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TWELVE PAGES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 1900.

WHERE IS HOME RULE?

Treachery and violence at Manila must not blind us to the treachery and violence going on at Washington; nor must these examples cause us to overlook the trend of things at our own doors. The inversion of popular government is steadily progressing in Federal, State and municipal affairs. Public officers, instead of being the servants and stewards of the people, are rapidly becoming their absolute masters. And this inversion, or turning upside down of things, must soon result in the subversion of even our forms of government, and make us abject victims of a tyranny usurped by fraud, or imposed by force, or entailed by both through our stupidity and neglect.

How is it that men elected here to serve and represent this city, its people and them and their interests, so often forget who elected them and what for? Not only so; but we see some of these men at once assuming that their offices are theirs, for their own benefit; and, strangest of all, some of them actually proceed as if they were elected by other people, to represent them and their interests! As strange as this is, when we reflect on it a moment, it is so frequent and common a phenomenon that most of us would be surprised if it did not occur, as a matter of course. And yet we are supposed to choose these men—to nominate and elect them! But do we really choose, nominate and elect?

Too many facts conflict with the law and the delusion that we are a free and self-governing people. Behold! here is a man nominated for some important public trust whom no man who knows him would trust with a red-hot stove, unless it was chained down. Every decent citizen repudiates with indignation the imputation that he had any hand in selecting him. Yet he is charged to "the people," when, in fact, he is nominated for a purpose in rank defiance of all popular rights and interests; but, SOMEHOW, he is the party nominee, and under the stress and duress of party allegiance, and dislike of the other party, the people elect him, or, at any rate, he is counted in and returned as having received a majority of the votes! How many such men are returned elected at every one of our elections? Somebody knows, but the people do not, or only know that they had a voice for only a few good men who are thrown in to give countenance to others.

At once we find that the officers we elected are somebody else's officers, and that they, or a majority of them, care no more for our will or interests than if they had been nominated and elected under some dominant influence in the Penitentiary at Richmond; and that these fellows are guided by instructions from Richmond, or from Baltimore, or some other locality on the outside of Norfolk:

Not only is this too true in non-partizan matters, relating directly to our material development as a city, but it is even more true in our political and party affairs. We must first learn who and what certain outsiders want before we dare to express a preference for anybody or anything; and when we hear from these outside quarters, we must turn ourselves wrong-side out, to be in accord with this alien rule, or say nothing; for what are we, the people of Norfolk, or what is Norfolk, that we should have the assurance to possess an opinion and a voice not attuned to that of the higher powers?

A FEDERAL INCOME TAX.

Matthew Marshall, the financial writer of the New York Sun, says, in concluding an article on the income-tax in England, and to such a tax in this country:

"At present, the Constitution stands in the way of its imposition by the Federal Government and no State has yet proposed to resort to it."

We believe the first statement to be incorrect, and we know the latter to be so; for Virginia, if not other States, has an income-tax; and this tax is expressly authorized by our State constitution, Article X., section 4. The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that a Federal income-tax is unconstitutional, but we think it is mistaken about that, especially as it formerly held otherwise, and may again.

The English income-tax is now said to be 8 pence on the pound sterling, or 3⅓ per cent.,—amounting to 18,000,000 pounds, or $90,000,000, a year,—about one-sixth of the ordinary revenue. As large as the sum is realized from this source annually, it would be much larger if that portion of British incomes derived from foreign investments could be reached. But the tax-payers are not sworn and the amount of their incomes is ascertained directly from all accessible public records. As income from foreign sources is not recorded in England, and as no declaration of it is required, it escapes assessment and taxation; and this explains largely the eagerness of English capitalists to invest in this and other countries, where not only are greater interest and dividends paid on money, but these are exempt wholly from British taxes and largely from all taxes, as in the case of United States bonds registered at the U. S. Treasury or these and coupon bonds of the U. S. on deposit in this country.

Our Federal constitution empowers Congress:

"To lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

The constitution elsewhere says that "direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States, which may be included in this Union, according to their respective numbers."

These are ample grants of power to levy taxes, and the conditions of uniformity and number clearly mean that the rate and basis of taxation in every State shall be the same for Federal purposes; and if a different uniformity is meant, how is it that Congress has enacted and the government enforces a graduated tax on legacies and distributive shares of personal property, varying from 75 cents on the $100 to $15 on the $100?

The truth is that there is no tax more just and more easily borne than a tax on large incomes, and an exemption of small incomes from it is no breach of "uniformity," if it be uniform in all the States of the Union." If the Supreme Court decisions were so uniform, there would not be so much lack of uniformity in its exemptions!

