

THE WEEKLY PRESS FORUM

Darlington (Wis.) Democrat: We wonder who the "traitor" was who hauled down the flag in Cuba Tuesday.

Sidney (Ia.) Herald: While lifting Cuba out of the dirt of imperialism, we are piling it onto the Filipinos.

Marysville (Kas.) Advocate-Democrat: The man who says the Filipinos are not ready for self-government means that he would deny that boon as long as he can.

Plankinton (S. D.) Herald: "If you want the fort, come and take it," is the message which Nebraska democrats are sending to the gold bugs, alias "reorganizers."

Grand Island (Neb.) Democrat: One of the most pitiable plights we have ever seen is a preacher trying to show how God's hand is guiding our work in both Cuba and the Philippines.

Phoenix (Ariz.) Democrat: If the president will substitute a bill to repeal the meat taxes for Knox's bill to restrain the meat trust there will be something doing in an awful hurry in every packing house between the oceans.

Fostoria (O.) Democrat: The Washington Post considers the exodus of Americans to tour Europe as an evidence that we still have a surplus. Unfortunately the people who create the surplus, do not get to do the touring.

Goshen (N. Y.) Independent Republican: The stories of outrages in the Philippines by men who disgrace the army uniform are conspicuous by their absence in the press dispatches at this time. This may indicate that a reform has been inaugurated. It may also indicate that the press censor is getting in his work.

Buffalo (Mo.) Record: The United States government acted with commendable promptness in donating to the relief of the survivors of the disaster of the French West Indies. We only wish the same sympathy and love for humanity would work a speedy conclusion of the disaster and havoc now being caused in the Philippines.

Blandinsville (Ill.) Star-Gazette: No, my son, neither President Roosevelt nor the republican party were to blame for the volcanic eruption which destroyed St. Pierre and its 30,000 inhabitants last week, nor have either claimed it. All that the republicans claim is the production of bountiful crops, the sunshine, earth, the fullness thereof and a few other things.

Perry (O. T.) Sentinel: After ages of struggle for freedom, Cuba is a republic at last. The next fight for the democrats to close is to secure similar freedom for all the Philippine islands.

Forsythe (Ga.) Advertiser: The present congress will cost the country more than a billion dollars, being the most expensive congress that the country has ever had. Between the extravagance of the higher officials and the corruption of the lower ones, the republican party seems to be in a bad row of stumps.

David City (Neb.) Press: The Sutton Register mentions a Swede farmer who has recently returned from the land of his birth. While absent his political faith received considerable of a jar. He found McCormack harvesters, of the class that sell for \$125 here at home, selling for \$62, less than half, over there. Wire nails, costing \$4.00 here, also cost \$2.75 over there. He is now convinced there is a steel trust, which prevents competition at home and is protected from outside competition by a prohibitive tariff.

Stanton (Neb.) Register: When the fusionists had charge of the affairs of Nebraska, a large school apportionment was heralded by republicans as prosperity. Now a larger apportionment is all credited up to the good work of the state officers. The republicans are great on grabbing at straws to help themselves out of queer predicaments.

Charlestown (Ind.) Democrat: A republican exchange has an extended account of the increase of the number of workingmen at increased wages and decrease in price of staples and on the same page gives an account of a strike for more wages and on still another page "roasts" the beef trust for padding prices and making illegal contracts. Such is republican inconsistency.

Glasgow (Ky.) Times: In nominating Ollie James, the democrats of the first congressional district have done the right thing in the right place and to the right man. Ollie James is one of the brightest, ablest and truest of the younger men called to public life in Kentucky. He will make a congressman of whom the First district will be proud, and a record second to that of none of the illustrious sons of the Gibraltar district who have preceded him. Congressman James, good man and true, democrat faithful and fighting, large of brain, heart and body, may your shadow never grow less!

Rich Hill (Mo.) Enterprise: The men who bolted the democratic party in 1896 and 1900 and went over to the republican party on the plea that they could not tolerate bimetalism, are today among the most conspicuous advocates of imperialism, of trusts and of all other iniquitous republican products. The men who are most conspicuous in the effort to reorganize the democratic party today, pretending that their antagonism is confined to the question of bimetalism, are inconspicuous in the demand for justice for the Boers, in opposition to imperialism, in antagonism to trusts, and in condemnation of republican schemes generally.

Chicago Public: The attitude of the republican press towards the democratic party is well worthy of note, it is so eminently friendly to democratic leaders whose fidelity is under suspicion. Mr. Lamont, for instance, is regarded by the republican press as one of the men whose nomination by the democrats would save that party from political ruin. Why republicans should want the democratic party to escape political ruin is not quite clear, yet they are really extremely solicitous. Mr. Cleveland would be acceptable to them for this purpose, but as he is not regarded as available they fall back upon Mr. Lamont, the creature of Whitney whom Mr. Cleveland took into the cabinet and launched upon the ways to a speedy fortune of millionaire dimensions. Along with Mr. Lamont as the republican choice for the democratic nomination comes Mr. Olney, another product of Cleveland's notoriously disastrous administration. And then there are Gorman and Hill. Any of these gentlemen would be highly acceptable to the republicans as the democratic candidate for the presidency. Let him who doubts it read the republican papers. But why do republicans turn to them and beg the democrats to nominate one of them? Is it because their pecuniary interests, their social connections, and their general environment make them as good plutocrats as the republicans could find in their own party? Or is it because they would be easy to beat at the election?

