

The Centre Democrat.

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EDITORIAL.

SIBLEY'S DEMOCRACY.

Last week our contemporary, the Gazette, got down to its customary journalism. We refer to a speech it published by Hon. J. C. Sibley, over which it put this heading: "He is a Democratic Congressman but Favors Imperialism." That is deliberate deception, and no matter if it is of a political nature it is unreliable, misleading, absolutely untrue, and the editor knows it full well. It is on a par with his practice of clipping articles from the N. Y. Sun, the rankest republican sheet printed, and saying it is from democratic source. It is also on a par with the misleading statements made by that paper last fall in regard to democratic management of the commissioners' office in former years which we proved completely untrue. The false side about the Joe Sibley article is as follows: Sibley was elected as a democratic congressman. His crooked course developed when he tried to induce democratic members of the legislature to reelect Quay. Last winter in congress he openly announced that he had forsaken the democratic party and would support McKinley in the future. He is a full-fledged republican, and was when he made the speech the Gazette quoted. The Gazette editor well knew these facts which he withholds from his readers and in bold headlines declares "He is a Democratic Congressman." This is gross, willful deception; it contains just enough truth to deceive any reader who does not keep posted on political events. It shows that he is mighty hard up for a reasonable defence of McKinley's brutal policy of conquest.

COST OF CONQUEST.

England's war upon the South African republics has already cost between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000, to say nothing of the wreck of property and values. As the war is now certain to last through the present winter in South Africa, it will cost England a total of at least \$500,000,000. How will this be paid? The idea of getting it out of the Boers is ridiculous. They cannot even pay the interest on that sum. If the cost is put on the mine owners, it would mean the confiscation of half their net income. The shareholders who live in England, France and Germany would have to foot the bill. Worse than this, England has lost a total of 45,188 men in killed, wounded and missing. For the week ending July 7 the casualties amounted to the total of 62 officers and 1,306 men. These figures indicate the cost of this unholy conquest to great Britain. It will be a damnable inheritance for that empire, which must for years maintain an occupation of 50,000 men in South Africa. A similar showing is being made by the United States in the Philippines. Our war against those people is costing over \$500,000 a day. The latest reports are that the Mohammedan hordes of the great island of Mindanao are arrayed against us, giving us a job as ugly as that of Luzon. And all because McKinley will not declare peace with those people, instead of war. One stroke of wise, beneficent statesmanship would end it all.

CHAIRMAN James K. McGuire, of the Democratic State Committee of New York, is in the hardware business, and he relates some of his experiences with the Trusts. He says that when the Steel and Wire Trust was organized the price of wire nails was \$1.35 a hundred pounds. The Trust soon advanced the price to \$3.75 a hundred. Then the Lumber Trust raised prices to such a height as to necessitate a stoppage of building operations. Of a sudden, when the hardware dealers had a large supply of nails on hand, the Trust dropped the price of nails without warning to \$2.75, and as a consequence McGuire's firm lost between \$7000 and \$8000. His experience is like that of many other hardware merchants. Still Chairman Hanna and Senator Depew assert that there are no illegal Trusts in the United States!

FACTS FOR GRANGERS.

The Grangers had an opportunity of learning something about the way the state authorities have permitted the food laws to be violated. They can readily see that the faction now in power at Harrisburg have no special interest in the farmer, except to try and hoodwink them occasionally, about election time. For years the manufacturers of oleomargarine were permitted to sell the vile imitation of butter wholesale in this state without the fear of arrest because they had the assurance from the politicians that for a certain sum they would be free of prosecution, and instead of paying regular license to the state they paid tips to the republican politicians at Harrisburg. The Quay machine, with such double-dealing men as John Hamilton, has been duping the farmers right along. Such things will continue in public life, for human nature is the same. There is a certain amount of corruption in most men and the opportunity is all that is necessary to develop it. And when a political party becomes so strong that it needs not fear the result of an election, that is where the opportunity develops these traits in most men to rob and steal public revenues. No doubt if the democratic party were as firmly rooted in this state so that tricksters would gradually gain the ascendancy, the offices would often be filled by low grade politicians who would steal anything and everything in sight. When such a condition arises the people must awake to their interests and give the whole system a completed purging. New men must be chosen and the old ones sent to retirement, and even to the penitentiaries if possible. Fear of prosecution is the surest safeguard to corruption in public life. And when the people become indifferent, this evil begins to flourish. Pennsylvania has suffered.

OUR GREAT STATE.

Pennsylvania is the greatest state in the Union today, and she is by no means "grown out," as the saying is. Her growth in population and material wealth during the last decade as revealed by the recent census, is in every way satisfactory. Old states like old communities, seldom show as much progress as newer ones. Between 1880 and 1890 her increase in population was 975,123. The returns of the present census are not all counted and tabulated thus far, but, based on the population of cities and districts already counted, it is seen that the increase during the period from 1890 to 1900 will reach or exceed one million souls. It seems probable that she will show up with about 6,250,000. The gain in her largest four cities alone was 351,152, and it is believed the smaller cities will show equal gains. From all this it is seen that our Commonwealth will easily maintain her place as second in population and first in about everything else among the sisterhood of states. We shall probably get nearer to New York in this matter than we ever were before. We are making greater gains in our rural population, it is believed than she is, as her increase outside of her cities was not large, and probably will not be greater this time. We have so many resources in the matter of coal and iron, coke and petroleum, that our rural population shows a very fair increase from year to year, even when compared with newer states.—Lancaster New Era.

