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A Strange "Moulding Force."

General MacArthur's official report has been made public, and conveys the impression that after all we have not completely subjugated the Filipinos. General MacArthur says that the attitude of the people who have declared for peace, and that of the leaders of the federal party must not be attributed "entirely to unreserved pro-Americanism." It would be unsafe, so General MacArthur thinks, "to assume the conservative forces as constant factors, the friendly operation of which can be relied upon irrespective of external influences."

General MacArthur makes it very plain that the forces of neither the army or the navy should be reduced. He gives us a word of hope when he says: "In due time and beyond any question, if beneficial republican institutions are permitted to operate with full force, the Filipino people will become warmly attached to the United States by a sense of gratitude." We may obtain a hint as to the "beneficial republican institutions" which General MacArthur has in mind by his statement that "in the meantime the moulding forces in the islands must be a well organized army and navy." And General MacArthur assures us that "anything in the immediate future calculated to impede the activity or reduce the efficiency of these instruments will not only be a menace to the present but put in jeopardy the entire future of American possibilities in the archipelago."

It is rather strange to be told that in the opinion of representatives of the greatest republic on earth "beneficial republican institutions" are represented by a condition in which "the moulding force" is "a well organized army and navy." It may be true that under this "moulding force" the Filipinos could be subjugated, but it is open to serious doubt whether such a force would so operate upon the Filipino people that they would become "warmly attached to the United States by a sense of gratitude."



Banking Law Follows the Flag.

It seems, in one respect, the national banking law has a large advantage over the constitution. According to Secretary Gage's interpretation, the national banking law follows the flag.

The Secretary announces that the national banking law in force in the states will be applied to Porto Rico. In other words, according to the administration it requires an act of congress to carry the constitution to our new possessions, but an act of congress concerning national banks goes by its own force to any

place where the establishment of national banks will be advantageous to promoters.

But the Secretary is having considerable trouble in adjusting some of the provisions of the national banking law to the peculiar conditions of Porto Rico. This law provides that every director of a national bank must be a citizen of the United States. It also provides that at least three-fourths of the directors of a bank must have resided in the state, territory or district in which the bank is located for at least one year immediately preceding their election and must be residents therein during their continuance in office.

The Foraker law defines the people of Porto Rico as "citizens of Porto Rico." Under the banking law a citizen of Porto Rico cannot become a bank director, and no citizen of the United States can become a bank director until he shall have lived in Porto Rico for at least one year. As a consequence it may be difficult to obtain bank directors in Porto Rico.

It has been suggested that the Porto Ricans can avoid this obstacle by becoming citizens of the United States by the process of naturalization, but when the "citizen of Porto Rico" undertakes to become, through naturalization, a citizen of the United States, he encounters another serious obstacle. It is necessary for one who desires to become a citizen of the United States to renounce his allegiance to his former sovereign. Mr. McKinley is the only "sovereign" which the Porto Ricans have, and Mr. McKinley is also president of the United States. It would not do for the Porto Rican to renounce his allegiance to Mr. McKinley, while at the same time seeking to become one of Mr. McKinley's subjects.

On the whole, the situation is a complicated one, and will be altered probably by putting off the establishment of national banks in Porto Rico until those who wish to be directors obtain legal residence there, or by amending the national banking law in a way to suit the convenience of those who intend to establish banks in that island.

The most important feature of the situation is that it gives new emphasis to the absurdities we were guilty of in assuming sovereignty over a people and establishing jurisdiction in a territory—making the territory our property, while denying to the people the privilege of even being known as citizens of the United States.



A Forgotten Truth.

The Gallatin Democrat, of Shawneetown, Illinois, has resurrected an old speech made by President, then Congressman, McKinley. The following extract shows how the Presi-

dent has changed for the worse during the last decade:

"Human rights and constitutional privileges must not be forgotten in our race for wealth for commercial supremacy. The government of the people must be by the people, and not by a few of the people. It must be by the consent of the governed, and of all the governed. Power, it must not be forgotten which is secured by wrong or usurpation, is soon dethroned. We have no right in law or morals to usurp that which belongs to another, whether it be property or power."

This is sound doctrine, but it is entirely out of harmony with republican policies at this time. When we outgrew the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, we outgrew the high ideals that all parties formerly appealed to and the patriotic expressions of those who formerly aspired to leadership.



Senator Vest's Interview.

The Kansas City Times recently published an interview given out by Senator Vest, of Missouri. It is not necessary at this time to answer his criticism of Mr. Bryan's part in the ratification of the treaty. The readers of THE COMMONER are familiar with the reasons which led Mr. Bryan to prefer to have the war terminated and the independence of the Philippines secured through the action of this country rather than continue the war and risk international complication in an effort to compel Spain to do what we could more easily do ourselves. Neither is it necessary to discuss what he says in condemnation of "Mr. Bryan's leadership." Mr. Bryan makes no claim to leadership. He only claims the right to have convictions and to express them; if other people have like convictions, he will have company, if not, he will be alone.

Someone has defined a leader as "one who is going in the same direction as the people and a little bit ahead." Mr. Bryan believes in the principles set forth in the Kansas City platform, and is not willing to surrender them in order to win the approval of those who oppose those principles. When the democratic party repudiates those principles, it will find itself going in another direction—with Cleveland, Carlisle, Whitney, Francis, et al "a little bit ahead."

Senator Vest outlines a platform which is good as far as it goes. He says:

"If I could write that platform without the intervention of any new issue I would declare:

"First—For a graduated income tax, which is the fairest and most equal system of taxation ever invented. Our present system of national taxation in the shape of internal revenue and tariff duties makes the poor man pay the expenses of the government while the multi-millionaire, who consumes neither beer nor whisky, and imports nothing from Europe except clothing, pays nothing. But in the event of war the poor