

blanketing move. The war department report, on examination, fully justifies such a move. It discloses negotiations between the war department and attorneys of the purchasers of the friar lands in the Philippines for several months prior to the sale; also between the war department and the Philippine government, whereas, the war department in a communication published in the congressional record on March 28, made the statement that its first information concerning the sale of this estate was received through the public press. This affirms my contention that this deal had been under way for some months, and was erratically consummated before Attorney General Wickersham was asked for an opinion. It was also stated that when the secretary of war heard about this matter, through the newspapers, he cabled the Philippine governor general to hold up the sale until he could get an opinion from Attorney General Wickersham. No such cablegram appears in the information now furnished. On the contrary, there appears one from the war department to the governor general dated December 4, 1909, the very day Wickersham's opinion was asked for, approving the sale of the San Jose estate, which had already been made. Another cablegram from the governor general, antedating the request for Wickersham's opinion, shows that the sale was not to Poole, as heretofore represented by the war department, but to Poole or his nominees. Poole's nominee will be a subsidiary sugar trust corporation, probably the Mindoro Development company, already organized by dummy incorporators under laws of New Jersey. Then there is a cablegram, dated October 22, from the governor general to the secretary of war stating that Prentiss and Poole desired to purchase the San Jose estate, which cablegram refers to negotiations by one Hammond with the war department owing to the friar lands. This Hammond, it develops, is a member of the firm of Strong & Cadwallader of New York of which Henry W. Taft is now the second member, to which rank he was promoted from fifth place when Mr. Wickersham left the firm to become attorney general. Mr. Hammond opened negotiations with the war department, and then obviously, for appearance sake, turned their consummation over to another firm of attorneys. Hammond represented Havemyer. Havemyer is the sugar trust. I could point out many other things, but the proper time and place to point them out will be in a congressional investigation. The administration must investigate this matter or stick its head in the sand like an ostrich to blind its eyes to the storm that is coming. I have charged the administration with having begun a policy of unlawful exploitation in the Philippines, and every development goes to establish the truth of the charge. If the administration has been falsely accused let it take off the lid."

After an extended and heated discussion a bill to confer the rank and pay of lieutenant general retired, upon Major General Daniel E. Sickles, was defeated in the committee of the whole of the house of representatives. The fight will be renewed in the house proper.

Leaders of the national woman's suffrage association express regret for the hissing of the president.

A BELATED DISCOVERY

Commander Peary explains that his work as an explorer is ended and he will never again invade the arctic and antarctic circles. It took Mr. Peary almost a quarter of a century to find out that p-o-l-e spells trouble.—Kansas City Star.

WORKMEN'S PENSION

The workmen's pension bill which has been the subject of legislative controversy in France for four years, passed the chamber of deputies and passed the senate in somewhat amended form by a vote of 280 to 3. The Associated Press dispatches thus describe the bill:

The benefit of the law, which has been modified to include in its scheme the previous old age relief law, will be enjoyed by about 17,000,000 persons, including every category of workers except railroad employes, miners and seamen, who already enjoy pensions. As all state employes are retired upon pensions at a specified age, this law, therefore, practically extends the old-age pension system to all the laborers of France.

The plan involves contributions from three sources for the creation of the pension fund. First, obligatory yearly contributions from the wage-earners amounting to nine francs for men, six francs for women and 4 1/2 francs for minors; second, the contribution of the employer, which equals that of the wage-earner, and, third, the contribution of the state.

Even the experts differ as to what the last will be, but the generally accepted figure is 180,000,000 francs (\$36,000,000) for the first year, the amount decreasing until the scheme works normally, when it will be about 125,000,000 francs. The beneficiaries are to draw their pensions at the age of 65, or after thirty years of service, with certain diminutions for advance payment. The full pension at the lowest unit of contribution will be 414 francs per annum, except for farm laborers, whose contribution and pension is slightly inferior.

