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PROFESSOR
WOOLSEY.

THE CONSERVATIVE publishes in this issue a resume

of a paper by Professor Woolsey, read before the annual meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, in April, 1899. Professor Woolsey is a recognized authority upon international and constitutional law. His suggestions, however, in regard to the constitutional obligations of the United States did not greatly influence congress. In so far as legislation has been enacted, it has been directly opposed to the ideas expressed a year ago by Professor Woolsey. Speaking of Porto Rico, he said:

"When congress sees fit to legislate, the government of Porto Rico should be laid as largely as possible upon the shoulders of its own people. Military rule should not be necessary, and a carpet-bag system would produce results which we can pretty definitely forecast."

Instead of the government of Porto Rico being "laid as largely as possible upon the shoulders of its own people,"

Self-government
Denied.

we have left them

without the slightest vestige of substantial local control. Notwithstanding Professor Woolsey's warning that a "carpet-bag system would produce results which we can pretty definitely forecast," we have given the Porto Ricans just such a system. We have taken the legislative and executive power from the natives of Porto Rico and placed it in the hands of Americans appointed by the president because of political considerations. The wholesale peculations of American officials in the postal service in Cuba do

enable us "to pretty definitely forecast the result" of carpet-bagism in Porto Rico. An investigation of the postal department of Porto Rico has been ordered, as result of the exposure of methods in vogue in Cuba. From this we will perhaps be able to learn how the father-in-law of Senator Beveridge and the relatives of other senators are progressing in implanting in the minds of the Porto Ricans, high ideals of official conduct and public honesty.

Professor Woolsey must now admit that he was greatly in error in his view of

the constitutional powers of congress.

He must now realize his blunder in expressing the opinion that, "the moment congress begins to legislate for the Philippines and establishes there a civil government, that moment the constitutional guarantees begin to work." This is quite at variance with the opinion recently promulgated by the official legal advisor of the administration, the Hon. Charlie Magoon, formerly of Nebraska. Professor Woolsey will have to revise his theories of law to harmonize with the lucid interpretations of "Judge" Magoon.

RAILROADS.

The railroads of Nebraska are beginning to do a thriving business. With their thrift come betterments, repairs and numerous improved facilities in passenger and freight traffic. These call for laborers. Laborers call for wages and the railroads pay them promptly. Who is inspired to assail and cripple railroads in Nebraska, outside a few blatherskites who think that they can thus get fools to vote them into office?

NON-ELECTIVE.

A non elective judiciary, one appointed by the executive and confirmed by the state senate would place Nebraska and any other state reverting to that ancient and safe method of establishing courts in possession of a superior class of judges. A man whom the executive nominates to a senate for confirmation as either a district judge or a member of the supreme court will, as a rule, be far superior in his knowledge of law and in his general character to any man whom a political convention may nominate for the bench. There is a responsibility easily fixed upon the governor who names and the senate which confirms

either an ignorant or a corrupt man for a judgeship. But upon whom can be fixed the responsibility for the nomination by a political convention and the election by a political party of a bad man to a district court or to the supreme court in Nebraska?

WANTED.

A dozen or two millionaires, or a score of incorporations with from one million to ten million of dollars each, are solicited by THE CONSERVATIVE to come into Nebraska and do a manufacturing or mercantile business. All this made-up and pretended antagonism to capital, which populist papers and orators flaunt before the public, is merely a vote-decoying bit of stage work. Nobody will be more deferential and subservient to money in Nebraska than those demagogues who are denouncing it from day to day.

THE SPOILS SYSTEM.

Spoliation in office and the spoils system are inseparable. The scandal in the Cuban postal service is additional proof of this. Where mere party loyalty is made the basis for political preferment and personal integrity but a secondary consideration, we have no occasion for surprise that steals and frauds result. The offices in Cuba, so far as was practicable, should have been given to natives. The principal argument advanced against this was not the lack of intelligence among the Cubans, but their lack of honesty. The conduct of the officials, whom we have appointed to be object lessons in integrity, precludes our making any unkind reflections about the moral sense of the Cubans. They would, indeed, have to be adepts in the art of theft if they would excel our own Mr. Neely and his associates. Even if the Cubans would steal, it would be better to have them do their own stealing than to delegate the privilege to a few of our own citizens, thereby making the act a national disgrace. Positions requiring technical knowledge, for which the native Cuban would not be qualified, should be given to Americans, as a result of competitive examinations under the civil service rules. In other words we must follow the example of England and have a civil service for our insular territory. Had President McKinley thus extended the civil service, he would have been spared the humiliation of Neely's disgraceful conduct.