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FREEDOM FOR THE FILIPINOS.

President Coolidge's letter to Manuel Roxas, who heads the Philippine junta at Washington, should be a tonic stimulant to patriotic Filipinos. It is firm in its statements, clear in its reasoning, and holds out to the islanders the surest prospects that in time they will gain the boon they seek. When that will depend on themselves.

There is nothing cryptic about the language used by the president, nor is there anything dubious about its meaning.

"The extent to which the grievances which you suggest are shared by Filipino people has been a subject of some disagreement, he says. The American government has information which justifies it in the confidence that a very large proportion at any rate, and possibly a majority of the substantial citizenry of the islands, does not support the claim that there are grounds for serious grievance. A considerable section of the Filipino people is further of the opinion that at this time any change which would weaken the tie between the Filipinos and the American nation would be a misfortune to the islands."

Much of this has been known for years. Just before the president sent his letter, Senor Roxas had denounced Governor General Wood for having shut off payment of \$500,000 from Filipino public revenue to support the Roxas mission. When the Forbes-Wood inquiry was under headway, America was flooded with propaganda, prepared by special writers, who had been imported to Manila and who were paid from the public treasury. Other evidence of this misuse of funds has accumulated in plenty.

When the United States took hold of affairs in the Philippines, it entered upon the greatest philanthropic experiment ever undertaken in the history of the world. "Imperialism" was the cry raised by the Democrats, under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan, who ardently opposed the McKinley policy. Time has justified the effort. A nation is being raised from the depths. Spiritually, morally, industrially and commercially, the islanders have gained from the leadership of the United States. Under the tutelage of our government they have made greater progress in 25 years than in nearly five centuries.

Savage customs have been abandoned or broken up. Religion has been freed. Life and property has been made secure. Education for the masses has been provided. All the blessings of orderly life under civilized methods have been advanced. The work is not yet done, but it is going on. It will be brought to a successful conclusion in good season.

Unfortunately for the Filipinos, a mistaken policy was put into effect by Governor General Harrison, under the terms of the Jones act, by which much of the work done by the United States was undone in the course of a few years. It is this the government is now trying to correct.

The Wood-Forbes report on conditions in the islands recommended "that the present general status of the Philippine islands continue until the people have had time to absorb and thoroughly master the powers already in their hands." The general conclusions contained in the report, and on which the recommendation rests are:

"We find the people happy, peaceful and in the main prosperous and keenly appreciative of the benefits of American rule. "We find everywhere among the Christian Filipinos the desire for independence, generally under the protection of the United States. The non-Christian and Americans are for continuance of American control. "We find a general failure to appreciate that independence under the protection of another nation is not true independence. "We find that the government is not reasonably free from those underlying causes which result in the destruction of government. "We find that a reasonable proportion of officials and employees are men of good character, and ability, and reasonably faithful to the trust imposed upon them; but that the efficiency of the public service has fallen off and that they are now relatively inefficient due to lack of inspections and too rapid transfer of control to officials who have not had the necessary time for proper training. "We find that many Filipinos have shown marked capacity for government service and that the young generation is full of promise; that the civil service laws have in the main been honestly administered, but there is a marked deterioration due to the injection of politics. "We find that there is a disquieting lack of confidence in the administration of justice, to an extent which constitutes a menace to the stability of the government. "We find that the people are not organized economically nor from the standpoint of national defense to maintain an independent government. "We find that the legislative chambers are conducted with dignity and decorum and are composed of representative men. "We feel that lack of success in certain departments should not be considered as proof of essential incapacity on the part of Filipinos, but rather as indicating lack of experience and opportunity and especially lack of inspection. "We find that questions in regard to confirmation of appointments might at any time arise which would make a deadlock between the governor general and the Philippine senate. "The fairness of these statements has never been challenged, even by the Filipinos. Nothing has happened since the report was made in 1921 to materially change it. Governor Wood has earnestly tried to do the things that have been needed, but the Philippine senate has opposed him at every turn, and has thwarted much of his effort.

