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Editorial Correspondence

Washington, March 25.—I notice in a good many Western papers a dispatch dated at Washington to the effect that Congress would probably recommend the free coinage of silver for the Philippine islands. Such a report is wholly erroneous and misleading. So far as I can learn there is no intention on the part of anyone in either the House or the Senate to enact free coinage for the Philippines or for any other portion of the territory of the United States.

As is generally known, the money chiefly in use in the Philippines is the Mexican peso, a silver coin which is in name a dollar, but which in fact passes for fifty cents, its bullion value. This coin is objectionable, partly because the coins themselves are of unequal weight; partly because the volume of the currency is insufficient for the increasing business of the islands, and partly because of the feeling that the money of an American dependency should be American money.

It is proposed, therefore, to replace the Mexican peso with an American coin that will have about the same value. The new coin will probably be called the Philippine dollar, and will have a distinctive design, so that it may be easily distinguished from the standard silver dollar of the United States. There is no objection to the free coinage of this dollar, however, that is to say, the owners of silver bullion will not be permitted to bring it to the mint and have it coined free of charge into Philippine dollars. On the contrary the government will simply buy as much silver as it needs for this purpose, and in this way entirely control the number of coins to be issued. This plan will differ from free coinage, as generally understood in this country in another very material particular, and that is in issuing the coins at their actual bullion value, and with the distinct understanding that they are not to be redeemed in gold at their face value. To this end they will probably contain several more grains of silver than the standard dollar, so that they may be worth in the open market as bullion approximately the same amount as the Mexican pesos, which they are intended to supplement and displace. The scheme is very similar to that which prompted the issue of the trade dollar many years ago. That dollar also contained more silver than the standard dollar, and was intended for use in our trade with India and China. It was never of any practical benefit so far as promoting our trade was concerned and was soon retired. The Philippine dollar, however, when it comes will probably come to stay, for the reason that the business which it is intended to facilitate is already adjusted to a coin of that value and character. The special agent of the Treasury who investigated financial conditions in the islands recommended that this Philippine dollar be issued and maintained on a parity with the American gold dollar. It is very obvious, however, that an attempt to do this would seriously disturb the business conditions of the islands. To put forward in the Philippines an American dollar that would be worth two of the dollars the people have been accustomed to use would certainly cause endless dissatisfaction. The people would undoubtedly be slow to accept five dollars as payment for ten of the dollars they had been accustomed to, and serious trouble might grow out of any attempt to force so radical a change. The expectation is that the new coin will be placed in circulation by the government paying it out for its various purposes just as it has temporarily been using the Mexican dollar in general circulation there. It will not, of course, be paid to those who have been contracted with on basis of the American gold dollar except by the payment of two such silver dollars for one gold dollar.

While as I have said this is very far from the free coinage which our Democratic friends have loved and lost,—it is yet looked upon by the friends of silver with decided favor, for the reason that it will doubtless extend very materially the market for the white metal. It has been found by actual experience that the British silver coin in India takes care of itself and circulates freely at its bullion value. In the same way it is anticipated that a silver coin of the United States will not only maintain itself in the Philippines, but that it will move toward China, and be absorbed there, making necessary frequent replenishment of the Philippine coinage by this government, thus undoubtedly making

use for a large amount of American silver, and making use of it in a perfectly safe way by circulating it at its actual commercial value.

The parliamentary practice in the Senate is so different from that in the House that they well might be regarded as two independent bodies instead of being simply dependent parts of one body. Of course this difference relates chiefly to the matter of closing debate. In the House when a bill is called up for consideration the first question asked is how much time is desired for debate. The majority, of course, fixes the time when there is a difference of opinion, but as a rule an agreement is reached which is satisfactory to both sides of the House, and the debate proceeds upon that agreement, the time allotted being equally divided between those in favor of the measure and those opposed to it. When the time which in the beginning was agreed to for the close of the debate arrived, the debate closes with the same certainty that the sun goes down and the vote is taken.

