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TAXATION.

Justly and wisely to levy taxes is a problem only matched in difficulty, perhaps, by the problem of spending them honestly and effectively. Speculation upon revenue by political economists seems chiefly to have resulted in demonstration by each of errors made by others. The ideals set up by students of taxation, even the "guiding principles," some prefer to speak of, are picked to pieces and explained away by keen-eyed critics.

Such is the elasticity and adaptability of human society that no tax, of what ever kind or name, continues for any length of time to be what it appears to be. Clasp an additional tax of 11 a barrel on beer, and the farmer will get a medium less for his barley. Put a high import tax on the English tin plate, and the next thing you know a giant trust grows up at home, and levies arbitrary tribute upon every can of fish, fruit, and the rest of it.

So easily and surely is the burden shifted, that the effort to reach those who ought to pay and to pass over the needy has virtually been abandoned. What we do now is principally to exhaust expedients to get revenues any way we can. When we ought to do it, we levy the taxes as to interfere with trade and industry in the least degree possible. When a man is doing a rushing business he will pay high taxes cheerfully. When his efforts are restricted and hampered, the smallest tax is a grievous burden.

MUTUAL INSURANCE.

There is no business in the United States that is more perfect than insurance, and that is more extortionate than the fire insurance business. So perfectly are all the reliable companies united in their insurance association that there is absolutely no competition, for rate books are made up that no one can deviate from, and the insured has no option but to pay the premium demanded. And since insurance has become as much a necessity to business as meat and bread are to human life, the public has no choice except to accede to the demands, no matter how extortionate, hence insurance companies have a monopoly of a business that under their perfect organization can be made as profitable as any they desire.

LABELLING SHODDY.

One of the greatest frauds that has been perpetrated upon the people is that of offering for sale inferior articles both of food and wearing apparel that are recommended as genuine, though in reality are not what they pretend to be. For instance, oleomargarine is labelled butter and cloth that is half cotton or shoddy is sold as wool. Thus the purchaser is misled, and the producer of pure articles is forced into competition with the inferior. So flagrant has this abuse become that it has caused producers of pure articles to begin taking steps to protect themselves. The wool growers, who held their convention in Pendleton, recognizing that their business is seriously interfered with and is put at a disadvantage by coming in contact with shoddy and adopted the following resolution:

CUBA'S MISTAKE.

The Cuban assembly has certainly taken an unwise step in attempting to show discredit upon General Gomez and in dismissing him from the army. The charge is that Gomez is a "traitor to Cuba," a most absurd and ridiculous accusation. After having spent the latter part of his life in fighting for Cuban independence, to be thus accused is a travesty upon patriotism. Might as well charge the president of being traitorous of America or Joan of Arc of being a traitor to France.

THE DEMOCRATIC POLICY.

The democratic congressional caucus recently held in Washington concurred and endorsed the following principles in connection with the Philippine question, for guidance of the party.

A WAR OF EXTIRPATION.

Last year the American republic engaged in what was then declared a "war for humanity" against Spain, to prevent that nation from further torture of her colonists in Cuba. It met with general approval not only at home but abroad, for it was conceded that a more just war never was waged. But that war which was so popular with all liberty loving people, has changed into one of conquest and extermination. An exchange that is imbued with a considerable amount of imperialism, and is presumably conversant with the plans of the administration, concludes a comment on the progress of the war as follows:

"This will quickly break up Aguinaldo's army, capture his main positions, and then the war will degenerate into the hunting down of dispersed Filipinos, just as we hunted down Apaches 25 years ago."

"What have the Filipinos done that they should be hunted like wild beasts? That a price should be put upon their head? And what is there to justify war we are waging against them? What excuse can we make to the world for whipping them into subjection? If we would look back over the events of the past year we could hardly acknowledge that we today are not practicing as much tyranny towards those people as were the Spaniards we ousted."

When we took up the cause of Cuba we found the Filipinos engaged in a war with the other country in which national independence was the goal they sought. Circumstances made it necessary for the American squadron to enter Manila bay and exterminate the Spanish fleet; there, also, to take temporary control. Later the peace was declared and we agreed with Spain that for a consideration of \$20,000,000 she should transfer her title which was one too good) of the Philippine islands to the United States, and with it the bondage in which she held the Filipinos.

We found the Filipinos in rebellion against Spain; we bought Spain's war against these people without asking their consent, and have undertaken to set up a dictatorship over them, not even consulting them in the form of government we proposed to give them, or what rights and privileges they might expect. It is a blight upon the fair name of liberty loving America to propose to hunt these people down like fugitives from justice. And it is not to be wondered at that the Filipinos are so bitterly hostile against American domination under such circumstances. Nor is it to be wondered at that there are persons in the United States who protest against this war of extermination.

It is a sense of justice that has caused such men as ex-Governor Donnell, of Massachusetts; ex-Senator Edmunds, of Vermont; Senator Coffey, of Louisiana; David Starr Jordan, president of Stanford university; ex-Secretary Carlisle and a score of other prominent Americans to appeal to the people of the United States in the following preamble, in an attempt to induce the government to suspend hostilities in the Philippines and treat the people thereof as if they were human beings:

"First, that our government shall take immediate steps to suspend hostilities in the Philippines, broken pledges, growing and multiplying trusts, triumphant monopolies, hardship for the poor and benefactions for the rich, at their expense—if these and other things of ill-omen which represent the American Republic in the first two years of the reign of McKinley and those with whom he surrounded himself be not enough to nauseate the public and determine it to make a change at the next opportunity, we shall be warranted in doubting whether lessons learned in the school of experience are valuable as we have been taught to believe them to be."

