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Ink Slings.

Caucus has supplanted Congress as the law-making power of the Great Republic.

The House has passed a Trust bill, but it is afraid to trust its Tariff bill to a fair and thorough discussion.

INGALLS says that "religion has no place in politics." Certainly not in the kind that QUAY supplies to the Republican party.

The hounds that are on Mr. CLEVELAND's track think that his recent visit to Washington gives them a fresh scent, and they are howling accordingly.

WANAMAKER is said to be sick of his cabinet job for which he paid \$400,000. He has certainly made more profitable and creditable deals at his Philadelphia bargain counter.

SHELLENBERGER, contrite and conscience-stricken, returned to his Bucks county home on Tuesday, but, unlike the welcome accorded to the original prodigal, his reception was entirely devoid of zeal.

HASTINGS experiences no difficulty in carrying such counties as Clinton and Blair, but the young warrior finds that his guns are not heavy enough to breach the walls of such a Republican stronghold as Lancaster.

When the coming Republican State Convention shall declare in favor of Ballot Reform, which it will be pretty sure to do, it will show that when the old party lost the sense of decency its sense of the ridiculous went with it.

The investigation of the Ohio ballot-box forgery, still in progress at Washington, is the only thing that keeps FORAKER from being forgotten. He will be remembered as long as the stretch of that transaction continues.

After the New York Sun's invention of the malicious lie that GROVER CLEVELAND is laying on fat to the amount of twenty-five pounds a month, it ill becomes its venomous editor to charge Mr. CLEVELAND with untruthfulness.

Speaker REED has published a magazine article on "Reforms Needed in the House." A Democratic majority is the reform most needed in that branch of Congress, which the people intend to bring about at the next election.

BEISMARCK is brought into service by the beer-guzzlers as a conspicuous proof that beer doesn't injure its votaries mentally or physically. But there is no telling what kind of a wreck he would now be if the old Prince had guzzled American beer.

A prominent Philadelphia Republican organ says that "the issue in the contest in the Third Congressional District is simply a question of protection or free trade." That organ simply lies, and there is not one of its readers so simple as not to know that it lies.

When a Pottstown wag wrote on the backs of a gang of newly arrived Italian pauper laborers, with chalk, such legends as "Protection to American Labor," "No Free Trade," &c, it was probably his intention to fix them up for a Republican high-tariff parade.

The amendment of the Sugar schedule in the McKinley bill, which at one jump raised the value of the Sugar-Trust stock about \$11 a share, furnished a nice commentary on the anti-trust bill with which a Republican Congress is trying to beguile a confiding people.

Mr. CLEVELAND may not have used the rough language which it is said he did in speaking of DANA, but no one can say that he hadn't sufficient occasion for it. Under similar provocation JACKSON would have used his cane on the backguard of the Sun if he had been within its reach.

According to the declaration of her young Emperor, Germany wants peace, and to assure her neighbors that she is peaceably disposed, she is going to increase her force of fighting men. Peace she will have even should it be necessary to use every bayonet in her big army to enforce it.

The Press thinks that a free-trader in the seat of SAMUEL J. RANDALL would be "a strange anomaly." It would be a difficult thing to find an anomaly that wasn't strange, but the strangest of them all would be a monopoly tariff supporter representing a Democratic congressional district.

July was the month in which our forefathers got together and gave Boss GEORGE, of Great Britain, a black eye. In view of this fact, the Democrats who intend to subject the Boss of Pennsylvania to similar treatment, made an appropriate selection in choosing that month for the holding of their State Convention.

Mayor GRANT should not despair. QUAY, with a good deal worse reputation, attained to a seat in the Senate and was entrusted with the chairmanship of a national committee. It is true, however, that GRANT has the disadvantage of having to deal with a party that is more particular than QUAY's about the character of its representative men.

Silence That Proves Guilt.

Not all the Republican papers believe that as against the charges which assail his reputation Boss QUAY needs no other defence than "dignified silence." There are journals of his own party which declare that when he is called an embezzler, and the circumstances are given in detail to prove that he is an embezzler, he owes it to himself and to his party to do something more than to keep his mouth shut, if he is innocent. Thus the *Topeka Capital*, a prominent Republican journal in a very prominent Republican state says:

Unless Senator Quay takes some notice of the charges of the *New York World* and the *Evening Post*, the general public will take it for granted that he is a scoundrel. Does the Senator think these specific indictments are child's play?

