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THE PHILIPPINES

What the Independent Has Said About the Horrible Condition There Conformed by Gov. Taft

While the dailies have maintained a studied silence concerning the terrible conditions in the Philippines, The Independent has kept its readers fully posted on that, and many other subjects, about which the readers of the dailies are in total ignorance. To gather this news has been a great labor. Some of it has come from private letters, some from a few unguarded sentences in the censored dispatches and now and then a line or two in an official report. By the use of a little intuition, some common sense and a close watch on every avenue of information, The Independent readers have been kept informed of the facts. Now everything that The Independent has said has been confirmed, and more than confirmed, by the official report of Governor Taft. It would be hardly possible to suppress this report, and, in fact, it is not at all necessary, for the next national election is nearly two years distant. Governor Taft says:

"Were there prosperous conditions in the Philippines it would not be a troublesome matter to deal with the ladrones, but when want and famine are staring people in the face the life of the freebooter forms to the desperate and the weak a very great attraction. Natural discontent with the government when suffering is at hand promoted as it is by cholera, restrictions and the high prices of rice and other commodities, which have been greatly enhanced by the depreciation of silver, might well have caused a new outbreak of the insurrection."

All these things have been printed in The Independent from time to time, while the other papers have kept silent. Governor Taft tells of the conditions that have made the island purchase about \$15,000,000 of food, and of the effects war has had upon agriculture, almost the only source of wealth in the islands. The greatest blow to agriculture, he says, is the destruction of about 99 per cent of water buffalo, on which the cultivation of rice is almost wholly dependent.

The Independent was led to believe from what information it could get that the "destruction" of the water buffalo was the effect of an epidemic of the milderpest, but it now appears that that was not the case at all. They were deliberately destroyed by our army. The plan of Governor Taft for the relief of the Filipinos is thoroughly plutocratic and imperialistic. The Independent submits it without comment:

First—The establishment of a gold standard in the islands and of banking corporations empowered to issue circulating bank notes under proper safeguards.

Second—The reduction of at least 75 per cent of the Dingley rates of duty upon goods imported into the United States from the Philippines.

Third—An amendment of the Philippine act so that the additional limit upon lands which may be sold to or be held by individuals or corporations from the public domain shall be increased 25,000 acres, or in the alternative so that the government shall be given the power to lease for sixty years upon competitive biddings from the public lands aggregating in any individual or corporate lessee not more than 30,000. It says this legislation is necessary to the development of the islands, and as the government is offering 65,000,000 out of 70,000,000 acres in the archipelago there is no danger of concentration of ownership in individuals or corporations.

Fourth—That the Philippine act may be amended by repealing the limitation which forbids an individual or corporation from holding an interest in more than one mining claim.

Fifth—That all bonds issued by the insular government under the authority of the Philippine act shall be free from state, county and municipal taxation in the United States.

Sixth—That an amendment be made to the Chinese exclusion act giving the power to the government by law to admit a fixed and limited number of Chinamen into the Philippine islands, who are certified to be skilled laborers, on the bond of the employer

that for every Chinese skilled laborer employed he will employ a Filipino apprentice and that he will return the Chinese skilled laborer thus introduced within five years after his admission to the country and that he shall pay a head tax of not exceeding \$50 for each Chinaman so admitted to the insular government, to meet the expenses of the enforcement of these restrictions. The commission thinks unlimited admission of Chinese would be unwise.

Shortly after election the Omaha World-Herald opened up its "Public Pulse" column to the socialists and asked them to give their ideas in as clear a manner as possible. A goodly number of the "Kangaroos" and De Leonites responded, as well as a number of those opposed to socialism.

Among the latter was Rev. John Williams. Then Dr. H. S. Aley of Lincoln, in a three-column communication, undertook to tell the reverend John that what he (the reverend) knows about socialism wouldn't fill a very large volume; but the doctor's lecture was, he says, badly blue-pencilled by the World-Herald, and he reports the whole proceedings to the New York People.

