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SATURDAY - - - JUNE 24, 1899

FOOLISH TALK.

Senator Bate, of Tennessee, unburdened himself of some very profound thoughts in Fresno, on Wednesday, saying, among other things, that he opposed Hawaiian annexation "because it was in violation of the principles of the Monroe doctrine and because it represents a violation of the spirit and genius of our government; moreover, because we want no such representatives as the races of Hawaii and the Philippine islands would send us. I am equally opposed to the colonial system, because this system would cause us to follow in the footsteps of monarchies. It would lead us in the path that led republican Rome to destruction. Colonization means centralization; centralization means imperialism and a large standing army. This last is one of the evil consequences to be dreaded from the present war in the Philippines."

These observations were made, no doubt, with sincerity, but they will strike not a few people as having a good deal of rubbish in them, says the Spokesman Review. It is all very well to talk about the spirit and genius of our government, but it is doubtful if that spirit or genius is being violated any more by the present-day spread of Anglo-Saxon energy and culture than it was when the Pilgrims began civilizing Indians in Massachusetts with blunderbusses, when the people of the London company began chasing savages into the swamps of Virginia, or when the settlers along the Atlantic coast began to swarm over the Allegheny mountains to appropriate lands which had formerly been redskin hunting grounds.

The senator's talk about centralization and imperialism and monarchies also partakes of some of the characteristics of twaddle. This bugaboo is something which clear-headed people don't take very seriously, and when a public man touches upon it, it is usually a mere play of words utilized for the purpose of scaring timid persons. Centralization means imperialism, says the senator, which is, of course, an insinuation that we are going to give up the republic and resort to some sort of autocratic government like that of the czar of Russia.

This is all balderdash. The American people are not going to be frightened by the cry of imperialism, because there is nothing in it. There will be no more danger of centralization or of a change of government with Puerto Rico and the Philippines in our possession than there was when we purchased Alaska and began to run it as an outlying colony. All this talk about imperialism and Cæsars and standing armies is largely claptrap.

The plea of Captain Gadsby for a reception to the soldiers of the Second Oregon on a basis of gen-

erosity that will wipe out distinctions between officers and men in general appreciation for what all have done and suffered is that of a soldier who "was there" and knows whereof he speaks. And he is right. Nothing is too good for the Oregon boys—rank and file—who have uncomplainingly borne the brunt of battle in the Philippines.—Oregonian.

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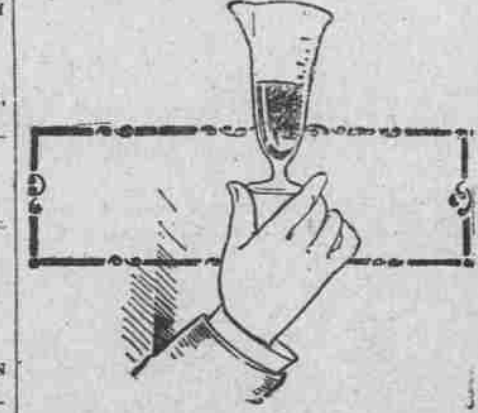
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