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# KANSAS AGITATOR.

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## GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

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### Funny Old Days.

Lew Hadley, of the Gaylord Herald, fell into a reminiscent mood a short time ago, and wrote an article on the funny old Populist days of '90. On looking back over that period, we agree with Lew that many funny things did occur. For instance, how funny it was to have Joe Hudson as chairman of the resolution committee of the Republican state convention report a plank in the platform in favor of the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1; and then to remember that George T. Anthony made a speech favoring the resolution and stating that under the wise provision of Republican legislation, silver would be on a parity with gold inside of eighteen months. Yes, that was one of the funny things that happened in the funny days of '90 and the few years following; and how very funny it was to see Captain McDowell, of Smith Centre, wearing a free silver badge at the Republican convention in '94, which was pinned on the lapel of his coat by Cy Leland; and the fun still goes on. How inexpressibly funny it is to see Republican conventions adopting anti-trust resolutions, and then have Attorney-General Godard say that we had by legislation prevented any such organization, and it has had the effect of driving many manufactories out of business in Kansas, and he favors a change in the law so as to permit these combinations. And say, Lew, what do you think of the governor's attitude on the suppression of the Klondike joints? After months of bluster and noise, the joints are still doing business at the same old stand, and the only result accomplished so far is the payment of \$500 out of his contingent fund to a Democrat lawyer from Leavenworth. Very funny, isn't it? And then you remember how your fellow townsman McNall was fired from the office of superintendent of insurance because the examination fees collected were not turned into the state treasury, and yet his successor is following the same beaten path. This is also funny. But space forbids mention of the many other funny things that happened and are happening in this funny world of ours.—Ottawa Republican.

THIS is the chance that the Atchison Globe offers for copperhead mathematics: "If it takes 40,000 men seven months and \$100,000,000 to take possession of 300 square miles of the island of Luzon, how many months and how much money will it require to take and hold the whole island, consisting of 51,000 square miles, for all time? And after that calculation has been made, there is a chance to figure as to the whole area of the Philippine islands, of about 115,000 square miles." Anti-expansion rests for the most part upon the higher law—upon the moral issue involved—and not upon computation of expense of conquest or of the probable booty.—Ottawa Republican.

AND now there is a Bible trust—formed for the purpose of advancing the price of Bibles. However, the originators of the trust would probably tell you the "raise" in price is due to "the law of supply and demand"; that the "Christianizing" of the Filipinos will soon cause a big demand for Bibles. Whatever may be the cause, one thing seems certain, and that is, salvation is no longer free.

### Washburn A "Copperhead."

In connection with the trust question, the New York Tribune prints the following interview with ex-Senator William D. Washburn, of Minnesota, head of the extensive flouring milling interests in Minnesota:

"The present situation to the good citizen, the good Republican, and the man who loves his country is really alarming, and it is more largely owing to the rapid formation of what is called the trust than to any other agency. First, this trust craze has changed the whole nature of doing things.

"When I was a young man—I am now 68—I had the world before me, and there was absolutely a fair field for me. Take all of our most successful business men of to-day 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 to-day. The young man just out of college has no opening. He cannot begin business on his own account against organized capital. He must join 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 to-day. I've studied the situation, and I'm sure of what I am saying.

"The present industrial tendency amounts to almost a craze for trusts. There is hardly anything in the industrial line that has not been tackled by the trusts.

"All the promoters care for it is to get up these combinations, palm them off on an uninitiated public and then get out of them after making all the money they can. The worst feature of the industrial trust of to-day is that nearly every one of them is vastly over-capitalized.

### PREDICTS A COLLAPSE.

"Just at present, there is a demand for every essential thing, and times are elastic and money plenty. Everything is floating along prosperously. When the collapse comes, as come it will, it will sweep all these naturally non-paying concerns to financial ruin.

"Take steel rails, for instance. One and a half years ago, rails of fair quality were being sold at \$17 a ton, at a profit of perhaps \$1.50 a ton. What was the consequence? We sent rails all over the world, invading Great Britain, Japan, and other countries. With the enormous deposits of high-grade ore in Minnesota and Wisconsin, there is no reason why we should not be able to produce rails and other steel products cheaper than any other nation. As a result of trust manipulation, steel rails now sell at \$30 a ton, or thereabouts. Of course the profit is exorbitant. It is an outrage on the public, and it is short-sighted on the part of the manufacturers, because they cannot sell their rails long outside of the country at such an enormous profit. The result of it all will be a tremendous collapse, and it will come a good deal quicker than most people think.

"The natural conditions to-day are better than ever before. With a large balance of trade in our favor, prosperity should continue for a long time. This prosperity has resulted in inflation and the issuing of millions of shares on wind.

"There is one thing that greatly disturbs me. The Republican party, whether justly or unjustly, is associated with the trusts in the minds of the masses. As a party, we have reached a crisis, where we have got to call a halt. The Republican party has got to disconnect itself from trusts.

### FEELING AGAINST TRUSTS.

"It has got to do something more than adopt platform planks against trusts. It has got to put forth its full strength and legislate against them. The feeling against the trust idea is intense in the west. It is so intense in the Republican party that the party will break ranks unless something is done. The undertow of sentiment in the western Republican states against trusts is not understood in the east. The revolt may strike us as early as next year.