In the Senate on the contrary a proposal at the beginning of a debate to fix the time for its close would be a shocking breach of tradition and precedent and courtesy, which would be bitterly resented. The debate simply begins, and it wobbles along until everybody who wants to say anything on the subject has had his opportunity. In the House when a debate is on the wheels go right round all the time, and if a member is not ready to make his speech when the time arrives, he is shoved to one side and the debate proceeds without him. In the Senate when a member is not just ready to begin his speech, he rises and states that while he desires to speak on the pending measure, he is not ready to do so just at this time, and trusts that the bill will be allowed to go over until another day. In this way the final vote on important measures has been delayed in the Senate for weeks on end—not by continuous speaking upon the question but by solemn announcements that certain Senators desire to speak at some future time.

It is on account of this peculiar senatorial practice that the termination of the present session of Congress is almost wholly a matter of conjecture. Just at this time the oleomargarine bill is before the Senate. It was taken up yesterday, and the entire afternoon was consumed in a tiresome reading of the long reports of the bill presented by the majority and minority,—reports which it would be worth a man's reputation for sanity in the House to ask to have read at length from the clerk's desk. It is known that a number of Senators who lack terminal facilities in the matter of speech making are very much opposed to the bill, and will therefore endeavor to protract the debate on it as long as possible. There is only one thing that is likely to force an early vote on the measure—so far as it can be forced in the Senate—and that is the necessity of considering at as early a date as possible other measures of great importance. Behind the oleomargarine bill is looming the Chinese exclusion act, the pure food bill, the Nicaraguan canal bill, the Cuban reciprocity proposition, and the whole subject of Philippine legislation, to say nothing of the regular appropriation measures. It is a long program and the general feeling is that we will be fortunate indeed if an adjournment can be reached by the first of July.

There are only seven contested election cases in this Congress, and thus far but two of them have been disposed of. In the first one of these (the report of the committee was unanimous in favor of seating the Democratic contestant, and that was accordingly done without division or debate. The second case was that of Mackenzie Moss against John Rhea, from the Third Kentucky district. In this case the committee divided on party lines and the result was a lively debate for nearly three days, ending this afternoon in the seating of Mr. Moss, the Republican contestant.

The testimony taken in this case, and the debate upon the floor of the House, brought out some very interesting facts concerning the Goebel election law and its possibilities under expert manipulation. In many respects the law is an exceedingly fair one. In the matter of the identification of the voter it is particularly guarded, and in nearly all respects, if honestly carried out, it would result in an absolutely fair elec-

tion. Its possibilities for unfairness, however, rests on this feature: It provides for the election by the legislature, of a state election commission of three members. This state board appoints a similar board of three in each county in the state. The county commissioners designate the judges and clerks at each election precinct. The law provides for the representation of the minority party at each precinct, but it puts the selection of the minority representative in the hands of the election commission. It is easy to understand, therefore, how by selecting for the Democratic judges men who are expert in the business; who are bold, positive and maybe unscrupulous; and by selecting as the minority representative a man who knows nothing of the election law, who has never served as a judge, and who is either weak or corrupt, so that he may be bulldozed or bought, the dominant party may absolutely control the count and return of the votes. The ballots which were introduced in this case, and a re-count of which gave the majority to Mr. Moss, furnished excellent evidence of what can be done by dishonest men under an honest law. Under this law instead of marking his ballot with a lead pencil, as is done in Kansas, the voter is required to use a rubber stamp, which is inked from a pad. It can be easily understood that when a ballot thus stamped with ink is immediately folded there should be a blur upon the portion of the ballot which was brought in contact with the original mark. In certain precincts the election judges managed to have a great number of Republican ballots thus blurred, and under that section of the law which provided that no distinguishing mark should be put upon a ballot, these votes were rejected. It was a perfectly plain case, and the fact that the solid Democratic vote was cast against the contestant was simply evidence of the extent to which partisan bias may influence honest men.

The result of this contest, by the way, has some personal interest to a good many people in Iola, for the reason that Mr. Moss, the Republican contestant in the case, is a cousin of the Ewing family, and spent some weeks in Iola a few years ago, where he made many acquaintances who will remember him pleasantly, and who will be gratified to learn of his political success. C. F. S.

Washington, March 27.—Notwithstanding all the newspaper talk about the removal of Hon. Joseph L. Bristow, of Kansas, from the office of Fourth Assistant Postmaster General there has never been any serious danger of such a change. Mr. Bristow's unaffected and cordial manner, his strong common sense and his remarkable facility in the transaction of business involving the mastery of innumerable details, combine to make him an invaluable official and give him so many friends of high and low degree that he has not been obliged to make any personal effort to retain his present position.

