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ANARCHY BILLS

The House is Flooded With Them—Grosvenor Fighting Irrigation—Joe Sibley Cuts up Some More Capers

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17.—(Special Correspondence.)—A perusal of the large mass of bills before this congress as a result of the deplorable assassination of the lamented McKinley will show that a majority of them are really less calculated to repress anarchy than they are to abridge the rights of free speech. Some of them even aim at the abolition of the entire criminal code. There is no room in this country for those who would teach or practice opposition to all forms of government, and there can be no room for those who would deny the right of the people to abolish their government and in its stead erect the fabric of a new one, if, in their judgment, the new one shall better promote life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. A bad government is a tyranny, but no government is worse. The people can change a bad government if they so will, but in a case of no government there is no redress.

Congressman Grosvenor of Ohio declares opposition to government-aided irrigation enterprises in the west, giving as a reason that, since he represents an agricultural district, he does not propose to vote money to create competitors for his constituents. The Ohioan unconsciously presents one of the strongest arguments for national aid in irrigation enterprises, namely, the building up of a great agricultural stronghold in the arid and now uninhabitable portions of the land. Those who can realize that the basis of our wealth lies in the well being of the farming community will be able to appreciate the benefits which we are to gain from western irrigation enterprises.

It is believed the east will oppose aid for irrigation. The west will likely oppose the ship subsidy. The hope for both may lie in a compromise.

The latest report of Secretary of War Root statistically proves that our army of soldiers costs more per capita than those of any other nation on earth. The glamor of territory won and victories gained by our arms will all too soon wear away when the taxpayers are compelled to bear the expense of such folly.

Congressman Sibley of Pennsylvania has introduced a bill to increase the premium on United States bonds in the hands of the holders. Sibley is the strenuous character who declared so loudly for Bryan in 1896 and has since joined hands with his fellow-stockholders in protected industries of the east in proclaiming the beneficence of legislation in the interest of entrenched wealth. Nebraska legislators of bondholders in the farmhouses, on the hillsides and in the valleys will raise the roof in singing hosannas to the author of this bill.

H. W. RISLEY.

COMMERCIALISM IN POLITICS

The Officer Who Dares to be Aggressively Honest is a Doomed Man—The Moral Danger Grows Most Serious

The Independent is glad to see new recruits springing up in every section of the country who are advocating the doctrines that it has so long held. For some years it has had a lonesome path to pursue. All the great journals have been the advocates of commercialism. When The Independent first raised its voice there were few to hear and none to heed. Now there are found voices, few in number yet, that are uttering the same warning cry in almost every state of the union. The fight against greed may be long, and it is sure to be bitter, but in the end it will win. Commercialism in politics will ruin any nation. Many men are for the first time beginning to realize that a moral degradation is sure to follow. Listen to Bird S. Coler of New York city, than whom no man has had a better opportunity to see the workings of modern politics. He says:

"Commerce in the great benefits of power in politics has grown from a business of blundering force to an exact science, by means of which public opinion, always suspicious, is so swayed and divided that it remains merely suspicious, never positive. The public mind has been made less inquisitive, the official conscience more elastic, by the skillful cloaking of political corruption into the outward form of honesty and respectability. Commercial transactions in politics, at least all those of magnitude, now bear the label of public benefits, or municipal development.

"This style of politics to succeed requires an appearance of intense parsimony and the highest organization. There must be parties opposed and antagonistic at all times; but secretly understanding one another and working in harmony to certain definite ends. The chances of success of such a combination are always increased and preliminary expenses reduced when one leader in the name of his party controls a state, and the opposing leader, in the name of his organization, controls a great city, or other subdivision of that state. Then corporate and industrial interests not in politics 'must do business,' that is, arrange for legislation and official favor with both leaders or parties. Under such conditions secret understandings are not only possible, but they constitute the working capital of commerce in politics. It is now a simple and safe matter to arrange the most complicated and far-reaching corporate or business interest through the medium of stock certificates and bonds sold without public bidding. Worthless, indeed, is that business interest or social influence that cannot obtain a charter right or privilege where the spirit of commercialism dominates leg-

ISOLATION.

