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Editorial Correspondence

Washington, April 16.—The regularity with which the Roosevelt administration is forestalling the attacks of its opponents is one of the interesting features of current politics. Some two or three weeks ago the newspapers had a good deal to say about the establishment of a "British post" in Louisiana, where it was alleged that English army officers were regularly stationed to receive shipments of mules from all over the United States, and forward them by army transports to South Africa. Seeing an opportunity, as they thought, to make a point against the administration by virtue of the pro-Boer sentiment—which is undoubtedly strong in this country—the Democrats in Congress introduced a resolution, which was intended to result in an inquiry in regard to the newspaper allegations. But when the committee to whom the resolution was referred got around to ask for some official information, it was discovered that by order of the President an investigation had already been commenced which would completely cover the ground.

A few days later the price of beef began to advance with suspicious rapidity, and the newspapers had a good deal to say about the action of the beef trust, whereupon Representative Thayer, a Massachusetts Democrat, introduced a resolution, "whereas" a lot of things about an alleged combine between certain packing companies, and calling upon the Attorney General to proceed to prosecute them for violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. A committee promptly took the resolution under advisement, and addressed a letter to the Attorney General, calling his attention to the resolution, and asking him certain questions in relation to it. The Attorney General replied that he had not had his attention specially called to the alleged combine except in so far as it was a matter of general notoriety; that he had not been requested to take official action in the matter, and that he had no legal evidence of the existence of such a combination. He added, however, that owing to the positive, oft repeated and circumstantial nature of the allegations, he had directed some time ago that a thorough investigation be made by one of the district attorneys of the United States, for the purpose of ascertaining whether in fact such combinations existed, and whether, if so, their operations were in violation of any federal statute.

And finally on day before yesterday, a witness before the Lodge committee on the Philippines testified that while serving in the United States Army he had witnessed a number of instances of water cure and other tortures inflicted upon Filipinos for the purpose of extorting information from them. It was a shocking story, and the Democrats were preparing to introduce the usual resolution of inquiry and investigation, but before they could get it in shape information came to them that the cabinet on yesterday discussed the whole matter, and that the President had cabled positive and imperative orders to General Chaffee to at once investigate the alleged outrages, and if it appeared that they had been committed, he was to institute a court-martial at once for the trial of the offenders.

And that is the reason why a large number of pro-Boer, anti-trust and anti-imperialism speeches have not been made.

It is no longer doubted in official circles here that General Miles is to be retired—by request. Nearly everybody who knows the General regrets it, because in the old days when there was fighting to be done, he was a splendid and fearless fighter. His services in the civil war and on the Indian trails in the years that followed ought never to be forgotten, and nobody is disposed to forget them. He is a fine, big, handsome figure of a man, moreover—every inch the field marshal—and he has many delightful personal traits that have endeared him to his friends. It seems 'oo bad, therefore, that he should be humiliated in his old age and his last years be clouded and embittered. And yet even his friends admit that there is but little choice left the President. They do not deny that the General's vanity is overweening, and that it has led him into a course of conduct that is simply intolerable. It is not denied that when appearing recently as a witness before one of the Senate com-

mittees he most severely criticized the Secretary of War, charging flatly that a certain reorganization bill which the Secretary had prepared was drawn for the express purpose of making it possible to promote certain of the Secretary's favorites. It is openly charged in the newspapers here that he has actively co-operated with the enemies of the administration who are seeking to discredit the management of affairs in the Philippines, going to the extent even of violating the secret records of the War Office. Besides these larger matters he has in countless little ways annoyed and aggravated the Secretary of War and the President. He seems unable to understand that in time of peace the General of the Army is a figurehead by virtue of the wise law which subordinates the military to the civil arm of the government, and so he will have to go.