Surely this is a sensible view of the embarrassing situation in which the Pennsylvania Senator finds himself. When the witnesses are brought forward and the circumstances adduced to prove that he is a scoundrel, the verdict certainly must go against him if he does not produce some strong rebutting evidence. "Dignified silence" was never known to clear the prisoner in the dock.

Another good Republican paper, the *Providence Journal*, takes a farther reaching view of the unadvised charges against QUAY, as follows:

Can an administration which kneels to him maintain before the people the sincerity of its professions of piety and of its highest devotion to the honest administration of the government by continuing in the same practice? If Mr. Quay is not hurt by a refusal to deny the charges, and if Mr. Harrison continues to stand by him, there will be some reason for believing with Mr. Ingalls that the purification of politics is an iridescent dream.

Could there be a more correct opinion than that QUAY's "dignified silence" is not only ruinous to his own reputation, but also damaging to the administration with which he is so closely associated? If it were run through a threshing machine Mr. Harrison's reputation for piety and general goodness could not present a more tattered appearance than it necessarily does so long as his closest political intimate declines to notice the apparently well authenticated charge that he is an embezzler and an all-around political rascal.

Still another good Republican paper, the *Columbus State Journal*, in the following paragraph, expresses itself concerning QUAY's policy of making no rejoinder to an indictment that implicates him in offenses which are usually punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary:

Should the Pennsylvania senator be ambitious to hold hereafter some higher position than he, has yet held, and should these same charges then be preferred against him, he would have to meet and refute them, else they might seriously interfere with the realization of that ambition.

The above expressions show that there are some Republican journals which do not believe that the silence of the Boss when called to account for clearly specified offenses, will be accepted by the public as evidence of his innocence, and are not prepared to say, with the organs, "Dear QUAY, don't talk."

The President has ventured to veto some of the bills which are being lavishly passed by congress appropriating money for public buildings. This might be credited to a desire to prevent a waste of public money if it did not appear that in his vetoes the President is inclined to discriminate against appropriations for buildings in Democratic towns.

A Ghoulsh Contest.

They have had a unique and rather ghastly misunderstanding in Williamsport concerning an inquest on a dead body. Some weeks ago the remains of an unfortunate infant were found along the river shore. Upon its discovery an alderman summoned a jury and held an inquest upon it, but the coroner, regarding this proceeding as an infringement upon his prerogative, got another jury together and subjected the dead baby to another inquisition. Inquests necessarily involve cost, and the question arose whether the commissioners should pay the alderman's or the coroner's jury for their service. The case was brought before Judge METZGER who decided that the emoluments should go to the alderman and his jurors, who no doubt rejoiced with ghoulish glee over the discomfiture of their rivals.

Mr. Randall's Successor.

Governor BEAVER having tardily discovered that a vacancy existed in the representation of the 3d Congressional district, the filling of which required his calling a special election, as provided by law, has issued the necessary notice, designating the 20th of May, inst., as the day for holding such election. We understand that he wasn't sure of the demise of Mr. RANDALL until Squire McMULLEN had removed from his mind every vestige of doubt in regard to it. The Governor, by fixing upon the twentieth of this month has allowed but little time for preparation for so important an election, but in all probability the electors will manage to select a suitable representative, notwithstanding the shortness of the time in which they will have to do it.

A monopoly organ, speaking of this special election, says: "No Free Trader will be elected from the Third District this month." That is true, nor is it likely that one will be elected from that district in any other month for many years to come. But it is quite likely that a good and reliable Tariff Reformer, one who believes in the principles of the Mills bill and the doctrine of the Cleveland message, and will do his duty to his constituents and his country by assisting to remove the monopolistic features of the tariff, will be elected to succeed Mr. RANDALL. Free Trade candidates have no existence except as scare-crows set up in the political cornfield by the dishonest champions of monopoly to frighten ignorant voters.

Whatever may be said to the contrary there is no difference of opinion among the Democratic congressional aspirants in the 3d district concerning the necessity for reforming the existing tariff. The gentleman who shall be elected will be found in accord with his party in its demand for free raw materials, the repeal of oppressive taxes on the necessities of life, and the reduction of such duties as are made high for the purpose of nourishing the Trusts. This is the kind of "Free Trader" that will take Mr. RANDALL's place. The kind is every day becoming more popular and numerous.

