

# The Commoner.

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## Towne Still in Politics

The speech delivered by Hon. Charles A. Towne at Tammany's Fourth of July celebration is conclusive proof that he is still in politics. He took imperialism for his theme and in the course of his remarks thus presented his views on our colonial policy:

"At the same instant of time Spanish tyranny was intolerable in two hemispheres. Against it Cubans were in armed revolt at our very doors. Against it Filipinos were in armed revolt half way round the world. Each sought national independence, and we knew it. Fellow citizens, when the inquisition of after ages shall arraign us at the bar of history, who shall answer the questions: 'Why was a war for the freedom of one people changed into a war for the subjugation of another people. You accepted the services of the Filipinos in conquering the Spanish; you gave them arms and ammunition; you put them in your trenches; you let them fight for you, bleed for you, die for you; you know they thought your object to be the independence of the Philippine islands; why, when the fleet of your common enemy was sunk deep in Manila bay, did you turn your guns on your allies and substitute your own for Spanish rule when they were equally opposed to both?'

"Why did you denounce as traitors millions of people not born under your jurisdiction and who had never vowed you allegiance? How can the descendants of the American revolution purchase the bodies, the country and the allegiance of ten millions of unwilling people for twenty millions of dollars? If you had already got them by right of conquest, why did you pay twenty millions of dollars for them? Why did you not treat the Filipinos as you treated the Cubans?'

"Ah! Americans, these questions cannot be answered consistently without national character and honor. We must not, indeed, leave them to be asked by future generations. We must set ourselves right while yet there is time. We who have done the wrong must repair it. We must not substitute for the old American ideas the tawdry and barbaric standards of the outworn civilizations. We must not barter the moral leadership of mankind and the sponsorship of human freedom for an ignoble precedence in the ranks of corrupt and despotic nations."

## Sunday Reading.

In a recent issue of The Commoner reference was made to two books, suitable for Sunday reading, which had come to the attention of the editor of this paper, and been enjoyed by him. Attention is now invited to two more. The first is entitled, "What All the World's A-Seeking," or "The Vital Law of True Life, True Greatness, Power and Happiness," by Ralph Waldo Tryne, author of "In Tune With the Infinite." The book is published by Thos. Y. Crowell & Co., of New York. The author opens the volume with several questions:

"How can I make life yield its fullest and best? How can I know the true secret of power? How can I attain to a true and lasting greatness? How can I fill the whole of life with a happiness and peace and joy and satisfaction, that is ever rich and abiding, that ever increases, never diminishes, that imparts to it a sparkle, that never loses its luster, that ever fascinates, that never wearies?"

A complete and satisfactory answer to these questions should certainly be of interest to all, for who has not asked them? The author then proceeds to elaborate his answer. He presents the Bible measure of greatness, namely, service: "He that is greatest among you shall be your servant." He also contends that this is the measure of happiness as well as greatness. The entire book is an argument in defense of the proposition that "Love is the greatest thing in the world"—

that love is the controlling force in the world, and that it enriches the giver while it helps the one on whom it is bestowed. It is a plea for that unselfishness which might after all be called the broadest selfishness, because it is really productive of greater and more permanent good than the short-sighted selfishness that sacrifices others for one's own benefit.

The second book to which attention is called at this time is entitled "Jesus, the Jew, and Other Addresses," by Harris Weinstock, and published by Funk & Wagnalls, New York. This book presents a Jewish view of Christ. It claims Christ for the Jewish race and shows how the Jewish race has influenced the entire world through the system of religion founded by the Nazarene. As a discussion of the Jew's debt to Christianity and Christianity's debt, it is both instructive and interesting. It also contains a masterly discussion of Moses, his work and the system of ethics developed under his leadership. The spirit manifested by the writer is so broad and kindly and the argument so forcible that the book must exert a powerful influence in increasing the harmony between the Jew and the Gentile.

## A Mighty Privilege

A Manila cablegram through the Associated press, referring to the bill for the government of the Moros "enacted" by the Philippine commission, says that "the measure authorizes the council to abolish slavery."

