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Money grows cheaper and the farmers grow fatter. Corn sold for forty-nine cents a bushel in Chicago the other day. It takes nearly five times as much money to buy a bushel of corn now as it did in the days of the Cleveland soup houses.

Cleveland made democracy so disreputable that the republicans swept the country with a hurricane at the close of his term. No wonder the republicans like Cleveland or that they will give all the aid possible to get him back into the control of the party.

From the number of candidates already announced for the supreme judgeship, it appears that the fusionists have faith in doing a little redeeming themselves at the next election. As for the republicans, they are still singing, "Give me rest, Mister, give me a rest."

Publish a fact and it will never be repeated in the plutocratic press. A lie, they will keep it going for months. Take for example the story that there is five or six hundred million of gold owned by the United States government. Every two by six republican weekly keeps it up week after week.

Bixby don't like the style of the editor of The Independent and says of him: "He ought to be under the restraining influence of an intelligent and virtuous press censor." Let him come on with that censor and he will see more fun in five minutes than he ever saw in all his life before.

The glory of the last republican legislature and their governor is that they put the state in the hole for nearly a quarter of a million of dollars, gave the school system some fearful blows and sent two representatives of the railroad corporations to the United States senate. Isn't that glory enough for one session?

The Chicago American calls Tom Watson "A great American Historian" and publishes an editorial a column long in which it declares that Tom Watson's "A Story of France," published by McMillan & Co., is the "best history ever written by an American." Not only populist principles, but many of the populist leaders are coming to the front these days.

The first thing that Thompson's Choice did when he got to Washington was to demand the head of Joe Johnson, who has been having a splendid time for the last four years doing nothing and drawing a four thousand dollar salary as an official of a land office that ought to have been abolished years ago because there was nothing for the officials to do.

The great life insurance companies have made profits, according to their last reports, from 5,000 to over 7,000 per cent on their investments. Here is another clear case of capitalistic philanthropy. All these companies are purely philanthropic institutions. At least that is what their advertisements say. The truth is that they are the most audacious thieves on earth. No wonder that they backed up Mark Hanna with millions. An honest government would likely make trouble for them, and they wanted to be let alone.

During the last three weeks the three great trusts have met a foe, in the form of organized labor, before which they have deemed it best to retire. In each instance, when a strike was threatened against the coal, steel and railway combines, the combines made arrangements that were perfectly satisfactory to the labor organizations. But it must be remembered that these great trusts are still in the formative stage. It was necessary for their success that strikes should not interfere with the floating of their bonds. May it not be that the trusts yielded for the present only, and when they get completely upon their feet and have control of all the other markets that they will have equal control of labor also? However that may be, up to the present time the only power that has been able to meet the trusts has been the labor organizations.

THEY WON'T FIGHT

Why the democratic papers won't fight is past comprehension. No opposition ever had a better opportunity to fight. But they don't seem to have any fight in them. The only fighting men left are the populists. If the great democratic dailies, or the dailies that pretend to be democratic, would go to work and relate a few facts when their party platform is ridiculed, they could very easily turn the ridicule upon the other fellows. Instead of that they snivel and whine and talk about reorganizing the party so that it will be more in accordance with republican doctrines.

Why don't these democratic editors point out the fact that there has never been a time of prosperity in the history of the world without an increase of the money preceding and accompanying it? Why don't they point out that there never was a time of adversity and poverty that was not preceded by a reduction of the volume of money. Let them show that the present prosperity began with the coining of silver and gold, and the issue of large sums of paper money by the banks. The Cleveland soup house reign came about from stopping the coining of silver and the complete destruction of the credit money of the country. It lasted with increasing distress and disaster until that policy was overthrown. Let them rub that into them day after day. It wouldn't be long before they would stop their slurs at the free silver lunacy and get on the defensive.

Why don't some of these democratic editors republish some of the "sound money" articles which predicted everlasting destruction if the coining of silver was not stopped and along side of them the reports of the director of the mint showing the tons of silver that McKinley has coined and the prosperity that has accompanied the policy?

