

Democratic Watchman

BY P. GRAY MEKK.

Ink Slings.

—That settles it, said the old woman as she dropped the white of an egg into her coffee pot.

—The wagging tongue of gossip does more to disorganize and corrupt society than all the crimes of man put together.

—It needn't be wondered at, that the Republican majority in this State was so large. Isn't it natural that it should grow?

—There is nothing that so effectively discourages a well meaning man as to see hypocrisy and dishonesty pass him in the race of life.

—The fellow who loses his identity by being content with reflecting the wisdom of another need not expect to absorb any of the credit when it is transmitted.

—If the Senate strips the WILSON bill of the best Democratic features in it that body need not be surprised if the people do a little stripping themselves, next Fall.

—If everyone should stick as assiduously to his or her own business, as they do to that of their neighbors', there would be a very small percentage of unhappy people in the land.

—Mrs. LEASE's latest, is that she has peered into all the mysteries of Masonry. In her interview she failed to say whether she used a side-saddle when she rode the wonderful goat of the order.

—If the movement to deport all our colored people and colonize them in Africa should ever amount to anything, there is one industry that won't pay on the "dark continent" and that is, chick-en raising.

—Violets are all the rage with people who can afford to wear boutonnieres of the delicate little flower. We suppose it was just to be in style that the President went duck shooting, down the Potomac, on the Violet.

—The very lastest communication to Congress on the Hawaiian situation was a poser. It was so long that rather than wade through it Congress gladly declared that the "situation" is no longer wanted and the matter is cheerfully settled.

—Governor ATWOOD has been asked to conjure up some means of relieving the distress of the miners of his State. He will more than likely do a heap of talking about possibilities, but the gift of all will be: Go to tramping, as I used to do.

—PRENDERGAST, the murderer of Mayor CARTER HARRISON, of Chicago, will be hanged on Good Friday, March 23d. Such a villain will need as good a day as he can possibly get on which to die, for the crime he must answer for in heaven was a grave one.

—After vainly trying every known means to defer the execution of his sentence of six years to Sing Sing "Boss" MCKANE, the Gravesend, N. Y., politician found that the law will occasionally rise above the corrupting influences of politics and mete out punishment to those who have defied it.

—There are some people, hereabouts, who are such fools that they could have been made believe that the aurora borealis, last Friday night, was merely the reflection of a supposed bon fire which PEARY built in the polar regions when he heard the news of the majority that Pennsylvania gave GROW.

—A Bloomsburg mother, who had made up her mind that her daughter should not marry a young man, who was not an especial favorite, locked the girl up in a room but she crawled through a window and fled with her lover. The sorrowing matron doubtless feels that window quite a painful thing.

—We could go on writing forever and there are some dummies who would never be convinced that the Democrats have, as yet, not repealed one clause of the MCKINLEY bill. These are the dummies who imagine that the election in this State last week was rebuked against the hard times brought on by the WILSON bill.

—During CLEVELAND's first term the navy was started on its way toward a new growth. During HARRISON's administration the boats that had been built to uphold our honor became factors in that dishonorable Hawaiian affair, and now during the second term of Democracy our navy has righted the Hawaiian wrong and won honor to the country by its conduct at Rio.

—At a recent banquet in New York Bishop NEWMAN, of the Methodist church, said: "We cannot fail," with SHERMAN in the senate, TOM REED in the house, MCKINLEY in Ohio, and God over all! He was speaking of Republicanism and failed to include Mr. QUAY in his list of saviors of political and spiritual mankind. Of course it was merely an oversight and MATTHEW will not be offended at the Bishop, who thus befrayed the robes of the church in the muck of political intrigue.

Democratic Watchman

STATE RIGHTS AND FEDERAL UNION.

VOL. 39.

BELLEFONTE, PA., MARCH 2, 1894.

NO. 9.

What Are They Boasting About.

To read the "gush" in Republican newspapers and listen to the glorification of Republican politicians, since the election, one would almost conclude that the Democrats who have not died since 1892 have repudiated their faith and become advocates of the frauds, the fallacies and the false teachings of that party.

