

ROSICKY ARRAIGNS M'KINLEY'S POLICY OF EXPANSION, IMPERIALISM AND MILITARISM



The following article on "Anti-Imperialism Among Citizens of Bohemian Extraction" was prepared for this paper by Hon. John Rosicky of Omaha. Among our citizens of Bohemian birth or extraction Mr. Rosicky has been for years a stalwart character. In politics, in social affairs and in the world of letters and commerce he has been a leading factor. In republican circles for the past twenty years John Rosicky has been a man whom the prominent leaders sought out for counsel and advice. As a man of

great force on the rostrum, speaking several languages, and as one of the strongest writers, his services have always been in urgent demand. Personally in politics he has been a "hewer of wood and a drawer of water" but his loss to the support of the republican party in its policy of expansion, imperialism and militarism constitutes one of the severest reverses which that plan of the campaign has met with in the west.

John Rosicky was born at Humpolec, Bohemia, on the 17th day of December, 1845. He attended the public school of his native city and at the age of 15 years was sent to the capital of Bohemia, Prague, where he attended college for two years. In 1861 he emigrated with his parents to this country and for about four years lived on a farm in Grant county, Wisconsin. In 1866 he moved to Milwaukee, Wis., and later in the same year removed to Chicago. For several years he was employed in the grocery, flour and feed business, establishing himself later on the Pacific coast, where he held the office of Pacific coast, where he held the office of California and Oregon. While returning in 1872 with the intention to settle again in Chicago, he was attracted to the land of the west, and finding the state a land of much promise, he settled in Crete, since when he has been a resident. In the fall of the same year he established himself in business in Crete, which, how-

ever, he discontinued after two years to take a position on the Pokrok Zapadu, then the only Bohemian paper in the west. At first he filled the position of manager, assuming in March, 1876, also the duties of an editor. In 1877 he became the publisher, by a purchase of the paper and has since then been identified with it, holding the same up to one of the most influential papers of that language in the country. In 1899 a stock company was organized under the name of Pokrok Zapadu Printing company and a complete printing plant was established. Shortly after the company undertook the publication of the only agricultural journal in the Bohemian language, the Hospodar, of which Rosicky is the managing editor. In the meantime the Knihovna Americka was also in company with the company in increasing its facilities, established itself in the three-story and basement block, 69-71 South Twelfth street, changing its title to the National Printing company, of which Mr. Rosicky is, as he has been all his life, the head of management and control.

ANTI-IMPERIALISM AMONG CITIZENS OF BOHEMIAN EXTRACTION.

BY JOHN ROSICKY.

None of the newspapers published in the Bohemian language in this country are supporting the policy of expansion and imperialism carried out by the present administration, which is an indication that the course of the administration does not find favor among naturalized citizens of that birth or extraction. Per that the course pursued at present by our administration is not for the best interests and ultimate benefit of our country.

A DEEP-SEATED PRINCIPLE. This sentiment is by no means accidental, but is characteristic of the people and perfectly natural in consequence of the experience which they have had. The Bohemian people were not an aggressive people. While their history notes very many struggles, too many for their good and benefit, these were not struggles for conquest, but of defense. They have not sought any aggrandizement at the cost of their neighbors, being peace-loving as well as liberty-loving, but bravely defending their country and homes when necessary. Historian Maurice is his Story of Bohemia, published by Putnam's Sons in their collection, "Story of Nations," says:

NO STORY OF ROBBER DENS. "Even the earliest traditions show that long before the introduction of Christianity the Bohemian ideal of national life had been totally different from that of the surrounding nations. The poem of the Judgment of Libusa, which seems to embody the earliest picture of Bohemian life, is no liad or Niebelungen Lied, no story of robber dens or rapes of the Sabines, but the representation of a peace-loving nation trying to uphold traditions of communal ownership of land, and the gentle guidance of the wisest in judicial affairs, modified by an organized expression of popular opinion."