Secure as his position is, however, it has been materially strengthened by the result of the Neely-Reeves-Rathbone trials recently concluded in Cuba. The story of the embezzlement of Cuban postal funds by Neely and his associates is too recent to need rehearsal here. It is enough to say that when the Governor General became convinced that frauds were being committed, and asked for some one to be sent to investigate them, Mr. Bristow was chosen for the delicate and difficult mission. As a result of his investigations, C. F. W. Neely, W. H. Reeves and Estes G. Rathbone—all officials in the Havana postoffice—were arraigned for embezzlement. The trial has been a long one, but has resulted in the conviction of all three of the defendants, each of whom has been sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary, and to pay a fine of from \$35,000, in the case of Rathbone, to \$50,000, in the case of Neely. The verdict is a complete confirmation of the accuracy of General Bristow's work.

The sentence in these cases illustrates a peculiarity of the Spanish law, under which the suits were tried, which it would seem odd had might even defeat its consideration by the House. It would seem that the Democratic party is not so opulent of winning issues as to warrant it in making a hard fight against one which it claims will be the surest winner of all. Of course the Democratic contention is that the Crumpacker resolution is but the forerunner of a federal election law, and they are making themselves very hoarse in the throat and very red in the face, shouting about "force bill." As a matter of fact, however, the resolution does not contemplate anything of the kind—

In my last letter I believe I said something about the leisurely method of procedure in the Senate debates.

To illustrate further, let me quote from the Record of March 26. The oleomargarine bill was under consideration, and Senator Proctor had ventured very gently to suggest that he hoped the Senate would be ready to vote on the measure next Saturday. Whereupon Mr. Bailey, of Texas, arose and said: "It is my purpose to address the Senate upon this question. Up to this time I have not begun even the necessary preparation, consulting statistics, and I have not examined until at my seat today the opinions of the Supreme Court touching the powers of the states and the powers of the Federal Government over this question. I have no intention of preparing or attempting an elaborate speech. Indeed, I have no intention of preparing a speech at all; but I do intend to make one. I will not be ready to proceed before Monday; that is practically certain. I will say this much to the Senator from Vermont, that after those of us who desire to speak have spoken we will be ready to take a vote." Two or three members of the House were on the floor of the Senate when this statement was made, and they inquired of one another what would happen to a man who should make a statement of that kind in the Hall of Representatives. They all agreed that if anyone should so far take leave of his senses as to make such a suggestion, he would receive a jolt that would forever prevent a repetition of the offense. In the House a man is supposed to be always prepared, and a request that a debate be postponed while he looked up statistics and supreme court decisions would be greeted with a chorus of jeers and laughter that would make the unfortunate member wish he had never been born.

However, the Senate is a deliberative body in the true sense of the word, and on account of its limited membership it can follow a line of parliamentary procedure and still manage to get through in some way with the public business, which if adopted by the House of Representatives, with its large and tumultuous membership, would absolutely block the wheels of legislation. In the course of a hundred years each of these great bodies has evolved the rules and practice best suited to its own peculiar needs, and the result in a broad way has been to enact measures which have made it possible for the United States to become the greatest nation on earth today and its people the happiest, most contented and prosperous.

Up to this time there have been comparatively few divisions in the House on strictly party lines, and there has been very little acrimonious debate. To be sure the Democrats have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded on various occasions to bitterly arraign the Republican administration on account of its Philippine policy, but as their speeches are so obviously intended for home consumption, and are regarded by Republicans as merely a threshing over of old straw, but little attention has been paid to them, and little time has been wasted in reply. During the past few days, however—particularly since the contested election case of Moss versus Rhea was before the House, there have been more evidences of party spirit, and it is freely predicted that from this time forward there will be very little business transacted by unanimous consent. This is particularly expected to be the case in the event that the Crumpacker resolution, calling for an investigation of the election laws in the various states, should be brought up for consideration. With an inconsistency which has become very familiar to the country, the Democratic leaders are proclaiming in the newspapers that they are delighted to accept the issue which this resolution defines, but from their places in the House they are denouncing the resolution with the most extreme vehemence. If they really believe, as their newspaper interviews declare, that the passage of this measure will solidify the Democratic party, and assure to it the control of the next Congress, it is a little difficult to understand why they should exhaust every parliamentary resource to even defeat its consideration by the House. It would seem that the Democratic party is not so opulent of winning issues as to warrant it in making a hard fight against one which it claims will be the surest winner of all.

