

Gage's Rockefeller Deal.

Early in the year the World once again demonstrated the moral force, the power for good, of a great, free, and fearless newspaper in the smashing of the secret compact between the administration at Washington and the Standard Oil crowd, by which all the government receipts from internal revenue taxes were to be "pooled" in the vaults of the National City bank of New York, known as the Standard Oil bank, for distribution to the government depositories.

Under the contract more than \$1,000,000 a day would flow into the favored bank, to be distributed as only it and a very few United States treasury officials would know, the bank enjoying the use of the money meantime.

Secretary Gage announced this contract for pooling the enormous receipts and their distribution by secret arrangement just before congress adjourned for the holidays. The next day the World attacked the scheme, turning the broad beams of the searchlight of publicity on the transaction, and showing that upward of \$10,000,000 of the government's money had been on deposit and bearing no interest in the Standard Oil bank steadily for six months. When the year 1900 opened, the press of the entire country was spreading the World's information and arousing the people. Mr. Gage fled from the storm that was raging about him. He rescinded the order to banks in western cities to ship the money deposited by the government collectors to the favored "pool," the policy of secrecy was abandoned, and Treasurer Roberts was ordered to announce that he would give out the facts of the distribution.

The World showed that the Standard Oil crowd had been favored so palpably as to arouse suspicion of the motives impelling the administration. This "pull" had brought to the Standard Oil bank \$24,000,000 of the money received by the government in settlement of the Union Pacific debt, including the \$14,751,223 saved to the people on that settlement by the World's energetic fight in 1898 against the consummation of the "private arrangement" between the government and the Wall street blind pool known as the Union Pacific reorganization committee, and forced the government to put the indebted roads up at public sale, in which the syndicate bid nearly \$15,000,000 more than the administration had agreed by "private arrangement" to accept for the property.

Both houses of congress acted promptly, and with practical unanimity, beginning an investigation of the relations of the treasury department and the National City bank. This brought a 9,000-word defense from Secretary Gage, and revealed three highly explanatory letters, the first from Vice President Hepburn of the bank, to Secretary Gage in 1897, requesting that the bank remain a United States depository, and saying:

"If you will take pains to look at our list of directors you will see that we also have very great political claims, in view of what was done during the canvass last year."

The second was from Senator

A CURE FOR ASTHMA.

Asthma sufferers need no longer leave home and business in order to be cured. Nature has produced a vegetable remedy that will permanently cure Asthma and all diseases of the lungs and bronchial tubes. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases (with a record of 99 per cent permanently cured, and desiring to relieve human suffering) I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Asthma, Consumption, Catarrh, Bronchitis, and nervous diseases, this recipe in German, French or English with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail. Address with stamp naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 67 Powers Bldg., Rochester, New York.

Thomas C. Platt to Mr. Gage, indorsing a letter from James Stillman, president of the bank, asking for a deposit of postoffice funds, and saying:

"It is unnecessary for me to say that it would be very gratifying to me if his wishes could be respected. You know, without my mentioning it, how reliable and important a banking institution the National City bank is. I will be pleased to hear from you at your convenience regarding the matter."

The other letter was from President Stillman to Secretary Gage. He wrote: "As you have doubtless noticed in the press, the money market here has been quite unsettled during the latter part of the week. We have loaned very liberally to allay apprehension, but at such rates as would tend to force a liquidation in highly speculative securities. I think this has been accomplished, and the declines which have taken place will have a wholesome check."

This was a cold-blooded statement of how the Standard Oil crowd used the people's money on deposit in the National City bank, and for which the government got no interest, to "squeeze" the market and bring on the memorable "blue Friday" of April 7, 1899, in Wall street, during which the "forced liquidation in speculatives" caused a shrinkage of \$138,394,935 in stock values, for the benefit of a ring of speculative bankers and stock gamblers.

The World in January revealed that the administration, having sold the old custom house to the National City bank, better known as the Standard Oil bank, instead of collecting the purchase price, \$3,265,000, and depositing it in the United States treasury, according to law, had "directed" the Standard Oil bank to "credit" the United States with \$3,215,000. This actually left the purchase price in the hands of the purchasers to loan out at the prevailing rate of 4 per cent, while the government paid rent to the bank as owners of the old building as the new one is building. In other words, the government, under the terms of the bargain, had the unprecedented privilege of paying rent for its own property and, in effect, paying interest to the purchasers of the property, the Standard Oil bank, on \$3,215,000 of its own money.

The balance of the purchase price, \$50,000, was left unpaid, even by crediting it as a deposit, simply to enable the Standard Oil bank to say to the local tax-gatherers that it did not own the property, and thus escape just taxation.

The exposure of this remarkable piece of financial jugglery by the World resulted in a visit from President Feitner, of the city department of taxes, and, on the confirmation of the World's testimony that the government was only a tenant of the bank, a levy of \$60,000 taxes was made on the property.

But the rent from the date of the transfer, July 3, 1899, could not be paid without authority from congress, and when Secretary Gage asked for authority to pay \$109,000 for the use of the old custom house since that date, a republican senate committee, with the transaction before it, under the floodlight of publicity thrown upon it by the World, curtly declined to report in favor of a free gift of \$109,000 to the bank.—From New York World Almanac, 1901.

What to do With the Philippines.