Now that the president has definitely answered the Roxas mission one of two courses may be pursued. The agitation for immediate independence may give way to a diligent effort to so improve the conditions of life in the islands that independence will be early deserved. The other is to go ahead with the propaganda program that has been pursued for a dozen years.

Americans are all willing to grant the fullest of

freedom to the Filipinos. When the flag does come down over there, it will be for all time. It is doubtful if a protectorate or anything of the sort will be set up, under which the islanders will be permitted to rely on the United States in time of trouble. Yet public sentiment in this land generally favors going ahead with the experiment commenced under McKinley, thus bringing the Filipinos to a higher plane of education in government before setting them on their own feet.

Help in this work must come from those who are to be benefited by it. Politicians at Manila and elsewhere are not helping by the course they are pursuing. That is something, however, they will have to decide for themselves. Of one thing they are assured. Uncle Sam does not consider the islands a permanent possession.

GENTLEMEN, LET US HAVE BRICK.

Good advice to the Douglas county board of commissioners is confined in that adjuration of the good roads committee, "Stop playing horse with the Lincoln Highway paving."

Years ago, when the big paving project was first taken up for serious consideration, public sentiment in favor of brick for surface material was shown unmistakably. At one time the board was urged to write the fact into the paving bonds. This was impracticable. There was, however, a distinct understanding that brick should be favored.

Much brick has been used in surfacing the Lincoln Highway out of Omaha. On January 1, 1924, the accounts show \$541,393.09 expended on this form of paving on this road. This is in accordance with contract, and in conformity to public opinion.

Why should it now be necessary to scheme out some method to get material other than brick, in order that the uncompleted stretch of pavement on the Lincoln Highway be finished with something other than was intended and contracted for?

The county commissioners will know the sentiment of the public. It has been plainly expressed at every opportunity. The matter has been taken into court, and the result was the same. Brick was promised. Brick was contracted for. Brick was put down. Why the effort to switch?

If experiments with other paving materials must be made, it would be wise to let others make them. Should it become necessary to experiment on Douglas county taxpayers, then let it be on a small scale, and not on the main traveled highways.

Douglas county taxpayers are paying for the best, and are expecting to get what they want. The county board should quit "playing horse."

VOLSTEAD INJUNCTIONS.

Judge Woodruff has added to his interpretative rulings on the Volstead act another decision of utmost importance. He holds that the section of the bill providing for injunctions on private homes is invalid. Congress, the court says, can not invade the constitution to the extent of denying the right of trial by jury to anyone accused of a crime. If such a provision may be made in connection with one law, then it may be extended to all, and that will put trial by jury in the keeping and at the pleasure of congress.

Not so very long ago the judge ruled that search warrants must be specific and not general. The purpose being to prevent invasion of homes merely on suspicion or caprice. Another of his rulings is that such warrants must be served by officers of the court, and not by the specially ordained enforcement officers or their appointees. These limitations of the process of visitation and search are at least approved by sound law.

Judge Woodruff is criticized by those who ardently support prohibition for "taking the teeth" out of the Volstead act. What he has done is to uphold the greater law, that which protects the citizen in his home. One of the weaknesses of all law is the disposition of some not to obey. These, of course, should be sought out and brought to account. In the doing of that, however, the law should not become a tyrant, defeating its very ends by oppressing its victims.

In the case of the Volstead act, it was observed at the start that its enforcement would be accompanied by many difficulties. It did not take a prophet to see that. Efforts to make the law effective have in a number of instances resulted in the adoption of unenforceable amendments. One of these was that which permitted the closing of homes by injunction, which process would transfer the jurisdiction from law to equity, and thus automatically dispense with trial by jury. Judge Woodruff says this can not be done.

The effect of this, as of the other decisions, should be to make enforcement officers more vigilant. They will necessarily be compelled to establish facts rather than suspicions. Until the law is met with a better spirit than has so far marked its progress, its enforcement will be accompanied by much uncertainty. Bootleggers will ply their trade as long as they have customers. Prohibition will never be entirely effective until all the citizens are ready to accept it. Pending that time, the law will gain strength the nearer it is brought into harmony with the great body of law that is the basis of our free institutions.

