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## LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

### Dewey Needs the Oregon

#### REASONS POLITICAL—EUROPEAN COMPLICATIONS SUGGESTED.

#### Secretary Long Says, However, it Has no Political Significance—Meanwhile the Insurgents Are Active.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The following dispatch has been received at the Navy Department:

"Manila, Feb. 24th. 'For political reasons the Oregon should be sent here at once.' (Signed.) 'DEWEY.'"

"Manila, Feb. 24. 'Yorktown arrived. Charleston and Petrel cruising around the Philippine Islands. Affairs more quiet.' (Signed.) 'DEWEY.'"

"San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 23. 'The Oregon arrived at Honolulu February 4th and at Honolulu February 5th. Iris and Scandia arrived on the 12th.' (Signed.) 'GRIFFEN.'"

Mr. Griffen is dispatch agent of the Department.

The cablegram from Admiral Dewey asking for the Oregon was received with surprise by the officials here. No one knew, or at least would admit that he knew, the nature of the political reasons why the Admiral demands the immediate presence of the peerless battleship.

The cablegram was taken before the Cabinet and fully discussed. The Admiral, it is said, possibly feels that the moral effect of the presence of the big ship upon insurgents themselves, and particularly upon the large element among the Filipinos that is believed to be restrained with difficulty from joining fortunes with Aguinaldo, with whom their sympathies lie, would be good. But there is an underlying doubt whether or not the Admiral may not be keenly sighting a gathering cloud in the East, and is looking to the prevention of any possible intervention or interference by European powers in the struggle now in progress in the neighborhood of Manila. It is believed that in the big fires much property of foreign residents and business concerns was destroyed. That these fires were caused by the insurgents can not be denied, and it may be that some of the foreign naval commanders in the East are disposed to seize upon the pretext that their interests demand protection which we cannot afford them, to make a landing, or do something obnoxious to the United States and likely to encourage the insurgents.

With such a strong naval force as would be afforded by the reinforcement of Dewey's fleet by the Oregon, there could not be any sound reason, nor even a plausible reason, for any such action on the part of these parties. It is said here that up to this moment there has been no intimation of a purpose on the part of any foreign Government to file any claims for pecuniary remuneration for the property of their citizens destroyed in the fires and fighting at either Manila or Iloilo. Just what disposition would be made of any such claim is not indicated here, and there is ground for the belief that if it can be shown that our military and naval officers practiced the precautions required by international law in the matter of giving due notice to foreigners of any action in the way of bombardment that might injure their property, and otherwise did everything that could be done to protect the foreign interests equally with our own, then there is little foundation for a sound claim for damages.

The Oregon arrived at Honolulu on the 5th instant, according to the telegraphic report that came to the Navy Department, this morning. No mention was made of her being in need of repairs, as has been stated in the press despatches.

Assuming that the battleship really needed ten days' repairs, she should have started away from Honolulu on her long run to Manila on the 15th instant. Allowing for detention on account of coaling at Guam or some other point between Honolulu and Manila it is estimated that the Oregon will reach Manila about the 10th of March.

The Cabinet gave some attention to Dewey's cable message relative to the political importance of the sending of the Oregon to Manila. The Department reached the conclusion that too much importance should not be attached to it; that Dewey wants the big ship to influence the Filipinos through fear.

Secretary Long when asked for an explanation of the reference to political reasons in the dispatch said:

"I am sure that it has no international significance. You may state that positively. Probably he wants a fine ship there as the American commissioners are about due and it will give weight to the American representatives."

It is suggested from other naval sources that Dewey wants the Oregon to release a number of the smaller ships of the fleet for other work. He has been planning a tour among the islands other than Luzon, with the purpose of establishing the authority of the United States among the islands.

It is also necessary to establish a close blockade to prevent the insurgents from receiving supplies. Meanwhile the War Department officials were agreeably surprised this morning to learn that General Otis at Manila had received the first of his reinforcements nearly six days before they were expected. They came on the Scandia, which brought half of the Twentieth infantry. She sailed from San Francisco January 29th in company with the Morgan City, which has aboard the remaining half of the

Twentieth infantry, and as both ships were at Honolulu at the same time the Morgan City also will be reported at Manila within 24 hours, unless she has been detained, which is not expected. The transports Ohio and Senator, with the Twenty-Second infantry aboard, sailed from San Francisco only five days later than the Scandia, so that within a week Otis will have 2,500 of the fresh men to relieve those who have been fighting on the outposts.

