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"IMPERIALISM" IN PORTO RICO.

The June number of the Pacific Monthly has an article by O. F. Paxton, of Portland, entitled "New Elements in the National Political Situation," that deals specifically with the Porto Rican tariff law, and deserves special attention at this time when Bryanism, in its national platform, denounces the law as one that "dooms to poverty and distress a people whose helplessness appeals with peculiar force to our justice and magnanimity." How far this denunciation is justified may be inferred from Mr. Paxton's article, which says in part:

The case of Porto Rico well illustrates the peculiar conditions and the difficulties which surround the establishment of governments in the islands. Porto Rico has a population of about one million people, of whom three-fourths or more are unable to read or write and own no property. They are without experience in self-government and unacquainted with the spirit of our institutions. The cost of governing the islands under Spanish rule exceeded \$6,000,000 per annum, and nothing was done for schools, roads, or public improvements. It is estimated that the government of the islands will cost, under American sovereignty, \$3,000,000 annually, and an additional \$1,000,000 per annum should be provided to establish schools and construct highways and necessary public works.

The raising of these funds is a problem of much difficulty. The total value of the property of the islands is about \$150,000,000. Two-thirds of this actual value, or \$100,000,000, is a fair valuation for the purpose of taxation. To raise the \$4,000,000 per annum necessary for the proper government of the islands by direct taxation upon their property would necessitate a tax of four per cent per annum, a rate which no community could bear, and which Porto Ricans are unable to pay. In all territories previously acquired by the United States funds for their local government were raised by direct taxes upon the property of the territories, and, in addition, those territories paid all of the internal revenue taxes and tariff duties paid in other parts of the United States. In Porto Rico this is out of the question. Some other methods had to be devised.

Congress has lately passed an act for the government of Porto Rico. It has been the subject of much discussion, and I think that neither the difficulties surrounding the case nor the provisions of the act have been well understood. It was first proposed that full tariff rates should be collected on all imports into Porto Rico from countries other than the United States, and that full internal revenue taxes should be collected within the islands, but that all these tariff duties and internal revenue taxes so collected should be paid into the local treasury of Porto Rico to be employed in defraying the expenses of the government of the island, so as to relieve the people of the island from direct taxation upon their property. It was found, however, that not exceeding \$2,000,000 per annum could be raised in this way, and that it is but half enough. To provide the additional necessary funds congress has enacted that tariff duties, but only 15 per centum of the regular rates, shall be levied upon the commerce between the United States and Porto Rico, but that all of these tariff duties, both those collected in Porto Rico and those collected in the United States, shall go to the benefit of the Porto Rican government.

The act is a temporary one and continues in force for less than two years; namely, March 1, 1902, and it provides, further, that the tariff duties upon commerce between Porto Rico and the United States shall

cease before that time if the revenues from other sources become sufficient to support the insular government.

Some provision had to be made for funds to carry on the government of Porto Rico. The people of the island could not contribute it by direct taxation upon their property. It would seem unjust to the people of the United States not only to relieve the inhabitants of Porto Rico from all taxes upon their property, but to relieve them as well from all tariff duties and internal revenue taxes, and, in addition, pay the expenses of the insular government and of establishing and maintaining its schools and constructing its public works out of the treasury of the United States. Requiring the Porto Ricans to pay a small percentage of the ordinary tariff duties upon imports into their island as a contribution towards the expenses of maintaining their government, while exempting them entirely from direct taxes upon their property, and turning over to their insular treasury all the internal revenue taxes collected within the island, would seem to be a very liberal and generous arrangement, and quite beneficial to the people of Porto Rico. Under this arrangement they bear but a small portion of the expenses of their local government.

Such were the conditions surrounding the establishment of government in Porto Rico, and such is the method adopted by congress for the present, of providing for the expenses of that government.

THE CHRONICLE is again and again urged to press upon the city authorities the advisability, not to say necessity, of a new bell tower thirty feet higher than the present one. Citizens living away from the immediate vicinity of the tower, who half the time cannot hear an alarm, or hear it only faintly and indistinctly, demand it. Many of the fire boys who cannot hear the bell and have to pay a 50-cent fine every time they fail to respond to an alarm they cannot hear, demand it; and, besides all this, it would afford a convenient and necessary means of draining the hose after use and thus preserving it from the ruinous effects of the winter frosts. The present tower is a wretched make-shift. Let us have a new one. The city can well afford it and nothing ought to be too good, nothing is too good for the fire boys and their otherwise efficient department.

