

The advocates of imperialism are respectfully commended to the words of Lyman Trumbull, once a conspicuous figure in the republican party, but later one of the most consistent and earnest democrats of the nation: "When freemen unsheathe the sword it should be to strike for liberty, not for despotism, or to uphold privileged monopolies in the oppression of the poor."

Trumbull on Imperialism.

In his Dalton (Mass.) speech Mr. Roosevelt said: "When I talk to you of my own executive duties, I can tell you definitely what will and what will not be done." Well, as a starter, Mr. Roosevelt might say whether he intends to bring criminal proceedings against the violators of the federal anti-trust law. So far he has maintained a significant silence on this interesting topic.

Just as a "Starter."

It is said that the Michigan Central railroad is threatening to demand of the state of Michigan a large sum because of the repeal of its special charter. This may account for the activity of the road in trying to secure a governor who will be under obligations to it if the road presents a claim. But how would the voters of the state like to have the railroad control both sides of the case in such a controversy?

Want to Handle Both Sides.

In spite of the fact that the republicans insist that our retention of the Philippine islands is purely benevolent, the returning soldiers continue to tell of cruelties that would shock any one not thoroughly enamored with the doctrine of force and conquest. The school teachers, too, who have been sent over there are finding conditions very different from what they expected. When they come home we shall have some disinterested expert testimony.

Stories of Cruelty.

When Congressman Newell said that the democratic party stood for "domestic development as opposed to Philippine expansion and conquest," he provided a hint to those who may have overlooked the fact that it required the greatest effort to persuade the republican congress to pass the irrigation measure while no effort was necessary to persuade the republican congress to appropriate millions of dollars for the purpose of carrying on its policy of conquest in distant lands.

Domestic Development and Conquest.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat makes a candid confession when it says: "The result of the fall elections is considered to be so certain that Mr. Babcock of the republican committee is having trouble in raising money for the usual expenses." While it is generally conceded that the situation from the republican standpoint is decidedly gloomy, it has not, until now, been generally known that a democratic victory is so certain that the republican committee is having trouble in raising money for the usual expenses.

A Candid Confession.

The Dominion, a bi-monthly publication issued at Brooklyn, N. Y., is authority for the statement that a poor Italian rag-picker of Boston was recently fined \$20 for a "contemptuous use" of the flag. He was using a weather-beaten piece of bunting as a bag in which to put the rags he picked up on the street. This ought to be conclusive proof that the American flag cannot be desecrated by the poor, but what of the republican leaders who are using the American flag as a bag in which to put the findings that are picked up by exploiters in the Philippine islands? Are they to be fined? The petty offender is sure to be punished, but the big offender isn't in so much danger.

Abusing the Flag.

There is a marked difference between the opinion entertained for Oliver Wendell Holmes, the new supreme court justice, among his friends in Massachusetts and the statement made by a politician who claims to be close to the administration. This politician declares that Justice Holmes was appointed to the supreme bench because it was "accurately known" that his views on the Philippine and Porto Rican question were in line with the administration policy; and this politician adds: "If these had not been the views of Judge Holmes he would not have been appointed, another man

A Difference of Opinion.

with those views would have been selected for the place." It is to be hoped that this politician did not know what he was talking about. The American people would prefer to adopt the opinion entertained by the people of Massachusetts who know Justice Holmes well and who do not believe that he would repudiate his well known views as to the importance of adhering strictly to the constitution.

A Rochester, N. Y., dispatch, under date of August 31, to the Chicago Tribune, says: "Lightning struck pitcher Cayward of the Phelps, N. Y., baseball team this afternoon as he was in the act of delivering the ball. The players rushed to Cayward and raised him from the ground. They found that the ball, which he held in his right hand, had been torn to shreds by the bolt. Cayward regained consciousness, and after rubbing his eyes finished the game." Lightning has no terrors for a man whose life has been spent in contention with baseball umpires.

Where Lightning Has no Terror.

In one of his speeches Mr. Roosevelt said: "I believe firmly that in the end there will have to be an amendment to the constitution of the nation conferring additional power upon the federal government to deal with corporations. To get that will be a matter of difficulty and a matter of time." But in the mean time the president might instruct his attorney general to enforce the criminal clause of the federal anti-trust law. That will not be a matter of difficulty and need not be a matter of any great amount of time.

But in the Meantime.

The Chicago Tribune reports that at Sparta, Ill., on the evening of August 31, a mob overpowered the jail guard, seized a negro prisoner and placed a rope around his neck and prepared for a lynching bee. In the confusion among the party the negro slipped out and escaped. It was not the fault of this mob that the negro wasn't lynched; and yet we have not observed that any republican papers have condemned this "outrage against humanity." Probably the republican papers are reserving their indignation for the first similar instance that happens in the south.