It takes a reasoning man but a short time to see that the after-election claims, made by the advocates of the monopoly interests, are the same bare-faced frauds that characterize nearly all of their political assertions.

In 1892 when a Congress was to be chosen that would have the power to revise the tariff, and the questions as to its revision or its continuation at the exorbitant rates fixed by the MCKINLEY bill, were voted upon explicitly and directly by the people, the Republicans of the State cast 516,011 votes. This represented the sentiment among the people of the State against any change or reformation in our tariff laws. It showed that there were at that time 516,011 voters in Pennsylvania who believed in a high tariff policy and were opposed to any legislation that would reduce the rate fixed by Republican legislation.

Where is there any evidence of a change of sentiment on that question since?

Surely the recent election does not show any?

There are more voters in Pennsylvania to-day than there were in 1892. And yet with the hard times; the business depression; the failures; the unemployed thousands; the necessity for soup houses, and the universal distress that is prevailing, all attributable to a vicious Republican policy and legislation, but believed by the unthinking to be the result of expected Democratic changes in the tariff laws; and with a most vigorous and unscrupulous campaign designed to show that the people were demanding a reversal of the policy they voted for then, the Republicans were able to poll but 487,670 votes at the recent election.

So that in 1892, there were 516,011 voters in Pennsylvania opposed to tariff reform, while in 1894 the official count shows that there was but 487,670 people who still held to that way of thinking.—An actual loss, to the high tariff advocates, of twenty-eight thousand, three hundred and forty voters.

It must be remembered that the recent contest on the part of the Republicans, was not to elect a Congressman, for that power was conceded them, but it was to show the increasing strength of public sentiment against such revision of the tariff as the WILSON bill proposes. And how has it been shown? By a failure to record as many votes now against this measure as was cast against any change of tariff two years ago; by the refusal of over twenty-eight thousand of their voters to stand up and be counted as still holding to the same sentiments they endorsed at that time.

And this result is what the Republican press is parading as evidence of a change of political sentiment on the part of the people, and as a rebuke to Congressmen who are voting to carry out the instructions given them at the time of their election. It is what Republicans are glorifying over as if the entire body of voters within the commonwealth had cast their ballots for GROW and against any revision of the tariff laws.

They should remember that they polled but 487,670 votes and that there are 505,728 other citizens in this commonwealth, who either openly voted against them or refused to record themselves in favor of the policy and principles of those espousing the cause of a protected monopolist.

If in the face of all their efforts and appeals, the money they spent and the exertion they put forth, the use they made of their own hard times, and the importance to them of proving that the people had changed their views on this one great subject, they failed, here in the home of "Protection," to have a majority of the voters stand up and declare for it, what have they to glory over or boast about?

Out of a million of votes in Pennsylvania, they got less than five hundred thousand, to declare for a continuation of their policy of protection.

Light-headed Voters.

The result of the recent election, so far as it had any bearing upon the tariff question now before Congress, proved nothing but that there are a great many light-headed voters in this great commonwealth. Nothing else than that was also proven by the election last Fall.

In 1890 and 1892, when the question of a high protective tariff was fully and dispassionately discussed, and the people viewed the issue in all its aspects, unaffected by scare or panic, they calmly and deliberately, and by a great majority, determined that there should be a reform of the existing tariff as proposed by the Democratic platform.

At the time this verdict was being rendered the MCKINLEY tariff, in the effects it was working out, was preparing a full justification of the popular decision at the polls. It had brought production to a condition that rendered a collapse unavoidable. It had overstocked the market after having closed every outward channel through which that overproduction could have been relieved. The break-down comes inevitably as effect follows its cause, and it would have come whatever the result of the election of 1892 might have been, for it was the natural collapse that always follows excessive stimulation.

English vessels, however, continue to be subjected to the restrictions of the blockade and are fired on if they attempt to break it. Not being protected by their own government, some of them recently applied to Admiral BENHAM for protection, which he readily granted and assisted them in landing after the shelter of the American flag.