Such rights obtained, protective values, contingent upon further political favors, may be converted into immensely valuable and important assets by a sound and judicious distribution of stock and bonds. Public officers may not legally become interested in any form of contract or business interest with the state or municipality under which they hold office; but they are in no way prohibited from helping outsiders to secure valuable contracts by reason of special requirements, or specifications. This is one of the reasons why great political leaders, alive to the material interest of themselves and their near relations, do not seek or accept political office. They put into places of power and responsibility men who will do their bidding, or at least men who are expected to obey orders. The higher the personal reputation of the man elevated to office, the better for the interests of representatives of commercialism in politics, provided always that he does not prove aggressively honest. The man favored by such interest is expected to be personally and outwardly honest above suspicion. He must keep his own hands clean, but it is also expected of him that his honesty will be confined to the passive or negative state. If he proves honest to that degree of positiveness or aggressiveness that causes him to block commercial schemes, he at once passes out of favor and becomes a marked man, one to be hounded and if possible destroyed. When he reaches that stage, the fight against him will not be confined to his own party or faction, but will be made by every party, faction and individual interest in the commerce of politics. This community of interests has grown and extended in the course of development of the commercial spirit in politics until its tentacles reach every social, professional and moral influence as well as all elements in business and political life. It is a marvelous system, and dangerous not only to public interest, but to the moral standards of the community. Division of power and combinations of personal and commercial interests have brought the great political parties of the country to a condition in some states where a leader of one may say to the membership of the other party, in a great subdivision of the commonwealth, remote from his home, 'This man you may employ in your service; that man you shall not! Not only has such a command been issued—it has been obeyed, and obeyed because the commercial interests of opposing factions were identical and they brook independent or aggressive honesty in public office.

"There is a moral danger in this spirit of arrogant contempt for official honesty that is more to be feared than the constantly increasing expenses of providing from taxation the profits of commercialism in politics. To discourage true honesty in public life is a serious matter, but it is blunting the moral sense of the rising generation to blazon to the world the lesson that the public officer who bars the sluice from the public treasury to the private pocket is a marked man, doomed to suffer defamation for daring to do right. Such is the principle, such is the method in politics. Isolated cases need not be cited. The system, generally, the methods the same everywhere."

CONSERVATIVE CITIZENS

They are Found not in the Circles Called the "Upper Class" but Among the Honest Tilters of the Land

The plutocratic papers are fond of indulging in denunciations of the working classes. They call them fanatics, agitators and dangerous. The fact is that the sound conservatism, love of country and good government lies among these classes and not among the bondholders and multimillionaires. The spectacle of the president of the greatest business organization in the world, Schwab, backing his luck at Monte Carlo until his winnings and losses become matters of newspaper comment, and then finding it necessary to cable guarded denials of "sensational gambling," is not an edifying spectacle morally. It is interesting to note that on the day when his president was making bets at Monte Carlo the workmen of the Carnegie Steel company, one of the constituent parts of the corporation of which Mr. Schwab is president, contributed \$10,000 toward a McKinley monument. They were better employed than he was. These workmen will never go touring in Europe and so be tempted to try their luck at Monte Carlo. That their betting proclivities, however—and those of young men generally—will be lessened by the example of the official head of the steel corporation perhaps is unlikely. Their contrasted act was at least an interesting suggestion as to where some of the conserving influences of society exist.

Wherever the producing classes have succeeded in perfecting an organization that controlled a government, that government has always been of the conservative kind, while it made advances toward the betterment of mankind. Such has been the case in New Zealand and Australia. Some of the most effective reforms in all government have originated there, such as the Australian ballot law, now in force in most constitutional governments. The radicals are not found among the working classes. Those who have made the sudden and radical changes in our form of government during the last few years were not numbered among them. The Independent has often called attention to this fact, yet still the great dailies go on in their tirade against the fanatics and agitators among the working men.

THE FILIPINOS

They are Held in Subjection by an Armed Force and Will Rebel the Moment It is Removed

One of the populist predictions was that the war in the Philippines would go on without end, and that if the Filipinos were held in subjection to the United States, a perpetual army of occupation would have to be maintained there. Lately the editor of The Independent has been shown several letters written by officers now on duty or lately in the islands. Every one of them says that the American people have no idea of the conditions there and that the government being a military government, has power and does prohibit the facts being given to the people. Instead of there being any movement of Filipinos toward establishing a civil government along the lines attempted by the Taft commission, that there is a growing feeling against it. These officers estimate that it will require an army of from 50,000 to 75,000 men to keep a semblance of authority there. They say that the army now holding in fact a very small portion of the territory of the islands—that a mile or two from the military lines the Filipinos are in actual possession and that a Filipino government is actually administering the affairs of three-fourths of the islands, that taxes are collected and the officers of the Filipino government are recognized by the inhabitants.

