

FARMER BROWN AT SCHOOL

"CONSENT OF GOVERNED."

Senator "Pitchfork" Tillman Sheds "Crocodile Tears" Over Woes of the Filipinos, but Admits His Party Shot Negro Republicans in the South.

Eighth Lesson.

"I want to ask you a question, this evening," said Farmer Brown, as they seated themselves for the next evening's lesson, "in regard to a matter that has bothered me somewhat ever since the candidates were nominated. You see the Democrats say that the taking of the Philippine islands and the attempt on the part of the president to conquer the Filipinos and make them a part of the United States, isn't according to the constitution. What do you say to that?"

What the Administration Proposes.

"I know that the Democrats talk very learnedly about the 'consent of the governed,'" said John, "and there has been an attempt to arouse a good deal of sentimentality on this score. It strikes me, however, that if this matter is considered dispassionately, one will hardly say that the Democrats have any right to quote what they claim is the constitutional argument against the holding of the Philippines. In the first place the administration proposes to give the Filipinos a stable government, but to do this you will admit, I think, that it will be necessary, first, for them to cease their insurrectionary warfare. The ratification of the treaty of Paris gave to the United States the absolute legal title to these islands and, at the same time, imposed upon us the duty of protecting the people of the islands and their property from harm, both from insurrection within or attacks from without. Now, to perform this duty it will, of course, be necessary for the United States to suppress this insurrection before it can establish a formal government for the islands. It seems to me, father, that this is one thing which the opponents of the administration do not take into account. So far as anything that the administration has yet done it seems that we have acted entirely within the constitution and in accordance with the provisions of the Paris treaty. You must also remember, and this is one of the strong points in the discussion of this question, that the ratification of this treaty may be said to have been brought about almost solely through the influence exerted by William Jennings Bryan.

Ratified Through Mr. Bryan's Influence.

"You know it took a two-thirds vote of the senate to ratify the treaty, and the Republicans could not muster enough votes to do so without the assistance of the opposition in that body. Mr. Bryan went to Washington and urged the Democrats and Free Silver senators to join with the Republicans and vote for its ratification. They did so and ten Democratic senators, three Populists, four silverites and one independent took Bryan's advice and voted for the ratification, giving the treaty 57 votes to 27 in the negative. Thus it came about that it was through his influence that the needed votes were secured. He had nothing to say at that time about the 'consent of the governed' and it was left to subsequent Democratic platforms to give voice to this objection and, in my opinion, this was done solely because the managers of Mr. Bryan's campaign hoped thereby to secure votes for their ticket among the foreign element of our people.

"Consent of the Governed" in the South.

"With reference to the charge that the constitution has been violated or is to be, with respect to the 'consent of the governed,' it seems to me that there are a few things in our own country which the Democrats should consider before they bring this charge against President McKinley and the Republican administration. In the first place, I find, by consulting a speech made by Hon. E. J. Burkett of Nebraska in the house of representatives, March 9, 1900, that there were 15 members of the house at its last session who were elected by a vote averaging only 3,025, and 11 of these had no opposition whatever. In the other cases the opposition vote ranged from 141 to 373. Now, the population of these 15 districts is 2,589,134, or an average population per district of 172,609. These districts, according to this showing, averaged one vote to every 57 population. Now, father, you will admit that there is evidently something wrong there. The districts I refer to are the Sixth South Carolina; the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Sixth Arkansas; the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Tenth Georgia; the Sixth Louisiana, and the First, Second and Third Mississippi districts. It is needless to say, of course, that each of these districts is represented in congress by a Democratic member. Now, take five districts in the north, the First and Second Colorado districts, represented by silverites, the First and Seventh Illinois, represented by Republicans, and the Sixteenth New York, represented by a Democrat. These five districts have a population of 1,092,742, or about two-fifths of the population of the 15 districts I have just referred to, but the number of votes cast in these districts aggregated 811,905, and the successful candidates received an average of 39,305 votes to an average of 23,016 votes cast for their opponents.

"Further on in this same speech I find that the ten southern states, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina,

Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama and Louisiana, which have 86 representatives in congress, cast but 1,224,223 votes, with a population of 14,972,316, while the nine northern states, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Indiana, Colorado, and Ohio, with 89 congressmen, cast 3,369,286 votes, with a population of 15,775,215. Now, father, doesn't it seem that there must be some people in the south who are being governed 'without the consent of the governed'?"