PRESERVED SPIRIT OF LIBERTY. While peaceable and of good will to all, the Bohemians were always brave defenders of their country. Being the most western tribe of the Slavs, wedged between warlike and aggressive Germans, they have successfully maintained their existence and were not subjected by them. In struggles without number they have proven their bravery and valor. When the Tartars have their thirteenth century overcame Russia, defeated and laid waste Hungary and swept over Poland into Moravia, bringing terror to western Europe, the brave Bohemians met them at Omutz in Moravia and all but annihilated them. How terrible foes the Tartars were can be seen from the following passage of Maurice's story of Bohemia:

"The terror-struck descriptions of the writers of the period seem to combine the memories of Gothic and Hunnish invasions with the imagery of the Apocalypses. Like so many conquerors, Genghis Khan seemed to have had a conception of a special mission to destroy imposed on him by some invisible power; and he and his followers were looked on, for a time, as irresistible. When the blind Bohemian King John, fighting with the French at Cressy, was informed that the battle was going against them and urged to seek safety in time, it is said that he replied: "God forbid that a Bohemian king should flee from a battlefield." And rejecting two of his best and bravest knights, he had his own horse fastened between them, and plunging into the thickest of the fight, perished on the field. When the people of Bohemia arose in the thirteenth century to defend the reformation of Hus, and oppose the claims to the Bohemian throne of the German Emperor, who had betrayed them and allowed in spite of his guarantee the taking of the life of Retormer Hus, the pope preached crusades against Bohemians, but they have held their ground against the whole German Empire and allied powers for fifteen years. Their military hero of that struggle, Ziska, never lost a battle, although often fighting against terrible odds.

LOVE FOR LIBERTY COULD NOT BE SUPPRESSED. When finally overwhelmed during the Thirty Years' War and all but annihilated, when deprived of their faith, education, intelligence, literature, property and

all that makes life worth living, when subjected in the two following centuries to the most cruel serfdom, but little short of the slavery of the black man, the sense for liberty and equal rights for all was not suppressed. The Bohemian, as his principal tool, militarism, and other institutions of oppression were only intensified. The most celebrated Bohemian poet of the first quarter of the present century, John Kolar, expressed well the prevailing sentiment of the people in the sentence: "He who is worthy of liberty readily grants the same to all others."

OUR BOHEMIAN CITIZENS. The Bohemian immigration to this country dates from the year 1848. That memorable year marks an epoch in the history of most continental nations. It was a year of awakening from the evils of oppression and to the blessings of freedom. The Bohemian people were, however, soon overwhelmed by the power of despotism, and it was the love of liberty which caused the emigration from Bohemia to the land of the brave and the free. The abolition question was then the burning political question in this country and the Bohemians almost without exception allied themselves with the anti-slavery party. The first Bohemian newspapers in this country, Slovan Americky, established at Racine, Wis. in 1850, and rodní Noviny, at St. Louis in the same year, and Slavia at Racine, Wis., in 1862 were all anti-slavery and union papers.

UPHOLDS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. Bohemians have always rejoiced at the liberation of every people and sympathized with all who are oppressed. There is no people on earth that have endorsed more heartily than the Bohemians the self-evident truths of the declaration of American independence, that all persons were created equal and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. It is therefore not surprising to find among the naturalized citizens of Bohemian extraction almost unanimous sentiment that it is wrong that these glorious United States of America, the pride and hope of the liberty-loving people of all climes, the home of the brave and free, should wage a war for conquest, for subjugation of a people on another hemisphere, people of an entirely different race and civilization, which can never assimilate with us and is intended to be subject to our authority and prey of our politicians—even if this war is carried on under the cloak of civilization.

THE BITTER FRUIT OF EXPERIENCE. But there are other reasons besides, why the sentiment of the Bohemians is against the policy of aggression and imperialism. They have tasted themselves of the bitter fruit of such a policy. Their experience and the history of every other European nation, teaches that expansion cannot be upheld without a large standing army and a powerful navy, and that these cause unbearable burdens. They apprehend that expansion into the other hemisphere will bring us near the constant danger of complications with the other great foreign powers and to the condition of "armed peace" which is the basis of the people of Europe. They know that a large standing army is a menace to the rights and liberties of the people, leading always ultimately to the fall of republics, overthrow of freedom and establishment of "strong" despotic governments.

