

ed in the Philippine islands. The British government during the Boer war was forced by public indignation to issue a monthly statement giving the location of each reconcentration camp, the number of men, women and children in each, and the mortality in each class during the previous month. The government of the United States has never given any information of this sort, and on the contrary, it has sedulously concealed the truth. If the facts will bear the light, let us have them. If they cannot be furnished, either the administration has not taken interest enough in the subject to have them collected, or it does not dare to publish them. If the people of the United States have consciences—if they care what crimes are committed in their names—if they are unwilling to do themselves what they considered barbarous when done by Spain, they should insist on knowing all the facts and should see that these barbarous practices are stopped. If they are so indifferent to the beam in their own eye that they do not care what is done in these distant islands to the unhappy people whose liberty they have destroyed, they should confess that they are incapable or unwilling to do their duty by their subjects and should let them go.—Letter in Boston Herald.

PASS HAS FEW DEFENDERS

The Nebraska State Journal criticises those dissenters who still doggedly contend that the pass system is a beneficent institution:

It might have been supposed that the people of Nebraska had seen and heard all that could be done or said of the railroad pass, but recent events seem to indicate that of the power of the pass the half has not been told. There yet remain four or five editors and a few score pass holders in the state who still refuse to admit that the pass is either a club or a bribe, but recent events in Wisconsin have come happily to pass in a way that ought to force open the eyes of even those who have refused to see. Two dispatches in yesterday's papers make the case. At Janesville several city officials have resigned their offices because the new Wisconsin law forbidding public officials to use railroad passes is being enforced. News of a similar tenor comes from Kaukaua. Only two probable explanations for such actions are to be found. Either the resigned officials are able to get passes without being office holders, and prefer the pass to the office; or they cared for the office only because it gave them a claim for the pass, and so resigned as soon as this emolument was denied. On unimpeachable authority it may be asserted that no man can serve two masters. A reasonable knowledge of human nature is sufficient to teach that when an appearance of serving two masters is being kept up, it is always the one who pays the most who gets the service. The Wisconsin officials considered the railroad pay, their passes, more desirable than the salary or the honor of the public. It does no violence to assume that in the circumstances their towns will not suffer from the loss of their services.

FAVORS GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

The Independent, of O'Neil, Neb., holds that the administration is not sincere in its advocacy of government regulation and adds

The only remedy for the railroads is public ownership and operation of them. The republican organization, backed up by plutocracy is against the government ownership of railroads. The railroads furnish free passes and special trains to republican politicians and their families. By these means and by furnishing big boodles for the republican fund, the railroads absolutely dominate and own the republican party in every state. If we had government ownership of railroads freight rates would not be much more than one-half what they are today, and there would be no rebates or discriminations. Take the case of Holt county. The south half of the county will not raise very much except hay this year. The rates of hay are higher by thirty per cent than they were twenty years ago, but the republican party is utterly opposed to any reduction of them. The south half of the county ought to have reasonable railroad facilities but it hasn't got them and it won't get them. The Burlington and the Northwestern have divided territory and the people of the south half of the county are suffering on account of it. They ought to have a railroad to take their hay to market; but their only hope of getting any railroad for years to come is by government ownership

of the railroads. They can never hope to make any progress through the republican party. Every republican leader in Holt county rides on a railroad pass. Every one of them is owned by the Northwestern railroad. Everything they can do will be done to keep the government from owning the railroads. If the government owned the railroads these deadhead politicians would have to pay their railroad fare the same as the farmers and merchants pay, but under the present condition these men and their families ride all over the country without ever paying a cent. Now is a good time to organize government ownership clubs. There must be thorough organization before the people can win. The sentiment is right all over the west for government ownership, but we can't do anything until the people are thoroughly organized. After that something can be done.

WORK OF RECLAMATION SERVICE

The completion by the United States reclamation service of the first irrigation project undertaken suggests these thoughts to the El Paso Herald:

It is men with hearts who have done it; men with imagination, illumination, prophecy, conscience. The fact that it pays is important, but it is secondary. If the business argument could not have been sustained, the movement would have died, but without the moral force the business argument would have shriveled like a leaf in the sand. The architects and builders of this great plan of redemption are and have been men of heart as well as brain, men of tact and of love for humanity, as well as men of firm convictions and shrewd business sense, men who look on an acre of land or a gold coin merely as a token to be used for the betterment of humanity. There is another phase of the national reclamation movement that merits special attention at this time. It is the stainless record of the United States reclamation service under conditions presenting opportunities for irregularities. Coupled with this negative quality is the positive quality of efficiency. The work of the service has been carried on with a degree of expedition and economy that presents a shining example to every other department of government. To the reclamation service of the United States The Herald presents the hearty congratulations of the people of the great southwest upon the successful opening of its first completed project.

