The Nebraska Independent.

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SHIP SUBSIDY STEAL

Germany Investigates American Ship Yards—Ships Can be Built Here Cheaper Than Anywhere Else

Lieutenant Tjard Schwartz has returned to Germany from his official visit to the American ship yards and made his report to the German government. He is the naval constructor sent to the United States by the imperial marine staff. He says that American shipbuilders are "striving with all the means at their command to put their industry in a position to compete successfully with the long-established English builders, on the one hand, and with the younger but rapidly developing shipbuilders of Germany."

Lieutenant Schwartz declares that material for the construction of steel ships is cheaper in the United States than in any other country. He says American workmen are the best in the world and earn wages 30 to 50 per cent higher than those paid in Great Britain, and 100 per cent higher than the wages paid on the continent, and says that wage bills in the United States are counterbalanced by economical processes of machinery which are not found in European yards.

Herr Schwartz reports that, notwithstanding the wages paid, freighters are being built on the great lakes as cheaply as tramp steamers are built in Great Britain.

He says that the most striking difference between German and American shipyards is found in the use of pneumatic boring, hammering and riveting machines and pneumatic cranes in the United States.

The investigator saw seventy-five pneumatic machines working at once in the yards of an American shipbuilding company in Chicago, although only two ships were on the stocks. He says that British shipbuilders are arranging to obtain these pneumatic machines from the United States.

Herr Schwartz reports that the new consolidation of shipbuilding companies in the United States is the largest and richest shipbuilding concern in the world, and he says that it will devote its resources to economic shipbuilding, to reducing the present method of obtaining material to uniformity, and to the centralization of ship construction and its management.

The one thing complained of in the United States, he says, is the fluctuation in the prices of material, which makes competition with foreign shipbuilders difficult. Lieutenant Schwartz says in this connection that within four months the prices of shipbuilding materials in the United States have fluctuated 200 per cent from a lack of stability of the market, and that this is the principal reason why some American shipbuilders are combining with the steel producers.

WHAT IS IT

A Republic, an Empire' or a Despotism? All Sorts of Government Under the American Flag

Under one form there actually exist today many kinds of United States governments, differing from each other essentially, widely, radically, as to the measure of freedom, justice and equal rights which the people living under them enjoy. These different kinds of government may be concisely enumerated as follows:

1. In the northern states government is based broadly upon universal suffrage, except that Massachusetts, Cannecticut, Nevada and Wyoming exclude from the suffrage all men who cannot both read and write, while Pennsylvania and Minnesota require the prepayment of a poll tax by every voter.

2. In the southern states government is based on the principle of "white supremacy," and such educational and tax-paying qualifications for voters are prescribed as in practice totally disfranchise the black race. There are nearly 10,000,000 black people living within the continental limits of our union—and not one black member of congress.

3. In Cuba we are at the moment maintaining a military government, levying taxes on the people and spending the revenues therefrom by decrees of our military governor; levying duties on Cuban imports by the same authority, collecting at the same time tariff duties on Cuban exports to this country under acts of congress in which Cuba has no representation. SHORTLY, HOWEVER, CUBA WILL BE LEFT ENTIRELY FREE TO GOVERN HERSELF, EXCEPT THAT SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE TREATIES, CONTRACT DEBTS OR DEAL WITH HER OWN DOMESTIC DISORDERS, IF SHE HAS ANY, WITHOUT THE CONSENT, APPROVAL AND POSSIBLE MILITARY INTERFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

4. In the Philippines we are carrying on a so-called "civil government" based on military authority pure and simple—the president's war powers—and maintained only by an army of 43,000 men, who were engaged in over 1,000 actions against "insurgent" natives in the year that ended with June, 1900. Our governor-general's rule there is as absolute as that of the governor-general of a Russian province. There is no trial by jury in the Philippines, and we are depriving men of their lives and liberties out there by the summary process of courts-martial.

5. In Porto Rico we have a territorial form of representative government, with a native legislature, none of whose acts can become laws without the consent of the executive council of eleven members, six of whom are American born and five natives, and all of whom hold their offices by presidential appointment.