After a "much needed rest," as he expresses it, W. H. Stout has resuscitated the Saline County Independent at DeWitt. He has bought a printing outfit from the Crete Vidette, and purposes to "wear no party halter." Stout knows how to get up a good newspaper, but he is not in a very good locality to receive the support he deserves.

Money and the Taxing Power

BY W. H. ASHBY.

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CHAPTER III.

Man in his efforts to obtain that exclusive individual possession of wealth, toward which he is incessantly compelled by the primordial impulse of self-preservation, expends in those efforts the stored up energy already under the dominion of his will. If we consider the process we find that he expends that energy in overcoming adverse forces which stand between him and access to the things endowed with the power of beneficial service which he seeks. In the industrial process of production, he expends his energy in overcoming the adverse forces of nature interposed between him and the objects he seeks. These obstacles over which man triumphs by expending his own stored up energy, may consist of form, or space, or time. He applies his energy to the task of compelling it to change its form to another capable of serving him beneficially by supplying his needs. He expends his energy in transporting it from a distant point in space to another, where it becomes accessible to him. He dries, or preserves, or cans, or freezes it, in order to save it for a period of time in which it shall possess the same capacity to serve him.

Let it be observed here that all energy thus expended in overcoming adverse forces of nature, in all the processes above indicated, produce as their effect an increase in the supply of wealth.

Seeing that it is an axiom of science that all energy expended must produce an effect somewhere, and that no energy can be expended without producing its proper result, it is vastly important here—simple as it seems—to note the fact that all human energy expended in overcoming the adverse forces of nature, in all the various phases of production, reappears under the form of supply of wealth.

This seems so apparent, so self-evident, that argument is superfluous. Let no one hereafter, when it rises to destroy some idol, repudiate it for the sake of saving that idol!

Given, man with his limited store of energy under the dominion of his own will, which he is free to expend in efforts to obtain dominion over things endowed with capacity to serve him beneficially, by supplying his needs; given, the universally accepted doctrine of the right to exclusive individual possession of those things thus endowed; given, something of the nature of government, which guarantees the exclusive possession of that thing in its quiet and orderly possession and restrains all comers from the exercise of any violence or unlawful stratagem to deprive him of that possession; given, these conditions and the primordial impulse which drives man to activity—and what must be the result?

His energy expended in overcoming the adverse forces of nature has resulted in the production of whatever the supply of wealth may at a given time and place be. But this wealth under the conditions is the exclusive possession of him who holds it, guarded by the powers of the government. Force cannot here be employed even

to obtain bread to prevent starvation. One in possession can only be deprived of that possession by his own consent. Whoever seeks that possession must find some peaceful means to induce him to relinquish it of his own free will.

So far as the supply of wealth already existent is concerned, the struggle is no longer one in which man must expend his energy to overcome adverse forces of nature; it is now a struggle in which he must expend his energy to overcome the adverse possession of another, or to retain that possession if it be his.

Adam Smith has pointed out with clearness that every exchange of wealth is finally resolvable into an exchange of services. Each party to every exchange seeks to obtain dominion over wealth which he can compel to serve him more beneficially than he could the wealth, possession of which he consents to relinquish. It is only when each of the two parties to the exchange agree to make it, that any exchange is made. There is no arbiter, and there is no compulsion. Unless both consent there is no exchange, because the government guaranteed each in the quiet and orderly exclusive possession of that which it finds him possessing.

The struggle thus shorn, by the presence of the constable, of violence, no longer results in wounds and bloodshed. The energy expended, restrained by government from taking the form of violence, no longer manifests itself under the form of murder and highway robbery.

That energy expended by men under these restrictions to obtain or retain exclusive possession of the supply of wealth cannot but manifest itself under some form, and the form which under those conditions, it does necessarily take it what is called the force of demand. This force of demand is the effect of the energy expended by men, under the restrictions named, to overcome the adverse exclusive individual possession of the supply of wealth existent at the given time and place, and to retain it.

