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THEY WOULDN'T ENLIST

Then McKinley Concluded That He Didn't Need so Many Soldiers and Issued a New Decree

General Miles takes a sanguine view of conditions in the Philippines. While the war department is debating whether or not it will be safe to reduce General MacArthur's force, General Miles has come out squarely in favor of a smaller army than was authorized by congress. In a communication to the secretary of war he holds that, in view of the present condition of affairs, 100,000 men will not be needed. According to his estimate 75,000, one soldier to every thousand of population, will suffice. But General Miles' plan, if adopted, would go further than appears at first sight to reduce the number of men available for foreign service. He not only proposes to cut the army down 24,000, but he recommends that the artillery corps be reduced to its maximum without delay. When the army reorganization bill passed the Filipino insurgents were still in full activity, and there was urgent demand for large cavalry and infantry forces in the islands. For that reason it was decided to enlarge the artillery at the rate of only 20 per cent a year, taking five years to bring it up to its authorized strength. This would leave the costly coast defense system inadequately manned, and postpone the formation and training of such an artillery force as is required for home service. But the emergency in the Philippines demanded 70,000 troops and the posts of the United States were denuded of their garrisons. The logic of the situation is on General Miles' side, but unfortunately suggestions originating with the lieutenant general, as a rule, do not command the respect his rank should exact. One circumstance, however, is working in his favor. Recruiting has not progressed as rapidly as Secretary Root anticipated. For that reason a reduction of the enlisted force may fall in very conveniently with the notions of the secretary of war at this time.

The above is from the Philadelphia North American, a republican daily and is the first acknowledgement for the party of the truth of the statements all along made by The Independent which were to the effect that American young men would not enlist in McKinley's army of conquest in any great numbers. It is well known that General Miles has had no sympathy with the administration policy and never dreamed when he took command of the army in Porto Rico that a colonial policy was contemplated. The proclamation he made to the inhabitants has been a stumbling block to the administration ever since. He promised the people of that island all the rights and privileges under the constitution that any American citizen enjoyed, and then McKinley announced his policy of "citizens of Porto Rico" instead of citizens of the United States.

WON'T TELL THE TRUTH

A Statement from the Director of the Mint Giving Some Facts and Suppressing Many More

The following is part of an article recently published over the signature of George E. Roberts, director of the mint. It will be well to put it in your scrap book. The facts about the coinage, the number of grains in the silver and gold dollars are good things to have. The Independent would call attention to two statements, both of which are calculated to deceive. Mr. Roberts says:

"The silver coins now minted are the dollar, the half-dollar, quarter-dollar and dime. All silver coinage at present is from bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, commonly known as the Sherman act. There is about 61,000,000 ounces of this bullion still on hand. It was all purchased for coinage into silver dollars, but under the act of March 12, 1900, the secretary of the treasury was authorized to use it for subsidiary coins as might be required, provided that the total stock of the latter in the country should not exceed \$100,000,000. The present stock is about \$87,000,000."

"That statement is so worded that in one respect it is an absolute falsehood. There is such a law as he mentions, but there is one of far greater importance that he does not mention. One of the first acts of the special session of McKinley's first congress, after having made a campaign for the single gold standard, was to provide for the coinage of the cent, not into subsidiary coin, but into silver dollars which are standard money of the United States and not redeemable in any other kind of money." When toward the close of the article, Mr. Roberts says that there has been coined during the year over eighteen million silver dollars, one would conclude, if he believed that Mr. Roberts had told the whole truth, that that coinage had been without the authority of law.

It will be noticed that Mr. Roberts divides the silver coined during the last year into subsidiary coins. But the half-dollars, quarters and dimes have had just as much effect upon prices as if they had been dollars. It will therefore be seen that McKinley has coined \$7,823,959.15 more silver during the year than was coined under the Sherman act, which they said must be repealed and kept peeled or ruin and disaster would sweep over the country. There was never to exceed two million dollars a month coined under the Sherman act. In this letter Mr. Roberts says:

"The standard unit of value is the gold dollar, which contains 23.22 grains of fine gold and with the alloy weighs 25.8 grains. The standard of fineness of all gold and silver coins of the United States is 900 parts in 1,000.

The alloy is of copper and is used to harden the coin and save it from abrasion.

The gold coins now provided for by law are the double eagle or \$20 piece, eagle or \$10 piece, half-eagle or \$5 piece, and the quarter-eagle or \$2.50 piece. The \$1 piece has been discontinued as too small for commercial use. Most of our gold coinage has been in double eagles, the total output of gold from the foundation of the mint down to June 30, 1900, having been \$2,147,088,112, of which \$1,538,826,050 was in double eagles.

"The subsidiary coins are lighter in proportion to their face value than the silver dollar. The latter weighs 412 1/2 grains, but two half-dollars or four quarter dollars weigh only 385.8 grains.