"PERSONAL LIBERTY"

Those who were foolish enough to think that the United Societies stand for "personal liberty," except the personal liberty to make profits by selling alcoholic liquors, will now have an opportunity to revise their opinion. This organization has had the colossal impudence to post the names of those who signed the referendum petition in the localities where the signers live and to accompany this public posting with the suggestion that the signers are to be boycotted. This petition asked only that the voters have a chance to express their opinion upon a question on which there is certainly a decided difference of opinion. Do the United Societies propose to terrorize those who dare to ask for such a vote? This piece of impudence and tyranny is but illustrative of the forces that are behind the "wet" campaign. It is probably a good thing that the question is not to be on the ballot this spring. It will bring other and more important issues to the front. But when any body of profit-seeking politicians propose to intimidate those who dare to ask for a referendum it is time for the character of such a gang to be thoroughly recognized.—Chicago Daily Socialist.

COMMANDER PEARY ON VIEW

It seems from all accounts to have been a very chastened and subdued Peary who lectured under the auspices of the Geographic Society last night. Save for slight infelicity in his response to Governor Deneen's introductory remarks the north pole discoverer was modest in his bearing and restrained. The egotism was curbed. Unlike his former book, "Nearest the Pole," it was not "I and I and I," but rather "we and we and we," which is the way, for all their bluff and bluster, the American people much prefer it. His unpopularity, his grudging welcome and the large and vociferous following which attached itself to his charlatan rival

—all these have tamed the north pole tamer and brought him, with a meed of bitterness, perhaps—a larger measure of humility and savior faire. He seems certain to grow in popularity.—Chicago Evening Post.

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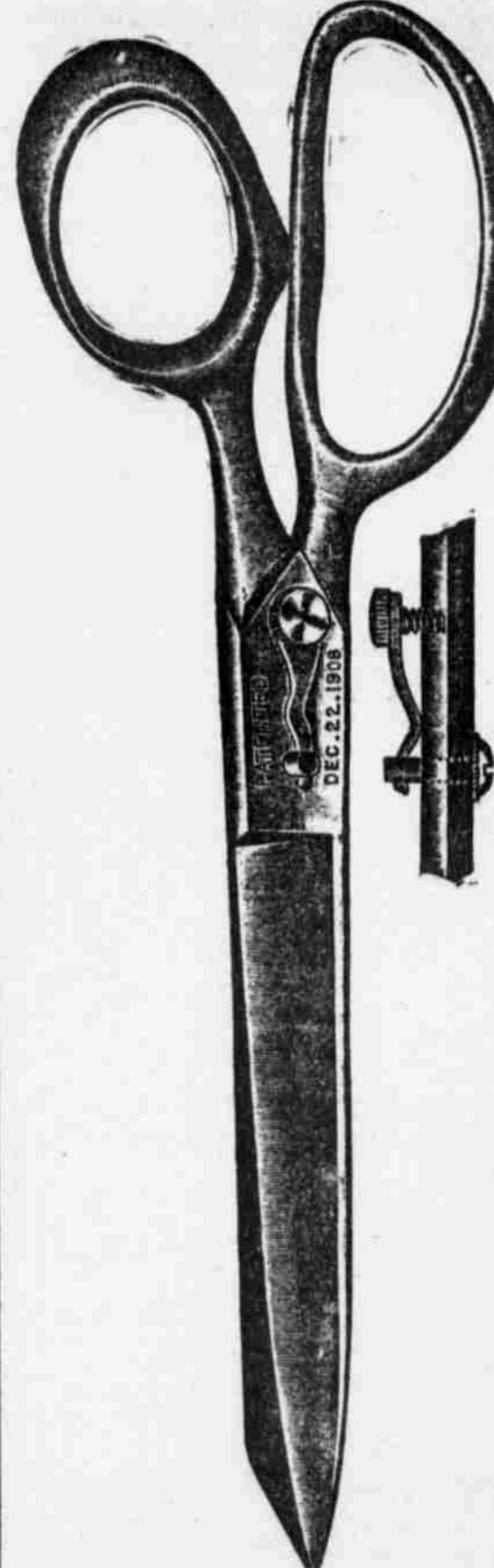
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