"It seems to me, after giving the subject a great deal of thought, that the Republicans in

congress will have to examine the subject thoroughly, and whenever they find a trust is dependent for its exorbitant profits largely on protective duties, it will be the duty of Republican congressmen and senators to remove the duties at once. We cannot stop short of that. The duties must be repealed when it is shown that the trusts are benefiting by them. This should be done with the duty on steel rails and on tin plate. We can make steel rails at a fair profit cheaper than anywhere else in the world, and the present price is outrageous. The Republican party may win at the polls in 1900 because of the remarkable achievements of our army and navy in the last two years, but legislation against trusts should not be delayed on that account.

"The turning of this country's affairs over to such a man as Bryan would be the worst thing that could happen. No one could measure the consequence if Bryan and his friends once get a chance to try out their hair-brained experiments. If we don't set our house in order, the people will take control of the nation away from the Republicans.

"The Republican party has the brains and courage to tackle the trust problem if the gravity of the situation is brought home to the party leaders. Something should be done at once."

### Why The Filipinos Cannot Be Suppressed.

In an article for the Kansas City Star, Attorney-General Godard gives certain reasons why it may be impossible to close the "Klondike," which when applied to the Philippine question is very suggestive. We quote as follows:

"Topeka, August 22.—Attorney-General Godard has returned from Leavenworth, where he went with Governor Stanley last night to confer with local attorneys employed in the movement to suppress the "Klondike" joint evil near the Soldiers' Home. Mr. Godard talked cautiously to reporters when they sought for an interview this afternoon, and his utterances were so vague that they gave very little information concerning the intentions of the administration. Following is what he said: "After my return to Topeka after an absence of five weeks, Governor Stanley and I had a conference relative to the 'Klondike' evil in Leavenworth county and we are devising a plan of action. The task is a troublesome one, and the obstacles in the way of suppressing the evil are great. To begin with, the sentiment of the people over there is in favor of permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors. There are people in the county who do not believe in punishing a person for selling liquors, and who under no circumstances, if on a jury, would vote for their conviction. At least, this is the information I get. This sentiment may effect the officers more or less in the discharge of their duties.

"The persons who are selling liquors in the 'Klondike' settlement have friendly or business relations with many persons outside. Influential citizens of the county own property in or about the 'Klondike' that would be injured by the suppression of the liquor traffic there. Persons who are opposed to the Republican party, or the State administration, or who dislike the management of the Soldiers' Home, are apt to obstruct the movement to suppress the sale of liquors. The wholesale houses furnishing supplies to the 'Klondike' saloons naturally are desirous of having no change in the conditions there, and if we begin a fight, would bring all their influence to bear against us. Others may fear that a raid on 'Klondike' might mean a financial loss to them for one reason or another, and would oppose our movement. On account of all this, I do not care to promise what shall be done except to say that an earnest determination to accomplish results in the premises inspires both Governor Stanley and myself. We prefer that we shall be judged by our actions after they have been taken, rather than make any promises of what we will accomplish."

Now we quote from this article the following reasons why the Filipinos cannot be suppressed:

1. "The task is a troublesome one and the

obstacles in the way of suppressing the evil (Filipinos) are great."

2. "The sentiment of the people over there is in favor of free government, with Aguinaldo as president."

3. "There are people in that country who do not believe in punishing" the natives for wanting to set up a government of their own, "and who under no circumstances would vote" to punish themselves for rebellion. "At least this is the information I get."

4. "This sentiment may effect the officers more or less in the discharge of their duties."

5. These Filipinos "have friendly or business relations with persons outside," such as Germany, Russia, Japan, and China. "Influential" nations "own property" in the Philippines, and they would "feel injured" by the suppression of the rebellion.

6. "Persons who are opposed to the Republican party" "are apt to obstruct the movements" to suppress the rebellion.

7. "The wholesale houses" of Europe "furnishing supplies to the" Filipinos "are naturally desirous to have no change in the conditions there, and a fight would bring all their influence to bear against us."

8. "Others may fear that it would bring financial loss to bear against them for one reason or another, and would oppose the movement."

9. "On account of all this I do not care to promise what shall be done." But I suspect we will lie down and let Aguinaldo whip us, and then make faces at us across the water.—Farmer's Advocate.

MONEY got a little short in the New York banks the other day, and a delegation of such fellows as J. Pierpont Morgan started for Washington post haste to tell the secretary of the treasury to deposit some more government funds in the banks for them to do business on. This is the story told under big head lines in that thick-and-thin administration organ, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, on Tuesday last. It would be a very convenient thing for lots of other men, when their deposits run low, to have the government come to their relief; but only bankers, and way-up bankers at that, are "carried" by the United States government. When will the people learn to administer their government agency in the interests of all, instead of permitting it to be made the medium for furnishing special favors for the few?—Kansas Populist.

WHEN Henry Allen went to Washington the other day, he took the governorette into his private office, put some molasses and feathers on his fingers, and locked him carefully in—and all because Henry thought that Cy's little man might want to be "really and truly governor" while he was away.—Ottawa Republican.

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T. J. Hassey, Mgr., Garnett, Kas.