THE EVILS OF MILITARISM. There is no other people that has suffered more through the evil of militarism than the Bohemian people. Militarism requires not alone a tax in dollars and cents, but also a tax in life and blood. To be a defender of the rights and liberties of a country is an entirely different proposition from being a conscripted tool of military power, to be used as its plans and schemes require. The former means patriotism, the latter servitude. The Bohemians in their history have had and have to submit all and every able-

bodied man for conscription and service in the army of their oppressors, to be used in any cause, right or wrong. This vast army is vast army in itself, stop a minute and consider. The debt of the United States was insignificant before the civil war, but that terrible struggle caused the same to amount to \$600,000,000 in spite of the oppressive war taxes which were then levied for war purposes. The following table shows war and absence of a large standing army enabled us to abolish the war taxes and reduce the debt to less than \$600,000,000 by 1892. Now, in spite of \$200,000,000 annual war tax, our debt has assumed, in consequence of the war, the respectable figure of over \$1,000,000,000. But how is it in Europe? The public debt has grown as follows:

	1860.	1898.
Austro-Hungary	\$960,000,000	\$2,866,000,000
France	1,635,000,000	4,446,000,000
Italy	260,000,000	2,234,000,000
Prussia	170,000,000	1,106,000,000

THE TERRIBLE BURDEN OF TAXATION IN THE OLD WORLD. And what about the terrible burden of taxation in the old world? What keeps the people of the old country in poverty and misery? It is the grinding extortion of the ever unarmisted Moloch of militarism. The "armed peace" costs Europe now over \$1,000,000,000 annually, a terrible burden for the taxpayers. The Bohemians in Austria have to bear more than their share and as much of the burden as any people. Bohemia contributes to the Austro-Hungarian budget 150 million florins annually, but receives out of the public treasury in return only 20 million florins. The country (one-fourth the area of Nebraska) is being drained at the rate of 130 million florins, 52 million dollars, annually. The people of Bohemia pay annually a per capita of 13.6 florins indirect and 22.7 florins direct government taxes—about \$10.50 per capita—exclusive of local taxation, a burden which, in consideration of the condition of the people, wages, etc., is well-nigh unbearable. And yet the government must constantly scheme for more tax to be levied to meet the demands of the master, militarism.

THEY CAME WITH MINGLED JOY AND SORROW. The naturalized citizen has fled, not with joy, but with sorrow, from the country of his birth, which he loved as dearly as anybody loves his country, to avoid the oppression of despotism and evil results of its tool, the militarism. In order to enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty and secure them for his descendants. He has learned in this free land to appreciate fully these blessings. He knows from and by his own experience the difference between free government and one dominated by military power and knows what conditions either generate.

THE QUESTION WHICH CONFRONTS US. Can he sympathize with a policy which will lead to militarism, is pregnant with danger to our liberties and in all probability will bring upon this land of his choice, which he has learned to love so dearly, the same conditions which are now the land of the birth of his children and will be the cherished land of his descendants, the same unfortunate conditions, which forced him to abandon his own country? Shall he help to bring upon his children and future generations the evils from which he had to flee? To all such questions, when thoroughly considered, he must reply, emphatically, "No." And thus we find the Bohemian, as well as the German and other naturalized citizens, an overwhelming anti-expansion and anti-imperialist sentiment.

New Skirt Helps Shoplifters. Fashion has become an accessory of crime and misery has been added thereby to the burden of responsibility on the shoulders of store detectives during the holiday season.

George Ostreicher of New York, one of the oldest private detectives in the business, made the discovery when he caught Amelia Levy, alias "Black" Amelia, in the act of dropping a package of silk through the opening at the side of her dress skirt. Underneath was one of the biggest shoplifter's bags ever found on a pickpocket.

"Black" Amelia is one of the cleverest pickpockets and shoplifters in the profession and has so long a record against her that ex-Chief of Police Byrnes says he can give only a brief bit of it in his book, where she figures as No. 222.

