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Mr. Littlefield's Address.

On another page THE COMMONER reproduces the address delivered by Congressman Charles E. Littlefield, of Maine, before the American Bar Association at Denver. Mr. Littlefield criticised the Supreme Court's insular decisions, and declared those decisions to be "without a parallel in our judiciary history." While disclaiming any disposition to reflect upon the court, Mr. Littlefield said: "I feel bound to say it seems to me that they were profoundly impressed with the supposed consequences of an adverse decision." One lawyer protested against Mr. Littlefield's discourse in the presence of the American Bar Association. That gentleman, Mr. Adolph Moses, said:

"I wish to record my note of dissent to the general applause which followed the presentation of the insular cases by Mr. Littlefield. I regret to have listened to what I consider an unwarranted attack upon the supreme court of the United States, and, as a member of this association, I wish to raise my voice in protest against the use of this platform for a purpose of this kind."

The notion that men who occupy the bench are exempt from criticism will not do under a republican form of government. To say that any opinion delivered by a man on the bench must seem to command respect and approval, although in fact it does not command either, is to say that men in official position can do no wrong; and the people of the United States know that men in official position are always liable to err.

Mr. Littlefield's opinion of the insular decisions is the opinion of a large majority of the lawyers of the United States. In truth one need not be a lawyer to realize the error of those decisions, because they involve the fundamental ideas of this government and are repugnant to the elementary principles of government as taught to every school boy in the land.

Mr. Littlefield's criticism was courageous because he is a republican having, perhaps, some ambition for future honors at his party's hands. But Mr. Littlefield appears to be a lawyer and a patriot before he is a republican, and his condemnation of the insular decisions will meet the hearty approval of a very large majority of the people, although some may not be brave enough to give expression to their disapproval.

Mr. Moses' idea that even when one believes a judicial opinion to be wholly wrong and destructive of the very foundation of the government, no criticism should be uttered on that opinion, is not a good sentiment to create among a people whose happiness depends upon liberty. Mr. Littlefield has eminent republi-

can authority for criticising the action of men on the bench. It was Mr. Lincoln who said that "The people of these United States are the rightful masters of both congresses and courts—not to overthrow the constitution, but to overthrow men who pervert the constitution."

Mr. Littlefield's statement that it seemed to him that the justices were "too profoundly impressed with the supposed consequences of an adverse decision," find corroboration even in the opinion delivered by Justice Brown himself. In the concluding paragraph of that opinion Justice Brown said:

"A false step at this time might be fatal to the development of what Chief Justice Marshall called the American empire. The choice in some cases, the natural gravitation of small bodies toward large ones in others, the result of a successful war in still others may bring about conditions which would render the annexation of distant possessions desirable. If those possessions are inhabited by alien races, differing from us in religion, customs, laws, methods of taxation and modes of thought, the administration of government and justice, according to Anglo-Saxon principles, may for a time be impossible and the question at once arises whether large concessions ought not to be made for a time, that ultimately our own theories may be carried out and the blessings of a free government under the constitution extended to them. We decline to hold that there is anything in the constitution to forbid such action."

Does this not indicate, exactly as Mr. Littlefield said, that the justices were "profoundly impressed with the consequences of an adverse decision?"

The Iowa Campaign.

The Iowa Democratic state convention adopted a platform and nominated a ticket as follows:

THE PLATFORM.

We, the democrats of Iowa, in convention assembled, hereby reaffirm the principles of the democratic national platform adopted at Kansas City July 5, 1900, and without surrendering our convictions or abating our loyalty to our national policies we believe this campaign to be particularly one that should be confined to state issues.

The fundamental principle of democracy, "equal rights to all and special privileges to none," applies in full force to the subject of taxation. The democratic party believes that the burden of taxation should be borne equally by all taxable property subject to the jurisdiction of the state. We pledge our members of the general assembly to formulate and urge the adoption of such a law as will compel the burden of taxation to rest on corporate and individual property alike, without favor and exemption of any interest.

We demand economy in the administration of state affairs, the repeal of the mulct laws, the enactment of a local option law, the abolition of the offices of state printer and state binder and the contracting for supplies for the state with the lowest responsible bidders. We cordially invite all

honest men of the state to unite with us in securing the enactment of these principles into law.

THE TICKET.

Governor.....T. J. PHILLIPS
Lieutenant Governor.....E. F. FERGUSON
Supreme Judge.....JOHN SHORTLEY
Railroad Commissioner.....A. C. BRICE
Superintendent Instruction.....J. P. JOHNSON

The brethren of our sister state are to be congratulated upon their loyalty to Democratic principles. The legislature to be elected this fall will choose a Senator to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Gear, the place temporarily filled by the appointment of Senator Dolliver. The state campaign can be fought on state issues but the senator elected, if he happens to be a Democrat, will be bound by the platform to support Democratic principles as set forth in the Kansas City platform. With a good platform and a good ticket the party enters the campaign with hope and courage.

Let every democrat, populist and silver republican make it his business to be at the polls. Iowa is one of the great agricultural states of the union and can not long remain a republican stronghold.

Mr. McKinley's administration does not represent the farmers; it is controlled by the money changers, the trust magnates and the syndicates organized to exploit "our new possessions." Sooner or later the farmers of Iowa will revolt and this year is a good year to make a beginning.

The Filipino's Day of Fun.

The Chicago Record-Herald has interviewed General Frederick D. Grant on "Characteristics of the Filipino." General Grant said:

"The Filipino characteristic that surprised me the most is a sense of humor that is not surpassed by any race on earth except the Irish. The average Filipino is full of fun. He can detect a joke quicker than many Americans and he is always ready to laugh. I take this as a happy omen. The man who can enjoy a joke and who possesses the saving quality of humor is good material for American citizenship.

"To illustrate: One day a band of boy musicians appeared before my headquarters to serenade us. They played many airs with good musical conception and much technical skill. Finally they played 'Aguinaldo's March.' When they had finished one of my staff suggested in Spanish that the 'Aguinaldo March' should be played as a 'quick-step.' The meaning of the joke appealed instantly to the boys and young men in the band. They roared with laughter and instantly repeated the tune in an accelerated measure that gave a very good idea of Aguinaldo's hasty marches."

Perhaps this is a happy omen. It is well to have, even on the part of men we are trying to subjugate, a large fund of good humor. It