The Springfield Republican, in some comments on this condition of affairs, says:

"There is no possible doubt that the army officers in the Philippines are to a man with General Chaffee in his disagreement with Governor Taft concerning pacification. In a recent private letter, an officer who is fully acquainted with the conditions, writes as follows: 'In my opinion . . . the government will have to keep 50,000 American troops in the islands for years to come. If the troops were now withdrawn from any part of a so-called 'pacified' province, the civil government in public vacated by the troops would have to fly for its life before the dawn of another sun. In some towns, the last bayonet would hardly be out of sight before the natives' bolos would be bathed in American blood. Civil government in these islands is possible and can abide only in a somewhat serious and noteworthy. In northern Luzon, matters are quiet, but it is well known that many Mauser rifles were not turned in by the insurgents surrendered in April last and an outbreak would not surprise anyone acquainted with the people and the facts.'

This writer's reference to northern Luzon is particularly noteworthy, since that section of late has been regarded as thoroughly pacified. General Chaffee's opinion, of course, is based upon the views of his subordinate officers scattered over the islands, and they supply him with views like this one quoted."

That the state of affairs there is somewhat serious is shown by the following dispatch which was found hidden away in the graveyard of one of the great dailies. It was dated at Washington, January 18:

"Lieutenant General Miles today issued an order transferring troops to the number of 5,233 from the United States to the Philippines. Among the regiments was the Twenty-third infantry, stationed at Fort Sheridan near Chicago, which is to sail on February 16 or March 1."

There is quite a difference in that way of making the announcement of shipping a very large force of men to the Philippines from the way it was done when we started out to rescue the Filipinos from Spanish tyranny. When the first Nebraska statesman for the Philippines, that notice was not given in a four line item on the inside pages of the newspapers. There has been a great change wrought in the United States since that time. Now soldiers are hustled around in the same fashion and in the habit of cars and monarchs of Europe to hand them. The American soldier is not now a patriot fighting for liberty, but simply one who hires out to kill for the wages he gets. It is not on account of the Filipinos that The Independent has made such vigorous protests against a war of conquest and government by force, but for the reason that it will end, if persisted in, in the final overthrow of the principles and form of government set up on this continent by Washington and Jefferson and saved by the martyred Lincoln. The "sappers and miners" go on in their deadly work and day by day they undermine the great structure dedicated to human liberty.

WASHINGTON LAWMAKERS

The House Has Abolished Itself by the Adoption of the Reed Rules and Law is Made in the Senate

After the editorial which appeared in The Independent last week entitled "The Prestige Gone" was in type the far eastern exchanges began to arrive and a look at them revealed the fact that the peculiar transactions in the house had attracted the attention of many editorial writers. They all take the same view as The Independent. It might be remarked that it is a dangerous thing to tamper with a form of government after it is once established and in working order. No one, however wise he may be, can foretell with any accuracy what will be the result of a change, no matter how simple it may be. The constitution and the order which the house had followed for a century involved the

FILIPINO WAR PENSIONS

Soldiers Disabled in the Tropics Applying for the Thousand—A Burden That Will Wreck the People

Washington, D. C., Jan. 16.—The annual pension appropriation bill passed the house yesterday prior to its adjournment until Saturday. The bill carries an appropriation of \$139,842,230. The debate on this bill brought out the fact that, as shown by the report of Pension Commissioner Evans, of the men who enlisted in the Spanish-American war, including those remaining in the Philippine islands since the signing of the Spanish treaty, 30,000 of them have applied for pensions. Computing the number of men who enlisted, it will be seen that about one out of every five who entered the army a good specimen of physical manhood has become such a physical wreck, from the rigors of a tropical climate and the savagery of the battlefield, as to justify an application for a permanent pension.

Taking into account an authoritative announcement from the war department that it will be necessary to keep 50,000 soldiers in the Philippines indefinitely, it is evident that 10,000 new names per year will be added to the pension rolls, and multiplying the pension expenditures.

This is a part of the price Nebraska taxpayers are paying for the privilege of being told by republican newspapers and speakers that "we have become a world power."