Germany will move for the abolition of her corn law about the time that a Republican congress will impose such a relic of barbarism upon the free people of the United States. A motion is about being made in the new Parliament to take the duty off wheat and to remove the embargo on American pork. With such enlightened liberality will the Germans respond to the uncivilized tariff policy of the United States.

Labor's May Day.

The May day demonstrations in this country and in Europe, on Thursday last week, were not attended with the disturbances that were expected. The movement was general on both continents, embracing toilers in every department of labor who were moved by the same purpose, the reduction of the hours that shall constitute a working day. With the exception of some disorder not of a serious character, the demeanor of the working people in Europe on this occasion was as peaceable as was that of their fellow laborers in the United States. The old-world authorities, however, had made quiet but ample military preparations to quell any disturbance that might arise, and it is probable that the knowledge of this had a restraining effect upon the turbulence that has so frequently attended demonstrations of European working people; but there was no such restraint in the United States, and hence the good order that prevailed here is the more creditable to the working classes of this country.

The movement has by no means been fully successful, but in some of the departments of labor there have been concessions made to the demand for an eight-hour working day, particularly in the building trades, the carpenters, bricklayers, masons, &c, having to a considerable extent gained what they asked for. There is in the result much to encourage the working people, who have made a most favorable impression both by the justness of their demand and the orderly determination and quiet dignity with which they are moving to secure compliance with it.

The Storm Brewing in the Northwest.

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* is one of the leading Republican journals of the Northwest, yet, although the Republicans have their own way in fixing up a tariff bill, it is not happy. It says that this bill is entirely different from what the party and the people were promised when Mr. HARRISON was offered to them as a candidate. "The people," it says, "longed after the 'bread of tariff reduction and reform,' and they have been offered an indigestible increase of tariff tax all around." Ridiculing and denouncing the attempt to gull the farmers with the pretense of protecting them with high duties on wheat, corn, beef, pork, butter, cheese, and other products of which the country has a large surplus for exportation, it says: "The farmer insists upon lower duties on what he 'must buy, and he cannot be put off with childish and futile duties upon 'what he has to sell.' Such an expression as this, coming from such a quarter, presages the cyclone that is gathering in the Northwest and will sweep the tariff mongers off the political field."

The death of Senator BECK, of Kentucky, which occurred suddenly in the Baltimore and Potomac depot at Washington, from heart affection, last Saturday, is a great loss to the Democratic party and also to the country. In his characteristics there was much that gave him a high position among the better class of our public men. His official conduct was marked by an honesty and sincerity of purpose which gained for him the confidence not only of his constituents, but of the entire people. No one doubted the integrity and patriotism of the Kentucky Senator. In point of ability he ranked with the ablest. He was by birth a Scotchman, but no native born Senator had more at heart the general welfare of the Republic.

Economic Blatherskites.

Among the persons who appeared before the McKinley committee to give their views on the economic necessities of the country, there were, in addition to interested parties who had their personal ends to serve, a number of blatherskites who intruded their ignorant views upon the committee for no other conceivable reason than to hear themselves talk and to make the public believe that they were persons of importance. Of this class VICTOR E. PLOTT, of this State, was a conspicuous example. He had much to do in advising the duties on agricultural imports that are such a ridiculous feature of the McKinley bill. Among other things he said, he is reported to have expressed himself before the committee of tariff inflators, as follows: "I am here to say that the principal cause 'that has deteriorated the prices of agricultural lands, our farm lands, is 'the cheap labor products of the Old World, foisted upon our market. And 'I undertake to say that American 'farms cannot compete in the edible 'productions with the cheap labor of 'foreign countries.'"

PLOTT ought to know that the edible productions of foreign countries, the importation of which is a disadvantage to our farmers, amount to an unappreciable quantity. Occasionally when there is a failure of a particular crop here, the scarcity is supplied from Europe, but under such circumstances protection would be of no account to the farmer whose crop had failed, while the cost to the general consumer would be necessarily increased. This thing occasionally occurs with the potato crop, but even PLOTT will not have cheek enough to say that ordinarily the American potato raiser needs protection against the competition of foreign producers. As to the great cereal crops and the meat products, of which we have yearly an immense surplus, it is the height of folly to contend that they stand in any danger of foreign competition in our own markets.

