

Less than two months ago Mr. Roosevelt declared that "the progress of the Philippine islands in material well-being has been astounding." Referring to this statement, the Springfield (Mass.) Republican calls attention to the fact that recently Mr. Roosevelt sent to congress a special message calling for an appropriation of \$3,000,000 to relieve "the present distress in the islands."

Progress and Distress.

The withdrawal of Addicks from the senatorial contest in Delaware and the rejection by the senate judiciary committee of the nomination of William M. Byrne to be United States district attorney for Delaware did not materially help the Roosevelt boom for 1904. Byrne was an Addicks man and Mr. Roosevelt was severely criticised for appointing him in view of the fact that so many republicans were arrayed against the Addicks machine.

Byrne and Addicks.

A resident of Des Moines, Ia., writing to the Chicago Chronicle, gives expression to a thought that doubtless has been in the minds of very many people when he says: "It is really amusing to read the comments in our newspapers by preachers of God and by public men who are not identified by any religion whatever, but yet we find when the election comes around to choose officers to rule our nation the preacher and the professional office-seeker marching shoulder to shoulder to vote for the party in power irrespective of any conscientious principles."

Preaching and Voting.

Senator Burton of Kansas recently had a little tilt with Senator Beveridge of Indiana. The senator from Kansas advanced two propositions. "In one of his statements the senator is correct," remarked Mr. Beveridge; "in the other he is not correct." Mr. Burton hesitated a moment to take in the effect of the utterance. "I am glad to know I got one right," he said finally. "So am I and surprised," retorted Mr. Beveridge. This time Mr. Burton paused not so long. Quick as a flash he exclaimed: "The senator is always surprised if any one except himself is right." Mr. Burton gives promise of becoming a master of repartee.

Senator Burton's Repartee.

The chairman of the republican state committee for Alabama has declared in an interview that he is in favor of Mark Hanna for the republican nomination in 1904. This Alabama republican declares that the republicans of the south known as the "lily whites" are prepared to make an organized fight upon Mr. Roosevelt and that they have chosen Mark Hanna as their candidate. In spite of the disclaimers made by Mr. Hanna, a great many people have believed that he has privately encouraged the cultivation of the Hanna boom and there are many indications that after all Mr. Roosevelt will not have a walk-away in the republican national convention.

Hanna for 1904.

The Philadelphia Ledger, a so-called independent paper that habitually supports the republican ticket, referring to the suspension of the coal tariff, says: "The hot haste with which the bill was rushed through the two houses of congress is evidence of the panic into which the exposure of this typical example of Dingleyism has thrown its defenders. It is like a small part of the plunder cast away in flight in the hope of stopping the pursuit." It is true, however, that the pursued would be required to throw away considerably more plunder if influential newspapers like the Philadelphia Ledger would fight "Dingleyism" as vigorously during political campaigns as they do after they have helped to win victory for a party that supports "Dingleyism."

Discarding the Plunder.

The editor of the Hartford Courant has been reading John Sherman's Reminiscences and reproduces therefrom some interesting statements relating to the tariff question. The Courant editor insists that Mr. Roosevelt's position on the tariff question is directly in line with that of John Sherman. Referring to Mr. Sherman the Courant editor says: "He held with the republican national convention of 1892 that the duties levied upon imports coming into competition with our home products

"More" and "Equal."

should be 'equal to the difference between wages abroad and at home.'" The editor of the Courant has overlooked the fact that Mr. Roosevelt said that these duties should be "more than" rather than "equal to" the difference between wages abroad and at home.

Commenting upon J. Pierpont Morgan's statement that he gathered in the Louisville & Nashville railroad because he wanted to prevent John W. Gates from making it the instrument of his evil purposes, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says: "Morgan's only thought was to serve the public. This is a touching example of the merger man's sheer love of his kind. But isn't it curious? In the course of this touching transaction he touched the stockholders for \$2,100,000 for the house of Morgan. Curious, yes, but the coincidence is manifest in all these mergers. They are all conceived in the purest spirit of benevolence, achieved in the noblest motive of 'otherdom' and consummated with huge profit to the merger man. What was unselfishly intended for the good of all falls unaccountably into the possession of a few."

His Only Thought.

The New York World is in favor of an income tax, and says: "Under our crude and shamelessly unequal system the federal government collects its revenues mainly from the necessities of the people, without the slightest reference to the two cardinal bases of just taxation—(1) benefits received and (2) ability to pay—while the state and city tax real estate at its full value and permit eight-tenths of personal property to escape altogether. In a country where the people rule, when they have a mind to, this outrageous state of affairs cannot much longer endure." But what assurance have we that when there is a disposition among the people to protest against this outrageous state of affairs, newspapers like the World will not be found pleading in favor of a "let well enough alone" policy, and urging the election of a "keep on letting well enough alone" candidate?

Income Tax Now.