The debate on the Cuban reciprocity bill, which is still proceeding and bids fair to occupy the time of the House the remainder of the week, continues to develop some most amusing Democratic differences. One would suppose that if there is a single tenet of their party upon which all Democrats are agreed it would be the doctrine of tariff reform; and yet we find eminent Democrats in the House of Representatives giving diametrically opposite definitions of the most common and fundamental propositions involved in the entire tariff question. Here is Mr. McClellan, for example, insisting that reciprocity is an original Democratic discovery; that Thomas Jefferson was the first American to formulate the doctrine; that the first reciprocity treaty was negotiated by Franklin Pierce; that the Hawaiian treaty of reciprocity was renewed by Grover Cleveland, and that the Democratic platform of 1892 distinctly claimed reciprocity as a Democratic doctrine. "The reciprocal feature of this bill," he said, "may well cause Republicans to hesitate, for it is the purest, most unadulterated Democracy." Following him comes Mr. Newlands, of Nevada, with a declaration that "reciprocity treaties are indefensible from any point of view. Reciprocity does not mean free trade; it means the further extension of protection to other countries. The Democratic party, therefore should take strong grounds against reciprocal treaties of any kind." Mr. Robertson, of Louisiana, agrees with Mr. Newlands, and is astonished to find the gentleman from New York, Mr. McClellan, supporting a bill on the ground that it is an enunciation of the Democratic doctrine of reciprocity. Another eminent Democrat announced his opposition to the proposed reciprocity treaty with France, for the reason that it reduced the duties of French goods coming into this country to the amount of \$850,000 a year, while the reduction of American goods taken into France was only \$250,000 a year, losing sight entirely of the traditional Democratic doctrine that the tariff is a tax, and that the people of this country certainly ought not to complain of a reduction of \$850,000 in their taxes, even if France was so foolish as to reduce the taxation upon her own people to the amount of only \$250,000. Some Democrats have hailed the Cuban measure as the entering wedge of the tariff revision which will lead to a reduction of duties all along the line, while other Democrats have insisted with equal vehemence that the measure is simply another nail fastening more securely the high tariff wall.

With differences so radical as these upon what has during all its history been regarded as a fundamental doctrine, is it likely that a Democratic victory, placing upon that party the responsibility for national legislation, would result in giving the country that clear, well defined and consistent policy, without which the business interests of the country cannot hope to thrive or prosper? C. F. S.

Washington, April 19.—One might sit in the House of Representatives through a dozen sessions of Congress without witnessing a situation as intense and dramatic as that which was presented yesterday afternoon. It was the climax and culmination of the long drawn battle for Cuban reciprocity. A member of the House who is in the city was in his seat. Every chair in the spacious galleries was filled. Even the press gallery, usually

empty, was crowded with the hundred or more newspaper men who are here as the representatives of the leading daily papers in every state of the Union. The last word in the long debate had been said, Tawney of Minnesota closing for the opponents of the bill, and Dalzell the Pennsylvania veteran speaking for it. The strong monotone of the reading clerk as the bill was placed on its first reading easily penetrated to every portion of the great chamber, but little heed was given to the words he uttered. Members and audience alike were familiar with the provisions of the bill and endured the reading of it as a tiresome but necessary formality. It was the thing that was to follow the reading of the bill upon which all thoughts were concentrated. Members of the House knew perfectly well what this thing would be. All eyes turned, therefore, as the clerk concluded, to Tawney of Minnesota, who, after addressing the speaker and being recognized, yielded to his colleague, Mr. Morris, who offered what has become known as the "differential amendment."

I take it that the readers of the REGISTER need only a word to be reminded that the bill under consideration provided for a reciprocal arrangement with Cuba, whereby a reduction of 20 per cent in our tariff rates was to be granted on products entering our ports from Cuba in consideration of similar concessions granted American products sent to Cuban ports. As raw sugar is the principal product of Cuba, the fight against the bill has been made by the representatives of the beet sugar interests in America, who contend that their industry would be hampered by admitting raw Cuban sugar at a less tariff rate than that now imposed. The Morris amendment provided for a reduction of the tariff on refined sugar to such an extent as to leave it practically the same protection that is now afforded to raw sugar.

As soon as the amendment had been read, continuing the program which we all so well understood, Mr. Payne, of New York, raised the point of order that the amendment was not germane to the bill and it was therefore inadmissible. The issues were now joined and the fight was on. This was the fight which everybody knew was coming, and interest in which had brought every member to his seat and had filled the galleries with intensely interested spectators. Upon the outcome of this contest hung the supremacy of the leaders of the House. If the position taken by Mr. Payne was sustained, it meant victory for the House organization, and the continued and undisputed supremacy of its leadership. If he were not sustained, it meant that the revolt against this leadership had triumphed, and that the House organization, from a parliamentary standpoint had sustained a crushing defeat. With such issues at stake it goes without saying that the conflict was a battle royal. The leadership of the contest fell naturally to Seneca E. Payne, the distinguished and experienced chairman of the Ways and Means committee. Mr. Payne is a striking figure of a man. Something over six feet tall, weighing 250 pounds, with a massive head crowned with abundant white hair, with a fine face and with a vibrant and powerful voice, he looked well the part he was to play. In the ordinary routine of legislative work he is smiling and amiable, but there is much of the lion in him when aroused, and he was aroused yesterday. In all his legislative life he had perhaps never before faced so critical a crisis, and he fought his fight with every weapon which study and thought and long experience had shaped for him.