Bryan would give absolute independence to the Philippines. This, of course, means that the flag shall be furled and the army recalled. Will he explain how this can be done? Is there any constitutional provision for alienating American territory? If there is one constitutional argument against acquiring territory there are a dozen against abandoning territory. The rebellion settled that question once for all. As well talk about abandoning Texas, Alaska, Kentucky or Ohio. Methods of administration are legitimate questions for party differences, but to deny a fact solemnized by treaty and ratified by congress is to betray unpardonable ignorance of the powers and functions of government.

It will be remembered that Senator Tillman, he of the pitchfork, helped to write the Kansas City platform which expresses such tender regard for the rights, liberties and independence of the brown man. But on the floor of the senate of the United States this same senator, while speaking of the black men, said with pride: "We stuffed ballot boxes, we shot them; we are not ashamed of it." The senator must be an expert on the relation existing between shades of color and the degree of liberty that democracy should portion out to each.

"They seem to experience as much difficulty in getting Mr. Towne off the populist ticket as they did in getting the Keeley motor to go," suggests the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

The Ellensburg Capital declares "if Bryan had been elected and had had his way we would now have our old army of about 26,000 men to tackle the China difficulty with."

THE NORTH CAROLINA PLAN.

By a majority of about 50,000, North Carolina has voted to disfranchise the illiterate negro vote, while not interfering with the ballot of the illiterate white voter. This is to be accomplished by a cunning contrivance. An educational test is established by the constitutional amendment which carried at Thursday's election, but it is expressly provided that this test shall not apply against any person "who was, on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any state in the United States wherein he then resided, nor any lineal descendant of such person." The date named is that on which the 15th amendment took effect. Only white men had the right to vote prior to January 1, 1867.

The men who contrived this cunning scheme realized that it would never do to try to disfranchise the entire illiterate vote of the state, since that would have driven the illiterate whites into alliance with the illiterate blacks, and the amendment would have been defeated at the polls. Few states have a higher percentage of illiteracy than North Carolina. Out of a population of 959,951 persons over ten years of age, 463,975, or nearly one-half, are unable to read or write, and of the latter number, 192,032 are whites. So this scheme was devised to protect the illiterate white voter. It remains to be seen what view the supreme court of the United States will take of this attempt to establish an hereditary electorate—all in the name of Thomas Jefferson, and under the principles of the declaration of independence.

The Vancouver Independent states that "an army officer writes from the Philippines that 'when we kill the natives we find copies of Bryan's speeches on them and also circulars from their juntas, in which Bryan is termed the greatest living American and a friend of Aguinaldo.' Testimony of this kind from the army is so extensive that no one ventures now to dispute it."

The democratic press is telling the people that the McKinley prosperity is only skin deep. Perhaps they are right, but there is no question about the Cleveland adversity having reached to the joints and marrow of the body politic. Skin deep republican prosperity is a thousand-fold better than bone deep democratic hard times.

Speaking about money again: If the per capita circulation in the United States was only \$15.85 in 1873, the year silver was "betrayed, assassinated, struck down," etc., how does it happen to be \$26.77 in this year 1900 if the gold standard is such an awful thing? asks the Spokane Chronicle.

Speaking of prosperity, here is a first-class item: The total exports of American manufactures in the last fiscal year were \$432,284,366, against \$339,675,558 in 1899, an increase in a single year of \$92,608,808. In no previous year has the increase amounted to \$50,000,000.

In the list of names in the vacation contest of the Telegram may be found the euphonious names of Agnes Damm and Florence Hell. It is considered bad taste for these fair damsels to ask for a vacation during the hot spell.

Under the heading, "Touches of High Life," the Fossil Journal publishes the following "society" item: "If Corbett seduced Peterson's beautiful young wife, as Peterson says he did, he is not too old for the senate."

