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The collapse of reciprocity at Washington is hailed by the German protectionists with delight. They say now that German high tariffs against American goods is a certainty.

The London papers continue to talk about the "dogged determination" of the English, but at the same time they say that new troops must be sent to South Africa to relieve those who have become discouraged.

The revolt against the extravagant appropriations for the navy, led by Dr. Everett Hale of Boston, is bearing fruit. Senator Hale, who is chairman of the senate naval committee, declares that the appropriations for that purpose shall not be excessive.

The imperialist editors are not writing any glowing editorials about our trade with our "new possessions" since the official statistics have been printed. Their thoughts seem to be roaming in variously different fields. Not one of them since they read the figures has even remarked that "trade follows the flag."

The army regulations say that the senior officer present in a battle, or at any other time for that matter, is the officer in command. The two old naval barnacles who sat on the Schley court of inquiry say that that should be interpreted to mean: "The junior officer absent is in command and is entitled to all the glory."

Judge Youngblood of Chicago recently rendered a decision that operations on the Chicago board of trade was gambling and debts thus contracted could not be collected at law. That is in accordance with the facts in the case. It is rather queer that the courts took so long a time to arrive at the facts.

The Pretoria correspondent of the London Times declares that there is no good reason to be given why the Boers cannot carry on the war indefinitely. He says that the commandos are scattered all over the country and if the British succeed in killing a few now and then, the remainder only fight the harder and cause more trouble.

The friends of Schley never accused Sampson of being a coward because he was not present at the battle. But the friends of Sampson have continually charged Schley with cowardice because he was present and fought the Spaniards until he sank every one of their ships. That is the difference between the two sets of men in this contest.

The British say that the Boers are an uncivilized lot. So were the Swiss when they beat back the hordes of imperialism launched against them. These uncivilized barbarians who insist on liberty and independence are sometimes very hard to subdue. If they are finally successful in their defense, all the world calls them heroes ever after.

If any man thinks of heroically serving his country in this age of the world with the hope that his heroism will be rewarded with the appreciation of his government and people, he would do well to reconsider the matter. General Gomez was hissed by the Cuban people the other day, and both Dewey and Schley are disgraced by the government which they so bravely served.

One thing that is characteristic of a republican daily is that when it tells a lie it will stick to it. Some of them are still talking about a round cotton lisle trust and Senator Jones as the great trust magnate. There is a patent covering the round cotton bale and if the part ownership of a patent makes a man a trust magnate then Jones is one.

Six weeks ago The Independent published the facts about the refusal of the railroads that had Standard Oil dis-

**TARIFF WALLS**  
Truth never lies on the surface. Those who find it must dig for it. The apparent is almost always the false. The sun "appears" to rise and set, but we all know that appearance is false. It took thousands of years of digging for the wisest to find out the truth about that matter. Just so it is concerning every economic proposition. If anyone arrives at the truth in regard to anyone of them he must dig for it. To the ordinary farmer engaged in raising sugar beets it appears that any reduction in the tariff on Cuban sugar must come out of him. But if he digs for the truth he will find that idea is as false as any connected with the building up of tariff walls. The farmers engaged in the production of sugar beets are an infinitely small number when compared to all who are engaged in agriculture and every one of them are more largely interested in the production of other things than they are in the production of sugar beets. What they need is a market for all their products, not a curtailment of all for the sake of one product.

An arrangement with Cuba which will fill that island with active workers at good wages will make a market for millions of dollars' worth of all kind of products raised in these northern states, besides the manufactured articles that they will purchase. If the Cubans cannot sell their products they cannot buy goods of us. If that island is to become the residence of a poverty stricken people who cannot buy goods the loss will be ours as well as theirs. Both countries can be filled with a happy and prosperous people if all the inhabitants can be kept at work and there are no restrictions upon the swift exchange of their products. The old theorem of the political economists that anything that restricts exchange prevents the creation of wealth, is as eternally true as the law of gravitation.