Why don't they get hold of the official reports showing the cost of imperialism so far as it has been accomplished? Along side of that, let them print a balance sheet showing the state of the business. Let them show the millions that we have poured into the Philippines and count up the dollars that we have got out of it. Let them try their sarcasm on the "business government by business men" and show the result of that "business" in dollars and cents.

Let them send some bright reporters down to Porto Rico and report the result of imperialism and carpet-bag government in that island. A few genuine interviews with the unhappy residents of that island and a description of the life of the people there would be good fighting material and make their papers sell. Why don't they do it? They might keep a column devoted to the profits the bankers are gathering in. They could set in a conspicuous place the facts about every new national bank organized and print in black letters the amount of money that was handed to them after it was duly engraved and printed by the government. They could keep standing the amount of money that the bankers get in this way for nothing. They could get the amounts that are deposited in the banks without interest and figure just how much the bankers were making out of the money that had been taxed out of the people. But they won't do it. They prefer to submit to the sneers and snubs of these bankers in silence while they devote all their energies describing some function at which these bankers assemble and brag about how many millions were represented.

There seems to be no fight left in the opposition dailies. While they act in this cowardly manner it is no wonder that the republican editors sneer and pour out their contempt upon the never ending torrent. In this militant world, a man who won't fight for his principles will have the respect of nobody and the contempt of all. The best thing that these democratic editors can do is to join the republicans and pretend to be respectable.

A DEFINITION WANTED The time has come when some word must be accepted by writers when they wish to express the principles of populism. For want of such a word, since the writers on the great dailies absolutely refuse to use the word "populism," when they undertake to write on the principles represented by it, "confusion worse confounded" results. Look at the following taken from the editorial columns of the Chicago American:

"There is nothing more stupid and, of course, more unproductive, than the mis-called socialism which advocates a division of property, equality of reward and so on.

"But real socialism, that great intelligent movement which aims to improve social condition and to wipe out unjust discrimination in laws, opportunities and privileges, is a great and eternal power."

What this writer designates as "mis-called socialism" is exactly what every man in the United States who calls himself a socialist believes and what all the socialist parties advocate. What he calls "real socialism" is populism. Why not call it populism? There is

difference wider than the ocean between the two systems. If one is socialism, the other certainly cannot be. The writer in the American goes on to say: "The American revolution was socialism pure and simple. "The greatest leaders of the revolution were socialists and the throwing overboard of the tea was 'militant socialism' with a vengeance."

No writer of authority in the past has ever called Washington, Jefferson and their co-peers "socialists." That name can hardly be attached to them now. But there is a system which has been known for many decades called "socialism," and it has its full expression in all their platforms in the words, "collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution." That has been known to all mankind as the "real socialism." Washington and Jefferson never believed in any such doctrine.

Within the last ten years a great force has arisen "aiming to improve social conditions and to wipe out unjust discrimination in laws, opportunities and privileges," and the millions of men who have been advocating these demands have by common consent been called "populists" and the principles they advocate "populism." If there is any good reason why this name should not be used, let these editorial writers adopt another. The Independent will not object. What it does object to is the calling two entirely different sets of principles—principles that are essentially antagonistic—by the same name. If populism is to be called socialism, then some other term must be used when those men who believe in the common ownership of everything and equality of rewards are meant.

There can be no clearness in the discussion that every thinking man must know is coming upon the country until the terms are distinctly defined. If this movement against special privileges and the demand that all men shall have equal opportunities, is to be called "socialism," then those who have been called socialists will have to find some other name. Will it not be better to give it a new name—one about which there will be no misunderstanding—and call it "populism."

A GLORIOUS TIME

There never were a set of fellows who had a more glorious time than the national bankers are having under the McKinley regime. He has set up an immense establishment of printing and engraving down at Washington for their especial benefit. There are hundreds of high class employes there who spend all their time printing paper money for them. Among them are some of the most famous artists in the United States. All these artists and other employes are engaged in printing paper money which, after it is gotten out in the most stylish manner, is given to the bankers. The bankers are a privileged class. McKinley gives them money by the millions which his congress made a legal tender for a great many things. Among the monopolies secured by the privileged few under Elizabeth and which came near producing a rebellion, there was nothing so valuable as this gift of money to the bankers.

