

A GENEROUS ADMINISTRATION.

It is easy to expend money generously when it does not come out of one's own pocket. Congress constantly illustrates the pleasure of giving away cash which is not from the store of the donors. The McKinley administration has recently paid twenty millions of dollars for a second-hand war in the Pacific archipelago. This war, although it had been run by Spain for about three hundred years, seems to still wear fairly well, and it may prove as tenacious of life as that of the Seminoles in Florida. But as we are benevolently assimilating Filipinos at the rate of two hundred corpses a day the war may end at any moment.

The more recent, and decidedly the most beautiful and bountiful piece of McKinley generosity, is the payment of three millions of dollars of United States funds, raised by taxing the American people, to Cuban greasers to compensate them for having fought to attain their own liberty.

Nobody, not even France, paid our ancestors for freeing the United States from the dominion of George the Third. There is no parallel in all history for this last piece of governmental McKinleyism extravagance.

The United States declared war against Spain when an armistice was in force between that government and its rebellious subjects in the island of Cuba. It declared war (pending peaceful negotiations) for the purpose of securing to the Cubans their natural rights of life, liberty and the holding of property. And during the armistice between Spain and the insurgent Cubans somebody, probably enemies of Spain, and possibly Cubans, blew up the Maine.

And now the Hanna-McKinley crowd magnanimously steps to the front and insists upon the Cubans receiving three millions of dollars out of this people's treasury as a sort of subsidy or bonus to pay for the license permitting the Americans to fight, die and waste money in behalf of that island full of hybrids, greasers and cut-throats.

GOING HIGHER.

Are all purchasers of farm lands fools? For more than six years there has been an organization of politicians and idiots in Nebraska preaching the impossibility of making even a living upon ordinary farm lands in this state.

The populist party has proclaimed from every schoolhouse, courthouse and platform that the farmer in Nebraska is a down-trodden, moneyless serf, over whose prostrate person the plutocrat and the corporation hold gleeful orgies.

And yet this same supine son of toil pays his debts, schools his children, buys carriages, organs, sewing machines and pianos and wears a smile brighter than an Easter morning.

Everywhere the farmers in Nebraska are paying off the mortgages which re-

presented the larger part of the purchase money which was to be paid for their farms. These payments are created out of the sale of the products of the lands themselves after paying for the maintenance of the farm and family.

In every county courthouse records show a steady constantly increasing re-

The Records.

reduction of the mortgage debts upon farms. This is the truth. These records are facts. They stand up with moral courage, and with unflinching eyes look the populist press and orators of 1896 in their brazen faces and say in almost angry tones:

"How you all did lie in 1896! Not a single forecast of calamity has been verified. The gold standard has been upheld. There is now a bigger amount of circulating cash in May in the United States than ever before!"

And are people buying lands at advanced and advancing prices upon which no man can make a living and much less profits over and above a living?

How is it that farmers in Nebraska have nine times out of ten, paid for their lands out of the surplus products of the lands themselves, if populism teaches truth?

Was there ever before a constant and rising demand for land upon which nobody, according to the populists, could make a decent living under the gold standard?

Where is the farmer who wishes to find a buyer for his Nebraska farm at the same, or a less price, than it cost the present owner?

Where is there a man, with ordinary sense, in Nebraska who does not honestly think farming lands in this miraculously fertile commonwealth are going higher and higher? THE CONSERVATIVE has seen them grow from nothing an acre, to fifty, one hundred and two hundred dollars an acre right here in Otoe county and in the immediate propinquity of Nebraska City.

Laudations are easy. Senator Mark Hanna declares Demosthenes an infernal old humbug in eloquence when compared to Doctor Depew and Doctor Depew admits it and proclaims that Thomas Jefferson and Henry Clay and Stephen A. Douglas were infants in partisan leadership and political sagacity when compared to the Honorable Dollar Mark Hanna. THE CONSERVATIVE, while not in perfect agreement with that mutual admiration duet, calls attention to the fact that Barnum's Greatest Show on Earth was never better managed and exploited than the present administration circus at the White House. As an advertised perfection in statecraft, a paragon of wisdom and an imposing incarnation of Pecksniffian piety McKinley—thanks to Manager Hanna—is without a peer in the history of the world.

THE SILVER TRUST.

Everybody is aware that the earliest and most successful trust in the United States was in pig silver and organized under the Bland-Allison act, and successfully continued under the compulsory-purchase-of-bullion act of John Sherman, which was repealed in 1893. Said repeal prohibited further enforced sales of silver to the government at artificial prices.

The great smelting and refining works of silver had a monopoly. The government was their manacled and mulcted customer. For years the silver product of the mines of a few men was put upon the government at fabulous figures. But the repeal of the Sherman act ended the flush prosperity of a syndicate which sold, as the treasury records will prove, millions upon millions of ounces of silver to the government at about one dollar and five cents an ounce.

The silver trust in 1896 combined the elements of discontent nominated Bryan (three times) and financed the campaign with millions of dollars. And now the men whom the trust in silver created and sustained are fiercely denouncing trusts—posing as the only crusaders against trusts.

SWEET CONSISTENCY.

A populist legislature in Nebraska not many years ago denounced all kinds of protective tariffs. And then it proceeded to protect by direct legislation the product of the creamery against the oleomargarine product of the packery. That body of lawmakers made it a penal offence to manufacture and sell butterine in Nebraska because it could be used as a substitute for butter. And the same selected solons passed at the same session a law giving a bounty of one cent a pound for chicory raised in Nebraska and chicory is an adulterant or a substitute for coffee always and everywhere.

It is wrong to put a wholesome article of butter-substitute on the market. It is right to cheat coffee drinkers with chicory. Nebraska crushes out oleomargarine while it subsidizes chicory, as it did sugar beet schemers. Of the latter a recent number of the esteemed State Journal—while trying to get the rancid flavor of protection out of its mouth—caustically remarks:

"Having worked Nebraska for every available dollar the beet sugar syndicate has bands of hired singers over the state of Colorado giving the same song and dance we know so well here. They exhibit the same beautiful pictures of the immensely wealthy beet sugar farmer. A bounty equal to the cost of the sugar, land enough to raise the beets and money to erect the buildings is all they ask for inestimable blessings that follow in the train of Oxnard. No less than