H. C. Lindsay, chairman of Nebraska's republican state central committee, is in Washington looking up federal patronage matters with Messrs. Dietrich and Millard.

Upon being interviewed in the presence of Senator Dietrich, Mr. Lindsay said to a reporter that "Governor Savage's friends are very confident of his renomination and reelection."

It remains to be seen whether Nebraska republicans will add the plan to shield those who profited by Bartley's defalcations and who demanded Bartley's pardon to keep his mouth closed, at the same time promising to secure his renomination, and whether, if the plan is fully carried out to completion, the rank and file republican voter will endorse it at the polls.

Senator Dietrich acquiesced in Mr. Lindsay's statement concerning Savage's renomination and re-election. Mr. Lindsay further declared that all the populists were going back to the republican fold. Mr. Lindsay certainly does the populists a great injustice by saying they will go back to the republican party, and, with their votes, countenance the Bartley pardon and the loose management now given to the state treasury's office.

PLUTOCRATIC EDITORIALS

A Sample of What the People Have Dished up to Them Down East Every Day in the Year

Editor Independent: The enclosed clipping is that of an editorial in the Baltimore American of January 9. I send it to you that you may have a sample of the kind of mental food we have dished up to us in this section. Note what this oracle says of the "growing power of wealth," and also observe his affecting tenderness for the democratic party, and do not overlook his fatherly wish that it may return to the straight and narrow path. What a pity that the plutocratic party can "only act as an opposing force," and will not be good and deserve a seat at the pie counter with the "elect," who are now engaged in the "solution of these mighty problems."

THOMAS O. CLARK.

Baltimore, Md.

The following is the slip enclosed and is printed so that the readers of The Independent who are in the western states may know something of the writing of the hirelings of plutocracy and the quality of their brains. The editorial is as follows:

"Just eighty-seven years ago yesterday—on January 8, 1815—Andrew Jackson fought and won the battle of New Orleans. Thirteen years later he was chosen president of the United States, and in that high position showed the same courage that he had displayed in the face of the enemy. Rugged and fearless, a firm believer in the right and the ability of the people to rule, he made a vigorous battle against all that to him smacked of oligarchy, against all that he thought threatened either danger or disaster to the republic. Setting his face sternly against all class privileges, against any autocracy of either wealth or birth, he won the favor of the great masses of the American people. He made blunders, was too bitter a partisan to always serve his country well, but some of the principles he enunciated needed an exemplar then and the same principles need one now.

Democrats hold Jackson as one of the brightest stars in all their galaxy, and yesterday paid him special honor by celebrations of Jackson's day in all parts of the country. It is well that they do this, but far better would it be for the national democracy of today to get back to its moorings, to steer its battered and broken old ship into the safe harbor of honest politics. It is certainly no honor to the party to have a man like William Jennings Bryan paying a tribute to the memory of the hero of New Orleans, the apostle of the people. Were the sturdy Jackson alive today he would, in language decorated with some very emphatic epithets, disown Bryan and all his ilk. He could have no toleration for the last two platforms of the national democracy, and would utterly repudiate the doctrines therein

WASHINGTON DOINGS

To Help Crown King Edward—The Panama Canal Approved—Ship Subsidy Still Favorably Reported—Washington to be Adorned With Statues

Washington, D. C., Jan. 18, 1902.—(Special Correspondence.)—It has at last been settled that the United States is to be represented officially at the coronation of Edward VII, as King of Great Britain and Emperor of the English Dominions beyond the Seas. The president, it is rumored, offered the appointment to ex-President Cleveland, but he, owing to his ill health, took the advice of his medical counsellor and refused the appointment. It was then offered to Hon. Whitelaw Reid of New York, sometime ambassador to England and republican nominee for the vice presidency with the late Benjamin Harrison when he was defeated by Cleveland in 1892. Mr. Reid will then be the special ambassador of the president of the United States at the coronation, which takes place in the latter part of the coming June. As the representative of the United States army Gen. James H. Wilson has been appointed. General Wilson is one of the highest ranking officers in the United States army, but his appointment taints of the old feud that has been raging in the army for some time past, and the general cry is that Wilson is a very good man, but if the United States is to be represented at all it should be by General Miles. The same cry is used in referring to the appointment of Captain Charles A. Clark as the navy's representative. We all recognize that Captain Clark was an important factor in the naval history of the late Hispano-American war, and the general comment is that the navy should have been represented by Admiral Dewey, who is recognized the world over as the "Modern Nelson." But the president did not confine his appointment here to those who were objectionable. His two appointed secretaries of the special embassy will be two "sons of their fathers," J. Pierpont Morgan, Jr., son of the steel magnate, and young Wetmore, the millionaire, who remains a senator from Rhode Island. The appointment of young Morgan surely hints of the president's leanings toward the magnate and the appointment of young Wetmore for a time put the state department in an ugly position. The story runneth thus: Young Wetmore's mother, when in England a number of years ago, refused to lunch with the then prime minister, and this fact was mentioned in the press. The senator and the department felt that this appointment might be objectionable to his royal highness and for a time the wires were hot. Finally it was found that there would be no objection to young Wetmore and the venerable senator was satisfied. All of these appointments save one thing wrong and we will probably see the whole matter probed to the quick when the question is brought up in congress to appropriate funds for the retinue. A custom that I understand will be observed is that at the coronation ceremonies that all males present will have to wear short breeches and the powdered wig, relics of several centuries. It is understood that many of the Americans who will be present have already ordered false calves from a French maker of the " necessities."