"Well, it seems to me that there may be something in what you say," remarked Farmer Brown.

The North Carolina Amendment.

"But that is not all," continued his son. "The action of the Democrats in North Carolina in forcing the adoption of the constitutional amendment in that state only a short time ago, which practically disfranchises the colored vote of that state, is another instance of the policy of the Democrats, despite their platform utterances.

"In the report of the proceedings of the Democratic state convention in North Carolina, held April 11, 1900, I find the following statement in a speech made by State Chairman Simmons:

"Not all the soldiers McKinley can spare from fighting negroes in the Philippines can defeat the purpose of the white people to rule in North Carolina. The object of that amendment can be stated in ten words—to disfranchise ignorant negroes and not disfranchise an uneducated white man—and by the Eternal God, every white man shall vote."

"Now, this amendment which was described by Chairman Simmons in the choice language that I have quoted, was as follows:

"Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the constitution in the English language. Before he shall be entitled to vote he shall have paid on or before the 1st day of May, of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax for the previous year, but no male person, who was, on Jan. 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any state of the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this state by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualifications herein described."

"That amendment was adopted at the election held in North Carolina Aug. 2. Concerning the effect of this amendment, Senator Marion Butler, the Populist senator from North Carolina, says: 'Unconstitutional regulations have taken the place of the guaranteed right of suffrage and representation; and those in a little brief authority are the masters who select the rulers and servants of the people. At first it was cheating the negroes, but now it is depriving of the right to an honest ballot and fair count those who are born free.'

Pitchfork Tillman Tells How It Was Done.

"As another instance of the violation of the 'consent of the governed,'" continued John, "I want to quote to you some remarks made by Senator Tillman of South Carolina in a speech in congress during the last session. You will remember that Senator Tillman read the report of the platform committee at the Kansas City convention, and wept crocodile tears over the 'consent of the governed' in the islands of the sea that are now in insurrection. On Friday, March 23, 1900, in the United States senate, Senator Tillman gave utterance, in referring to the suppression of the colored vote in South Carolina, to the following statement. After referring to the fact that the negroes had a majority of the votes in South Carolina, he said: 'How did we recover our liberty? By fraud and violence. We tried to overcome the 30,000 majority by honest methods, which was a mathematical impossibility. How did we bring it about? Every white man sunk his personal feelings and ambitions. The white people of the state, illustrating our glorious motto, 'ready with their lives and fortunes,' came together as one. By fraud and violence, if you please, we threw it off. In 1878 we had to resort to more fraud and violence, and so again in 1880. Then the registration law and eight-box system was evolved from the superior intelligence of the white man, to check and control this surging, muddy stream of ignorance and to tell it to back, and since then we have carried our elections without resort to any illegal methods, simply because the whites were united.'

Admits They Shot Negroes and are Not Ashamed of It.

"This was what Mr. Tillman said when making his set speech. On Feb. 25, 1900, in the course of a running debate, he said, in referring to the manner in which the Democrats overcame the Republican majority in South Carolina: 'When that happened, we took the government away. We stuffed ballot boxes. We shot them. We are not ashamed of it. The senator from Wisconsin would have done the same thing. With that system—force, tissue ballots, etc.—we got tired ourselves. So we called a constitutional convention and we eliminated, as I said, all the colored people we could under the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments.'

"It doesn't seem quite right, does it, John?" remarked Farmer Brown. "You are making your case still stronger at every lesson, but I am beginning to understand many things that I did not see quite clearly before."

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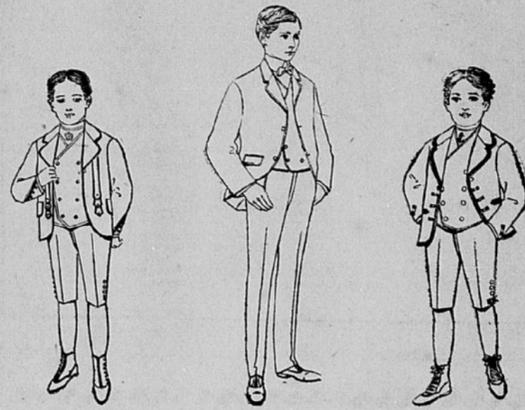


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