6. In Hawaii we have another territorial form of government with a native legislature. But the governor is appointed by the president and is the representative of the American-born residents who brought about the annexation of the islands and who number only 4,000 in a total population of 154,000. And the governor's veto power effectively stops all legislation by and for the native people of the islands, who lack just one vote of the two-thirds majority in the senate necessary to override a veto.

7. In Guam, Tutulla and Manua we have government by naval commanders sent out there by the navy department. They levy taxes and make and change laws for the natives—about 13,000 of them—by the simple process of issuing "general orders." And that is simple absolutism, benevolent it may be, but still absolutism.

In fine, alike in our "insular possessions" and within the borders of our own union, in many states of the south and in some of the north, we are denying equality of rights to men on grounds of difference in race, color, education or means. Ten millions of black people living in the United States are denied representation really because they are black, and only ostensibly because they cannot read or write, or do both, or pay taxes. Some millions of white people—exactly how many cannot be stated—are also denied representation by similar requirements as to qualification, many of them in states that are not southern and have no "race problem." Ten millions of brown people living in the Philippines are not only denied equality of rights, but are treated at once as aliens and "subjects," wholly outside all the great guarantees of the constitution except such as are primary and "go to the very root of the power of congress to act at all, irrespective of time and place"—such as the prohibition of torture.

What then has become of those heretofore fundamental axioms and maxims of American government—"Taxation without representation is tyranny," "Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed," and Lincoln's immortal paraphrase of Jefferson's immortal sentence, "No man is good enough to rule another man without that other man's consent?" In the evolutionary and revolutionary processes of growth at home and expansion beyond the seas these landmarks of American liberty seem, temporarily at least, to have disappeared. JOHN S. DE HART.

Jersey City, N. J.

THE GREAT BIG "I AM IT"

Some Pertinent Facts Called to the Attention of a Senatorial Boaster

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—(Special Correspondence.)—At a recent swell dinner given in this city a United States senator was painting the splendors of American institutions with a somewhat lavish hand. At his side sat one of the most distinguished diplomats who represent foreign countries at our national capital. The diplomat "stood for it" with commendable patience for a time, but finally took up the conversational challenge with a number of very pertinent remarks.

"You are a great nation," said he, "but you have disappointed the world in many respects. All other countries freed their slaves without serious strife; Russia manumitted twenty million serfs by an imperial decree, and then took steps to see that they all were secured in possession of their land. Yet the United States nearly destroyed itself with civil war over the slavery question. You have sneered at other governments for their heavy military burdens, though the standing armies abroad have been immense national schools to change bent backed peasants into upstanding, intelligent freemen. At the same time you have saddled yourselves with a much greater burden in a huge pension list which has not begun to shrink, though the war on which it is based was over forty years ago. You have the only government which has lost three rulers in less than forty years by assassination. You are the only nation whose highest court has for twenty years been undermining the fundamental charter of the government by vacillating, conflicting and divergent opinions. Commercially, industrially, and intellectually you are magnificent; governmentally you retrograde." R. S. RISELEY.

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Little by little, but steadily as man's march to the grave, we have been giving up the old for the new faith. Near eighty years ago we began by declaring that all men are created equal; but, now, from that beginning we have run down to the other declaration that for some men to enslave others is a 'sacred right of self-government." These principles cannot stand together. They are as opposite as God and Mammon; and whoever holds to the one must despise the other.—From Abraham Lincoln's Speech, Peoria, Ill., Oct. 16, 1854.

In those days our Declaration of Independence was held sacred by all, and thought to include all; but now to aid in making the bondage * * * universal and eternal it is assailed and sneered at and construed and hawked at and torn, till, if its framers could rise from their graves, they could not at all recognize it.—Abraham Lincoln's Speech at Springfield, Ill., June 26, 1857.

Are you going to do your part to preserve the Republic?