"What then, did the Chief Executive mean by telling those who gathered around the banquet board at Boston that up to the ratification of the treaty he had simply held the Philippines as Commander-in-Chief without any policy of his own, leaving the whole matter to be determined afterward by Congress? Was he foolish enough to believe that his mere statement would be allowed to pass unchallenged? Was he vain enough to suppose that his ipse dixit would conclude the matter, with the damaging proof of its falsity so near at hand?"

"Mr. Chairman, why did the President change his original intention as to the terms to be incorporated into the treaty? What was the influence that brought the change about? I have heard it stated that the applause of the people who greeted him just about this juncture of public affairs, while he was on his tour in the West, was the reason for it. Was it, then, the condition of public sentiment rather than the right or wrong of the matter which influenced the President's mind?"

"And is His Excellency quite sure that he properly gauged the condition of the public mind on the subject of Philippine annexation? Is he absolutely certain that one swallow really makes a whole summer? It would seem so, for in his House Market Club address, he explicitly declared that the annexation treaty had passed the Senate by over two-thirds and was sanctioned by the judgment of nine-tenths of his countrymen. How the treaty finally got its two-thirds majority in the Senate—the tremendous pressure necessary to secure it there—where its fate hung doubtful and trembling in the balance until the very latest moment and was then only saved by the votes of Senators who had most of them spoken against it, no man knows better than Mr. McKinley. Adulation has indeed sorely blinded the Chief Executive to the truth if he imagines that even the majority of his countrymen approve of this permanent holding in the Orient. Let him not pin his faith too securely to the sordid interests which clamor so loudly in his hearing. If he will but quiet the noisy throng which surround him long enough to put his ear to the ground and listen, he will distinguish the pretensions of the coming storm; he will hear the steady tread, not of the 100,000 men whom he demands for a crusade against liberty, but of a mighty army of free people who are beginning to move in defense of their cherished traditions and their violated honor."

"We have been told further that the President yielded up his first blundering attempt at the importunity of Admiral Dewey who urged that the Philippines should be retained. Mr. Chairman, the Chief Executive cannot screen himself behind the gold lace of the hero of Manila."

**ARRIVAL OF THE SCANDIA.**  
Manila, Feb. 24.—10:30 a. m.—Owing to the wholesale arrests of all suspected Filipinos yesterday, and the clearance of the streets at 7 o'clock last night, the threatened renewal of the scenes of the previous night did not occur. With the exception of a few shots fired in the neighborhood of the penitentiary, the city was as quiet as possible.

Outside Manila the rebels were very active. Near Calocan, the brigade commanded by General Harrison Gray Otis had several lively skirmishes with the rebels. But at daylight the enemy was driven back with severe loss.

The feeling in this city is much improved to-day and business generally has been resumed. Excellent order is maintained by General Hughes' police force, which is universally commended.

The United States transport Scandia, with the Twentieth infantry on board, has arrived here from San Francisco, which port she left on January 29th. All duties on importations of fresh fruits, vegetables and meats have been temporarily suspended.

Orders have been issued to enforce the provisional customs tariff at Iloilo and the following officers have been appointed to conduct the civil affairs of Iloilo: Major Theodore Stomberg, treasurer; Captain J. H. Evans, collector of customs; Ensign L. H. Everett, port captain; E. C. Hatch, Eighteenth infantry, collector of revenue.

**ENEMY KEPT UP A HOT FIRE.**  
Manila, Feb. 24.—4:44 p. m.—The enemy's positions have been particularly active about Calocan all day. Special attention was paid to the three gun battery near the railroad and the improvement of the rebel marksmanship was very noticeable. The rebels fired volleys at the battery, the bullets frequently striking the tops of the sand bags. A lieutenant of the Twentieth Kansas volunteers and three other men

were slightly wounded. A man was killed in the trenches to-day.

The rebel battery has not been used since a shell from the United States doubled-turreted monitor Monadnock exploded over it yesterday.

The enemy's fire was so hot, during the night, in the vicinity of the Higgins House, that the headquarters were removed to a church four hundred yards inside the line.

A few small fires have destroyed native shacks in various parts of the city.

The Twentieth infantry is being disembarked from the transport Scandia. The regiment will be encamped on the water front, at the former quarters of the Tennessee volunteers, temporarily.

**QUIETED BY SHOT AND SHELL.**

Manila, Feb. 25.—10:15 a. m.—Despite the threats of the Filipinos to burn the business centre, the inhabitants of Manila were not disturbed last night. There was not a single incident worth recording from the time the streets were cleared until day dawned this morning.

