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John Bull expects that American flunkies will put up a good-sized slice of the Boer war expenses for the privilege of looking at a king on his way to be crowned and his expectations are well founded.

As soon as the British get those American mules onto South African soil they should build a high and tight board fence around them—barbed wire is no good—so that they shall not get away and go to fighting for liberty.

While Hanna's ship subsidy bill has got through the senate it is not at all certain that it will get through the house. Congressman Burton who takes to himself the honor of having defeated it once before is on the war trail again.

There are two ways to get an income tax. One is by a constitutional convention and the other is to wait until two or three of the aged judges of the supreme court die—they never resign—and then appoint as their successors men who believe that an income tax is constitutional as the constitution now is.

The Independent acknowledges with thanks a copy of the Blue Book of Wisconsin for the year 1901, sent with the compliments of Almeron Eager, member of the Wisconsin assembly. The Blue Book is a volume of over 800 pages, compiled under direction of the secretary of state, and filled with valuable statistical and historical matter relative to Wisconsin and the United States.

The reputation of the United States senate as a center of piety and religious devotion was somewhat lowered when the newspaper men reported that the other morning a blind chaplain offered his formal prayer with not a senator present. To relieve the shock that the public would sustain they added that there were usually eight or ten senators present at morning prayers.

There is a report current in Washington that General Funston will be called to account for his recent speeches. If Roosevelt wants to keep up any sort of a "parity" of action he will be forced to reprimand Funston. But will he? It is certainly a much graver offense to call nearly half of the senate and house "copperheads" than to announce an opinion on the finding of a deified court.

The Fourteenth amendment to the United States constitution is always the last refuge of the corporations, just as Dr. Johnson was wont to say that "patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." That little provision that "no state shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law" is the foundation of innumerable lawsuits whenever any community attempts to regain any of its rights which have been thrown away so recklessly in the form of franchises.

That there is a fight on at Washington against Roosevelt among the big tariff grafters and railroad magnates can no longer be doubted. The man whom the trusts and railroads will back is Hanna. Having these at his back to start with, he is now playing for the labor vote and he will get a large slice of it. A great many of these men go about denouncing capitalism and capitalists 364 days in a year and on the other day spend their time voting for the capitalists. It is on that fact that Hanna is building his hopes.

This American imperialism is worse by a good deal than that of the British. This is a republic and it has destroyed a republic in the Philippines and still keeps an army there to prevent one from being organized, while England is a monarchy and in attempting to destroy the South African republics, is only going on in the same line that that nation has always pursued. In the United States it is a reversal of all the ideals of the last hundred years and is maintained by the constant exercise of the baldest hypocrisy. American imperialism is the meanest sort that the world has

GOVERNOR ALTGELD.

Governor Altgeld was attacked more fiercely for the pardon of Fielding, Schwab and Neebe than for any other act of his life. He issued that pardon because he believed that they had not been convicted without evidence and upon vicious instructions from the court. He knew that the pardon would result in ending his political career, but it did not in the least influence him. It was his sense of justice that animated him. In the vindictive assaults that the republican papers made upon him, they were always careful to hide the fact that to the petition for the pardon of the three men were inscribed the signatures of the president of every railroad, save one, running into Chicago, and of the president of every national and state bank in that city. And it was presented to him by Lyman J. Gage, president of the First National bank of Chicago, who was but recently secretary of the treasury.

To all this vindictiveness and misrepresentation, Governor Altgeld never made any reply. He went on with the work that his hands found to do and devoted himself more than ever to the service of mankind. Now he is gone, and we who stood by him during all those years reverse his name. His life and character will ever be an inspiration to us and to all those who love liberty and believe in the doctrines of the Declaration of Independence.

INTERNATIONAL ANARCHY.

The precedent that this government is making in allowing the British to make it a base of war supplies will come home to roost some day, and then the folly of this administration will be cursed by every living man in it. No one can tell when we shall be at war with some nation of Europe, for the war spirit is abroad in the world. Then, when Canada and every South American republic is made a base of supplies, and military officers of the enemy's army rake the countries over to obtain whatever of war material they can use in fighting us, the folly of the Hay diplomacy will be very apparent. This administration's diplomacy is sowing the wind and it will not fail to reap the whirlwind.

