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THE currency bill reported to the house of representatives from the banking and currency committee at the first regular session of congress was on Tuesday recommitted, at the instant of the republican members of the committee. This undoubtedly means that the measure will not again be heard of at this session and that no further efforts for currency revision is to be made in the present congress. If such is the decision it is wisely taken, since it is not possible to accomplish anything and currency discussion in the house could have no good result. The McCleary bill—as the recommitted measure is called—is perhaps satisfactory to the currency reformers generally, but it has not received that measure of popular approval which its authors expected and besides existing conditions are not favorable to such legislation. There is nothing in the financial situation that calls for or would justify such radical changes in the currency system as this bill provides for. We are steadily accumulating gold, the legal tender notes are causing the treasury no trouble and are not likely to in the near future, and public sentiment is perhaps stronger than ever before in opposition to a policy which would give the national banks the monopoly of the paper currency of the country. The business interests of the nation as a whole very well satisfied with the currency system as it is, it having been most conclusively shown that the assumption that the system is an obstacle to prosperity is entirely fallacious. The country has had during the past year the greatest foreign and domestic commerce in its history; there has been an enormous augmentation of capital and a large increase in the circulation. This demonstrates that our currency system is not as bad as the reformers urge and that no such radical changes in it as they propose are necessary to business prosperity, as they have persistently contended.

THE bill now pending before the North Carolina legislature to disfranchise the negroes of that state is championed by Prof. Crosby and Rev. R. H. W. Leake, both of whom are colored. Prof. Crosby declares that there are not one-sixth of the 126,000 negro voters of the state capable of an intelligent exercise of the franchise, and that as they are a menace to a good government they need to be saved from themselves. Considering the fact that the census reports show more than half of the population of the state to be illiterate, the same argument would seem to apply with equal force to a large percentage of the whites.

EDWARD ATKINSON estimates that the administration of the Philippines will cost the United States \$178,000,000 per annum. Representative Swanson of Virginia, a member of the house ways and means committee, puts it at \$200,000,000, while no one who has studied the question has attempted to place it at a lower figure than \$165,000,000. Probably Mr. Atkinson's estimate is nearly the correct one, as he has given the subject the closest and most painstaking investigation, which, in a man of his knowledge of the fitness for the work, should secure a great degree of accuracy. To defray this expense what amount can we derive from the revenues of the islands?

GEN. MILES is not the only Commander-in-Chief of the army who have been called a liar by a subordinate. Ninety years ago General—then Captain—Winfield Scott was tried by court-martial for having said "at a public table" that "he never saw but two traitors, Gen.

Wilkinson and Burr—and that Gen. Wilkinson was a liar and a scoundrel." He was found guilty and was suspended for a year. The sentence was rather severe in view of the fact that Wilkinson was all Scott said he was.

THE mail service has caught the prevailing contagion and it is announced that the transfer wagons are to be painted red, white and blue. If the fact continues to grow the army mule will soon have to submit to treatment from the paint brush.

GOVERNOR ROOSEVELT, in refusing to restore the political franchise on one of John Y. McKane's henchmen, who has just finished his term at Sing Sing, did a very commendable thing. A man who is sent to the penitentiary for violating the election laws should never again be permitted to vote.

ON THE 1st of January this year there were 262 vessels building or under contract in American shipyard. Their value is no less than \$62,110,092. Of these nine are battle ships, three cruisers and forty-four other warships, some of them building for Russia; some for Japan and the rest for our own country. There are 293 merchant vessels in the list, aggregating 254,216 tons and to cost \$19,716,900. When we reflect upon the number of men to whom, directly or indirectly, this great ship-building enterprise gives employment—the men who dig ore, the men who smelt it, the men who make it into steel, the men who fashion it into plates, trusses and beams, the men who dig coal and the men who make it into coke—there is reason for national rejoicing in the figures that seem so cold in mere print.

WHEN Uncle Sam went into partnership with Emperor William and Queen Victoria to set up a kingdom in one of the South Sea islands, he lowered the standard of the great American republic, which prides itself in being a government by the people, for the people. Moral: When you go to bed with dogs you must expect to be awakened by flea bites. And that is what is plaguing us now in Samoa.

GENERAL LUDLOW has begun the moral sanitation at Havana. The outcasts who sleep in the parks are being picked up each night and where they are able to work they are put to sweeping the streets at 90 cents per day. Children and those physically disabled are cared for at an improvised hospital. This task is likely to prove more difficult than the work of physical sanitation, but it is equally, if not more, important, and General Ludlow deserves credit for the promptness with which he has grappled with the problem.

