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Champ Clark's Letter

[Special Washington Letter.] THE great Republican party is rent in twain on the tariff question. The House Republicans have had caucus after caucus to determine what they will do about the Cuban tariff. These caucuses have been battles royal between the reciprocity cohorts and the best sugar crowd. The fight of the Kilkenny cats wasn't a marker to those of the Republican factions. More power to their claws! Every time they engage in a caucus the hopes of a Democratic house in the next congress increase, a consummation devoutly to be wished. My venerable and vitriolic friend, General Charles Henry Grosvenor, in the early part of November declared that the sweeping Republican victory in Ohio meant, inter alia, that there was no more chance of the Dingley schedules being changed than there was that the Ten Commandments would be amended or repealed, which was putting it rather strong and picturesquely. Now General Grosvenor is howling for a 20 per cent reduction of the tariff on Cuban products, which shows that the good, gray general is not too old to learn.

No love for him, however intense; no admiration for his virtues, however sincere; no regret for his tragic death, however profound; no eulogium upon his character, however fervid, can alter or palliate the fact that by receding in opinion and by throwing the weight of his great name in favor of the Philippine propaganda he involved the country in dire difficulties and placed our institutions in imminent deadly peril.

For 128 years we have vaunted ourselves as the propagandists of the idea of government of the people, by the people and for the people. Now we are engaged in crushing a people 7,000 miles away whose only offense is that they desire to practice the theory which we have preached from the pulpits.

Nor have we preached in vain, for, following our example and hearkening to our voice, twenty-six nations have shaken off their royal masters, broken their shackles and established for themselves governments modeled upon ours.

At this very moment the Boers of South Africa, inspired by the words of Jefferson and the spirit of the American people, are engaged in the most heroic fight for freedom recorded in the entire annals of the human race. To our ineffable shame be it said that while England has been murdering these brave people she has been engaged by consenting like Saul at the stoning of Stephen.

Wherefore? Because we are engaged in the same sort of bloody business in the Philippines. We have entered into a sort of tacit agreement with John Bull that if he will not interfere with our foreign conquests we will not raise our voice against his foreign conquests.

Nor is it true, on the one issue of permanently retaining the Philippines and ruling them by the sword Democrats would have sweated the land and groined the bones of the people engaged in 1900 it was in the east that we made substantial gains, and it was in the east that imperialism was most exploited as the dominant issue.

The same per cent of gains spread all over the Union would have given us the victory. If we hope to win, we must expropriate real security from the hands of the monopolists. That's plain as the nose on one's face.

Are Republicans a unit on this question? By no manner of means. True that not a few of the Washington crowd are making the committee on appropriations, in the heat of debate, with frantic gesture, yelled at the top of his voice, "We intend to keep the Philippines forever and a day," but it must be remembered that on that occasion "Uncle Joe" was in a hole and fighting to get out.

Republicans are constitutionally unfit to administer the economically administered colonial affairs.

Proconsular government has been notoriously corrupt, unjust and tyrannical since the world began and will continue to be so until the end of the world. It is a fine kettle of fish he must describe to the president when he gets here. The cause of all the trouble is that the Hawaiian people were always opposed to annexation. I so stated on the floor of the house in the debate on annexation in 1898 and dared the proponents of annexation to a plebiscite. They were afraid to do so and of course refused, all the time claiming, however, that the Hawaiians were clamorous for annexation. The handful of American adventurers, but not the real Hawaiians. Now that these latter have possession of the legislative machine they are making their opposition manifest and are doing all they can to create a trouble; hence the hasty trip of Governor Dole.

The Vital Issue. The New York Journal has entered upon a unique project—that is, it has written to divers and sundry Democratic asking each to write an article setting forth what appears to him as the vital issue now pressing for solution. The old field schoolmasters were wont to set us this copy when we were kids, "Many men of many minds," the truth of which will in all human probability be fully illustrated by the various answers, for, while it is a historic truth that there is in every campaign a dominant issue, there is always a multiplicity of issues. Each of these in the preliminary stages of a campaign will be considered the most important by particular persons. So it will be in the present instance. The first to respond to The Journal's invitation was ex-Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson, who wrote an able article and here is my answer in full:

The vital issue before the American people is this: "What shall be our permanent policy in the Philippines?" It goes to the root of our institutions. A greater question was never debated among men, for upon its proper determination depends the perpetuity of the republic.