The mills of the gods grind slow, but they grind exceedingly fine. It may be years before we will have to pay the penalty of aiding in the destruction of the two little Boer republics, but pay we will in the end. The history of England teaches that she would be the first to take advantage of such a precedent as this administration is making and she will do it the first time that it is to her advantage. Spain may take a notion to get even with us by adopting the same policy. The Filipino junta may send military officers to her territory to purchase war supplies and Spain may allow them to be shipped from her ports and what will Hay have to say in reply? If an administration may violate a treaty as is being done at present without protest, what will all the Hague agreements amount to? The safety of this nation as well as the fate of the Boer republics are at stake. If there is no honor, if sacred treaties are to be violated at the whim of a secretary of state and a political administration, then we have introduced world-wide anarchy. Against all this The Independent protests. It is for our own safety and honor that the protest is made. The Independent is for obedience to international law and against international anarchy.

ETHICS AND LAW.

The Independent has no desire to enter into any controversy with populist brother editors over the ethics of the Meserve case. It has no quarrel with those who insist that he is guilty of a moral crime. That is a question that each must decide for himself; he must be judge, jury and counsel for himself; he must furnish his own law and construe it as seems right to him. Argument on the ethics involved is really time wasted for, as Justice Ireland said, in Calder vs. Bull, "The ideas of natural justice are regulated by no fixed standard; the ablest and purest men have differed on the subject."

The duties of a public officer are defined by statutes and the constitution of the state, supplemented to some extent by the common law of England and America. Whether he has been faithful to his trust must be ascertained by reference to these alone. He ought not to be tried in a court of law upon ethical questions—public opinion is the forum in which such are decided, and even there the judgment is frequently swayed by passion and prejudice. Much as we may smile or frown when a court of law reverses itself, the fact remains that reversals of judgment in the forum of public opinion are much more frequent than in law courts. When the passion has cooled down and the prejudice been removed, the judgment is reversed.

Our populist brethren who insist in accusing Mr. Meserve of being guilty of a crime, in spite of the fact that the laws of Nebraska hold him guiltless of the charge made in the indictment,

ical grounds. As was said before it would be idle to discuss this phase of the question for there is no fixed standard to guide the disputants, and after being convinced against his will each would be of the same opinion still.

In its broadest sense the word crime means: "The violation of any law, either human or divine; an omission of a duty commanded, or the commission of an act forbidden by law." The forum in which is tried a violation of divine law, is before the bar of God; few of our counsellors have been admitted to practice in that court and each individual must construe and interpret the law as laid down in the Bible, act accordingly, and await the final judgment.

Human laws may be divided into two classes: Civil and moral. As stated before public opinion is the forum in which are tried and decided all violations of the moral code. In the civil tribunals are tried cases involving the civil laws. While it is true that many of the canons of the moral law have been enacted into the civil law, yet in a court of justice we must be guided by the civil law—because the moral code is unwritten and varying as the sands of the sea.

Penalties for the infraction of law vary with the law. The violator of divine law may search the scriptures to find his punishment announced. Violators of moral law are punished by public contempt. Violators of civil law may know by examination of the statutes what punishment may be meted out.

As was said before, the duties of a public officer are defined by law. If he goes what he is commanded to do and does nothing he is forbidden to do, then he has done all that could reasonably be expected of him. No reasonable man expects him to do more.

Few have the hardihood to accuse the governor of being an embezzler because he lives in an executive mansion, furnished by the state, in the very face of the constitutional provision that he shall not receive in his own use any "fees, costs, . . . perquisites of office or other compensation." Few would charge the clerk of the supreme court with being an embezzler because he receives to his own use several thousand dollars of fees every year in addition to his "constitutional salary" of \$1,500 per annum, in spite of the fact that there is not a line of law which says that these fees are for his use.

