

the point he is making. One day, after he had made an unusually good hit, a colleague slapped him on the shoulder and said, "Allen, that speech will do as much good as a sensible speech."

No one can read Mr. Clement's caustic criticism of the administration's policy without admitting that the article will do as much good as a sensible article.

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**Christians in China.** The papers are discussing the duty of the Christian powers in China, and all sorts of opinions are being expressed as to what punishments ought to be permitted and what not allowed.

It ought not to be difficult to formulate a rule. Whatever the Christian nations do ought to be done according to the customs prevailing at home. What China does ought to be done according to her customs. It is not the business of outsiders to force their civilization upon China, but they ought to set an example for the instruction and enlightenment of the Chinese. There is a suspicion that some of the allies, in trying to do like the Chinese, have done worse.

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**Republican Papers Vigorously Protest.** The ship subsidy bill was the pet measure of the chairman of the republican national committee. Behind that measure was arrayed all the powerful influence of the McKinley administration. The iniquity of the bill was revealed upon its face, but there have been some very plainly evil measures that have received the support of the republican press. When it is observed that a large number of influential republican newspapers were openly arrayed against the ship subsidy bill, one is impressed with the thought that it must have been particularly obnoxious. Among the republican papers that were opposed to this measure were the following: The New York Journal of Commerce, The Iron Age, The Boston Transcript, The Boston Record, The Philadelphia Ledger, The Philadelphia North American, The Philadelphia Bulletin, The Pittsburg Dispatch, The Baltimore American, The Cleveland Leader, The Indianapolis Journal, The Chicago Tribune, The St. Paul Dispatch, The St. Paul Pioneer-Press, The Portland Oregonian,

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**Price of War and Conquest.** The total appropriations for military and naval purposes made by the republican congress aggregate \$424,265,248. This means that the head of the average family of five persons must pay this year about \$28 as his share of the taxation necessary to meet this military outlay. The New York World quotes William Pitt as saying:

To levy a direct tax of 7 per cent is a dangerous experiment in a free country, and may excite revolt; but there is a method by which you can tax the last rag from the back and the last bite from the mouth without causing a murmur against high taxes, and that is to tax a great many articles of daily use and necessity so indirectly that the people will pay them and not know it.

The men who are responsible for these enormous appropriations act upon the theory that because federal taxation is not direct taxation the American people will be slow to resentment. The federal method of indirect taxation is somewhat slow in reaching the individual, or rather

it should be said that the individual is somewhat slow in realizing, but the burden exists and the individual pays his proportion of taxation although he does not readily recognize the burden. When we see the government expending billions of dollars in order to maintain un-American policies we do not realize that someone must foot the bill. We do not seem to appreciate the fact that money does not grow on trees. The present administration appears to have no concern for the value of money, and it is squandering dollars at a reckless pace.

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**Staggering the British Taxpayer.** In the beginning, the British Ministry estimated that the South African War would cost \$50,000,000. Already Great Britain has paid \$407,000,000 on account of this war, and the estimate for the war expenses during the coming year amounts to \$350,000,000. It will be remembered that Oom Paul said that if Great Britain conquered the Boers it would be at a cost that would stagger humanity. The cost in human blood has already "staggered humanity," and the cost in dollars and cents, now rapidly nearing the billion dollar mark, is bearing down heavily upon the British taxpayers.

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**Congressman Hull on the Army.** In a recent number of the Saturday Evening Post Congressman Hull of Iowa undertakes to justify the new army measure. He began by saying that the fight for the reorganization of the regular army had lasted four years and speaks of "putting the United States in line with the rest of the world in the matter of organization of the military and of the government." That is a statement which no republican leader would have made during the last campaign. The reader of the article is disappointed to find no mention made of the number of sons Congressman Hull has among the commissioned officers of the army. It is also to be regretted that the gentleman from Iowa did not take time to enumerate among the reasons for the large army the necessity of protecting the syndicates which are being organized to exploit the Philippines Islands. Being the president of the Philippine Lumber and Development Co. Mr. Hull is in position to give valuable information on this point. A prospectus of the company, issued last summer, set forth the fact that his company had already secured valuable timber concessions and explained that the labor problem was easily solved because of the abundance of Chinese labor.

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**Insurance on Mr. Morgan's Life.** Since the death of Queen Victoria, public attention has been called to the fact that it was the custom of citizens of Great Britain to take out policies on the life of the queen. This was done by those whose investments might suffer by the queen's death. The same custom has been adhered to since Edward VII succeeded to the throne. To Americans this seems to be a novel procedure. In this country, an individual would hardly feel secure if he knew that another person carried, without his consent, an insurance policy on his life, but like other trimmings of royalty, this peculiar custom has already invaded our shores. Since J. Pierpont Morgan organized his enormous "community of

interests," to which doubtless many English dollars were essential, it is said that insurance policies to the extent of \$20,000,000 have been taken out upon Mr. Morgan's life. It is explained that this course has been adopted by those who are peculiarly interested in having Mr. Morgan live.

In this country it has always been presumed that no individual had such enormous power as to make it necessary for a considerable number of people to take out insurance policies on the life of that man, but in recent years certain individuals in this land have been rapidly securing new power and authority. Mr. Morgan is one of them, and the fact that certain people regard this man as of so much importance that they are willing to pay premiums on \$20,000,000 worth of insurance policies on his life, ought to serve as a hint to the thinking men and women of America.

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**Towne and Webster.** The Kansas City Journal complains because a correspondent likened Charles A. Towne to Daniel Webster. The Journal says: "It is too bad that Webster is not here to enjoy the joke." The republican organ places a poor estimate on the intelligence of the American people if it imagines it can destroy facts by cheap wit. This country has not produced an orator superior to Mr. Towne; he is logical, scholarly and eloquent. Those who listen to him once are anxious to hear him again, and the well-informed, even among the republicans, will dissent from the Journal's estimate. If the republican papers will seriously attempt to answer Mr. Towne's speech they will appreciate his ability as well as the weakness of their own cause.

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**Increasing Taxes.** The Chicago Times-Herald calls attention to the increasing burden of taxes. It says, editorially:

The State of Illinois is groaning under too much government. The state is burdened with a vast army of political tax-eaters who get at the public crib through the devious channels of complicated, useless, worn-out and costly governing machinery.

Fifty per cent of the officeholders in the state are nothing but political parasites, sucking the life blood from the body politic. The property of the people down to the iron bedstead and oak washstand of the modest dweller in a rented cottage is levied upon to feed a great and ever increasing army of political "grafters."

The Times-Herald is justified in its comments. There is a tendency, first, to multiply the number of offices in order to give employment to partisans and, next, comes the demand for higher salaries. Extravagance in expenditures is defended by interested parties while the people at large are too often indifferent to any criticism which emanates from the opposite party. Jefferson recognized the frailty of human nature and warned his countrymen that the people must watch their representatives at all times or suffer if they failed to do so. The only remedy is to arouse the people to a sense of their responsibility for bad government and to make them realize that they can have good government whenever they earnestly set about to secure it.

And yet only a few months ago the Times-Herald was one of the loudest supporters of the party which in national appropriations is giving an example of extravagance which will make the Illinois "grafters" feel proud of their moderation,