Whether "Black" Amelia is the discoverer of the adaptability of the new skirt to the needs of her criminal calling, or only a humble follower of another's ideas, she is the first to be caught employing it.

When Ostreicher discovered "Black" Amelia she was finely attired in one of the gorgeous new skirts of heavy cloth, closing on the side of the front with a scalloped edge and row of buttons. "Black" Amelia, with a companion, was at the silk counter, holding a piece of silk up for examination. The dress skirt was fastened to the waist with a button, and the skirt was held up by a button. The skirt was held up by a button. The skirt was held up by a button.

Heretofore shoplifters have taken the silk from these cases in order to fold it into the smallest possible parcel for concealment. The new fashion requires the skirt paper, to Ostreicher's amazement the whole thing—paper and silk—slid through the side closing of Amelia's fashionable new skirt.

It was a revelation to the detective, who had never thought of watching women wear such skirts. When Amelia was investigated the smoothness with which the scheme works was disclosed. The biggest black cambric shoplifter's bag ever seen was tied around her waist. The long slit in the outside of the dress skirt, which closed with real buttonholes and buttons its entire length. The piece of silk was upright and perfectly flat in the bag. Heretofore women have ripped dress cambric dress pockets in which are cut the slits, or cut their skirts near the waistband in order to drop the proceeds of their thefts into the under bags.

Beekeping is an expensive enjoyment at Bath, England. Miss Kerley, an inhabitant of that beautiful city, sued her next door neighbor for \$250 damages, caused by defendant's bees. She was badly stung twice and the bees frequented her garden to such an extent that she had to let it go practically out of cultivation. The jury awarded her \$50, and the judge granted an injunction, with costs on the higher scale.

The statistics of the China mission connected with the Episcopal church show that for the year ending July, 1898, there were 109 congregations, 1,981 members, church members, 961 communicants.

CANDIDATE FOR JUDGE OF SUPREME COURT



HON. SILAS ALEXANDER HOLCOMB.

It is a little like carrying coals to Newcastle to tell the intelligent voters of Nebraska anything about Governor Silas A. Holcomb and the grand record he made as governor of this state. The people of Nebraska were not long in learning his worth as chief executive of Nebraska. They soon began to call him "The best governor Nebraska ever had," and to show that they believed what they said, they re-elected him by over 21,000 plurality in 1896.

HOLCOMB ELECTED GOVERNOR. Six years ago Holcomb was selected by the populists as their standard-bearer in the campaign for supreme judge. That was before the days of fusion with the democrats and the division of the votes between the nominee of the democrats for supreme judge naturally resulted in the election of the republican candidate. But the populists were determined to secure the services of Holcomb as a state officer and the following year they nominated him for governor. He was even then serving as district judge out in the Twelfth judicial district, and the people of that district knew his sterling honesty, straightforwardness and undoubted ability. Populists from all over the state had become acquainted with him during the canvass of 1893, and they recognized in him a man who would make himself felt in the world.

So he was nominated for governor. The democrats were then willing to join hands with the populists and help rescue the state from republican misrule. Governor Crouse, the best republican governor who had ever sat in the gubernatorial chair in years, was not in good standing with the manipulators of his party, and they turned him down for Thomas J. Majors, a notorious "heeler" for the railroad corporations. The state legislature, an intensely partisan republican body that year, went partisan mad in their efforts to "put the pop governor in the hole." But through it all, Governor Holcomb pursued a dignified course and came out unscathed.

GOV. HOLCOMB'S PREDICAMENT. Holcomb was the only one of the fusion nominees who pulled through, and early in January, 1895, he took his seat as governor with six republican executive state officers. These republican officers began a systematic effort to cripple Holcomb's administration. Every conceivable mean thing was done. The state legislature, an intensely partisan republican body that year, went partisan mad in their efforts to "put the pop governor in the hole." But through it all, Governor Holcomb pursued a dignified course and came out unscathed.