"The 1-cent and 5-cent pieces are called minor coins. The 1-cent piece consists of 95 per cent copper and 5 per cent tin and zinc. The 5-cent piece is 75 per cent copper and 25 per cent nickel. The minor coins are a legal tender to the amount of 25 cents and are redeemable at any treasury in sums of \$20. They are delivered in sums of \$20, free of express charges, on receipt of an equal sum in lawful money."

"The issue of subsidiary and minor coins on government account is a source of large profit, amounting on minor coins for the year ended June 30, 1900, to \$1,794,633.04, or more than the total expenditures of the mint service. The profit on subsidiary coinage last year was \$3,008,428.88. The total earnings of the mint service for the last fiscal year was \$10,641,949.60; the total expenditures, \$1,702,492.64; and the net earnings of the service, \$8,939,456.96. Against this, however, must be counted the liability of the government for all of this overvalued coin, which it has paid out to the public at its face value and is in honor bound to maintain at par with its standard money.

"The silver coins now minted are the dollar, half-dollar, quarter-dollar and dime. All silver coinage at present is from bullion purchased under the act of July 14, 1890, commonly known as the Sherman act. There is about 61,000,000 ounces of this bullion still on hand. It was all purchased for coinage into silver dollars, but under the act of March 12, 1900, the secretary of the treasury was authorized to use it for subsidiary coins as might be required, provided that the total stock of the latter in the country should not exceed \$100,000,000. The present stock is about \$87,000,000."

"The gold coins and the silver dollar are a legal tender for all debts. The other silver coins, known as subsidiary coins, are a legal tender to the amount of \$10. The latter may be had in sums of \$20 or more at any sub-treasury or will be sent by express at the government's expense upon payment of an equal sum of lawful money. They are also redeemable in lawful money at any sub-treasury in sums of \$20 or over.

"The first mint of the United States was established at Philadelphia, the then seat of government, in 1792. The corner stone of the edifice now occupied in Philadelphia was laid in 1829. A new structure is now approaching completion in that city, for which \$2,000,000 has been appropriated, and with its equipment will constitute the finest mint in the world. It will be occupied about July 1 next. This institution gives employment to about 500 people. The mint at New Orleans was established in 1835 and now employs about 200 people.

"The mint at San Francisco was established in 1852 and now employs about 225 people. The total number of people employed in the mint service is about 1,150.

"The amount of gold during the last fiscal year was \$107,337,110. The coinage of silver dollars was \$18,244,984; of subsidiary silver, \$12,876,849.15, and of minor coins, \$2,243,017.21. The manufacture of the minor coins involved the striking of 101,391,753 pieces and of subsidiary coins 57,114,270 pieces. It may be safely said that the above figures surpass any record before made by any government. The total number of pieces struck last year by the royal mint in London and all its colonial branches was 144,823,124, and this was unprecedented in the history of English coinage operations. The total number of pieces struck by the mints of the United States last year was 184,373,793."

THE IMPERIAL JOURNEY

The Political Effect of McKinley's Tour Through the South Somewhat Disappointing

Washington, D. C., May 4, 1901.—For the moment Washington drops into the background as a political center and interest is centered upon the gorgeous train bearing the president and his retinue of attendants from Washington to the Gulf of Mexico and from New Orleans to San Francisco.

McKinley is a pretty diplomatic sort of a politician, but he made one grave mistake in planning his southern trip. Perhaps the prime mistake was in including the south at all in his itinerary.

He had two main topics upon which to dwell with suave eloquence and in imagination he pictured the south, not only applauding, but with its solid democracy disintegrating and becoming republican and imperialist under the influence of the new doctrines which he intended to present.

At least the president thought they were now, and thereby dug for himself a pitfall both deep and wide.

He began with a flowery reference to the "united south." He kept that speech working during the first two days of the trip. He talked as if a united south had been accomplished under his administration here he—McKinley—had a right to pose as the creator of this great thing.

Senator Carmack voiced the sentiment of the south when he took occasion at a banquet to say a plain truth or two for the benefit of our mistaken president.

Senator Carmack pointed out that there is no objection to the use of the term "united south." The objection comes when President McKinley assumes that he brought about that result.

The south has been united to the north in all sincerity as one country since June, 1865, says Senator Carmack and if no opportunity was given to show its patriotism until the Spanish war, that was the misfortune of the south, but did not alter the fact that the loyalty and patriotism had been there for more than a score of years before President McKinley took the oath of office.

The rebuke was a sharp one, but it was deserved. It voiced the feeling of the southern people. The president committed an unpardonable error in his assumption that he was the apostle who performed the miracle. It is safe to say that he has aroused more resentment and given more offense during his southern trip than can be healed or forgotten in a half dozen years.

He has given the south an object lesson in the arrogance which characterizes the republican party since it has attempted to make its whims, and not the constitution, the policy for the guidance of the country.