Few would go so far as to say that the chief of inspector and his deputies are embezzlers because they receive scarcely any equivalent for the salaries they receive. True, the governor might refuse to live in the mansion, the clerk might turn the fees over to the state treasury, and the oil inspectors might resign and refuse to take pay they do not earn. But if they should do so, they would simply make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of nine-tenths of the people of Nebraska or any other state. If the people want these things changed they must change the laws—not try to remedy them by appealing to moral laws which every man interprets to suit his own ideas, as he has a perfect right to do.

Of course Meserve might have pursued a different course. He might have done what the law does not require him to do. He might have refused to accept any salary whatever. He might have insisted upon a trial on charges of certain things which are not criminal under our laws. But how many of his critics would have done or could have done better than he did?

The imperialists have sprung a new thing. They now declare the president cannot withdraw the troops and turn over the island of Cuba without an act of congress authorizing him to do so because the United States is the lawful sovereign in that country by the conditions of the treaty of Paris with Spain. It is true that the United States supreme court has decided that the United States is not the sovereign of that country, but it would not be much trouble to get another decision from the administration so wished. That court has never yet in its whole history decided a case against the wishes of the party in power.

The efforts of the post check currency bureau to secure a postal currency ought to be crowned with success; but it is extremely doubtful whether the bankers will permit the passage of any law which will deprive them of more revenue in the way of issuing drafts. The idea is to have United States notes printed with a blank in which may be written the name of a payee. These circulate as any other bill until it is desired to change them into a draft of the United States treasury; then the payee's name may be written in, and what was a note payable to bearer becomes one payable to order. A fee of two cents (payable by attaching a postage stamp) is charged on sums of a dollar and over, and one cent on sums less than a dollar. This subject is treated at length in another column. Read up, and if you favor it, write your congressman urging him to support the

DIFFERENT WAYS OF EDUCATION.

It is strange how many people have an entirely wrong idea concerning the process of education. If a mother should take her daughter with her when she went to the meat market and explained to her what was loin, what was round, what was porterhouse steak and the parts of the animal from which they were cut, most people would declare that it would be ridiculous to say that that daughter was being educated. The other day the editor of The Independent went into a Lincoln meat market and was astonished to see the counter crowded two or three deep with young ladies while the butcher was holding forth to them an eloquent address, describing the different parts of a carcass of beef, telling them of shank, round, flank, loin, porterhouse, shoulder cuts and rib roasts with the things themselves laid out so that all could see. When an inquiry was made as to what it all meant, the reply was made that these young ladies constituted a class in domestic science in the university. It was added that that was a practical way of getting an "education." Under these circumstances that was "educating" those young ladies, but in the former case where the mother was giving the same instruction it was not.

When a farmer takes his son with him to a sale and walks around among the blooded stock, telling the boy: "This is a Shorthorn, that is a Hereford, that a Jersey, that a Holstein, that an Ayreshire and that a Polled Angus," and then goes with him among the swine and says, "That is a Poland-China, that a Berkshire, that a Duroc," or takes him to the stables and says, "That is a Clydesdale, that a Percheron, that an English Coach and that a Hamiltonian trotter," these people never think that that farmer is educating his boy. But if they should go out to the agricultural farm, which is part of the university of Nebraska, and go into a large building, one corner of which had a cement floor, and see these different breeds of cattle, horses and hogs brought in one by one and placed on that cement floor while a professor stood up before a large class of young men and pointed out the different characteristics of each breed of animal, telling whether cows were good for butter, steers good for beef, and the hogs good for large hams or immensely long sides from which bacon was the chief product, they would instantly declare that that was a splendid way to educate the young farmer.

No man ever attained an eminence who was not educated, but very many of these eminent men got their education outside of colleges and universities. The educated are few in comparison to the uneducated and many of these latter, as strange as it may seem, have spent all their youth and early manhood in schools, colleges and universities. They remain all their lives uneducated. You can teach a pupil for years, but you can't "learn" him anything, although one often hears that expression. He must do the "learning" himself. It is much easier to learn in a school or university than anywhere else for the facilities for acquiring an education there are better than anywhere else.

