

News of the Week

The latest news from the Philippines is that the regions inhabited by the Moros is to be made a colony of the Philippine colony. A colony of a colony is a new thing in the world, but the attempt of the imperialists to engraft colonies upon a free republic is likely to produce many entanglements such as statesmen never dreamed of in all the history of government.

The Chamberlain proposition to establish protection in England has met with almost universal opposition in parliament and the ministers were obliged in order to save the government from dissolution to declare that it was not the policy of the cabinet, but only the private opinion of Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour, and was not to be adopted as a government policy. In the discussion, Sir John Gorst repeated a statement that has often been made in these columns. He said: "A great portion of the rising generation in the United Kingdom is already so degenerate and poverty-stricken that anything tending to increase the price of food would threaten a national disaster."

The later speeches of the president on his recent trip were all non-political and consisted for the most part of trite aphorisms with which all would agree, pertaining to the same truths that we were all taught in our youth and read in the school books. There was one sentence delivered at the dedication of the new church to which the president belongs in Washington worth preservation. He said: "One sad, one lamentable phase of human history is that the very loftiest words implying the loftiest ideas have been used as cloaks for the commission of dreadful deeds of iniquity." No populist can help reflecting that just such words as these were used as cloaks for the dreadful deeds of iniquity which has accompanied the whole imperial policy from the beginning. The slaughter of 300,000 innocent people was called "benevolent assimilation," "duty," "destiny" and "the guiding hand of providence." The president is a supporter of imperialism.

There were only six passengers killed on all the railroads last year in Great Britain and the year before none at all. Compare that with the slaughter of thousands by the American railroads run to make dividends on watered stock.

Reports are being published charging the most inhuman treatment of military prisoners at Malahi military prison, located at Luzon Bay, near Manila. The prisoners have been able to smuggle out a report of their treatment (which is most horrible) and make a plea to the authorities at Washington. But what hope is there that any relief can be obtained from imperial authorities 10,000 miles away? An army serving in a foreign country where it has despotic power and where the people are looked upon as an inferior race always has and always will become brutalized. From torturing Filipinos it is a natural step to torturing prisoners of our own race.

The massacres of Christian Macedonians by the Turkish troops is much more extensive and horrible than that of the Jews at Kishineff and there are no public protests in this or any other country. The reason of that is that the German emperor is a friend of the sultan and stands every other country off that would be inclined to interfere. The Germans have large interests and many special franchises in Turkey. The degree of horror expressed for massacres of innocent people is mainly gaged by money interests. If there were no immensely wealthy Jews in this country, the great dailies would treat the murder and outrages in Kishineff in an entirely different manner. The poor Macedonians have no wealthy friends anywhere.

King Alexander and Queen Draga of Serbia were murdered in their palace last Thursday night and a new government under a new dynasty was set up. It was a plot entered into by some of the king's ministers, an aide-camp and others within the palace and the military outside. It appears that the people made no protest and quietly accepted the change. King Alexander has been very unpopular. He overthrew the constitution of the country in an arbitrary way a few months ago and had married a disreputable woman. The person to be proclaimed as the new king is very friendly with Russia. Serbia is a little country about one-fourth as large

as the state of Nebraska and lies between Austria and Turkey.

Henry Watterson advocates the nomination of Attorney Folk of St. Louis, the man who has convicted so many boodlers and bribe givers, by the next national democratic convention. Whether Folk has any qualifications for the office or not is not known. That he is an able lawyer and an honest man everybody agrees, but the people would want to know what he thinks about asset currency, trusts and tariffs.

Tom Johnson has made good his threat to drive every democrat out of the party who voted for the fifty-year franchises. He made the fight so hot that six of the eight who so voted did not attempt to secure a renomination and the other two he defeated. Tom made a three days' campaign in one county where one of these democratic-republicans seemed likely to get a nomination. If the whole democratic party had followed the same policy in regard to the Hill-Cleveland group of republican-democrats the party would now be in a position to win the next national election.

During the last five months the holders of U. S. steel stock, preferred and common, have suffered a loss of \$61,000,000. The dailies are all now declaring that the bottom has been reached, but we will have to wait to see. Lord Rothschilds has joined the other great financiers in trying to bolster up the market. He declares that prosperity has come to stay and that stocks will now advance again. It looks to The Independent very much like Rothschilds gave out that interview for the purpose of preventing a panic.

The position taken by the waiters' union of Chicago that they would not arbitrate and denying the right of employers to organize, while they claimed that right for themselves, has resulted in their complete overthrow. The conservativeness of the real labor union leaders in that city was shown when the denounced the waiters' union and declared that they had no sympathy with it. Labor cannot adopt the policies of rapacious capitalists and succeed.

