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SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1900.

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The press reports recently gave the news that "Russia is buying wheat at panic prices." Where the "panic prices" come in does not seem clear. There have been no "panic prices" for wheat in these diggings for some time, not since Joe Leiter made a fool of himself in trying to corner and control the world's wheat market. If Russia is paying big prices for wheat it is odd that it does not have effect on Pacific coast markets.

In the city election at Tacoma Frank Cole, a democrat, received a majority over his republican opponent of 372, for treasurer. Mr. Cole is a newspaper man, stalwartly honest, frank, open-hearted and popular. It does appear that the people have the ability at times to choose those who will best serve their interests. If there were more Frank Coles in office popular government would be less burdensome and more fruitful of result. It is a self-evident truth that bad government costs more than good government.

The Portland Oregonian reported that Bryan spoke to an audience of 10,000 people in Portland, and the Telegram said as much, but the Associated Press sent out reports that he spoke only to 8000. Surely the Oregonian and the Telegram would not underestimate a Bryan crowd, so the Associated Press is the guilty party in this instance. Democratic reports placed the number that flocked to hear Bryan in Portland at 20,000, at least 12,000 gaining admission to the building in which the speech was delivered.

The recent discussion of the Puerto Rico question in the United States senate brought out plainly that a broader and larger matter was involved than a tariff. Under the surface there could be seen that the policy to be adopted by the United States in dealing with its new territorial possessions was involved. These two questions seem to be up for consideration: Shall the United States have a colonial system—colonies ultimately self-governing, but for the time being under the authority of congress—these colonies to be separate political units, each with its own economic system devised for its good, and none of them to be integral parts of the United States under the constitution, and therefore embryo states of the union? or, shall the constitution be considered already over these new possessions or be extended over them by act of congress, thus bringing them within the United States and within the economic system of the United States? The first question covers the attitude of the republicans and the second question is being supported by the democracy. The people will have to decide at the polls, which shall it be?

The people of the United States are told that John McLean, W. C. Whitney, Daniel Lamont, Richard Olney and Senator A. P. Gorman are behind Admiral Dewey in his desire to be a candidate for the presidency. Who are these men? John R. McLean is the brother of Mrs. Dewey, a very rich man and the proprietor of the Cincinnati Enquirer; W. C. Whitney was secretary of the navy under Mr. Cleveland, a very rich man and identified with large capitalized interests in New York. He is also a close friend of the Standard Oil crowd, the biggest trust in the country. Daniel Lamont was private secretary to President Cleveland and afterwards became secretary of war during Cleveland's second term. He is now vice-president of the Northern Pacific railroad and a power in the management of that great property. Richard Olney was secretary of state under Mr. Cleveland, and now an influential corporation lawyer, representing vast capitalized interests. Sena-

tor Gorman is a political boss, a professional politician, a rich man, and one who serves rich men. If these gentlemen can make the democratic candidate they will control the party and it will become as much like the republican party, in method and aim, in its service to the mass of the people, as our own is like another. These gentlemen are not in sympathy with democratic principles, only in theory, and for this reason they are not entitled to the confidence of the rank and file of the democracy.

THE ISSUES OF 1900.
 Political issues are made by the inexorable logic of events. They are registered and formulated—not made—by political conventions. The individual, whether politician or citizen only, has the most infinitesimal share in making any issue. Not all the politicians in both parties acting in unison could have made the tariff an issue in 1890, though the foremost exponent of the protective idea was the presidential candidate on the republican ticket. In the same way and for like reasons not all the politicians in either of both parties can prevent this year issues not thought of when the inspiring democratic platform of 1896 was drawn from taking first place in the political discussions of the campaign.

A few weeks ago it would have required the gift of a second sight to discover that out of the seemingly simple matter of the fiscal government of Puerto Rico would spring an issue that would, for a time at any rate, split the republican party in twain and cause more discussion, more discussion within the party ranks than has been witnessed since the days when the president strove to prevent the war with Spain or the liberation of Cuba. In a sense the Puerto Rico tariff will be a leading issue of the campaign. Its importance, however, not so much from the immediate issue involved in congress—that of raising revenue from and for the Puerto Ricans—but rather from the fact that it is one incident, and a glaring one, in what the democrats believe to be the steady progress of this administration away from republican principles toward the establishment of empire. It is one chapter in the fast growing history of imperialism in America, and that issue—the issue of anti-imperialism—will loom large in the campaign, if not the most prominent one. It is peculiarly fitting that a democratic convention, held on the anniversary of the adoption of the declaration of independence, should stand as the opponent of a plan to tax a dependency without granting it representation in the taxing body—and that is the plan which a republican congress proposes and which the president, after some vacillation, expressed his willingness to accept.

But the whole program of imperialism is an antagonism to those ideas which were enunciated in the immortal declaration, and which are at the foundation of our national existence. So obvious is this that the more logical, though less subtle, defenders of imperialism have been compelled to use the word "imperialism" in the declaration of independence and the declaration of the sending bill, in impractical phrases and the other to have been outgrown. The democratic party will stand as the defender of the constitution, the faithful champion of every word and phrase in the Jeffersonian declaration of independence to that which power under whose wing today it seems the United States is expected to nestle for protection.

Not is this issue of anti-imperialism a constitutional one alone. It is broadly human, eminently a moral issue. The anti-imperialist sympathizes with the Boers in their struggle for national independence against a robber monarchy, but he finds an imperialist administration turning a cold shoulder to the South African republics and coddling Great Britain. The anti-imperialist does not believe that the way to make the United States respected and popular in the east is to shed down remorselessly men who are struggling for the liberties which they were led to believe we had come thither to help them secure. He thinks there is a better future for the Boers of our young manhood than to be used as food or powder or sacrificed to the deadly climate of a distant archipelago. He holds that imperialism and militarism go hand in hand, and believes that the fathers of the republic that a great standing army is a menace to the liberties of the people. He knows that a policy of despotism pursued toward a neighboring people will in due time be employed by our governing classes for the subjugation of our own people.