When the professor brings a Short-horn or white-faced steer, or a Jersey or Holstein cow and puts the animal in that corner while the young men sit in their seats and listen, he has a very great advantage over the father farmer. He has a command of English and can impart his ideas with perfect clearness. He has made a study of the particular animal that he has before the class and he knows every point of the breed. When the Percheron or Clydesdale horse is brought in, another man who is an expert in horses appears. He knows more about them than any ordinary farmer can know and has been trained to impart that knowledge. So these young men have a very great advantage over the farmer's son in that particular and in many others.

Educate your children. Without education they are but a little above the brutes. It is not absolutely essential that they should go to college. That is a great advantage. But educate them to the very best of your ability.

It seems that the Yankees can beat the English at the game of imperialism just as badly as in industrial pursuits. Even the mullet heads begin to wonder why we get so much more information about the Boer war than we do about the war in the Philippines. It will be remembered that a year or so ago there was a good deal said about the insane soldiers returned from the Philippines. All at once and after the matter had attracted attention in congress all reference to the subject was dropped. Never afterward was there a line in the Associated press about insane soldiers. Yet they kept arriving at San Francisco at the old rate. No one ever heard anything more about the young men sent from the United States, hearty and strong, going insane by the score. The censor received instructions to cut

ceel Rhodes at this writing lies at the point of death. There rests upon him the responsibility of the whole Boer war and all the blood that has been shed. He organized the Jamison raid. After that he went to London and persuaded the English that Kruger could be bought and all that was needed was to begin the war and in six weeks the Boer authorities would sell out and quit. It was on that supposition that the war was begun. That supposition was the great mistake of Rhodes. He judged other men by himself. He took exactly the same position that the republicans of Nebraska have long maintained, that there were no honest men. They have preached all over this state that doctrine and have said that it made no difference who was elected to office. All alike were thieves. They also judge other men by themselves.

WISER THAN CHAMBERLAIN.

There are enough well written articles sent into The Independent every week by the intelligent readers of the paper to fill every column of its space. The reading of these manuscripts is a great labor, but that is not the worst thing connected with the matter. The popular ignorance of economics calls for the publication of them all. The people are hungry for information on all the subjects so ably treated by these writers, but there is not space enough in the paper to print them. The only prospect of relief that the editor can see is for the subscribers to so extend its circulation that the size of the paper can

copperheadism to mention it, for it might discourage enlistments.

For months' every paper in the United States has been as silent as the tomb on that subject. But the other day a reporter was nosing around the union depot in Omaha and he saw a sight that chilled the blood in his veins. In a car there were eighteen soldiers returned from the Philippines. They were hand-cuffed, had leg irons and straight jackets on them. They were haggard. Their faces were drawn and pinched. There was a wild glare in their eyes. They shrieked and moaned most piteously. One man who saw the horrible sight was so overcome by it that he nearly fainted and had to retire to a couch and lie down. These were the wrecks of men who had gone to the Philippines a year or so ago after having passed a most rigid physical examination. That was a part of the price that we pay to carry on a war of conquest in the tropics. But the American people are not allowed to know anything about it. The censorship established by means of the Associated press which refuses to send any news of such things, keeps the people in ignorance. It is a much more effective censorship than the British have been able to establish. Joe Chamberlain and King Edward can take lessons from our imperialists at Washington.

Every time that a transport arrives at San Francisco it brings its complement of raving maniacs. The local dailies there say not a word about it. They are the subsidized tools of plutocracy and imperialism. If the Associated press agent there sends anything it is cut out.

In regard to the fighting in the Philippines we are just as ignorant while much more news comes from South Africa. The censor of British imperialism is not nearly as efficient as the one who has the office in America. In America the work has been done with such effectiveness that millions of people in these United States do not know that slavery flourishes under the American flag in the Philippines or that the distinguished men whom we have sent there to civilize and Christianize the people of those islands have enacted laws that make it treason to have in their possession, circulate or read the Declaration of Independence, and that the congress of the United States and the president have sanctioned those laws with a slight amendment concerning the punishment of failing to inform the authorities of any attempt to establish their independence.

