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Editorial Correspondence

Washington, Feb. 8.—As most of the readers of the REGISTER know, the writer of these letters spent last week in Kansas—a day in Iola, which is the best town in its class on earth; two days in Topeka, mixing with about a thousand Republicans from all parts of the state, all of them confident of a sweeping victory the next campaign; and another day at Lawrence.

I had not realized when I left the capital that business was particularly rushing, but when I returned after this week of absence, I found my desk so loaded down with things awaiting and demanding immediate attention, that it has taken the entire week to dig out from under the accumulation. Hence the interruption in these letters, which I am forced to admit, recurring to the suggestion of the Kansas City Journal's Topics man, are not written in my sleep.

In the House this week the principal subject of discussion has been the oleomargarine bill, and the debate upon it has been extended and enthusiastic, on account of the very wide differences existing among the members as to the best legislation on the subject. This agitation was started several years ago, when General Grout, of Vermont, introduced a bill, providing very briefly that oleomargarine made in semblance of butter should be taxed ten cents per pound, while oleomargarine not in imitation of butter was to bear a tax of one-fourth of a cent a pound. The bill passed the House in that form during the last session of the Fifty-sixth Congress, but failed of passage in the Senate. When this Congress convened, the first bill introduced was an exact copy of the Grout bill. Half dozen other measures along the same line were introduced, varying but slightly from this original. All these bills were referred to the Agricultural Committee, and the different interests involved were granted an extended hearing. After considering the matter very fully, the majority of the committee decided to report what is known as the Henry bill, and which is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That all articles known as oleomargarine, butterine, imitation butter, or imitation cheese, or any substance in the semblance of butter or cheese not the usual product of the dairy and not made exclusively of pure and unadulterated milk or cream, transported into any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, and remaining therein for use, consumption, sale, or storage therein, shall, upon the arrival within the limits of such State or Territory or the District of Columbia, be subject to the operation and effect of the laws of such State or Territory or the District of Columbia, enacted in the exercise of its police powers, to the same extent and in the same manner as though such articles or substances had been produced in such State or Territory or the District of Columbia, and shall not be exempt therefrom by reason of being introduced therein in original packages or otherwise: Provided, That nothing in this act shall be construed to permit any State to forbid the manufacture or sale of oleomargarine in a separate and distinct form and in such manner as will advise the consumer of its real character free from coloration or ingredient that causes it to look like butter.

Sec. 2. That the first clause of section three of an act entitled "An act defining butter, also imposing a tax upon and regulating the manufacture, sale, importation, and exportation of oleomargarine," be amended by adding thereto, after the word "oleomargarine," at the end of said clause, the following words:

"And any person that sells, vends, or furnishes oleomargarine for the use and consumption of others, except to his own family and guests thereof, without compensation, who shall add to or mix with such oleomargarine any ingredient or coloration that causes it to look like butter, shall also be held to be a manufacturer of oleomargarine within the meaning of said act and subject to the provisions thereof."

Sec. 3. That on and after July first, nineteen hundred and two, the tax upon oleomargarine, as prescribed in section eight of the act approved August second, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, and entitled "An act defining butter, also imposing a tax upon and regulating the manufacture, sale, importation, and exportation of oleomargarine," shall be one-fourth of one cent per pound when the same is not made in imitation of butter; but when made in imitation of butter, the tax to be paid by the manufacturer shall be ten cents per pound, to be levied and collected in accordance with the provisions of said act.

Sec. 4. That wholesale dealers in oleomargarine shall keep such books and render such returns in relation thereto as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, may, by regulation, require; and such books shall be open at all times to the inspection of any internal-revenue officer or agent. And any person who willfully violates any of the provisions of this section shall for each such offense be fined not less than fifty dollars and not exceeding five hundred dollars and imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than six months.

The minority could not approve of this measure, a G reported as a substitute for it what is known as the

Wadsworth bill, and which is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That sections three and six of an act entitled "An act defining butter, also imposing a tax upon and regulating the manufacture, sale, importation, and exportation of oleomargarine," approved August second, eighteen hundred and eighty-six, be amended so as to read as follows:

Sec. 3. That special tax on the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine shall be imposed as follows:

"Manufacturers of oleomargarine shall pay six hundred dollars per annum. Every person who manufactures oleomargarine for sale shall be deemed a manufacturer thereof.