The whole theory of protection is wrong. Putting difficulties in the way of exchange produces the same results in large transactions as in small ones. Any man can see that if in a primitive community tariff walls were raised between the man who made shoes and the man who made hats, so that the man who was trained to make shoes should have to make the hats for his family and the man who was trained to make hats had to try to make the shoes for his family, that there would be fewer hats and shoes made. It would take the shoemaker a long time to make a hat and the latter a long time to make a pair of shoes. When they got them completed they would be sorry looking products. If it is not wise to put up a tariff wall between the hatter and shoemaker in a primitive community, why is it not also unwise to put them up anywhere?

But they say look how rich we have become because of the tariff! Any one who has ever read Henry George's demolition of that fallacy needs no further instruction. He says that every prosperous and rich city in the United States has a theater, and in the little poor places there is never a theater. Therefore to be prosperous and rich it is only necessary for every city to build a theater.

This "post hoc ergo propter hoc" argument has always been relied upon to deceive the unthinking. It has come down to us from the dark ages where it was the main reliance of the governing powers and the priests to keep the people in due subjection. There was an eclipse. After the eclipse the prince died. Therefore the eclipse was the cause of the death of the prince. The ignorant rabble of the dark ages as firmly believed that because the prince died "after" the eclipse occurred, that the eclipse caused his death as the modern protectionists believe that because we have produced a great deal of wealth out of this virgin continent, after a tariff was enacted, that that wealth "was all on account of the tariff." Before the doctors discovered the bacteria, we had scourges of smallpox and typhoid. Since we had those scourges the nation has become very wealthy, therefore the wealth exists because of the smallpox and typhoid scourges.

Down in Australasia there was one colony, New South Wales, that stuck to free trade while all the others enacted protective tariffs. She prospered and grew wealthy without being a country of millionaires and a wage-working population always on the verge of starvation. These wage workers in the high tariff colonies several times had to be fed by the ten thousands upon charity to keep them from dying of starvation, but they believed as firmly that their very existence depended on keeping up a high tariff wall against "the pauper labor of Europe" as ever did the New England factory hand. England has been a free trade country, too, and she has become more wealthy than any of her continental competitors who have built up tariff walls.

gained there completely changed their opinions. Most prominent among them were Blaine and McKinley. In the latter part of their lives they both abandoned the views that they held in the days of their youth. There are many others besides these. They learned that no trade could be carried on between the United States and other nations unless the other nations were allowed to send their goods here. If such a condition as that could exist and we sell goods and never buy, the result would be that all the gold and silver of the world would be piled up here and the other nations would have none. What would we do with it after we got it? We couldn't eat it, wear it, clothe, feed or shelter ourselves with it. If the proposition is true, as all economists say, that money is not wealth, the end would be, that often we had toiled through the heat of summer and the cold of winter for years and years and at the end found out that we had produced enormous amounts of wealth and then exchanged it for something that was not wealth. We would have arrived at the same state as Dean Swift's Yahoos who spent their time accumulating useless bright stones. If, however, we had exchanged our products with other countries that they could produce, on account of their environment, with less labor and sacrifice that we could produce them, we would have accumulated wealth. This shipping of wealth out of the country at the rate of a billion dollars' worth a year more than is shipped in, has only been possible because of the richness of our soil, the advance of science and invention and the great intelligence and universal industry of our people. It is not "all on account of the tariff."

General Wood, military governor of Cuba, in his annual report concerning Cuba, says:  
All far-seeing business men realize that Cuba's prosperity and advancement depend absolutely upon her commercial relations with the United States, where her two main products have their principal market. High duties against Cuban products mean that the development will be slow, if at all. The importation of United States products into Cuba, while it is increasing, is yet considerably below the total importation from other countries. The establishment of reciprocity in commercial relations between Cuba and the United States means everything to Cuba, her development will be immediate.

