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**ARE WE IDOLATERS?**

**DEWEY'S CASE GOES FAR TO PROVE THE AFFIRMATIVE.**

Some Reflections on the Stolen and Gush over the Hero of Manila by a Fickle Public.  
(By Andrew J. Palm.)  
Come easy, go easy, is likely to find a good illustration in the case of Admiral Dewey's popularity, which, like Jonah's gourd, sprung up in a night. But a few months ago not one person in a thousand knew the name of a man in existence. He had never said anything nor done anything that was considered worthy of record. A few months later men were yelling themselves hoarse over George Dewey. Metropolitan newspapers used wood type in order to get letters large enough to print his name becomingly on their front page. Women went wild in their enthusiasm, and thousands would have willingly given up a spring bonnet for the privilege of kissing Admiral Dewey. Men and women racked their brains to suggest something grand enough to offer him as a testimonial of their idolatry. No minister, statesman, author, scientist or philanthropist was not lauded by tongue and pen as this man, whose name was heard wholly and entirely to the fact that he destroyed by his orders six million dollars' worth of property in 60 minutes.

SELECTING A GIFT.  
It was finally decided that he should be given a house as a testimonial of a nation's love. Men who never gave a dollar to true charity in their lives hastened to get their names as near the head of the list as possible. Women, some of whom owed their grocer and butcher debts of long standing, contributed their mite. When the project was fairly under way word came from some source that the great Dewey was no noble and high spirited to accept anything that smacked of charity. The great papers then, those that were not trying to raise a fund to buy a Dewey sword or a Dewey gun or raise money for a Dewey memorial album, or something or other to give the hero, were quick to say that this might have been expected; that anybody might have known that Dewey was too great a man to yield to the sordid impulses that dominate ordinary mortals. The house project was then dropped for the time, but very soon report came that the great admiral had been misquoted; he would consent to take a house, just a little one worth \$25,000 or \$30,000, if it were the gift, as he well knew it would be, of a large number of people. He did not want to be hard on a few, as was the case with McKinley when Mark Hanna got first mortgage on him by paying a large share of his heavy indebtedness. Dewey was frank enough to intimate that he would like it still better if, while the hero worshippers were about it, they would raise enough to furnish the house, and he would like to have it located in that part of Washington near his club. Then the newspapers were more enthusiastic than ever. No matter what he did or did not it was so much like the money raising went on, and when 4,000 persons had subscribed to the fund a house was selected, bought, furnished and turned over as a token of love which a Christian people have for a man whose profession and whose deeds are condemned in the Christian's Bible, by which they pretend to be guided.

NEXT IS A BIRD FOR THE CAGE.  
Having been given a handsome case, the admiral sought out a bird, and after a few days of the honeymoon had passed it was rumored that he was about to transfer the house in fee simple to his bride. This created a murmur of disapprobation, and it was announced that he had reconsidered the matter and the transfer would not be made for the present. The present, however, is short, not here until it has become a part of the great past, and, shocking to relate! within a week comes the announcement that the house presented to the nation's idol has been given away not only once, but twice. Then the indignation breaks loose and is so strong as to cause the admiral to wish that he had never been born, or at least that he had never been married and had a wife and son to receive the present of a gift.

DON'T TALK, DEAR DEWEY.  
Dewey has been provoked into talking, and promises to give himself away as completely as he gave away the house. He says: "If it were not for my country I would wish that I had never fought the battle of Manila." It is astonishing how much some people are "mashed" on their country. The higher their salary and the more grudging the uniform the harder they love their country. Dewey is as bad as Queen Victoria. A few days ago, when she was bidding some soldiers good speed on their mission of love and mercy to kill Boers in South Africa, she said: "I have called you here to tell my soldiers to say farewell before you cross the seas to a distant part of my empire." Dewey says "My soldiers, my empire." Dewey says "My battle of Manila." The captains, lieutenants, gunners, engineers and marines, who imagine that they had some share in the battle, will wonder where they were at when Dewey fought it all alone and single handed. It seems hard for one man to be obliged to fight his country's battles, and no doubt when Dewey gets through with his critics he will feel like the soldier in Longstreet's corps, of whom General Miles tells a story.

About 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, when everybody was tired, hungry and snoring, a Georgia regiment stopped. A soldier stood by the rifle against General Longstreet's tent and began to talk to himself. "Well," he said, "this is pretty tough, to fight all day and march all night. But I suppose I can do it for my country; for I love my country. I can go hungry, I can fight, I can die, if necessary, for my country, but when this war is over I'll be—d—d if I'll ever love another country."