PREMEDITATED TREACHERY.

It is decidedly puzzling to the ordinary mind that McKinley feels it his duty to wage a brutal war on Aguinaldo and the Filipinos, because they desire a Republican government of their own in the Philippine Archipelago, while he makes a treaty of peace and amity, protection and support, with the Sultan of Jolo and his Datos, "subjects of the United States" more fully than Aguinaldo and his people, who run a despotism, with "institutions" of slavery, polygamy, &c., which McKinley guarantees against interference. The Filipinos are Christians; the Sulus, or Jolos, are Mahomedans. The Filipinos were our allies against Spain and helped us mightily in the war; the Jolo-Sulus were neutral, or against us.

Why this imperious violence toward the Philippine Republic, on the one hand and this deferential mildness toward the Sulu despotism, on the other hand? Why does McKinley roar like a lion at Aguinaldo, and coo you like any sucking dove to the Sultan of Jolo? Is the explanation to be found in that "fellow-feeling" that is said to "make us wondrous kind?"

It will be said, of course, that Aguinaldo was the aggresser and "muddied the water," while the Sultan preserved the peace; but does anybody, can anybody doubt that if half the consideration and conciliation shown the despot, had been extended to Aguinaldo, that he would have been content: exacting none of the extraordinary concessions so generously granted to the Sultan? The difference in McKinley's course toward the two convict him of premeditated treachery.

WHICH AND WHAT?

Mr. Thomas S. Martin, the U. S. Senator from Albemarle, announces from Washington that he wishes Hon. Claude A. Swanson, of Virginia, to be the next Democratic candidate for Governor of this Commonwealth. It had been before announced that Mr. Swanson entertained a similar wish, subject to the approval of the gentleman from Albemarle. This seems to leave out, or let out, Mr. H. Taylor Ellyson, State Chairman of Mr. Martin's Democratic Committee, who is understood to be a standing candidate for the gubernatorial nomination. It is a confusion of epitaphs, anyhow; and the faithful will be in the doleful dumps of incertitude until the Senator from Albemarle "passes the word" around in the usual official way;—for we have now a new Loyal League, successor of the original colored Republican one, and to its ways, means and methods.

The Virginian-Pilot has no objection to either of these gentlemen personally; but it knows no special reason why either is entitled to be chosen over other able and patriotic Virginia Democrats as the candidate of the party for our highest State office; but Mr. Martin doubtless knows; and if he and his constituents, or supporters (whoever these concealed persons be), choose Mr. Swanson, or Mr. Ellyson, what have the rest of us got to do with it? It is true enough that the people may desire to have their say in the choice; but as they were peremptorily denied this as to the U. S. Senator last chosen what are they going to do about it, if Mr. Martin, in effect, says: "Do as I bid you, or leave the party, or leave the State,—or go to the devil!" WHAT!

WHAT MUNIFICENCE!

The American Steel and Wire Company has told its slaves that their wages have been put up 7½ per cent., the advance dating from January 1. This boost helps about 30,000 men.—N. Y. Sun.

That is "succasm," as Artemas Ward used to spell it. But the Sun omits two very important and essential percentages that are required to let us fully understand the true significance of the 7½ per cent. increase in wages: 1st,—what was the per cent. of decrease in wages caused by the act of February 12, 1873, demonetizing silver, and by other acts tending to contract the currency and increase the value of money? 2d,—what has been the per cent. of increase in the last two years of the price of Steel and Wire products? We know that in some of these products the increase in price has been enormous,—as high as 100 to 150 per cent. The fall of wages from 1873 to 1897 is reckoned by Sauerbeck's tables and the figures of other authorities, at an average of 39 per cent., or from 100 cents to 61 cents. An increase of 7½ per cent. on 61 cents would be 4½ cents, or rise in wages to 65½ cents, with the prices in all products controlled by such trusts as the American Steel and Wire Co., monstrously increased.

While the increase in prices of trust produced and controlled commodities generally has been extortionate and vast, compared with the increase of trust wages, the increase in the price of other products has been small indeed. Sauerbeck's tables show that from 1873 to 1897 the fall in the prices of 45 principal commodities averaged from 100 to 55 cents; or a fall of 45 per cent.; while the average price of these same articles has now risen to only 60 cents, or 1-11th, since 1897.

THE FREE AND INDEPENDENT VOTER.