In a speech delivered at Indianapolis John Mitchell said: "Government by injunction is not only hostile to organized labor, but it is hostile to constitutional liberty. If the American people do not check this arbitrary power it will result in the annihilation of labor unions and then of all forms of associations disliked by capitalists." Commenting upon Mr. Mitchell's statement, the Chicago Record-Herald, a republican paper, says that while this may be extravagant language, it is true that the abuse of the power of injunction is undoubtedly a very serious matter. This republican paper admits that whatever the pretext for the extension of the power may be, it will be, as Mr. Mitchell says, subversive of liberty in the long run. And yet republican papers had much to say in condemnation of the democratic national platforms in which government by injunction was arraigned in very moderate language.

Subversive of Liberty.

The appointment by Mr. Roosevelt of a negro to be third assistant district attorney at Boston, has brought vigorous protest from the lawyers of that town. The New York Sun says: "It is rather absurd that Massachusetts should have an unnecessary official foisted upon it for the sake of supplying an argument as to the impartiality of the administration." It appears, however, that the objection to the Boston appointment is not so much that an unnecessary office is created as it is that the man appointed is a negro. Inasmuch, however, as some of the Boston people claim that they do not object to the man's color, but merely because the office is an unnecessary one, it might be well for the president to appoint a negro to a "necessary" office in some other northern town. Mr. Roosevelt might see to it, for instance, that some ambitious white republican is defeated in his race for an office at the hands of this administration by an ambitious colored republican.

Try It Again.

A pathetic letter was recently written to the editor of the Chicago Tribune by a broken-hearted mother. In this letter this woman wrote: "I forgot my station in life and came to Chicago to spend a day with my son. He had forgotten me or tried to forget me. He sent me from his office with his office boy to dine. He promised to meet us; came

A Pathetic Letter.

late and reproved me because I had not chosen a more secluded seat. He tried to hide when he saw any of his friends. He reproved me for looking around. Finally he said: 'Mother, if you had not come I could have gone to the opera.' I left him then and am now writing from the restroom of a store, tired out and sick. I am going back to the farm. I cannot forget the boy who wore jeans clothes, but the man who wears broadcloth wants to forget his mother." There is in the make-up of a man something decidedly out of gear when he can offer a slight to the woman who gave him birth. The man who "wants to forget his mother," although he may not know it, is making rapid strides toward the precipice.

Congressman Babcock in a recent interview with a reporter for the Chicago Tribune, said: "If the republican party fails to redeem its pledges to do something to regulate the trusts and revise such portions of the tariff as have become burdensome, the constituencies will become distrustful of us, and the tendency to break away from the party, which has begun to be apparent in the cities, will continue. If we redeem our pledges, pass a reasonable, conservative anti-trust law, and weed out of the tariff everything which tends to create a monopoly, the republican party will be returned to power by the people beyond a shadow of doubt. Otherwise not." Mr. Babcock, it will be remembered, is the man who at one time pretended to be determined to remove the tariff from the products of the trusts. It is rather absurd to hear a republican statesman insist that the republican party shall redeem its platform pledges. Republican platforms were made to get in on, not to stand on; and so long as the republican party is in power trusts will multiply and monopoly will thrive, while the people will suffer.

More "Bab" Predictions.

When it was announced that Mr. Bryan would begin the publication of a weekly newspaper there was, much to his satisfaction, a friendly rivalry to see who could become the "original first subscriber." The first dollar received on subscription was from Mr. H. F. Rockey, of Lincoln, Neb., consequently Mr. Rockey is the "original first subscriber," and he expresses himself as being proud of the fact. In renewing his subscription for the third year Mr. Rockey writes as follows: "Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 4, 1903.—To the Editor of The Commoner: I enclose one dollar for third year's subscription to The Commoner. While political success as the world measures it has been denied the democratic party, its principles are succeeding and must in the end gain the approval of a republic. The holding of position is but for a period, but the holding of the esteem and love and approbation of your countrymen will be for ages. Though one may not aid in the shaping of the republic today, he may help in the molding of it for the morrow. I rejoice in the great good The Commoner is doing for humanity. Yours very truly, H. J. Rockey." The editor of The Commoner appreciates Mr. Rockey's expressions of good will.

Commoner's First Subscriber.

When summoned before the New York tax commission, J. Pierpont Morgan made an interesting statement. He said that he was really not subject personally to taxation. He objected to taking an oath relating to his assessment and said that if the oath were required he would not pay a penny of taxes. On the other hand, he declared that if the tax commission would accept his personal statement, he would pay taxes on a \$400,000 assessment. The New York World recently printed a cablegram from London in which it was said that the London News had a report showing that Mr. Morgan's income for the year 1902 was \$40,000,000. The World points out that if this is correct Mr. Morgan voluntarily offered to pay taxes upon a personal assessment representing one-tenth of his yearly income. The moral which the World draws from this incident is that "it is time for the state or the United States to levy an income tax as is done in every civilized government in the world that maintains a just and scientific system of taxation." Was it necessary for the World to wait for this Morgan incident before reaching the conclusion that an income tax should be levied in this country? To be sure, there is in this incident an obvious moral and yet it is not the only incident that should have impressed upon intelligent men the importance of an income tax.

Morgan and Taxes.