"Wholesale dealers in oleomargarine shall pay four hundred and eighty dollars per annum. Every person who sells or offers for sale oleomargarine in quantities greater than ten pounds at a time shall be deemed a wholesale dealer therein; but a manufacturer of oleomargarine who has given the required bond and paid the required special tax, and who sells oleomargarine of his own production only at the place of its manufacture in the original packages, to which the tax paid stamps are affixed, shall not be required to pay the special tax of wholesale dealer on account of such sales.

"Retail dealers in oleomargarine shall pay forty-eight dollars per annum. Every person who sells or offers for sale oleomargarine in quantities not greater than ten pounds at a time shall be regarded as a retail dealer therein. And sections thirty-two hundred and thirty-two, thirty-two hundred and thirty-three, thirty-two hundred and thirty-four, thirty-two hundred and thirty-five, thirty-two hundred and thirty-six, thirty-two hundred and thirty-seven, thirty-two hundred and thirty-eight, thirty-two hundred and thirty-nine, thirty-two hundred and forty, thirty-two hundred and forty-one, and thirty-two hundred and forty-two of the Revised Statutes of the United States are, so far as applicable, made to extend to and include and apply to the special taxes imposed by this section, and to the persons upon whom they are imposed: Provided, That in case any manufacturer of oleomargarine commences business subsequent to the thirtieth day of June in any year, the special tax shall be reckoned from the first day of July in that year, and shall be five hundred dollars."

Sec. 5. That all oleomargarine shall be put up by the manufacturer for sale in packages of one and two pounds, respectively, and in no other or larger or smaller package; and upon every print, brick, roll, or lump of oleomargarine, before being so put up for sale or removal from the factory, there shall be impressed by the manufacturer the word "Oleomargarine" in sunken letters, the size of which shall be prescribed by regulations made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury; that every such print, brick, roll or lump of oleomargarine shall first be wrapped with paper wrapper with the word "Oleomargarine" printed on the outside thereof in distinct letters, and said wrappers shall also bear the name of the manufacturer and shall then be put up singly by the manufacturer thereof in such wooden or paper packages or in such wrappers, and marked, stamped and branded with the word "Oleomargarine" printed thereon in distinct letters, and in such manner as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury, shall prescribe, and the internal revenue stamp shall be affixed so as to surround the outer wrapper of each one and two pound package: Provided, That any number of such original stamped packages may be put up by the manufacturer in crates or boxes, on the outside of which shall be marked the word "Oleomargarine," with such other marks and brands as the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall, by regulations approved by the Secretary of the Treasury, prescribe.

"Retail dealers in oleomargarine shall sell only the original package to which the tax-paid stamp is affixed, and shall sell only from the original crates or boxes in which they receive the pound or two pound prints, bricks, rolls, or lumps; which said crates or boxes shall be, at all times, so placed as to expose to the customer the mark or brand affixed thereon by the requirements of this act.

"Every person who knowingly sells or offers for sale, or delivers or offers to deliver, any oleomargarine otherwise than as provided by this act, or contrary to the regulations of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue made in pursuance hereof, or who packages in any package any oleomargarine in any manner contrary to law, or who shall sell or offer for sale, as butter, any oleomargarine, colored or uncolored, or who falsely brands any package or affixes a stamp on any package denoting a less amount of tax than that required by law, shall be fined for the first offense not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars and be imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than six months, and for the second and every subsequent offense shall be fined not less than two hundred nor more than one thousand dollars and be imprisoned not less than sixty days nor more than two years."

Neither of these bills is the old Grout bill, but the Henry bill follows that measure pretty closely. The objections against the Henry bill, which

to the minority of the committee seemed insuperable, are that it is class legislation, many of its defendants openly declaring that the intention of the bill is to destroy the oleomargarine industry, and that it attempts to prevent fraud in the sale of oleomargarine by hampering its manufacture, rather than by safeguarding its retail sale. Nobody accuses the manufacturer now of selling oleomargarine for butter. Some unscrupulous retailers undoubtedly do this, and such sales are fraudulent, and ought to be prevented or punished. The minority of the committee were of the opinion that the bill which they presented, and which was drawn by the revenue officers of the government, would do this much more effectively than the majority bill. That view of the case seemed so clear to me that I felt constrained to sign the minority report, and in order that those of my constituents who are interested in the matter might know exactly my position on the question, and the reasons which influenced me in taking it, I made a speech upon the subject, a copy of which I will be glad to send to any who request it. I know that very many people in Kansas have been led to believe that the Grout bill is the only measure pending before Congress which seeks to prevent or punish the fraudulent sale of oleomargarine; and it is to correct that opinion that I have included in this letter a copy of both measures which are now under consideration.