In New York the registration of voters includes their party politics; but we suppose this is optional with every voter, and no one need say whether he is a Democrat, or a Republican. We suspect, however, that in every warmly contested election every voter puts himself on record. It would be carrying the thing too far to require or permit every registered voter to state the man or men he intended to vote for; but there might be a voluntary registration provided by law, at the polls, where the voters, if they chose, could disclose their ballots to the ballot-receivers and have them registered, on oath, if necessary,—the registration to be an official record, only to be shown in evidence, in case of a contested election. Yet, if the ballot is provided solely, or chiefly, to enable the voters to vote secretly, it would tend to destroy this secrecy if voters were allowed, at their discretion, to exhibit their ballots to anyone, or to vote viva voce. Under such a discretion, bribed and bulldozed voters would be forced by bribery and bulldozers to show that they had voted per agreement, and the ballot would prove futile as a device for concealment.

The viva voce method—by public declaration—is the most manly way to exercise the manhood suffrage of free men; and it is difficult to see how this would expose the franchise to half the abuses that can be harbored under the secret ballot; but if open voting were threatened or attacked by intimidation, the remedy should be not only heavy fine and long imprisonment for the bulldozer, on conviction, but a civil suit for damages allowed the bulldozed or threatened citizen.

All the argument in the world cannot altar the fact that Virginia has prospered under the gold standard.—Richmond Times.

"Under" the standard, perhaps; but not by or because of it. If we admit that the gold standard was established to the exclusion of silver by the act of February 12, 1873, the silver dollar was restored to full equality with gold coin by the Bland Silver Act of February 28, 1878,—except that it was not invested with free and unlimited coinage, and except that gold could be demanded under a special contract in writing. But the exceptions prove that after that latter act the gold dollar was not the sole standard of value and could be made so only by the mutual agreement of the parties to a contract, which must be in writing. That is the present law of the land, though Secretaries of the Treasury, in violation of law, have made the gold dollar the practical standard by yielding the option of gold to the creditor of the government.

But how was it that a standard fixed in 1873, and followed by specie payment in 1879, did not operate until McKinley, plague and famine in India, failure of wheat crops in Europe and South America, war with Spain and the Philippines, and the war in South Africa came in, supplemented by fine wheat crops here and a vast increase in the production of gold? Did McKinley or the act of 1873 cause these things? And even if McKinley's election brought in the gold standard, the other causes cited prove incontestably that they, and not the gold standard, brought about the partial prosperity that has since occurred. Our improved business and the gold act of 1873 is a clear case of post hoc, non propter hoc—"after this, not because of this;" the extraordinary demand for our wheat, for the reason stated, and the great production of gold, fully explaining the altered condition, without referring it to 1873, or to McKinley's finding a cast horse-shoe the day of his election.

The following paragraph, which is attributed to Abraham Lincoln, is a striking instance that he like other men of eminence, not only used other able men, but did not scruple to use their thoughts without acknowledgment:

"What constitutes the bulwark of our liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling seacoasts, our army and our navy. These are not our reliance against tyranny. All of these may be turned against us without making us weaker for the struggle. Our reliance is in the spirit of liberty which God has planted in us. Our defense is in the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men in all lands, everywhere. Destroy this spirit and you have planted the seeds of despotism at your own doors."

In an Ode, in imitation of Alcaeus, by Sir William Jones, a leading Orientialist and distinguished jurist, who died in 1794 at Calcutta, where he was a Judge of the Supreme Court, we find these lines:

"What constitutes a State?
Not high-raised battlement or labored mound,
Thick wall or mooted gate;
Not cities proud with spires and turrets crowned;
Not bays and broad-armed ports,
* * * * * * * * *
No; men, high-minded men,
* * * * * * * * *
Men who their duties know,
But know their rights and knowing dare maintain;
* * * * * * * * *
These constitute a State."

Mr. Lincoln had probably read the ode, or heard it quoted.

The war in the Philippines, notwithstanding the temporary retirement of Aguinaldo for refreshments, and the surrender of his wife, still keeps Otis' censored wire hot and on the hum. The Filipinos seem very much in earnest, to judge from the way they undergo killing, with Aguinaldo away.

NOTES AND OPINIONS.

(Wilmington Star.)

Andrew Carnegie says he will not give the Republicans a red cent for their campaign fund if they don't quit that expansion business. If Carnegie will form a pool with the other contributors on this line, he would soon bring that party to taw.

(Danville Register.)

Senator Beveridge has justified expectations in proving him a spellbinder of the most fervid and furious type. It is a pity his eloquence and thought should be expended in such an un-American cause as an attempt to justify the Philippine war and fasten upon the country the McKinley policy of seizure and imperialism.

(The Roanoke Times.)