REDEEMING SILVER DOLLARS

The Republicans of the House Will Rush the Bill Through Under the Gag Rules

Washington, D. C., Jan. 15.—(Special Correspondence.)—Another chapter in the desperate attempt of the money kings to wipe out the last vestige of bimetalism and entirely destroy silver as money has been written.

If you are told by anyone that the money question is dead you tell him that, on the contrary, the question is so much alive that republican leaders have determined if possible to go as far as he who goes farthest in the plan to take away entirely from the people their money and to do away with their power to coin or issue it.

Congressman Hill of Connecticut has introduced a bill authorizing the secretary of the treasury to redeem silver dollars in gold. This bill, the main provision of which is as follows, was arbitrarily reported by the republican majority of the committee on coinage, weights and measures, favorably to the house, without allowing time for discussion and over the emphatic protests of the minority on the committee.

"The secretary of the treasury is hereby directed to maintain at all times at parity with gold the legal tender silver dollars remaining outstanding, and to that end he is hereby directed to exchange gold for legal tender silver dollars when presented to the treasury in the sum of \$5 or any multiple thereof; and all provisions of law for the use or maintenance of the reserve fund in the treasury relating to United States notes are, in the discretion of the secretary of the treasury, hereby made applicable to the exchange of legal tender silver dollars." The only demand for the redemption of silver dollars in gold comes from the national banking influence, which prompted the introduction of the bill, and which contemplates such a change in our laws as will give to the banks the exclusive right to issue all money except gold pieces. By making silver dollars redeemable in gold they are turned from a strengthening portion of the national currency to a weakening portion thereof. So long as they are legal tender and non-redeemable in gold, silver dollars lessen the strain on gold, but when they are made redeemable in gold they are really instruments of any predatory gang that may wish to raid the gold reserve in the treasury.

The next step in this conspiracy of the national bank clique will be to ask that the silver dollar be entirely abolished because it is a menace to the gold reserve. They propose first to make it a means of depleting the gold reserve and then demand its abolition because it does so. This will, of course, point out that since the silver dollar has become a mere token or promise to pay, the government is foolish to use such expensive material as silver out of which to make it and that silver dollars and the silver bullion in the treasury should be thrown on the market, bringing disaster and ruin widespread everywhere.

GEORGE III IDEAS

Imperialism has made the same advances in England as here. The "sappers and miners," as Lincoln called them, are as hard at work undermining the ancient constitution of Great Britain as they are to overthrow the constitution that Washington, Jefferson and their co-peers promulgated here. Sir Vernon Harcourt made a fierce attack upon them in his address on the king's speech. He pointed out that in the most desperate situations that England had ever known, no minister had ever before dared to suspend the habeas corpus and institute trials by court-martial, without the authority of an act of parliament. He said that the suspension of the government of Cape Colony, the overthrow of its constitution and the inauguration of trials by court-martial into the safe harbor of honest politics. It is certainly no honor to the party to have a man like William Jennings Bryan paying a tribute to the memory of the hero of New Orleans, the apostle of the people. Were the sturdy Jackson alive today he would, in language decorated with some very emphatic epithets, disown Bryan and all his ilk. He could have no toleration for the last two platforms of the national democracy, and would utterly repudiate the doctrines therein

Winside, Neb.