The first to enter the lists against him was Littlefield of Maine. Littlefield is tall and slender, much such a physical figure as Ingalls, and with more than a reminder of the dead Senator in the penetrating power of his voice, in the rapidity of his thought, and in the clearness and cogency of his diction. He, too, was armed for the contest, and when he had finished what he had to say, it was clear that nothing was left to be said on his side of the contentment. Other speeches were made, and the debate stretched out over two long hours, but what was added on either side to the plea of Mr. Payne and Mr. Littlefield was mere surplusage, which contributed neither information nor argument to the subject under discussion.

Finally the impatience of the House would admit of no further speaking, and then the chairman, Mr. Sherman, of New York, made his ruling. Here again the expected program was carried out. Mr. Sherman ruled in favor of Mr. Payne, sustaining his point of order. The appeal from this decision, which was also a part of the under-

stood program, was promptly taken by Mr. Tawney, and at last the supreme moment arrived. Omitting the usual preliminary method of division, the chairman at once ordered the vote to be taken by tellers, and Mr. Payne and Mr. Tawney took their stand at the foot of the center aisle to count the members as they filed between them. How many Republicans would desert their leaders? That was the question the next two minutes was to decide, for it was perfectly well known that every Democrat would vote against the ruling of the chair. Here they come, then, down the side aisles, the men from Michigan and Wisconsin and Minnesota and California, with scattering recruits from other states, with the nervous tension under which they are laboring plainly discernible on their serious and set faces—thirty-two of them! Everybody counts, and as the last man passes between the tellers a cheer goes up which the gavel of the chairman does not even attempt to restrain. The organization has been beaten. The "insurrectos" have won. For the first time in its history, the splendid discipline of the Republican party has been unequal to the task of subduing a mutiny within its ranks.

But what a battle it had been!

In a parliamentary sense, as I have said, the contest resulted in crushing and humiliating defeat for the Republican leaders of the House. But what does it all mean politically and economically and practically?

Nothing very serious, I do assure you.

Fundamentally the whole question of reciprocity with Cuba, was not, and could not be made, a party question. The bill providing for it was prepared by Republicans and supported by a very large majority of the Republicans. That is true. But it was also supported by the Democrats. The only question upon which the Republicans divided was as to the manner in which commercial relief should be extended to Cuba. The majority of that party, following the recommendation of President Roosevelt, and attempting to carry out what they believed would have been the policy of President McKinley, favored the arrangement which I have already outlined. A minority of the Republicans, composed of representatives whose districts are directly interested in the growth and manufacture of beet sugar, urged that relief should be extended by way of a direct appropriation out of the national treasury. The majority insisted, as I have made clear in former letters, that the slight reduction in tariff duties which they proposed would leave American beet sugar still with ample protection. The minority on the other hand expressed the fear that this reduction, slight as it was, might hinder the development of the American beet sugar industry, and it was simply a difference in judgment, and not in the least a difference in principle. This was shown by the fact that when the Democrats offered amendments to the bill looking in the direction of reduced duties, or free trade, all along the line, the beet sugar representatives stood solidly with the House leaders against such propositions.

But it may be well asked, if the beet sugar representatives were honest in insisting that a reduction of twenty per cent of the duty on raw sugar would injure their industry, why did they insist upon an amendment providing for a reduction of twelve and a half cents per 100 pounds on refined sugar? That was purely a tactical move, avowedly made to defeat the bill. In its original form the bill did not excite the opposition, if it did not indeed meet the approval of the great sugar refining interests of the country which have to do only with refined sugar. If the bill can be so amended as to threaten the profit of the refiners (argued the beet sugar men), their powerful aid would be enlisted to accomplish its defeat. How well justified this reasoning may be remains for the Senate to demonstrate, for the House passed the bill by an overwhelming majority. What the Senate will do with it the present writer, preferring the role of historian to that of prophet, will not at this time attempt to disclose. He only knows that it has been his good fortune to witness, and in a modest way to participate in, one of the most notable parliamentary contests which the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States has ever witnessed. C. F. S.

