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FARMER BEN'S COLUMN.

John Lind's organ calls Capt. VanSant a little tin soldier. How do the old comrades like such talk about a brave soldier in the war of the rebellion? VanSant tried to enlist when the war broke out but was only 17 and they wouldn't take him. But he got his father's consent at last, as the lad stuck to his notion of fighting for his country, and he enlisted in Co. A, Ninth Ill. cavalry, and for over three years was a brave soldier. He took all the hardships of war like a man and followed the noted general Grierson into all kinds of danger without flinching. And now comes a wooden head and calls him a tin soldier. I'd like to know what kind of a military record John Lind has. He was quartermaster for a while in the Cuban war and never set foot off this country. He never smelt powder, he never was within a thousand miles more or less of the enemy; he is one of those chaps that are invincible in time of peace and invisible in time of war. A pretty soldier he is to be setting on to a real soldier like VanSant and calling him names. It would take a hundred quartermasters like Lind to make one good, real fighting soldier like VanSant. And don't you forget it, the G. A. B. boys are on to the racket.

The Bryautes and fusionists and independents have decided on a campaign of abuse and it looks like prizes was offered for the fellows that could tell the biggest whoppers of lies about the candidates that are goin' to beat 'em. I never see it fall that when a man has a weak side he always begins to cuss and call names. There ain't nothing he can say for his cause and so there ain't nothin' else left for him to do but to abuse and cuss and pitch on. You can always tell when a fellow has the losin' side of the argument. You know it by his villifyin' and malignin' and misrepresentin' the fellow on the other side. And the harder he cusses and the madder he works himself up, the weaker he shows his side is. The fellows that are makin' a pretense of supportin' the independent and Democratic tickets know that they ain't got a leg to stand on and so they have got a lot of mud and are slingin' it at their betters. Paste this in your hat and you'll never make a mistake that when a feller has no argument or right on his side he will alius show his weakness and hopeless case by abuse and lies and callin' names.

One of the boys was tellin' me that a farmer from the east side of the county was tellin' him the other day that all the Democrats in his neighborhood were goin' to vote for McKinley and prosperity even if they stuck to Lind and Democracy on smaller matters. There ain't a farmer in this county can afford to vote agin Mac and Teddy. I tell you this expansion business is openin' up new markets for our farm stuff and cattle and this is what is makin' cattle and other stuff higher than it was under Cleveland. It looks just as plain to Farmer Ben as VanSant's election that if I have a thousand bushels of wheat to sell and there ain't no market for it, I have to keep it in my granary or else dicker it off at any old price offered, but if there is a good market and demand for it, then folks want it and come after it and I can clean out my bins and sell all my wheat at fair prices. Anybody but a puttyheaded idjit must see that when foreign markets are opened up for our farm produce, it makes better demand for 'em and gives a farmer a better chance to clean out his granary. The farmer who votes for Bryan this trip will be hiring somebody to kick him just one year later.

Farmer Ben don't like to see this nationality racket comin' up again. The man or woman who would vote for a candidate just because he was German or Norwegian ought to have his ballot taken away from him until he gets some sense into his noodle. When we get naturalized, we become American citizens and there ain't no Germans and Norwegians and Irish any more but just citizens and all on the same equal footin'. I am told that some of the candidates are tryin' to work this nationality racket for votes for themselves. It is lowlived and dishonorable and small-minded and unpatriotic and the voters ought to sit down on it hard. When anybody's biggest qualifications for an office is that they are Dutch or Irish, it is high time to stamp on 'em and leave 'em out. The first question about every candidate is whether they are competent and capable. This same nationality racket was worked

for Lind two years ago and helped to elect him to the office he rattles round in tryin' to fill. When any candidate comes to you and tries to work this nationality racket for your vote, kick 'em out no matter who they are.