Those who vote for Bryan vote to abandon a condition more prosperous than ever before enjoyed by any nation, for the purpose of trying a financial experiment condemned by all nations.

At the next fusion in Nebraska the democrats will doubtless be called upon to apologize for presuming to exist.

Clark & Falk are never closed Sunday. Don't forget this.

HATRED OF FOREIGNERS

The Seat of All The Trouble in China—Doubted Whether the Advance of the Allied Forces From Tien Tsin Had Begun.

BERLIN, Aug. 6.—The German foreign office announces tonight that it had no China news, and that it doubted whether the advance of the allied forces from Tien Tsin had begun.

The Lokal Anzeiger publishes an interview which Dr. Zaker, its special China correspondent, had with Li Hung Chang at Canton on July 5. Earl Li told the correspondent that the Boxer would not rebel and were loyal to the royal house. This movement, he explained, was directed chiefly against native Christians who had been using international protection to oppress the Boxers. With reference to the missionaries, he said: "It is my firm conviction that the missionaries are always in danger, for the relations between the Chinese population and foreigners have been the cause of nearly all the troubles and will always continue to be."

Earl Li went on to say that Chinese hatred of foreigners had been increased of late through the action of the powers, particularly in the seizure of Kiao Choo, which he described as "an exorbitant penalty for a couple of missionaries."

Referring to the murder of Baron von Kettler, German minister at Peking, he gave positive assurance that neither Prince Tuan nor any other member of the government knew of the intended killing, and he also declared that Baron von Kettler was not murdered because a German, but because a foreigner; in a word, he was a victim of the Chinese hatred of foreigners. "The Chinese government is not strong enough to put down the Boxers," said Earl Li, "but the thought of accepting assistance from the powers to put them down is extremely repugnant to the government."

In reply to a question as to who was at the head of the central government, he said it was administered by Prince Tuan in the name of the Emperor.

Justifiable Homicide.

WALLA WALLA, Aug. 6.—The coroner's jury selected to hold an inquest over the remains of Will D. Buchanan, who was shot Friday night by James Simmons, after hearing the evidence of the officers and neighbors, as well as Mrs. Simmons, who was in the bedroom with Mr. Buchanan when the latter was shot, returned a verdict that it was a case of justifiable homicide.

Saturday afternoon word was received that Simmons was at Wallula. After shooting Buchanan he had boarded a train and gone to that place between two cars. It is expected that he will return to this city, and no attempt will be made to prosecute him. Mr. and Mrs. Simmons have been married about ten years and have four children. Mrs. Simmons testified that they never had any domestic trouble, and that he had always provided liberally for his family.

Miraculous Escape.

GRANT, Aug. 6.—Mrs. P. D. Healy, of Sumpter, had a miraculous escape from death at the Magnolia mine a few days ago. While going through the mine in company with her husband, Al Jones and wife, P. A. Conde and others, she fell backwards from a ladder in an upraise she was ascending, to the bottom of the tunnel below, a distance of about 30 feet. Her head narrowly missed striking a heavy cross beam. As her husband was on the ladder, about ten feet below her, and several others were at the bottom of the upraise, Mrs. Healy's fall was broken in such a manner that she escaped with but a few slight bruises.

More Troops for China.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 6.—Preparations were completed at the Mare Island navy yard today for sending another large detachment of troops to China from this port, and the advance of those here will sail in about two weeks, if transportation facilities are such that they can be moved. The transports at the yard will be repaired in a few days, and the troops will be started at the earliest possible moment. Of the vessels just chartered to take the soldiers to China two are of American register, four of British and one Norwegian. Eight other American vessels have been called for by the government for transports.

A Night of Terror.

"Awful anxiety was felt for the widow of the brave General Burnham of Machias, Me., when the doctors said she could not live till morning," writes Mrs. S. H. Lincoln, who attended her that fearful night. "All thought she must soon die from pneumonia, but she begged for Dr. King's New Discovery, saying it had more than once saved her life and had cured her of Consumption. A or three small doses she slept easily all night, and its further use completely cured her." This marvelous medicine is guaranteed to cure all Throat, Chest and Lung Diseases. Only 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Blakeley's drug store.

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