Where Indignation is Reserved.

Senator Platt of New York announces that the coal strike will be ended perhaps within two weeks, and in such a way that the democratic party will not obtain any advantage. Can it be possible that Mr. Morgan has finally been persuaded to settle the strike for campaign purposes only, and in order that the republican party may not suffer? In that event, we presume that after the fall elections the miners will be required to renew their strike and when 1904 rolls around and as election day approaches, Mr. Morgan will perhaps again come to the front and "settle" the strike in the interests of the republican party.

"Settling" the Strike.

The Philadelphia North American says: "It is some new measure for the regulation of the trust evil that the people demand. They have confidence in President Roosevelt's integrity of purpose, but they have already seen his recommendations ignored by party leaders who would permit no bill affecting the trusts to get past them in committee room." But why not try the old measure? Why not undertake the enforcement of the criminal clause of the federal anti-trust law? Party leaders may ignore Mr. Roosevelt's recommendations, but the attorney general would not dare ignore Mr. Roosevelt's order to cause the arrest of the trust magnates and to hold them as strictly to account to the criminal law as less influential violators are held.

Try the Old Measure.

In a newspaper interview referring to the proposed combination of all the packing houses into one great trust, Judge Day, the special attorney for the government, says: "If a combination is formed that in any way tends to show collusion among the packers in restraint of trade or to foster monopoly, or in the way of fixing prices, I shall take steps to have the parties cited for contempt. There is a temporary injunction in effect restraining the so-called beef trust from doing anything contrary to the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law, and such a combination as that talked of might easily be in violation of the law." There is also a law in effect providing for the criminal prosecu-

Judge Day's Rash Threat.

tion of those who conspire in restraint of trade. Why do these federal attorneys content themselves with mere citations for contempt? Why not resort to that most effective of weapons, the criminal indictment?

President Mitchell of the miners' union made a pointed reference in his Labor Day speech to the complacent philosophy of Railroad Magnate Baer, who recently declared that the Lord had wisely entrusted the rights and interests of the laboring men to the property owners of the country. Mr. Baer has unintentionally given the strikers an argument which they are likely to use with telling effect. Nothing is more calculated to arouse the indignation of the public than the arrogance of a few capitalists who consider themselves divinely ordained to control the resources of the earth and dole out bread according to their perverted ideas of justice.

"Not Every One Who Sayeth."

The friends of Senator Turner of Washington are urging his re-election, and if merit is recognized along the Puget Sound he will win with votes to spare. Senator Turner has made an admirable public servant. Strong in mind, resolute in will, pure in purpose and dignified in bearing, he has been a valiant champion of the interests of his people. He is by all odds the best representative that his state has ever had in the senate and a failure to re-elect him would be more of a reflection upon the judgment of his constituents than upon him. Of all the senators who are seeking re-election not one has made a better record or is more entitled to the commendation of his constituents.

A Good Public Servant.

In one of his speeches Mr. Roosevelt said: "I say to you here from this platform nothing that I have not already stated, and nothing that I would not say at a private table with any of the biggest corporation managers of the land." Well, so far as we have been permitted to observe, Mr. Roosevelt has not said anything from the platform with relation to the trust question that need seriously disturb the trust magnates. He has lightly referred to trust evils, but he has saved his indignant criticisms for those who condemn the trust system. So far as arraignment of the trusts is concerned, the president's speeches have, to use the president's own phrase, been built of "strawless bricks."

An Entirely Safe Boast.

"Lots of Five."

The success of The Commoner's "Lots of Five" plan for increasing its subscription indicates that democrats are becoming thoroughly aroused to the importance of combatting the efforts of those who would republicanize the democratic party. It is The Commoner's mission to discuss political questions from a democratic standpoint and build up and strengthen the democratic party, thereby strengthening democratic principles. The Commoner's influence is always for genuine democracy. The extent of that influence is measured only by its circulation. The editor and publisher asks that all who are interested in the growth and spread of democratic principles aid in extending The Commoner's circulation. An easy method of securing subscriptions has been evolved. It is known as the "Lots of Five" plan. Subscription cards in "lots of five," each card good for one year's subscription when properly filled out and returned to this office, are sold for \$3 per lot. This is at the rate of 60 cents per year, a price within the reach of all. If you will undertake to dispose of one "Lot of Five," fill out the coupon below and return to this office. You need not remit until the cards are disposed of.

APPLICATION FOR
"Lots of Five Subscription Cards."

PUBLISHER COMMONER: Please send me five subscription cards. I promise to use my utmost endeavor to sell these cards, and will remit for them at the rate of 60 cents each when sold.

Name

Postoffice

County

State