

this country to the cause of humanity without permitting it to degenerate into a war of conquest. 'Imperialism' so-called, is an evil in all its phases, whether viewed from the political or economical side, but it is more sure to promote moral, physical and social degradation than it is to work evil in any other direction.

"It is my purpose as soon as our organizations are completed, and as fast as measures can be taken, to give publicity to these facts throughout the country.

"I hope it may be consistent with your present duty to reply to this letter for publication, to the end that we may again have occasion to express our sympathy with you for the difficult position in which you have been placed, and to give you the assurance of our continued support; not only republicans, but the great body of independent and sound money democrats who turned the scale in the presidential election, who will give you continued assurance of their support in the declaration which you made against the perversion of the war conducted in the name of humanity into a war of conquest. That perversion is now disguised by those who advocate it, but the forced extension of the sovereignty of this nation over great populations who can never be assimilated with us politically, socially or industrially, is nothing more and nothing less than for this country to undertake a war of conquest which will be condemned and is condemned by every right-minded man and woman in our land.

"I know from previous experience how dense is the screen by which the supporters of bad measures attempt to surround the chief executive of the nation. When the Inflation bill of 1874 was impending, Vice-President Wilson called upon me—knowing I had a wide correspondence with sound money men throughout the West; he stated to me that under the pressure which was being brought to bear upon the president in Washington he was being misled into the belief that public opinion required him to sign the Inflation bill, and Mr. Wilson called upon me to bring to bear upon him the true public opinion of the country to the utmost of my ability. I immediately telegraphed to a number of men in the great Western cities who had agreed to act together in any emergency to send in protests against the Inflation bill from day to day, signed by a few men of prominence—preferably those known to the president—while protesting meetings in New York and Boston were immediately organized, the latter by myself. The evidence was thus placed before President Grant of an overwhelming kind, that he was being misled and deceived by the advocates of bad legislation who surrounded him.

"After his term had expired I met President Grant. He turned the con-

versation to the financial issue, saying to me that I was entitled to know the history of the veto of the Inflation bill. He said, 'I had prepared a message to accompany the bill signed, stating my objection to it, and that I had yielded to what I assumed to be the public opinion of the country; but presently the protests came in to me from the leading men of all the great Western cities accompanied by the New York and Boston meetings, and I found that the true public opinion of the country would sustain me in doing what was right and what I knew would be right. I read over the message which I had written to accompany the bill signed. I said to myself, this is all sophistry. I do not believe it myself, and no one else will believe it. I tore it up and substituted the veto message.' To which I replied, 'Veto and Vicksburg—the victory of Peace and the victory of War.' You now have the opportunity, supported as you will be by the true public opinion of this country, to emulate the example of that grand man to maintain peace, order, and industry without violating the principles laid down in Washington's Farewell address, and without violating the spirit of the constitution. In that you may rest assured of the continued support of all men to whom you would resort for cool, deliberate, and sound judgment throughout the country."

**THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF FALLING RATES.**

The universal tendency in the direction of lower rates shows itself in two annual reports which have come to hand this week. The first report is that of the Chicago & Alton, one of the most conservatively managed properties in the country. The receipts per passenger per mile fell from 2.022 in 1896 to 1.918 in 1897, a decrease of .104 cent, and the receipts per ton per mile from .817 cent in 1896 to .763 in 1897, a decrease of .054 cent. The reduction of slightly over one-tenth of a cent a mile on the passengers carried by the company last year was equal to a net loss of about \$99,000. The reduction in freight rate of about half a mill was equivalent to a net loss on the tonnage moved of \$228,510.

The second report is that of the president of the Northern Central railroad, part of the Pennsylvania system, and also an admirably and carefully managed property. The receipts per passenger per mile on this road fell from 2.140 cents in 1896 to 2.112 cents in 1897, a decrease of .028 cent, and the receipts per ton per mile from .535 cent in 1896 to .525 in 1897, a decrease of .013 cent. The decrease of .028 (twenty-eight one-thousandths) of a cent in passenger rates meant a loss on the passengers carried of \$14,654, and the loss of thirteen one-thousandths of a cent on the freight tonnage represented a loss of \$115,091.

It is difficult to believe that the individual traveler or shipper gains much

by a shrinkage of a tenth of a cent in passenger rates or a few thousandths of a cent on a ton of freight. To each railway company, however, such decreases are serious things, the shrinkages on these two companies alone representing a practical gift to the public of \$457,250 in one year.

**SPECTACULAR INGRATITUDE.**

The ingratitude of man has made countless thousands mourn and the common conclusion is that no human frailty or weakness so evenly and generally permeates all the hearts and souls of the myriad tribes of mankind.

THE CONSERVATIVE is moved to these reflections by the contemplation of an assortment of eye-glasses and spectacles which adorn its library, its tables and writing desks. These aids to eyes which have been watching the development of Nebraska and the trans-Missouri country generally for forty-four years are invaluable. These glasses let into the mind the conserved and canned thoughts of antiquity, and of modern times, too, which have been put up in fine type and hermetically sealed to the unaided eyesight of age.

And who ever thinks of the great and inestimable debt of gratitude which the race owes to the inventor of spectacles? Who even asks the name of that benefactor of souls and hearts who has made visible to the imperfect or impaired natural vision all the beauties of literature and art and science?

Italian antiquarians attribute the invention of spectacles to Salvino, who did this great charity to the billions and billions of the earth between the years 1280 and 1311 and died in 1318. His epitaph says:

"Here lies Salvino Arnota de Armiti of Florence, the inventor of spectacles. May God pardon his sins."

And now if every human being on earth who wears glasses, will, in gratitude, each give a single cent for a monument to Salvino, the inventor of spectacles, to be erected at Wyuka cemetery, Nebraska City, Otoe county, Nebraska, what a spectacular commemoration that will be in its magnificence and costliness!

The United States is entitled to the best of everything. We are entitled to the best money; and that is gold. If we give ourselves an inferior money, while all other civilized nations use gold, we put ourselves at a disadvantage. Only let us stay on an equal footing with other nations and we can beat them at anything, just as we have beaten them at everything we have tried so far. We're all right.

Twenty millions of dollars is too much to pay for the Philippines to come in; but it would be quite reasonable for their staying out.