Keep the ball a rollin' and we are all full of glee. Maine had election last week and rolled up a plurality of 33,000 for the Republicans, the biggest ever known in that state on presidential year except four years ago when the gold Democrat vote made it a little bigger. Ain't this a rouser? As goes Maine, so goes the Union. All right, let her go so. It will be in the interest of good governin' and respect for "Old Glory" in every corner of the globe and good markets comin' from expansion and spreadin' out. I just threw up my hat when I heard the glorious news from Maine. Tom Read with his little anti pop gun ain't in it. The people have spoken and they are for backin' up McKinley's work. Minnesota will give over 50,000 plurality for Mac and Teddy in November. Ain't it just glorious? Bryan and Towne and the other windbags can't raise wind enough to move a straw. The people are onto their political trick for office only and are everlastingly goin' to lambast 'em. Fusion and all their other schemin' plans ain't goin' to count one little bit for 'em.

I've got my corn cut up and my chores in shape so I can get away a little and there are two things that I am lottin' on, one is to go up to the reception to Knute Nelson and Jim Tawney at the courthouse next Saturday afternoon and if my rheumatiz will allow get up to hear Nelson in the evening and the other is to take in the Austin street fair next week. Ain't it nice to have the Austin folks put up something free for the farmers once in a lifetime and as I understand it there ain't to be any charge for admission and all premiums paid in cash on the spot. I want to hear Nelson on the issues. What he don't know about 'em nobody knows and out in Dakota where he talked last week they liked him about as well as Teddy. Knute talks facts and so plain that us common folks can understand. He tackles the live subjects and is just as willin' to take the subjects the opposition imagine up as any others. Any republican voter in this county who is goin' to be a sucker and vote for a legislator who will vote against Nelson and try to put in that schemin' Lind ain't fit ever to show his face in public. He ought to move to South Africa.

I'm glad that VanSant is growin' popular every day as folks get acquainted with him. Farmer Ben likes him because he is just common folks and ain't bossy. He ain't a schemin' lawyer like Lind. Ain't we got about enough of this lawyer business in our legislator and public offices? It looks like a change to folks in other lines might be a big improvement. Lind is a lawyer and everybody is onto his record with an increase of \$35,000 in the state grain inspection expense and other things accordingly. He is just about such a boss as I would like to see kicked clean out of office. VanSant is every day the same to everybody. He is honest and capable and has got just as much brains as Lind only he don't work 'em in the same line and that is an improvement. VanSant is an old soldier too a high private same as the rest of us and don't make any pretensions to anything bigger. He is a plain business man, with a good head and heart and let's shut out the lawyer Lind and try something better.

One of the boys was tellin' me that I hit it just right on what I said about speakin' in simple language instid of tryin' to use big words. I think this habit of profuse language all comes from the lawyers. I can't find any record of any thing of the kind before the lawyers invented their profession. They've got onto this profuseness all right. They can't even make out a quitclaim without stringin' out all the words they can think of: "I do hereby grant, bargain, sell, remise, release, quitclaim and convey, etc." If a lawyer was goin' to give you an orange I suppose he would say: "I hereby give, grant and convey to you all my interest, right, title and advantage in this orange, together with its rind, skin, juice, pulp and pits, and all right and advantage therein with full power to bite, suck or otherwise eat the same or give away with or without the rind, skin, juice, pulp or pits; anything heretofore or in any other deed or deeds, or instruments of any nature or kind whatsoever to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding." FARMER BEN.

"DEAR BOY" LETTERS.

MY DEAR BOY:

So your employer says that "The Filipinos ought to have their liberty and United States soldiers ought to be in better business than making war on an innocent people and strangling the life out of a new republic."

Since he has put in a nutshell the substance of Mr. Bryan's speech, I shall dispose of Mr. Bryan and the whole anti-imperialist crew in answering him. I know that you have but little time to read and shall use the fewest words possible, as I shall endeavor to give you a clear intelligent view of the situation over in our new possessions.

1. Our soldiers are not strangling the life out of a new republic, for the very good reason that there never was any republic in the Philippines. A republic is a government by the people through their chosen representatives. The people of the Philippines never were consulted about the so-called Filipino republic. Its head was a tricky young Tagalo named Aguinaldo, who proclaimed himself Dictator and endeavored to make himself so by force of arms. Republics are not governed by a dictator. The form of government which took the place of a constitution in the so-called republic was a lengthy personal decree of Aguinaldo himself. It was not a republic but a despotism which he sought to establish. The people of the Philippine Islands are made up of many different tribes, Negritos, Tagalos, Moros, Nisayans and more than fifty others. These tribes are separate in blood, sympathies and to a large extent in language. In addition to these are thousands of Spaniards, Germans, Americans and people of other nations who are residents there and whose persons and property are to be protected. In addition to all these are large numbers of Mestizos, people whose mothers were native Filipinos, but whose fathers were Japanese, Chinese or Spaniards.