This action of the Admiral, which should have been gratefully acknowledged, has, however, excited JOHN BULL's indignation. The London newspapers are denouncing it as an impudent interference, and some of them are demanding an apology for his assuming to protect English shipping.

There is something laughable in this as an exhibit of the bumptiousness of the English character. This bluster springs from a humiliating consciousness of the weak and inefficient course of their own authorities in regard to the blockade. While in this frame of mind their conceit is offended by another nation extending to their mercantile the protection which their own government failed to afford them, and hence this display of wounded vanity and expressions of displeasure.

Notwithstanding the flimsiness of the calumny representations they had their effect upon the lighter heads among the voters, of whom enough were affected by the howl to make the advocate of a monopoly tariff glory over the fact that they still have a following here in Pennsylvania and that as long as people can be fooled, they have hopes of success.

Unfortunately for them they have not shown that even a majority of the voters of Pennsylvania are willing to demand a continuation of their present vicious and oppressive tariff system.

Something that Should Not be Taxed.

There must be some compromises where there are conflicting views and interests involved in an object that is designed to be accomplished. The case of the WILSON tariff bill seems not to be an exception to this rule;

yet in adjusting the difficulties of the tariff reform problem we should greatly regret to see an abandonment of the intention to put sugar, raw as well as manufactured, on the free list.

A tax on sugar is pre-eminently a tax on the poorer class of people. A laborer's family consumes but little less sugar than that of a millionaire, and if it is a large family it is likely to consume more than do the limited number that usually constitute the households of the wealthy. This fact shows the inequality and comparative hardship of such a tax. It is said that \$50,000,000 may be raised by it, at the rate of only one cent a pound, but this great aggregate at least nine-tenths will come from the working people.

When there are incomes that afford a fairer and juster source of revenue, why should so indispensable a necessary be taxed; or must it be subjected to unfair exactions in order that incomes may be exempt?

This is a question, the equity of which should have its due weight with Democratic law-makers, to the end that it may put local interest to one side and allow sugar to be on the free list for the benefit of all the people.

Grows majority, like the public debt column under the HARRISON regime, is still crawling up.

Traits of English Character.

JOHN BULL has always been a difficult customer to please, a fact that is attributable to his peculiarly constituted disposition which is largely made up of stubbornness, prejudice and conceit.

The situation at Rio Janeiro brings out these traits of his character. For some reason the English authorities have been remarkably submissive to the blockade which the insurgents have maintained at that port. The reason of this is believed to be the sympathy of the English with the rebels who are fighting the republic evidently in monarchical interests.

The blockade has been a great inconvenience and injury to the shipping in Rio harbor, all interests involved in the trade of that port suffering more or less from it. American vessels suffered with the rest until Admiral BENHAM interfered and by vigorous action compelled the blockaders to desist from interfering with American vessels.

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It is a very common fault that most of us have, to attempt to hold others responsible for what we fail to do ourselves. If the local party leaders and those connected with the local Democratic organization throughout the State, who are now attempting to unload their own neglect or inefficiency upon the State Committee, will look right at home they will find that the Democratic slump was due to a great many causes over which the State organization had no control whatever.

A Noble Attitude.

In a recent definition of his attitude toward the pending tariff bill, Senator MCPHERSON, of New Jersey, expressed the very essence of Democracy, and sounded in clearest tone the keynote of fidelity to the principles of his party, when he said:

"I am a Democrat—and I shall stand with my party. The bill when completed may not satisfy me in every particular, but I shall not be found giving aid and comfort to the Republicans on any proposition by my vote."

Here in a few words is stated the plain duty of every Democratic Senator and Representative on this question.

Though the bill may not suit them in every particular, yet it is the nearest practical fulfillment of the pledge of the party that can be made; it is a measure upon which depends not only the reputation, but the future success

of the party, and to oppose or embarrass it because it does not suit every local interest, or is not satisfactory in every particular, would be giving aid and comfort to the enemies of Democracy.

Whatever may be said about this or that Senator's insistence that the interest of his State must be attended to, we do not believe that there is one who is willing to restore the Republicans to power by making a failure of the Democratic tariff bill.