To date no statistician has undertaken to figure out the dimensions of a gas container big enough to contain the congressional output during the last three months.

The author of the poem, "The Face on the Bar Room Floor," is still alive at the age of 81. Poetic justice, it seems, is as scarce as any other kind.

A Minneapolis plumber went out to locate a leak in a gas pipe and found it with a match. He has not reported back to the office.

Homespun Verse —By Omaha's Own Poet— Robert Worthington Davie

WHERE HAS SUPPER GONE. Where's supper gone? I wait for naught To hear the lovely word That ever to my senses brought The sweetest music heard; I hear the cheerful breakfast call— It is unchanged and true At luncheon time I'm with them all To give my thanks and cheer. But dinner—how it worries me, E'en though it comes at last, And I sit down despairingly To share a fine repast; Delicious food is there upon The table as of yore— But the old sacredness is gone That supper gave before. I can not feel the true content That I was wont to share When to my supper glad I went And slid into my chair; And when at evening I partake Of meat and spuds and flavin, I ask myself, for mercy's sake, Where has supper gone?

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Suspects a Wet Campaign. Allion, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: It will be remembered how in the world war vessels sailing the seas were often screened by huge clouds of oil smoke that they might move along in comparative safety. After following the proceedings of the Teapot Dome investigation very carefully in the papers, we are wondering if it is not merely a big black oil smudge to hide some ship trying to sneak into the political harbor and the well and crossing bones at her masthead, and has the name "Booze" in letters of gold on her stern.

Our democratic friends have been telling us that prohibition is not an issue in the present campaign, where as it is the very heart interest. It means more today than ever before, for now it is a battle with white bullets to see which is supreme, the constitution of the United States and the people who believe in a law of the people, for the people and by the people. The lawyers, and the men of the law, are not merely a big black oil smudge to hide some ship trying to sneak into the political harbor and the well and crossing bones at her masthead, and has the name "Booze" in letters of gold on her stern.

Let us then, while we watch for eyes in the shadow, and the rum ship through the smoke. "While the good man slept Satan sowed the tares." Let the good man and the good keep awake, and what I say unto you I say unto all. "Watch." ELLEN S. WATSON.

Not All Roses in Canada.

Trossachs, Saskatchewan, Canada.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Noting by the Canadian papers that owing to unfavorable economic conditions in the United States, that a large immigration is expected from the western central states to Canada this spring, I am led to submit a few facts to those who may be led to see only one side of economic conditions as they exist here in Canada.

Having lived here since 1905 the writer has learned of some of the dark as well as the bright phases of Canadian conditions and will make no attempt to state the good and bad by reasonable investigation.

That the soil is fertile and capable of producing good crops cannot be held in question, but drought, hail, rust, grasshoppers, frost, sawfly and price failure are often able to prove the best of efforts to produce, a failure. But the present obstacles most difficult for the farmers to surmount are the high direct and indirect taxes imposed and remoteness from consuming markets, making it possible for protected industries and transportation companies to sell their products at prices that cannot be met by the primary production, that it is extremely difficult to keep clear of loss even though the crop is good, and less than a good crop means a certain loss which will hit the producer behind for several years.

Without doubt one of the most serious setbacks received by the Canadian farmer was the final rejection of the reciprocity offer by the United States and the passage by the United States of the Fordney tariff bill which compelled Canadian producers, especially of primary products, to pay duty to the United States and also high transportation to far distant consuming markets which left nothing but bankruptcy for primary production.