Not only do they get the new money right off the press in reams, but McKinley gives them free use of nearly a hundred million more in the way of bank deposits. The bankers now have about \$90,000,000 which they get free. No one but a national banker can get money of the United States without interest. The current funds of the United States, which, like the republican treasurers of Nebraska, Gage knows how to get hold of, is nearly all given over to the banks. Gage's rake-off is a profound secret. It must be a fair division, for the bankers make no complaint. With about \$200,000,000 furnished them free of cost by the benevolent McKinley, the bankers are in clover up to their knees. They, one and all, declare that McKinley is the greatest president that ever lived. The mullet head who gets a few dollars of the money that McKinley has given the bankers has to pay a big rate of interest. McKinley don't give him any money free, but he also thinks that McKinley is the greatest president that ever lived. That is because the poor fellow is troubled with delusions—insane delusions. All the same the bankers are having a glorious time.

If any one has any doubt about the workings of imperialism, let him read the petition of 6,000 merchants, planters and wage-workers recently sent to McKinley from Porto Rico. If that is not enough let him glance over its results in India where 5,000,000 people have recently died of starvation. Whether in India, America, the Philippines or China, it is all the same. Does anybody want any more of it? What a horror the history of the last few years will be to coming generations? May the men of coming times remember that there were some who did not lose their heads when the craze imperial swept over the world and did all that they could to resist it.

EXTRAVAGANCE

Thompson's Choice has some very strange ideas about "extravagance." His delusions upon that subject need the attention of an insanity specialist. Dr. Green might take him out to the asylum and put him under observation for a few weeks. When a mother out on a farm preserves the eggs and saves all she can of the butter that she may sell them and send money to her struggling son or daughter at the university to pay the expenses of an education, is she extravagant? Is money paid out for the higher education, whether saved from the hard earnings of the farmer who follows the plow or accumulated by the careful savings of the housewife or collected by taxation, extravagance? Mr. Dietrich seems to think that it is. In his mind to pay out \$2,000 for hot house flowers, \$35,000 to purchase land for a state fair, pay \$75 an acre for farming land down at Beatrice, or to pay \$3,000 for rich furnishings for the governor's mansion is not extravagance, but to pay the necessary expenses of the higher education of the young men and women of the state is extravagance.

If Dietrich is honest in the reasons given for his vetoes, he is certainly suffering from delusions and needs the attention of Dr. Green. But suppose that he is not honest, that he does not believe that the appropriations for the university and the preservation of the buildings already erected there is extravagance. What then? Shall we conclude that he is such a vindictive partisan that seeing a chance to annoy a few men not of his party who had charge of a great educational institution, he deliberately, and with malice and forethought, struck a blow at education? What is the mental calibre of a man who will do a thing like that? Is a party fit to govern that will put such a man as that in the office of governor and afterwards elect him to the United States senate?

HIS CHARACTERISTICS

A lady writing to the editor of The Independent, says: "Please give a description of a mullet head so that they may be known at sight. I have a strong suspicion that there are a few in this neighborhood."

A mullet head may be known by the following peculiarities: He sees things—gold and glory is forever before his eyes. He is generally very religious. He has a wild look in his eyes. He is always very violent whenever the doings of the emperor of the Philippines is mentioned. He has delusions of all sorts, especially about grand and glorious armies, and he firmly believes that the sparkling waters in the brooks of the Philippines run down to the sea over pebbles of gold. He is most always in a state of excitement, and his excitement grows in intensity as the date of election approaches. He believes that the less money he gets for his wheat and corn the richer he is and always demands that money shall be so regulated that it will buy enormous quantities of everything and be money of the greatest purchasing power. He will eat raw corn and shout for the millionaires hours at a time, especially when a presidential campaign is in progress. He believes every one who disagrees with him is a lunatic. Such are his general characteristics, but he has many more of the same sort.

The care of the insane costs the state of New York annually more than five million dollars, and every year without exception the number of insane grows larger. The semi-insane crowd, in enormous numbers, follow closely upon the heels of the others. Let any man or woman do anything that attracts attention enough to be published in the newspapers and that unhappy person will immediately be besieged with swarms of cranks. It is the votes of that country of cranks that decides the policies of this government. That is where the goldbugs and the imperialists get their tremendous majorities. Worse than all that the editors of the big dailies printed in that land of cranks continually denounce the sane men of the west as lunatics.

