

The Conservative.

PAINFUL DISCRIMINATION. Congressman Payne, as reported on page 239, near the top of the second column, in the Congressional Record for December 11, 1900, is capable of making the nicest economical and moral discriminations between express companies and railroad companies of any of the erudite statesmen, discussing the one-cent tax on receipts for express packages and for railroad freight. Mr. Payne says:

"The railroad corporations have paid these taxes up to this time without imposing it upon their customers. It comes from the railroad company; while express companies claim that if they had to pay one cent for every package they carry, the compensation being comparatively small, it would drive some of them into bankruptcy and prevent others from paying the usual dividend which they pay on the stock of the company. In other words, it would be very detrimental to business; and so they were forced to charge it to their customers. So the committee took it off their express receipts and left it on the railroad receipts."

From the foregoing, Mr. Payne will be first and foremost to advocate taking the tax off railroad receipts as soon as the railroads recharge the same to their patrons. Mr. Payne seems to forget that the average express company is a vampire which feeds upon the railroads and upon the public. There is no reason why there should be any express companies outside of the several lines of railroads in the United States, and Mr. Payne evidently forgets that he is pampering a middle agency when he favors express companies, the life of which depends upon the amount they can squeeze out of consumers on one hand and common carriers on the other.

COST OF THE MILITARY. Secretary Gage estimates the civil expenditures for

the current fiscal year at 115 millions of dollars. But for the same time the military establishment of the United States will cost 140 millions of dollars. During the same period the navy will cost 60 millions, and pensions will amount to 142 millions.

These figures indicate that war is more expensive than peace and that we are paying out much more money for the purpose of being able to kill people than we are to maintain a large industrial population under an honest administration of civil government.

No one disputes the necessity of a larger standing army for the United States than was necessary a quarter of a century ago. The federal army has been used to put down riots where the state authorities failed to subdue them. This was notably true in Chicago in 1894. Each house of the congress of the United States, and the supreme court, with unanimity upheld the course of Grover Cleveland in this particular instance. The judicious use of the

military arm of the federal government in all states and territories may become necessary under circumstances similar to those engendered at Chicago in 1894 at any time. Therefore the standing army should be large enough to afford protection to law-abiding citizens in all the populational centers of the republic, whenever their property and lives may be threatened by riots, mobs and anarchy. Those citizens who intend to abide by and observe the law desire it to be maintained at all hazards. When the constabulary of the state and state militia fail, they wish the federal military to interfere and prevail. No one need be afraid of the soldiers of the United States, who intends to keep the law and to give obedience to the government and its authorized agents as good citizenship requires.

WHAT? "J. Sterling Morton suggests Governor Furnas as a suitable man for a senatorial toga, forasmuch as he has delved in and developed Nebraska for half a century. The point is well stated but the governor hasn't been attending political conventions, besides which his bank account is lean."

The above is from that most orthodox organ of republican principles, policies and practices, the well-edited Fremont Tribune. What can it mean?

Is it possible that service to the party outweighs service to the state? Is it possible in the estimation of Editor Hammond—a McKinley appointee—that a "lean bank account" is an impediment to political promotion in the organization to which he and the president and other great and good citizens belong? THE CONSERVATIVE is amazed and dazed by the Tribune, when, by implication, it declares that among republicans senatorships are delivered to the highest bidder.

TAX REDUCTION. Extravagance results from plenty. Governmental poverty is a positive good—an empty treasury a national safeguard. A surplus inspires benevolent congressmen to give away the people's money to favored interests in the form of bounties and subsidies. Were it not for the surplus of revenues, because of excessive taxation, United States senators would not now propose giving away \$9,000,000 a year and obligating the government to pay over one billion during the next thirty years to prosperous and well-to-do shipowners, nor would congress agitate the expenditure of over \$200,000,000 to construct an isthmian canal. To remove from spendthrift congressmen, an apparently irresistible temptation, the income of the government should be materially reduced. When the government has only enough money to meet legitimate expenses obliging statesmen have nothing to give away.

A SLIGHT. The Jacksonian Club of Omaha has slighted Towne of Minnesota and DuBois of Idaho by omitting their names from the list of distinguished statesmen who are to tell of "the future policy of the democratic party." But J. C. S. Blackburn and Governor Beckham of Kentucky will attend to represent Goebelized democracy in the blue grass regions and J. Ham Lewis, of the starch-killing speakers at Nebraska City Sept. 26, 1900, together with Mr. Oldham, will furnish the game words, in a six course feast of flabbergast, fustian, fusion and delusion. But DuBois and Towne should not have been omitted from among the guests of honor.

MAINE FORESTS. Telegrams tell the country that for Christmas trees this year Maine has already shipped out four hundred carloads of young evergreens.

Each car conveys two hundred bundles and each bundle contains six specimens of beautiful trees which fifty years hence would become useful lumber for human homes and their embellishments.

Four hundred times two hundred bundles of six trees each—in half a century—would make lumber enough to build hundreds of commodious cottages. The four hundred carloads of Christmas trees from Maine, aggregate four hundred and eighty thousand individual trees.

This sort of extravagant idolatry of a custom which does little good and much harm ought to be abolished—wiped out.

INCONSOLABLE. Colonel Bowlby remains the boss sober at the grave of hybrid partyism and in anguish cries aloud, over the venality exhibited by the poor, plain people who sold their votes November 6, 1900, to republicans. In the latest issue of his melancholy review of the expiring agonies of sixteen-to-oneism the Colonel thus wails:

"To such a deplorable condition has the Hanna party brought our elections, by distributing money among the poor, to secure their votes, the popular suffrage is fast becoming a farce."

Now the boast of Bryanarchy is that "the poor we have always with us." Therefore, THE CONSERVATIVE is astounded by the insistence with which Colonel Bowlby, and other economists and publicists of the populist persuasion, declare the rottenness of the politics and the exchangeability of the ballots of the great mass of Bryanarchists. Is all the patriotism of populists of the cash-on-delivery style? Did thirteen thousand, five hundred or any other number of voters in Nebraska desert the magnetic and peerless for coin in hand?

Is mouth eloquence superseded by "money talks" and the emotional nature over-powered by pockets in Nebraska?