

If in this country, where the people have the right to vote, Republican leaders dare not take the side of the people against the great monopolies which have grown up within the last few years, how can they be trusted to protect the Filipinos from the corporations which are waiting to exploit the islands?

Is the sunlight of full citizenship to be enjoyed by the people of the United States and the twilight of semi-citizenship endured by the people of Porto Rico while the thick darkness of perpetual vassalage covers the Philippines? The Porto Rico tariff law asserts the doctrines that the operation of the Constitution is confined to the forty-five states. The Democratic party disputes this doctrine and denounces it as repugnant to both the letter and spirit of our organic law. There is no place in our system of government for the deposit of arbitrary and irresponsible power.

That the leaders of a great party should claim for any president or Congress the right to treat millions of people as mere "possessions" and deal with them unrestrained by the Constitution or the Bill of Rights shows how far we have already departed from the ancient landmarks and indicates what may be expected if this nation deliberately enters upon a career of empire.

The territorial form of government is temporary and preparatory, and the chief security a citizen of a territory has is found in the fact that he enjoys the same constitutional guarantees and is subject to the same general laws as a citizen of a state. Take away this security, and his rights will be violated and his interests sacrificed at the demand of those who have political influence. This is the evil of the colonial system, no matter by what nation it is applied.

WHAT IS OUR TITLE TO THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS? DO WE HOLD THEM BY TREATY OR BY CONQUEST? DID WE BUY THEM OR DID WE TAKE THEM? DID WE PURCHASE THE PEOPLE? IF NOT, HOW DID WE SECURE TITLE TO THEM? WERE THEY THROWN IN WITH THE LAND? WILL THE REPUBLICANS SAY THAT INANIMATE EARTH HAS VALUE, BUT THAT WHEN THAT EARTH IS MOULDED BY THE DIVINE HAND AND STAMPED WITH THE LIKENESS OF THE CREATOR IT BECOMES A FIXTURE AND PASSES WITH THE SOIL?

IF GOVERNMENTS DERIVE THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SECURE TITLE TO PEOPLE EITHER BY FORCE OR BY PURCHASE.

We could extinguish Spain's title by treaty, but if we hold title we must hold it by some method consistent with our ideas of government. When we made allies of the Filipinos and armed them to fight against Spain we disputed Spain's title. If we buy Spain's title we are not innocent purchasers. But even if we had not disputed Spain's title she could transfer no greater title than she had, and her title was based on force alone.

We cannot defend such a title, but as Spain gave us a quitclaim deed we can honorably turn the property over to the party in possession. Whether any American official gave the Filipinos formal assurance of independence is not material. There can be no doubt that we utilized and accepted the services of the Filipinos, and that when we did so we had full knowledge that they were fighting for their own independence, and I submit that history furnishes no example of turpitude baser than ours if we now substitute our yoke for the Spanish yoke.

Let us consider briefly the reasons which have been given in support of an imperialistic policy. Some say that it is our duty to hold the Philippine Islands. But duty is not an argument; it is a conclusion. To ascertain what our duty is, in any emergency, we must apply well-settled and generally accepted principles.

It is our duty to avoid stealing, no matter whether the thing to be stolen is of great or little value. It is our duty to avoid killing a human being, no matter where the human being lives or to what race or class he belongs.