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THE POOR.

THE CONSERVATIVE, by request, publishes the address of the Supreme Council of the "American Equal Wage Union." "The poor are neglected or considered only incidentally," saith the address. But poverty and wealth are relative terms.

Who is a poor man?

Who is a rich man?

Preachers and politicians denounce the rich in one breath and in the next ask them to give to the poor. The rich, from the press and pulpit, are pounded for their wickedness every week. The poor are praised for being poor and congratulated upon their increased chances of getting into heaven easily, while the rich man is assured that a camel stands a better chance of trotting through the eye of a needle than a rich man has of entering the kingdom.

But the rich seem to enjoy being abused and to give all the more generously after a sound drubbing from the pulpit or a roast from the press. If all were poor and there were no accumulated riches in the country, how would taxes be gathered; how would government be sustained; how would hospitals, free colleges, homes for the indigent, aged and the incurably diseased be established and maintained?

The poorest "are the proper and legitimate objects of our first concern," saith the circular again. Whose concern? Who are the "poorest"?

Satisfy Hunger. The address remarks also: "When the panic comes, who shall attempt, with logic, to satisfy the pleadings of hunger?" Nobody besides the theorists, who

forget that frugality and temperance have something saved up with which to meet adversity. Nobody, except those who think that the industrious and economical, who save up fortunes, should pay a penalty for doing so by being taxed to maintain the indolent, the improvident and wasteful.

Struggling Millions.

The address appeals for "the relief of the struggling millions, whose lives are being sacrificed that the few may enjoy, in excessive measure, the privileges and immunities which are the common heritage and of right should be the equal joy of all." But it does not identify, describe or point out even one "struggling million." THE CONSERVATIVE calls for a bill of particulars. Where is there an American laborer who is not paid enough for his toil "to provide for him, at least the common necessities"? What is his calling? Is he a walking delegate? What is the business of each signer of the address of The Supreme Council? Where does each one reside? Who made this Supreme Council?

CONTRASTS.

At the afternoon meeting of the Editors' Association for the State of Nebraska on January 24th, 1900, Advertising Agencies were discussed at some length. The fact which flashed the most light upon the debate was the contrast made between the offices and their furnishings of the agents on one hand and that of the offices of the country editors and their furnishings on the other. The latter were, by comparison with the former, small, inconvenient, comfortless and repellent. And the fact, that all the money to maintain the luxuriously appointed offices of advertising agents comes out of the proprietors of periodicals, is rather unpleasant. It shows that the latter are not always shrewd business men.

GREAT READERS.

The administration newspapers tell us, with exceedingly fervid unanimity, that the Filipinos are utterly ignorant and incapable of self-government. The same organs of McKinleyism likewise inform us that the speeches of Senator Hoar, relative to constitutional limitations and the principles proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence, have been universally read, studied upon, pondered

and digested by the same Filipinos who are distinguished as omnivorous readers. The result has been war prolonged, blood in floods and deaths innumerable, which the godly and truthful partisan press attributes directly to the baleful influence of the speeches of Senator Hoar. His speeches have been too much for the strategy of Otis, the courage of his troops and the calibre of his guns. The war was induced by speakers and has been prolonged by speakers who have dared wickedly and rebelliously to demur to the policies of the administration. This is the statement made by such saints as Lodge of Massachusetts, Quay of Pennsylvania, Platt of New York, Elkins of West Virginia, and other too-loyal-to-live disciples of "criminal aggression" and "benevolent assimilation."

The soda-pop speech of the sparkling senator from Indiana, just delivered, as the out-put of all the brains and patriotism of McKinley and his advisers, ranks highly among summer soft-drinks, and no other beverage can be so harmlessly exhilarating. Every weekly paper attached to the McKinley party, throughout the country, is publishing Beveridge's plea for plunder and pillage, as a supplement. And if the circulation of Hoar's speech created and prolonged the uprising of the insurgents, may not the distribution of the speech of Beveridge among those reading Filipinos conclude the incident? War made by oratory should be ended by oratory. But whether war or oratory is most agonizing is a great question.

OTHER WINTERS. "Nebraska is famous for fine weather; and among the pleasantest seasons with us is our winters. This is third winter with us, and we have never seen anywhere milder and pleasanter weather. Mild suns and genial skies, a pure and bracing atmosphere and roads equal to any McAdamized roads in the world, make our Nebraska winters delightful in the extreme."

This is from the News of January 21, 1861. To temper the amazement of the incredulous reader, however, it should be explained that the roads of that time were not section-line roads, laid out with a ruler, but the natural roads following the lay of the land, which were promptly abandoned with the increase of enlightenment.