SOME EXCHANGE INTERVIEWS

The Filipinos are to be given the constitution in broken doses. —Nashville (Tenn.) News. Greatly diluted, of course, with water. Irrigate their constitutions so they may be able to benevolently assimilate broken doses of our constitution.

Senor Buencamino gave the house committee on insular affairs some cogent reasons why the Filipinos should not be left to themselves at the present time. —Philadelphia Public Ledger. Something over an hundred years ago certain Americans gave what some English statesman urged as cogent reasons why the Americans should not be left alone at that time. They were on the British pay roll.

The size of the republican state platform adopted at the convention in Cleveland leads people to wonder how Congressman Dick ever smuggled it through from Washington. It's a wonder the railroads did not insist that he send it by freight. —Youngstown (O.) Vindicator. As railroads carry freight by weight and not by bulk it is very likely they did not think it worth while to waste time making out a way bill.

The Hon. Frank Thompson, who has been elected chairman of the state democratic executive committee, is a small man physically, but his democracy is said to be of giant proportions. —Memphis Morning Star. That's a better combination than a splendid physique and an atrophied democracy. The democratic party should beware of democrats who are always ready to leave their principles in the republican vestibule.

Great Britain's chief heritage of the war is debt and the loss of the esteem of liberty-loving people. —Boston Traveler. That's a hard blow at the Americans who commend sending a special envoy to the coronation of Great Britain's king. If what the Traveler says is true such people do not love liberty. And if debt and the loss of the esteem of liberty-loving people is Great Britain's heritage of the war, what shall be our heritage of the war against a people who are struggling for liberty?

Colonel Lambert Tree, another of the gentlemen who went fishing in 1896, is now megaphoning fresh advice to the national democracy. But he is only a chestnut tree. —Phoenix (Ariz.) Democrat. And with one accord, which is in itself very suspicious, the administration organs are telling the national democracy that its hopes of success lie in accepting the advice of recalcitrant democrats. Wonderful what interest the republican organs take in the views of the reorganizers.

The fact that republican senators have taken up southern lynchings in an effort to offset the water cure charges of the democrats, is pretty strong evidence of the terrible nature of the tortures in the Philippines. —Columbus (O.) Press. It is also pretty good evidence that the republican leaders are determined to keep up their usual tactics of defending their course by shouting, "You're another!" The fact that it has been impossible so far to hand'e our own "race problem" is ample rea-

son why we should not annex another and greater race problem. But blinded by commercial greed and lust of power this seems never to have dawned upon the minds of the imperialists.

The Tennessee democrats who indorsed the Kansas City platform might spend some time profitably in studying the returns of the last presidential election. —Birmingham (Ala.) News. They seem to have studied the results of the last presidential election, which is much more to the purpose. Men inspired by right are never dismayed by adverse results.

The south didn't exactly like President Roosevelt's comparisons between the lynchings in this country and the cruelties in the Philippines. But it is not believed the approval of the south was particularly counted upon by the president in that connection. —Sioux City (Ia.) Journal. Certainly not. In order to show his dislike for the prejudices of the south the president appealed to the prejudice of a certain class in the north. In the estimation of the average republican the war is either over or still going on just as it will best suit his campaign purposes.

Any policy with respect to the tariff on which Senators Aldrich, Spooner, Platt and Allison agree with President Roosevelt, will be accepted by the industrial interests of the country as perfectly safe. —Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin. To be sure, and for the simple reason that the senators named will readily agree to anything in the way of tariff that the "industrial interests" as represented by the trusts and corporations may prepare. But will the gentlemen agree on something that the general interests of the country agree upon as being just and fair?

The gentlemen who took offense at the president's reference to lynchings are perhaps too sensitive. The president may have had in mind Colorado, Ohio and Illinois, and not Texas. And besides, it should be remembered in extenuation that the administration is all-fired hard up for an excuse for its brutality. —Springfield (Ill.) State Register. While admitting failure to solve a great problem at home it requires great nerve to claim ability to solve an even greater problem 10,000 miles from home. But failure to suppress brutality at home is, as suggested, a very poor defense for brutality abroad.

Senator Spooner is gloriously right in his position (on the Philippine question) and the voters will back him up. —Milwaukee Sentinel. Then Abraham Lincoln was wrong. Lincoln said: "You will find that all the arguments in favor of kingcraft were of this class—they always bestrode the necks of the people; not that they wanted to do it, but because the people were better off for being ridden." That is the Spooner position. He and his imperialistic colleagues insist that the Filipinos are better off for being ridden. If the esteemed Sentinel has forgotten who Abraham Lincoln was it should read up a little on history—which reading would be fatal to the Sentinel's position on the Philippine question.