NOT A LITERARY MASTERPIECE

The Columbus Press-Post thus satirizes the biographical sketch of John D. Rockefeller, which appeared among a series of sketches entitled "Educational Benefactors," issued by the United States commissioner of education:

There is a question whether the government hasn't gone too far in its sketch of the oil king? It looks a little as if it had stopped over in its desire to say "thank you" for the big donations to education which it recently accepted from Mr. Rockefeller. It tells us that he was a model boy, honest, courageous, tender and thoroughly religious—and says that the "unfolding of his youthful character became indicative of his future career." Again, "his qualities were early manifested; he discriminated between the real and the false." This might be construed to mean that he early learned to discriminate between the ring of the counterfeit dollar and the genuine. But still you can't tell just what it all means. When a man sets out to write another man a "character" in return for financial obligation, he is apt to say all sorts of things. In view of this it may be just as well to make a conservative estimate of the subject of the sketch even though it bear the government trade mark.

EDUCATIONAL ARISTOCRACY

In the Arena for August Eltweed Pomeroy gives what he considers to be the correct explanation of the oft-noticed estrangement between educators and the masses:

The reason for this, I think, lies largely in their training which tends to destroy active sympathy with the common people and to carry them out of touch with the thoughts, ideals and aspirations of the average man. They live and develop in another atmosphere. It is a subtle differentiation but a very important one. They learn from books, which is life at second hand, and are therefore not in actual, direct and positive touch with life

as lived by the masses. They are teachers; they are accustomed to speak authoritatively; they come, often unconsciously, to feel that they are above the mass of the people; and so when they see men who are their inferiors in education and training swaying the people in a manner impossible for them, they think of the people as something apart from and below them—as "the great unwashed." This of course tends to separate them still more from the throbbing heart of popular life and makes them more aristocratic in sentiment, suspicious of democracy and out of touch with the great vitalizing currents of our life and thought.

REPUBLICAN PARTY WARNED

Speaking of the deficit, Leslie's Weekly gives the republican party solemn warning that it is making smooth the way for a democratic victory.

A crisis confronts the republicans. Let the republican leaders in congress understand that the country is not eternally and inevitably wedded to the republican party. The republican party was placed in power because the American people thought it would give better government than its opponent would or could furnish. For a time it justified this confidence. But in the management of the government's finances recently it has been lax. This laxity, if continued, will be criminal, and will deserve and receive the popular condemnation. Unless the republican party acts promptly, intelligently, and decisively just as soon as congress meets, and ends this deficit, the democracy will elect a congress in 1906 and a president and congress in 1908.

A FUNDAMENTAL REFORM

The Columbus Press-Post, commenting on the prohibitionist platform in Ohio, praises the planks on women's suffrage, election of senators by direct vote, a better system of inspection for state banks, and adds:

But all those questions pale into insignificance beside that one great enabling device of democratic government, the initiative and referendum. On this subject the prohibition platform says: "The people should always have the best and simplest methods of initiating legislation and ratifying their own laws. Therefore we favor the initiative and referendum." This is a plank on which all men can agree simply because they are men. In fact, there is proof at hand that nearly all men desire that great degree of self-government which this simple device will give us. The democratic party has declared for the initiative and referendum; so has the socialist party; so has the populist party. The constitution of the American Federation of Labor, the single taxers, the women's suffragists, and every thoughtful organization in the field of political economy has declared for the initiative and referendum. Under the popular rule made possible by the initiative and referendum, the bosses must go. The republican party alone has failed to espouse this reform. It is well established, in Ohio at least, that the republican party is boss-ridden. Therefore, while the rank and file of the voters may be in favor of any reform, it cannot be secured so long as the bosses object. Any party or organization that is willing to abide by the will of the majority is entitled to respect and consideration. The paramount issue is popular rule. Popular rule can only be obtained through the initiative referendum.

PORTO RICO'S PROTEST

Porto Rico's protest against a carpet-bag government is attracting considerable attention:

It is highly desirable that there should be an infusion of American ideas—of the right sort—into Porto Rican society, and it is safe to assume that government appointments would rarely if ever go to non-residents if the suggestion had to come entirely from the Porto Ricans themselves. They are like other people in that respect. The governor's power of appointment, subject to confirmation by a local senate, might, however, be sufficient to insure enough "foreigners" in important public positions. England, the most successful of modern colonizing countries, has attained success largely through a liberal policy toward the development of local autonomy in matters of local concern, and it is only by such a policy that the people of a dependency can be stimulated to their best national life. Porto Rico's memorial is clearly a sign of health, and deserves candid consideration from congress.—Chicago Tribune.