If William Jennings Bryan were as dead as his enemies would have him why do they persist in raising such a rumpus about him?

(Newport News Press.)

If the British gain more "victories" in South Africa there won't be a corporal's guard left of the magnificent army which went out to carry Buller to Pretoria in time for his Christmas dinner.

(Washington Post.)

Mrs. Langtry, in addition to looking after her personal receipts, expects to pick up a few dollars over here for the English hospital service. For an elderly lady, Mrs. Langtry is carrying some rather giddy expectations.

An Ordinance

TO PROHIBIT THE DISTRIBUTION OR SCATTERING OF CIRCULARS, SAMPLES, &c.

1. Be it ordained by the Common and Select Councils of the city of Norfolk, that it shall be unlawful for any person to distribute or scatter, or cause to be distributed or scattered on the streets of, or in or about any lot, yard or building in said city, any sample, handbill, dodger, circular, or other paper or advertising matter or device liable to litter the streets and premises in said city.

2. Any person guilty of a violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of not more that five dollars nor less that one dollar, recoverable as other city fines are now recoverable.

3. This ordinance shall be in force from and after the date of its passage.

Adopted by the Common Council December 15th, 1899.

J. F. EAST,
President of the Common Council.

Adopted by the Select Council January 2d, 1900.

FRED. GREENWOOD,
President of the Select Council.

Teste: H. S. HERMAN,
City Treasurer.
ja6-5t

NOTICE!

The copartnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, under the firm name of Odend'hal, Vicar & Gilbert, is this day dissolved by mutual consent, W. W. Vicar and G. W. Gilbert retiring.

F. Odend'hal has associated with him his son, F. Odend'hal, Jr., and will continue the business at the store 203 Main street, Y. M. C. A. Building

The retiring partners bespeak for the new firm of Odend'hal & Son the same patronage which a generous public has so liberally bestowed upon the firm of Odend'hal, Vicar & Gilbert in the past.

F. ODEND'HAL,
W. W. VICAR,
G. W. GILBERT.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1, 1900. ja2-10t

TO THE PUBLIC.

I have this day admitted into co-partnership with me my son, F. ODEND'HAL, Jr., and will continue the Clothing, Merchant Tailoring and Men's Furnishing Business at

No. 203 MAIN STREET,
Y. M. C. A. BUILDING,

Thankful for the very liberal patronage bestowed upon the old firm of Odend'hal, Vicar & Gilbert, respectfully ask for a continuance of the same for the new firm.

F. ODEND'HAL.
ja2-10t F. ODEND'HAL, JR.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION.

Norfolk, Va., January 1st, 1900.

The co-partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned, under the firm name and style of Cooke, Clark & Co., is this day dissolved by mutual consent.

Parties indebted to said firm will please make payment to either of the undersigned at the office of the late firm, and all persons having claims against it will present them at that place for payment.

The stock and good will of the old firm has been sold to the

FRANK T. CLARK COMPANY
LIMITED
WHO WILL CONTINUE THE
Sash, Door and Blind and Builders' Supply Business
at the old stand,
NO. 84 COMMERCIAL PLACE AND NO. 87 ROANOKE AVENUE.

We thank the public for the patronage so liberally given to the old firm, and bespeak for our successors a continuance of the same.

WILLOUGHBY T. COOKE,
FRANK T. CLARK.
ja2-10t

A CARD.

Having this day purchased the stock and good will of Messrs. COOKE, CLARK & CO., who have for the past eleven years conducted the Sash, Door and Blind and Builders' Hardware business at 84 Commercial Place and 87 Roanoke avenue, we hereby beg leave to introduce ourselves to you as their successors, and to invite your continued orders, assuring you that they shall have our prompt and careful attention.

Mr. Frank T. Clark, the President of our Company, has been for the past eleven years a member of the firm of Cooke, Clark & Co., and prior to that time was for thirteen years connected with the establishment of Mr. Luther Sheldon, the pioneer Sash, Door and Blind Merchant of this city.

Mr. Chas. Samson, Jr., our Secretary, been for the past six years with Cooke, Clark & Co., in charge of the Hardware and Mantel Department.

Mr. C. C. Walton, our Treasurer, has been with Cooke, Clark & Co. for eleven years, in charge of the books and office work.

All the employees of our Company have been with Cooke, Clark & Co. for some years, and are well qualified to fill their respective positions. You will readily see that we are well equipped to take good care of all business that may be entrusted to us. Respectfully,

FRANK T. CLARK CO., Limited
By FRANK T. CLARK,
President.
ja2-tf