Cuba must now market her principal products in the United States. New conditions have changed her old commercial relations, and if she is to live and prosper, she must have lower duties on her sugar and tobacco. With such reduction, the development of the island will be rapid and immediate.  
If that is true, then the Cubans would be able to buy our flour, our beef, our pork, our agricultural implements, the products of our factories, and we will have created a market instead of having destroyed one.

**THE POPULIST IDEA**  
In answer to Mr. E. W. Ferguson and some others writing on the subject, the Independent says that all money is "fat" money. Gold would not be money if it were not for the "fat" of the different governments that make it money. If there were no demand for gold for the purpose of discharging debts, which the "fat" of the governments says that it shall do, no one can even imagine what its value would be in exchange for other commodities. In regard to regulating the value of paper money, Ricardo is the best authority. No economist believes that there is any such thing as "intrinsic value." If anything had an "intrinsic value" its power in exchange would always be the same. All economists recognize the injustice in the variability of the purchasing power of money. Mill suggests what has become known as the "tabular plan." These enormous bank credits are the curse of the world. To a certain extent they do the duty of money. The first breath of adversity wipes them out. There is no such thing as "basing" money on anything. It rests in the sovereign power of government. It rests on the same foundation that all law rests upon. Only in the sense that laws and constitutions have a base, can money be said to have a base. Basing money on labor or any thing else is only a vagary. Money is a thing that the law says you shall take in full satisfaction of a debt. The law says so and that ends it. If the law is the "fat" of the government, so also is money. Many attempts have been made to fix the price of commodities by the direct enactment of law and they have always failed. It is only in an indirect way that law can fix prices and that is by the increase or the decrease of the volume of money. Absolute stability in prices would most undoubtedly put a stop to panics. The primary contention of populists is for stability of prices. They think that can be done by the regulation of the quantity of money.

**MORE IMPERIALISM**  
As imperialism begins to feel sure of its footing in these states it commences little annoyances just to show its power to which the people of Europe have so long been subjected. For a great many years, in fact ever since the postal service was established, it has been the practice to write the words "book," "printed matter," "photo," "mdse," etc., on packages to denote that they were either third-class or fourth class matter. This was done for the information and convenience of the postal clerks, although the packages were, of course, unsealed and subject to examination in case the clerks cared to take time for that purpose. The imperialists in the postoffice department at Washington, just to show their authority, sent out an order at the beginning of the holidays that packages having these words written on them must pay letter postage. A good many postmasters did not receive the order, or, if they did, they paid no attention to the matter, but at some large offices it created an immense amount of confusion and delay. It was not only a species of petty robbery, but an unwarranted piece of impudence on the part of the Washington authorities. But if we are to have imperialism in this country we must get accustomed to such things. That the order was in direct violation of law made no difference to the Maddens. Imperialism recognizes no law. The postal laws and regulations governing third and fourth class matter expressly provide that the sender "may write or print upon the wrapper or cover thereof or tag or label covering the same his name, occupation, residence or business address, preceded by the word 'from,' and any marks, numbers, names or letters for purpose of description, or may print or write thereon any matter not in the nature of a personal correspondence."

The Declaration of Independence, the constitution and the acts of congress are only regarded as waste paper by these Washington imperialists. That is just what the abandonment of the theories of government upon which this nation was founded was intended to result in, and The Independent has been telling its readers so ever since the chart and compass of the ship of state was thrown overboard by the present pirate crew.

**GEN. MILES**  
It turns out that the reprimand given to General Miles by the president and secretary of war was an act of imperialism pure and simple. The Army and Navy Journal and the Army and Navy Register, both of which papers are regarded as the highest authority on military matters in the United States, declare unequivocally in their issues of December 27 that such action was without the authority of law or any provision of the army regulations. General Miles has thus been made the subject of an imperial act without the authority of law. That being the case, we have the fact before us that the president has been exercising imperial authority in the most flagrant manner. The Journal says:  
According to the army regulations a reprimand such as was administered to the lieutenant general can only be administered under the protection of the regulations, which direct officers to be cautious in reprimanding him in the presence or hearing of private soldiers. The Register says:  
The impression prevails that the tone of the Root letter is unnecessarily severe—all out of proportion to the offense. There are even those who think the language employed is brutal.