That there are many men who do not believe that Senator Pettigrew has been rendered entirely harmless is shown by the persistent repeating of the story that he has recently made a million dollars by gambling on the board of trade upon tips given him by Railroad Magnate Hill. The truth about the matter is that the senator some time ago invested what money he had and his wife had in land through the advice of Hill, who has since run a railroad into that part and Pettigrew sold his land at a great rise in price.

WHAT WAS HIS MOTIVE

It seems to be impossible for a metropolitan daily to make a correct statement about anything. Now here is the American which says: "England offers to sell consols at 94½, they pay 2½ per cent on the par now, which is 2.91 per cent on the selling price; they will pay 2½ per cent after two years, and in twenty-one years they will be redeemable at par. A month's extra interest is to be paid

as a bonus. United States 2 per cent bonds sell at 106½."

That is a partial statement and for that reason a most vicious lie. Any man of common sense knows that there could not be that difference in the rate of interest between the bonds of the two nations as long as both are supposed to be able to pay the interest on their debts. There is a vast difference between an English consol and a United States bond. If a man buys an English consol he gets his interest and that is all. If he buys a United States bond he can take it to Washington and get the full face value of it back in national bank notes, or if he is, in favor of the Washington court, he can leave it there as security and get gold for it to its full face value. The banks have today nearly a hundred million of money in their vaults or loaned out, which has been deposited with them without interest by Secretary Gage. The editor of the American knew all these facts and yet he wrote the above item and inserted it in his paper. What was the motive that prompted him?

A TOUGH JOB

"Farm Hand" writes the editor of The Independent that he went to town and stepped into the office of the local republican newspaper. He says it was quite a while ago and the weather was rather cold, but the editor was sitting at his desk with great drops of sweat running down his face and drooping from the end of his nose. He says he asked the editor what made him sweat so, and the man of the quill replied: "I guess you would sweat, too, if you had the sort of a job that I have. Here I had set up a whole column praising the legislature for passing the supreme court bill, telling the blessing that it would be to the people and roasting Poynter for having vetoed a similar bill two years ago. Then we got the news that our governor had vetoed the bill and I had to throw all that type in and write one praising Dietrich for reducing taxation and all that sort of thing. I worked all day at that and had it fixed up all right, then this morning the news came that Dietrich had taken back his veto and the bill was a go after all. Now I'm trying to re-write that first article with corrections up to date and the paper will be out a day late. If you think that praising a republican legislature for passing bills and praising a republican governor for vetoing them is an easy sort of a job, just sit down and try it."

THE OLD STUFFED PROPHET

The president on his imperial journey points with pride to the resources of the United States treasury. He does not tell the people that if there had been no bonds issued during the last few years and if old debts due the United States had not been paid there would be just as great a deficit as there is in the English treasury. Besides the bonds that have been sold, the government has received from the Pacific railroads in payment for old debts more than one hundred and twenty-five million dollars. Two hundred million of bonds were sold at the beginning of McKinley's administration, and not counting those sold previously during the last decade there has, by these two items, been added to the money in the treasury more than \$325,000,000. Take that money out and there would be a big deficit, as big as that of the English government. During the next few years there will be no debts to collect and when the full effect of annual taxation of ten dollars per capita begins to be felt, there will not be such a glorious time in the treasury department as there is now. When that time comes which republican management in the creation of millionaires and trusts will make unavoidable, they will quietly help the Cleveland democrats back into power and let them bear the brunt of the disaster. In the next campaign after that they will go out and point to the horrors of a democratic administration. That is exactly the game that they played with the old "Stuffed Prophet" before and it worked so admirably that they are anxious to try it again. Everybody knows that bonds were printed and ready to be issued before Harrison went out of office. But the republicans managed to slip through and left the odium of their issue and the soup house reign that followed to rest upon the democratic administration. The old Stuffed Prophet accepted it with a great deal of complacency and now wants to play the same game over again. There is not a political fool on earth equal to that old Stuffed Prophet.