The tariff, trusts, finance, building of the isthmian canal and economy in the public expense are all important questions pressing for solution, but far-reaching and more important than any of these is the question of the Philippines.

Democrats are as anxious for trade as we are for liberty and they are as ready to give up liberty and good conscience to save money.

Democrats do not believe that we must own a man in order to trade with him. The dollar argument is the most solid of all, but let's take it on that low basis and see how the matter stands. The Philippines, to say nothing of the loss of life and the huge pension load we are fastening on our children and our children's children, have up to date cost us nearly \$200,000,000 in gold cash.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, we expended in the Philippines \$30,000,000.

During the same period our profits from trade with the Philippines, allowing for ourselves 20 per cent profit on all we exported to and imported from those islands, were only the beggarly sum of \$1,085,541.

Expending \$30 a year to get \$1 profit may be solarwalk statesmanship, but to a plain man who understands arithmetic it appears to be stark idiocy.

The only reason such an insane policy does not bankrupt the United States is because the United States is so rich. No other nation on earth could stand it, and we can't stand it long without disastrous results.

Our institutions were indeed bought with a great price. Shall we now recklessly jeopardize them through greed or by reason of a vainglorious ambition for foreign conquest? I do not believe that the American people will so decide.

It surely cannot be that the spirit of '76 entirely dead in the American heart. To that spirit and that heart, Democrats can confidently appeal in this crisis of our country's fate.

The State of Jefferson. If congress backs up Judge Moon of Tennessee and his committee on territories, the new state of Jefferson will soon be added to the rare and radiant sisterhood, a fitting but tardy recognition of Thomas Jefferson's stupendous service to the republic and the world in making the Louisiana purchase.

Judge Moon and his confreres propose to erect the Indian country into a territory of Jefferson, which will speedily become the state of Jefferson, and a great state it will be—one of the finest in the Union. There is no monument so durable as a geographical monument. Bronze and marble will at last wear away, but states are built not for a day, but for all time. Of all Jefferson's performances the purchase of Louisiana was most peculiarly his own and was the most beneficent and far-reaching in its consequences. If he had not been elected president in 1800, the chances are ten to one that we would never have owned the transmississippi country. Let the state be named for him.

Exit Long. The long looked for resignation of Secretary Long has come at last. Wise ones suspected and had cause to believe that the late President McKinley had suggested to Secretary Long that he had better quit as soon as the Sampson-Schley imbroglio could have time to quiet down a bit. This of course was to make it look as if he had not been forced to leave the cabinet as a result of the navy department scandal. But the quiet moment has been long delayed. It has only come since President Roosevelt sat down upon the whole thing in vigorous fashion by parceling out a little "hand out" of glory to the commander of each vessel engaged. Then Long resigned, and the president accepts the resignation early the next morning "with sincere regret." One by one the roses fall.

Kitchener's Regrets. The regretting business is not confined to the younger branch of the great so-called Anglo-Saxon race. Once more Mr. Brodrick rises in the house of commons and begins to read to the same old story from Kitchener: "I greatly regret to send you bad news about Methuen."

Of 1,300 men, with five guns, 550 of the mounted troops got away after being pursued four miles.

What an inspiring scene that was, my countrymen! Once there was a French drummer boy who said: "Sire, I cannot beat a retreat, but I can beat a charge. I can beat a charge that would make the dead fall into line!" It is quite plain that the English drummers have had more extensive instruction on the snare drum or the sweet tongued bugle. The "retreat" seems to be their favorite strain. But how tired of they must have grown during those four long miles of furious, break-neck scrambling to get away from our farmer friends!

While Methuen is recovering from his wounds in hospital he can speculate upon the fate of brave Wanhope, whom he sent in the front of his highlanders to face certain death at the hands of "the thin gray line."

Delarey's great victory means new hope and fresh heart for the Boers.