The ballot box stuffer in Philadelphia should be punished to the full extent of the law, and so also should the "leaders" who ordered the crimes committed for the benefit of the Quay machine.

**TREASON REWARDED.**

**A Democratic Deserter Gets a Fat Job From McKinley.**

From Shenandoah News.  
The announcement that President McKinley has appointed William D. Bynum, of Indiana, a member of the board of general appraisers, at a salary of \$7,000 a year, possesses special interest to Democrats throughout the country, and may even interest some Republicans.

The name of Mr. Bynum is familiar to active Democrats everywhere. He served five terms in congress as a Democrat from Indiana, but did nothing during his service in the house to attract public attention or make him famous. It was after the Chicago convention, in 1894, broke the fetters that had for more than a quarter of a century held the Democracy in bondage to the money power, that Mr. Bynum came into prominence. He was a leading spirit in organizing the gold Democratic convention subsequently held in Indianapolis, which nominated Palmer and Buckner, the decoy ducks that were intended to draw away Democratic votes from Bryan and Sewell, and thus elect McKinley and Hobart.

Mr. Bynum was chairman of the national committee of the gold Democratic organization, and as such labored zealously for the election of Mr. McKinley. All the gold Democrats who could be trusted to do so were advised to vote the Republican ticket straight, while those who were simple enough to be gulled into supporting the decoy ducks, but would not swallow McKinley, were left to vote for Palmer and Buckner.

That there was a perfect understanding between the Republicans and the gold Democrats no longer admits of a doubt. President McKinley recognizes the value of the services rendered the Republican organization by Mr. Bynum and those associated with him in the Palmer and Buckner organization, and rewards the treachery to Democracy by the appointment of Bynum to a place where he will receive \$7,000 a year from the public treasury for nominal service.

**TRUSTS BAR YOUNG MEN.**

**So Declares Ex-Senator Washburn, of Minnesota.**

While Senator Hanna and his henchmen, who advocate the cause of the trusts solely because their hands are in the trust grab bag, and because they are fed on the stock of these combinations as a bonus for such advocacy, as proclaiming far and wide that trusts are a necessity, that the workmen cannot exist without them, and that the country cannot hope to be prosperous unless they flourish, one feels an air of genuine relief when he reads such utterances as those recently made by ex-Senator Washburn, of Minnesota, who speaks from an honest and unbiased point of view. In a very recent interview the senator said: "The present situation, to the good citizen, the good Republican and the man who loves his country, is really alarming," said Mr. Washburn, "and it is more largely owing to the rapid formation of what is called the trust than any other agency. This trust craze has changed the nature of things. When I was a young man—I am now 68—I had the world before me, and there was an absolutely fair field for me. Take all of our most successful business men of today, and their experiences were like mine. They entered the race without a handicap, and their grit and capacity won. Now, this building up of trusts puts a stop to fair and equal opportunities for the young men of today. The young man just out of college has no opening, as a rule. He cannot begin business on his own account against organized capital. He just joins the procession. He must content himself with being a mere clerk, and the chances are that he will never get any further, because there are so many in his class. This makes the situation a serious one, and I am sorry for the young man of today. He comes out of school bright, eager and enterprising and runs against economic conditions that are too much for him. I can't help feeling that if he had the same chance that I had when I was a young man it would be a great thing for him. He hasn't got it. I've studied the situation and I'm sure of what I'm saying."

How to End the War.  
From New York World.  
Who began the war in the Philippines is a matter of less consequence than how to end it. But when the president says, as he did at Pittsburgh, "The first blow was struck by the insurgents," and his newspapers defenders repeat that statement daily, it is well to remember the contrary statement made by General Otis in a report to the president dated Feb. 4, 1899. He said: "Firing upon the Filipinos and the killing of one of them by the Americans, leading to returning fire. The chief insurgent leaders did not wish to open hostilities at that time."

A letter from an American volunteer has been published, in which he claims the honor of firing the shot on our picket line which brought on the first engagement. But be this as it may, the stopping of the war, which Admiral Dewey and General Ludlow unite in deploring, is now the main concern of all true Americans. A way to do this with honor is suggested by an army officer who at Manila in a letter to The Evening Post, which vouches for him as one who "fought all through the civil war and the Cuban campaign." He says of the conflict in the Philippines: "This war is a wicked war, and is being waged in a wicked way. All the blood that has been shed since May 1, 1898, is on the head of some one, and will rise up in the judgment against him."

And he advises that we say to the Filipinos: "We destroyed the Spanish fleet and drove the Spanish army from Manila as a war measure against Spain; that is responsible for the protection of life and property on these islands. We do not then believe you were capable of doing this. We have since learned that Admiral Dewey was right when he said you were far superior to the Cubans and capable of self government. We desire that you shall establish a government that will protect life and property. We will aid you in doing this, and when you have accomplished it we will withdraw."

