

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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SAME OLD SERPENT

Governor Taft recently said that the administration's Philippine policy was to hold the islands indefinitely so as to educate the Filipinos up to a stage where they would be qualified for self-government. In other words, the Filipinos are to be given, in the language of the republican national platform of 1900, "The largest measure of self-government consistent with their welfare and our duties."

The Chicago Tribune says:

The "anti-imperialists" will argue that the United States has no right to set itself up as a judge of what constitutes ability for self-government in others, and no right to educate Filipinos up to such a state without their consent if they have not reached it. The "anti-imperialists" regard it as a crime to do good to others against their will.

The Tribune also sounds this high note:

The disinterested and lofty policy of the American government as to the Filipinos will commend itself to Americans. But it is a policy which, to be successful, must be patiently and steadfastly carried on through long, laborious years. It requires the continuous services and unremitting exertions of men of ability, conscientiousness, and endurance. "Labor conquers all things," but it will take an infinite amount of unwearied labor to reach the goal marked out by Governor Taft.

This proposition to "do good to others against their will" is by no means a new one. King George claimed that he was endeavoring to do good to the American colonists even against their will; but when Benjamin Franklin appeared before the British ministry and was catechised on the subject of American taxation, he protested and on being asked who was the best judge of the necessity and propriety of a tax, Dr. Franklin replied: "Those who feel may best judge."

If the anti-imperialists argue that the United States has no right to set themselves up as judge of what constitutes ability for self-government in others, then the anti-imperialists occupy solid American ground. The preamble of our own Declaration sustains them in this position and the speeches and the writings of some of the greatest statesmen uphold them.

The Tribune's reference to the "disinterested and lofty policy of the American government as to the Filipinos" would have commended itself to King George, for in his speech to parliament, October 31, 1776, the king said: "One great advantage, however, will be derived from the object of the rebels being openly avowed and clearly understood—we shall have unanimity at home, founded in the general conviction of the justice and necessity of our measures. In this arduous contest I can have no other object but to promote the true interests of all my subjects. No people ever enjoyed more happiness or lived under a milder government, than those now revolted provinces; the improvement in every art, of which they boast, declare it, their numbers, their wealth, their strength by sea and land, which they think sufficient to enable them to make head against the whole power of the mother country, are irrefragable proofs of it. My desire is to restore them to the blessings of law and liberty, equally enjoyed by every British subject, which they have fatally

and desperately exchanged for the calamities of war and the arbitrary tyranny of their chiefs."

The argument of the anti-imperialists that one people has no right to set itself up as the judge of what constitutes ability for self-government in others is clearly upheld by no less an authority than that great Illinoisan, Abraham Lincoln; and one of Mr. Lincoln's speeches serves so clearly as an arraignment of the republican national platform of 1900, wherein the Filipinos are promised "the largest measure of self-government consistent with their welfare and our duties," that that speech might seem to have been written for the very occasion.

In that speech, delivered at Chicago, July 10, 1858, Mr. Lincoln, said:

"Those arguments that are made, that the inferior race are to be treated with as much allowance as they are capable of enjoying, that as much is to be done for them as their condition will allow—what are these arguments? They are the arguments that kings have made for enslaving the people in all ages of the world. You will find that all the arguments in favor of king-craft 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."

THE INDIVIDUAL'S PART.

Now that the campaign is over it may be well to call attention to the fact that, important as good government is, much remains for the individual to do. No government however good can save a citizen from the punishment which follows evil doing and no government however bad can entirely rob a citizen of the reward which meritorious conduct earns. Under any government, however good, the citizen who is idle and slothful will lag behind the one who is diligent and attentive to business; under any government, however good, the citizen who destroys his strength by dissipation will fare badly as compared with the one who leads a temperate life; under any government however good the citizen who wastes his substance in riotous living will come at last to husks while the one who economizes and saves is laying the foundation of a fortune. While, under any government however bad, those who have high ideals, who exercise self-restraint and who persevere in their labors will surpass those who live from hand to mouth and surrender to appetite and passion that supremacy which should be held by head and heart.

Government may raise or lower the general level, but the position which any given person occupies with relation to his fellows depends, as a general rule, more upon himself than upon any law.

Then, too, reform legislation can only be secured by co-operation among many, while each one can reform himself without asking the aid or consent of any one else, just as any one can throw himself away in spite of all that others can do.

Without abating his interest in political reforms, without abandoning his efforts for social reforms, each one can resolve to make the most of every talent and opportunity and, under the inspiration of a high purpose, devote every energy of body, head and heart to the work of life, finding pleasure in usefulness and compensation in the consciousness of duty done.

STOP THE LOTTERY

According to law a lottery is not allowed to use the United States mails, yet certain newspapers are openly violating the spirit of that law, if not the letter. Reference is made to the guessing contests which have been started from time to time to catch the loose change of those who can be induced to invest in a game of chance. At first a guess was given with a prepaid subscription, but the Salt Lake Tribune has dropped that little formality and boldly offers to sell guesses at so much a piece, and as many guesses as a person has money to pay for. The following advertisements taken from the Salt Lake Tribune of Friday morning, October 24, illustrate the methods pursued:

Can you use an extra \$1,000? If so, don't wait another day, but send in your estimate before October 25. To the subscriber registering the correct figures on or before that date, an additional \$1,000 will be paid, making possible \$11,000 in all for the correct figures. \$10,000 are possible on a 50-cent estimate.

Bright-minded people should take immediate advantage of the Salt Lake Tribune's distribution of prizes for correct estimates on the total vote which will be cast in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming, November 4 next.

Quick calculators should estimate without delay on the congressional vote of Utah, Idaho and Wyoming in competition for the \$35,000 in gold which the Salt Lake Tribune has set aside for distribution among the nearest guessers immediately after the result of the election is known.

An easy way to get Thanksgiving spending money is to risk 50 cents in the Salt Lake Tribune's guessing contest. The paper is offering \$35,000 in 1,490 prizes to the persons who make the nearest estimates on what the total vote will be in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming.

The details are published on another page. Read them.

DO YOU KNOW THAT THE EASIEST WAY TO GET RICH QUICKLY

is to send to the Salt Lake Tribune 50 cents with an estimate as to what the total vote for congressmen will be in Utah, Idaho and Wyoming on November 4 next? There is \$35,000 in coin to be distributed in prizes ranging from \$2 to \$5,000 and if the exact vote is predicted the author of the prediction will realize \$10,000, and if that prediction is filed with us by an advance-paid subscriber by Saturday, the 25th inst., a premium of \$1,000—making \$11,000 in all—will be paid to the exact estimator.

\$35,000

IN 1,490 CASH PRIZES

will be paid by the Salt Lake Tribune to the nearest estimators.

To the one making the nearest correct estimate of the exact total vote.....\$ 5,000
To the second nearest..... 4,000
To the third nearest..... 3,000
To the fourth nearest..... 2,000
To the fifth nearest..... 1,000
To the next 5 nearest (\$500 each)..... 2,500
To the next 10 nearest (\$100 each)..... 1,000
To the next 20 nearest (\$50 each)..... 1,000
To the next 50 nearest (\$20 each)..... 1,000
To the next 100 nearest (\$10 each)..... 1,000
To the next 300 nearest (\$5 each)..... 1,500
To the next 1000 nearest (\$2 each)..... 2,000

In all 1,490 prizes, amount to.....\$25,000
And if any subscriber estimates the ex-