This office is in receipt of another invoice of garden seeds from Congressman Scott which will be distributed as fast as they are called for. The former supply proved too limited and lasted but a week, there being an unusual demand this year because so many failed to raise or keep any seed from last season. Garden days are passing so call at the office and get your package if you did not get one before.

Kansas Clips and Comments

Salina announces "a boon to music lovers," in the shape of a Blind Boone piano concert.

Some ornery cuss who hated the whole male population of Luray, sprinkled sand on the razor straps of the town barber.

The courts have decided that Miss Cross can retain the \$25,000 residence in Emporia out of the wreck of the Charlie Cross estate.

Neodesha Sun: "The man who fears to go his way alone, and only walks where others tread, should hasten to his rest beneath a stone— For a great majority of men are dead."

Abilene has invited the Fair commissioners to come there and inspect the properties of Abilene water with a view to exhibiting some of it at St. Louis.

The jury in the famous Coffelt murder case at Winfield attended church in a body Sunday morning and to even visited Arkansas City in the afternoon.

A rug peddler called twice at a Wichita home and found the lady of the house absent. So he left a note asking her to stay at home the next day so he could see her.

A lady school marm at Waterville without a scream chloroformed a rat and cut it up before her class. There is a suspicion, though, that it was the rat out of her hair.

Chanute is a stickler for correct etiquette. A young man is expected to precede a young lady, it seems. At any rate one who followed a young lady was run out of town.

The amount of money Kansas raised for the McKinley memorial fund was \$3,316, all of which but \$100 came from school children. It has been forwarded to Ohio.

At Abilene chess is considered "a clean, intellectual, progressive" evening sport. Mr. Campbell, a local expert, will play twenty games at the same time with local talent.

F. D. Coburn has out a booklet on Kansas Wheat Growing that is so full of wisdom and sense it ought to be in the hands of every farmer. The book may be considered authority.

A severe sentence has been imposed on the youth who stole a keg of beer from the Neodesha ice plant. The A. H. T. A. was induced to take a hand in the pursuit as it was a pony keg.

Something new in woman's rights developed at Abilene, where a man was arrested and fined \$13 for forcibly resisting being pulled with bricks by a feminine member of his household.

Garnett Eagle: An Iola girl, while hugging a corset form, ran a hat pin in her shoulder. She has the sympathy of many a young man who has passed through the same experience.

Just because Mrs. Harbaugh, late address of the Erie Record, married a man by the name of Benedict, is hardly an excuse for the brethren to talk about her having "become a Benedict."

Brass thieving is always ornery. A boy stole two brass pieces from an Abilene man that cost \$22 and after hammering them out of shape sold them to a junk man for twenty-five cents.

The ex-Governor Morrill orchard in Leavenworth county now contains 64,000 trees, 8,000 apple trees having been set out this spring. A fine apple, plum and cherry crop is predicted.

Talk about Kansas courage! Statistics say that a young oyster has just one chance in 1,145,000 of reaching maturity, yet Tom Oyster, of Paola, goes right ahead trying to raise a family.

A woman fifty-six years old has been brought from Oklahoma to the Kansas penitentiary under life sentence for the murder of her grandchild. The woman is stone blind and has been for years.

Some time ago Kansas was divided into two districts by the Episcopal church, and the western half of the has been offered to Rev. Nat S. Thomas, formerly of this state. He will probably accept.

Papers in the Third district are publishing supplements fully exonerating George W. Wheatley of the charges brought against him two years ago and which defeated him by a small margin.

At Atchison recently a large number of colored converts were baptised and the preacher says he has sixty more. It is interesting to know that his church is known as the "Ebsnezer Baptist church."

Kansas University orators lost out against Colorado, Nebraska and Missouri. Now the Lawrence Journal, which always kicked on running an orator for office, demands that the department of oratory be repaired.

Will White has joined the crowd and is whooping it up for Southern California climate. He asserts that it is so healthy in that section corpses have to be shipped in from Mexico to start a grave yard.

Marysville people are still chuckling over a recent balloon ascension. The man was to get fifty dollars for a parachute leap, but a strong wind tangled his ropes when he got well up and he had to stay with the balloon. He landed safely three miles from town, but when he got back to collect the men who were to pay had hidden.