McKINLEY DID IT.

There is an unprecedented demand for coal in England and on the continent of Europe. Orders for coal are sent to America and the coal business is booming. It has just leaked out how this European coal famine and consequent demand for American coal came about. Hanna let the cat out of the bag. McKinley did it. He hurried over to Europe one cool evening by cable, slipped all the big European coal mines into his vest pocket, brought them over, planted them in Pennsylvania before morning, and next day the coal famine was on. There was nothing left for the surprised Europeans to do but to order coal from America and pay such prices as we asked for it. That is why and how and all about it and it makes McKinley's election sure.—Kansan.

HANNA THE DICTATOR.

Hanna thinks democrats should not criticize the McKinley war policy as that is not a matter of politics. Hanna does not want democrats to talk about the trusts, as they have nothing to do with politics, and are only private business concerns. Hanna says imperialism is not a question to be discussed in a presidential campaign, that being a question that has nothing to do with politics. Yet Hanna himself extols the McKinley war policy, and lauds the trusts, and favors imperialism. Hanna is a big old granny, proved every time he says something.

ETERNAL vigilance is the price of victory. We helped to defeat Quayism in the last legislature. The final blow must be given this year.

Is J. K. Thompson for or against M. S. Quay? That is the question.

OPPOSED TO McKINLEY.

Carl Schurz's Eloquent Argument Against Imperialism.

Carl Schurz is one of our most distinguished American citizens; a German by birth he left his native land because he hated monarchy and loved freedom. He is a noted author, distinguished reformer and famous political leader—a deep thinker, a conscientious man in all his views, he wields a wonderful influence among the German voters of this country. Four years ago he opposed Bryan and voted for McKinley. Now he favors Bryan. In a speech in Cooper Union, New York, he gave his reasons for his views, as follows:

In opening his speech Mr. Schurz characterized as a downright falsification of history the assertion made by the Republicans that such territorial expansion as the taking of Cuba and Porto Rico was a mere continuance of what has been practiced by this republic since its beginning. He said that until two years ago this republic did indeed add two to its territory, but never without the intention and well founded expectation that the acquired soil would be occupied by a population of our own, or at least homogeneous with our own, and that it would in course of time be formed into regular States of this Union under our Constitution. It was therefore not mere expansion of our territorial domain to be perpetually ruled by our arbitrary will, but it was essentially an intended, and in the course of time practical extension of our constitutional system in entire accord with the fundamental principles of our democracy.

The only apparent exception to this rule was the annexation of Alaska—but that, too, only apparent, not real; for Alaska may be inhabited by a population of our own; and when the development of that Territory has sufficiently progressed and its population becomes numerous enough its claim to full constitutional statehood will, no doubt, be readily recognized.

IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Mr. Schurz devoted considerable time to the position of the administration in the Philippines, saying that the more successful we are in making the Filipinos our subjects by force of arms the more will our triumph corrupt our morals, tarnish our honor and undermine our free institutions of government. It is a war not merely against the Filipinos, but a war against our own republic—a war against the principles, the ideals, the beliefs and the conservative influences which hold this democracy together, a war against ourselves as a free people. Never was there a truer word spoken, said he, than that of James Russel Lowell—a wise man—when he said that this republic would endure only so long as it faithfully adhered to the principles of those who had founded it. What he meant was that, if our people ever ceased to respect and to believe in the high ideals of right, justice and liberty, set up by the fathers of the republic and expressed in the Declaration of Independence, our democracy would lose the element of conservative poise necessary for its stability, and the republic, while perhaps remaining a republic in name, would not remain one in essence. Without popular reverence for those ideals, without popular belief in those high principles to appeal to, a democracy will inevitably be ruled by greed and selfish ambition, and the powers of the government will be more and more grasped and used to serve the ignoblest impulses and passions of human nature. A democracy working through universal suffrage ruled by such influences and believing in nothing is apt to become the worst government that can be conceived. And nothing can in this respect be more dangerous in its effects upon a democracy like ours than a policy of conquest and of arbitrary rule over vassal provinces and subject populations such as we have now begun.

SHOULD NOT STOP NOW.

The speaker declared that the efforts to stop imperialism should not cease now. He gave many reasons, among them being this: Said he:

There is but too much ground for believing that the party in power is largely controlled by strong and grasping interests trying to exploit the government for their profit, and inclined to make the American flag, in the characteristic phrase of the famous Cecil Rhodes, "a first-class commercial asset." Such interests have not yet thrown large financial means into our "dependencies" for speculative venture. But if our present rulers be continued in power speculative moneyed syndicates—extensive settlement of those tropical countries by Americans being out of the question—will be much encouraged to go there relying upon their influence with the government for the furtherance of their operations. As soon as their money is largely engaged there we shall witness attempts by them to control the government in its different branches, in comparison with which the influence exercised by railroad and other corporations over State Legislatures, which we know from observation, will pale into insignificance. The efforts to break the imperialistic policy will then have to meet a power the resources and skill of which will immensely increase the difficulties to be overcome.