Everything was equally quiet along the line outside, except for occasional volleys from bunches of the enemy at various points.

The enemy were most active along General King's and General Overhine's line from the beach to Pasig; but a few volleys of musketry, supplemented by shells from the Buffalo effectually quieted them. The foreign consuls met yesterday to confer regarding commercial interests, but the result of their deliberations has not been communicated. It is understood, to the American authorities. The British consul was not present at the conference.

**VENOMOUS ATTACK BY JUNTA.**

Hong Kong, Feb. 24.—The Filipino Junta in Hong Kong publishes a venomous anti-American tract, in part, to the following effect:

"Chaos and pandemonium reign at Manila; trade is paralyzed, and provisions are at famine prices. The American officers are afraid to exercise authority over the recalcitrant soldiers. While fighting is in progress, both military and police defy their officers and proceed to the front to see what they style 'fun.'"

"In order to hush the scandal of a wanton night bombardment of the house of a foreign Consul (the name is not given), the American authorities promptly paid for the damage, hoping to avoid publicity. The escape of the Consul's family was miraculous."

The manifesto alleges that Major General Otis is "incapable of filling his position," and then proceeds in a rabid denunciation of the American soldiers, declaring that "their conduct is bringing disgrace upon the white race."

The Junta says the premises of a Hong Kong merchant at Iloilo have been looted by Americans and the merchant has lodged heavy claims for his losses. The tract concludes with the statement:

"The reports of the hoisting of the American flag by the natives of Negros are practically unbecome."

**THE RESULTS AT MANILA.**

Otis Reports 500 of Enemy Killed and Wounded—City Quiet.

Washington, Feb. 24.—General Otis to-day cabled the War Department as follows:

"Manila, February 24th. 'Scandia arrived last night. On nights 21st and 22nd and yesterday morning insurgents trooped into outskirts of city behind our lines. Many in hiding and about one thousand entrenched themselves. Completely routed yesterday with loss of killed and wounded about 500 and 200 prisoners. Our loss very slight. City quiet, confidence restored, business progressing.' (Signed) 'OTIS.'"

**ARMY REORGANIZATION BILL.**

The Compromise is Reported to the Senate.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The Senate Committee on Military Affairs reported the compromise Army Reorganization Bill just before adjournment of the Senate at 4:30 p. m.

In the new bill one section covers the entire increase of the army and it reads as follows:

"That to meet the present exigencies of the military service the President is hereby authorized to maintain the regular army at a strength of not exceeding sixty-five thousand enlisted men, to be distributed among several branches of the service according to the needs of each, and raise a force of not more than thirty-five thousand volunteer infantry, which he may determine, from the country at large under general law, or from the localities where their services may be required with regard to citizenship or educational qualifications and to form the same into not more than thirty regiments organized as infantry regiments of war strength in the regular army; provided, further that each regiment shall have one surgeon with the rank of Major, two assistant surgeons, one of whom shall have the rank of Captain and one that of First Lieutenant, and three hospital stewards; provided, that such increase in the regular and volunteer force shall continue in service only during the necessity therefor, and not later than July 1st, 1901."

**ALGER WILL NOT RESIGN.**

He Declares He Has Never Entertained Such an Idea.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Secretary Alger returned to Washington to-day and when asked concerning reports that he intended to resign from the Cabinet said that he never had entertained such an idea and that so far as his own disposition was concerned he would remain in the Cabinet until the end of the present Administration.

Mr. D. T. Moore, Sr., is quite sick with pneumonia on West Hargett street.

### AN ATTACK ON THE PRESIDENT

#### Mr. Johnson Likens Him to the Pious Pecsksniff.

#### HIS PHILIPPINE POLICY

#### MR. JOHNSON DECLARES IT IS A CRIME.

#### SNEETS AT BENEVOLENT ASSIMILATION

#### Declares the President Inaugurated the Aggressive Annexation Policy, Driving the Treaty Through Senate With all his Official Power.

Washington, Feb. 24.—During the general debate upon the Army Appropriation Bill in the House to-day, Mr. Johnson, (Rep., of Indiana, who made several notable speeches violently attacking the policy of the Administration during the consideration of the Army Reorganization Bill a fortnight ago, returned to the assault and delivered against the President and some of his advisers the most scathing philippic heard in the House for months. He sneered at the President and the influence which he alleged controlled him, impugned his motives, questioned his sincerity and likened him to Dickens' most contemptible character; charged his Secretary of War with incompetency and predicted that the President would in the end be engulfed by adverse public sentiment. Among his utterances were far more sensational than those in his former speech, and dazed some of his auditors by the impetuosity with which they were delivered, the speech did not raise about him the storm of his former speeches. Mr. Landis, one of his Republican colleagues from Indiana,

### Take No Stock in Whitewashing.

(Wadesboro Messenger & Intelligencer.)