Military men in Washington and all over the country were astonished beyond measure when they first read the report. All they could say was: "I never heard of such a thing before." Some of them have said in private that King Edward or Emperor William would hardly have dared to do such a thing as to publicly reprimand his commander-in-chief without a court-martial or some sort of an investigation upon which to base it. Imperialism is making mighty strides in these United States at the present time. But if that is what the people want they are entitled to have it. After a while they may not like it as well as they think they will. At present it is much further advanced than in England. Imagine what would happen in the United Kingdom if King Edward some day should take a notion to publicly reprimand Lord Roberts. Would the people over there take it as gently as they have the same act in here?

**ELASTIC CURRENCY**  
The new secretary of the treasury, Governor Shaw of Iowa, seems to be tarred with the same stick as all who have preceded him, except that he seems a little shakier about issuing notes payable on demand with only bank assets as security. At Washington it is said that Gage was forced to resign on account of the speeches he had made in favor of that sort of wildcat banking, for Roosevelt did not take it at all. Shaw, however, is vo-

ternity. What they want is some way of issuing all the promises to pay that they can and then get interest on what they owe. A note issued by a bank is not different in character from any other promissory note. When any one else issues such a note he expects to "pay" interest on it, but the banks want some plan fixed up so they can "get" interest on their notes. That is all there is to this cry about an "elastic currency." It is the sort of currency that has produced all the panics that the world has ever seen. It is the nature of things that it will produce the same results in the future as in the past. A little while ago all these chaps were declaring that we had "the best banking system that the world ever saw." Now they have come to the conclusion that it is no good at all and the whole thing must be re-modeled. Did they lie then? Do they lie now? Or did they lie all the time? The Independent leaves it to its readers to decide.

**WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT**  
Aside from the bill to build an isthmian canal, the legislation that is being pushed in Washington has never been asked for by the people. There have never been any petitions for the enactment of a ship subsidy bill, for destruction of the greenbacks, for a bank currency based on assets, for to make the silver dollars redeemable in gold or any of the other schemes that are to be pushed by the men sent to Washington as representatives and senators by the railroads and banks to make laws for us. What the people want can be gathered by looking over the Congressional Record. That shows that thousands of petitions have been sent there by the people asking for legislation that they do want. To summarize these petitions we find the following order: (1) For election of United States senators by the people. (2) For the extension of the Chinese exclusion act. (3) For the public ownership of telegraphs and telephones. (4) For a constitutional amendment prohibiting polygamy. (5) For the construction of war vessels by the government instead of by contract. There have been hundreds and thousands of petitions for these things with a smaller number asking for other beneficial legislation. They are all chucked in a big box down in the house and that is the last of them, not even the titles are read, although they are printed in the Record.

**THE PATIENT AMERICAN**  
The American people will endure more outrages and annoyances without protest than any other on earth. They will for years pay a corporation twice as much for goods as they know the corporation sells them for to others and never say a word. The other day there was a wreck on a Nebraska road and a passenger train was held at a little town for hours. Not a growl was heard from any one. After a while the car began to get very hot. Just as the men were pulling off their coats and the ladies began to fan themselves with anything they could get hold of, the intelligent corporation brakeman came through, closed all the ventilators in the top of the car and stirred up the fires. Then he went off to take a visit in the town. The car had double windows and the outside ones could not be raised. As the car got hotter and hotter the men put on their coats and got out on the track where the chill wind whistled through their garments. The children and the babies cried. "The ladies mopped their faces with their handkerchiefs and fanned themselves, but no one made a complaint. The patient American suffered it all without a protest. Perhaps they had all learned that making protests against corporations in this country never resulted in good, and sometimes the protest got in jail for contempt of court. Four hours behind time, the train arrived at its destination. The passengers meekly got out and went under the dominion of another corporation that ran the street cars. There they stood up and held on to straps when they had paid for seats but not one of the said a word. Living in a country where corporations run everything, including courts, legislatures and congresses, they had learned by sad experience that to complain would not help them in the least, so they patiently endured it all. The old phrase, "The Patient American" should be abolished, and the "Patient American" should take its place.