The same condition exists to a great extent with all primary productions, while, at the same time, practically all necessities required in production have their prices fixed by the United States market. With high Canadian duty, sale tax, entrance fees, high transportation and profits added, the Canadian farmers find their products are selling at prices that are far below their production and pay terribly high prices for the necessities used in such production, hence are going to the wall by thousands and their farms are going into the hands of capitalists and railroads who are seeking new settlers from other places to fill the ranks of those falling out, especially if they are offering long term contracts to prospective purchasers and easy terms, but anyone can see that under present conditions the expenses of producing, taxes and transportation will absorb so much of the proceeds of the crop that it will be impossible one year with another to meet payments on the land, hence, the need of a long term contract, meaning transportation companies will benefit by the business produced and land companies now finding themselves overburdened with nonproducing land, will be drawing or compounding interest and escaping heavy taxation. E. B. SHIPMAN.

Importance of Dr. Hedger.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Dr. Caroline Hedger's visit to Omaha will be profoundly beneficial to all the people of Omaha and not only to the mothers and children.

The Omaha School Forum is to be congratulated upon the civic spirit that they have manifested in bringing her to the city. Her talks are full of wisdom and common sense and are just exactly what we need. Able, courageous and independent in thought and expression, she holds the close attention of her audiences.

May God speed the day when more common sense and better customs will appear sufficiently filled with the spirit of patriotic service to give of their time and their knowledge in building up the boys and girls to whom we must look in the future for the leadership of the great American republic. DR. EDGAR ROBERTS.

Howard Wants Women to Run.

Omaha.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I wonder why the women are so reticent about filing for the legislature. I would circulate petitions for them like I did for the women candidates for the school board. But there is no necessity for this, because they can go to the election commissioner's office and file like any other citizen.

There are a number of desirable women who can be elected and who would be an improvement on the men who are misrepresenting the people. I have championed their cause when it was not popular and I am surprised now that they have the franchise and I do not make use of their privileges. JERRY HOWARD.

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Abe Martin

MINN MANN! EVERY A CHAIRMAN OF JAZZ AT LAST! FOGG'S FERRY ILLUMINATED

Some women are so prone to boast that they tell that they wuz at home all day yesterday. "Go back home an' live t'gether, failure" provide kin happen if any hus band, these times," said Squire Marsh Swallow, in closin' th' Bud divorce case. (Copyright, 1924.)

What of America?

By EDWIN G. PINKHAM.

How New York Was Forced Into Union

Were the pictures which have been drawn by political jealousy faithful likenesses of the human character, the inference would be that there is not sufficient virtue among men for self-government; and that nothing less than the chains of despotism can restrain them from destroying and devouring each other.—James Madison, the Federalist, No. LV.

AS THE contest went on the remark of Washington that "the opposition to the constitution is addressed more to the passions than to the reason" was well illustrated. In the Massachusetts convention when it met the language of the anti-federalists was the language of frenzy. They attacked the makers and the supporters of the constitution more than the document itself. In fact, few outside of the opposition leaders seemed to know what was in the instrument, and this was true generally in the country. The lawyers, one member charged, were to be the beneficiaries of the new government. "The men of learning, the moneyed men, the fine talkers," he said, "make us poor, illiterate people swallow down the pill. They mean to get all the money into their own hands, and then they will swallow up us little folk."

The result was long in doubt, and the slender victory the federalists won when they carried the constitution by a majority of 29 was only gained by their consent to accept some amendments to the constitution, on the issue of which the federalists were divided. Even this compromise was denounced as the work of "Judas."

Whoever walks down Federal street in Boston can not fail to be struck by its present name from the circumstance that this convention was held in a building that stood on the site of the gallows, where the traitor had been hanged. The name of the building was "The Old Jail," and the name of the street was "The Old Jail Street."

Massachusetts ratified in February, 1788, and Maryland, South Carolina, New Hampshire and Virginia followed in the spring and summer of that year; and although the new ratification was now a certainty, all eyes turned to New York, where torism and anti-federalism were known to be in a majority.

Led by Governor Clinton, the combined enemies of the constitution gained clear control of the convention, but they were in no hurry to act. They didn't want to come into the union, but they were not at all sure that they dared to stay out.

