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WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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TREAT IT FAIRLY

While Mr. Bryan did not expect to have his views on government ownership of railroads endorsed unanimously, he did expect that the opposing newspapers would treat the subject fairly.

Some of the interviews published in the New York papers against government ownership were manufactured. For instance, Hon. E. J. Hale, of North Carolina, repudiates the interview which was attributed to him, and Governor Folk was made to say that Missouri had tried government ownership, whereas Missouri has simply tried the aiding of railroads the same as other states tried, and with the usual result. When the southern statesmen understand the proposition, they will not be so violent in their opposition to it; in fact, it affords the only means yet proposed of securing the benefits of public ownership without the dangers of centralization.

WHERE DOES IT STAND?

The New York World is very much displeased with Mr. Bryan's references to government ownership.

The World was also displeased with government regulation and lost no opportunity to criticize the friends of rate regulation during the last session of congress.

What would the World suggest by way of protecting the people from railroad extortion? Would it have them tamely submit to continued impositions, or would it have them base their hopes for relief upon the kindly disposition of the men responsible for the corporation's wrong doing?

A SUB-TREASURY SCHEME

An Atlantic City dispatch says: "United States Treasurer Charles Treat was the principal speaker before the annual banquet of the American institute of bank clerks here tonight. He advocated a radical change in the system of government credits as a remedy for periodical financial stringency. His idea included acceptance by the government of commercial papers with clearing house endorsements as a basis for loans of currency to tide over panics."

Yet republican editors and politicians have not ceased to laugh at the populist "sub-treasury scheme."

DEGRADING

Speaking about elevating the Filipinos. An American soldier was acquitted on a charge involving a disgraceful association with a native woman, the verdict being that "a custom said to be extant in the islands is a bar to trial." That sort of elevation works backwards with both parties to the experiment.



REFORMED!

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Mr. Bryan's Thirty-fifth Letter

Reference has already been made to the attitude of Hungary toward Austria, and what is true of Hungary is to a less extent true of Bohemia and the Polish section of the empire. In fact, Austria-Hungary is held together by a rope of sand, and there is no telling when that rope may break. It required the aid of Russia to hold Hungary within the empire a half century ago, and now that Russia is no longer in position to bolster up the Hapsburg house, the outlook is not bright for the family of Francis Joseph unless the friendship of Emperor William takes the form of armed assistance. I mention this because the anti-Austrian feeling in Hungary, the anti-Hungarian feeling in Austria, the aversion to the German language in Bohemia, and the demands of the Polish subjects, not to speak of disaffection elsewhere, all point to trouble ahead for the ruler of Austria-Hungary. I visited Bohemia with a view to gathering information on the situation and was surprised to find the hostility between the German and Bohemian elements. A half century ago the German language was spoken everywhere in Bohemia, but today the Germans and Bohemians have separate schools and except where business interests compel it, neither learn the language of the other. So strong is the feeling that a Bohemian desiring to master the German language would, if financially able, study it outside of Bohemia in preference to attending a German school in his own country.

It is a great misfortune to the people of Hungary and Bohemia, as well as to the imperial government, that this hostility to the German language has become so bitter, for the German is

one of the great languages of the earth, being the spoken tongue of more than fifty millions and containing in printed form most of the literary treasures of the world. The German libraries are rich in treatises on science and art, history and philosophy, government and religion, and these should be within reach of the people of Hungary and Bohemia. Whatever may be the merits of the Magyar and the Czech languages, they are spoken by so few, comparatively, that they can not possibly furnish so large a store of learning as the German language contains.

The Austrian government, however, has itself to blame for the estrangement, for, instead of attempting to win the affections of the alien people made subject to it, it attempted to coerce them, with the usual result. Resentment toward the rulers soon turned into resentment toward the language, and it became patriotic to abhor a tongue which it would have been advantageous to cultivate. Human nature is the same everywhere, but kings seem to be as ignorant of it as they are of the lessons of history.

The Austria-Hungary empire can not exist long under its present regime; if it is to continue, the bond of union must be a substantial one and no bond of union is substantial that does not knit itself about the hearts of both parties to the union. There are certain advantages to be derived from the association of several small states together, but these advantages can not be weighed against fundamental rights or against a strong national sentiment. Cold, calculating statesmen sometimes underestimate the influence of sentiment, but they usually discover their