

# The Conservative.

NEBRASKA STATE SOCIETY

VOL. 1.

NEBRASKA CITY, NEB., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1898.

NO. 25.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

OFFICES: OVERLAND THEATRE BLOCK.

J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL QUESTIONS.

CIRCULATION THIS WEEK 15,122 COPIES.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One dollar and a half per year, in advance, postpaid, to any part of the United States or Canada. Remittances made payable to The Morton Printing Company.

Address, THE CONSERVATIVE, Nebraska City, Neb.

Advertising Rates made known upon application.

Entered at the postoffice at Nebraska City, Neb., as Second Class matter, July 29th, 1898.

CONSERVATIVE BUSINESS.

This edition of THE CONSERVATIVE exceeds fifteen thousand copies.

But the regular weekly issue is only between five and six thousand copies.

The large number published this week is to supply the demands and orders of business men and zealous friends who regard THE CONSERVATIVE as a readable, sensible and attractive periodical and also esteem it as an effective medium of advertising.

THE CONSERVATIVE is independent, non-toadying, non-partisan, and a militant advocate of the gold standard.

THE CONSERVATIVE antagonizes money fallacies and all other economic vagaries frequently advocated to secure public place, plunder or applause.

THE CONSERVATIVE believes and urges that the law ought to protect the capital and property of corporations, railroads, banks, and manufactories with the same vigilance and efficiency that it conserves the capital and property of individual citizens.

THE CONSERVATIVE fights frauds of whatsoever kind, and wheresoever found.

THE CONSERVATIVE is an adversary of jingoism.

THE CONSERVATIVE continues and prospers because it is strenuously endeavoring to be useful, interesting and instructive to all those readers and patrons who really love home and country.

All business communications and remittances for THE CONSERVATIVE must continue to be addressed, as heretofore, to The Morton Printing Company, Overland Theatre block, Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska.

ARGUMENTS FOR EXPANSION.

The organized appetite for territorial acquisitions among the islands of the Pacific is voracious and seemingly insatiable. The arguments in favor of expansion are drawn almost exclusively from the past. When the United States began business as a government it dominated only a small strip of land on the Atlantic. It has reached its present magnificent proportions by expansion and "old fogies" all along opposed that expansion, we are told, just as they now antagonize the absorption of acquisitions which are, it is said, a normal result of the war with Spain.

This is the stereotyped talk of all the jingo advocates. But there is such a thing as proving too much.

Suppose now that this appetite should crave Mexico solely for the philanthropic purpose of civilizing and Christianizing its people. Or imagine the American government in its zeal for human liberty, and with a very depreciating opinion of the moral and mental status of their people, attempting the absorption of Brazil or Peru. And then unsympathetic, non-emotional and deliberately patriotic citizens of the United States, in that case, might also arise and protest against such acquisition as dangerous to the best interests of this republic. Would not the same reasoning be used that is now put forth in favor of annexing the Philippines? Would there be any difference in the application of those reasons now set forth and those which would then be set forth?

Once the United States was prolific in citizens who proposed to fight England if we were not permitted to expand to 54° 40' latitude. But the sober second thought of the American people put all those jingoists to sleep.

In the early fifties we craved Cuba and American filibusters were invading that island and also Nicaragua. But the national conscience aroused itself and all solid citizenship revolted at the plan and the means employed until the expansion and annexation projects of those adventurers failed.

Sometimes an appetite for Canada has developed among our citizens and feeble attempts to annex it have been made from time to time, but always with a very different regard for the power of Great Britain from that entertained for the prowess of Spain.

Forgetting, for a moment, the wisdom and far-sightedness of George Washing-

ton and his contemporaries and all of their patriotic teachings, THE CONSERVATIVE would have the good citizens of this republic recall the many times when we have been spared and saved from disastrous experiments of expansion in the last half century.

And the men who put down the greed and avarice for territorial expansion in these more modern times were among the purest and most exalted of our statesmen. They were nevertheless the advocates of the expansion of our intellectual, moral and industrial influence in all parts of the globe. One of the most patriotic utterances along this line of expansion was made by President McKinley, from the executive mansion, April 11, 1898, when he said: "I speak not of forcible annexation, for that cannot be thought of. That by our code of morality would be criminal aggression."

And, since April 11, has "our code of morality" been revised? And when the insurgents of the Philippines, now freed from Spanish

rule, demand that we let them alone and permit them to form and administer their own government and we insist upon their annexation to the United States, are we not doing an act, which last April, the president of the United States said "can not be thought of?" If this be not "forcible annexation" without regard to the wishes of seven to ten millions of human beings whom the United States has no more right to buy than it has to sell, then what is it?

But President McKinley in a message to congress quite recently talked of "a just, benevolent and humane government created by the people of Cuba, capable of performing all obligations." This is mellifluous. When will this beatific future touch and sanctify Cuba? Until it arrives the president declares, "our occupation will continue;" and so it may be safe to predict that unlike Othello the United States government may never declare its "occupation gone!"

This message compared with the utterance of April 11 indicates a change of convictions which permits the president to think of things now which were not "to be thought of" then.

You can now get a bicycle propelled by a petroleum engine for \$190. The whole thing weighs 56 pounds, and it will run at a speed of 20 miles an hour. Ten years ago a plain bicycle weighed 40 pounds and cost \$150.