**OLD-AGE PENSIONS.**

**STARTLING SCHEME PROJECTED BY THE ENGLISH GOVERNMENT.**

To Allow a Gratuity of \$1.25 to \$1.75 a Week to Everybody Over Sixty-five Years Old.  
London Correspondence Pittsburg Dispatch.

There is every reason why the United States should keep an eye on the really momentous agitation in England over old age pensions.

It is rather startling, when you come to think of it, this idea of granting a pension to almost everybody 65 years old who wants it. And yet, stated on its broadest lines, that is what the British government seems committed to tackle at the next session of parliament. If the powerful agitation for this plunge into state socialism succeeds in England it will be a question of only a little time before those who would be benefited by such a policy will be bringing it up in the United States, despite the fact that labor there is better paid and that pauperism is not proportionately so extensive.

Every argument now being urged in behalf of old age pensions in England naturally applies to the United States, and if the protests of many British statesmen against the principle of the thing prove powerless against the united voices of British labor, the implication is, to put it mildly, that the American cousin might do well to keep an eye on the progress and the outcome of the debate.

When the select committee appointed by parliament to consider the subject of old age pensions made its surprising report recently it was supposed generally in the United States, to judge of the tone of editorial comment, that the committee's positive and emphatic endorsement of the idea, and its opinion that the state should make the attempt to put it into operation, was simply a bit of harmless philosophizing, put on paper and published in a blue book for political purposes, and intended to recede eventually in the parliamentary burying ground.

But there is plenty of evidence now that this view was a mistake. Old age pensions will be the most important national topic, aside from war questions, to be considered at the next session of parliament, and if a bill providing for some scheme of old age pensions is not passed it will be only because no agreement could be reached on the extent to which the principle should be applied, and the way the \$50,000,000 or so could be raised annually.

BECOMING A CRAZE.  
The increase in the demand for old age pensions in the last few months has been remarkable. Some plans of the sort has been before the British eye ever since Canon Blackley embodied the idea 20 years ago.

Charles Booth, who is generally admitted to be the foremost sociologist in England, and perhaps in the world, probably is responsible more than any one else for the present agitation. He gathered facts and figures with untiring patience, and the tabulated results were made public and caused one former member of parliament to break in upon the rejoicings of the queen's jubilee by this public question: "Does not her majesty reign over more paupers than any other sovereign or government in Europe?"

It was estimated that on one particular day in 1892 one person out of every five in the United Kingdom who had reached the age of 65 years was in receipt of public charity, and that one person out of every three of this age had applied for relief in the course of the year. More astonishing yet, it was found that one working man and woman out of every two in the country were more or less dependent on public charity in their old age.

A LEADING POLITICAL TOPIC.  
At the last general election the subject of old age pensioners became a leading topic in every political address, and many candidates for parliament had to pledge themselves for it more or less definitely before they could hope for election. The dividing line, if it could be drawn anywhere, seems to have been generally between the working people and the wealthier element rather than between Liberal and Conservative.

THE GOVERNMENT SCHEME.  
After long deliberation Mr. Chaplin's committee recommended that a pension of not less than \$1.25 or more than \$1.75 a week, according to the cost of living in the locality, should be given to "any person who satisfies the pension authority that he is a British subject, is 65 years old, has not within the last 20 years been convicted of an offense and sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment without the option of a fine."

PENSIONS FOR EVERYBODY.  
Let the chancellor of the exchequer feel the agitation in favor of Charles Booth's plan to give pensions to everybody who wants one and has reached the age of 65 or 70, is growing mightily. Government clerks are figuring out what it would cost. At present the best guess is \$80,000,000 a year, making due allowance for those who, although entitled to a pension on account of age, do not need it and will therefore be expected to decline it.

Even so conservative a man as Cardinal Vaughan has caught the prevailing fever. "Surely," he says, "the rich are bound to tax themselves or to be taxed for their poorer brethren. I am always at a loss to understand why the colossal incomes should not be taxed at a higher rate than, say, the average net income of the upper classes. It is fitting that the superfluous and extravagant should be more heavily taxed than ordinary and legitimate expenditure."

In view of the glaring frauds in Philadelphia Chairman Reeder, instead of rejoicing over the result of the recent elections, must feel more like a man who has been aiding and abetting crime. Every man who opposes a constitutional amendment to prevent election frauds is in a sense an aider and abettor of the crimes committed against an honest expression of public opinion at the polls.

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