The Chicago American, in speaking of the Illinois republican legislature, says: "We have never known anything like the bold, impudent, undisguised subservency to the wishes of the corporations that we have seen at Springfield this winter." That is also the record made by the republican legislature of Nebraska. That is what railroads keep legislatures for. No one of common sense supposes that they would issue thousands of free passes and contribute to the expenses of republican campaigns without expecting some return.

THOSE HAPPY ISLES

The imperialistic craze that has swept over this country during the last four years is like a thousand other crazes which have driven humanity wild during the last hundred years. It is like the fads in medicine, the Brown-Sequard elixir of life, the salt cure and faith healing. It formed in a little circular movement in Washington, just as a twister forms out on the plains. At first it was only a little spiral cloud of dust, but it swept on, ever increasing in power and leaving desolation in its track. Look back now to the time when Beveridge stood up in the senate and talked of those happy isles of the sea where the bread fruit hung ripe on the trees, where the brooks rolled down to the sea over nuggets of gold, one of which he took out of his vest pocket and exhibited to the wondering gaze of the gaping senators. Where is Beveridge now? Gone into innoxious desuetude. No one has ever heard of him since. But Beveridge was a big man when the craze first started. Under the craze, grave senators abandoned the principles of a lifetime, repudiated the Declaration of Independence and defied the constitution. Great armies were raised, blood ran in rivulets. Crazy soldiers, driven mad by the sights of cruelties which their whole education had led them to abhor, were returned to the insane hospitals of the United States by the hundred. Men dreamed of nothing but gold, gore and glory. But the craze has spent its force. Men are coming back to reason again. Even the would-be exerciser of imperial power is beginning to crawl and has issued an order to abolish the tariff on the Porto Ricans. A soldier in the Philippines in a letter in the New York World, now that the craze is subsiding, gives the following description of these happy isles of the southern seas in the following language: "The Philipinos are a bunch of trouble gathered together on the western horizon of uncivilization. They are bounded on the north by rocks and destruction, on the east by typhoons, on the south by cannibals and earthquakes, on the west by hoodoos and smugglers. "The soil is extraordinarily fertile, producing large crops of insurrection and trickery. The climate is pleasant and healthful for scorpions, centipedes, snakes and alligators. The principal exports are rice, hemp, sick soldiers and war bulletins. The principal imports are American soldiers, arms, ammunition and beer."

No wonder the transport Garonne, arriving at San Francisco from Manila on Saturday, had on board sixty-four stowaways.

The results of the observations of common-sense American eyes may gradually bring home the truth to the common-sense American people.

NEWSPAPER ORGANIZATION

A farmer's wife who reads The Independent writes: "The Independent makes public questions interesting even to the women who, like myself, have never taken any active part in public affairs. The articles about the unreliable news published in the daily papers is, it seems to me, something more than a political question. I wish you would write some more about it. Give us a description of the important departments of a great daily." A detailed statement of the different departments of a great daily would make an article rather too long for publication in The Independent. It may be said that there are four general departments in all the great plutocratic newspaper offices. Each has a presiding genius. There is the editorial liar, the head-line liar, the circulation liar and the reportorial liar. The product of these four departments make the great daily.

The latest reports sent out from Washington are to the effect that the war in the Philippines is over, and that it will be necessary to maintain only 60,000 troops in those islands. Suppose all that is true. What is the result? To maintain 60,000 troops in the Philippines will cost at least \$90,000,000 a year. It has for a long time cost \$1,000 a year for each soldier in the United States and it will not cost less than \$1,500 to maintain one and pay transportation to and from the Philippines. Where will the profits come? The whole trade of the islands will not amount to that much. The demoralization and the destruction of the health of the greater part of 60,000 men every two years will be a greater drain upon this country than the \$90,000,000 that we will have to pay for their maintenance. There never was a craze that equalled in idocy this imperialistic craze. It already shows signs of disappearing.

The remains of Abraham Lincoln were changed from the old vault to the new a few days ago without any formalities and in the quietest manner possible. Under other circumstances this would have been a matter of great ceremony, but the powers that now rule in Lincoln's state have very little use for his teaching and it is to their interest to attract as little attention as possible to the memory of the life of Lincoln.

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