The Atchison Globe congratulated Eugene Ware that "pictures of his family have not yet appeared in newspaper wearing low-necked dresses." And the Abilene Reflector asks time for the "newspapers wearing low-necked dresses."

Suggestions to spring poets from the Chanute Sun: "An Iowa man succeeded in getting his poetry into print by pinning his verses to his garments before committing suicide. When a poet is determined to publish his work nothing will stop him."

Mrs. F. A. Loomis, of Emporia, has an Angora cat kennel that is quite famous. One cat, "Lord Byron," is now valued at \$500 and once brought \$2,500. During March she sold \$300 worth of kittens, getting \$35 for a kitten as soon as its eyes are open.

The Winfield Courier says that the editor of the Arkansas City Traveler bought a new suit, paraded down street and was chased up a tree by his own dog when he got home. An editor inside a new suit is too rare a sight for even canine intelligence.

Mrs. Dickens, divorced wife of a Parsons man, has been arrested by Uncle Sam for calling a spade a spade through the mails. Her former husband is married again the Mrs. Dickens seeks to make trouble between them. "Dickens" seems to be a good name.

The news that a vegetarian soup house is to be opened in Topeka has riled old Bent Murdoch again. He snorts: "The grave yards are full of people who thought they could live on an exclusive vegetable diet. Eat grease if you want to live to a ripe old age."

It takes Lincoln county people to make a little go a long ways. One Lincoln county man mortgaged a bunch of cattle to a Garnett bank, then mortgaged the same bunch to a Paola man and afterwards sold the same cattle "free and clear of all incumbrance" to an Anderson county farmer.

Atchison Globe: When the women get together these days, it is to tell how often the paper hanger has disappointed them. A North Fifth street woman claims the record. She moved the family into the barn three weeks ago in order that the entire house might be papered, and the man hasn't come yet.

Two Pittsburg girls adored the same freckled-faced youth. One owned a gold watch. The other girl stole the rival's watch, hoping to secure his priceless love. The police took her in. Terrible tragedy: blighted lives of youth swelled up with pride like poisoned pup.

At the recent Dickinson county common school examination the question "Discuss Salem Witchcraft," was thus answered by one pupil: "Salem Witchcraft was an Englishman he was in the waters and drew his sword after him and said all that the water washed should be English proper for ever."

Concordia Press: A Concordia school teacher was telling her class of some pupils something about anatomy. S. said: "The eyes are to see with, the nose to smell with, the feet are to run with." At this point a little boy interrupted saying: "That isn't the way with my papa. His nose runs and his feet smells."

At a St. Louis hospital the other day a tumor was removed from the brain of Harry Armetrong, formerly of Garnett. Surgeons are getting so that they can cut most any old place and you heal up again. By and by they may be able to correct the evil tendencies of an individual by cutting off a certain part of his brain.

The editor of the Douglas Tribune mildly asserted that Bent Murdoch is a Universalist. Then Bent came back: "Not on your life. We believe in a personal devil with horns and hoofs and a tail; and a literal hell where there is lots of fire and brimstone and ashes for the hypocrites. The world is full of hypocrites who have got to be burned—the whining, sniveling hypocrites who are everlasting and forever posing as reformers. Burn, of course they will burn."

The New York Commercial Advertiser prints a unique story of how one Kansas man informed another that he thought he was a mean cuss. He decided to do so by mail and yet not lay himself liable under the law. This he did by sending ten postal cards, one a day, on each of which was written one word of the sentence: "Ridiculous Old Bill Jones is the meanest cuss in town." A trial resulted at which time it developed that the card bearing the word "ridiculous," though dated first arrived last. So the injured man declared the sentence read: "Old Bill Jones is the meanest cuss in town? Ridiculous!"

There was some quiet heroism shown at Blue Rapids recently. A blast was fired in a gypsum mine and a man went down too soon to see if it had done the work. He found the hole full of gas but his signal to be drawn up was mistaken. When those above pulled him up he fainted and fell ten feet back to the bottom. Miner No. 2 volunteered and was lowered; but before he could fasten a rope about No. 1 he also was unconscious. He was pulled out. Then No. 3 volunteered and managed to tie a rope to No. 1 who was drawn out. No. 3 fainted after getting the rope about his own leg and was pulled up feet first, unconscious. The men freely risked their lives for each other.