Thus it becomes manifest that while the supply of wealth is the form under which energy expended in overcoming adverse forces of nature in production reappears, the force of demand is the form under which energy expended is overcoming adverse exclusive possession of existent wealth reappears. It is thus seen that energy expended for one of these objects becomes antagonistic to that energy expended for the other. The energy expended in production can never produce as its effect the force of demand. No more can energy expended to obtain or retain exclusive possession produce as its effect supply of wealth. The two effects are as totally different forms as any in nature and, under the forms of "supply and demand," are recognized opposites. It should be pointed out that but for the retention among men of the system of exclusive individual possession, a system inherited from the lower animals and plants, there could be no expenditure of energy in overcoming adverse individual possession, and, consequently, there could be no force of demand (To Be Continued.)

SOCIALISM

Address of Chancellor Andrews Before Nebraska State Bar Association

Chancellor Andrews of the University of Nebraska last Friday afternoon delivered an address before the Nebraska State Bar association on the subject of socialism. It will be interesting reading for everybody, but especially instructive to those populists who believe that present-day socialism is simply an advanced step from populism. The "collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution" is essentially different from the public ownership of railroads and other services of that nature. The chancellor's address in full is as follows:

If I have any special qualification for discussing socialism it is that of sympathetic opposition. I was once as near being a disciple of Rodbertus as I could come without baptism into the church. I thought I saw in Rodbertian socialism, socialism scientifically wrought out and applied, a remedy for the most glaring social evils.

In time and upon study, however, the system which had seemed to me so desirable grew to look quite otherwise, the difficulties connected with it assuming vaster and vaster proportions, until in my thought they towered above and outnumbered those necessarily bound up with the present order. I was thus converted to the opinion that society has greater hope of reform on the general basis of individualism than by flying to the unknown though inevitable ills accompanying a socialistic regime.

None the less I retain for the manner of thinking which so long engaged me a respect which most of its opponents do not have. I cannot condemn socialism as is commonly done. Not only are the majority of them true philanthropists at heart, but their ideas and ideals are worthy the most careful thought. Indeed, one not versed in Marx's reasonings can hardly be called fit to discuss any leading social theme. I rejoice in socialist study and agitation; vast net good must issue from it.

Few can help going far with the socialists in their indictment of present industry; much wealth without merit, much poverty without demerit, cross purposes in production, inducing glut, scarcity, waste and injustice; idle wealth that might be supporting industry but is not; enforced idleness and poverty; fraud in trade, and the tyranny and menace of corporate power. These and such evils exist and they are grave. Usually socialists do not overmagnify them. If such distresses are curable, all wish to know how.

Most wise people whatever their style of social thinking sympathize with socialism in wishing the public power, when necessary, to extend more or less its economic function. Now and then of course some one still denounces as dangerous, per se, regardless of place or circumstance, e. g., the municipal ownership of street railways. It is hard to see why this is more a peril than the owning of schools or of water or gas works by cities. There is nothing alarming, either, in the proposal that government should purchase and work mines. Public ownership of mines is in continental Europe the regular thing, as is the public ownership of railways.

If the question were merely whether or not it is desirable for government to possess and administer certain indispensable public utilities it would not be worth discussion. The thoughtful people are few, however opposed to socialism, who do not believe that government will in time take over a great many of the productive agencies now in private hands. Government might go a long way in this without even an approach to socialism. Socialism would not be reached until all material instrumentalities for the production of wealth had passed into the state's hands, or at least so many of them that individual initiative in its present and historic form had ceased to function.

Nor need anti-socialists have any radical quarrel with socialists over Fabianism. Call the Fabians socialists, if you will, they are of a very innocuous stripe. The three great tenets of orthodox socialism, that econ-