

Mr. Schwab, president of the steel trust, is taking a little vacation in Europe, and according to the cable dispatches is enjoying himself hugely. While in Paris he submitted to an interview and is credited with saying that "when people earn good wages their rights do not trouble them." According to Mr. Schwab the American wageworker—for he was speaking of American wageworkers—is like a cow or a hog—perfectly contented if given a full stomach. It remains to be seen whether this view will be indorsed by the wageworkers of the country.

Over seven hundred relinquishments have already been made in the land offices at El Reno and Lawton. This means that over seven hundred men who drew farms in the government land lottery have sold their claims. It will be remembered that the lottery plan was adopted as the best means of shutting out land speculators. But it seems to have been a great failure. It was just as easy for speculators to line up at the registration offices as it was for home-seekers, and the speculators stood an equal show. Now honest home-seekers are privileged to buy homes in the territory if they can raise the price demanded by the speculators.

It is evident that the transportation lines are opposed to the construction of any isthmian canal, and it is fair to assume that they are behind the Panama route, not because they prefer that route, but for the reason that agitation in its behalf gives the best promise for the most delay. It is significant that the offer of the Panama canal stockholders was not made until it seemed certain that the Nicaraguan route would be adopted by the lower house of congress. Having considered the points in favor of the Panama route, the canal commission, that recently made its report, approved the Nicaraguan route. It seems that those who have been most earnest in advocating the construction of a canal are practically unanimous in favor of the Nicaraguan route, while the present advocates of the Panama canal are largely made up of those who have been opposed to any canal at all. It is to be hoped that the Nicaraguan bill will be pushed through the senate at an early day. The American people are very generally in favor of an isthmian canal and the Nicaraguan plan offers the best method of a prompt realization of a very popular plan.

The republican leaders are said to favor an abolition of the duty of 10 cents a pound on tea. The New York World points out that this duty last year yielded \$8,000,000 in revenue. The World says: "The United States, it is true, consumes some \$5,000,000 pounds of tea annually, and the hot-bed tea 'plantations' established in the south and in California by our paternal agricultural department probably do not produce, all told, over eighty-five pounds a year." The World protests against this total indifference to the tea growing "infant" and asks how it would be possible for that infant to grow up without a protective tariff. This protest would seem to be a wholly appropriate one. If there is no prospect for the tea growing infant in this country, the department of agriculture should abandon all encouragement on this line. If this infant does have prospects, then why should it not be protected even to the extent of enormous taxes upon consumers of the country? To be sure, this tax would cost the consumers \$8,000,000 per year, but what's a few dollars when it comes to "protecting home industry?" In all seriousness,

the consumers of this country will welcome any tariff reduction that will give them relief; but is it not strange that those who have been heavily burdened in procuring the necessities of life, because of the high protective tariff, have not sooner learned the absurdity and iniquity of a policy that takes enormous sums from the pockets of the patient many to place fortunes in the pockets of the greedy few? If the republicans put tea on the free list they will show more consideration for the public generally than they are accustomed to show.

Commenting upon the latest Philippine news, the Houston (Tex.) Post suggests that we have captured the Philippines from Spain, purchased the Philippines from Spain and fought for the Philippines with the Filipinos. The Post overlooks the fact that in addition to capturing the Philippines, purchasing the Philippines and fighting with the Filipinos for the Philippines, we also had the Philippines thrown into our laps by Providence. It would seem that the Philippine commission should try to impress all of these facts upon the minds of our Filipino subjects.

Referring to the war in the Transvaal, the Kansas City Journal says: "The United States is not going to interfere in the affairs of foreign countries with which it is in no way legitimately connected." Perhaps not, but that it not proof that the United States should keep hands off. The United States have interfered under like circumstances. The maintenance of republics should, certainly, interest the United States as much as the maintenance of a monarchy like China, and we have heard many administration voices praising the republican administration for preserving the integrity of China. But, perhaps, a matter of dollars and cents is of more concern to some of our citizens at this time than the further spread of self-government.