There are many good Democrats in this neck of the woods who do not take any stock in the whitewashing report of the Legislative committee which investigated the two Wilsons; and we are sure that the re-instatement of the Gideonite in the office of Railroad Commissioner is a thing which should not be done.

briefly stated to the House that Mr. Johnson's constituents had repudiated him and the two members had a wordy duel.

Later in the day Mr. Marsh, (Rep., Ill.), replied to some of Mr. Johnson's strictures, but the Republican leaders had evidently decided to ignore the attacks of the Indian, and no general reply was made to his speech to-day.

The Army Appropriation Bill to-day was lost sight of in the general discussion of the policy of the Government relative to the Philippines, and several notable speeches were made, particularly that of Mr. Settle, (Dem., Ky.). The general debate upon the bill closed to-day and to-morrow the bill will be taken up for amendment under the five-minute rule.

"A few evenings ago" began Mr. Johnson, "the Home Market Club" of Boston, gave a banquet at which the President was the principal guest. From the newspaper accounts of the affair, it was an exceedingly elaborate one.

"The Secretary of War was in attendance, he whom the Boston populace had hissed upon the streets a few hours before, ere they turned to greet with rapturous applause the chief who had bestowed upon him his official character. We can hardly blame them though for this, Mr. Chairman, for they were only following the precedent set them by some of the leading Republican newspapers of the country which, for months past, have been feverishly attacking the Secretary and yet have heaped the conrage to lay their axe to the root of the evil and censure the gentleman, who to reward him for his political services and disbursements in the campaign of 1896, appointed him to his present position, and has maintained him there ever since, notwithstanding his incompetency, and against the righteous complaints that have been made against him."

"The Secretary of the Navy also graced the occasion with his presence, and so far forgot his usual courtesies, as far belied his training and associations as to repeat the stale and unoriginal charge that those who opposed the ratification of the infamous treaty of peace with Spain were responsible for the bloodshed that occurred in the Philippines."

"When the Chief Magistrate had ceased speaking, another member of his official family, the gentleman who presides over the Postoffice Department, arose in his place and proceeded to lead his chief down with a eulogy so fulsome and extravagant, so absolutely

given over to hyperbole that no individual would wholly eaten up with vanity, could possibly have endured it without nausea and disgust.

"The newspapers further inform us, that among the other decorations there were suspended over the entrance to the banquet hall three portraits, one of Washington, one of Lincoln and one of the President himself, and that beneath them was the word 'Liberators.'"

"Now, George Washington fought with his sword for eight long and bloody years to establish the right of a people to govern themselves, and in his farewell address he counselled his countrymen to live on terms of amity with all nations and to enter into entangling alliances with none."

"Abraham Lincoln's whole political life was a contention for the rights of man, and his kindly hand penned the immortal emancipation proclamation that struck the shackles from the limbs of millions of bondsmen. One would think, sir, that the gentleman who had just been engaged in the prosecution of a bloody war against a poor and defenceless people in the Orient, engaged in the unsavory task of Christianizing them with the sword and civilizing them at the mouths of cannon, would naturally have felt some little embarrassment as he gazed upon these portraits and read the significant inscription below. Possibly His Excellency did not see them. He may have turned his back upon them just as he has turned his back upon the Declaration of Independence."

"Be this as it may, sir, the President does not appear to have been at all abashed by this incongruous circumstance, but he arose from his seat and there, within the shadow of the monument of Bunker Hill, where Warren fell, fighting for liberty, and within a stone's throw of Faneuil Hall, where Bay State have sent forth to the country their messengers of freedom, he delivered, perhaps the most remarkable, certainly the most disingenuous address that ever fell from the lips of an American President."

"This address, divested of its verbiage, considered apart from its platitudes and the ostentatious profession of virtue with which it was interlarded, was nothing more nor less than a carefully devised and studious misstatement of the issue between the Chief Executive and those of his own party who are opposed to his wretched policy in the Philippines. It was an effort to befog the subject, and

to mislead the public judgment. We are told, sir, that this address was received with enthusiastic applause by those who heard it, but we who read it in cold print in the light of the indecently and tragically now being enacted near the shores of Asia involuntarily think of that creation of Charles Dickens who was accustomed to roll his eyes piously to Heaven and exclaim with great ostentation to those about him, 'My friends, let us be moral!' and who was the father of two daughters, one of whom he named Charity and the other Mercy."

