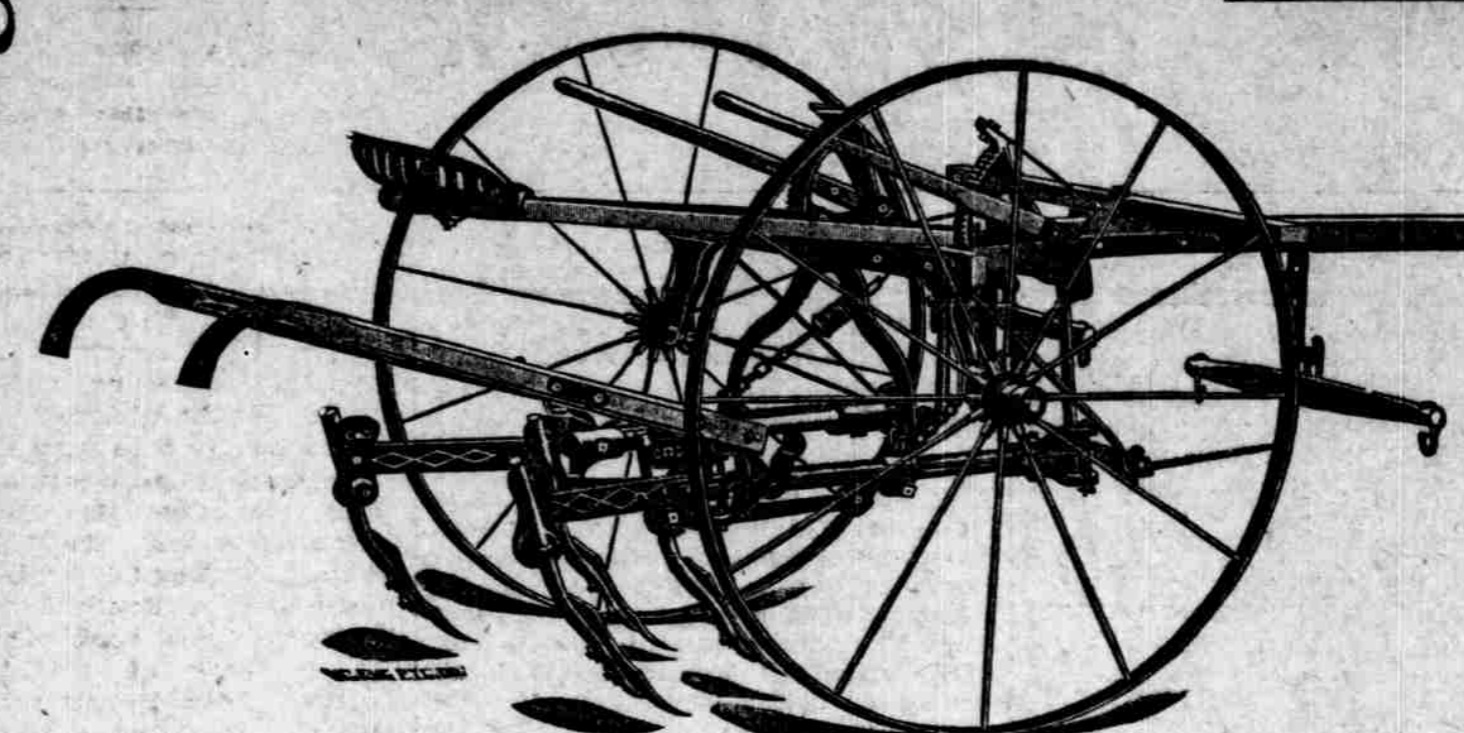
The government cannot consistently issue its notes for circulation as "money," says the national banker, "because the government has no source of its own—it is simply a machine to carry out the will of the sovereign (the people); but the banker can, because his note is his debt, and he has resources to protect his notes." Very beautiful in theory.

The 56th congress appropriated more than a billion and a half, as also did the 56th, to defray the expenses of the federal government. How is this to be paid? By taxation. Yes; but in what way? Well, by tariff taxes, internal revenue and various minor sources.

Very good. Now, suppose that each time Uncle Samuel calls up his hired man and distributes pay-envelopes among them, in each are found neatly printed notes which bear substantially the following legend: "This is to certify that the bearer has performed services for, or furnished supplies to the United States of America to the value of \$..... This note will be received at its face for all dues and deducted at the rate of 100 per cent, and is indorsed by men of undoubted means, or secured by ample collaterals. Let us be conservative: suppose an average rate of 5 per cent was paid by the people for the privilege of using the national banker's 100's; that would mean \$16,611,615 per year—a tax paid by the people for the privilege of supplementing the gold standard with a necessary currency. At an average of 8 per cent the tax would amount to \$26,583,384. At 10 per cent, it would be \$33,229,230. We need not quarrel with the exact figures. We need only see that the national bankers charged SOME rate of interest, and ANY rate whatever is equivalent to so much of a tax which the people pay for the privilege of securing a circulating medium. Whatever else may be said about the gold standard, this is certain: interest tax was paid to get it into circulation.

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the best he knows has been put into this book. It therefore not only calls attention to the "Pride of Nishna," "Ratekin's Gold Standard," "Ratekin's Queen of Nishna," "The Iowa Silver Mine" and other improved strains of corn which this firm grow and are offering to the corn growing public, but it also gives hundreds of hints about preparing the land, cultivation, harvesting, saving fodder and other points in regard to profitable corn culture, from which almost any corn grower, however experienced, can derive information and instruction. Man valuable points in relation to wheat culture, the growing of oats, rye, sorghum and grasses are also given, and the best varieties of these seeds which Messrs. Ratekins are listing and handling. We advise every reader of this paper to procure a copy of this "little book on corn growing" and read it as a part of his preparation for the best growing of the coming season's work and farming. Send for it at once in order that there may be ample time to study it, and in the light of the information it furnishes, to send orders for seeds needed in the spring. It will be sent to any and every reader of this paper who will write Messrs. Ratekin & Son for it, enclosing four cents in stamps with which to pay the postage on it, and on two samples of their seed corn, by mentioning this paper. See their advertisement in another place in this paper and write them at once.

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Our emperor of the Philippines comes under the same description and some of us are not any prouder of him than Goldwin Smith is of his emperor.

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