There is no probability that one-half or one-third of all these vast numbers of people would consent to be governed by Aguinaldo and the Tagalo tribe which he represents. Many of them would certainly fight against it. The abandonment of the islands by the United States army would mean, not liberty to the people, but war among themselves, resulting in either despotism or anarchy.

2. The United States has never made war upon the Filipinos. We have not even been engaged in war, offensive or defensive, against the Filipinos as a people. The Filipinos number probably ten millions of people and two millions of men capable of bearing arms. If they were united in war against us, the little army which we have there would scarcely be a circumstance in their way. But the majority of the Filipinos are a quiet, docile people, not disposed to fight and not engaged in the insurrection now practically quelled. Aguinaldo has comparatively few supporters outside of his own tribe, the Tagalos, who compose probably one-tenth of the whole mass of Filipinos. He, in his mad effort for absolute rule, attacked the forces of the United States and we were compelled to quell the insurrection.

3. The United States troops are in the Philippines for the protection of the people from murder, rapine and misrule, and for the preservation of law, order and property rights. For many years there have been robber bands in the mountains who would from time to time light down upon the villages and rob and murder the people. The Spaniards paid no attention to the interior, but protected only the coast. Last spring one of these bands attacked a Filipino village and in addition to the robbery and killing, carried away thirty Filipino women to the hills. Two companies of U. S. soldiers pursued them, attacked and dispersed the band, and restored the women to their friends. We are bringing to these islands true liberty. "Liberty protected by law."

4. The possession and control of these islands came to us providentially, unexpectedly and unthought. They are ours by treaty, and a treaty which Mr. Bryan approved. We are responsible to the nations of the earth and to the Judge of all the earth for their care. We accept the responsibility in the fear of God and the love of humanity. I may not live to see it, my boy, but if you live twenty years you will see the most marvelous development in the world's history in the Philippines. Good roads, good schools, the development of agriculture, manufactures and mining, the introduction of American push and energy

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among the people, railroads and a hundred other means of transformation. You will see there twenty millions of contented and prosperous people who will rejoice in their liberty and their privileges and be proud of their relations to the greatest of all nations, the United States of America. And then, my boy, every Democrat in America will swear that he always was in favor of that thing and that he was ever an expansionist of the first water. YOUR FATHER.

Imperialism Impossible.

Among the provisions of the federal constitution which bear upon this matter is paragraph twelve of section eight, article one, which among other things gives congress power:

"To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years."

Thus the people through their representatives in congress have complete and absolute control over the army. They hold the purse and in so doing, they hold the sword. Imperialism in the sense in which Mr. Bryan uses the term, is an impossibility. The constitution prevents it. Imperialism without an army or an army without money to pay and support it is a vagary of Democratic imagination. We can never have any more imperialism in this country than the people are fit to authorize from time to time. Whenever they wish to modify or reduce our military strength or stivity, the matter rests wholly with the people. Even Mr. Bryan himself would be helpless.

Astounded the Editor.

Editor S. A. Brown, of Bennettsville, S. C., was once immensely surprised. "Though long suffering from Dyspepsia," he writes, "my wife was greatly run down. She had no strength or vigor and suffered great distress from her stomach, but she tried Electric Bitters, which helped her at once, and, after using four bottles, she is entirely well, can eat anything. It's a grand tonic, and its gentle laxative qualities are splendid for torpid liver." For Indigestion, Loss of Appetite, Stomach and Liver Troubles it's a positive, guaranteed cure. Only at K. O. Wold's drug store.



You are cordially invited to attend a reception to be given by the Republicans of

Mower County to
Hon. Knute Nelson

and
Hon. James A. Tawney,

at the Court House,
in the City of Austin on the afternoon of,
Saturday, September 22nd.

Bring your family and friends with you and enjoy a good social time.

Republican County Committee.

Senator Nelson will discuss the political issues of the day at Armory Hall, Austin, in the evening of the same day.