We have been fully informed of the shooting of Commandant Scheepers and the imprisonment of Kretsinger in South Africa. But there have been over 500 Filipinos shot and many hundreds have been imprisoned and we have never been given the particulars in a single case. It is evident that the American censorship is much more efficient and that the American imperialism is far more cruel and inhuman than the British kind of which we hear so much. The Independent raises its voice against both of them. It will fight wars of conquest and government by force as long and as hard as it can whether here or elsewhere. It believes that "all men" have certain inalienable rights, among which are life, "liberty" and the pursuit of happiness. The fact that expressing sympathy with the bravest people who ever shed their blood for liberty may lose a few British votes to the party which it represents would not affect it in the least. It would continue to defend what it believes to be the right if it lost every vote and had to stand alone.

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SOME POPULIST HISTORY.

When the populists began their work of reform in this state every county government was run for the interests of the political grafters. Many of the county treasurers had been looted, the most flagrant example perhaps being Holt county. As the populists got control of county after county they brought order out of the financial anarchy existing everywhere. Under their management county indebtedness was greatly reduced and in some places entirely paid off. In Red Willow county a populist was selected to take charge of the county treasury. In one term a revolution was effected of so great importance that it attracted attention all over the state. This populist county treasurer was then selected as the fusion candidate for state treasurer. When he came into office he found the state credit well nigh ruined and warrants selling away below par, the treasury empty, over \$700,000 having been embezzled by his republican predecessor. The times were still hard and prices low. With no increase in taxation, this populist treasurer went to work and in a short time inspired confidence to such an extent that state warrants first went to par and afterwards to a premium where they stayed throughout his whole term of office. More than that, he paid off all the bonded state debt and reduced the floating debt \$210,000, the whole total reduction amounting to \$680,000. At the close of his term he accounted for every cent that had come into his hands, received his receipts and then went into private business. Such a record when compared with that of past republican treasurers and with the present treasurer who will leave office at the close of his first term of two years with an "increase" of the state debt of not less than \$600,000, was a threatening thing for the republican party of this state to face. As an offset to it a corrupt republican judge forced a grand jury against their will to bring an indictment against this populist treasurer that had no foundation in law and was of such a disreputable character that a republican judge ordered the jury to bring a verdict of not guilty without hearing a word of testimony. That is the character of republican politics in the state of Nebraska. If there is anything fouler on the face of the earth, or ever was, it has not been recorded.

NOT NEUTRAL.

No where in all history can there be found a precedent where the military officers of one of the parties at war were allowed to enter neutral territory and purchase war supplies. In one of the official reports of the British government it is said: "Horses and mules have been the key to the military situation at all times since the war began." In connection with that fact read the following Associated press dispatch:

British Agent J. A. Conway, who is buying horses for the use of the English cavalry in South Africa, bought a large band of animals in the vicinity of Sheridan, Mont. The horses will be shipped to Utah, where they will be inspected by the British officers. Later they will be sent to New Orleans, where the stock will be shipped to South Africa.

In the treaty of Washington occur these words:

A neutral government is bound not to permit or suffer either belligerent to make use of its ports or waters for the renewal or augmentation of military supplies.

This outrage on neutrality is notorious. This government is acting as an ally of Great Britain in the war on the Boers and without the aid that the government at Washington is giving the British, that government could not long carry on the war. The Independent has never asked that this government should interfere in that war, but it has demanded that it should be strictly neutral.

GENESIS OF MULLET HEAD.

A gentleman called at the editorial room of The Independent and wanted a genesis of the term "mullet head." He said that he believed that there were some specimens of the species in his neighborhood, but he wanted to be certain before he exhibited them to visiting strangers. He thought also that for the benefit of the many new readers of the paper a definition should be given. Well, here is a genesis of the whole matter.

