

1896. With plenty of gold to satisfy the demands of those who want more "money of first redemption," and with an established foreign trade sufficiently large to keep our industries going, the arguments used in 1896 for free silver fall to the ground.

We may also remark that whatever may be said about imperialism and expansion, and however those two terms may be confused, trade expansion is a reality and has come to stay.

The report from which we have quoted also presents some interesting figures as to our trade with Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippine islands. In 1896 exports from the United States to Cuba amounted to \$7,530,880. There was a steady increase from that time until in 1896 the exports amounted to \$18,619,377, and in 1900 to \$26,513,613. Exports to Hawaii in 1896 amounted to \$3,985,707; in 1900 to \$13,509,148. In 1896 our exports to the Philippine islands amounted to \$162,466; in 1900 to \$2,640,449.

The Hawaii islands are now a part of the United States, the Philippines are for the time being at least our possessions, and Cuba is practically under our control. Whatever may be the final outcome the people of the United States will be free to trade with all these rich islands, and it goes without saying that our trade therein will rapidly increase from year to year.—Richmond Times. (Dem.)

OUR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN CUBA.

While the rascalities in the postoffice in Cuba are widely discussed, it ought not to be forgotten that the department in which these occurred is a very small part of the vast interests administered by our military officers there. The island treasury, while it has had nothing to do with the postoffice, has for more than eighteen months received and disbursed all the Cuban revenues from other sources, mainly from customs, amounting for the first half of 1899 to \$5,000,000, and from July 1, 1899 to July 1, 1900 to \$18,000,000 more. It began the last fiscal year with a cash surplus above obligations of \$1,400,000, which increased by January 1, 1900, to about \$3,000,000, and still remains at nearly that figure. It has paid out during the twelve months, on the average, \$250,000 a month for schools, \$100,000 a month for police, large but varying sums for sanitary work and improvements, for the repair, cleaning and maintenance of prisons, for permanent military posts and for many incidental public services. The collections and disbursements have been made in all parts of the island and in sums varying from a day's wages for a laborer to many thousands of dollars upon large contracts.

When the treasury was established, the use of checks in Cuba was practically unknown. Major E. F. Ladd, the

treasurer, who was instructed to organize his office on the lines of the independent treasury of the United States, went to work with only the statutes and regulations to guide him. He found it necessary under these, and for the safety of the funds, to introduce the use of checks to make them universal, although it seemed at first hopeless to affect such a revolution in custom, and to educate the people to confidence in the system. It is interesting to know that the change has already been generally accepted; that no money can be drawn from the treasury except upon a responsible check, and no payment of public money anywhere in Cuba, beyond twenty dollars, can be made save by check.

The result of this and other American methods practised in this office has been that every dollar of the moneys collected by the treasury is clearly and satisfactorily accounted for and the commission which has just investigated the accounts for our government has found nothing in them to criticise. The administration of the treasury has proved to be a model of accuracy, economy, and efficiency. It is, perhaps, alone among accounting agencies of similar importance and difficulty in never having had to charge a dollar to "profit and loss," no such account being opened. There has been no defalcation, no error of payment or reckoning, no forgery, no raised check, no loss of money in transit. Of the sixty thousand checks sent out through innumerable agencies, three have been lost in the mails and stopped. The entire force of the department consists of about ten men, three of whom, in important but subordinate positions, are native Cubans, who are steadily acquiring the training for higher responsibilities. The late assistant treasurer, Rodriguez, an upright and highly educated Cuban, formerly chief of staff to Gen. Gomez, was trained by faithful service here, but became on July 1, by popular election, mayor of the city of Havana.

Cuba is confronted with financial problems of great difficulty, which can be permanently solved only by her own statesmanship. The ability to grapple with these has not as yet appeared among her citizens. The belief gains ground that the island is growing poor. The imports exceed the exports by about \$50,000,000 a year; and fear is expressed lest an intolerable debt accumulate. The United States government, indeed, is expending about \$9,000,000 a year upon its own establishment there, which may be regarded as a gift to the Cuban people. Large amounts of capital have been sent there for investment, also. But there is nothing as yet in the statistics of trade to indicate increasing wealth. Meanwhile, the public revenues are derived almost wholly from customs, a wasteful and inequitable policy, especially for a poor country. A more scientific method of taxation is a

necessity, if permanent prosperity is to be achieved. Yet the influential natives are almost to a man resolutely opposed to the reform. The future in this respect is uncertain; but whatever financial policy the native government may hereafter adopt, the essential basis for its wise formation and successful development will be found in the methods and principles upon which the treasury has been organized by our military authorities.—Evening Post.

DEMOCRATS AND POPULISTS AT WAR

Mr. Bryan is needed in North Carolina. The democrats can get along without the help of the populists in that state, hence there is a total absence of the brotherly love which has been built up between these two parties in Kansas, Nebraska and South Dakota. The parties that have fused in doubtful states are fighting where the democrats think they are powerful enough to go it alone, and in North Carolina the war between them threatens to become more or less bloody. Just now there is a prospect of a duel between United States Senator Marion Butler, populist, and Congressman John D. Bellamy, democrat. Mr. Butler has paid his respects to Bellamy in this wise:

"You are quoted in the Raleigh morning papers as saying in a speech at Wilmington yesterday that the democrats should forcibly expel me from the state. Now, if you think I should be expelled from the state I suggest that you undertake the job yourself.

"You are one man and I am one man. If you mean what you say and have any courage (except when you have a mob of "red shirts" behind you) I suggest that you proceed to Raleigh and begin the expelling business at once. If you have not the courage to undertake this job then I suggest that you have the decency to keep your mouth shut."

Both men are full of what, for want of a better term, is called southern chivalry, and people who know them regard the letter as nothing more nor less than a challenge to mortal combat, which is pretty sure to be accepted.

Mr. Bryan should hurry to North Carolina and make peace, or at least forward that celebrated plaster bust of himself, so that the faithful might bow before it and be as brothers. If the populists in South Dakota, Kansas and Nebraska find out that members of their party are being mobbed by democrats in North Carolina they may be inclined to let some of the fuses fizzle.

Mr. Bryan cannot afford to permit this to happen. He must not stand around with his hand on a sheaf of oats, getting photographed, while populists are shooting democrats or gangs of democratic hoodlums are forcing populists to run for the woods.

If North Carolina were a doubtful state the tar-heel populist would not need to hide when he saw a democratic procession coming down the street.—Chicago Times-Herald.