Cruelly Deceived. When that Titanesque haired statesman, Hon. A. J. Hopkins of Aurora, Ill., chairman of the committee on census, returns to Washington from campaigning for a United States senatorship in Suckerdom, he will find a large sized fight on his hands, in which the Republican spokesmen of the house will be the leaders. These spokesmen aforesaid claim that A. J. H. cruelly deceived them by his conference report to believe that their proteges in the census office would have permanent places at the official trough. They took him at his word. Now they know better. They are in a towering rage. It is safe to state that hereafter conference reports will be scanned with a critical eye. One Republican statesman, Mr. Hughes of West Virginia, has introduced a resolution setting forth what he thought the bill meant, which is in the nature of locking the barn subsequent to the enforced departure of the horse.

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CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NEBRASKA OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Lincoln, February 1, 1902.

It is hereby certified that the Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Detroit in the State of Michigan, has complied with the insurance law of this state, applicable to such companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Life Insurance in this state for the current year ending January 31, 1902.

Summary of report filed for the year ending December 31st, 1901. INCOME. Premiums, \$1,363,988.90 All other sources, 724,328.61 Total, \$2,088,317.51

DISBURSEMENTS. Paid policy holders, \$1,563,201.49 All other payments, 739,070.39 Total, \$2,302,271.88

LIABILITIES. Net reserve, \$133,547,257.00 All other liabilities, 14,423,413.39 Total, \$147,970,670.39

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NEBRASKA OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Lincoln, February 1, 1902.

It is hereby certified that the Northwestern Life and Savings Insurance Company of Des Moines, in the State of Iowa, has complied with the insurance law of this state, applicable to such companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Life Insurance in this state for the current year ending January 31, 1902.

Summary of report filed for the year ending December 31st, 1901. INCOME. Premiums, \$981,216.53 All other sources, 20,716.49 Total, \$1,001,933.02

DISBURSEMENTS. Paid policy holders, \$30,094.55 All other payments, 567,917.39 Total, \$597,712.44

LIABILITIES. Net reserve, \$618,080.42 All other liabilities, 20,600.21 Total, \$638,680.63

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NEBRASKA OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Lincoln, February 1, 1902.

It is hereby certified that the Philadelphia Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, has complied with the insurance law of this state, applicable to such companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Life Insurance in this state for the current year ending January 31, 1902.

Summary of report filed for the year ending December 31st, '01. INCOME. Premiums, \$2,457,088.02 All other sources, 200,152.43 Total, \$2,657,240.45

DISBURSEMENTS. Paid policy holders, \$1,623,488.60 All other payments, 906,869.62 Total, \$2,530,358.22

LIABILITIES. Net reserve, \$1,027,925.00 All other liabilities, 194,894.39 Total, \$1,222,819.39

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NEBRASKA OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Lincoln, February 1, 1902.

It is hereby certified that the Hartford Life Insurance Co. of Hartford, in the State of Connecticut, has complied with the insurance law of this state, applicable to such companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Life Insurance in this state for the current year ending January 31, 1902.

Summary of report filed for the year ending December 31st, '01. INCOME. Premiums, \$3,471,022.85 All other sources, 2,237,763.03 Total, \$5,708,785.88

DISBURSEMENTS. Paid policy holders, \$3,827,548.89 All other payments, 1,038,545.26 Total, \$4,866,094.15

LIABILITIES. Net reserve, \$58,408,193.00 All other liabilities, 307,584.50 Total, \$58,715,777.50

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NEBRASKA OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Lincoln, February 1, 1902.

It is hereby certified that the Union Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Portland, in the State of Maine, has complied with the insurance law of this state, applicable to such companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Life Insurance in this state for the current year ending January 31, 1902.

Summary of report filed for the year ending December 31st, '01. INCOME. Premiums, \$1,733,308.26 All other sources, 371,833.63 Total, \$2,105,141.89

DISBURSEMENTS. Paid policy holders, \$971,691.61 All other payments, 699,124.28 Total, \$1,670,815.89

LIABILITIES. Net reserve, \$8,285,400.00 All other liabilities, 111,365.19 Total, \$8,400,765.19

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION STATE OF NEBRASKA OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS Lincoln, February 1, 1902.

It is hereby certified that the Union Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Portland, in the State of Maine, has complied with the insurance law of this state, applicable to such companies and is therefore authorized to continue the business of Life Insurance in this state for the current year ending January 31, 1902.

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Quoted Him. "I-I think there's a back in your razor." faltered the stranger in the chair. "Well, did you expect to find an automobile?" roared the tough barber as he splashed the lather on the ceiling.