It began in the last campaign when the administration took to itself the credit for good crops and prosperity and gave the people to understand that it had taken the place of the Creator in directing the course of nature.

The second topic which the president thought would be popular was "expansion," the growth of our trade, the market for southern cotton, and all that sort of thing.

Somehow the speech didn't prove popular. Facts are such stubborn things. They refuse to yield to rhetoric. And one pertinent fact is that the south has not yet realized any great market for its cotton since we have been spending millions on forcible expansion.

The south wants a market for coarse cottons, but the trouble with China last year spoiled that market completely and the Filipinos have never been subjugated completely enough to need new clothes, and if they did would prefer goods of their own manufacture. So the McKinley sort of expansion has not furnished results enough to make the commercial speech popular.

Courtesy dictates a cordial greeting to the chief executive of the nation when he travels abroad among his people, but the farther south the president journeyed the more silent and chill became his reception. In New Orleans the silence was positively sepulchral and was heightened by the beauty of the city itself in its semitropical spring garb.

The administration's policy is anything but popular in the south and it takes something more than fine words to make a patriotic people forget how far the McKinley administration has departed from the basic principles upon which our government was founded.

But now the presidential cortege will be travelling north and westward. Presumably the prosperity argument will be received with enthusiasm.

Yet it is well to note that the president is now sounding a note of warning about the inevitable reaction which is bound to follow this sort of prosperity.

He is taking up the democratic argument and suggesting that people must not expect this kind of prosperity to continue. In New York Hanna is whistling to keep up his courage and declaring that trust prosperity will last through this administration anyway.

Of course it would not matter how the country suffered if only those who managed McKinley's election got the four years upon which they counted in order to fleece the country thoroughly. It could then be left to a democratic administration to clear up the wreck.

Mrs. Cronje Insane

Advices received from St. Helena state that Mrs. Cronje, wife of the Boer general, has become mentally unbalanced, owing to her experience in the war and her life in her prison home at Deadwood. Mrs. Cronje imagines that she is ex-Empress Eugenie of France.

Five other Boer prisoners have also become insane. Mrs. Cronje, a typical Boer "housewife" is devoted to her husband and followed him into exile with their child. The women of France, in admiration of her conduct, raised \$6,800 and presented her with a magnificent heart-shaped locket jeweled and surrounded with rays of glory, violets and roses.

THE IMPERIAL TOUR

Dizzy With the Sight and Fumes of Wine With Extravagance and Crazy With Ostentation of Wealth

The tour of the president will in every way reflect the spirit of his administration and of the country at the moment.

It is a moment of luxury and craze for luxury, of extravagance and craze for extravagance, of ostentation and craze for ostentation, of wealth and wealth-worship. The few thousands constituting the "triumphant classes" and their intimates and retainers who live at their fringes and upon their crumbs are in a high fever of money-madness. They are drunk with the strong wine of prosperity. The work-a-day millions—small merchants, farmers, small-salaried men, wage-earners and the like—have a share in the good times which permits comfort and saving against lean years and bony years, but does not permit prodigality. They are infected with the current frenzy, are being made dizzy by the sight of and the fumes of the banquet board and rivulets along the floor.

In these conditions it is not unnatural that the president of the prosperity-tipped republic should tour in unprecedented, unapproached splendor. Like his administration, like the commonplaces of the day's annals, are these gorgeous moving pictures headed by the Olympia, surpassing the personal car of any monarch of Europe or any millionaire of America; this extensive and brilliant group of official retainers; these special agents to clear the way and to collect in advance luxuries for the presidential table; these swarming personal attendants, valets, dressers, ladies' maids, valets' assistants, a chef with a staff of cooks.

Nor will it at this moment of madness cause much surprise that his peripatetic object-lesson in luxury and prodigality for the edification of the people of twenty-five states and along 15,000 miles is the gift of a group of railway magnates, the constitution (Article I, section 9, paragraph 8) forbids the president and all other officials from receiving, "without the consent of the congress," any "present, emolument." But the bar extends only to presents and emoluments from "any king, prince or foreign state." And a railway king or a Pullman prince would probably not be included.

It may be natural for Mr. McKinley to show himself to the people in such imperial state, thus provided. But is it wise? Is it in good taste? Is it well? Is not the republic composed not entirely of millionaires, but in part of plain people, influenced by example and accustomed to look to such men as their first citizen for example? Is not this a time when optimism needs the restraint of prudence, when loosening moral obligations call for the salutary contrast of rigid principle? Would not the first citizen better use his high position and wide influence to set an example of moderation and moral sensitiveness than to set an example of ostentation and laxity?

We speak not of "democratic simplicity." That phrase excites only derision in this hour of exaltation. But is there not a medium, discernible even through the rosy mists of present intoxication, between the old fashion and the new? Might not Mr. McKinley have struck that medium when showing himself to the people?—New York World.