PHILIPPINE CARPET BAGGERS

A Conquered Nation, Taxed Unmercifully and Without Representation Pays the Bill

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9, 1902.—(Special Correspondence.)—The civilian salary list under our government in the Philippine islands reveals an interesting if not disgusting state of affairs. It is an exposure fit to make any sensitive American blush for shame. These salary lists carry 4,606 names. Of that number of office-holders, 2,044, or nearly 45 per cent, are Americans, and 2,562, or slightly more than 55 per cent, are Filipinos. The annual salaries of these 4,606 office-holders amount to $3,086,989, a mild average of $670. But of this amount the Filipinos get but $806,945, or about 26 per cent, while the Americans get $2,280,044, or about 74 per cent. It appears, therefore, that only 26 per cent of the salaries go to 55 per cent of the officials, while 74 per cent of the salaries go to 45 per cent of the officials. Our carpetbaggers are, of course, getting the best end of it. Governor Taft receives $20,000 a year, double the salary paid the governors of any of our states and four or five times as much as the most of them receive. Four American commissioners receive $15,000 apiece, or three times the salary of our members of congress. Other salaries, drawn almost exclusively by Americans, vary from $5,000 to $7,500 a year. As these salaries are paid by the Philippine people, the circumstances are not altogether unlike those of which our own people complained in 1776, when, in the Declaration of Independence, they charged George III. with having "erected a multitude of new offices and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out our substance." It develops that the original copy of the state department, is fading out and but few of the heavier lines of the ink manuscript remain of that immortal document. But even the corroding hand of time has no more completely blotted out the original work of the revolutionary fathers than the practice of their principles has disappeared from the policies of the republican party. The American superintendent of schools in the Philippines has ordered that the birthday of Jose Rizal, the Filipino patriot who was executed by the Spaniards, be observed by the school children. The order of the superintendent is commendable in teaching the rising generation to revere the memory of those who make great sacrifices in defense of a great principle, but it will likely inspire in the children contempt for a nation whose practice toward their fathers is so inharmonious with the precepts taught them.

H. W. RISLEY.

WANDERED FAR AWAY

Compare the Republican Interpretation of the Declaration of Independence With What Lincoln Said

Many persons honestly believe that because the men who are now in control of this government call themselves republicans that they are pursuing the same governmental policies to which Lincoln devoted his life. But the fact is that every fundamental doctrine that Lincoln preached has been repudiated by them, and an effort is made by the assistance of the supreme court to make the declaration, as Lincoln said, "a mere wreck, a mangled ruin." How far away from the doctrines upon which the republican party was founded these modern statesmen have wandered may be gathered from an extract from the speech that he made upon this subject at Beardstown, old Independence hall said to the whole race of men: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: 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.' This was their MAJESTIC INTERPRETATION OF THE ECONOMY OF THE UNIVERSE. This was THEIR LOFTY, AND WISE, AND NOBLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE JUSTICE OF THE CREATOR TO HIS CREATURES. Yes, gentlemen, TO ALL HIS CREATURES, TO THE WHOLE GREAT FAMILY OF MEN. In their enlightened belief NOTHING STAMPED WITH THE DIVINE IMAGE AND LIKENESS WAS SENT INTO THE WORLD TO BE TRODDEN ON AND DEGRADED AND IMBRUTED BY ITS FELLOWS. They grasped not only the whole race of man then living, but THEY REACHED FORWARD AND SEIZED UPON THE FARTHEST POSTERITY. They erected A BEACON TO GUIDE THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN AND THE COUNTLESS MYRIADS WHO SHOULD INHABIT THE EARTH IN OTHER AGES. Wise statesmen as they were, they knew the tendency of prosperity to breed tyrants, and so they established these great self-evident truths, that WHEN, IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, SOME MAN, SOME FACTION, SOME INTEREST, SHOULD SET UP THE DOCTRINE THAT NONE BUT RICH MEN, NONE BUT WHITE MEN, OR NONE BUT ANGLO-SAXON WHITE MEN WERE ENTITLED TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS, THEIR POSTERITY MIGHT LOOK UP AGAIN TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND TAKE COURAGE TO RENEW THE BATTLE WHICH THEIR FATHERS BEGAN, so that truth and justice and mercy and all the humane and Christian virtues might not be extinguished from the land; so that NO MAN WOULD HEREAFTER DARE TO LIMIT AND CIRCUMSCRIBE THE GREAT PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THE TEMPLE OF LIBERTY WAS BEING BUILT.