THE discovery of valuable deposits of wolframite, at Lead, S. D., adds a new source of great wealth to that state. This metal, which is a tungstate of iron and manganese, and is indispensable in the manufacture of certain grades of steel, is now almost wholly supplied to this country by Germany. It is readily worth \$200 per ton in even medium grade ore, and if the vein at Lead proves what is claimed for it there is probably no gold mine in the state that is nearly so valuable.

THE rejoicing of the volunteer soldiers at Havana on being informed that they would soon be mustered out is an indication of the feeling that prevails generally among the volunteers. To most of them camp life and garrison duty are exceedingly irksome and they feel that hostilities with Spain having ended they should be allowed to return home. There has been no serious complaint from any of them, but there is no doubt that many think the government is not acting in strict observance of the terms of the act under which they enlisted. It is provided in this act that officers and men enlisting under it shall be discharged when the purposes for which they were called into service shall have been accomplished, or on the conclusion of hostilities. Technically the war is not ended, the ratification of the treaty of peace being necessary to an absolute conclusion of hostilities, so that on this ground the government may plausibly claim that the volunteer army law is not being disregarded. It may also be urged that one of the purposes for which the volun-

teers were called into service was the pacification of Cuba, which has not been accomplished. But it is obvious that when the treaty shall have been ratified it will not be easy to justify holding any of the volunteers in the service. Meanwhile it is probable that congress will pass a bill for increasing the regular army, which will allow the discharge of volunteers at least as rapidly as their places can be taken by regulars.

WITH the prospect before them of securing pay for their services in the army there is no immediate danger of the Cuban soldiers taking to the hills. They can be counted on to stay pretty close to the commissary and paymaster's tents as long as there is an opportunity to secure anything.

THE legislature of British Columbia has just enacted a law which provides for excluding Americans from acquiring mining claims in that province. Protests against this legislation have been made by the legislature of the state of Washington and the Chamber of Commerce of Seattle, while President McKinley and the joint high commission have been appealed to use their influence to secure a modification of the law. The reason for this distinctly unfriendly legislation is given in the statement of the Victoria Times that "Canada is now quite able to do her own developing with the assistance of British capital" and that the measure is to protect British workmen and British capitalists. The fact appears to be that the rush of Americans to the Atlin gold fields had become so great as to threaten the acquisition of all claims of any value there by citizens of the United States. This alarmed the Canadians, who as a matter of self-defense enacted the alien exclusion law shutting Americans out from acquiring mining claims in British Columbia.

THE extraordinary opinion rendered by the attorney general of Kansas and accepted as legal gospel by the governor of that state pronouncing all the acts of the recent special session of the legislature null and void emphasizes the demand for the fool killer down in the Sunflower state. In Kansas, as in Nebraska, the republican party has for years suffered from stupid and shortsighted leadership which refuses to profit by the lessons of experience and turns a deaf ear to popular demands for political reform or redress of grievances. When the attorney general of Kansas with one sweep of the pen seeks to wipe from the statute books all the laws enacted by the late populist legislature on the ground that railroad regulation legislation does not constitute such an emergency as is contemplated by the constitution in special session, he assumes authority which no supreme court, state or national has ever dared to exercise.

THE prevalent idea that Qu Sen Victoria's name, were her present royal designation abrogated, would be plain "Mrs. Guelph," is an entire mistake. The queen's legal name were she by some mysterious process to become a simple commoner would be "Mrs. Wettin," by virtue of her marriage with Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, whose name, stripped of territorial and other garnishings, was plain "Albert Wettin."

If the Democrats considered the treaty from the point of party expediency they would not go out of their way to oppose the Administration policy. They would simply file a protest, and chuckle as the treaty went through. For thought that this time there are some aspects of the imperial policy that dazzle the eyes of the unthinking, yet when the ultimate effect is seen—when the enormous expenditure begins to be felt by the taxpayers—when the awful waste of life among our soldiers in the deadly tropics shall come home to our people—the party responsible must be buried under popular opprobrium such as has seldom been seen in our history. It would be an issue that would sweep all others out of sight. To resist the endeavor of an opposing party to ruin itself because that ruin must produce also a national calamity is a policy of the highest patriotism.—N. Y. World.

