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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF NATURAL MONOPOLIES

VOL. 11.

GARNETT, KANSAS, DECEMBER 14, 1900.

NO. 30.

KANSAS AGITATOR

Devoted to the interests of

THE MASSES.

A Fearless, Aggressive, Progressive Advocate of
All Reforms.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

OFFICIAL PAPER OF ANDERSON COUNTY.

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SUBSCRIPTION: 8-PAGE EDITION, \$1; 4-PAGE ED., 50c.

N. R. P. A. K. R. P. A.

Entered as second-class mail matter at the Garnett, Kas., postoffice
May 25, 1899.

DAMNABLE!

SLAVES ON AMERICAN SOIL.

UNFORTUNATE PUERTO RICANS ARE BEING
TAKEN TO HAWAII TO WORK ON CLAU
SPRECKLES' SUGAR PLANTATIONS—
DID NOT KNOW WHERE THEY
WERE GOING.

CHICAGO, Dec. 8.—A special to the American
from San Francisco says:

"Three car loads of herded human beings,
whose every movement is watched by keen-
eyed keepers ready to prevent any effort to es-
cape, are now on the way to this city en route
to Hawaii, where they are destined to slave on
the sugar plantations. These people are kid-
naped Puerto Ricans, and number in all 115.
They are young men, boys, women and children.
The islanders are to be taken off the cars at the
Oakland Mole and put on a tugboat with all
their baggage. The tug will go immediately
alongside the steamer and unload the captives.
In this way it is hoped that none of the Puerto
Ricans will escape.

THEY CRIED FOR WATER.

"For fear of arriving in San Francisco ahead
of time, which would compel a wait of many
days in the populous city, thus enhancing the
danger of discovery and exposure, they are be-
ing brought here by slow trains, making stops
of 12 to 24 hours in out-of-the-way places.

"When the train reached the railroad yards
in Tucson, Ariz., the herded people cried des-
perately from the freight cars for water. The
men were closely herded when they were taken
out of the cars to get water and it was only by
force that they were returned to the train. Two
of the men have thus far escaped."

TWO BABIES BORN TO SLAVERY.

TUCSON, Ariz., Dec. 8.—The freight train
bearing three cars loaded with Puerto Ricans
arrived here last night. The emigrant cars
were left in the upper end of the yards, where
the inmates were herded with more safety by
Frank Alvarez, the man who has them in charge.

Alvarez says that he is taking the emigrants
to Hawaii for the Hawaiian Planters' Associa-
tion, and that they were provided by a New
York immigration agency. The first attempt
to take a crowd of Puerto Ricans was a failure,
300 escaping en route.

It is doubtful if the present effort will prove
successful, as there is much dissatisfaction in the
crowd. Alvarez said that a sort of revolt was
started by one man, who threatened to kill him
if he was not given money, but Alvarez says he
has become accustomed to their threats and
pays no attention to them. The men are said
to be totally ignorant of where they were going.

There is a great deal of sickness in the party
and two births are recorded since they left Pu-
erto Rico.

The following, on the same subject, appears
in the Chicago Record of the 8th inst.:

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 7.—According to their
own statement the two carloads of Porto Ricans
who passed through this city yesterday were
decoyed or kidnaped from their native land by
American labor agents for the Spreckles sugar
plantations in Hawaii, but whether or not their
story is true cannot be ascertained at this re-
mote point. While detained in this city for an
hour the natives were kept under the strictest
surveillance by their guards. A patrol was
placed on each side of the cars and the inmates

were even prevented from buying fruit from a
Mexican vender who was close at hand.

They claimed that when they boarded the
ship they believed they were to be taken to a
port on the opposite side of their island, and
while here yesterday they alleged that they had
no idea of where they were being taken. Most
of them were totally ignorant and had never
seen a large city or railway. At Sanderson,
Tex., where the cars are sidetracked to kill time
so as to make close connection with the ship at
San Francisco, some Mexicans told the Porto
Ricans that they were in a free country and
that their guards had no right to restrain them.
This incited some of the emigrants to attempt
to escape, but the sheriff, it is said, frightened
them into submission by firing a pistol over
their heads.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS.

Wichita has fifty cases of smallpox.

Eureka has struck gas—a good flow, too.

There are already four or five candidates for
sergeant-at-arms.

There are 100 men at work on the ditches of
the Iola water-works.

"Foghorn" Funston has been granted a pen-
sion. Has his voice failed?

Topeka milk dealers have formed a trust and
advanced the price 20 per cent.

A girls' band, of thirteen members, has been
organized at Wetmore. It's an unlucky num-
ber.

It is reported that a man at Russell is making
a good living by stealing overcoats and shipping
them out of town.