"Now, my countrymen, IF YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT DOCTRINES CONFLICTING WITH THE GREAT LANDMARKS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE; IF YOU HAVE LISTENED TO SUGGESTIONS WHICH WOULD TAKE AWAY FROM ITS GRANDEUR AND MUTILATE THE FAIR SYMMETRY OF ITS PROPORTIONS; IF YOU HAVE BEEN INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT ALL MEN ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL IN THOSE INALIENABLE RIGHTS ENUMERATED BY OUR CHART OF LIBERTY, LET ME ENTREAT YOU TO COME BACK. RETURN TO THE FOUNTAIN WHOSE WATERS SPRING CLOSE BY THE BLOOD OF THE REVOLUTION. Think nothing of me; take no thought for the political fate of any man whomsoever, but COME BACK TO THE TRUTHS THAT ARE IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. You may do anything with me you choose, if you will but HEED THESE SACRED PRINCIPLES. You may not only defeat me for the senate, but you may take me and put me to death. While pretending no indifference to earthly honors, I do claim to be actuated in this contest by something higher than an anxiety for office. I charge you to drop every paltry and insignificant thought for any man's success. It is nothing; I am nothing; Judge Douglas is nothing. BUT DO NOT DESTROY THAT IMMORTAL EMBLEM OF HUMANITY—THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE!"

The Independent continues "to look up again to the declaration of independence and takes courage to renew the battle which the fathers began," although the party for which its editor cast his first vote is governing 8,000,000 of people by a military despotism and he sees the leaders of that party wandering back to the doctrines of George III.

A QUEER ADMINISTRATION

Authority to Plunder the Philippine Islands to be Rushed Through—Senators Refuse to go to the White House

Washington, D. C., Jan. 11.—Isthmian legislation will be the most interesting thing before congress for some time to come.

The house passed the measure favoring the Nicaragua route and the real fight will come in the senate.

The Panama people are in earnest, and as the price is now put at a reasonable figure there are many senators who favor the Panama route.

It has certain advantages and it is a bit suspicious that the house republicans were in such a rush to push through the Nicaraguan bill.

They were not at all willing to give President Roosevelt authority to decide the matter. The house does not seem overburdened with confidence in the new executive.

Senator Lodge has introduced a bill which ostensibly provides a temporary form of government for the Philippines.

In reality it aims to give the franchise grabbers the chance which they have been seeking since the islands came into our possession.

Representative Cooper has a similar bill in the house. In effect these measures seek to confirm all tentative franchise negotiations and give free scope to the mineral prospectors and lumber speculators and land grabbers.

There is considerable natural wealth in the Philippines—no one knows how pines since the last session was not altogether for their health.

The promising land has been staked out and the republican majority intend to exploit the islands for all they are worth.

The military authorities gravely assure the public that at least 40,000 soldiers will be needed permanently in the islands for their "moral effect" in upholding the civil government.

So now the schemes of imperialism approach fruition. The islands are to be looted by speculators under government protection.

The result has been rather deferred in the estimation of those who desired to begin the work of plundering immediately after the signing of the treaty, but in another year it will be fully under way and the Filipinos will discover how thorough and up-to-date are the modern methods of the enterprising American as compared with the manana tactics of the Spanish.

The state of Minnesota seems in earnest in its war upon the western railway trust.

Attorney General Douglass of Minnesota came to Washington a few days ago and filed a bill of complaint against the new corporation with the supreme court. This action has interested the whole country. It is evident that the state of Minnesota is alive to the danger of being owned by a railway trust and proposes to sound the alarm generally. There is no doubt but the consolidation of these competing lines puts the territory which they control completely at their mercy. Meanwhile there is not a whisper of any congressional action to disturb the easy security of the trusts.

The republican organs of the country are doing much unnecessary worrying because the democrats in congress do not caucus every morning before breakfast and announce a policy.

There is no earthly reason why the democratic minority should begin to build a national platform either this year or next.

Its members are in harmony in their opposition to the pernicious measures that are being pushed by the republican majority.

The country will be the judge of the work accomplished.

So far as the next congressional election is concerned, the democrats need only to keep the country informed of the trend of affairs and each candidate can make the fight better locally on his record and that of his opponent.

Ex-Senator Chandler, in a jovial mood, has been suggesting that the president should be a trifle more exclusive and somewhat less democratic in his methods. On the surface the plea is that the present democratic custom of seeing everybody overtaxes the chief executive. That may be true, but all that is necessary is to let President Roosevelt alone. He gets more brusque every day and at the present rate will soon have all the solitude he wants because he will have offended everybody in reach.