The McKinley bill, a document upon which all republicans swore their most sacred oaths, admitted raw sugar free. What is the matter with that crowd now? They seem to think that such a measure would be the ruin of the whole American people. They were never before so excited about "the pauper labor of Europe."

In the days of ancient imperialism there was always a court fool to amuse the people and keep them quiet. Modern imperialism follows that fashion. Every great daily keeps a court fool and gives him a column in its editorial page. He gingles on and on and talks nonsense for the amusement of those who take it. That important position is held by John D. Johnston, who is paid by all druggists through the Dr. Price, 25 cents a bottle. One Dr.

**PLAGUES AND PANICS**  
Whether the amount of superstition in the world is less now than in the dark ages is doubtful. It is changed in form, but the number of persons who express ideas that are absurd and fully believe in them without evidence, is probably as great as at any time in the history of the world. Some times it seems that every other person one meets is afflicted with some delusion. One thinks that he has an astral body floating around in space. Another that he sees ghosts and talks with the dead. Another that there is no such thing in the world as disease and sickness. Another firmly believes that you can have dear money and high prices at the same time. These superstitions are without number and are just as ridiculous as a belief in witches or any other of the foolish notions of the dark ages. The quest of the Holy Grail was no more absurd than the modern hunt for a material "basis" for money. Perhaps the belief that overproduction will produce starvation and want, is even more absurd than any of the delusions of the past. A writer on one of the dailies, a paper that within the few years has often ascribed the woes of mankind to overproduction, seems at last to have made some advance and now begins to write as through a glass darkly, as follows concerning plagues and panics:

In the middle ages people accepted plagues as providential visitations. In the modern but world have been regarded in the same manner. Plagues in time found to be due to untainable and preventable causes and they have practically disappeared from Europe. Business depressions continue to be periodic but the perception is slowly spreading that they are due to a kink in the social machinery rather than to any failure of nature or of human capacity. Their continuance is in its impeachment of social forethought and organizing intelligence and that to obviate their recurrence should be a deliberate aim of business economy.

Germany is the latest victim of the "providential" business depression—the keen irony of which is that while there has been no famine and no loss of vital energy able-bodied people, though eager to do so, cannot get a chance to relieve their own distress by their own labor. That Germany's misfortune is an international one is, of course, as true as that the plague used to be an international menace.

The "self-contained" circle of idleness and want which is the characteristic feature of business depressions—a circle in which each member is unemployed and in need simply because the others are so—is a challenge to the modern business world which can no longer be met by the summary, not to say superficial, reply of "overproduction." If it is an unavoidable social misfortune to produce beyond a given limit, then that limit should be ascertained and observed. If, on the other hand, "depression" come not from having produced too much wealth but rather from having excitedly ignored ratio and proportion as between different lines of production and then from an individual and mutually disastrous scramble by each proprietor to save himself when this fact is discovered—if "hard times" are essentially evidences of imprudence—then it is certainly not chimerical to expect their disappearance.

While there are signs of sanity in the above, yet sad to say, when the writer arrived at that point he is overcome by a worse delusion than any that has been enumerated, he declares that the organization of the will in the end be the cure for panics. As reason begins to return to the wavers, and says that such a thing is not a reasonable hope." Then his delusions begin to depart, he says:  
"Hard times" in the face of an and plenty betray a defective social economy, and the progressive business organization of today, if it is fulfilled in this country, certainly promises to make against these delusions.

This is the best of the editor's writing that appears in the great lies. On that sort of trash the "greatness organizations" rely for formation and guidance. Yet he asks these organizations to find a remedy for panics. How can the man who compose them find a remedy they never read a standard work of political economy in the lives. They believe in "intrinsic value." They believe in dear money and high prices. They believe in immense bank paper payable on sight. They advocate everything that goes toward the creation of panics. It is all a supposition that from them will come a remedy.