That is a very important provision, indeed. The thirteenth amendment to the federal constitution says that "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States;" and then as if anticipating that some new-fangled interpretation might be placed upon the meaning of the term "within the United States," the thirteenth amendment concludes "or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

And yet when on territory over which this government has established jurisdiction, the institution of slavery flourishes, the republican administration engages in a treaty in which a magnificent tribute is paid to liberty to the extent that it is provided that "any slave may purchase his freedom by paying to the master the usual market price." And now, as another magnificent tribute to liberty, the Philippine commission, in the bill recently enacted, "authorizes the council to abolish slavery."

What a mighty privilege it is for an official body representing a republic and having authority over territory presumed to be part of a republic to receive from the Philippine commission the "authority to abolish slavery."

## An Anti-Cleveland Protest.

The papers have been telling what a strong Cleveland sentiment there was in Pennsylvania. The democratic county committee of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, met early this month and unanimously passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That we condemn the attempt of the so-called reorganizers, who, with the aid of republican newspapers, are trying to boom the nomination of a candidate who is repugnant to a vast majority of the democratic party; and it is our opinion that no members of the party who believes in the principles laid down by Jefferson and Jackson and is loyal to the best traditions of the party can favor such a movement."

This does not look much like a Cleveland landslide. When the voters speak it will be found that the reorganizers are far less numerous than the trust-ridden metropolitan papers would make it appear.

## Tom Johnson's Speech

The program carried out at the Fourth of July celebration conducted by the Fairview Jefferson club at Fairview is familiar to Commoner readers. The addresses of the day were delivered by Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland, Howard S. Taylor of Chicago and Louis F. Post, editor of The Public, Chicago. These addresses will be published in full in The Commoner, beginning this week with the address delivered by Mayor Johnson.

Mayor Johnson was introduced by Mr. Bryan as "One Ohio official who could neither be moved by threats nor bought with money," and spoke as follows:

Mr. Bryan, my fellow citizens, ladies and gentlemen: I am far from home, and in a strange country in a way. From our home places by the great expanse of waters, I was suddenly transferred into your green fields; and I realized when I saw the native turf here and the rolling ground, what a great place it must have been for the Indians of old times, and how naturally they must have resented our driving them out of such a fair land as this. But all feelings of strangeness have passed away. When I came into this tent this afternoon, I felt at once so much at home that now I can almost imagine myself in an Ohio campaign, with Mr. Bryan helping us, as he always has, to win our battles.

This is Independence Day! We have listened to that great document, the Declaration of Independence. Its principles of equal rights for all and special privileges for none, are of universal application, from the smallest local government to the widest scope of national government. It has often been discussed wisely and well, but there is just one thought that I want to call your attention to. One of the many gems in that old paper is the declaration that governments are instituted among men to secure certain rights for all. Let me ask you to emphasize the word "secure." You will notice it is not a declaration that grants rights—not a declaration that gives rights from above; it is a declaration that secures rights. It recognizes the truth that every man, woman and child has these rights from the fact that they were born on this earth. They are rights which spring from within and go out; they do not come down to us from any social contact, nor from any king or potentate. My friends, that to me is the thought that is greatest in that paper, the thought that it is the duty of government to secure to men the rights that they possess by nature. Governments are instituted among men for that purpose.

Now, the inquiry is this: Has our government been administered in the interest of securing these rights to men, or is there some ingenious way, some underhand trick, some device that is not always seen, something that is hidden below the surface, by which the sacred rights that the government should secure to all have been deferred and kept away from the many, and, instead, certain privileges and advantages have been vested in the few? I make the charge that most of our laws do this.

There are laws that we make to govern our cities and states and nation, laws for making certain great improvements, laws for punishing crimes, which carry out the spirit of the Declaration of Independence; but most of the time of your legislative bodies, whether the national assembly, the state legislatures, or your city councils, most of their time is spent, with the aid of the ingenuity of the shrewdest, most corrupt and best paid set of men on earth, in devising plans for creating law-made privileges at the expense of all of the people for the benefit of the privileged monopolists of this country. (Applause.)

I cannot imagine that it is in the interest of all the people, and that we are securing their rights, when we build great navies and organize great armies. So-called statesmen tell us these