"His Excellency declared upon this occasion, if not in so many words at least in effect, that he had never entertained any policy with respect to the Philippines up to the time the treaty of peace was ratified, but that he had simply held them as Commander-in-Chief. The question as to their disposition and control to be determined there after by Congress."

"If the Chief Executive really feels as he declared at the banquet that he did that the disposition of the Philippines is a matter to be determined by Congress why does he not call a special session of Congress to settle the matter at once and then keep his hands off? Heaven knows there is need of action. If he is sincere why did he permit his supporters in the Senate to vote down the other day the Bacon resolution which distinctly declared that the United States entertained no intention of permanently holding these islands. Why did he insist that the McEbery resolution should be passed; a resolution which is a fraud, a delusion and a snare, a shameful evasion, which, like a Christmas tree has something upon it for everybody."

"Mr. Chairman, I am determined that the President shall neither beforesaid the issue between himself and those of the Republican party who oppose his Philippine policy nor mislead the public judgment, nor shirk the responsibility for the gross official blunder which he has committed in connection with this great problem. I insist that the whole policy is not simply an error, but that it is a crime, and that the Chief Executive of this Nation is the one who has precipitated upon us the embarrassments and the difficulties by which we are now confronted. I insist that he did not simply hold the Philippines as Commander-in-Chief, leaving the question of the disposition and control of them to Congress, but that he formulated and put into execution an affirmative and

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### Shall Railroads Escape?

#### JUDGE CONNOR WANTS INCREASE THEIR ASSESSMENT.

#### A Day of Interesting and Lively Debate on the Proposition to Impose a Tax on the Gross Receipts of Railroads.

"Resolved, That the Railroad Commission be and are hereby instructed to assess the value of all railway property in this State for taxation on the basis of 6 per cent upon their net income."—Resolution introduced in the House yesterday by Speaker Connor.

There wasn't what one would call "much done" in the House yesterday. But there was a "mighty heap" of speaking, and some of it of no bad quality, either.

All over the proposition to levy a graduated tax on the gross earnings of railroads.

The discussion began at 11 o'clock with a speech by Mr. Winston in opposition to the tax and continued (harring a short interruption at noon for the election of a State Librarian and trustees of the University) till 2:30 o'clock, at which time Judge Connor introduced the above resolution as a compromise measure.

Pending its adoption, and to give members time to make up their minds on it, the House took a recess until 8 o'clock last night.

At that hour, however, that matter was not referred to, only local bills being considered, and the resolution goes over for consideration again this morning at the expiration of the morning hour.

The tax proposed in the Revenue Act, and for which this resolution is a substitute, is as follows:

On all railroads whose annual gross earnings amount to \$2,500 per mile or less, a tax of one-eighth of one per cent on the gross earnings.

On gross earnings of more than \$2,500 per mile and less than \$3,000, a tax of one-fourth of one per cent.

On gross earnings of \$3,000 and less than \$3,500, one-half of one per cent.

On gross earnings of \$3,500 and less than \$4,000, three-fourths of one per cent.

On gross earnings of \$4,000 and less than \$4,500, one per cent.

On gross earnings of \$4,500, and less than \$5,000, one and one-fourth per cent.

On gross earnings of \$5,000 and less than \$5,500, one and one-half per cent.

On gross earnings of \$5,500 or more, one and three-fourths of one per cent.

This was the bone of contention around which the battle of debate raged for three hours, and ended only with the introduction of Judge Connor's compromise resolution.

The sensational speech of the day was the opening gun. It was made by Mr. Winston. It was listened to with dismay by Democratic members and with surprise by other folk.

He began by complimenting the Finance Committee and speaking in most appreciative terms of the work it had done in constructing the Revenue Act. It was in the main, he thought, a wise measure, carefully and ably formed. For the most part, the man who had not hesitated to investigate these questions could follow its recommendations with safety. It was therefore with extreme pain that Mr. Winston found himself compelled to disagree with the committee on its proposition to tax railroads on their gross earnings.

He opposed the tax because he considered it a double tax. The property was taxed and now it is proposed to tax the income on it.

"The railroads are about the only class of property in North Carolina that pay their full ad valorem tax. The merchant doesn't do it, for he's turning over his capital day after day. The farmer doesn't do it, for he's eating up his product year in and year out."