"A man went fishing. He was a Scotchman and he soaked his bread in whisky to make it more palatable. He threw some of the whisky soaked crumbs in the water and the fish that ate them first performed all sorts of antics and then flopped over on their sides and floated on the top of the water. The Scotchman thought that would be a good way to catch fish, so he threw in quite a lot of whisky-soaked bread, the fish acted as before and he was able to lift out a good many with his hands. There was a ravenous one that ate the bread and everything else that came his way and was not at all affected by the whisky at which the Scotchman was very much puzzled. At last a neighbor came along and explained matters. 'That fish,' he said, 'is a mullet head. If you should catch him and cut open

no brains—at least not enough to speak of and nothing that you could feed him would have the least effect upon him. He likes mud, and mud and dirty water. He will bite at hook baited with cast iron just as quick as he would at the most no-fishing thing that could be put on it." If the gentleman has any neighbors who have the above characteristics, he can safely catalogue them as "mullet heads" and exhibit them to visiting strangers.

There are a lot of mullet head voters who love their chains just as ignorant old slaves did before the war. Among the slaves there were mullets that always declared that they did not want freedom and stuck to their masters to the last. In the editorial associations that have recently met there have been resolutions proposed to petition congress to abolish the tariff on white paper and wool pulp, and although the editors are paying the paper trust about a cent a pound more for white paper than fair, they voted against the resolutions. They are on an exact level with the old African slaves—they love their chains.

Mr. De Hart in his article, besting a tariff for revenue and an income tax, gives space also to the state tax. He takes the position that tax on land values exclusive of improvements would not produce enough to support local government let alone the national government. But that depends altogether upon the separation of the two values, land value and improvement value. The Independent has been calling attention to this difficulty. It may be stated in this way: A farm with all its improvements can be rented for \$3 per acre. Now how much of that rental value comes from the capital invested, from the improvements, and how much from the land itself? Who can tell?

That in some respects this country is as much an autocracy as Russia has been made plain to the dullest intellect by the recent performances of the railroad magnates. For years these men have defied the laws and formed pools and combinations in direct defiance of the law. The other day these same magnates got together and dissolved all the pools, associations and combinations and announced to the public that hereafter they would not defy the law, but obey it. Why did they do that? Simply because the president had ordered his attorney general to bring a suit in the United States court to enforce the law. If such an order had been issued years ago these pools and combinations would have been dissolved then. They have been allowed to flourish, enlarge, give rebates, build up one set of business men and ruin another by the will of one man, the president of the United States. If that is not an autocracy, what is it?

There is no essential difference between subsidies and tariffs, they both have the same end in view. In the case of subsidies the people can tell just how much they are forced to contribute to the favored few while it is impossible to find out under tariffs. The ship subsidy bill is to extend protection to another manufacturing industry. The advocates have now reversed the celebrated maxim of Henry Clay. He said that high wages made tariffs a necessity. Senator Frye now declares that high tariffs create high wages. That ships can be built cheaper in this country was testified to by President Hill of the merger conspiracy the other day. He has on the stocks in a ship yard in Connecticut two of the largest ships ever built. When asked how he came to give the order for these ships to that yard he replied that he did so because they would build them cheaper than he could get them built anywhere else in the world. Two more of the same kind are being built in another American ship yard for his railroad company. These being the facts in the case the robbery attempted by this legislation becomes very plain.

IDLE INSINUATIONS.

Following on the heels of the Meserve acquittal, the State Journal has busied itself in several issues trying to create the impression, without saying it, that Treasurer Stuefer is turning into the state treasury the interest he is receiving on permanent school fund. Now, the Journal well knows that Treasurer Stuefer is doing nothing of the sort. He is accounting for interest received from the deposit of current funds in depository banks—and that is all. Neither the State Journal nor Treasurer Stuefer can show any record where the latter ever turned into the treasury a solitary cent of interest received from the deposit of permanent funds in any bank. Treasurer Stuefer's reports always show the permanent funds "on hand"—and "on hand" money doesn't draw interest. Of course he keeps these idle funds in banks—no one is foolish enough to believe he doesn't; and he may be receiving interest—but he isn't turning any of it into the