Of course the Democratic contention is that the Crumpacker resolution is but the forerunner of a federal election law, and they are making themselves very hoarse in the throat and very red in the face, shouting about "force bill." As a matter of fact, however, the resolution does not contemplate anything of the kind—

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Kansas Clips and Comments

The Steel Trust during 1901 divided 11 millions. How much did your steel net you?

The printer sympathizes with women. Type faces change style as often as do clothes and cost as much.

Miss Turnbull is visiting in Galena. Her talents are wasted there; she should move out to the live-stock country.

A farmer living 22 miles from Osborne drove to town and back Monday behind a 30-year old horse. His horses are well cared for.

A Progressive Whist Club at Eureka recently held a meeting at which the prizes were Plymouth Rock hens. No, the members are white.

The Topeka Capital's voting contest to decide whether Kansans want re-submission now stands thus: Against re-submission 992; for 622.

To say that a politician plays a musical instrument is considered a stab; to say that he has a popular band wagon is great praise.

An enterprising Augusta merchant will take pictures of all his customers free—just as many as the customer is willing to give gratuitously.

The date of Cuba's freedom has been fixed at May 20 but the Lawrence Journal favors waiting until July 4 so we can all whoop-er-up together.

Here is something the Aetichson Globe thinks is one of the funniest things in the world: The thing a girl has on her arm and calls "muscle."

A Topeka editor asks: "Are there any sweeter words than these, 'I love you?'" "Yes," replies a Wichita man "What'll you have," goes nearer the spot.

"A home for \$50," read the ad. in one paper. "Any lone, wandering \$50 can find a home by applying here," commented the neighboring paper.

\$2,000 will be expended in sinking a gas well at Haskell Institute near Lawrence. What a fine thing a burning gas well would be around which to hold a war dance.

Mr. Democracy has jilted Miss Populism and she, like every member of the sex, has her nose in the air and rows she "never did care a snap for that low-down wretch."

A Paola man who makes a bath cabinet got an order for one from New Zealand. It is probably some South Sea Islander who wants it for a dress to wear on state occasions.

The Champion grafter, worked Chantute. He took sample kodak pictures and actually made his victims "smile and look pleasant" while he was working them for 25 cents each.

Emporia people who have been wont to associate music and long hair were shocked to see a bald-headed fiddler in the orchestra of a great concert company which recently played there.

Citizens of Nexton and wealthy farmers have formed a company to manufacture a new Prairie Queen Separator at that place. They hope to separate prosperous Kansas farmers from a million or two.

The Thayer News says a calf belonging to a man in that town swallowed one copy of the Topeka Capital. The calf died next day. Moral: Don't try to digest all that a newspaper contains in fifteen minutes.

A detective named Ferguson, who has worked up the case against the murderers of G. C. Montgomery, the Santa Fe detective killed at Winfield, has disappeared and it is thought he has been made away with.

The Kansas and Oklahoma grain-dealers, in convention, decided that Kansas will raise but half and Oklahoma but 40 per cent of a wheat crop this year. The grain-dealers must desire to close out their holdings.

A Topeka boy arrested for stealing a case of beer pleaded guilty. When asked what his occupation was, he replied: "Staying at home." If there were but one loafer and one case of beer on earth, they would get together.

One can hear Bent Murdock's grunt of astonished disapproval as he wrote: A lot of brewery men, who are getting \$3 a day and half a gallon of free beer, for 10 hours work, have gone out on a strike for 8 hours a day, and a gallon of free beer.

Henry and Cyrus Harvey, Quakers and brothers, were held up by a footpad at Galena and touched for \$75. They submitted sweetly at first and then one suddenly turned on the footpad and wrenched his pistol away and chased him down street.

On Tuesday the first rails of the Orient railroad were laid in Chihuahua, Mexico. Still it takes quiet a spell to get from Chihuahua to Wichita, Emporia, et al, and those towns may never get more of the road than a promise and "the merry huahua."