Next to a fat "commissionership," and there are many such under a republican administration, the delectable task of "representing" this government at coronations promises to be the most sought after. The selection of representatives to attend the coronation of King Edward will necessitate the selection of similar representatives at other coronations. The King of Spain is soon to be crowned, and that will afford another opportunity for American flunkies to kow tow and salaam at the feet of royalty. It seems, too, that there is no lack of Americans anxious for the job. We may confidently expect to be represented at the coronation of the Grand Panjandrum of Begum, the elevation to the throne of the High Cockalorum of Kibosh and the conferring of the sceptre upon the Ahkoond of Swat—unless the American people recover from their spasm of imperialism and insist upon a return to the plain, simple, honest and unaffected ways of the fathers.

A subscriber asks The Commoner to explain the "City National bank deal" so often mentioned of late in connection with Secretary Gage's retirement from the cabinet. The story is a short one, but extremely interesting, and serves to show the hold that the great financial institutions have upon the republican party. A few years ago the government sold the New York customs house property to the City National bank of that city for \$2,265,000, Secretary Gage, by virtue of his position, having charge of the transaction. No

money changed hands. The bank merely loaned the representatives of the treasury department a certificate of deposit for \$2,215,000. The bank retained the money and loaned it out at the usual rates of interest. The certificate of deposit being made out for \$50,000 less than the purchase price, the government retained the title to the property. But the bank took possession. As the government held the title the bank escaped city, county and state taxes. And the government, not being ready to vacate the premises, rented them from the bank, paying a rental of \$130,000 a year. Now note the facts carefully: The bank, by not holding the title, escapes paying \$45,000 a year in taxes. By giving a certificate of deposit that bears no interest it is enabled to loan the purchase price of the property at the usual rates of interest, and by buying the property before the government was ready to vacate it draws \$130,000 a year rent. As an example of financiering (on the part of the bank) this, undoubtedly, ranks at the head.

The American people have been greatly stirred recently by the announcement of General Bell's reconcentration order to apply to the Philippines. The Washington correspondent of the Chicago Chronicle, speaking of this order, says: "Its frank admission of intention to impose penalties upon innocent women and children and its encouragement to subordinate officers and others to arrest non-combatants upon mere suspicion has excited intense indignation." The same correspondent quotes Senator Hoar as having made a dignified, manly and vigorous protest against this wickedness. Senator Hoar said: "The people will sooner or later awaken to the atrocities that are being committed in the name of liberty. They will soon understand that there is no difference between Weyerism under the stars and stripes in the Philippines and Weyerism under the Spanish flag in Cuba. Weyerism has been practiced in Cuba in various forms for years before the conscience of the American people finally revolted against it. Now, however, that we understand what it means that same conscience will operate more quickly, but with equal certainty in behalf of the Filipinos who are being herded in reconcentration camps."

General MacArthur, in his report concerning the Philippines, said: "To doubt the wisdom of the United States in remaining in the islands is to doubt the stability of republican institutions." This is a strange statement. What American or Filipino can have confidence in the "stability of republican institutions" in those islands while the United States are engaged in striking blows at republican institutions? The "stability of republican institutions" is in danger whenever men who profess to adhere to those institutions do things repugnant to the republican spirit. Mr. Jefferson on one occasion said that it was important "to fortify republicanism behind as many barriers as possible, that the outworks may give time to rally and save the citadel should that be again in danger." At another time, speaking of the ship of state, he said, "We shall put her on her republican tack and she will show by the beauty of her motion the skill of her builders." If we manifest jealous concern for the "stability of republican institutions," we will avoid anything inconsistent with republicanism as the fathers understood it, and as the school children of America, for more than a century, have learned it. If we are anxious to preserve the "stability of republican institutions" we will keep the good ship of state on the republican tack in order that she may show "by the beauty of her motion the skill of her builders."

Are American Wage workers "Hogs?"

Shut Out the Honest Homeseekers.

Push the Nicaraguan Canal Bill.

The Tariff on Tea.

How We Secured the Philippines.

Dollars vs. Republics.

Americans Dancing at Court.

Some Republican Financiering.

Weyerism Under American Authority.

Showing the Skill of the Builders.