It is only by aggregating tropical productions, such as sugar and foreign fruits, and other products that can't be raised by our farmers, that the economists who claim that they are going to benefit American agricultural interests by duties on farm products, can make a formidable showing of agricultural commodities imported into this country.

Land That is Not Needed.

A very good argument can be brought to bear against the project of the government irrigating the desert lands of the far west which are not cultivatable without an artificial supply of water. It is said that millions of acres can be made productive by this process, and it is for this purpose that a demand is made for the expenditure of a large amount of public money. But is there such urgent necessity for an increase of the area of cultivatable land that the government should be called upon to change the arrangement of nature at great expense in order to effect that object?

One of the present drawbacks to the profitability of farming in this country is that more stuff is being raised than there is a market for. Wouldn't it be foolish to increase the country's means and capacity of production under the circumstances? When farms are being abandoned in the East because there is no longer a profit in farming them, and the agriculturists of the West also complain of the unprofitableness of their calling, all of this being the result of superfluous production, wouldn't the folly of adding more land to that which is already producing too much be heightened by the government going to a great expense to do it?

The secret of this project is that there are interested parties who want to use the government in making this desert land valuable, with the intention of reaping a large share of the benefit of its sale. There may be a time when this land shall be needed for cultivation, but that time is not now when the farmers are suffering from an excess of production. The Farmers' Alliance couldn't do a better service to their interests than by opposing this irrigation scheme.

The notorious VICTORIA C. WOODHULL, and her sister, of equal notoriety, TENNIE C. CLAFLIN, have turned up in New York as distinguished visitors from England, they now being respectively Mrs. JOHN BIDDULPH MARTIN, the wife of a rich and influential London banker, and Lady COOK, the wife of a well-to-do English Baronet. They have come over to secure the retraction of a publication that was by no means complimentary to them. These ladies are natives of the neighboring county of Union, and being brainy women, and not over-squeamish as to their manner of getting on in the world, they have had careers as checkered as their reputations, but in the end decidedly prosperous.

Quay Should Sticker.

The friends of M. S. QUAY, who indignantly maintain that he could not think of retreating before the rattling fire which the Democratic newspapers are pouring into him, overlook the fact that much of the fusillade comes from guns fired from the ranks of his own party. Republicans who are rebelling against the rule of the Boss have a much greater interest in forcing him to retreat than have the Democrats. The latter want him to remain just where he is, as they are well assured that such a character must bring disgrace and ruin to the party he leads. There are but few Democrats who do not believe that disgrace and ruin to the Republican party will be the medium of beneficial results to the general interests of the country. For this reason they don't want QUAY to lose his leadership.

Got It at Last.

New York has at last got a reform ballot law, the Saxton bill, considerably altered and amended, having been passed by the legislature and signed by Governor HILL. Some of the Governor's enemies claim that he was forced to abandon his opposition to ballot reform, but the truth is that the Governor maintained his position and succeeded in forcing the legislature to furnish a ballot bill which will prevent dishonest voting without disfranchising any class of voters. By its provisions entire secrecy is secured to the voter, who is enabled to cast his ballot entirely protected from intimidating or corrupting influences. If Pennsylvania can get as good a bill as this one, our people will have reason to be satisfied.

Spawls from the Keystone.

They are still finding food bodies at Johnstown.

A Mendeville rooster whipped an owl, a dog and two roosters.

A Chester baby fell from the second story with slight injuries.

At Columbia 117 shad were taken in one haul, and 400 during the day.

There are no licensed saloons in Huntingdon, but beer comes by the car-load.

Allen Henry, of Pocono, Chester county, aged 63 years, has never ridden on a railroad.

There is a movement among South Bethlehem milkmen to stop the sale of milk on Sunday.

John Froy, of Wind Gap, who died last week, had sixteen children. His father had twenty-three.

At a Conneville spelling bee the winner of the prize (the first to miss a word) got a spelling-book.

James Dewler was almost pulled into Nashaming Creek the other day by a six-pound carp on his line.

Flags will be hoisted on all of Bristol's public schools by the United Order of American Mechanics on Decoration day.

City Councilman John Lilly, of Chester, is critically ill as the result of taking a dose of sample medicine for the diarrhoea.