British opinion is of course in favor of the United States holding permanent possession of the Philippines. That has

been apparent from the day the Spanish squadron was destroyed in Manila bay. The English newspapers were the first to proclaim that Dewey's victory brought the United States into new and broader relations with the rest of the world and it was their utterances that had as much as anything else to do with creating and building up the imperialistic sentiment in this country. The idea that the opportunity had come to the United States to take its place among the nations as a world power was earnestly encouraged by English statesmen. A keen sense of British interests prompted this. With the United States occupying a strong position in the far east it was seen that British interests in that quarter of the world would probably be more secure.

Croker is right in saying that the "16 to 1 question is a dead issue." He is right in saying that McKinley's election brought good times. But Croker is not running the Democratic party. He condemns Bryan, Jones, Bailey and other Western and Southern chieftains of that organization, but as these men are going to be permitted to lead the party to a defeat in 1900 more sweeping and ruinous than was that of 1896, his wise counsel is vain. Croker, of course, represents Eastern Democratic sentiment, but the Western and Southern wreckers are in control of the Democracy's machinery, and will force it into one more disaster.

THE late Congressman Dingley was also one of the eminent men whose public career leads out of the newspaper office, although he combined with his journalistic experience a legal education that entitled him to a place in the profession of law. It is plain that the lawyers have not yet monopolized the front places in our public life, although they have been trying to do so ever since the republic was established.

ONE of the fallacies incident to the politics of the present is superstition that every rich man is a robber. Certain newspapers and seekers after office and cheap notoriety have created the sentiment wherever it exists. Perhaps it could be said that there are instances of penny among rich men just the same as there are among poor men. The man with a big, generous heart does not have his nature changed by the accumulation of wealth. The entire purpose of the shouters is to array labor against capital for political purposes. During the year 1898 twenty-three persons gave \$11,176,000 to public institutions. This vast sum of money will bless the world for generations after generation, but your average pessimist will rise up and say: "Oh, they squeezed just that much additional out of their workmen." Such a statement is not borne out by the facts. This country has fewer rich men and pays the highest wages of any country on the face of the earth. Let us be fair. If a capitalist does wrong censure him for it, and if he does right give him credit.

THERE is no more ingenious exponent of the free silver question than ex-Governor Altgeld, as there is probably no one more sincere than he in advocating the free coinage of silver. In an interview while in Omaha Mr. Altgeld said: "Free coinage of silver means that the expansion of money volume shall begin at the bottom with the labor which digs the metal out of the ground." Others whom he characterized as financial quacks, "would have the expansion of the money volume begin at the top, so that the added quantity would have to go through all the capitalistic channels before a dollar of it would reach labor." According to this the workers in the silver mines, who number only a few thousand, would be the first beneficiaries of the free coinage of silver and gradually as more silver was added to the currency other labor would profit by the expansion. It is possible that free coinage would somewhat enhance the price of labor employed in silver mining, but if it should have the effect upon the price of products which the silverites claim it would, the mine workers would get no benefit from the advance in the value of their labor. They would receive more dollars for their work, but in purchasing power their increased earnings would enable them to obtain no more of the necessities of life than their present wages, if so much. The wage earner wants sound money. He wants a dollar of the highest pur-

ing power—a dollar whose exchangeable value has some stability and not one that will continually cheat him. The ingenious theory of Mr. Altgeld does not appeal to the interests of labor.

THE character of the special commission appointed by President McKinley to investigate and report on conditions in the Philippines has received general commendation. Prof. Schurman, president of Cornell university, is a distinguished scholar who has given a great deal of study to affairs in the Orient. He is not in favor of the acquisition of the Philippines. Prof. Worcester of the university of Michigan resided for several years in the islands and knows more of their people than perhaps any other American. He says of them that they are amenable to kindness and friendly reasoning, but that they are fearless fighters and have naturally been rendered distrustful by their experience under Spanish control. Colonel Denby, former United States minister to China, is most thoroughly equipped for such a service as the commission is to perform. Dewey and Otis, the other members of the commission, it is needless to say, are admirable selections. It appears that the object of the commission is not, as at first reported, merely to investigate economic conditions, but to report in a general way what the Philippine people desire and what they consider practicable in the way of political institutions. The commission, it is stated, is appointed essentially for the purpose of holding out the olive branch to the people of the islands and will have authority to bind the administration to a reasonable extent in respect to general propositions. Its efforts, in short, will be chiefly directed to inducing the Filipinos to accept the control of the United States. Perhaps some good may be accomplished in this way, but there is reason to believe that the commission will find it a pretty difficult task to persuade all of the people to give up the idea of independence and accept a new sovereignty. In order to accomplish this it will be necessary to offer some very liberal commission.

