

trust, with turning the party organization over to Wall street and with using the patronage at his disposal to punish loyal democrats and to reward recreant ones. The charge was preferred before the rank and file of the party and he was condemned by the largest jury that ever sat upon a case. The sentence was complete and six millions and a half of voters supported the platform which repudiated his financial policy while only one hundred and thirty thousand supported the ticket that received the nominal support of his administration.

When the election was over he made a speech at a high-priced banquet and boasted of his part in the republican victory. If we could punish the betrayal of political confidence as we do the embezzlement of public money he would be receiving the limit of the law, but instead of seeking forgiveness for the wrongs done by him to his party, he nurses his resentment and waits impatiently for the party to apologize to him for not allowing him to lead it bodily into the republican camp.

What excuse can there be for a Cleveland party? The republican party can serve every purpose that a Cleveland democratic party could serve. If Mr. Cleveland was right on the money question, so was the republican party; if Mr. Cleveland was right in not enforcing the law against trusts, the republican party deserves credit for following out the same policy; if Mr. Cleveland was justified in refusing to sign the only tariff reform measure passed since the war, the republicans were justified in condemning the measure. Here are three questions upon which the Cleveland democracy would have difficulty in making an issue, and how about the fourth—imperialism? It was the paramount issue in the last campaign, but Mr. Cleveland, while presumably opposed to imperialism, did not feel interested enough to say a single word in support of the democratic ticket. His association with the great financiers was so close and so constant that even a war of conquest and the imperilling of the republic could not draw him from their embrace.

There is not a single issue upon which the Cleveland democracy is prepared to make a fight; and its assumption of control in the party would be regarded as a treaty of peace with the republicans on every important question. If Mr. Cleveland thinks that the democratic party is ready to return to the mire into which he led it and in which he left it, let him announce his candidacy on any platform he is willing to write and he can not secure the delegation from a single state in the union. If his modesty forbids his own candidacy, let him name a candidate who will agree to make his administration like Mr. Cleveland's second administration and he will not have a delegate in the convention. The "dreadful dreams" which disturb the exploiters and those who grow rich by stock speculations are entirely satisfactory to the rank and file of the party and to the producers of wealth generally; the party will never go back to the odious and odorous days of 1892-1896.

Dr. Thomas' Mission.

Representative Burleson of Texas on March 10 arraigned the state department as being pro-British. He referred to the fact that a committee was appointed by Governor Yates of Illinois and had collected funds for the relief of Boer women and children in the British concentration camps. Rev. Dr. H. W. Thomas and wife of Chicago had consented to distribute these relief funds. Secretary Hay was asked to apply to the British ambassador for a passport for Dr. and Mrs. Thomas. The secretary refused to make the request of Lord Pauncefoote, saying that such a request would be meddling and a "remissness of neutrality" and against the views of President Roosevelt.

Mr. Hitt of Illinois, replying to Mr. Burleson, defended Secretary Hay, and said the relief supplies should be distributed through the Red Cross or

through our consuls and not by individuals. He said there was no precedent for Dr. Thomas' request.

The Kansas City Star could provide Mr. Hitt with some information on this point. In 1898, prior to the Spanish-American war, the Kansas City Star collected funds for the relief of the Cubans. A trainload of twenty-one cars was sent to Cuba in charge of two representatives of the Star. President McKinley indorsed the plan and the United States government paid for a vessel to convey the supplies to Cuba. The Red Cross had nothing to do with the shipment or the distribution of these supplies. They were in the exclusive charge of the two representatives of the Star and were distributed by these representatives under the direction of United States Consul Brice at Mantanzas, who acted at the request of the editor of the Star.

If it is true as some English newspapers claim that the conditions in the British concentration camps have been misrepresented, one would think that the British ministry would be very glad to have a man of the high character and wide and excellent reputation of Dr. Thomas visit those camps. Every one acquainted with Dr. Thomas would believe any statement he made concerning the conditions there, and these would also know that he would do nothing while in South Africa inconsistent with his duties as a missionary.

The Merger Suit.

In another column of this issue appears the full text of the bill filed in the federal court of Minnesota by Attorney General Knox with relation to the proposed railroad merger. The court is asked to require the Northern Securities company to surrender the shares of stock it holds in the Northern Pacific Railroad company and the Great Northern Railroad company. The court is also asked to enjoin the officers and stockholders of the two railroad corporations from recognizing the Northern Securities company as a holder of shares of stock in the two corporations.