The battle for ratification was led by Hamilton. His arguments were unanswerable, but Clinton had what, in politics, is more effective than the most convincing arguments. Clinton had the votes. He had, moreover, a kind of argument that struck nearer home to the self interest of the state. New York had the chief port of entry for the states and their carrying trade was largely in its hands. If New York stayed out and could induce Virginia and North Carolina, the great planter states, to stay out, too, they could join together and, taking the territory to the west, form a league of their own that would be a formidable rival to the United States.

Such was Clinton's plan. Governor Randolph of Virginia refused to sign the constitution at Philadelphia and Clinton believed he would be against its ratification at Richmond. The New York governor broached his plan to the Virginia governor, and meantime the New York convention marked time. But communication was slow. Randolph, as it proved, was not so readily convinced. He came round to the Virginia convention, and when Clinton was indulging his dream Virginia ratified.

New York was now out on a limb. To stay out of the union alone, or with only North Carolina and Rhode Island to keep her company, meant commercial ruin. The United States office and file like barriers against it (as it actually did later in the

SUNNY SIDE UP "Take Comfort, nor forget That Sunrise never failed us yet" Celia Thaxter

LONESOME. It's dreary now at the evening time, At the end of a weary day, When I sit in the gloom of a lonesome room With my kiddies so far away. The bare walls seem like a prison drear As I long for the laughing noise, And the voices sweet from the yard and street Of my far-off girls and boys.

The daylight fades into twilight deep As the slow hours drift along, How I miss the smiles o'er the far-flung miles, And the lit of their childish song. It's weary watching the daylight fade And know when the day is done No kisses wait at the cottage gate In the glow of the setting sun.

Dream faces come in the twilight gloom, With echoes of childish glee; And my sad heart yearns as memory turns For home where the love ties be. The dark comes on and the shadows fill, O'er the gloom of the graying walls; And I long to hear, ringing sweet and clear, The lit of my children's calls.

A sign over a door on "South Fifteenth" reads: "Closing Out Sale. It must have been attractive. At any rate the room is empty." The Council Bluffs critic who objects to the way this department is made up is advised to begin at the other end and read up, quitting when he gets good and ready. But at that we admit that his objection is well taken.

"Thieves Get Some Cash From South Bros. Register," headlines the Hay Springs Sentinel. It will be admitted that the thieves thought there was something in a name. Now comes Kansas with the claim of being the champion mule raising state. As a native Missourian we arise to make indignation protest. Not now, nor ever, will we admit that any state can excel old Mizoo in mule raising. But we will cheerfully admit after a long and somewhat intensive study of facts and sound political gyrations that Kansas can and does produce more donkeys per square mile than any other state. Or than any two states, for that matter.

One wonderful result of being permitted to broadcast over WOAW is again seeing and hearing the names that has long since slipped from memory, only to be instantly recalled, together with happy recollections of former pleasant and profitable associations. Letters and telephone calls by the score have given us an immense amount of satisfaction, and we hope that our knowledge of how prone one's friends are to exaggerate will enable us to retain our accustomed poise and not become victims of an inflated ego. Believe it or not, just as you please, but we have actually blushed two or three times during the last two or three days.

A New York authority on male institutions informs a waiting world that spots are on the wane. At times we have ventured to appear in the

When in Omaha Hotel Conant



In the olden times of pyramid building hundreds of strong, stalwart men were used to place a single mammoth stone into place.

As the burning sun beat down upon their bare backs, these men, with the crude tools of their time, labored for years to build these monuments which still stand.

It was Man Power that ruled then. Now it is Electric Power.

A firm of a switch now will hoist many tons. Great electrically-driven derricks swing skyward with their immense loads with as much ease as a child lifts a pencil.

Electricity is a great factor in the development of any community. It is the ally of industrial progress; it is the bulkwark of development.

Omaha industries make general use of electricity because of the extremely low power rates here. "Electricity Is Cheapest in Omaha." That's Why— "Omaha Is a Great Place in Which to Live" Nebraska Power Co.