

### Philippine Independence and Irish Home Rule.

Even if no party had ever promised Philippine independence, it is still so immoral a policy to force upon the Filipinos a government which they do not want that one would not expect to see a protest in a religious paper against its cessation. Yet there is such a protest in the September 4 issue of the *New World* of Chicago. It even protests against so incomplete a measure as the Jones bill, and actually uses the following argument in reference to the Democratic party's pledge: "If its leaders can, with rare convenience, discard such planks as the exemption of American ships passing through the Panama Canal, or the single term for each President, we may imagine that it would be no great strain on party conscience to go slowly in dealing with the Filipinos, and redeem the spirit rather than the letter of their plank." If this argument means anything at all, it means that it is all right to violate a party pledge when violation "would be no great strain on party conscience." This is a new and convenient means of distinguishing right from wrong. It is probably no great strain on a burglar's conscience, for instance, to burglarize a house, but the *New World* would undoubtedly decline to consider his act justified for that reason. As to keeping the spirit or letter of the pledge, unfortunately the Jones bill does neither. Nothing short of a grant of complete independence will do that.



The *New World* happens to be a strong advocate of home rule for Ireland. There is no argument that can be advanced against Philippine independence which would not apply as well against the right of the Irish or any other people to rule themselves. Even more unworthy than its argument in favor of pledge-breaking is the *New World's* attributing of unworthy motives to William J. Bryan. These are not to be considered seriously, but even if they existed, they offer no excuse for the *New World's* position. The Democratic party can no more morally violate its pledge of Philippine independence than the Liberal party of Great Britain can morally break its promise of Irish home rule. Every delay in withholding fulfillment of these pledges only adds to the dishonor of those who have made them.

S. D.



### Strange Tales from England.

The changes that have come over the English industrial world in this generation are finding striking illustration since the war began. Most

domestic problems are dropped or laid aside for future consideration when fighting abroad begins, but the English land question is very much in evidence. The problem of unemployment and poverty, which is always present, is just now joined to the question of food supply; and it is most encouraging to see that the relation between the two is recognized by persons who heretofore have not been suspected of holding heretical opinions as to landownership. The whole country, indeed, seems to have awakened to the idea that a great part of the food that England must have can be grown by her unemployed labor applied to her unused land. And, lest some should marvel that it should require a devastating war to awaken people to such an obvious truth, it may be said in passing that the same maladjustment is seen in every country on earth.



Local authorities, citizen committees, and even landowners, are taking the matter in hand. Agricultural colleges are aiding with expert advice. And the whole of England seems to have awakened to the fact that it lives on the earth, and draws its sustenance from the earth. Some of the people are so eager to make use of their new discovery that, notwithstanding the lateness of the season, they hope by planting seedlings and sowing seeds now to get autumn and spring crops of quick-growing vegetables. In some rural communities landowners are giving the land rent free for a year; which, one authority points out, will improve its prospects. But steps are being taken by the committees to pay the rent asked if necessary. The *London Nation* draws this conclusion:

The scheme has been started in rural counties, but there is no reason whatever why it should not be copied in and around our towns. There is plenty of vacant land that can be turned to good account in the neighborhood of large towns, and even within the City of London.



Here is a revolution indeed. The great war may soon pass into song and story, but if idle labor be joined to idle land for the purpose of feeding hungry mouths, the connection will never be forgotten. Idle land! Idle land in London, with idle hands and hungry mouths all about it! Landowners giving the land rent free for a year! Golf courses and game preserves put under the plow! Ah, the war has indeed shaken the "tight little island" to its foundations. "The sacrifice of the food of the nation to the pleasures of sport," says the staid and dignified *Nation*, "is nothing less than criminal. Game should be commandeered for the hospitals, and rabbits should be