

lican legislation has been enacted for this express purpose? It is only because of prohibitive tariffs, which prevent the importation of foreign goods, that combinations of capital are dangerous. The evil of trusts would be impossible under free trade. With free trade, if a combination was formed to raise prices, foreign goods would come in. The competition thus created would prevent a raise in prices and destroy the danger of the combination. The platform very illogically suggests national control as the remedy for the trust question. It would prove inefficient. The trusts exist because of the favor of the general government. Need the trusts, then, feel that their interests would be endangered because of additional power reposed in congress, to which they owe their existence? The only way to eradicate the evil of trusts is to destroy that which makes their evil possible, viz., to remove all protective tariffs, thereby making competition possible. Combinations between nations would be impractical. The government of the United States has neither constitutional nor other right to impose taxes upon the people except to put money into the national treasury, with which to pay the public debt, provide for the common defence and promote the general welfare. All protective tariff taxes, imposed to put money in the pockets of favored interests instead of the federal treasury, are unjust and ought to be abolished.

The platform is silent in regard to the most important act of the administration, viz., the enactment of the Porto Rican tariff. It establishes, so far as congress is concerned, the constitutional status of the new possessions. They are not a part of the United States, but dependencies of the federal government. The decision, handed down by Judge Lochren of the United States district court, demolishes the republican theory. According to this decision Porto Rico, after the ratification of the treaty of peace, became a part of the territory of the United States and the constitution extended to the island.

BRYAN HEDGING. Notwithstanding oft repeated statements of unswerving loyalty to 16 to 1, Bryan is evidently beginning to hedge on that question. In his speech to the Sunflower League of Kansas, he indicated that he would be willing to run for president on most any kind of a platform. He spoke at length upon all questions now before American people, except silver. Chairman Danforth of the democratic state central committee of New York has published a letter from Wm. F. Sapp, president of the league, in which it is stated that Bryan dismissed the silver question as follows:

"I am asked as often as once a week whether I have abandoned silver. To that I answer: No. But suppose I

should abandon silver, what difference would it make? I am not the people. When they abandon that question, it will be an issue no longer. The people make the issue, not the man. No man is greater than his party."

This is a significant admission. Instead of strengthening his standing among intelligent, thinking people it will lower him in their estimation. It will confirm the general feeling that he is not a man of strong convictions or firm opinions. It will stamp him as a weathervane whose public conduct would not be determined by sober thought or sound judgment, but would be controlled by popular feeling and the impulse of the moment. It shows that the presidency rather than the triumph of principle is his highest ambition. If the democratic party drops 16 to 1, as it now seems disposed to do, it can not consistently name for the presidency, one so conspicuously identified with the vagary as Bryan. The man is looked upon by conservative people as more dangerous than any platform. Bryanism is synonymous with radicalism and populism, neither of which is to be tolerated by the American people.

THE CULLOM BILL. The bill introduced in the senate by Senator Cullom, giving additional power to the inter-state commerce commission, has been unfavorably reported by the committee. The bill has been strongly favored by the inter-state commerce commissioners and vigorously opposed by the railway commission. The opposition on the part of the railroads is not without provocation. The proposed measure would enlarge the powers of the inter-state commerce commission to an unreasonable degree. It would give to the commission the unrestricted power of making rates. There would be no appeal from their decision, however unjust it might be to the railroads. Such an arbitrary grant of power to a few appointive commissioners would be unsafe, because of the danger of its almost certain abuse. Railway companies, like individuals, are entitled to the protection of the law. They should, as individuals, be required to conform to legitimate and just legal restraints. But they should not be forced to submit to regulations, tyrannical and oppressive, which have their origin, not in a desire to promote the public good but to cater to a blind and unjust prejudice against corporate capital.

THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION. The situation in the Philippines does not improve.

All that has been accomplished after one year's campaigning has been to break up the organization of the insurgent forces. Instead of destroying armed resistance on the part of Filipinos it merely caused a change in the method of campaigning.

The insurgents now carry on hostilities in small bands, avoid our army as much as possible, prevent the moving of products from the interior of the islands and thus demoralize industry. Their present method of resistance is really the more effective and more difficult to cope with.

Edwin Wildman, former vice consul at Hong Kong, contributes a very interesting article in the current issue of Leslie's Weekly, entitled the "Reign of Terror in the Philippines." He says:

"Although General Otis would have us believe the war in the Philippines is over, I learn from private sources of information of the highest authority that there exists a veritable reign of terror in most parts of the archipelago, within a gunshot from our army posts.

"Either General Otis is blind to the situation or is keeping the real facts from the American people. Aguinaldo's forces have scattered into marauding bands, and leaguely themselves with the mountain Tulisans and Ladrones, terrorize the country and effectually check the cultivation of crops and the sale of marketable products.

"The new ports that have been opened shipped away what little supply they contained and the tons upon tons of hemp, sugar and rice that are stored in the interior are beyond the reach of buyers. The money paid for the thousands of bales of hemp shipped from garrisoned ports has found its way into the insurgent coffers and the revolutionary juntas at Hong Kong and Singapore are making extensive purchases of arms, preparatory to a renewed season of filibustering and hostilities as soon as the rainy season is over.

"Our army is busy protecting its posts, while the insurgents carry on their operations in the interior and paralyze agriculture and trade.

"Scattered bands of armed insurgents wage war against all who hesitate to acknowledge the Aguinaldo government, and the inhabitants are in a state of terror that prevents honest industry or open alliance with American sovereignty.

"The American troops make short work of these robbers, but our garrisons are so far apart and so few in numbers that they invariably are obliged to fall back to a seaport town, where they can get supplies from Manila, for the insurgents have so thoroughly ravaged the country that it is impossible to supply even a small battalion with native products.

"If we ever hope to put an end to this Indian warfare we must send additional forces to the islands. Our present forces are totally inadequate to bring the war to a close. The islands, commercially or otherwise, will be utterly useless until life and property are made safe."