"Touching the argument that the income of insurance companies are taxed and therefore railroads ought to be taxed, he said he favored exempting the incomes of insurance companies to the amount of capital owned in the State.

"The courts will sustain such a tax as this (tax on railroads) only on the fiction that it is a license tax. This for the good reason that the income is derived—every single cent of it—from property already taxed. Are not railroads already taxed enough? Then let their ad valorem tax be increased by the Railroad Commission."

"Did you know that the only interest in North Carolina that has been singled out and had a guardian appointed for it—to get its property on the tax books—is the railroad. And by this Commission millions and millions of dollars have been added to the taxable property of the State."

"Why single out the railroads for this burdensome tax?" he asked with great emphasis.

He believed that nobody would vote for the tax with the idea that "they've got it and we'll take it."

"It was just the fear of such legislation as this that made the great railroads of North Carolina pause and hesitate before they decided with what party they would cast their lot in the late campaign."

He said there was a time during the struggle when these great aggregations of capital stood hesitating.

The light finally broke, the hour

struck and they cast their lot with those who were struggling for White Supremacy."

He argued that the Democratic platform was committed against this bill and against the principle involved in it. He read from the Democratic Handbook guaranteeing protection to investments and all species of property. This handbook, he said, was the chart and guide of every true Democrat.

"This is one question on which every Democratic member here is pledged. And I do stand here today and ask you to abide by it."

"You made it in the hour of need last summer. You made it in the hour of darkness. I beg you now to keep it."

"You say this promise to corporations ought not to have been made. How many men would have stood upon the stump and said this?"

"This pledge, made no matter how or where, is just such a pledge as every honest man ought to make to an honest man."

"It is the pledge that brought you here and brought me here."

"To my mind this tax is not warranted by law, and if it were warranted by law, it is not the proper time to impose it."

"I appeal to you to let the pledge stand. I appeal to you to let the Democratic party stand in the future as in the past, as the party of truth, honesty and fulfilled promises."

"The party managers, rightly or wrongly, have written their pledge here (Handbook). If it is not kept it will be the fault of you and you must bear the responsibility."

Mr. Willard, of New Hanover, followed Mr. Winston. His speech was a carefully prepared argument, well delivered and listened to with interest by the members of the House. It was perhaps the most comprehensive and thoughtful argument yet delivered on this very important question.

It showed that Mr. Willard had studied the question closely and was thoroughly conversant with it in all its details. Among other things he said:

"It seems almost folly to continue this struggle with such an array of talent opposed to the measure. I have not the ability to indulge in such oratorical pyrotechnics and glittering generalities as the gentleman from Bertie favored us with yesterday, and the gentleman from Bertie today, or to present to your view my ideas on this important subject with the same clearness and force as are employed by the distinguished Speaker of the House or the learned gentleman from Wayne. I am so firmly convinced, however, that the position taken by the Joint Finance Committee is correct that I cannot let the matter drop without having another word to say."

"The gentleman from Buncombe yesterday certainly played upon a harp of a single string. He insisted and rested his position on this tax upon the ground that it was levied because WE think the railroads are able to bear it. I submit that this view has never been presented by a single person advocating this tax except in answer to some statement made to the effect that it is an unjust and unequal burden. I advocate this tax upon the broad ground that it is right and just to levy a special privilege tax upon ALL corporations which enjoy unusual and monopolistic privileges. And I claim that there has been no more Democratic doctrine enunciated on the floor of this House than this principle contains."

"The distinguished Speaker objects to it because he says it is injecting a new principle into our system of taxation and the gentleman from Bertie says they are singled out from all other corporations. They certainly are misinformed upon this point, for if they will turn to section 43 of the old revenue act they will see that a special privilege tax is levied upon the gross earnings of telegraph, telephone and express companies and in addition to this each one of these classes of corporations pay their regular tax, the Western Union Telegraph Company paying on \$750,000 worth of property in the State."

"The gentlemen have contended with great vehemence, and the idea was also presented by the Speaker of the House, that this tax is un-Democratic. If they really believe this then it is their duty to introduce an amendment striking out section 63, which taxes telegraph, express, telephone and Pullman car companies. Or if they do not they should certainly explain to this house why it is UN-Democratic to tax a railroad company and it IS Democratic to tax a telegraph or an express company. If this is not explained satisfactorily it is open for us to conclude that the interest of railroads is of much more consequence to the State than that of telegraph, telephone and express companies."

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