Should Sing Low

The middle-of-the-road faction in the populist party who worked last fall with Clem Deaver and the Omaha Bee for the defeat of as good a ticket as the populists have ever nominated in Nebraska, upon which the democrats only had but one place, should sing very low in offering advice as to the action of the republican opposition in Nebraska this fall. If there is to be any change in procedure adopted by the populist party let the changes be suggested and carried out by those who loyally opposed the railroad-republican domination in Nebraska during the last campaign.—Holt County Independent.

BARTLEY & MILLARD, Brokers and Dealers in State Warrants.



The Discriminations of Fate.

THE SENATOR: Yes, Joe, it's true that you endorsed the state warrant, and that I endorsed it, too, and cashed it at my bank. Yes, it's true that Attorney-General Smyth prosecuted you for the crime and succeeded in having you sent to the penitentiary for twenty years. But don't get discouraged or disheartened for a while yet. Never tell the people how the money was divided. Keep "mum" a little longer. Remember that Henry Bolln, the Omaha city treasurer who defaulted for \$103,000.00, was pardoned by Governor Dietrich. Your turn will come soon. If we republicans can carry one more election it will be safe to grant your pardon. Perhaps, then, the next republican legislature would make you a senator, too.

HORRORS OF CENSORSHIP

Private Letters Sent by Mail Arrive at Washington Giving Accounts of Slaughter and Murder in China

It will dawn by and by on some of those who have gone crazy with the cry of gold and glory that civilization cannot exist with a censorship controlled by the military. The effects of it in death and destruction of millions in every part of the world cannot be hidden. There is ground soaked with human blood in China, the Philippines, South Africa, Cuba, India, and wherever the drum beats of a degenerate civilization are heard.

The latest mail from China, says a Washington special, has brought to the state department new proofs of the terrible and perhaps irretrievable conditions which exist under the foreign military rule in north China, involving a situation not heretofore realized even in Washington, and utterly unappreciated in the United States generally. The character of the information which has now come into the administration's possession is summarized in the following extracts from a communication written by one of the most trusted officials in the service abroad and mailed from Peking a month ago.

"The question of raising the indemnity, though one of the most serious for the Chinese government, is not paramount. All the people who are likely to know declare that the Chinese peasant can stand no greater burden of tax than in the past, so the question resolves itself largely to reducing the expense of collection, which in China involves radical reforms. Another proposition for meeting the indemnity is to grant lucrative mining and other concessions to foreigners, but that involves endless trouble for

the Chinese who are quick to recognize the fact.

"If the whole horror of the murder and plague done between Tien Tsin and Peking comes to be understood in the United States and Europe the sum of it is so great as to be compared with the number of Christians who have suffered at the hands of the Chinese that rightly or wrongly the Chinese are likely to be held the injured party.

"Lancers wantonly impaling little children by the wayside in the streets of Peking are some of the least of the well authenticated horrors, and to some foreign soldiers a dead Chinese Christian is just as satisfactory an evidence of no quarter as a dead boxer—they neither know or care for such trifling distinctions.

"All the officers, if they could agree, could not set up an administrative machinery of their own for the empire. They must restore the power to some native party, and the quicker they do it the better for China. The Chinese estimate 1,000,000 of their people have lost their lives by violent deaths or starvation about Peking and Tien Tsin since the allies came. Well informed foreigners long resident here do not regard the estimate as exaggerated."

handful of troops may come to him and demand a sum of money on pain of having his town or village burned down in case of refusal?"

The world was kept in ignorance of those things when a knowledge of them would have forced a change in the policies of governments—kept in ignorance by a military censorship. The war in the Philippines was caused by this same censorship and the death of one-sixth of the Filipino people, according to General Bell, has followed. If correspondents had not been interfered with after the battle of Manila, if interviews with the Filipino leaders had not been forbidden, if the knowledge of the situation had not been suppressed, a public opinion in the United States would have arisen that would have prevented a war and the people of those islands would have been our undying friends and we could have all their trade as well as their gratitude. The censorship was the cause of the bloodshed and horrors that followed. The correspondents all met and protested, but McKinley insisted on the censorship. "I'll put you off the island," were the words of Otis, but they were the outcome of orders issued by McKinley.

The same thing was repeated in South Africa. The people of England were deceived by a censored press run in the interest of capital and militarism, and now there is not a home in all England that is not in mourning. It was the censorship that hid that awful work, just as in China and the Philippines. Still the people must wait for private letters sent by mail half way around the world for the information that they get. It comes months after the facts recorded have occurred. Turn responsible newspaper men loose in China, the Philippines and South Africa, in Cuba and Porto Rico and the world will soon throw off this horrible reign of bloodshed and cruelty.

If you want to do your neighbor a favor invite him to subscribe for The Independent.