

PACIFIC COAST SENTIMENT.

THE CONSERVATIVE recently gave its readers an article as to the character of public opinion, relative to the Philippine question, held by citizens and newspapers of the Pacific coast. A late number of *The Argonaut*, which is by far the most generally read of any weekly periodical published in California, contains the following:

"The press of the country is becoming more and more impatient over the president's policy of drift. It is charged that McKinley

McKinley's Policy of Drift.

himself is responsible for the present situation in the Philippines. It is charged that his policy of no-policy has promoted intrigues, given the Filipinos a wrong idea of American government, and incited insurrection among them.

We quote a few comments from papers in different sections of the country. *The New York Herald* says:

President McKinley's miserable infirmity of purpose is responsible for the ridiculous position we occupy in the Philippines today—held at bay and our authority defied by a motley horde of the lowest type of Filipinos. * * * Only a firm and decisive assertion of the authority and power of our government can save the islands from anarchy, save our own dignity, and avert the danger of friction with other powers. But what is the president doing? As ever a wabbling opportunist, he is shirking his responsibilities and again throwing down the reins. Instead of grappling with the situation like a man he is appointing a commission to make at this late day the slow and tedious voyage to the Philippines. * * * What this country needs at the present juncture is not a commission but an executive.

The Portland Oregonian thinks, too, that the president has waited long enough:

Mr. McKinley may complain, and justly, of the senate, but the situation we are in is a natural outgrowth of the administration's policy of drift. There is a time to wait, but there is a time to act. No one knew this better than Lincoln, with whom McKinley's obsequious admirers are fond of comparing him. McKinley had to be pushed on to the St. Louis platform. Gage had to drag him on to the currency-reform program. He was finally forced into the war with Spain, and the tide of public opinion, not his own convictions, swept him on to the retention of the Philippines. The administration adopted a waiting policy regarding the Philippines, and it is still waiting.

The Boston Beacon says that the weak policy is the policy of evasion and concealment:

If our purpose be not to make the Filipinos a subject people, what good reason exists for its concealment? If the president, on the other hand, contemplates forcible occupation and permanent possession, the country should be informed of his intentions.

In the South the *Savannah News* voices the growing dissatisfaction with McKinley's waiting policy:

The fact that the administration says nothing seems to justify the conclusion that the administration is afraid to have

its Philippine policy made known. When a political party is afraid to trust the people it is time for the people to consider whether or not it can safely trust that party.

The Springfield Republican unbosoms itself thus:

The American people may well arise from their bewilderment at this point and ask that if the president of the United States has a policy he state it, that if he has definite intentions he declare them. So much in the way of elucidation is due imperialists and anti-imperialists alike. If the president does not intend to hold the Philippines, except for a temporary period, surely the commercial expansionists would like to know it."

SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Since the year 1860 corruption in American politics seems to have very materially increased. Money has been used in elections during the last thirty years, by all parties, to an extent which alarms and shocks the moral sense of every thoughtful lover of his country. In some states, ballots have become almost as much a commodity as postage stamps, and legislators and others in public places—both state and national—are too frequently proved to be governed by something else than patriotic motives. Affairs today are so shaping themselves, politically, that it will soon seem almost impossible for a poor and pure man to legitimately enter the public service of this country. Extravagance in the cost of local government and in disbursements by the national government has grown to such gigantic proportions that the American people have apparently lost all recollection of the frugality and honesty which founded and, in the early days, administered this plain republic. Local taxation in nearly all the cities, counties, and states of the American Union has become so enormous that to pay the fixed charges of citizenship requires an individual earning capacity equal to that which a half century ago would have maintained the entire home and household. The sooner we begin to vote against bonded indebtedness of all sorts—to pay as we go, and to return to the economical and careful methods of our ancestors—the better it will be for us and our descendants. In fact, the sooner every part and parcel of the local, state and national governments begin a system of rigid economy in administration, the more possible the prosperity and perpetuity of the government.

Every student and every teacher should endeavor diligently to inculcate the importance of a speedy return, through an educated citizenship, to the practical methods of the fathers. If it was chivalrous and knightly in any olden times to defend one's country against foreign invaders, it is none the less glorious today to defend it from economic fallacies, sophists, public pilferers, and spoilsmen.

But educated men should never follow mere party names blindly. It is, how-

ever, their duty to teach principles and fidelity thereto, to inspire patriotism, and to instruct their fellows that while adherence to a party, is, at times, a good thing, absolute devotion and self-sacrifice, at all times, to the safety and glory of the whole country, is a far better thing.

Those who are best versed in letters, who have broadest knowledge of the affairs of extinct and of existing governments—who by research and diligence have possessed themselves of vast treasures of facts, gathered along the historic pathways of nations—are the class who, by the right and nobility of superior intelligence, should be most potent in politics. The educated men, the trained intellects from the schools, are, in a true and desirable sense, an aristocracy, obligated by study and investigation to understand the science and functions of government, and to individually aid in its honest and benignant administration. A government of the people should be for the good of all the people, and should therefore be conserved and directed by the best people, and they are the educated men and women who appreciate and enjoy its citizenship. Intelligent, honest and courageous men and women are the logical aristocracy of this form of government. They are the chivalry conducting a ceaseless crusade in behalf of the purity of politics, the intelligent, nonsectarian and nonpartisan supervision of the common schools, the normal schools, and the state universities.

Upon the intellectual efforts, the vigilance and valor of education in its public life, the permanence of self-government upon this continent finds its only solid and stable foundation. The ignorant can not govern; the informed, the intelligent, *must*, or the republic will perish.

AN EX-PRESIDENT UNDER FIRE.

A few days ago the organs of existing political power opened a lively fusillade upon Grover Cleveland, who was accused of ambitions and plots for securing for himself a third term as president of the United States. No particulars were given as to any personal acts or deeds of the ex-president that could be cited to support the indictment but this made no difference with the grand jury political Lilliputs who invented the story. They carried the case to the cartoon stage in a few of the more irresponsible newspapers, which, in the language of the late Horace Greeley, are permitted to exist "for some inscrutable purpose," and then it collapsed without making so much as a wave in the circumambient air. The incident is closed, but if it has served no other purpose, it revives the old maxim that political defamers of great men invariably attack those whom they have most reason to fear.