IT WAS SCHOOL CHILDREN'S MONEY. The people's independent (populist) party demanded in its platform that the uninvested permanent educational funds be invested so far as possible in state general fund warrants. The republican state officers kept on hand upward of a half million dollars in clear-headed, a despotic ruler and an earnest student at all times. He believes in allowing every man the fullest enjoyment of personal liberty; that every man has the unalienable right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." He is a strong opponent of imperialism and militarism, which now seem to be gaining a strong foothold in what was once "Free America." He is opposed to government by injunction.

WHO OWNS THE COURT. Behind the curtains it is said the Nebraska supreme court as at present constituted has one representative of the R. & M. railroad, one representative of the U. P. railroad and one representative of the people. After January of next year, with Holcomb to sit with Sullivan, the people of Nebraska may congratulate themselves on having two representatives upon the supreme bench—two judges who will perform their duties fearlessly, earnestly and justly, keeping ever in mind the maxim, "equal rights to all, special privileges to none."

CHAPLAINS ARE NEEDED. Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Secretary Root has ordered all the available chaplains in the army to the Philippines. When congress increased the strength of the army from 25,000 to 100,000 men temporarily at the last session it failed to make provision for any chaplains, overlooking the clause limiting them to 30. Of this number at least ten of those holding commissions are superannuated and altogether unfit for active service at distant posts, so the service has been rather short of spiritual advisers of late.

GOV. HOLCOMB PARTLY IN CONTROL. The people's independent party has also demanded an economical administration of state affairs. By virtue of his office six penal and charitable institutions are under the control of Governor Holcomb and his appointees, and seven institutions remained in control of the republicans. Governor Crouse's management of these same six institutions had shown a marked decrease in cost over previous administrations, yet notwithstanding this fact, these six institutions, under Governor Holcomb's careful and business-like management during the years 1896 and 1898, showed a saving of nearly \$100,000 over Governor Crouse's management in 1892 and 1894. A similar comparison for the seven institutions under republican control in 1895 and 1898 showed a saving of only about \$6,000. And under complete fusion management during Governor Holcomb's second term, the cost was greatly reduced and demonstrated that the republicans from 1893 to 1894, needlessly wasted about \$200,000 of the people's money in maintaining the state institutions.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS SAVED

The reform forces, headed by Governor Holcomb, from 1895 to 1898 maintained the same state institutions in better shape, with more inmates, for about \$70,000 less than the republicans would have spent had they been in power. This splendid record for businesslike management, begun under Silas A. Holcomb, is being continued by Governor Poynter and the other state officers in the same admirable way.

WHAT HURTS THE RINGERS. But why dwell at length on facts that thinking people understand thoroughly? Populists, democrats, silver republicans all know these facts. So do the republicans themselves. Everybody who reads knows that both terms of Governor Holcomb were marked by a strict adherence to economical—but not parsimonious—conduct of the state's business. He was just as careful in spending the state's money as in expending his own—and this irritates the ring republicans who had always made it a rule to spend every dollar the legislature would appropriate for them, and pile up a lot of deficiency claims beside.

HOLCOMB SET THE PACE. It is because Holcomb really guarded every state interest with jealous care, that ring republican "healers" make vicious and unwarranted attacks upon him. He has established a precedent in state government which the people will insist upon having followed by all succeeding administrations—and that would be mighty awkward for these ring republicans if they should ever, by any combination of circumstances, gain control of the executive offices.

AS A MAN AND AN OFFICIAL. Silas A. Holcomb's ability as a lawyer is unquestioned. He has been tried as a district judge and his record is clear. He has been tried two terms as governor and the splendid record he made is tritely established. In the phrase, "The best governor Nebraska ever had." He is a man of exemplary habits, pure in his private life and with a record in public life untarnished in the slightest degree. He is broad-minded, clear-headed, a deep thinker and an earnest student at all times. He believes in allowing every man the fullest enjoyment of personal liberty; that every man has the unalienable right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." He is a strong opponent of imperialism and militarism, which now seem to be gaining a strong foothold in what was once "Free America." He is opposed to government by injunction.

