

### THEY WON'T STAND IT

In a constant reading of a large number of dailies, not one item has been found in regard to retaliatory legislation by European governments on account of our exorbitant tariffs. The Independent is the only paper that has kept its readers informed in regard to that matter and proves again its value to those who wish to know "the truth about everything."

This matter has gone so far that it has become impossible to longer ignore it and last week Senator Lodge introduced a resolution in the senate directing the committee on finance to inquire whether certain countries are discriminating against the United States, and if so, what law should be passed to give to countries preferential duties which do not discriminate against this country. The resolution refers to the discriminations of France, Germany and Russia against the United States.

Men who think that they can permanently exclude foreign goods from our shores and at the same time build up a big foreign trade by selling goods from forty to fifty per cent less to foreigners than they sell the same goods to us, will find that that policy won't work out. Foreign nations will not neglect to protect themselves. The Lodge resolution refers to the very countries which The Independent has often said were applying retaliatory legislation to their trade relations with this country. All of which goes toward proving that if you want the news, especially the news concerning the tariff barons, trusts and plutocracy generally, you must read The Independent.

The Nebraska supreme court, after two trials at it, has got around to the position taken by The Independent that it has no authority to prevent the reading of passages from the Bible in the common schools. The only sound position that can be taken by any court in that matter is that the Bible is to be treated exactly the same as any other book. To take any other position is to recognize it, at least indirectly, as being of divine origin, which is the very thing that those who object to its reading deny.

A short time ago the house passed a bill reducing the tariff rates on goods imported from the Philippines 75 per cent. The bill went to the senate and it has been reported from the committee with very important amendments. The senate committee proposes free trade with the Philippines with the exception of sugar and tobacco, and levies on them a tariff of 50 per cent less than that contained in the Dingley schedules. This tariff on sugar and tobacco was levied at the request of the sugar and tobacco trusts, they claiming that anything less would "ruin those industries" in the United States. It seems that the senate is getting around toward that horrible thing "free trade" pretty fast. Free trade in coal and free trade with the Philippines is a pretty good start. If no awful convulsions of nature follow this start toward free trade, if the sun is not blotted out nor the moon turned into cosmic dust, perhaps the people may be persuaded to go still further.

One of the results of imperialism is that the Asiatic bubonic plague has obtained firm foothold in this country and Mexico. At a meeting in Washington, Surgeon General Wyman and the representatives of the health authorities of nineteen states, declared that the plague had a firm foothold in San Francisco and some went even so far as to advocate the shutting off of all railroad communication with that city. People are dying by the hundreds from the plague in Mexico.

A republican up in the northern part of the state says that The Independent is "too one-sided," and adds "that while I read the paper, I think it would be better to give the republican side once in a while." Well, here goes for the republican side: The trusts are a good thing. The great business of modern times could not be carried on without such organizations and nothing should be done to interfere with their success. They have come to stay. Tariff tinkering would disarrange all business and produce confusion everywhere, therefore the tariff should be let alone. Imperialism in the beneficent form that the United States has adopted is a blessing to mankind. It opens up thousands of situations to Americans who go to the new possessions to fill the offices and that is that much clear gain. Selling surplus goods to foreigners at 40 per cent less than they are sold to our own people is the proper method. It gives just that much more additional employment to American workmen. It should be con-

tinued as the settled policy of the United States. We should have a larger army and navy. That takes just so many men out of competition with wage-workers and helps to keep up wages. Now we hope that gentleman will never again accuse The Independent with not presenting the republican side.

The resolution of Mr. Jenkins, chairman of the judiciary committee in the house, ordering that committee to prepare a bill authorizing the government to take charge of the coal mines and coal railroads is about the most blatant piece of demagogery ever exhibited to the public. It is in line with the policy pursued by the house ever since the session began. The mines are all located within the boundaries of the several states and are under the jurisdiction of the several states. Congress, as the constitution now exists, could not enter the states and take possession of the mines, unless the supreme court would be willing to give the constitution another wrench similar to the "appurtenance" decision. As to the railroads, that is another matter altogether. They are public highways, crossing the boundaries of states and come under the jurisdiction of the national congress. If the attorney general would enforce the anti-trust laws now on the statute books, the coal famine would very soon come to an end.

Governor Bates of Massachusetts was very populist in his recommendations to the legislature. He most emphatically indorses the referendum, the taxation of franchises at their full salable value and several other things that the republicans have been in the habit of denouncing as anarchy and socialism. The truth is that the message is a substantial reproduction of the Williams platform that the fool democrats of that state voted out of their convention when they nominated a corporation boss for governor. The great reduction in the republican majority in that state and the increase in the socialist vote has evidently affected Governor Bates' opinions on several public questions.

The city of New York has raised the valuation of property so as to enormously increase the income from taxation. It is announced that this process will not be used for paying off the debts that the city owes, but will enable it to greatly increase the debt and burden of interest. That is the republican idea of financing. The populist idea would be to first pay the debts, stop the interest and use the money that is paid out for that purpose to make public improvements. In that case the public would get the money instead of the money lenders. But as long as the city is ruled by men who were trained in the schools that Seth Low was brought up in, the money lenders will benefit by increased taxation and not the people. The increased valuation of property for taxation, it is said, will enable the city to issue \$100,000,000 more bonds. The charter of New York city fixes the debt limit at 10 per cent of the assessed valuation, and so the increased valuation will allow the issuing of that amount of bonds. Watch for another era of corruption when that money is available.