Even at the public reception at the White house the other evening Mrs. Roosevelt gave signs of sharing the eccentricities of her gifted husband. She kept both hands tightly clasped about a huge bunch of orchids and only offered to shake hands when the whim seized her.

Sometimes the president would greet a public personage with the greatest cordiality and Mrs. Roosevelt would pass the same person along the line with the curtest sort of a nod. More than one outstretched hand was ignored by the first lady of the land and the chagrined expression of those so treated was one of the notable incidents of the receptions. It is said that several senators have been so deeply offended that they have notified President Roosevelt that when he wants to consult them he can let them know. They are not going to visit the White house any more. Verily it is a queer administration.—D. P. B.

Common Sense

Editor Independent: Your favor of December 28, 1901, received. I think The Independent contains more common sense than any paper I ever read. I like it better than any paper that has come to my office. I am expecting to travel this winter or I would subscribe for the paper now. I am one among the common people.

I hereby thank you for the sample copies you sent me. J. F. WATKINS.

Kilbridge, Tenn.

WHAT CONGRESS IS DOING

The Nicaragua Canal Bill—Senate Adjourns to Attend a Wedding—The Bartley Pardon in Washington

Washington, D. C., Jan. 11.—(Special Correspondence.)—Congress convened after its holiday recess on Monday and after the reading of several non-important incidentals, the senate and house adjourned out of respect to Hon. William Joyce Sewell, United States senator from the state of New Jersey, who died during the holidays. On Tuesday morning congress reassembled, the house to consider the Hepburn canal bill, which had been made a special order before the holidays. Greater opposition to the canal bill developed than was anticipated at the time it was favorably reported by the committee. It was certainly apparent that the members—or at least quite a number of them, had taken kindly to the report that the Panama canal company was willing to sell its interests to the United States for the sum of forty millions of dollars. Even men who had been enthusiastic in support of the bill before the close of the meeting before the holiday recess hesitated to go further until the matter had been entirely sifted—in fact till the report of the Panama Canal company had been made to the president and transmitted by him to congress they did not care to act. They felt that the entire situation should be completely considered before the nation took one false step.

By previous arrangement the bill was made a special order and it was taken up immediately after the meeting of congress on Tuesday, with Representative Grosvenor of Ohio in the chair. The galleries were filled and there was far more than the average attendance of members, when Chairman Hepburn, author of the measure, took the floor for debate of the question. He was primed to meet the Panama project, which he expected would be thrust at him, and his expectations were thoroughly realized. Representative Morris (Minn.) brought it forward by giving notice of an amendment authorizing the president or a majority of the Isthmian canal commission, under certain stipulated conditions, to negotiate for the purchase of the Panama property and the completion of the canal by that route.

But Chairman Hepburn was not primed—in fact he seemed to be nettled—by the stand taken by his old antagonist, Chairman Cannon of the appropriations committee, who based his objection on the ground that the United States had no right to build the canal until it had secured the assent of Costa Rica and Nicaragua by treaty. He counselled delay for at least sixty days.

But the bill passed the house late on Thursday evening by a practically unanimous vote. There being only two dissenting votes out of a total of 310 cast. Mr. Fletcher (rep.) of Minnesota and Mr. Lassiter (dem.) of Virginia were the only two dissenting members to cast their votes.

The opposition to committing the government to the Nicaraguan route attempted to lodge the discretionary power with the president to purchase and complete the Panama canal, if it could be purchased for the sum of $40,000,000. The test came on the first vote, when the advocates of the alternative route polled 102 votes against 170, and at each succeeding vote, they diminished in strength until Chairman Cannon was unable to get the "yeas and nays" on a motion to recommit. All other amendments failed and the bill passed the house exactly as it came from the committee. None of the votes cast were recorded until the final vote upon its passage. Two years ago a similar bill passed the house by a vote of 224 to 36.

The bill passed Thursday gives the president the authority to secure from the states of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, if possible, in behalf of the United States, control of such a portion of territory belonging to the said states as may be desirable and necessary on which to excavate, construct and protect a canal suitable to the wants and needs of modern commerce, and appropriates such a sum as may be necessary to secure the control of such territory.

Section 2 authorizes the president after securing the control of such territory to direct the secretary of war

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