FILIPINOS BEING EXTERMINATED. Another reason is this: We are en-

gaged in the awful business of killing people because they continue to fight for their freedom and independence. This has cost us so far 2,732 brave American soldiers, killed in the field or by disease, and 2,374 wounded in the hospitals; in all 5,106 men. They deserve our profound sympathy, especially as they have been sacrificed in such a cause. But we read also such terrible stories as that of more than eighty Filipinos having been indiscriminately shot down because two of our soldiers had been killed in a shop near by, or that a whole wedding party having been put to death because there were one or two "insurgents" among them. Several similar stories have not been contradicted. Let us hope they may be. But you may remember the reports in the papers, constantly recurring for many months, of fights in the Philippines in which one or two American soldiers were killed and a few wounded, while the number of Filipinos killed amounted to 100 or 150 or 200, and some villages or towns burned down. The aggregate of the Filipinos killed is computed largely to overrun 30,000, not counting the wounded. Now, no one having the slightest knowledge of war, even guerrilla warfare, can fail to understand what all this means. It means the gradual extermination of the weaker party—that weaker party fighting for freedom and independence. This is horrible—doubly horrible considering the way it began. And this, my countrymen, is done under the flag of the great American republic. I ask you solemnly can we as a civilized nation postpone the stopping of this dreadful and wanton bloodshed when the American people have the means of stopping it by an act of justice in their hands?

Gov. STONE is taking a back track upon the school fund question. He wants a deficiency bill to provide the millions he unlawfully cut out of the common school appropriation. He says now he made the reduction in the fund to maintain the honor of the state. It's not true—his veto was a disgrace and a dishonor to the state. He cut a million out of the school fund to supply boodle for the machine in higher salaries, new offices, and in scores of jobs to Quay henchmen. Stone to "maintain the honor of the state," that's rich!

THE trusts that have increased the price of all the leading commodities was the real cause of the coal miner's strike. Four years ago they would have been satisfied, as they could have lived better on the same wages. Trusts have put up the prices. Do you know who upholds the trusts?

DEMOCRATS, when either Wm. Allison or J. K. Thompson solicits your support ask them how they would vote for U. S. senator if elected. That is the paramount issue in this state this year. Don't lose sight of that point.

THE Gazette told its readers last week that Joe Sibley "is a democratic congressman." That is enough to make a goat laugh.

THE Philadelphia Times crawled on the band wagon at the proper time. It gives strong reasons for opposing McKinley.

The Republican County Committee have opened headquarters in rooms in Crider's Exchange.

It will be a cold day for trusts if Bryan gets into the presidential chair.

BANK CONSOLIDATIONS.

The consolidation of several New York banks in which the Standard Oil magnates were interested proved so successful an enterprise that the example is to be followed. It will be remembered that soon after the first consolidation was consummated the secretary of the treasury practically presented the concern with a matter of several millions of dollars. That is, he issued an order making that bank the exclusive depository of revenue receipts for the district. The profits of this business were very large, and they were subsequently augmented by the illegal sale to the bank of the old custom house at a price millions below its real value.

The present administration has a great fondness for large operations and extensive concerns. It is believed by many that it was influenced to favor this Standard Oil bank because it had a larger capital than any other in the city. In fact, it was created by the consolidation of the two largest concerns and dovetailing in two or three smaller ones. No doubt its colossal proportions had something to do with the matter, but not all. It can hardly have been forgotten that in a letter to the secretary of the treasury soliciting the favor the president of the bank reminded him that in the last presidential campaign he and the other officers of the bank had been liberal contributors to the corruption fund.

The new bank is to be called the Dry Goods bank, and will be capitalized at \$2,622,700, will have a surplus of \$1,680,100 and deposits aggregating \$15,376,900. The individual banks to be merged are the Ninth National, the National Citizens', the People's, the Pacific, the Mechanics and Traders' and the East River National. The new concern thus created will certainly be substantial, and it is believed may be big enough to command the favor of the administration. That result is certain if its officers are generous in making campaign subscriptions for the pending contest. Senator Hanna has practically said that liberality in that direction will be rewarded.

IN OUR FALL AND WINTER PRODUCTIONS

The same great standard which we originated and established is maintained. Our business principles for Fall and Winter will be the same we had the preceding season. We have conducted our business in such a manner that it has been crowned with success. How could it be otherwise for we give "Money Back for the Asking" and our only guide is

Fairness and Squareness

And along with this our entire stock has been greatly increased and we are now better equipped than ever to supply any demands in our line. We do not boast to have the largest stock but we have the

Largest and Most Complete New Stock

in this section of the state. You do not care to look over old goods. We cannot show them to you because everything is strictly fresh from the market. You can profit if you can buy new goods cheaper than old ones. By giving us a call we shall convince you that these assertions are true.

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with every Man's, Boys' or Childs' Suit Overcoat.

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