

## A WORLD POWER

The United States Was Such Before We Ever Had a Colony or a Great Navy

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican speaks as follows concerning the imperialist catch phrase, "a world power":

"Whether it was moral force or republicanism or democracy or something else which did the business, the fact is that this nation was as great a power in the world's diplomacy and in the ordering of international affairs before it ever possessed a colony or robbed a people of their independence or destroyed a republic or had a large standing army and a greater navy, as it has lately boasted of being because of all these agencies; and it would be as great a power now without these things in the world of action—and thrice greater, without them, as a power in the much more important world of ideas, where it but lately stood as the exponent of principles in government that constitute the chief reliance of oppressed people for better things. Colonies and a resulting great navy can add nothing whatever to the high standing of the American nation as a real world power, and must detract much."

In support of this position the Republican quotes from a letter of John Bright, written in February, 1865. Mr. Bright said:

"The United States maintained previous to the outbreak of the civil war an army of 17,000 men and a navy of 7,000, and for 10 years previous had never commissioned a line-of-battle ship. Yet in her dealings with England and Europe, with their standing armies of half a million men and their navies of scores of line-of-battle ships, the United States carried, we are now told, matters with a high hand! Was there ever a stronger admission of the superiority of moral force and republicanism? . . . Here you have an unarmed nation bullying great military and naval powers. . . . Shall I confess the thought that troubles me in connection with this subject. I have seen with disgust the altered tone with which America has been treated since she was believed to have committed suicide or something like it. In our diplomacy, our press, and with our public speakers, all hastened to kick the dead lion. Now in a few months everybody will know that the north will triumph, and what troubles me is lest I should live to see our ruling class . . . grovel once more, and more basely than before, to the giant of democracy."

### A Suggestion

Editor Independent: That "Old Guard" poem is fine. I trust you will publish it again in the "Old Guard" special issue. What is the old guard? Does it mean those who were in the fight prior to the organization of the people's party in 1890?

Enclosed find 50c. Please send copies of the August 13 issue. The other 25c is for organization fund.

The sample bunches you sent are at hand. Urge subscribers to take regularly a bunch of sample copies, which you perhaps could offer at half price. Thus you would get something for your samples, they would be kept reminded all the while, you would have your regular circulation enlarged, and you would avoid trouble with the third assistant king, as some one called him.

Another thing which it seems to me would help is this: Print an undated supplement, which could be used with any issue, if this is permissible, and put it in with every sample copy; this supplement to contain the editorial of a few weeks ago about how the plutocratic papers are circulated free, and the people are blinded thereby, and everyone ought to take one paper of this sort, even if he does have all he can read already. That is the reply so many give; it would be helpful to have a well formulated refutation of this objection always at hand.

MARK FOSTER.

### Virginia Populists

Editor Independent: I saw a copy of your paper a few days since and am most glad to see an effort to reorganize the people's party, but we had better not do so if we are simply to be a mere annex to any other party. Fusion in Virginia simply killed us, and the very democratic leaders who declared free silver a great fundamental principle went to Kansas City and voted to eliminate free silver from the democratic national platform and tore our candidate's name from the presidential ticket and nominated a democrat.

Thousands then abandoned them and would not vote at all even for Bryan, and many of them have not voted since. The old parties are both working out advocating our principles, but are treating us with scorn. Are we to repeat this sort of thing and are we

like men going to stand by our principles, organize a party, Christianize our principles by thought and experience and get rid of cranks and adventurers, or are we again going to be the butt of all parties, is the question? If so, then let us have no fusion with the leaders who foam at the mouth denouncing trusts and corporations and vote to subsidize railroads and to give the long bridge and thirty-four acres of a public park in Washington to the Pennsylvania Central and Baltimore & Ohio railroads, steal votes, stuff ballot boxes against white confederate veterans for the machine, and claim they are doing so to prevent negro supremacy?

No, we want no further fusion with these leaders whose machine is simply held together by the cohesive power of public plunder. No country upon earth has suffered as the south has from misrule, fraud and bad politics and leaders. It has been ring and clique against the world and nearly all of the southern states have been corporate bound and governed. The republican party is composed of federal officeholders and negroes and the whites are heavily taxed to support negro schools. Two-thirds of all the negro children at these schools are bastards and these evils are growing. Verily the talk about uplifting the negro race by education is rot. Their mothers are totally unfit to inculcate any sort of morals. They must return to fundamental principles and be governed by a written constitution. This cannot be done as long as corporations select and furnish the judges and the president by patronage increases and governs with the executive department and controls the other departments of the government.

Fundamental wrongs of this kind can only be corrected by a third party taught and imbued with the spirit of the constitution and not by commercialism and office. I hope you will go on and organize a party upon proper principles, not for fusion, but to save and perpetuate great constitutional principles. All parties are dangerous unless they have high aims. The mission of the republican party was blood and to free the negro and it has enslaved the white race and destroyed the constitution. Ours should be to restore it. The times are ripe and if the party is reorganized and these lines all or nearly all of the old guard will step into ranks and again carry our banner on high, but there must be no fusion for that means death as all experience has proved. Look at West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. VINCENT A. WITCHER, Riceville, Va.

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