Women of North Topeka will provide a
"rest room" for farmers' wives who trade there.
It's a good idea, too.

It is reported that a young man of Clyde
broke his sister of spelling her name "Byrdie"
by spelling his "Phranque."

Topeka people refused to attend when Stan-
ley gave his reception, and now he is getting
even by opposing the Topeka exposition.

Tom McNeal is putting his "up-to-date fab-
les" into book form. He should stay his
hand—it will kill that senatorial boomlet, sure.

The supreme court has finally decided the
asylum case against Parsons and in favor of
Clay Center; so Parsons will not get the new
insane asylum.

The Carbonalian says "The city of Lyndon
has twenty eight mayors." What on earth
does she do with them? We thought one at a
time was plenty.—Overbrook Citizen.

H Hully, of Liberal, who has been justice of
the peace ever since the organization of Seward
county, has resigned. He says the office is a
nuisance, and he doesn't want to be bothered
with it any longer.

The Wichita Eagle warns Topeka to put
Topeka somewhat in the background in arrang-
ing for the semi-centennial exposition, and make
it more of a Kansas affair. It might be well to
heed the warning, too.

The bust of Louisa M. Alcott, the author,
which was presented to the State University by
Edwin Elwell, the sculptor, was unveiled at
Lawrence last Friday morning. Mr. Elwell
was present at the unveiling.

Ed Ladd, the son of Harvey Ladd, who lives
in Logan township, was accidentally shot by one
of his young friends on Thanksgiving day. He
and two other boys were out hunting, and they
became separated, and he was coming upon one
side of the hedge and they on the other, when
the boys fired a shot, striking young Ladd in
the lungs, the shot passing clear through. The
wound is very serious, and the young man may
not survive.—Iola Friend.

On Thanksgiving day, Malcolm Bliss, Ed
Smith, and Arthur Oliver were arrested for
shooting into the passenger train from the
south. The shot tore a big hole in the back
coach, but lost its force in passing through the
side of the coach, and the shot fell into a lady's
lap and did not harm anyone. The Bliss boy
acknowledged firing the shot, so the other boys
were released. The Bliss boy is out under \$300
bond, and his case will be heard in the district
court.—Iola Friend.

TO REWARD BREWERS AND TRUSTS

SECRET OF CUT IN REVENUE TAX.

REPUBLICAN LEADERS PLACE A BILL BEFORE
CONGRESS TO REMOVE \$40,000,000 FROM
THE REVENUES—STATEMENT GIVING
REDUCTIONS.

The following special dispatch to the Chic-
ago Record appeared in that paper on the 6th
inst.:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 5.—By the bill
introduced in the house this afternoon by Chair-
man Payne, of the committee on ways and
means, the burden of the war taxes will be re-
duced by \$40,000,000, or \$10,000,000 more than
the reduction advised by the president and
Secretary of the Treasury Gage.

This is brought about by taking off nearly
\$10,000,000 per year of the tax on beer, which
the Republican members of the ways and means
committee had agreed to leave untouched when
they first drew their bill. This reduction is not
now proposed so much for the purpose of cut-
ting down taxation as for the payment of
THE CAMPAIGN DEBTS OF THE REPUBLICAN
PARTY. Speaker Henderson and Representa-
tive Babcock, the newly-appointed member of
the ways and means committee, practically
forced this action on the committee as a politi-
cal measure. Mr. Babcock, as chairman of
the Republican congressional committee, knows
exactly how much the brewers contributed to
the Republican campaign fund, and they are
to get their money back in this way.

Following is another special to the Record,
from William E. Curtis (who, by the way, is
a Republican), which appeared in the Record
of the 7th inst.:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6.—The Republi-
can members of the committee of ways and
means are severely criticised by some of their
colleagues on account of the items in the bill
which they reported yesterday for a reduction
of the war-revenue taxes. It is claimed to be
so much in the interest of corporations and
trusts as to justify the charges made against the
Republican party during the last campaign.

Out of the \$40,000,000 reduction at least
\$27,500,000 is directly in the interests of people
who can well afford to pay taxes. Nearly
\$10,000,000 is taken off beer, although Mr.
Payne himself, chairman of the committee, has
stated that 80 per cent of the breweries of this
country are owned by European capitalists, and
most of the brewers are united in a trust. The
tax on bank checks is claimed to be less onerous
to the public and more easily collected than any
other, without any one asking for its removal.
The same is true of the stamps on drafts, cer-
tificates of deposit, foreign bills of exchange,
conveyances, insurance policies and express re-
ceipts, which combined amount to nearly one-
half of the full amount of the reduction. If any
one can afford to pay taxes, it is the people who
write drafts, bank checks and certificates of de-
posit, and those who convey property and have
buildings to insure. There is serious objection
to the taxation of evidences of debt, like bonds,
mortgages and promissory notes, but leases, con-
veyances, contracts, warehouse receipts and
similar papers are evidences of wealth, and the
people who make them find the slight tax no
burden and a very slight inconvenience. Un-
der a decree of the court, the express companies
are required to pay for the stamps which are
placed on express receipts.

