

AFFAIRS IN CUBA.

At this time, just after all "proper" Fourth of July orators have referred to the glorious emancipation (?) of Cuba from Spain, it may be pertinent to examine a little closer into the trend of events and the policy of our present administration in regard to that island, and perhaps our readers will be able to draw conclusions as to the real motives for the terrible sacrifices made for upholding this policy in the Philippines.

The Minneapolis Tribune, which we consider about as fair an expansionist organ as is published in the Northwest, contained an editorial on July 13th, under the caption of "The Status of Cuba." It comments upon the avowed intention of the president to order an election in Cuba to determine whether it shall be free or become annexed as a dependency of the United States. In this editorial the Tribune says:

"The uncertainty that prevails is interfering with the revival of business and industry there and is keeping out people of energy and capital who would do much for the development of the island."

In other words, the great syndicates and "business interests" do not want to begin the work of absorption and greedy speculation before being assured that no independent government is to be established which might seriously interfere in their game. But hear this:

"Cuba ought to belong to the United States. The expenditure of blood and treasure which we have made in behalf of the island, fairly entitles us to its possession."

So it wasn't for glory and in the interest of humanity that our army and navy fought! Oh, no! the struggle really was to obtain possession of the island for commercial purposes.

"But the sentimental declaration of congress stands in the way of its seizure."

That's the Minneapolis Tribune's view of it. It may seem like mere sentiment to the expansionist, but we have faith that the American people will stand manfully behind that declaration of congress. But don't you see the application to the Philippine situation? There was no "sentimental declaration by congress" regarding those islands, and hence they were seized. Our contemporary continues in this strain:

"It is said that Gen. Brooke's advice as to the effect that on a vote a majority would be in favor of an independent government; but it appears that the president has been making some investigations through his own agents, and he is convinced to the contrary."

That is to say, the president would not have ordered an election unless he was "convinced" that it would result favorably to the designs of his crowd. The Tribune then continues:

"But whatever the outcome, the vote ought to be taken. If a decisive majority declare in favor of independence, then let them call a constitutional convention, organize a government and relieve the United States of the burden of keeping the peace and protecting life and property."

All of which is as much as to say: "Of course, if we can't have the island we want to get rid of the responsibility at once. You don't expect us to fool away the time of our troops there if we are not to have something in return? No, thank you; there is too much hot work to be done in other places for that."

Then the Tribune waxes into enthusiastic optimism and exploits the rosy prospects of American annexation in the following dizzy manner:

"We believe that under such a territorial government the island would have a magnificent growth in the next few years, and that the influx of population from the United States would be so rapid that in the course of the next ten years Cuba would be practically Americanized."

It makes one's head whirl to read it! Meanwhile, to inform yourself as to what the Cuban patriots are doing and saying, read the following extract from a recent press dispatch published in the same paper and on the same day as was the editorial upon which we have commented:

HAVANA, July 13.—(By Cable.)—At a meeting held Tuesday in the Payret theater, after the street demonstration and parade in his honor, Juan Gualberto Gomez was himself the principal speaker.

In the course of a long address dealing with the reasons for beginning the war against Spain, he said:

"I am now, as I always have been, a separatist; and I still demand the separation that I asked before the war—not only the separation from Spain, but from any and all other nations."

"The revolution will inevitably return. Nations, like stars, have their seasons of eclipse, but, following their orbits, they emerge and accomplish their final destiny. The destiny of Cuba is only independence."

"Such disasters we can avoid by perfect union, by raising our voices to declare that this country is ours, and that we want it for ourselves."

"We should give due thanks to the Americans, whose progress and power inspire our admiration, but this does not mean that we should resign ourselves to a tutelage to be exercised over us. Let us make the same statement to the United States that the American colonists made to the British in 1776, when they desired their independence, that the Americans owned North America. The entire speech was in this spirit. The local press praises it to-day as "the most important occurrence since January 1." Most of those present at the meeting were negroes, and many of the banners in the procession showed the legend, "Independence or death."

