

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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THEY ARE AFRAID OF THE ISSUE.

The republican journals are already shying at the Philippine question. They know that they cannot defend the principles which underlie colonialism, and therefore, instead of boldly outlining a policy and defending it, they resort to subterfuge and misrepresentation.

The Kansas City Journal, one of the most unscrupulous of the republican papers, shows its fright by crying out that the democratic substitute "is, in effect, an outright repudiation of the fundamental doctrine on which Mr. Bryan and his party made the campaign of 1900." It alleges that the democrats wanted immediate independence and that "his (Mr. Bryan's) plan and the plan of the party was to scuttle and run." If the editor of The Journal will read the democratic platform of 1900 he will find that the platform and the party's candidates favored an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose: First, to establish a stable government; second, to give independence to the Filipinos; and third, to protect them from outside interference. The party has always insisted that the establishment of a stable government in the place of the one overthrown comes before independence, but when it is understood that the government is to belong to the Filipinos and not to us it will not take long to establish it. This is the point upon which the administration's policy differs from the democratic policy. Whose government is it to be? That is the all important question. The Filipinos do not want to be subjects; they want a government of their own. All they require is a promise of independence and then the formation of a government will be an easy matter.

The Journal says: "As a matter of fact, the kind of self-government proposed for the Filipinos by the republican bill contains about as much independence as the democratic measure." The editor of The Journal knows better, if he has read both plans. The republican plan is drawn upon the plan proposed for the American colonies by King George III., while the democratic substitute is drawn upon the plan proposed by the colonists. No amount of humbug or hypocrisy about our "duty" or our "destiny" can cloud the issue. The republican leaders deny the right of the Filipinos to self-government and their capacity for self-government; and the republican plan contemplates perpetual dependence and vassalage for the Filipinos. The democratic leaders assert the right of the Filipinos to self-government and their capacity for it, and the democratic plan contemplates the immediate promise and speedy grant of independence. It is a contest between self-government and arbitrary power—between a republic and an empire. The more the question is discussed the clearer this issue will become, and it is not surprising that the republicans, already conscious of their position, are beginning to dodge the principles involved and run from the question.

They Have No Remedy.

The Kansas City Journal started out quite boldly in its denunciation of the beef trust, but now that democratic papers have commenced to

call attention to trusts in general it is beginning to weaken. Instead of attacking the monopolistic principle it is talking about "economy in production" and insisting that the local butchers can, if necessary, start up again. It is hoping in the belief that the people can thus secure relief, "even if the anti-trust law fails to supply a remedy."

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PEOPLE!

Sept. 9, 1901.—Colonel Gardener, of Tabayas province, reported to Governor Taft on effects of military brutality.

Feb. 7, 1902.—Governor Taft, after holding Gardener report five months, transmits it to Secretary of War Root.

Feb. 17, 1902.—General Miles writes to Secretary of War Root and says war in Philippines is being conducted with marked severity.

March 5, 1902.—Secretary of War Root, with the Gardener report in his possession, replies to General Miles, denying that the war is being conducted with marked severity and asserting that on the contrary it is being conducted on humane lines.

March 25, 1902, Secretary Root ridicules General Miles' suggestions, disputes his assertions, scolds him for mentioning the Gardener report and seeks to discredit that report in advance of investigation.

April 8, 1902, Major Waller, Captain Porter and Lieutenant Halford testify before court martial in Manila that General Smith ordered Waller to make Samar a howling wilderness and kill all natives over 10 years old.

Associated Press Dispatch.

Manila, April 25, 1902.—The trial by court martial of General Jacob H. Smith on the charge of conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline began today. Colonel Charles A. Woodruff, counsel for the defense, said he desired to simplify the proceedings. He was willing to admit General Smith gave instructions to Major Waller to kill and burn and make Samar a howling wilderness; that he wanted everybody killed capable of bearing arms and that he did specify all over ten years of age, as the Samar boys of that age were equally as dangerous as their elders.

Note the dates of these paragraphs.

This is the "benevolent assimilation" policy of the administration. This is the condition of affairs in the islands "thrown into our lap by Providence."

KEEP WATCH ON THE REORGANIZERS.

Eternal vigilance is the price, not only of liberty but of everything else worth having. The vote at the primaries in Missouri and elsewhere shows that the people can be relied upon when they understand the issue, but the gold and corporation element in the democratic party is always trying to confuse and obscure the issue. There is scarcely a county in the nation but what has a corporation representative seeking to secure some position of authority at the hands of the democrats. Usually these are men who voted against the party in 1896 but came back—or pretended to come back—in 1900. They have not accepted the Kansas City platform, but they ask to be made the representatives of those who believe in that platform. They aspire to the state legislature, to congress or the United States senate; they usually have money and are willing to spend it to advance their ambition.

Democrats must be on their guard everywhere or the party will drift back into the position it occupied under Mr. Cleveland's second term. A man can support a ticket without endorsing all the platform, but a man can not run on a platform without endorsing it all. If a man understands the duty of a representative he will not desire to represent people who do not agree with him. The people are entitled to the active sympathy, not merely to the passive service, of public officials.

Put none but the faithful in positions of trust. If a man was against the ticket in 1896 and has really reformed he will feel so ashamed of his past conduct that he will not ask to be rewarded over those who were faithful in the hour of trial; if he was against the platform in 1896 and has NOT reformed he cannot be trusted to defend the interests of the people.

If a reorganizer wants some position which will give him official influence find out what he thinks of the Fowler bill. If he does not know anything about it he ought to inform himself before aspiring to office or to a place on a democratic committee; if he knows of the bill and has not denounced it his sympathies are not with the people. The Fowler bill provides for an asset currency, a branch bank and a redeemable silver dollar, and although this bill has the endorsement of the republican members of the coinage committee the reorganizers say that the money question is dead. They refuse to discuss financial legislation themselves and protest when others discuss it. Why? Because they stand with the republican party on the money question and are afraid to admit it.

Every United States senator will have to deal with this question; every member of congress will have to deal with it, and yet all over the country gold democrats are seeking nominations at the hands of the party and are reorganizing for a repetition of the fraud, deception and betrayal that reached their maximum under the Cleveland administration.

Beware of them!
Beware!!

Organization in Ohio.

On another page will be found an editorial from The Times, of Canal Dover, Ohio, explaining the work which has been undertaken by the