"Billy" Keen, a noted thief, was arrested on Saturday while picking ladies' pockets in St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Easton.

William Lovett, the champion Tullytown Bucks county, fisherman, caught in a haul on Monday 950 shad, the greatest ever known.

The utmost tranquility prevails in the coke regions around Scottdale, the strikes at Whitney and Mammoth Works having been settled.

The body of Edward Scott, who was drowned in the Lackawanna river last November, was found on Monday by two men fishing near Port Griffith.

Daniel Crumbaugh, who was charged with killing Daniel Still near Mount Union, Franklin county, was acquitted on Friday at Chambersburg.

The "country" carpenters at work on the House of Refuge buildings at Glenn Hills have quit work because they were not treated like city men.

Joshua Loderich, of Atlantic City, has purchased the brewery of Gottlieb Young, of Columbia, Pa., for \$24,000, and will take possession on June 1.

Arbor day was observed by school children in the planting of trees in the new Reserve Park, at Harrisburg. Governor Beaver planted a tree in Capitol Park.

Residents of Nockamixon township, Bucks county, claim to have seen a strange animal the other day with six legs and two tails. The hunters are after it.

The towns about Easton are filling up with house thieves expecting to reap a harvest while the folks are at the Easton centennial celebration on Monday.

Rev. John Johnson, a lifelong resident of Easton, and a preacher in the Presbyterian churches in various places for many years died on Friday, aged 80 years.

At a Bethlehem neekie neekie each girl inclosed in an envelope a neekie made from her dress goods. Each young man got the girl corresponding to his envelope.

The Republican League of Reading is in a languishing condition. At a meeting called for Thursday night to put new life into the organization only eleven members attended.

The young lady of Wilkesbarre who recently married the fellow known as the Mexican giant, in a rink at Scranton, before 3000 people, has returned home. Circus life lost its charms.

The barn on Joseph Shearer's fruit farm, just outside the limits of Reading, was destroyed by an incendiary fire on Wednesday night, with all its contents. Loss, \$2500; insurance \$1000.

Mrs. Wm. Williams, of Scranton, committed suicide by taking a dose of rat poison Saturday. She leaves a husband and five small children. No cause is assigned for the rash act.

During the storm of Thursday night the Washington Engine-house at Conshohocken was struck by lightning. A man and one of the horses were knocked off their feet by the concussion.

The strikers in the building trades have seriously affected the glass business, and the Western Window Glass Manufacturers' association called a meeting to make an effort to support prices.

Rev. Henry S. Rodenbaugh, of Lower Providence Presbyterian Church, and the oldest pastor in continuous service in Montgomery county, died at midnight on the 2nd instant, aged 76 years.

Louis Nelson, head gardener for Mrs. G. Dawson Coleman at Lebanon, was found in a green-house unconscious, and died shortly afterward. He was 45 years of age and is supposed to have committed suicide.

William Harry, Jr., who shot himself at Lancaster on Wednesday night died Saturday. The only motive known for the rash act was a quarrel he had with a girl he was courting. He was only 19 years old, and the most expert checker-player in Lancaster.

The spring meeting of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association began at Doylestown last week. Professor Rothrock read a paper on "Forestry in the Public Schools" at the afternoon session, and in the evening a meeting of beneficial results to the general interests of the country. For this reason they don't want QUAY to lose his leadership.

Peter Hughes, aged 18 years, a resident of Inkerman, was found dead in a mill pond at that place Saturday evening with a terrible cut on the back of the head. It is rumored that he got into a fight with three men, who pitched him into the pond and being wounded he could not help himself and was drowned.

This occurred in the Pittsburg License Court: "Did you ever have a retail license?" "No. My son-in-law had."

"What does your son-in-law do now?" "He's an undertaker." Attorney Cohen—"That's a good business." Judge Ewing—"It will be if we license all these applicants."

Mrs. Mary E. Heffer was killed on Friday evening by being run over by a train on the Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Railroad between Shoemakersville and Mohrsville. The body was terribly mangled. The engineer saw her lying on the track, but was unable to stop the train in time. Her husband had deserted her.

Engineer William Kethledge, of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, was struck on the head by a projecting iron arm used as a mail-bag catcher and knocked senseless. Before he reached the hospital at Bethlehem he became a raving maniac, and it required several men to keep him from doing himself further injury. He cannot recover.