Washington, Feb. 8.—In the Senate this week the Philippine question has been the bone of contention, the debate growing out of the consideration of the bill to provide tariff legislation for the islands, and many lively and interesting tilts have occurred. Senator Lodge and Senator Foraker have borne the brunt of the fighting for the bill, while Senator Hoar and Senator Tillman have taken turns in protesting against it. Senator Hoar is not often unhorsed in a political debate, but he suffered a hard fall the other day. Senator Foraker in the course of his remarks had occasion to quote that portion of the civil code now in force by order of the Taft Commission in the Philippine islands relating to treason and its punishment. Some of its provisions were very strict, particularly those imposing penalties for aid and comfort given to the enemies of the United States, and Senator Hoar arose to make violent and outraged protest against the barbarous severity of these provisions. After he had thoroughly committed himself on the subject, Senator Foraker quietly sent to the desk and had read a section of the Revised Statutes of the United States, which corresponded word for word with that part of the Philippine code which Senator Hoar had been so severely criticizing; and it required all of the latter's adroitness to explain how it happens that he has silently submitted all his life here at home to a law which he denounced as tyrannous in its severity when applied to his little brown brother across the sea.

What an amusing story that was in the REGISTER the other day, quoted from Barney Sheridan's Paola Spirit. I mean the story about the riotous and drunken debauch of the Kansas Day Club at Topeka. In his old and unregenerated days my friend Barney acquired some information which he may still remember as to the cost of malt, vinous and spirituous liquors, and it would be interesting to see how he figures it out as possible for such wildly hilarious scenes as he pictures—including the smashing of half filled wine bottles against the walls, and the drinking of six hundred men under the tables—to be accomplished at a cost of two dollars a plate, which, in addition to the food provided, must also pay for music, printing and other incidentals. As a matter of fact, speaking seriously, in the ten years of the existence of the Kansas Day Club, not one drop of intoxicating liquor of any kind has ever been served at any of its banquets; and no instance has ever occurred of a man being removed from the banquet hall on account of intoxication. And in this connection, it may be of interest to state that two gentlemen from Missouri, who were guests of the Club at the late banquet, commented with special satisfaction upon this feature of the meeting. They stated that in Missouri it was regarded as essential to have intoxicating drinks of some kind at any banquet, and the result was always more or less disorder, frequently resulting in confusion which made it impossible for the speakers to be heard. The Kansas Day Club has demonstrated, he said, that there could be a successful banquet—quiet, orderly and yet enthusiastic—without wine; and although not himself a teetotaler, the very much

hoped that the Missouri Republican club would soon come to the Kansas way of doing things.

C. F. S.

HIND LIGHTS ON THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

From the K. C. Star.

The foreign offices of Europe continue to pour floods of light upon the vexed question of which government saved the United States from annihilation in the Spanish war. Certain interesting statements in foreign journals have been overlooked in the United States. Here is what the Berliner Tageblatt says in an inspired article—although all articles in the foreign press are "inspired," for that matter:

The Tageblatt has it on unimpeachable authority that as soon as the Spanish-American trouble developed the Kaiser called in Herr Poutinacy Rigelow, his eminent American school friend. "Poutin, my boy," said His Majesty with emotion, "let me assure you, as my college chum, of my unswerving devotion to you. You may see this interview as you think best." Doubtless this incident prevented the British lake fleet from bombarding Chicago.

The St. Petersburg Novoe Vremya has another version of the affair:

A high official, whose name for obvious reasons must not be given, assures the Novoe Vremya that on February 19, 1901 (old style), the Czar in a personal interview with M. W. T. Steadville his intention of bombarding Bombay in case of a British-Austrian demonstration at the junction of the Missouri and the Mississippi. Thus were Lord Salisbury's plots frustrated.

The Paris Temps finds both these explanations faulty. Its reporter gained access to the foreign office by a ruse and discovered that the facts were really as follows:

The document labeled "23Z," discovered by our correspondent, contains the true history of the imbroglio. In reality the Czar assured M. Steadville that in the event of a British-Austrian demonstration at the junction of the Missouri and the Mississippi, he would not be so unkind as to bombarding Chicago. It can therefore be stated positively that all other reports are canards and that the dual alliance, viving obligations to the dual alliance, viving la France.

It may be added that these statements are all borne out by interviews in the Vienna Post, the Paris Temps, the Populo Romano, E. Imparcial, the Constantinople Levant Herald, the Tokio Satsuma and the Pekin Gazette. Thus it has been proved that had it not been for Europe the United States would have been prevented from fighting Spain.