Upon reading comments in several of our exchanges upon the action of

the St. Paul Globe in cutting off country newspapers from its "swapping" list, we looked over the TRIBUNE'S daily newspaper mail and found that this democratic daily from the saintly city had also stopped trading its long primer sheet with us for our brevier one, so we promptly scratched it off our mailing list. We are only sorry that any copies of the TRIBUNE should have been mailed to the Globe before we became aware of our loss (?).

THE SKULKING GOLD CONSPIRACY.

NARRAGANSETT PIER, July 5.—The subcommittee of the senate committee on finance which has been in session here since Monday, has struck a snag. The trouble arose when it was proposed to insert a provision in the bill committing the party to the single gold standard. Every member of the committee favors such a provision, but someone had sent a "tip" that a single-standard provision would jeopardize chances of the bill passing the senate.

Who sent this tip over the wires? The committee had passed over this question in a light and airy manner and was counting upon the single standard as the first and most important provision for the bill. The warning to be shy of the single gold standard came from a trustworthy and influential source. It might have been fired by Senator Chandler, Senator Shoup, Senator Warren, or some other bimetalist in the senate. The republicans will have twelve majority in the next senate, but no one knows how many are for the single gold standard. Senators Wolcott, Chandler, Shoup, Clark, Warren, Carter and Mason are all sound republicans, but all favor bimetalism. Will they stand for a bill committing the party to the single gold standard?

It appears that the subcommittee had gone ahead on the idea that the party whip could be used to bring recalcitrants into line, and had been assured by President McKinley and Senator Hanna that there would be no difficulty in passing a bill with the gold standard. They were taken aback when the information to "beware of the gold standard" came to their notice. Until the committee has positive assurances that the doubtful senators are "all right," nothing will be done with the single standard.

We submit the question, does the above described action appear as that of men who know that what they want is right and in the interest of the masses? Isn't it the same kind of sneaking (afraid-the-people-will-get-onto-us) caution that has characterized the moves of the goldbug conspiracy since they demonized silver by stealth in 1873? The above proves plainly that the republican party, while committed irrevocably to the gold standard, yet realizes that it fooled many of its own members three years ago by its declaration in favor of international bimetalism and "coinage on government account," and therefore hesitates to speak right out for fear of alienating their support. Pie upon such statesmanship!

WHARTON'S QUESTIONS.

Now we desire to ask our Populist friends just where they would have pulled out of that matter. Would they have sailed for home before doing as Dewey did, or would they have left immediately after the annihilation of the Spanish fleet? Would they have stayed until the Spanish left the islands, or would they have left when Aguinaldo commenced his warfare against us? At what particular time would they have deserted that part of the earth?—[Willmar Argus.

There has been no desire expressed that the United States summarily abandon the Philippines any more than Cuba. The evacuation could take place whenever the war department thought fit. But it was the absence of the word of assurance that the islands would eventually become free that drove the islanders to a desperate resistance. Why was this assurance withheld, Mr. Wharton? Why not be as frank about it as, for instance, was Mr. J. J. Hill, who said that we want the Philippines because "we can use them"? Why talk about "freedom" at home, and then tell these "sullen peoples" of the tropics to submit unconditionally or die? We will add a statement made by Rev. Clay MacCauley, who visited at Manila in January last. He asserts that brave old Admiral Dewey said to him at that time: "Rather than make a war of conquest on these people, I would up anchor and sail out of the harbor."

If a man owning \$20,000,000 gives \$2,500 for charitable purposes, he gives no more proportionately than would a person possessing \$2,000 who contributes 25 cents of this amount to the same end; and yet some object editors—who themselves, perhaps, in a week give proportionately ten-fold more than any of these capitalists—will use columns of space in lauding the generosity of rich men.

The tory newspapers are devoting much editorial space to show how improper it was to apply the Declaration of Independence to the Philippine question in Fourth of July orations, but on the other hand how proper and "patriotic" it was to defend the plutocratic game of conquest on such occasions.

Speaking of things in their ordinary course, in a country of monopoly there can be no patriotism. There may be a party spirit, but public spirit there can be none. As to a spirit of liberty, still less can it exist, or anything like it.—[Edmund Burke.

Read Senator Miller's retraction of his charges against Gov. Lind on a previous page.

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