Congressman W. A. Calderhead was renominated by the Fifth District Republicans in a fifteen minute convention at Clay Center. This was most fortunate as there were seventy or more State Candidates present, each of whom required ten minutes for a speech.

The young Republicans of Cloud county have a Club in full swing and have just held their second annual banquet at which 400 guests participated. It is a great thing to maintain county organization and draws outside politicians like flies to a molasses jug.

The Methodists of Ottawa have decided to build a \$30,000 church.

The man who is promoting the Salina gas well is Mr. Jolly. He probably is looking for laughing gas.

A trust in Buffalo has closed six breweries. Kansas shudders at trusts and at beer, so she is perplexed what to do when a trust closes a beer factory.

Eldorado Republican: A Kansas man, who paid \$3.00 to hear Nordick, says he listened attentively, and all he understood her to say was "who killed the cat."

Velis are going to be ultra-fashionable this year. From adaption to environment the male mouth may now be expected to develop into a regular proboscis.

Charles Dicky, aged ninety, is dead in Phillips county. But his fame is secure. Dickevillie, a cross roads town, remains on the map, and was named for him.

Eldorado offers a terrible example. A man went home drunk and began cursing his wife. He was suddenly stricken deaf, dumb and blind. She landed on him with a poker.

The Ottawa Republic thinks the second district fusionists should nominate a man who can beat Congressman Bowersock. But the Republic meanwhile refuses to name the man.

War item from the Eureka Herald: The seat of war in South Africa got so hot recently that the British had to go "way back to find a place to sit down."

A traveling lecturer informed the ladies of the Shakespeare Club of Columbus that in all his travels he never met a finer, fairer, smarter audience. Cheers and cries of "you bet yer life!"

Ottawa youths can't wait for April first and have already begun to set wires on the sidewalks to trip people at night. Such idiotic pranks are had enough one day in the year let alone making them general.

In response to the Supreme Court mandate Jessie Morrison surrendered herself to the sheriff at Eldorado and was locked in her old cell. She then secured her \$10,000 bond and was let out until her new trial.

During 1900 the American hens laid 1,293,819,186 eggs. The census man found that many. The egg sucker, human and canine, has not reported. America's henry is more helpful than Germany's Henry.

The Wellington News propounded a conundrum, asking what musical instrument was suggested by the newspaper which Dave Leahy once edited. Everybody promptly guessed "lyre," but the News says the guess is wrong.

Contracts are soon to be let for the Parsons asylum, which is to be for epileptics only. These buildings will accommodate over 100 patients according to their malady and the buildings are supposed to be finished this summer.

A Lyon county man stole a horse, was captured, tried, convicted and began serving his sentence all in one week. His retribution was almost as rapid as the punishment dealt out to horse thieves in the pioneer days of Kansas.

Independence held a Trades Display, of girls representing the lines of business. Among the most interesting were those representing an undertaker, the ice plant and the telephone company. None needed a make-up to show a likeness.

Ottawa Herald: The McPherson preacher who said that the serpent in the Garden of Eden was a man, and not a snake, is now out on a limb, without any proof, while the church confession of faith and a threatened trial for "heresy" is staring him in the face.

The Santa Fe will spend \$1,412,960 in improvements during 1902. One-third of this amount will be spent in Kansas. New depots at Chanute and Olathe and a \$20,000 addition to the Topeka station are included in the budget.

A McPherson man objects to woman suffrage on the ground that it lays the women liable to police, jury and military service. Wonder how much time he has spent in all three! A man who knows no more about law, ought not to be eligible in any of them.

The Ottawa Republic is offering encouragement by printing four verses in one issue from the pen of the party who wrote this:

There was a young man of LeLoup
Who joined a theatrical troupe.
The public got sore, bought a green grocer's store
And threw the stuff into the soup.

A human head was found in a manure pile at Conway Springs and everybody got to shivering nicely awaiting the development of the awful crime, when the local sawbones sauntered up and admitted he got the head in St. Louis to help him study anatomy and buried it there. People felt real disappointed.

Speaking of low down deals, how about the case of the Emporia man whose household goods and cow were laid over in Kansas City? He telegraphed and the Kansas City men milked the cow, getting several quarts of rich milk, and then sent him a bill for 25 cents in addition. He ought to have telegraphed the cow to "kick stuff" out of the man.