For these reasons anti-imperialism will be an issue in the coming presidential campaign that will not down. Among all it will doubtless lead.

A few weeks ago the architect of all the trusts which prey on the consuming public of the United States, and which limit the opportunities for labor while practically obliterating all opportunity for self-employing enterprise, declared a quarterly dividend of \$20,000,000. More than one-fourth of this enormous sum—more than the United States government ever disbursed in one quarterly payment—went to one man. A rough but easy calculation of the profits made by that one man by the increase in the value of his holdings in this trust alone during the last six years—exclusive of the dividends enjoyed during that time—shows it to have exceeded \$50,000,000. Would not these facts alone, if we went no further than the evidence of the concentration of

wealth they afford, justify making trusts a great issue of this campaign? But we do go farther. We show that not merely the results but the methods of trust operations are positively hurtful, often criminal. Their competition is that of extortion. They are founded almost without exception upon some special privilege granted by law or the connivance of its officers. And so when we go to the lawmaking body with any proposition in the interests of the people we find ourselves confronted by the agents of the trusts, who occupy the time of congress and the legislature with their own selfish affairs and in almost every case antagonize the measure which has a public interest only. It was the agents of the trusts that plucked the republican party into the present difficulties over Puerto Rico. It was the trusts that pushed the shipping subsidy bill, and no one was surprised when upon investigation the monster trust of all was found to be the chief beneficiary under that measure. When great disbursements were to be made by the government to the trusts, the trusts were selected for the profitable employment. When a profitable real estate deal was to be made with the government representatives in New York it was this trust again that was the beneficiary. All this may be more completely stated in the singular and comprehensive getting monotonous, and when the enormous increase in the price of every manufactured article used in building a home, furnishing it, or sustaining life within it, is noted and identified with the singular and oppressive activities of the trust agent at the seat of government, the necessity for handling the trusts by the most drastic political methods, if the republic is to survive, becomes evident.

The third vital issue of this campaign will be the money issue. The republican party after shrieking for years about the dangers of an imaginary "60-cent dollar" made of silver, has benevolently given the national banks a dollar which costs nothing. In order to accomplish this the party has abandoned the time-honored principle which has animated all the ministrations of the United States—namely, that the national debt is a menace to national prosperity, which should be done away with as rapidly as revenues will permit. We have come now to the point where a national debt is national blessing and in order that the banks may at all times control absolutely the paper money of our nation the McKinley administration has arranged to extend bonds, which are about to mature, for thirty years. They will plead that in so extending them they have reduced the interest, but when the short time the outstanding bonds have to run and the high premiums they bear are taken into consideration the refunding operation is seen to be a positive loss, besides creating the precedent of a policy of debt perpetuation. This issue offered by the republicans, this clearly expressed purpose to destroy the greenbacks and to substitute for them money controlled by the national banks, and issued to the banks by the government practically without charge, is an issue which the democratic party may well accept.

Changing conditions, due in part to the greatly increased discoveries of gold, and in part to the fact that the present personnel of the senate offers no prospect for immediate action, may result in a less vigorous presentation of free silver issue in this campaign, yet none the less the democratic party will reaffirm and stand by its historic doctrine of bimetallicism and will attack republican currency legislation, both for the special and unusual privileges it grants to the national banks and for

Row Will She End?

Just budding into womanhood, so fresh, so fair and fine that we turn to watch her as she passes, she trips along the street a picture of health and beauty. Among the passing crowd of worn and wrinkled women, she looks a being from another world. Will she ever be like them? Could they once have been as fair as she? No beauty can last under the strain and drain of female weakness, from which the majority of women suffer in a greater or less degree. They might preserve their fairness and firmness if they would cure the disastrous diseases which affect the womanly organs. Women are cured of such diseases by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It stops the enfeebling drains, heals inflammation and ulceration, cures bearing-down pains, strengthens the nervous system, and restores the general health. It contains no opium, cocaine or other narcotic.

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its effort to rivet the gold standard forever upon the nation.

An issue which I believe should and will find place in the democratic national platform is the demand for direct legislation, or the initiative and referendum. This reform is one in which all reform elements, which make up the large and fast growing forces of the democracy as today constituted, are united. It is an issue on which there can be little difference of opinion, purposing, as it does, to carry the theory of democracy to its logical conclusion, and to give the people every practical opportunity to legislate for themselves without the intervention of legislators who have too often proved treacherous.

And, finally, though not least, among the issues which should find a place in this campaign I would put the government ownership and operation of railroads and great telegraph lines. The politicians can seldom be persuaded to discuss this as an actual living, vital issue of the moment. They are inclined to declare it something right enough in theory, but for which the people are not yet ripe. In this they are wrong. The people are in advance of the politicians on this subject. The part played by railroads in building up the trusts—the corruption of which they are persistently guilty in the capitals of our state and nation—the effect of their discriminations on the fortunes of towns and even of great sections of the country, their alliance with monopoly in all its forms, the part they play in politics, and their efforts to control whole states—as in the case of the Louisville & Nashville road in Kentucky—have all been watched by the voters, who see clearly enough that the day is near when either the government must own the railroads or the railroads will own the government. The directors of the railroads may be reckoned upon as antagonistic to the democratic party in any event, for they are almost to a man of that class which was driven from the party by its declaration of independence in 1896.

The above article is from the pen of Willis J. Abbott, a widely known newspaper man of the east, who has edited democratic newspapers for years.

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