BON BURDETTE pays the following tribute to woman: "True she cannot sharpen a pencil outside of commercial circles; she can't tie a package to look like anything save a crooked cross section of chaos; but land of miracles, see what she can do with a pin! She cannot walk so many miles around a pool table with nothing to drink, but she can walk all night with a fretful baby. She can ride 500 miles without going into a smoking car to get rest (and get away from the children). She can enjoy an evening at home without smoking half a dozen cigars. She can endure the distraction of a house full of children all day; while her husband sends them to bed before he has been home an hour. A boy with a sister is fortunate, a fellow with a cousin to be envied, a young man with a sweetheart is happy and he who has a good wife is blessed more than all."

THE possession of a title is annually becoming more and more of a joke, yet beautiful American girls continue to marry dissipated youths of worn out European titled families. In a London newspaper some old guy with a fine title offers to marry any woman who will pay him an eighth of a million dollars for the use of his title. He cares not how she looks and does not mean to live with her, but she can get the title for \$125,000. It is guaranteed to be a good title that will wash. This is certainly a bargain, for a dukedom without a Duke beats one with the Duke ninety-nine times out of a hundred.

A NUMBER of great corporations have recently provided for the retirement of their employes at the end of a period of twenty or thirty years' service on allowances which are sufficient to protect them from absolute want. There is nothing in life so distressing as the fear of dependent old age. The man who devises a feasible plan to protect humanity from it will deserve the gratitude of mankind.

NAT BARNES, postmaster of Kansas City, Kansas, on Saturday last formally announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination of Congressman in this district to succeed J. D. Bowersock. It had been thought that this district was going to have no Congressional politics, but if Barnes and Wyandotte county are out there may be more candidates bob up.

Kansas Clips and Comments

Mr. Bowell of Paola should have his name operated on for appendicitis.

Hutchinson is thinking of voting bonds for buying her water, light and gas plants for \$300,000.

A street arc light at Salina fell into the front end of a delivery wagon driven along the street by a boy.

The Kansas City, Missouri, Commercial Club is planning another trade excursion into Kansas soon.

Unless eggs soon decline, the Wichita Eagle will lead a move to secure government ownership of hens.

The Leavenworth high school now includes a course in stenography and commercial book-keeping in its course.

Some heroic soul has started the fourth paper in Leroy, population 1,000. It is a religious paper—it needs to be.

A 360 acre farm near Wichita has been sold to a Nebraska priest for \$9,000, who says he buys it as an investment.

Arch-deacon Crawford believes that he has a good start made for the building of a new \$10,000 Episcopal church at Ft. Scott.

The city marshal of Blue Rapids has bought a \$50 guitar. This is supposed to mean that henceforth violins will not be tolerated.

A Kansas gas town wants all the gas towns to enter into an agreement not to give bonuses to factories. There is no way to prevent it.

The banks of Lindsborg have arranged to have the fire whistle blow every time a thief is discovered in the bank. And some of the knockers say it means too much noise.

J. N. Stout, formerly editor at Neosho Falls, then at Ottawa, has bought the plant of the Quenemo Tribune and is said to be thinking of starting a third paper at Yates Center.

Charlie Rice of Waverly shot at a flying crow and the descending bullet lodged in the leg of Ray Rankin, half a mile away. That crow probably went "raven" mad over the joke.

George W. Martin has disposed of his interest in the Ft. Scott Tribune and will retire after 25 years of active strenuousness. There ought to be a pension for veterans of the pencil.

H. A. Perkins, formerly of the Manhattan Nationalist, attended the recent editorial meeting there and brought a trunk full of oranges off his own trees from southern California with him.

Holton is not so good that her people can appreciate the merits of underwear and stockings advertised unless there is a human being in the advertisement.

Within a radius of five miles from the center of Wellsville 2,500 people live, but during 1901 there were but 14 deaths. The microbe and the doctor are doubtless unknown animals in that place.

Under a picture of Abraham Lincoln, the Columbus Courier prints a story which begins: "The above is a good likeness of W. A. White." It must have been taken since White's health failed.

The pride and joy and support of Horton, its Rock Island car shops, went up last Friday in a \$250,000 fire. And already Topeka is raising a fund to induce the road to rebuild in Topeka.

H. C. Palmer, a veteran in the Leavenworth soldiers' home, last week received word that at last his long-sought pension is granted. It brings him \$8 a month and back pay amounting to over \$1,000.



From the Mail & Breeze: That Awkward Man has Driven Right over my Pet.