THE Washington correspondent of the New York Journal of Commerce, who gives close attention to the trend of financial opinion in congress, observes that the remarkable economical tendencies of the last two years, which have made the United States one of the great storehouses of gold of the world and promise to continue the process by means of the great trade balance in its favor, are inspiring the belief among some members that the retirement of the greenbacks is no longer an absolute necessity. "The great influx of gold into the country," he says, "has modified the views of some of the currency reformers also in regard to the details of providing a banking currency. They are now convinced that the country will never be subjected to such a severe pressure for the yellow metal as in 1893 and that a broader basis of metallic reserves might be properly required as the basis of the bank note circulation." Such views, it may confidently be anticipated, will grow and become more general, until those who see evils and dangers in our currency system will constitute an insignificant minority and the demand for the elimination of the legal tender notes from the currency will become so feeble as not to command any attention. With the United States possessing a larger stock of gold than any other nation and steadily adding to it, the gold standard is secure. There can be no danger from the government notes while we have this vast supply of gold. Thus the chief reason advanced by the currency reformers in support of their policy is swept away and there is little else for it to rest upon.

THERE was a time when the heathen Chinese was considered most subtle and peccant, but the white man generally and the white men who live in the Sandwich islands are becoming too many for the Chinese. According to a report from Honolulu the supreme court of the mixed race republic has turned a summersault upon itself and abrogated the treaty rights by which the Chinese were permitted to land in Hawaii prior to annexation. But nothing that happens in our new possessions will surprise nobody on this side of the Pacific coast line.

ALMOST every one can find something in the news from the Philippines which will accord with his preconceived opinions. It is quiet there; the situation is improving; an insurgent attack on Manila is momentarily expected; the people desire annexation; the Filipinos will accept nothing but absolute independence, etc. Unlike the news which formerly came from Cuba it does not come on alternate days, like the shakes of the old-fashioned ague, but each day brings the same grist. At a distance of 8,000 miles it is pretty hard to arrive at any conclusion as to the actual state of affairs.

VERMONTERS must be queer people. Senator Edmunds some years ago resigned his position in the United States senate, where he was one of the most conspicuous figures, and where he could have remained during the rest of his life. Now comes another Vermont and declines to accept the appointment to the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Morrill.

FROM one of the recent consular reports it appears that nearly 6000,000 persons are employed in Germany in the tanning and leather manufacture, with an output of leather articles for home consumption and export aggregating in value \$150,000,000 annually. The output would be considerably greater if the German could be induced to give up their crude methods and adopt the most modern processes and machinery. But why should not American energy and American genius supplant the German leather-maker at least in the American and other foreign markets? With the materials and demand at our very door the American leather industry can and should soon control the whole situation.

ONE of Speaker Reed's best epigrams now enjoying national circulation shows that he is among those far-seeing statesmen who think it worth while to stop at the cost of imperialism. He is free quoted as saying: "We are buying 10,000,000 Malays at \$2 a head, unpicked, at nobody knows what it will cost to pick them." When he made that witty remark he showed his appreciation of the fact that to subdue the Filipinos and for upon them a government not of the own choosing must entail upon the American people an enormous increase of the burden of taxation, estimated by conservative experts at not less than \$200,000,000 a year. The Speaker's friends report that he fully realize the gravity of the step which the country is asked to take by the ratification of the treaty as it stands. They quote him as declaring that it is step which not only the American people now living will presently regret by which their children and their children's children will lament. Holding these views and perceiving that the nation is in imminent danger of being carried over the Niagara of imperialism under the guidance of what he has happily termed "syndicated Administration," has not the time now come for the Speaker to speak?

THERE ought to be a way to reach the personal property of rich men of cities for the purpose of just and equitable taxation. If the laws of the State are inadequate or unjust they should be amended, and it should be the imperative duty of the lawmakers to amend them in the proper manner. Real estate now bears the chief burden of taxation. Personal property should be made to bear its proper share of the burden, and the Legislature should see that it does in the future.

When the military chieftains of the army stop hanging their soiled lines on the telegraph wires the people of the United States will have greater respect for the army.

The falkers are not all dead yet. The latest yellow roorback is to the effect the Carnegie proposes to buy the Philippines for \$30,000,000 to make the Filipinos a present of their own country. Open the cage and let the birds fly.

City Warrants Payable.

The following warrants are now payable at my office: Nos. 139, 140, 141, 144, 146, 148, 149, 150, 152, 153, 157. Interest ceases from date of this notice.
N. THOMPSON,
City Treas.
Tillamook, Ore., Jan. 12, 1899.