WHO OWNS THE COURT. Behind the curtains it is said the Nebraska supreme court as at present constituted has one representative of the R. & M. railroad, one representative of the U. P. railroad and one representative of the people. After January of next year, with Holcomb to sit with Sullivan, the people of Nebraska may congratulate themselves on having two representatives upon the supreme bench—two judges who will perform their duties fearlessly, earnestly and justly, keeping ever in mind the maxim, "equal rights to all, special privileges to none."

CHAPLAINS ARE NEEDED. Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Secretary Root has ordered all the available chaplains in the army to the Philippines. When congress increased the strength of the army from 25,000 to 100,000 men temporarily at the last session it failed to make provision for any chaplains, overlooking the clause limiting them to 30. Of this number at least ten of those holding commissions are superannuated and altogether unfit for active service at distant posts, so the service has been rather short of spiritual advisers of late.

GOV. HOLCOMB PARTLY IN CONTROL. The people's independent party has also demanded an economical administration of state affairs. By virtue of his office six penal and charitable institutions are under the control of Governor Holcomb and his appointees, and seven institutions remained in control of the republicans. Governor Crouse's management of these same six institutions had shown a marked decrease in cost over previous administrations, yet notwithstanding this fact, these six institutions, under Governor Holcomb's careful and business-like management during the years 1896 and 1898, showed a saving of nearly \$100,000 over Governor Crouse's management in 1892 and 1894. A similar comparison for the seven institutions under republican control in 1895 and 1898 showed a saving of only about \$6,000. And under complete fusion management during Governor Holcomb's second term, the cost was greatly reduced and demonstrated that the republicans from 1893 to 1894, needlessly wasted about \$200,000 of the people's money in maintaining the state institutions.

CHAPLAINS ARE NEEDED. Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Secretary Root has ordered all the available chaplains in the army to the Philippines. When congress increased the strength of the army from 25,000 to 100,000 men temporarily at the last session it failed to make provision for any chaplains, overlooking the clause limiting them to 30. Of this number at least ten of those holding commissions are superannuated and altogether unfit for active service at distant posts, so the service has been rather short of spiritual advisers of late.

GOV. HOLCOMB PARTLY IN CONTROL. The people's independent party has also demanded an economical administration of state affairs. By virtue of his office six penal and charitable institutions are under the control of Governor Holcomb and his appointees, and seven institutions remained in control of the republicans. Governor Crouse's management of these same six institutions had shown a marked decrease in cost over previous administrations, yet notwithstanding this fact, these six institutions, under Governor Holcomb's careful and business-like management during the years 1896 and 1898, showed a saving of nearly \$100,000 over Governor Crouse's management in 1892 and 1894. A similar comparison for the seven institutions under republican control in 1895 and 1898 showed a saving of only about \$6,000. And under complete fusion management during Governor Holcomb's second term, the cost was greatly reduced and demonstrated that the republicans from 1893 to 1894, needlessly wasted about \$200,000 of the people's money in maintaining the state institutions.

CHAPLAINS ARE NEEDED. Washington, D. C.—(Special).—Secretary Root has ordered all the available chaplains in the army to the Philippines. When congress increased the strength of the army from 25,000 to 100,000 men temporarily at the last session it failed to make provision for any chaplains, overlooking the clause limiting them to 30. Of this number at least ten of those holding commissions are superannuated and altogether unfit for active service at distant posts, so the service has been rather short of spiritual advisers of late.

GOV. HOLCOMB PARTLY IN CONTROL. The people's independent party has also demanded an economical administration of state affairs. By virtue of his office six penal and charitable institutions are under the control of Governor Holcomb and his appointees, and seven institutions remained in control of the republicans. Governor Crouse's management of these same six institutions had shown a marked decrease in cost over previous administrations, yet notwithstanding this fact, these six institutions, under Governor Holcomb's careful and business-like management during the years 1896 and 1898, showed a saving of nearly \$100,000 over Governor Crouse's management in 1892 and 1894. A similar comparison for the seven institutions under republican control in 1895 and 1898 showed a saving of only about \$6,000. And under complete fusion management during Governor Holcomb's second term, the cost was greatly reduced and demonstrated that the republicans from 1893 to 1894, needlessly wasted about \$200,000 of the people's money in maintaining the state institutions.