If some of the editors' great dailies would read a standard work on political economy, the men read on the dailies, that give them some instruction, that is too much to expect of a paid editor. The professors of political economy, if they were not afraid of their places, would be able to tell the people on these lines all about a remedy. One of the most known among them, told a story the other day who was both berating and praising John D. Johnston. Stuart Mill says, "You will have to be a politician."

bank credits within reasonable limits will prevent panics. To maintain stable prices and limit bank credits is a comparatively easy thing. The eight billion of bank credits now out is as sure to end in a panic, unless gradually reduced instead of being expanded, as too much steam will burst a boiler.

Many queer performances are allowed in the democratic party. For years the pig iron democrats were in as good standing as any of the best and voted with the republicans all the time on all national issues. Now they allow the sugar democrats to stay in the fold while they vote for sugar and imperialism. Why they don't hear them over the transom in any of those things that no pop can stand out.

There is to be a meeting in Omaha, January 6, to raise money for the starving women and children in the British reconcentrated camps of South Africa. The world is continually called upon to contribute to relieve sufferings of far-away peoples caused by British greed or British wars of conquest. The suffering must be alleviated if possible, but The Independent would like to see the world unite in stopping the cause of it.

"In restraint of trade" is a phrase that is often heard in the courts and on it many a case has been argued and won. To restrain trade has always been considered unlawful and a crime with which the courts could deal. But a tariff is a "restraint of trade." Every decision of a court and every argument ever made against restraint of trade applies just as forcibly against a high protective tariff as it does against any other combination organized for that purpose.

The New York Shipbuilding company of Canada is building three vessels for the American Hawaiian Steamship company—the Nevada, the Nebraska and the Tekan—and will soon have ready for launching the first named vessel. Every other American shipyard is working over time and several of them have refused new orders. Fry and Hanna should hurry up the ship subsidy bill or the first flag that they know American shipyards will be ruined with the "pauper labor of Europe."

Senator Elkins of West Virginia the largest criminal in the United States, we except Matt Quay, is chairman of the committee on interstate commerce and has the finest committee room in the capitol. That is the way the republican party takes care of its counsels. He said to a reporter shortly after he was appointed to the chairmanship: "It is a fact that, unless rates, combinations and pools will find no opponent in this head of the senate railroad committee."

Wherever wealth is concentrated there common schools suffer. Millions are counted by the hundreds in New York and Chicago, but in both cities the children are left in large numbers without education. It has just been announced that the Chicago school term will be cut three months the coming year for want of funds. Out among the hard-working farmers in the country districts all the children have school privileges. But where wealth concentrates, not only men, but schools decay.

In the handling of criminals and what are called incorrigible children, the sociologists have started out on a new line. Investigation has shown that very often it is the parents who are incorrigible instead of the children. To get rid of them and to avoid supporting them, this sort of parents brings the children into court and charge them with incorrigibility so that they may be sent to some institution and supported by the state. A court for incorrigible parents would be a very proper tribunal to establish in the cities.

Mayor Low of New York is going to open a bureau where citizens may come to make complaints and offer suggestions. He assures them that all shall be courteously treated, that complaints reduced to writing and referred to the various departments where they will receive attention. That is a most sensible and practical thing. Perhaps there may be a few Americans left who will have force of character enough to protest against oppression and wrong. Usually they don't say a word, unless they say a few swear words as they walk along.

A long time ago, before your hair turned gray and before you were more inclined to stay quietly at home, an evening instead of going to a dance, a fellow, by the name of Neely—a republican in good standing and an officeholder—robbed the Cuban postoffice and shipped a million dollars of stolen coin to the United States, in United States mail sacks. Most people have forgotten all about it. The matter but it was the one that the damages the other day that no witnesses by the name of Fletcher and Holmes had gone to Cuba to give testimony in the case.