

The Commoner.

didate for United States senator; on the contrary, the true spirit of western and manly independence exerted itself throughout the entire session, and which we believe was most thoroughly demonstrated in the contest for the selection of two United States senators just ended, and that all reports to the contrary are false.

"WILKINSON,

"Chairman of the Special House Committee."

What more could have been desired? The examination was "thorough and personal;" the members "regardless of party" were found to be "of exceptionally high moral character;" they had all put forth an "honest effort" to promote "the best interests of the state" by the passage of "good laws" and the "careful appropriation of the states money" etc.

The lexicon of eulogy was exhausted and complimentary and congratulatory expressions were used to the limit. The passes given to the members (a common custom, as the report explains) were "purely complimentary" and were not given with any thought of "influencing the vote of members and their choice of candidates." The members were "without exception" willing to answer "every question," but not in "a single instance" could anything be "charged or proved against any member or candidate for United States senate" etc, etc.

Here was a vindication that vindicated and an exoneration that exonerated. Did the House adopt the report and thus seal for all time the lips of the critic? Nay, not so.

Up rose Mr. Whitmore, a republican and enquired why the committee had not called upon him for evidence. He intimated that he could have given some information about the "hordes," "sometimes several hundred in one day," brought in by the railroads to help "one certain candidate.

Chairman Wilkinson admitted reluctantly that Mr. Whitmore may possibly have been overlooked by the committee.

Then Mr. Dahlsten, a fusionist, took the floor. He said that, as the matter was up, he would like to testify that he had been offered money to absent himself from the joint session and thus aid in the election of "a certain candidate." He added that other members of the House had spoken to him of receiving similar offers. It was evident that Mr. Dahlsten had also been overlooked by the committee.

Then a third member ventured the opinion that the investigation had not been conducted in such a manner as to make the report of any value and said that as all the members were honorable men, he did not see any use of any resolution at all. By this time Chairman Wilkinson was in a mood to accept almost any suggestion which would put an end to the discussion and he lost no time in withdrawing the resolution.

The legislature adjourned, the members separated and wended their ways to their respective homes, but they carried with them no self bestowed vindication. When the finger of suspicion is pointed at them and revilers attack their fair fame they will be defenseless. Their children will never know, as a matter of record, that they are all "of exceptionally high moral character" and that they all made "an honest

effort" "to promote the best interests of the state."

But while the members generally languish under suspicions which they refused to remove by resolution, Mr. Wilkinson of Cass county will go thundering down the ages as the author of one of the most artistic and comprehensive resolutions ever offered for the purification and glorification of Solons.

If any republican reader doubts the correctness of the above report he is respectfully referred to that uncompromising, though not always courteous, republican newspaper, the Nebraska State Journal, from the columns of which the above information has been gleaned.



Restless for Liberty.

A Washington dispatch in a recent issue of the Chicago Tribune says:

There is some restlessness on the part of the Porto Ricans, and they are anxious to get possession of the government. This is what is reported by members of Congress who have visited the island and looked into affairs. There is nothing in the situation that causes the slightest uneasiness or alarm. The desire of the Porto Ricans to control is just the natural wish of the people to manage their own affairs without any supervision on the part of the United States. In fact, the Porto Ricans are so much better satisfied with conditions as they exist today than those under the Spanish regime that they would be entirely content if they were not permitted to take any further part in the administration of the government than is now accorded them.

The Porto Ricans would like to have a native governor and control of the legislature. Of course, the administration would not consent to anything of this kind at this time.

While the Porto Ricans are so superior to the Cubans as not to be compared with the latter, it is recognized that they are not fitted to be trusted with any more power than is now given them.

Does it strike the average American as strange that there should be "restlessness" on the part of people who are living under the sovereignty of a government of which they are not citizens, and in which they have no material share?

Is it really surprising that the Porto Ricans should be anxious to get possession of the government of their native land?

Does it not seem strange that the Porto Ricans are "not fitted to be trusted with any more power than is now given them," in the light of the admission that they are "so superior to the Cubans as not to be compared with the latter?"

The United States of America have wandered into strange paths, and the American people may prepare themselves for frequent announcements in the future that the people who are denied either the privilege of governing themselves or the privilege of becoming citizens of the government that has forced its sovereignty upon them are manifesting "restlessness."



The Rice Deportation.

The American people do not take kindly to deportation, but many of them will be amazed when they learn all the facts concerning the deportation of George T. Rice, the newspaper editor who was sent out of the Philippine Isl-

ands because he made charges affecting the integrity of a public official.

When Mr. Rice landed in San Francisco he made a complete statement, which was printed in the San Francisco Star, a weekly newspaper. Mr. Rice states that in his capacity as an editor he criticised a custom house official. Rice obtained his information from sea captains and merchants who had had dealings with the custom house, and who claimed that they had been defrauded. Rice states that he made an investigation and found the charges to be true. The custom house official then decreed that Editor Rice should be debarred from the custom house. The military authorities went to the aid of the customs official, and in a star chamber proceeding, to which Rice was not admitted, a pretense of investigating the accused official was made.

The official was then given a clean bill, and the military authorities summoned Editor Rice before them.

Colonel Crowder acted as inquisitor on this occasion, and Mr. Rice says the following dialogue took place:

Crowder—Don't you think you are wrong in this matter?
Rice—No, sir.

Crowder—Then you still think you are right?

Rice—Yes, sir; I know I am.

Crowder—I am sorry for you, young man; if you still persist in saying you are right, my orders are from General MacArthur to deport you.

Rice—if you will give me a fair trial in court I can prove that I am right.

Crowder—Under martial law such characters as you receive no trial. We have not the time.

Rice—Can I see the evidence in the investigation which you claim proves my charges false?

Crowder—No; the investigation was placed in competent hands and does not need your approval. Your statements have been proven to our satisfaction to be without foundation and you will be deported as an incendiary character and a menace to the military situation. You are too young to let go on slandering men of honesty and capability, and I consider your character as having fallen to its lowest level. In writing and publishing such articles you endanger the foundation of our military system. Such conduct as this I consider equal to traitorism.

Rice—So far as being a traitor, I have served my country in the field for over a year, and never had my love of country so much as questioned, while you have never been under fire and never expect to be, and you dare question my patriotism! I have more patriotism to the square inch than you have in your whole carcass.

Crowder—Be careful; a few more words and I will put you in Bilibid! (the jail.)

Rice—Put me there! I would rather be an honest prisoner than be a craven and deny the truth through fear of your power.

An order was then issued directing the deportation of Rice.

Before this order was put into execution Colonel Crowder called upon Rice, and this dialogue is self-explanatory:

The military governor (MacArthur) directs me to ask you that if your conduct is satisfactory up to the time of your deportation and he sees fit to remit your sentence, will you promise that in the future you will never write articles of a similar character against any officer of the military?

Rice—No, sir. I hold the right to publish anything anywhere, whenever I have proof of my statements.

Crowder—Your case is hopeless.

Upon Crowder's order Rice was delivered to the provost marshal. The editor was then placed in solitary confinement on January 23, where he remained until January 27. On January 29 Editor Rice sailed for the United States.

Evidently it does not pay to criticise public officials in the Philippines under the carpet-bag regime.