The more the Philippine question is discussed the stronger becomes the feeling among the American people that we do not want them—either for any advantage to our own country or to advance the Filipinos. No one be-

lieves in the idea of "scuttle" put forward by some ill informed as to the purpose of the anti-imperialists, and meaning their abandonment at once and without arrangement as to their future better government in the direction of home rule and independence. We have incurred too many obligations for that policy, but we do believe that a great majority of the Americans are opposed to their permanent annexation, to be administered in the one way possible, as a military colony, which the president will rule over on the same plan as the czar rules Russian provinces or the sultan Turkish subdivisions. That is antagonistic to the American principle. We can never admit the Philippines as states or as territories on the American plan. We can only govern them as military colonies, possibly with some semblance of civil rule, which goes to pieces under stress.

Harper's Weekly notes the change in American sentiment on the Philippine question, since the imperialists first became noisy over their plans. It admits that the Philippine problem has never been put fairly and directly to the American people, and it is impossible to guess what is the prevailing sentiment, but there is no doubt that "the number of us who really do covet the Philippines as a national possession is comparatively small." It thinks that four-fifths of our people "earnestly desire to unload the Philippines." There is substantial ground work for this guess. Why, then, should we retain them? No one doubts our power to do so if convinced that it is our interest, to say nothing of what the Filipinos desire. We can leave them out of the question; but of course we will not do so. Our duty is to start them fairly on the way to self-government and independence, precisely as we did Cuba.—Pittsburg Post.

A Great Teacher.

Every democrat in the land, and every man in the land who believes that principles are dearer than victory won by fraud, should be a reader of The Commoner. It is a great teacher. From its columns there weekly issue words of wisdom, which, if rightly and reasonably interpreted and digested, will build up in the readers a desire to strive to uplift politics from the mire into which it now is. Men are becoming clearer-headed and more reasonable than they used to be, and there is hope that the day will come when the people will look for honest and courageous men to vote for in preference to those whose ability to pull wires, etc., are their best and only qualifications. A constant reading of The Commoner will help to lead men into a right way of thinking on public questions.—Nebraska State Democrat.

Are They Afraid of the Light?

So it is President Schurman who is now guilty of inflaming the Filipino mind by his recent insistence that the only honorable course for this country is to give independence to the islanders! Hitherto it has been Mr. Bryan, or Mr. Hoar, or the Boston Anti-Imperialists, or the independent newspapers who did such deadly work by standing up for the rights of the Filipinos. But now Mr. Schurman, president of the first Philippine commission, and versed in Philippine affairs, is really undoing all the splendid service of the troops and inciting the natives to fresh resistance by his doctrine that, if we went to war for any other than an altruistic purpose, we laid ourselves open to the charge of manslaughter. Of this tenor are the dispatches from Manila this morning, and how enlightening they are! Could anything reveal more clearly the unholy character of the American undertaking in the Philippines than this confession of General Wheaton, the acting commander in the islands, that the plea of the president of a great university for national honor and right-

eousness ought not to be published in Manila? What kind of a cause is that upon which the light of day cannot be thrown and about which there may not be the fullest discussion by all concerned? Is it the true American kind? New York Evening Post.

Conciliation.

"Conciliation" being in the air just now, the following lines from Hood's "Ode to Rae Wilson" are worth recalling. The earlier stanzas describe the vain efforts of a Whitechapel butcher to drive a flock of frightened sheep through the entrance to the slaughterhouse. The narrative ends:

At last there came a pause of brutal force,
The cur was silent, for his jaws were full

Of tangled locks and tarry wool;
The man had whooped and halloed till dead hoarse,

The time was ripe for mild expostulation,
And thus it stammered from a stander-by:

"Zounds—my good fellow—it quite makes me—why—
It really—my dear fellow—do just try Conciliation."

Stringing his nerves like flint,
The sturdy butcher seized upon the hint—

At least he seized upon the foremost wether,
And hugged and lugged and tugged him neck and crop

Just nolets volens thro' the open shop;
If tails came off he didn't care a feather.

Then walking to the door and smiling grim,
He rubbed his forehead and his sleeve together—

"There, I've conciliated him!"
This, I take it, is the way that some of our countrymen would conciliate De Wet or Botha.—From London Truth, Feb. 21, 1901.

"IMPOSSIBLE, for you to enjoy the happiness of motherhood," says the doctor. Sometimes he qualifies the statement, and says: "Impossible without an operation." Yet both these "impossibles" have been made possible by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Many times the hindrances to motherhood are to be found in womanly diseases or weaknesses, which are perfectly and permanently cured by "Favorite Prescription."

This great medicine



for women cures irregularity and dries debilitating drains. It heals inflammation and ulceration, and cures female weakness. It makes weak women strong and sick women well.

"I wish to add my testimony to hundreds of others as to the value of Dr. Pierce's medicines," writes Mrs. Ida M. De Ford, of Latona, Hubbard Co., Minn. "Have doctored with a great many physicians—some specialists; have twice been in a hospital for treatment. My case has been regarded as a hopeless one, and they knew not what the trouble was. Heart was bad; stomach all out of order; tired out; severe pains in all parts of the body; sinking spells, and nearly every ailment a woman could have. I took many a bottle of 'patent medicines' without effect. I began taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, and ten months afterward I gave birth to a ten-pound boy. All physicians had stated as a fact that I never could bear a child. Both the baby and myself were strong, and I got along splendidly—thanks to your medicine."

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