Some time ago The Independent informed its readers of the fact that the decision in the Northern Securities case had been brought about by the Harriman and Rockefeller interests and that the object was the overthrow of Hill. Now it is announced in Wall street that Hill has absolutely lost control of the Northern railroad situation and that J. Pierpont Morgan has also been eliminated so far, that he can act only as a banker. The Northern Pacific railroad control goes into the hands of Rockefeller, Gould and Harriman. If the information that The Independent furnishes its readers was distributed to all the people of the United States, in five years the whole political and economic situation could be changed.

It seems that the corner in cotton will work a world-wide disturbance in business and cause immense losses to manufacturers and wage-workers alike. It is said that D. J. Sully, W. P. Brown and the McFaddens have a compact which covers the whole cotton producing world. The suffering will not be confined to this country and Europe, but will be most intense in Asia.

The insidious and silent manner in which the Serbian army was won over by the assassins who murdered King Alexander and Queen Draga has produced a state of alarm in the capital of every crowned head of Europe. Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria has fled the country and refuses to return. In Berlin, Vienna and Rome there is almost a panic in the palaces. The taxing of the people to create and maintain immense standing armies may be the downfall of several dynasties and Europe may become a sea of blood.

The people of Amesville, O., as "a joke," elected a tramp who had just spent fourteen months in the workhouse, mayor. They relied on the new Mark Hanna law, giving the governor power to remove mayors, thinking that the tramp could be removed, but it was found that he could not be removed until he had done something while in office that could be charged against him. The scheme was to have him removed so that the old mayor, who was very unpopular, could be retained for another term. It was a nice republican scheme, but it did not work.

It is announced from Washington that great efforts are being made to suppress a full publication of the facts

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in regard to the postoffice scandals. The suppressed matter relates to Perry Heath and several members of the republican national committee.

The interstate commerce commission has hauled up the Burlington, the Rock Island, the Frisco, the Missouri Pacific, the Union Pacific, the Milwaukee, the Alton, the Santa Fe, the Wabash, the M. K. & T., the North-western, the St. Louis Southwestern, and a number of smaller lines of railroads and demands that an answer be made why they have recently arbitrarily raised rates. If that commission had any power to control rates, something might come of it, but it has not. All that the investigation will amount to is a pretence of doing something in the interest of the people. The railroads control the body that created the commission, namely, the congress of the United States, and will continue to control it as long as the republican party remains in power.

The modern "devil wagons," as automobiles are called, are creating more havoc in Great Britain than in the United States. The matter was brought up in parliament the other day and the following statement was made: "Every day harmless and inoffensive persons, who presume to think they have some right to the public roads, have to fly to the hedges and ditches for refuge. No one dare take his dog for a walk without running grave risks of seeing it reduced to a mass of blood and bone. In the villages a reign of terror has set in. Neither riding, driving, walking nor ordinary farm occupations, necessitating the use of the public roads, are likely to be undertaken." The selfish rich having gobbled almost everything else in this world, are now taking the last refuge, the public highway, from the use and enjoyment of the poor. Will the patient masses forever bear the tyrannies and exploitations of the rich without protest?

Postoffice stealing has been traced to New York and the whole republican machine of that state seems to have been engaged in the thieving business. There was never such a morally rotten organization on the whole earth as the republican party. While there are good, honest men and even officeholders in its ranks, the managers of the party seem to be degenerates.

The last boost that the plutocratic papers have given Cleveland since his nomination for a third term by the democratic party ended in such a fizzle, is to announce that he is to be offered the presidency of the University of Virginia which Thomas Jefferson founded. The propriety of making a man who never attended a college and is not even a high scho-

graduate, the head of a great university is in accordance with many of the ideas of plutocratic writers for the great dailies.

After the awful floods that devastated Kansas and portion of St. Louis the country drew a sigh of relief in the thought that such calamities for the season were over. But there comes a tale of disaster from Oregon where the town of Hepner was struck by a cloudburst and a wall of water rolled over it said to be fifty feet high. Something like 500 people were drowned, whole families being swept off at once. It is the saddest disaster of this year of disasters. The town was situated in a valley and the water came down so suddenly that there was no chance of escape.

Cholera has again broken out among our troops in the Philippines. Six deaths are reported for the week ending June 10. The punishment of this nation for its imperialism seems to be never-ending. Of what benefit to us or the Filipinos is it to keep thousands of soldiers in those islands to die of horrible tropical diseases?

Berlin dispatches up to noon Wednesday showed sweeping gains for the social democrats in the reichstag election Tuesday. In twenty places the election must be held over because no candidate had a majority. Of 198 districts the centrists captured 60; socialists, 53; conservatives, 21; other parties, 24. Four agrarian leaders, Hahn, Roesick, Lucke and Ortel, were defeated. At the 1898 general election in Germany the reichstag election stood: Social democrats, 16; centrists, 108; national democrats, 56; national liberals, 49; conservatives, 62; populists, 30; free conservatives, 20; anti-semites, 3; people's, 14; total, 358.

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