The democratic members of the Colorado legislature, being a majority of one after all the unseating was done, re-elected Henry M. Teller to the United States senate. The republican members and lieutenant governor refused to participate. Undoubtedly there will be a contest. As far as The Independent is able to judge after reading more than 100 columns of newspaper reports while the fight was going on, Senator Teller seems to have a legal title to the seat. Six years ago he was elected without a contest and if we remember rightly, by an unanimous vote. All this trouble has come about by the fool policy of the democratic party of that state.

### News of the Week

Venezuela was prominent in the eye of the world during the week. The situation has been a most puzzling one to the newspaper man who wanted to get at the truth, and nothing but the truth. Associated press dispatches are always in the interest of money lenders and plutocracy and it won't do to trust them, but by carefully watching everything that is printed on a subject, the truth, by the exercise of a little intuition and common sense, can generally be arrived at. The first news of importance was that the German war vessel, the Panther, had without notice and without provocation bombarded a Venezuelan fort. Then afterwards it was said that the Germans claimed that the fort fired

first. The reply from South America was that the shot fired by the fort was a blank one and fired as a warning for the Panther to come no nearer. In the first contest the German war vessel got the worst of it. It then sailed away and came back with two more warships of larger size and all three began a bombardment. The big vessels had gone of long range and could stand outside of the range of the small guns of the fort and blaze away in perfect safety. It seems that the fort was greatly damaged and quite a number of Venezuelan soldiers were killed and wounded. This attack on a little fort with five guns, only two of them of modern make, is looked upon by the world generally as cowardly. The Germans in their defence say that they did it to make effective the blockade, for the Venezuelans were transporting coffee across the country into Colombia, thus making the blockade ineffectual. The whole question resolves itself into the question of whether the blockade is necessary at all or not. To most men it seems that the dispute could be settled by arbitration, which has already been agreed to, and that the blockade and severe suffering caused thereby is a needless cruelty accomplishing nothing that cannot be accomplished by arbitration. Venezuela has placed her interests entirely in the hands of Mr. Bowen, the American minister, who has returned to Washington to take up the matter with the powers.

It is said that the blockade instituted by England, Germany and Italy against Venezuela has cut off the people residing on the little islands along the shore from supplies and that hundreds of them are starving to death. Starving innocent people and non-combatants to death seems to have become the chief reliance in war as practiced by the great "civilized" nations. The British put the women and children of the Boers in camps and let them starve by the thousand. The same thing was attempted in the Philippines, but the people of the United States soon let the administration know that they would have no war carried on in that way.

The agricultural implement dealers declared awhile ago that they were as brave as Paul Jones and that they would fight the trust to a finish. Now they have all surrendered. They have made what they call a "compromise," that is, they will pay the price that the trust charges and do no more growling for fear that the trust will not sell them any goods at all. The farmers will have to foot the bills and most of them continue to vote 'er straight so that they can have the privilege of doing so for all the years to come.

The canal treaty with Colombia has been signed by the contracting parties and it now goes to the senate for confirmation. The treaty provides for a lease for a strip 12 miles wide for 100 years with the right to perpetually renew and for the payment of \$250,000 gold annually for the lease, beginning nine years after the date of ratification, and \$10,000,000 in gold upon the exchange of ratification of the treaty.

The trust bill that they are getting up in congress has, after all the legal verbiage is eliminated, just three points. (1) Publicity, in the shape of full reports to be filed with the interstate commerce commission; (2) prevention of rebates or preferential transportation rates to the combines; (3) the prohibition of discrimination in prices in order to destroy competition and create monopoly. As to the first provision, all the trusts are in favor of it. The second is so drawn that no conviction can ever be obtained under it. The making of both the receiver and giver of rebates subject to the same penalty will prevent the securing of evidence, as has been proven in hundreds of cases where such laws have been enacted. The third provision, if government attorneys were everywhere in active sympathy with the law, might result in conviction in some rare cases, but even that is doubtful. The whole thing is simply a political move to allay the indignation everywhere expressed at the rapacity of the trusts. If passed, it will not alter the trust situation in the least.

According to the English papers the suffering and distress in London is the worst ever known. The charity societies are unable to supply the wants of the starving and the English papers are suggesting that an appeal should be made to America for contributions. The Independent told the Londoners what would happen when they started the hooligans on their bacchanalian revels every time a vic-

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tory over the Boers was announced and shouted for imperialism and destruction of little republics. They are paying the penalty now. There is more suffering in London than the British ever inflicted on the Christian Boers. To ask Americans to contribute, is to ask them to pay part of the cost of annihilating two little republics. Let them pay their own war bills.

The papers announce that President Roosevelt and King Edward exchanged greetings over the wireless telegraph route. The messages were of the usual character, congratulations and expressions of friendship. The Independent still has doubts about this Marconi system being a commercial success. If it were all that the papers claim there would be an uproar at the headquarters of the cable companies and the stock market would show a great fall in cable stocks, but as far as all appearances are concerned, the cable companies are going on their peaceful way and are not at all troubled about wireless telegraphy.

The plan to establish the gold standard in the Philippines, that is after the Japanese way of reducing the legal tender power of gold one-half, was wrecked in the house last week and the United States monetary system extended over the islands. All the democrats and 28 republicans voting together, did the job. It begins to look like the constitution is making pretty fast time in catching up with the flag in the Philippines. Practically free trade and the monetary system of the states is going a long way towards it. The republicans are finding out that the idiotic scheme of republic and empire under one constitution won't work. There is to be a mint set up at Manila to coin more silver dollars which will be a full legal tender for all debts public and private, except where otherwise provided in the contract, both in the islands and in these United States.

There was a little fracas in the miners' national convention that was somewhat amusing. One local union