The Northern Securities company is the trust sought to be established by the merger. The attorney general takes the position that this attempted merger is a violation of the anti-trust law. Attorneys for the Securities company say the company is organized in such a way as to avoid the provisions of the anti-trust law and if Attorney General Knox exerts his best ability in the prosecution of this suit a most interesting legal contest may be expected.

It is to be hoped that those republican newspapers that predict that the attorney general will make the effort of his life in the prosecution of this case have good reasons for their pleasing prophecy.

Mr. Knox's Investigations.

The Lincoln (Neb.) Journal, a republican newspaper, in an editorial entitled "The President and the Trusts," says that when "like a thunder bolt from the clear sky" the order of the president to Attorney General Knox was published directing him to bring suit against the Northern Securities company for violation of the Sherman anti-trust act, "Wall street was surprised into a great flutter." The Journal adds:

The fear was that the president's action meant the unsettling of values all along the line of the great corporations popularly called trusts. But when the magnates hastened to Washington to interview the president their panic was allayed. The president showed then that it had been his custom since he entered the White house, whenever a complaint was made to him about alleged infractions of the Sherman act, to submit the matter to the attorney general. If the attorney general found on examination that the alleged trust organization was not a violation of the Sherman act that settled the matter so far as the executive was concerned.

It is understood that the attorney general

has made a number of investigations of complaints, including one of the alleged steel trust and found that their organization and business methods did not conflict with the Sherman act.

It is somewhat strange that the attorney general could not discover that any of these trusts conflicted with the Sherman act; and some people may be inclined to the view that it is particularly significant that the attorney general could discover nothing illegal in the steel trust, whose attorney Mr. Knox is said to have been before entering the cabinet.

It is gratifying, however, that Mr. Knox discovered that the proposed merger of the Northern Securities company was a violation of the Sherman act and for this favor the American people must, at least, be thankful.

Beveridge and Funston.

While The Commoner is not in the confidence of the republican leaders and will not be consulted by the next republican convention, it takes the liberty of making a suggestion to its republican readers. It looks now as if imperialism would be the paramount issue in 1904. Those who favor imperialism ought to be willing to make an open and honest fight for the principles underlying an imperial policy, and to do this they ought to have a ticket which would be a platform in itself. Mr. Hanna would not be a good candidate because he is too diplomatic. He has so long accustomed himself to evasion and double-dealing that he could not be candid even if he tried to be. Mr. Roosevelt was once strenuous enough, but his anxiety to secure another nomination has made him cautious and artful. There are but two men prominent enough to attract national attention and yet outspoken enough to make them fit representatives of the brutal and bloody doctrine of conquest—Senator Beveridge of Indiana and General Funston of Kansas. Their utterances show that they possess the true spirit of the empire. They go the full length of their policies and have none of the squeamishness of some of the other republican leaders who are still a little sensitive about blood-letting. Senator Beveridge has espoused with youthful vigor the European doctrine of force; he has consecrated his great ability to the overthrow of the doctrine of constitutional government and has dared to risk his political future upon the supremacy of the animal instincts over moral principles. While timid republicans were wrestling with conscience he boldly proclaimed the legitimacy of grand larceny and the benevolence of wholesale slaughter. If imperialism is to be god, Beveridge has earned the privilege of being its prophet.

And General Funston deserves a place by the side of the senator from Indiana. While his military duties have somewhat curtailed his opportunities his speeches have made up in ferocity what they lacked in length and literary excellence. Realizing that imperialism is essentially a military mode of government and possessing to the full the soldier's desire to silence criticism with the sword; he breathes out threatenings against those who plead for the application of American principles to the Philippine question. While drawing his salary as brigadier general he has been devoting some time to speeches in which he denounces those who dissent from the administration's plans.

At the Lotus club in New York he charged that all the men who had fallen in the Philippines since December, 1900, had been "the victims of a lot of misinformed and misguided people here in the United States." He admitted that "it is perfectly proper for us to have all sorts of opinions as to what we should do with the Philippine islands"—thanks for this admission—and then he added, "But for heaven's sake let us keep them to ourselves until every square inch of that territory recognizes the sovereignty of the United States."

When it is remembered that Spain, although there three hundred years, never succeeded in get-