SOME HEAVY FIGHTING.

General Wheaton Dislodges Two Thousand and Filipinos. MANILA, March 15.—General Wheaton, commanding the United States Army, has captured 2,000 Filipinos at Pasig this afternoon, inflicting heavy loss upon them. The Americans captured 350 Filipinos. Many bodies of rebels killed in the engagement are floating down the river. The American loss was slight.

About 350 Filipinos surrendered at the town of Taguig to the Washington volunteers, and 175 Filipinos were captured at Pasig by the Twentieth Infantry. Our troops found 100 dead Filipinos and 100 new graves near Pasig. The prisoners were unarmed, and therefore it is presumed they executed their threat of throwing their arms into the river.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Oils cables the following casualties: March 15.—Killed—Trenton, Kansas, Private James Kille; Twenty-second Infantry. Private George Stewart, Wm. P. Munson and Wesley J. Hennessey.

Wounded—Twenty-second Infantry, Private William Stephens, William Hernan, William O'Brien, John K. Bahille, Theodore A. Minner, Dan Carvel, John Hoffman, David Mulholland, Charles Simon, Thomas Miller, Frank Wash, R. F. Piper, Lester M. Folger, Charles Sharkey, Charles Davis, Corporal Chris. E. Thompson, Corporal Charles J. Daley, Twentieth Infantry—Privates William Sampson, Adolph Woepfer, Peter J. Phelan, Corporal J. E. Hoffman.

March 14.—Killed—First Washington, Company E, Private Van Buren. Wounded—Second Oregon—Company D, Private Alfred O. Cardon, chest (severe); Company F, W. D. B. Dodson, slightly; Company E, Charles J. Olson, foot (severe); Company E, Private Walter Ervin, foot (moderate).

Wants the Treaty Repealed. MADRID, March 14.—Correspondence says the cabinet has advised the queen to ratify the treaty of peace with the United States immediately without awaiting the reassembly of the cortes.

Washington, March 14.—Senator Queda today received a cablegram from Santiago which says: "The people of Santiago disapprove the assembly, sustain Gomez and are preparing a public manifestation."

Wood, wood, wood, leave your orders or phone to No. 5 for dry fir wood—Malar & Beston's, d. w.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

English commercial men are urging that Great Britain demand an open door in China, and since China is unable to resist, English goods will no doubt be admitted into that country free of duty.

Hawaii needs much more attention than it is receiving. A bill providing a form of government for the islands should have passed congress ere this. Everything there is left in uncertainty and the business of the islands must suffer.

The collapse of the Hanchanahp subsidy bill is due to Speaker Reed, and for it he should be commended. It would mainly hand over the huge subsidies to existing lines of steamships which already receive considerable sums for carrying the mails.

Dewey's opinion as to the Philippines is said to be that there should be a central government of the islands by the United States, but all local governments are to be absolutely in the hands of the natives.

That self-constituted assembly of Cuba must feel a little chagrin in having its order removing General Gomez from the command of the Cuban army ignored by General Brooke. But the treatment it received was merited.

The embargoed beef investigating committee, while holding a session at Chicago, Monday, found one witness who testified that the beef furnished the army was pure and wholesome. He was Edward "Tilden," treasurer and one of the directors of the Libby, McNeil & Libby Packing Co., one of the concerns that furnished some of the beef complained of.

And now there is a scheme on foot for the government to establish a source of meat supply in Alaska. After the distant failure of Algor to get reindeer into Dawson it would seem no more experiments would be made by the administration, and that the Alaska explorers would be left alone to work out their own salvation. If the government would just let the meat supply in the hands of Egan, there would never be any famine in Alaska, for one invoice of his embalmed and canned roast beef would last forever.

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Two improvised gunboats in the lake have captured considerable property. The insurance loss was heavy. Our own killed 150 wounded aggregate 35, mostly slightly wounded. The insurgents made no determined stand. OTIS. WREATHON ADVANCING. Six Columns Repulse, Some Distance Beyond Pasig. MANILA, March 14.—Brigadier-General Wheaton's column advanced today beyond Pasig to the shore of Laguna de Bay, sweeping everything before it. The enemy made a running fight, and suffered severe loss. The rebels' avenue of communication north and south is now closed, the Spanish cordons stretching over a mile from the river to the lake. The rebels are in force at Paterson and Taguig. Two of yesterday's wounded, Private Stewart, of the Twentieth Infantry, and Private Munson, of Twenty-second Infantry, are dead.

IMPROVEMENT IN GUNS.

It is reported that the new French rapid-fire gun invented by Colonel Humbert gives no flash or sign of fire. If this be true, the French have made an advance in artillery second only in importance to that which marked the introduction by them of smokeless powder. In the operations around Santiago, the only means by which our men could locate the positions of an enemy's piece was the flash. If this should be removed, the art of war, especially on land, will become more difficult than ever, for a masked battery and flashless guns will be positively undetectable. The only description of the gun that has come to hand is rather obscure; but it would seem that the new gun is a breech loader, the larger portion of the gases below their flash point before they are allowed to reach the open air. The rate of fire has reached a maximum of twenty shots per minute. To accommodate the increased expenditure of ammunition it is proposed to reduce a single battery from five to four guns and increase the number of annual ammunition wagons.

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