The Democrats say that this bill is reported
in compensation for the services rendered the
Republican party during the last campaign by
the bankers and brewers. It is true that sever-
al of these items were not in the bill as origi-
nally prepared. In fact, before Mr. Hanna ar-
rived in Washington and Mr. Babcock, chairman
of the Republican congressional committee, was
appointed a member of the ways and means,
the members of that committee stoutly repudi-
ated all intention of reducing the taxes on beer
and banks. Mr. Hopkins, of Illinois, has been
opposed to the proposition since the beginning,
but a majority of the committee have voted him
down. Speaker Henderson is credited with
using his influence in favor of the proposed re-
duction.

Glints from the Fort Scott Lantern.

Which do you prefer, public ownership or
trust ownership?

Thread 8½ cents a spool. Prosperity for
the thread trust.

Dressed meat higher, cattle and hogs lower.
How do you account for it?

The Sultan of Sulu gave a royal feast to his
concubines when he heard of Hanna's re-elec-
tion.

And leather has made a jump sky high, also.
Pressed paper soles will suffice for a great many
people.

Taxes, under the Stanley administration, are
higher than ever before. You are paying for
the "business" administration.

No trust could exist but for the special priv-
ileges granted by our corporation laws. There
should be no corporations.

Election having been passed, Attorney-Gen-
eral Godard has dismissed his suit against Col-
orado for diverting the waters of the Arkansas.

Laboring men who wore full dinner pail
badges (and there were a few of them) can now
ruminate on the advance in the price of meat,
bread stuffs and coal.

The receipts of the state treasurer for the
past two years was over a million and a quarter
dollars greater than during the previous two
years, and the "economical" Stanley adminis-
tration has spent nearly all of it.

The Ship Subsidy.

The following very pertinent editorial appear-
ed in a recent number of the Kansas City Star.
It is well worth your while to read it and pon-
der over its meaning:

It was to have been expected that President
McKinley would urge congress to take immedia-
te action on "measures to promote American ship-
ping and foreign trade." The president is so
thoroughly imbued with the Republican doc-
trine of special legislation for the benefit of
favored classes that a shipping subsidy bill natu-
rally appeals to him strongly. He argues, as in
the case of the protective tariff, that America
can compete with other nations in building
vessels only with the aid of government support.

The Hanna-Frye subsidy bill, introduced at
the last session, will probably be the measure
which the administration will push. It pro-
vides a subsidy of from 1 cent to 3.8 cents a ton
for every 100 miles sailed. The grading is
done according to the speed and capacity of
ships and the inducements offered for swift pas-
senger steamers are more than twice as high per
ton capacity than for freight boats. A limit of
nine million dollars a year is set to the subsid-
izing and the aid is to be given for a term of
twenty years. This nine million dollars is
probably only a "starter." Representative
Goosvenor, chairman of the house committee in
charge of the bill, said last spring that if the
measure should prove "very beneficial," con-
gress would probably increase the limit.

The only possible reason for the adoption of
such a measure would be the presumption that
America cannot compete in ship building with
Great Britain. It is admitted that steel, the
principal material used in construction, is
cheaper here than abroad, and that American
labor is the most efficient in the world. Great
Britain's only advantage lies in the size of her
yards. But the United States builders are in a
fair way to achieve all of England's facilities
without government aid. During the ten
months ending with last April, ten plants to
cost from one half million to six million dollars
each were begun. The yards already in exist-
ence had sixty million dollars' worth of vessels
under construction. To-day, they have more
orders than they can fill. Yet, this lusty in-
dustry is to receive government aid under the
subsidy bill.

Details of the measure present it in even a
more unfavorable light. The Standard Oil
Company, which owns a fleet of tank steamers
for carrying oil, by complying with certain fea-
tures of the bill, would receive about \$400,000
in subsidies for doing its own work. The In-
ternational Navigation Company, which is own-
ed in part by Standard Oil men, expects to profit
to the extent of one and one-half million dollars
yearly by subsidies. No party can afford to be
suspected of aiding the Standard Oil trust.
Furthermore, in view of the prosperity of the
shipping industry in the United States, the Re-
publican organization is running a tremendous
risk in proposing to tax the people for the ben-
efit of ship builders and owners.