When you come to think about it, polling 487,670 votes, against a policy as bitterly fought as is tariff reform, out of a total vote of 993,398, is not such a tremendous victory after all.

Even with all the effort, and all the crowding about what was accomplished, a majority of the voters of

Pennsylvania are not shown by the returns to have been interested enough to go out and vote against a reduction of the tariff.

Truth, Every Word of It.

From a recent speech of Atty Gen. W. U. Hensel.

If the owls and the bats are building their nests in the furnace stacks, it is under a Republican tariff. If the loom stands still and the furnace fire has gone out, it is under import duties fixed by a Republican Congress.

If the hammer of the mechanic is idle, the plow of the farmer stands in the furrow and the venture of the merchant brings no return, these are conditions wrought by legislation approved by a Republican Executive.

If the sails of American commerce are listlessly furled in home ports, it is because above the seas they should have whitened the broad shadow of the McKinley bill.

Preposterous and absurd is the contention of our adversary that the results of the McKinley bill, after several years' trial, are due to other legislation not yet enacted. And yet the author of this statute had the audacity to cross the line of his State a few nights ago and tell the people of Pittsburgh that existing evils are heard from that the Democratic pledges of tariff reform. He might as well argue that the headache after a debauch is due to temperance resolutions to be adopted two weeks hence, rather than to the extra bottle of the night before.

As surely as depression follows stimulation, have the widespread wreck and ruin of commercial and manufacturing interests ensued from a vicious, inequitable and reckless system of taxation—imposed for the protection of the favored few and to the spoliation of the suffering many.

An Aspirant for the Place Grew Wanting to Fill.

From the Philadelphia Times.

Cameron as a Populist is a new diversion, even for Cameron. There is decidedly fresh lustre in this thing of breaking out in a new place. The senior Senator has not been heard from since that famous free silver speech and if there is anything to be gained from eccentric popularity he may as well have it.

Precedent also opens the way, for Stewart, of Nevada, has become a convert to his own free silver text, and is now an avowed Populist.

With encouragement of that pattern Cameron can consistently accept Populist commendation and attach it like any other bob to his kite. Nothing like cutting a big figure in national affairs, for the trimmings are fascinating enough, and Cameron is entitled to his own little event. It shows he is awake and not paired.

The Calamity Howl of No Use Now.

From the Wellsboro Gazette.

The Wilson Tariff bill does not propose to reduce the tariff below the point which would cover the difference in the cost of wages in the United States as compared with competing countries. None the less, the workingman is threatened with wage reduction. This threat is intended for political effect. The workingman who takes time to think about it will know that there are two parties to be consulted in fixing the rate of wages. When work is plentiful, wages are high. When work is scarce, wages fall. And this is true whether tariffs go up or down. The workingman never gets any advantage out of protection which he does not have to fight for.

The Percentage of Labor that Really is Protected.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Only 7 per cent of the workingmen in the United States are employed in what are known as the protected industries. In fixing the rate of wages they are obliged to compete with the unprotected 93 per cent; so that the rate of "protection" has really nothing to do with the rate of wages. How long will the whole body of workingmen have dust thrown into their eyes by those who seek to advance their own interests under the pretense of looking after the interests of the persons whom they employ.

Complimentaries Are Few Over Here.

From the Clearfield Public Spirit.

Notwithstanding the fact that General Hastings, "the hero of Johnstown," and "our next Governor" begged of his party followers to stand by the local ticket on his account at his home election, Bellefonte elected Hugh Taylor, a popular young law student, collector, ex-Treasurer Smith school director, and a member of city council. This was a hard blow to "Our Dan" just at this time and settles some of the hoped for complimentary business.

Just Like Pennsylvania Democrats.

From the Clarion Democrat.

The New York Republicans are again indulging in a regular Kilkenny fight. The high-bred Republicans under the leadership of Col. George Bliss, and the low-toned Republicans under Thos. C. Platt, of "me to" fame, are at swords' points, and are telling all manner of truths about each other.

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