

**INSTANTANEOUS  
DISTINCTION.**

In these days of telegraphs, telephones and other electric phenomena the power of conferring instant fame is not marvelous, even though exercised with discriminating judgment.

The recent baptism of Mr. Coin Harvey—who runs a school for fools—by Colonel Bryan is illustrative of the celerity with which fame is acquired, especially among populists.

The occasion was the meeting together of the big medicine men of the free silver republicans, the Chicago platform idolators and the St. Louis convention populists. The incantations to allure primarily votes, and secondarily offices, had been finished, and the time and place for holding the next general pow-wow of the combined tribes at Omaha agreed upon, when Colonel Bryan introduced Mr. Harvey and by immersion in a puddle of adulation christened him the economist laureate of the universe. Thus easily, eloquently and effectively were Bonamy Price, McLeod, Perry, Lord Farrer, Fawcett and Professor Sumner retired from eminence as teachers and writers upon finance and economics generally.

Mr. Bryan introduced Mr. Harvey with a brief reference to the financial question and said he was "proud to introduce to the people of Lincoln, one of the greatest economic writers of the civilized world."

**TRUSTS.**

J. Sterling Morton, secretary of agriculture under the second Cleveland administration, is one of the orthodox democrats who has not permitted environment to afflict him with economic strabismus. Mr. Morton lives in Nebraska, and he might have been the leader in his state had he not repudiated Bryan at the beginning of that gentleman's national career. Mr. Morton has just been heard from on the subject of trusts, and, as usual, he strikes straight from the shoulder, clinching a truth that in a very few years from now will be recognized as axiomatic. He says:

"Trusts which are overcapitalized are born of the machinations of shallow and impractical men. They will fail and no one will be harmed except those whose credulity led them to invest in their securities."

This is now being demonstrated as fact almost every day. Only last week the combination of chair manufacturers, which started out with an ambitious determination to issue \$25,000,000 of stock, was dissolved. Not that the signatory firms had become unwilling, but because the industrial market had become weak. The public is not buying.

This fact is being brought home to promoters every day, and the tendency to overcapitalize is falling of its own

weight. This is the logical and the only remedy for any evil that may exist in this direction. If self-interest does not prevent a man from foolishly investing his money the law never can. In this country every tub is supposed to stand on its own bottom, and whether the individual's judgment leads him to Wall street or to the race course in his quest of profit is his own affair.—New York Commercial.

**ANTI-IMPERIALIST NEWS.**

An immense mass meeting was held on the evening of June 22 in the Auditorium at Detroit to protest against militarism and imperialism. More than three thousand people were present. The meeting was largely German and on the platform Catholic and Lutheran clergymen sat side by side. There was a musical programme of patriotic songs and addresses were made by the Rev. Paul Bard and the Hon. John J. Lentz. Every attack on the imperialistic policy of the administration was received with boisterous applause.

A movement is taking place for the formation of a branch League in Philadelphia with Hon. George F. Edmunds as president.

A call has been issued for a mass meeting in Cincinnati to protest against "the attempt to destroy the moral leadership of this free government in the world by degrading it to an empire." It is signed by the Bishop of southern Ohio, many other prominent clergymen, by the superintendent of the chamber of commerce, business men and members of the university faculty.

The League has just published a leaflet entitled "Memoranda" mostly official, being materials for the history of a war of "commercial aggression" compiled from official reports and senate document 62, a new edition of "Soldiers' Letters," "Conquest of Spain by the United States" by Prof. W. G. Sumner, and "A Question of National Honor" by Hon. Wm. Henry Fleming.

A sign of the times is the large amount of money being spent by railroads in improvements. One Western road, the Burlington, has appropriated no less than \$6,000,000 for this purpose. This is exclusive of the cost of building new lines in western Nebraska and Wyoming. By far the most important part of the Burlington's big repair job is the completion of the double track between Omaha and Chicago.

Thirty-five miles of double track are being laid between Mount Pleasant and Batavia, Iowa, and ten miles between New London and Mount Pleasant, Iowa. With the exception of a stretch of fifteen miles, the road now has a double track all the way from Chicago to Mount Pleasant, a distance of 232 miles. All the Illinois lines are double-tracked, and 155 miles in Iowa will be in similar condition before the end of the summer.

**THE SICK AND DEATH RATE.**

[Probable sick and death rate in the army in the Philippines deduced from the statistics of the British (white) army in India.]

In support of Mr. R. De C. Ward's call given in The Transcript of Boston for a public statement of the proportion of troops now or hereafter in hospital in the Philippine islands I submit the data of the sick and death rate in the British (white) army in India in 1896 from the medical report of that year:

Average strength.....	70,484.00
Average number constantly sick.....	6,614.74
Number in each 1,000 constantly sick.....	93.85
Admissions to hospital per thousand during the year (or the whole force once, and 387 twice admitted).....	1,386.70
Deaths per 1,000.....	15.52
Invalids sent home per 1,000.....	24.51
Invalids discharged per 1,000.....	13.09
Total, deaths, invalided and sent home or discharged, per 1,000.....	53.12

Average number constantly sick from following diseases:

Smallpox, enteric, yellow, and other fevers, cholera, and dysentery.....	572.21
Malarial fever.....	715.51
Septic diseases.....	6.60
Veneral diseases.....	2,706.58
Hydrophobia.....	.03
Parasitic.....	6.42
Scurvy.....	.81
Alcoholism.....	11.84
Debility.....	91.29
Rheumatism.....	168.19
Tubercular and analogous.....	97.22
Local diseases: nervous, eye, urinary, generative, etc.....	1,801.57
Poisons.....	.54
Injuries.....	345.94
Total.....	6,614.75

It will be observed that this average includes the health resorts on the hills, to which all troops are sent alternately. The troops are divided among twenty-seven cantonments, at each of which is the most adequate water supply and hospital service, and where all possible sanitary precautions are taken.

The death-rate varies from a minimum of 7.12 per 1,000 to a maximum of 31.46 per 1,000.

The admissions to hospital vary from a minimum of 1,065.1 per 1,000 to a maximum of 2,458.6 per 1,000.

When the present conditions of the army in the Philippine islands are considered—the number of wounded, the insufficient hospitals, the want of experience, and the hardships to which the men have been exposed in malarious swamps under excessive heat and rain, the ghastly disclosures made by Surgeon McQueston will excite no surprise.

All these facts must of necessity be considered, both in considering the number of American soldiers yet to be sacrificed, the inducements to volunteers to enlist, and the future increase in taxation that will be necessary to keep up the military forces, and month by month to send out new troops to fill the gaps caused by death and disease. It would perhaps be judicious to double the rates disclosed in regard to the army in India when active operations are suspended, and to treble them when they are resumed in and around Manila.

EDWARD ATKINSON.

Boston, June, 1899.