

Why Democrats of 1896 and 1900 Should Support Parker

(Continued from page 5.)

mental evils and to the promotion of the welfare of the whole people. They have no sympathy with a policy that is likely to involve this nation in the intrigues of the monarchies and empires of the old world, and Judge Parker appeals to them much more strongly than does one of President Roosevelt's views and temperament. If there were no other reason for voting for Judge Parker they could find sufficient reason in the fact that he is the very opposite of President Roosevelt in this respect, and, therefore, better fitted to give expression to the hopes and aspirations of our people.

It is not strange that the president, with his disposition to rely upon force rather than upon reason in the settlement of questions, should be restive under the constitutional restraints which are imposed upon the chief executive. The enjoyment which he finds in the exercise of power naturally leads him to carry his authority to the extreme limit, and there is already a suspicion abroad that he is looking forward to a third term on the theory that the unexpired term of President McKinley should not be construed as a first term for him. His failure to follow the example set by Judge Parker and announce his determination not to be a candidate again in case of election strengthens the suspicion.

While under President McKinley the regular army was increased and the minimum fixed at 60,000, with authority in the president to raise it at any time to 100,000. President Roosevelt strongly commends this increase and ridicules the objections made to it. In 1896 the regular army numbered about 25,000 men, and no party platform suggested that the number was insufficient. After the treaty of peace between this country and Spain had been agreed upon, and before hostilities broke out at Manila, President McKinley recommended the increase in the army and a republican congress embodied the recommendation in a law. We are now spending upon the army and the navy more than thirty times as much as we spend upon the department of agriculture, and the republican leaders do not intend—at least they do not promise—any decrease in military and naval

expenditures. But two reasons have been given for the increase in the army—one is its use in labor troubles, and the other is to be found in the imperial policy upon which the country has embarked since the republicans came into power. The fact that the forts, instead of being built upon the frontier, as formerly, are being built near the large cities is proof positive that the increase is intended for domestic rather than for foreign purposes.

Democrats who believe in arbitration as a means of settling difficulties between labor and capital; democrats who favor the eight-hour day and desire the abolition of government by injunction—these believe that the army was large enough eight years ago, and prefer to employ the department of justice rather than the war department in the adjustment of disputes between corporations and their employees. As Judge Parker stands for a reduction of the army these democrats have an additional reason for supporting him in preference to President Roosevelt.

The Philippine question has not yet been settled, and it presents one of the most important, if not the most important, issue between the parties. We are now administering a colonial policy in the Philippine islands directly at variance with our principles of government and contrary to the wishes of the Filipinos. President Roosevelt, without daring to defend or even to state the principles upon which our government acts in the Philippines, contends that we must remain there without defining our purpose and without pledge to the Filipinos. He jumbles duty and destiny and dollars together as if he were not sure which would furnish the best pretext for maintaining a carpet-bag government in the islands.

Judge Parker indorses the democratic platform on this subject and declares himself not only in favor of Philippine independence but in favor of an immediate promise of independence. We can not hold the Filipinos as subject without danger to our form of government; we can not make them citizens without endangering our civilization and taking upon ourselves the solution of a race question greater, if possible, than the race question with which we are now wrestling.

If Judge Parker does nothing more than terminate imperialism and rid the country of the virus of monarchy contained in colonialism he will justify the support of all who supported me in 1896 and in 1900. Walpole said during the revolution that England could not maintain her position in that war without asserting principles which, if carried out, would destroy English liberty as well as American liberty; and so, today, republicans can not defend the administration's policy in the Philippines without asserting principles which, if carried out, will destroy American liberty as well as Philippine liberty.

Imperialism furnishes a pretext for a larger army than our country needs, and it furnishes an excuse for a larger navy than our country requires. Imperialism weakens the arguments which we have advanced in support of the Monroe doctrine, adds largely to the risk of complications with the land-grabbing nations of Europe, and lessens our strength in time of war. Those who recognize the gravity and importance of the economic problems which press for solution recognize in imperialism an almost insurmountable obstacle to their consideration. Judge Parker's election would remove this obstacle, and that in itself would be of inestimable value to the people.

If I were a cartoonist I should represent the present situation by a picture. I should represent Judge Parker as a woodman with coat off and an axe laid against a tree marked "Imperialism." Near by, but beyond this, I should draw four other trees, the first marked "Militarism," the second "The Spirit of War," the third "The Race

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Issue," the fourth "Violation of the Constitution." At one side I should draw a picture of a sturdy farmer with his hands upon the plow, and this farmer would represent the democratic party. The title of the picture would be "Clearing the Ground for Future Harvests." The picture would represent the purpose of this campaign. Eight years ago the democratic party began a contest for economic industrial and political reforms; eight years of republican rule have raised up new and unexpected issues that must be removed before the party can proceed with its work. Judge Parker and Mr. Davis are our leaders in this campaign for the removal of these new issues. Those who, like myself, desire to continue the fight on economic question can join heartily in the support of candidates who, by helping to dispose of the intervening questions, will hasten the day of reform.—Written by Mr. Bryan for the Saturday Evening Post, and reproduced by courtesy of that publication.

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