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The indignation which some very good people of reputed intelligence express over the way in which corporations are shifting war taxes from themselves to their customers is amusing. Telegraph companies are required by law to pay a stamp tax on their messages, but they simply refuse to take messages from any person who does not first affix the stamp. Express companies are required to place a stamp upon their shipping receipts. They can't imitate the telegraph companies and compel their customers to do this for them, so they calmly raise express rates high enough to cover the tax. This is as we said it would be. It is as congress and the administration expected it to be. Everybody who ever gave a thought to taxation knew it would be so. If the public learns from this experience that it is the customer who pays indirect taxes, no matter who is ordered to pay them, some very valuable information will have been very cheaply purchased.

We are gravely told that the devotion of the Spanish queen regent to her son appeals to every mother in the world. So does the devotion of any other mother to her son. But there are too many devoted mothers for the world to be especially interested in one of them merely because her son has a claim to a tottering throne. When such interest appears it is likely to be mawkish sentiment. It is as queen, not as mother, that the regent of Spain differs from the lowliest woman in her realm; and what the sensible world cares most to know about her is not as to her devotion to her son but as to her devotion to the

country that has placed itself under her magisterial care. Is she serving that devotedly? or is she sacrificing its people lest her son may lose a throne?

The Illinois supreme court has made a decision which, though on the surface in the interest of steam railroads as against suburban trolleys, is in the right direction. According to this decision, street car systems cannot condemn private property for the purpose of making short cuts across country. They must go along streets and roads. The privilege of condemnation is restricted to steam roads. Of right it never ought to have been granted at all. Eminent domain is a sovereign power, and sovereign power should be exercised exclusively by sovereign authority—the people themselves.

Gov. Pingree, of Michigan, is a republican of the Abraham Lincoln type. His is republicanism with the imperialistic notions of colonization, semi-slavery, and taxation without representation, left out. To use his own language, "we are not in the colonizing business." Colonies, he sensibly says, "are not a great benefit to the working people of the country, but simply open up a field for the capitalists and monopolists who obtain from the government grants for the building of public works, to be paid for by a system of taxation upon the masses. He adds significantly: "And it is the monopolists who desire this extension of our territory." That is a fact; monopoly and imperialism go hand in hand. Gov. Pingree represents in all this matter the highest type of American sentiment. Instead of annexing the Spanish colonies, he would "demand that Spain grant to Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines perfect and absolute freedom."

Beyond that he would not have this country go, except to protect the new republics against disorder within and oppression from without, until the world comes to recognize their independence. Naturally, Gov. Pingree is not persona grata with with the Mark Hanna end of his party.

Studied efforts to belittle the Cuban cause and excite American hostility toward the Cuban patriots have been apparent ever since the American army was safely landed in eastern Cuba. Until that time, all the reports that reached this country told of the suffering, the bravery, the devotion, and the great usefulness to the American army of the insurgent troops. It was under their protection that the American army landed; and without their services then a bloodless landing could not have been effected. This was the tenor of the reports immediately following the landing. And they were doubtless true reports. But soon afterwards, when a foothold had been gained, and the insurgents were apparently no longer needed, as if by inspiration the imperialists began to abuse the Cuban patriots, denouncing them as unfit for self-government, and kept it up until Garcia withdrew his troops from further cooperation with the American army, and moved against the Spaniards on his own account, when, with a unanimity which again suggests inspiration, the imperialists changed their tone.

The slandering of the Cuban patriots was of the most baseless kind. They refused to make roads, it was said. Why shouldn't they refuse to make roads under the orders of officers to whom they owe no allegiance—as menial servants and not as soldiers. Our own soldiers also would have refused to make roads under like circumstances. They picked up the